

## Helms Named Football Coach At Hickory

Written by Staff Reports

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Mike Helms has been named the new football coach at Hickory High. He replaces Tom Harper, who resigned after one season to take the head-coaching job at Fred T. Foard. Helms, who graduated from      Lenior-Rhyne University is 103-81 in his career. Helms has been the head coach at East Burke, Cherryville, Northwest Cabarrus and Freedom.

He led FHS to the Class 3A Western Finals last year. He's also the first coach in FHS history to post three consecutive ten win seasons. The Patriots were 12-1 last year. Helms was 37-14 during his four-year stay with the program.

The Red Tornadoes were 8-5 last season. They lost to Lawndale-Burns in the second round of the Class 3A state playoffs. Helms is the sixth head football coach at HHS since the late Frank Barger retired in 1991.

The Hickory Public Schools finalized the decision by approving a teaching contract for Helms. The HPS also announced that Susan Caroline Lovette was hired as an assistant principal and she will also serve as HHS' new athletic director next season.

Lovette, an Appalachian State graduate who also has a master's degree from Gardner-Webb, has worked an assistant principal at Fred T. Foard, an administrative intern at Northview Middle School, a PE teach and girls' basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Alexander Central and she was the second female in the state to coach a boys' varsity team when she worked at North Wilkes.

At Alexander Central, Lovette guided the 2002-2003 Cougars to a 3-21 record and followed that with teams that went 2-23 and 3-20.

**Photo Courtesy: Mike Helms, PHOTO SUBMITTED**