Hickory High has named Lavell Hall, former Athletic Director at Watauga High and a former Appalachian State assistant, as its interim head mens' basketball coach. Hall replaces Shawn Johnson, who

coached the Red Tornadoes the last eight years, but was relieved of his duties when he was arrested on July 26 and charged with 11 felony counts, including indecent liberties with a student, sex offense by a teacher and statutory rape. He is in jail awaiting an Oct. 1 hearing on the charges.

Hall, who retired as WHS' AD in the spring of 2009 (he was replaced by current West Caldwell principal Jeff Link), has been serving as executive secretary of the Northwestern 3A-4A Conference. His hiring was approved at Monday night's meeting of the Hickory Public Schools board of education. Hall officially takes over as coach today.

And he inherits a team that shared the Northwestern 3A-4A regular season championship with Alexander Central last season. The Red Tornadoes made it to the Class 3A state championship game last season. But they lost to Rocky Mount in the finals. The Red Tornadoes went 28-4 and they're 54-8 after the last years.

Hall won four conference championships and shared another during his stay at Lincolnton. He took Lincolnton to the state playoffs eight times, including the state finals 1992-93. That team los to Eden Morehead in the Class 3A state title game.

Hall was an assistant coach at Appalachian State from 1994 to 2003. He worked for Tom Apke (1994-1997), Buzz Peterson (1997-2000) and Houston Fancher (2000-2003). The Mountaineers won four Southern Conference regular season titles and one conference tournament championship during his stay with the program. He was and AD at WHS in 2003.