



Craig Yeast to Lead Titan Football Program

“What an exciting time to be a Titan! Returning to his hometown where it all began! The opportunity to come back home and pour into others and make a difference is a blessing within itself. We welcome Craig Yeast as the new Mercer County Senior High Head Football Coach. Coach Yeast comes with knowledge, experience, dedication, and roots within the community. We look forward to having Coach Yeast head our football program and working with our team while sharing his wisdom to success on the football field and in life.”

- Athletic Director Donald Wayne Smith

This will be a homecoming for Yeast, a former National Football League (NFL) player and All-Southeastern Conference (SEC) wide receiver at the University of Kentucky, as he grew-up in Harrodsburg and played high school football for Alvis Johnson at Harrodsburg High School. He will be the program’s sixth head coach.

“We are extremely excited about having Coach Craig Yeast lead our Titan football program at Mercer County. His work ethic, knowledge, and character have allowed him to play and coach football at the highest levels. We look forward to him leading our team to many championships in the future on and off the field!

- Superintendent Jason Booher

“We are excited to welcome Coach Yeast to the Titan Family. I have had the pleasure of watching Craig compete at a young age, coach him in high school, and cheer him on at The University of Kentucky and the NFL. His wealth of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate level make him a perfect fit for our Titan football program.”

- Principal Spencer Tatum

Yeast comes to Mercer County from Kentucky Wesleyan College, a NCAA DII institution and member of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference, where he had been head coach since 2018. Prior to taking over the reins at KWC, Yeast spent three years at Franklin College in Indiana where he served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. During this time, his offense was one of the most prolific in NCAA Division III.

Prior to running the offense at Franklin College, Yeast served as the Head Football Coach at Fremont Ross High School located outside of Toledo, Ohio. In addition to his coaching duties, Yeast was also the school's Special Education teacher. Before arriving at Fremont Ross, Yeast served as the wide receivers coach at NCAA Division II Tiffin University (Ohio) from 2012-2014. Under Yeast's direction, the Dragons receiving corps flourished and experienced unparalleled success.

Yeast concluded his professional career in 2006 with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League. He joined the organization in 2003 and had back-to-back 1,000 yards receiving seasons in 2004 and 2005. Prior

to joining the Tiger-Cats, Yeast last played in the NFL in 2001 for the New York Jets after spending the 1999 and 2000 seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals where he was a fourth-round selection in 1999.

In 1995, Yeast signed to play his college football with the University of Kentucky Wildcats after a prolific high school career as a quarterback and wide receiver at Harrodsburg High School. During his four years as a Wildcat, Yeast rewrote the record books. To this day he is the all-time leader in career receptions (208), receiving yards (2,899), and touchdowns (28). His 208 career receptions rank 8th in SEC history while his receiving yards (9th), catches (12th), and touchdowns (10th).

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sport management from Midway College (2011) and a Master's Degree in Education from Tiffin (2013).

Yeast and his wife Tori have been married for 22 years with two children, 22-year-old Craig II "Russ," who plays football at Kansas State, and 19-year-old Kiyah, who currently runs track at Louisville.