



TPSD Board Approves Four Hires

TUPELO, Miss. — During a special-called board meeting of the Tupelo Public School District Tuesday afternoon, Ty Hardin was unanimously approved as the new head football coach, the 27th in school history.

In addition, the board also announced the hiring of Jason Miller as Activities Director, Gary Enis as Transportation Director and T.J. Higgins as Technology Director.

Hardin, who replaces Trent Hammond, comes to THS after spending five years at the helm of Houston High School, his alma mater. He took over in 2016 after being an assistant for the Hilltoppers the previous four seasons.

“Our family is beyond excited for this opportunity,” he said. “We cannot wait to invest in this great community. We are so blessed to get to call Tupelo our future home, and our energy, enthusiasm and commitment to it will be unmatched. The future is going to be fun, and we will be Wave4Life.”

Hardin guided Houston to an incredible 40-11 ledger, while making the playoffs a school-record, four-consecutive years. They were District 3A champions in 2018 and advanced to the north-half finals four times, losing to the eventual state champions on each occasion.

Prior to taking over, the Hilltoppers had won just two playoff games in program history. His 2017, '18 and '19 squads were all named the Daily Journal 3A Team of the Year.

“We look forward to having Coach Hardin and his family join us as the Golden Wave football head coach,” THS principal Art Dobbs said. “His winning record, attitude and outlook make him a perfect fit for Tupelo High. I'm excited to see where he takes Golden Wave football.”

Hardin, who has coached in three all-star games, graduated from Mississippi State in 2011 with a degree in Kinesiology. He earned his Master's in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State in 2015.

He and his wife, the former Keeley Corbett of Tupelo, have one daughter, Eve (4). They are also expecting a son in August.

Miller is certainly no stranger to the Golden Wave Family. A 1997 THS graduate, he lettered in both football and baseball, while coaching both sports from 2005-14.

He spent the last seven years at Desoto Central High School and served as the athletics director in 2019-20. From 2014-19, he was the associate head baseball coach.

Miller, who takes over for the retired Eddie Moore, earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Delta State, where he played baseball. He was on the 2000 squad that advanced to the College World Series, placing third.

He and wife, Shelley, have two sons, Davis (13) and Drew (9), and a daughter, Dylan (11).

“We are excited to welcome back Jason Miller to the Golden Wave family as activities director,” Dobbs said. “His experience and history with Golden Wave athletics and activities will be beneficial to all as he transitions into this new role.”

Likewise, Enis’ name is just as recognizable.

A standout baseball player for the Golden Wave, he graduated in 1991 before continuing his athletic career at both Itawamba Community College and Delta State.

Prior to moving into an administrative and teaching role for TPSD in 2015, he was the head coach of the Tupelo Golden Wave baseball team. In 12 seasons, he was 284-106 with two trips to the state championship — 2008 and 2011.

The last four years, Enis, who takes over for the retired Larry Harmon, has taught physical education at Parkway.

He and his wife, Catherine, a 5th-grade teacher at Pierce Street, have two sons, Garrett (14) and John Patrick (11).

Higgins, a 1990 South Pontotoc graduate, has been with TPSD for 17 years, the last four as assistant technology coordinator. He also served as a technology specialist for eight years with Double Quick, Inc. in Indianola.

During his time in Tupelo, he’s helped develop a complete technological overhaul and was instrumental with all students receiving laptops through the original Apple contract, and most recently with the move to Chromebooks.

He also spearheaded the charge to get interactive boards in each classroom throughout the district.

Higgins and his wife, Kimberly, a 1990 THS grad, have one daughter, Sanders (19) and a son, Thomas (17).

He replaces long-time director, Brenda Meriweather, who is retiring after 31 years.

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