



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Veteran assistant chosen to lead WNHS football program

A longtime Thunder assistant coach eager to build on recent success was tapped as the new Woodstock North High School head football coach.

Jeremiah Homuth, 39, has coached most position groups for the Thunder over the past decade. Homuth was the defensive coordinator for the Thunder team that won a program-best 8 games including a playoff game last season.

Homuth was a quarterback at Huntley high school and a graduate of Western Illinois University. He also served in the U.S. Army Infantry including a tour in Afghanistan in 2006. He will replace former head coach Matt Polnow who resigned following last season.

"We are extremely excited about Jeremiah Homuth as our new head football coach. He has been a consistent fixture in the program for several years, and has a great relationship with the players," said Derek Crabill, athletic director for Woodstock North High School.

The Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education approved the hire at its March 18 meeting. Homuth will also continue in his employment with the high school.

The Thunder made tremendous progress from the previous two seasons, in which they hadn't won more than two games. Homuth attributes last year's success to years of culture building that led to a big buy-in from Thunder players.

"I'm very honored and excited. I can't wait to get back to football here in a few months and continue the progression we started last year," Homuth said.

One reason for the surprise of last year's success and also a reason for optimism this fall is that the Thunder team is young. Homuth expects 19 starters to return. On offense, running back David Randecker, quarterback Parker Halihan and center Julian Segura are back along with defensive standouts including linebackers Braden Schnake and George Kingos as well as cornerback Emmanuel Fadahunsi.

"The bar has been raised. We made the playoffs, which is great. Won a game, which is even better. Now we'd like to make it a little deeper," he said.

Homuth also said he hopes that success continues to attract more players in a sport where past Thunder, and many area teams, have struggled with enrollment.

Winning is the best recruiting tool you can have. Kids want to be a part of a winner. Winning solves a lot of problems,” he said.

Homuth resides in Woodstock with his wife Mallory and three young children. Crabill said he’s excited to see the creative ideas Homuth will bring to the Thunder program and said he is confident that he will continue building a positive culture and leading the team toward more success.