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The Olympian

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OUR VIEWS

Hoddle is a great mentor for athletes

Bryan Hoddle's commitment to disabled athletes has been rewarded by an appointment to the position of coach of the U.S. Paralympic track and field team in Athens, Greece. The 42 athletes under Hoddle's tutelage are amputees and people with blindness, cerebral palsy, dwarfism and conditions that require the use of a wheelchair. Hoddle, a teacher at Chinook Middle School in Lacey, left South Sound earlier this week for Washington, D.C., where he met his team. They leave for

**Bryan
Hoddle**



Athens one week from today. Hoddle is humbled by the honor. "Any time you represent the United States in any capacity, it's an honor," he said. "To go from one Olympia to another Olympia makes it really special." Hoddle's students and the athletes he has trained can testify to his specialness, too. Former student Adam Owada said, "One of the things that lasted with me was that he taught me just to try hard and be the best that I could be — even in my weaker subjects," Owada said. That's great advice. A big thumbs up to Bryan Hoddle for his mentorship of young people in the classroom and in the field of competition.