

Knob Noster Public Schools Selects Rich Johnson as New Head Football and Track Coach



Knob Noster Public Schools has selected Coach Rich Johnson to serve as the next Head Football and Track coach at Knob Noster High School for the 2017-2018 school year.

Coach Johnson has a long history of being a part of winning programs. Originally from Stockton, MO, he attended college at Pittsburg State University, where he was a player for the 1992 National Championship team. He started his coaching career in 1995 at Liberal Schools. His team won its first District Championship in school history the following year. In 1997, he moved on to Webb City where he was an assistant coach. That year, the team won one of its many state championships. After assisting at Webb City, Coach Johnson took the head coaching job at Trenton. In just five years, he collected more wins than any other coach over the last 37 years at Trenton. Coach Johnson then spent 7 years building a championship team at Holden High School. Though Holden is one of the smaller schools in their conference, Johnson did take the team to four conference championships and four district championships. He is also their winningest football coach in school history. He most recently served as Head Coach for the Mountain Grove Panthers, who were 31-5 in the three years when he coached for the school district. The Panthers were ranked in the top 5 of Class 3 the three years he coached at Mountain Grove with two conference championships and a district championship.

Coach Johnson is married to Kelli Johnson, a former Holden graduate, and who will also be employed as the Middle School Library Media Specialist for Knob Noster Middle School. He has a daughter, Hailey, who attends Kansas City Community College.

“I thought it was a great opportunity to get back to an area where we had family and closer to my daughter. I am very excited about the future of Knob Noster football,” stated Coach Johnson. “We will do our best to put a quality staff together that will be successful in teaching Knob Noster’s football players. My main goal as the head football coach is to help players transition into high character men that will be successful as husbands, fathers, and members of society. I bring a lot of experience to the table and thankfully a lot of successful experience, and I feel that will help our program. I’m excited to get to know the community and staff at Knob Noster. I can’t wait to get started!”

Coach already has summer plans started and will reveal those plans to his players in the following weeks. Coach Johnson will also be the weight room instructor at the high school.