

Two former Mountaineers, Barker, Sheilds named head coach

Written by Mike Kelly

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The names may not be familiar, but two former Appalachian State University football players hope to change that this fall.

Craig Barker has been named the new head football coach at Cherokee High School. He replaces Skooter McCoy, who resigned in June. McCoy was 49-16 during his five-year stay with Cherokee.

"Skooter McCoy did a great job while he was here," Barker said, "I can't say enough good things about him. We're going to play a traditional hard-nose style and keep hanging our hats on that."

Barker lettered three times at ASU. The Braves open their season August 20 against Smokey Mountain.

Charles Sheilds, a walk-on defensive back with the Mountaineers during his playing days at ASU, is the new head coach at McMichael. He spent the last three years at Northern Guilford. Sheilds, who will teach in the business department, graduated from ASU with a marketing degree. He earned his masters at East Carolina.

"I've always enjoyed a good challenge, he said. "It doesn't really matter if it's on the field, in the classroom or life in general."