

Why does Riverdale Baseball bleach their hair? A bet in 2004.



LARRY MCCORMACK / STAFF

Riverdale's Cody Harrell, Chad Hunter, Ben Jones and Trice Powers talked assistant coach Barry Messer, left, SID David Limbaugh, and Coach Buddy Powers into cutting their hair into mohawks before shaving it off after winning the district.

Another hair-razing experience

Riverdale's regular-season title leads to mohawks

By CHIP CIRILLO

Staff Writer

May makeovers have become a rite of spring for Buddy Powers. Last year the Riverdale baseball coach dyed his hair blond. Last week he got a mohawk. All in the name of a district championship.

"I'll do just about anything to get a victory," Powers said.

Powers' motivational hairstyles began last season after the team won the District 7-AAA regular-season title.

"Last year a lot of the players bleached their hair, and I told them if they won it I'd bleach mine at the end of the season," Powers said. "So last year I had (blond) hair."

Last week four of the Warriors got mohawks before a crucial two-game series with Cookeville that determined the district title.

"They said, 'Coach, if we go ahead and do it will you do yours?' I said, 'Sure,'" said Powers, who got his mohawk in the dugout after Riverdale swept the Cookeville series.

Powers said he got a few

HIGH SCHOOLS

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— Barbara Powers, wife of Riverdale baseball Coach Buddy Powers

double-takes around Murfreesboro, but he doesn't regret it.

"The kids got a kick out of it, and after they did theirs it took their mind off how important the two ballgames against Cookeville were," Powers said.

"It's not a big thing, but it keeps

everybody loose."

Powers got some wide-eyed looks when he visited his wife, Barbara, at Christiana Middle School the day after he received his new hairdo. She teaches eighth-grade English.

"I'm this straight-laced teacher, and my students said, 'Is that your husband?'" Barbara said. "They said, 'You're married to a mohawk man?' Some kid put his fingers up and said, 'Mohawk rocks.'"

Mohawks really rocked at the Powers household because infielder Trice Powers, the coach's son, also got a new haircut for the Cookeville game.

"I was the first one to do it," Trice said. "At first I was going to get a regular haircut, but our first baseman thought it would be funny to (get a mohawk.) I decided to leave it there, and a few of the guys joined in with me."

Coach Powers and his four mohawk players toned down their look by shaving their heads when the district tournament started Friday.

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