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SPORTS

Oak Hill hires new girls basketball coach

By Sean Douglas

CONVERSE — It’s difficult to replace a living legend such as Todd Law. It’s even harder to find a replacement during a global pandemic.

After months of searching, the Oak Hill girls’ basketball team has a new coach. Clay Bolser, the former athletic director at Rossville, was hired Monday by the Oak Hill United School Corp.

Before his three years at Rossville, Bolser spent 16 years coaching boys’ basketball at Northeastern, Plainfield and North Miami. He also served as the athletic director at North Miami for one year.

Bolser has ties to Grant County. His oldest daughter, Cailyn, now plays volleyball at Ball State after playing her senior year at Mississinewa, while his second daughter, Caily, just graduated from Mis-

sissinewa and will play basketball at the University of Toledo. His third daughter, Carly, will be a junior at Mississinewa this coming year and has shown promise in both volleyball and basketball.

Bolser also has ties to Oak Hill. Besides coaching against Oak Hill boys’ basketball coach Kevin Renbarger multiple times, he also has developed a relationship with Oak Hill Athletic Director Ryan Fagan.

While Bolser said he enjoyed his work at Rossville, the desire for a return to coaching was always there. But he did not want to make a change unless it was the right opportunity.

Two weeks ago, that opportunity presented itself in a phone call.

Fagan contacted Bolser, floating the idea of him coaching the Oak Hill girls basketball program as a joke. But Bolser quickly showed he was serious

about the chance to lead a top-tier, small school program.

After the interview process, Fagan knew he had his guy.

“We were not real sure a month or so ago which direction we were going to head, and it ended up turning out better than what I could have really ever imagined,” Fagan said. “I am really excited. I am really excited for the girls,

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CLAY BOSLER

Marion football coach submits resignation

By Sean Douglas

After four years of rebuilding the Marion football program and bringing it back into prominence, Craig Chambers will be pursuing other opportunities.

Marion High School announced June 24 that Chambers, who came to Marion from Indianapolis, has resigned as head coach, electing to return to Indianapolis and be closer to home.

In his four-year tenure, Chambers led the Giants to a 34-13 record, one sectional title, one regional championship, an undefeated regular season in 2018, and one NCC Championship, helping to establish Marion as the class of the NCC.

Chambers’ resignation will be official at Marion’s next school board meeting, but it has been confirmed that he has accepted the head coaching position at NCC rival Indianapolis Arsenal Technical.

“We are extremely saddened to learn that Marion Giants head football Coach Craig Chambers will be leaving our football family as well as the Marion High School faculty to pursue another opportunity at Indianapolis Arsenal Technical High School,” Marion High

“Coach Craig and his staff taught me how to become a better man.”

Marion long snapper Michael Seybold

School Athletic Director Steve Moritz said in a statement. “In Coach Chambers’ four seasons with the Giants, he restored the program to its highest standard.”

After the Giants went 0-10 in 2015, Chambers came in and made an immediate impact in 2016, leading the Giants to a 5-5 record, their best record since 2012, when they went 4-6. The Giants were even better in 2017, improving to 7-4 and winning a sectional game in the process before losing to Mississinewa in the Sectional 21 Final.

In 2018, the Giants put together one of their best seasons in program history. Behind an electric rushing trio of quarterback Keshawn Taylor and running backs

JK Thomas and Khalid Stamps, together with a stout defense that allowed 9.6 points per contest and pitched six shutouts, Marion achieved a 13-1 record, winning their first sectional and regional crowns since 1990. The Giants advanced all the way to the Class 4A semi-state contest before losing to Evansville Central.

Last season, the Giants put together another stellar campaign, finishing the year with a 9-3 record before falling to Mississinewa in the sectional final for the second time in three seasons.

Chambers not only resurrected the Giants’ football program, but he also changed the culture. He coached with tenacity and passion, and on occasion, he would get on his players if they were not performing the way he knew they were capable.

But behind that toughness was a deep level of care and love for his players. He taught them life lessons. He lifted them up and encouraged them when it was needed. Most importantly, he helped his team not only be great players on the field, but even better people off of it.

For that, his presence on the Marion sideline will be



CRAIG CHAMBERS

deeply missed.

“Coach Craig and his staff taught me how to become a better man,” Marion long snapper Michael Seybold said in a Twitter post shortly after the news broke. “Coach Craig and his staff not only stressed football to us, but gave us lessons in life. They helped to steer people on a path to be successful. There were real conversations. There were hard conversations. But they always helped us in the end.”

Marion’s search for their next head coach is already underway.

“We wish Coach Chambers and his family all of the best as he pursues this new endeavor,” Moritz said. “The search for a new Marion High School football coach will begin immediately, and I assure you that the best and most viable candidate available to MHS will be hired to keep Giants football at a championship level.”

‘Moose’ Myers tabbed for county HOF

By Sean Douglas

In the late 1960s, when athletes such as Jovon Price, Joe Sutter and Dan Gunn represented Marion High School, Brent Myers one of the best.

For his achievements in high school football, basketball, and track, Myers will be inducted into the Grant County Sports Hall of Fame as part of its 12th class later this year.

Myers, nicknamed “The Moose,” anchored Marion’s offensive line during high school, capping off his senior year with a 9-1 record and a North Central Conference championship in 1969. His play earned him a scholarship at Purdue, where in 1972 he received the Noble E. Kizer Award, given annually to the football player with the highest-ranking GPA.

“The toughness, the competitiveness, the competitive fire that he had, not only at Marion but at Purdue as well, it’s fitting that he is a part of this class,” Grant County Sports Hall of Fame President Andy McCord said. “He fits that mold of this class.”

Under Hall of Fame Coach Jack Colescott, Myers also thrived on the basketball court. He played for three years in the post, dominating the glass and playing stout defense. In his last two years, the Giants went a combined 52-6, reaching the state final four both years. The team also won the NCC championship in his senior season.

“He was a team player,” Colescott said of Myers. “He played the role that needed to be played. He was a big man, outstanding on defense, and he was a great rebounder. He just did what it took for the team to be a winner. He did what it took to win. I don’t care if it was football or basketball or track or whatever sport he was involved in, he was a Marion Giant. He played for the Marion Giants and not for himself.”

In track, Myers helped the Giants win the NCC championship in his junior and senior seasons and participated in the shot put at the state finals both of those years.

Myers received Marion High School’s Outstanding

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