

Foard Names Head Softball Coach

Written by Staff Reports
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Fred T. Foard High didn't have to look too far to find its new softball coach. The school's Athletic Director, Rob Bliss, made the announcement Thursday morning that a former player, Shania Johnson,

will take over the program in the spring of 2014.

Johnson was a catcher, who was named all-conference four times for the Tigers. She continued her career as an outfielder at nearby Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory.

Johnson, a teacher's assistant at Foard, takes over for David Shubert, who retired from coaching after last season.

A former top athlete at Bandys, But he remains on the faculty at Foard. Johnson graduated from Foard in 2009, and she recently graduated from L-R in May. In her four-year career with the Bears, Johnson hit .219 in 22 games as a freshman, .286 as a sophomore, playing in 26 games. She made 15 starts as a junior and hit .175 and started seven of 32 games as a senior and batted .150.

At Foard, Johnson inherits a very young roster that on opening day. There are nine sophomores, five juniors and one senior returning from a team that went 9-3 in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, and a ball club that finished 23-5, beating Forestview, R-S Central and Franklin in the state 3A playoffs before falling 4-3 at home against Enka in the fourth round.

Pitcher Lexi Shubert, currently a freshman at USC-Upstate, was the NW3A/4A Conference player of the year and she also named North Carolina's Gatorade Player of the Year in softball. The Tigers have made the state playoffs eight consecutive times, and they've been the No.1 seed among the Class 3A schools in the NW3A/4A in the last four years.