

Houston Heading To The Citadel

Written by Staff Reports

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According to footballscoop.com, Lenoir-Rhyne University football coach head Mike Houston is expected to accept the offer to become the next head coach at The Citadel.

He would replace Kevin Higgins, who resigned after nine years to become an assistant head coach and a wide receivers coach at Wake Forest University under first-year coach Dave Clawson. Its the first time Higgins has ever coached at the FBS level.

Houston was among three finalists that were interviewed on Monday. One of those finalists, Navy assistant Ashley Ingram, withdrew his name from consideration. According to sources close to the situation in Charleston, S.C., Houston is the leading candidate for this job. It's basically his choice to turn it down.

Houston led the Bears to the NCAA Division II national championship game this season and a No.2 national ranking in the final D-II Top 25 Poll. During his three-year stay with the Bears, he led them to their third straight South Atlantic Conference Championship in 2013 and second outright league title since 1975.

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Houston, who is 29-8, also led L-R to its first NCAA playoff appearance in 50 years in 2012. Houston became the 18th Head Football Coach in L-R history when he was hired on May 9, 2011.

Before being elevated to head coach, Houston was the Bears' defensive coordinator and secondary coach for four seasons (2007-10) under Fred Goldsmith.

Under Houston's leadership, the Bears' defense had one of their best seasons in recent memory in 2010. Three years ago, Lenoir-Rhyne led the South Atlantic Conference in total defense (276.6 ypg) and finished fourth in NCAA Division II in rushing defense (75.7 ypg).

In addition, senior defensive back Marcus Shuford (Newton, N.C.) became the third player in school history to win league defensive player-of-the-year honors. On February 4, 2010, Houston was elevated to Assistant Head Coach.

Houston came to Lenoir-Rhyne after spending one year (2006) as the Associate Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator at Brevard College.

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At Brevard, Houston was part of a staff that re-established football after a 56-year absence. The 2006 Tornado squad won two games while playing a roster comprised of true freshman.

Prior to Brevard, Houston served as the Head Coach at T.C. Roberson High School in Asheville, N.C., from 2001-05. Under Houston, T.C. Roberson went 42-18 (5-4 in the playoffs) and was a two-time Times-News Area Coach Of The Year (2002 and '04).