

## McKay named new WHS soccer coach

Written by Mike Kelly  
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William "Woody" McKay is the new men's soccer coach at Watauga High.

Marshall Gasperson, Director of Personnel for Watauga County Schools, made the official announcement Monday afternoon. McKay, a Harvard University graduate and a science teacher, spent 13 years at Mountain Heritage High. He was named Coach of the Year in the Western Highlands Conference on two occasions, in 1999 and in 2004. The Cougars were 20-3 during that 2004 season and they also reached the quarterfinal round of the Class 2A state playoffs.

"We were real fortune to land this guy," Gasperson said, in an elated tone. "What a blessing for us. His credentials are very impressive, and he received nothing but high praise from everyone we spoke to about him. He's graduated from Harvard, he's a licenced teacher who will be tremendous in the classroom, and he's a doctor.

"And look at his record, and what he did at Mountain Heritage. Keep in mind, they don't have a club program (the High Country Avalanche) there like they have here. He's excited about developing this program, and working very closely with the club program."

McKay replaces Uwe Erhlech, who was a language teacher and who coached both men's and women's soccer last season at WHS. In his only season with the Pioneers, Erhlech, who was victimized by budget cuts in the school system, was 4-16-1 with the men last fall (Watauga's first losing season in men's soccer since 1994); he was 10-7 with the women last spring. Both teams did make the state playoffs.

"I am very thrilled about this opportunity," McKay said. "And I am very excited to get things started at the new school."

The school is conducting a search for a female coach to take over the women's program next spring.