

FOOTBALL: Hendricks named Kingsway coach



Kevin Minnick, @cp_varisty 10:29 p.m. EDT March 17, 2016

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Mark Hendricks, a former assistant coach at James Madison University and a Deptford High School graduate, has been named the new football coach at Kingsway High School.

Superintendent James J. Lavender made the announcement Thursday.

Hendricks replaces longtime coach Tony Barchuk, who announced his retirement last month. Barchuk began his career in 1979 and left as one of only 10 coaches in South Jersey football history to win 200 games. He finished 206-155-5, leading the program to the South Jersey Group 2 title in 2001 with an 18-14 victory over Hammonton.

He also directed the Dragons to sectional finals in 1994 and 1995 in Group 2 as well as 2012 in Group 4. Only Florence coach Joe Frappolli (427) has coached more games in South Jersey history.

END OF AN ERA: [Barchuk steps down as coach at Kingsway \(http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/sports/high-school/football/2016/02/04/football-brooklyn-boy-barchuk-steps-down-kingsway/79826774/\)](http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/sports/high-school/football/2016/02/04/football-brooklyn-boy-barchuk-steps-down-kingsway/79826774/)

Kingsway was 5-5 in his final campaign, earning the No. 5 seed in the South Jersey Group 5 playoffs.

Kingsway's statement, which was released Thursday night:

Woolwich Twp. – Kingsway Regional High School has named Mark Hendricks, a former assistant coach with James Madison University, the new head coach of the high school's football program. Superintendent, James J. Lavender made the announcement on Thursday.

Lavender said, "Hendricks is a perfect fit for Kingsway. He stood out among a competitive and qualified group of applicants and possess all the characteristics we want to see in professionals who work with teenagers."

Hendricks becomes the second coach in almost 40 years, replacing coaching legend Tony Barchuk who announced his retirement last month. Barchuk began his coaching career in 1979 and has coached in 366 games, placing him second on the active coaching and his 2016 wins ranks him tenth on the all-time list. Barchuk's 2001 team won a Group II title and his 1994, 1995 and 2012 teams made advanced to the sectional finals.

"I'm excited about this opportunity and appreciate the faith leadership has put in me," Hendricks said. "It's privilege to be named the head football coach at a school with a rich tradition and a passion for football."

Hendricks began his extensive coaching career as an assistant football coach and defensive coordinator with Rowan University in 2004 under University of Delaware head coach K.C. Keeler. While at Rowan Hendricks helped the Profs win NJAC Championships in 2004, 2005, and 2006 and earn Team of the Year and Lambert Cup honors in 2004 & 2005. During Hendricks tenure as an assistant coach Rowan University won an impressive 69 games.

In 2008 Hendricks was hired by head coach Mickey Mathews, moving him into the Division I (FCS) rankings as an assistant football coach with James Madison University. While at JMU Hendricks helped the team win a CAA Conference Championship in 2008 and reach the playoffs in 2011. Hendricks' biggest coaching moment came in 2010 when JMU, a 32 point underdog, upset the 13th ranked Virginia Tech, 21-16, in front of 66,000 fans. JMU's defensive coaching staff was recognized as "Game Changing Coaches" by FootballScoop.com. Hendricks coached cornerbacks and was responsible for recruiting in Delaware, NY, NJ and Ohio.

Hendricks left college coaching in 2012 to pursue a teaching career with Lenape Regional High School where he taught business and coached football. While serving as Lenape's defensive coordinator, Hendricks helped the Indians win 17 games during the 2014 and 2015 seasons, and his defense allowed just over 7 points per game and recorded 5 shutouts.

"I am excited about Coach Hendricks coming on board and I welcome our newest Dragon," said Kingsway's Athletic Director June Cioffi. Hendricks has demonstrated that he knows how to build winning programs and can get players excited about football.

Coach Hendricks plans to meet with the current coaching staff next week. Plans to meet the football team and parents have been set for the week of the 28th.

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