



Green Named New Tupelo Boys Basketball Coach

TUPELO, Miss. — Robert Green didn't need to be convinced to come to Tupelo. He just needed assurances the offer to become the new Golden Wave boys basketball coach was for real.

Tuesday afternoon at their May meeting, the Tupelo Public School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the hiring of Green, who spent the last four years building a championship-level program at Clinton.

He replaces Jeff Norwood, who left for West Harrison following a nine-year stint at Tupelo.

"It was a great sales job by Mr. Dobbs (Art, principal) and Mr. Miller (Jason, activities director)," said Green, who guided the Arrows to the Class 6A title this past spring. "It was evident they are committed to being successful. They told me it's time to get over the hump. Hopefully I can come here and do that.

"It was tough leaving Clinton, but easy to take this job," he added. "I can't wait to get started."

Dobbs and Miller both said they were looking for that championship pedigree. With Green, they hit the jackpot.

In 10 years as a head coach, Green has posted a 192-71 ledger, with 20 of the losses coming in his first year at Clinton. But what stands out are his two championship rings.

"We wanted someone with a high level of success who is also a great role model," Miller said. "We knew from the very first moment of talking with him that he would be a great fit. He's everything you want in a coach. He will have his players ready. His success speaks for itself."

Prior to delivering the Arrows their first state title since 1993 and their fourth in school history, he rebuilt Raymond into a powerhouse and a Class 4A champion.

As far as his coaching philosophy is concerned, he said that's predicated by his roster.

His overall principle is space and pace. If it means running set plays, that's what he'll do. But if he has the players who can get up and down the court, his team will be prepared for that as well.

Regardless, the ability to play defense is a must. Green is a firm believer defense is the difference between winning and losing.

He also said he's very familiar with the Tupelo program. Like most coaches in the Jackson area and below, he noted, he's always kept an eye on what Tupelo is doing.

"We are so excited to have Coach Green join the Golden Wave family," Dobbs said. "We look forward to him continuing the championship standard here at THS."

A native of Shreveport, La., Green is a 2004 graduate of Mississippi College, where he was a member of the basketball team.

He is married to his wife Valyncia, a native of McComb, and the couple has two sons, Christian, 12, and Elijah, 6.

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