

Fancher Named Interim Head Coach At Tennessee

Written by Mike Kelly

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Apparantly, one man's loss is another man's gain.

At least for now that seems to be the case concerning the peril of Bruce Pearl, who was dismissed on Monday as head basketball coach at the University of Tennessee by Athletics Director Mike Hamilton, and former Appalachian State coach Houston Fancher. Fancher, who has more than 20 years of coaching experience, including 12 as a head coach.

Fancher was named interim head coach on Monday following Pearl's dismissal. Fancher spent nine years as head coach at ASU, where he compiled a record of 137-136. He also won a school record 25 games and led the Mountaineers to San Juan Shootout title and the National Invitational Tournament in 2006-07. And for his efforts, he was a mid-major national coach of the year finalist that season. He was also named the Southern Conference coach of the Year in 2003. And he led ASU to three North Division titles in 2003, 2007 and 2008.

His teams also defeated Arkansas and Vanderbilt in 2007-08 and those victories represent Appalachian State's only wins over Southeastern Conference opponents in the program's history.

Fancher has been with the Volunteer coaching staff for two years. He was the coordinator of video scouting before he was named interim head coach. His responsibilities as coordinator of video scouting included oversight of all opponent scouting and recruiting data while assisting with on-campus recruiting.

Pearl, a popular coach with Volunteer fans, was 145-61 during his six-year stay with the program. The Volunteers were 19-15 this past season. They lost to Michigan in the opening round of the NCAA tournament. Pearl was dismissed for unethical conduct. The University has announced it will conduct a search for a new head coach immediately.

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