



OLENTANGY SCHOOLSSM

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NEW COACH TO LEAD LIBERTY PATRIOTS FOOTBALL

Olentangy Schools is recommending the hiring of John Sansbury as head coach of the Olentangy Liberty High School football program.

Coach Sansbury succeeds Steve Hale, who has led the program since Liberty opened in 2003. After 20 seasons as head football coach, Hale's record was 154-76, taking 15 teams to the playoffs, capturing eight league championships, and winning the Division I regional championships in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Hale will retire from both teaching and coaching in May.

"I could not be more excited for the start of the John Sansbury era of Liberty football," shared Principal Mike Starner. "Not only is John a great football coach, but he is a man of high character, an exemplary classroom teacher, consummate professional and extraordinary leader of young people."

Sansbury played football under Coach Hale before graduating from Liberty in 2005 and playing baseball at the collegiate level at Otterbein University. Upon graduation, Sansbury returned to Liberty High School as a social studies teacher and coach. Sansbury's football coaching experience includes Freshman Assistant Coach, Outside Linebacker/Strong Safety Coach, Defensive Line Coach, Junior Varsity Co-Head Coach, Special Teams Coordinator, and most recently, Defensive Coordinator. Sansbury has coached in 26 playoff football games, including three final four games and two additional regional finals. Sansbury has also served as Liberty's Freshman Basketball Head Coach and the Junior Varsity Baseball Head Coach. He holds a master's in educational leadership from American College of Education.

"John Sansbury has been a Liberty Patriot from the beginning as a three-sport student athlete and member of the first graduating class of 2005. He has grown into an outstanding leader amongst students and staff over the past 14 years," stated Patriots Athletic Director Darin Meeker.

Sansbury and his wife, Shelly, reside in Powell with their one-year-old son. Upon accepting the position, Sansbury shared, "Becoming the head football coach at Olentangy Liberty High School is an immense honor and a dream come true as I love our kids, the program, the staff and people in the community. I'm grateful for the opportunity and excited to get started."

The board will vote to approve Sansbury as head football coach at the April 13 Board of Education meeting.

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