

## Hardin Takes Over At Freedom

Written by Staff Reports

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Blair Hardin became the ninth head football coach at Freedom High Tuesday afternoon. Hardin comes to Freedom from Porter Ridge, a Class 4A school

located in Indian Trail, N.C., just south of Charlotte.

Hardin was 50-18 during his five-year stay with the Pirates. He led them to the state semifinals in 2010 and the state championship game in each of the last two seasons. The Pirates were 13-2 last season and lost to New Bern, 39-38, in the state finals. The Pirates opened the state playoffs by blasting Watauga, 69-0.

Hardin replaces Mike Helms, who stepped down after four years with the Patriots. Helms, who was 37-14 at FHS, led the Patriots to the Class 3A Western Finals last fall. They lost to Concord, 27-20. Helms also led the Patriots to their first back-to-back-to-back run of 10-win seasons in school history.

Hardin began his coaching career in 2008. He played football for his father, Bruce, at A.L. Brown in Kannapolis, graduating in 2000. His father is currently the head coach at Providence Day.

**Photo Courtesy: Blair Hardin, PHOTO SUBMITTED**