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SPORTS

Marion hires new football coach

The Marion Giants’ football program has a new head coach, and luckily for the Giants, they did not have to look far.

James Bell, who served as an assistant coach under former head coach Craig Chambers, was elevated to head coach on Thursday afternoon, looking to continue to build on the Giants’ success over the last four years.

“It is with great excitement and anticipation that James Bell has been named as the next skipper of the



Marion Giants football program,” Marion High School Athletic Director Steve Moritz said. “Coach Bell will lead this program with outstanding credentials.:

Bell has been with Marion Community Schools since the 2017-18 school year, as a teacher, interim athletic director, and most recently Assistant Principal

at Marion High School – where he will remain.

Bell earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of Central Arkansas, and his master’s degree in health and physical education from Northwest Missouri State University. He has served as coach, teacher, athletic director, and administrator roles in several school districts over his career.

Before coming to Marion, Bell worked at Jackson State University in Missis-

sippi, and served as an assistant football coach and defensive coordinator at both Indiana University and Wake Forest University.

Over the last three years under Bell’s tutelage, the offenses averaged 35.1 points per game and 326 yards per game in total offense.

“Although James Bell has big shoes to fill with the departure of Coach Craig Chambers, we have no

doubt he will have Giant success and keep our top-notch football program at a championship level,” Moritz said. “Coach Bell is a man of faith, integrity, and character. He has the unique ability to lead young men, not only on the football field, but through their daily lives as a high school student.”

Bell will step into the role immediately, taking over the program as high school athletics re-open around the

Former MHS baseball coach tabbed for Hall

By Sean Douglas

Throughout his tenure at Marion, Art Caldwell left his mark in two distinct ways.

First, he laid the foundation of Marion’s baseball program, which rose to prominence in the mid-’80s, collecting a state championship in 1984 and a state-runner up finish in 1986.

But more importantly, he helped mold Marion High School athletics into the program it is today – one of that is both revered and recognized at both the local and state levels.

“Art Caldwell was one of those guys who cared about kids on and off the field,” Grant County Sports Hall of Fame President Andy McCord said. “He loved coaching baseball. When you look at his success as a baseball coach, and when you look at his success as the Athletic Director at Marion High School...he was the guy leading the charge.”

For his accomplishments, Caldwell, who recently passed away on June 29, will be inducted, posthumously, into the Grant County Sports Hall of

Fame.

Caldwell graduated from Converse High School in 1944, where he played on the basketball team. In his senior year, Caldwell helped lead the Bordermen to a 27-0 record before they were eliminated in the semi-state. Caldwell was the team’s second leading scorer that season with 294 points.

From there, Caldwell joined the Navy, serving in the Pacific theater of the Second World War from 1944-1946. During his time with the Navy, Caldwell fought in the battles of Okinawa, Saipan, and Iwo Jima.

After completing his military service, Caldwell returned to Indiana, graduating from Ball State in 1950 with a degree in mathematics, business education, and physical education. After teaching at Roll High School for three years, Caldwell then made the move to Marion, where he served in multiple capacities until his retirement in 1985.

Caldwell served as the assistant baseball coach from 1957-1961, then served as

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Marion Post 10 head coach Blake Hancock talks with his team before the first pitch. **Photos by Sean Douglas**

Hitting woes hurt Post 10

By Sean Douglas



Eastbrook’s Raef Biddle rounds third in Marion Post 10’s game against Muncie.

Fielding a collection of players from Grant and Wabash counties, Marion’s American Legion Post 10 Bombers, coached by Blake Hancock, are still looking to find their groove and rhythm in their young summer baseball season.

With standout players such former Marion pitcher Ethan Dixon, former Eastbrook power hitter Josh Pluimer, and current Madison-Grant star second baseman Nick Evans, the Bombers are not a team lacking in talent.

But in the early stages of their 2020 summer campaign, consistent hitting has been a struggle, and missed opportunities proved costly in a 7-3 loss to the Muncie Chiefs this past Thursday at Lincoln Field.

The Bombers, despite leaving 13 runners on base in the nine-inning game, only collected one hit, a single off the bat of leadoff hitter Clayton Tomlinson in the bottom of the eighth inning. Marion left the bases loaded in both the sixth and seventh innings, scoring only two runs in the process.

Baseball is a game that requires constant repetition. With COVID-19 cancelling the 2020 spring sports season, the players did not have a chance to find their rhythm that comes from just playing the game.

Furthermore, the Bombers have played fewer games than any of the other teams that decided to play this summer, which also has been a factor in their early issues.

“It’s been our struggle so far this

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