

Bazzle, Cougars' New Head Coach

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Nick Bazzle was named the sixth head coach in Alexander Central High's 42-year history. Bazzle replaces Tom Harper, who left the Cougars in February to become the new football coach at Athletics Directory at Hickory. Bazzle had spent the last 24 years at

Newton-Conover, where he served as head coach of the Red Devils the last 13 years. Under his leadership, the Red Devils played in three state championship games and won the Class 2A state championship in 2008.

The Red Devils won five conference titles, and Bazzle was named Coach of the Year Awards five times since he took over as head coach in 1999.

He was also named the Hickory Unifour Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2008.

Bazzle was 112-56 at Newton-Conover, and he takes over an Alexander Central team that struggled after winning the Northwestern 3A/4A title in 2010. The Cougars (6-6, which includes a forfeit win against Hickory) made the state playoffs, but lost to Watauga in the opening round. Newton Conover was 5-7 last fall.