

Football Should Be Fun, Coach Says

The North Buncombe Black Hawks open a new era Friday night when they host the Madison High Patriots at Reeves Stadium in Weaverville. The 1988 Black Hawks are led by an experienced head coach with plans for the future.

Following two disappointing 1-9 seasons, the Black Hawks turned to Tom McIntyre to rebuild the struggling North Buncombe program. The South Carolina native signed on in January following the resignation of former Hawks head coach Tom Weaver in December.

A former minor league pitcher with the San Francisco Giants' organization, McIntyre brings 30 years' coaching experience and two South Carolina 4-A state championships to his new job at North Buncombe. He also has built a reputation for rebuilding slumping football programs.

McIntyre began his coaching career at Boiling Springs (S.C.) H.S., a school which had suffered through 16 consecutive losing seasons. After a 1-8 season in 1958, McIntyre led Boiling Springs to 15 consecutive winning seasons.

In 1974, McIntyre moved over to Hillcrest H.S. in Sumter, S.C. At the time, Hillcrest had been winless in three years of 4-A competition. Under McIntyre's leadership, Hillcrest compiled a 6-4 record with 22 sophomores in 1974. Hillcrest went on to capture two 4-A state championships during McIntyre's tenure as head coach.

McIntyre decided to make a move earlier this year because, "My wife and I wanted to get up to 'cool, green Asheville.' It hasn't been too cool yet." Before accepting the offer to lead the Black Hawks, however, McIntyre held lengthy talks with school administrators.

As he tells it, "I wanted to make sure I found a program that could be successful. I feel like this program can be successful, but it's going to take some time. We don't have any kids that have won in varsity football. We've got to teach them how to win. They've got losing down pat, but we can't live with that. I'm pleased with the attitude of the administration and community and I'm especially impressed with the student body. Everyone's been very supportive and encouraging."

The Western Athletic Conference's newest head coach has a decidedly old-fashioned approach to coaching, stressing discipline both on the field and in the classroom. "I don't run a democracy," McIntyre says. "We don't vote on anything. I'm a dictator."

When classes began earlier this month, the Hawks coach sent a list of his players to each teacher at North Buncombe. McIntyre asked to be informed if any of his players were having problems in class and assured the teachers that Black

Hawk players would have to hit the books if they expect to see action on the gridiron. "The most important thing is education," McIntyre says. "Winning is second to that."

McIntyre makes it clear that he expects his players to conform to a higher standard. "Athletes are going to get recognition. I want to see to it that it is positive recognition. An athlete has to be a leader, off the field and on. Every athlete at North Buncombe or Madison High has a little kid in elementary school who looks up to him and wants to be like him someday."

The Hawks new head coach graduated from Wofford College where he played both football and baseball. A knee injury ended McIntyre's football career, but he was able to continue pitching and signed with the New York Giants following graduation. After two seasons of minor league ball at Danville of the Carolina League and Springfield (Mass.) in the Eastern League, McIntyre entered the service and continued his baseball career. While at Springfield, he played with future Hall of Famer Willie McCovey.

When he realized that his

fastball was not of major league caliber, McIntyre turned to coaching football. Minor league baseball proved to be a detour in his lifelong ambition to coach.

"I went to college intending to

Thirty years and 197 wins later, Tom McIntyre is still on the sidelines, building football programs and shaping young boys into men. "Football ought to be fun," the new Black Hawk coach says,

staff includes several assistant coaches in new roles.

John Fisher is the Black Hawks new defensive coordinator. Ron McDaniel will coach the Black Hawks defensive line.

Junior varsity head coach Perry Sanderson is the Hawks' offensive back coach and Freddie Brown will coach the Black Hawk wide receivers. Randy Campbell, an assistant at Enka in 1987, will coach the Hawks' offensive line this fall.

McIntyre will be calling the plays as offensive coordinator this fall, but hopes to add another assistant next season. The new head coach also supervises the Black Hawk special teams.

With only nine starters returning from last season, the 1988 Black Hawks may not be the scourge of the Western Athletic Conference this fall. But McIntyre is looking to the future and is quick to point out that the 1988 Black Hawks roster includes eight sophomores, including the starting quarterback. If past performance is any indication of things to come, this year's sophomores could be champions before their graduation day.

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Coach McIntyre

coach. When baseball presented itself, I decided to give it a chance," he says. "My dad died when I was six years old. My coaches were my only male influence when I was growing up and I decided very early that I wanted to be a coach someday."

"but you've got to be willing to pay the price. That's part of growing up, learning to be a member of a team. I think athletics is a springboard for life."

In addition to a new head coach, the 1988 Black Hawks coaching



Coach Tom McIntyre surveys team's progress in scrimmage.

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