

Brown takes over Bulldog hoops program

By **Chris Siers**
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New Cornersville Bulldog basketball coach Dakota Brown has a vision for his program.

The first-year head coach wants to build a foundation around the youth in the program, which he feels can lead to several championships in the future.

"I told them the first day I saw them, building a firm relationship with the team, we've got a young team. I think building a firm foundation first of all. But I also told them, regardless of the first year or not, we want to hang a banner. With the group I've got now, I think we've got a great chance to hang one, two or three. But Year 1 is building that foundation because in Year 2, we're stepping on it and we have something built," he said.

Brown comes to Cornersville after getting his coaching career started at the middle school level, coaching at Unity School in Lincoln County.

Although his stint with the Bulldogs is his first head coaching position at the high school level, he's no stranger to the sport and is from nearby Mt. Pleasant.

"had the opportunity to play in the state tournament in 2013 and graduated in 2014. From there, I went to Columbia State and got a degree in exercise science from there. I went to MTSU for two more years and got a degree in K-12 education," Brown said.



Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

Dakota Brown has been hired to take over the Cornersville Bulldog boys basketball program.

"My first job was at Unity over in Lincoln County. I coached middle school boys basketball, middle school girls basketball and football. From there, high school basketball is where I wanted to be. This job came open and I applied."

Typically in the hiring cycle, the earlier a coach is hired, the better.

Brown officially joined the Bulldogs just after the dead period and while he's had a chance to meet with the entirety of the team, having everyone together for workouts and learning his style

of coaching has been a challenge.

"I haven't had a chance to see everybody together but like one day. I definitely will have to take time as to when I can get them. My playing style is man-to-man defense, but of course I want to play a fun style of basketball," he said.

"Everybody wants to watch a fun team. We do want to get up and down the floor. You say that, but you have to take a look and see what kind of kids you've got and what they're going to be best at."

While instilling his vision for the team's of-

fensive and defensive schemes will be a challenge until he can get all the players on the floor together, those players who aren't participating in fall sports have been focusing on basketball fundamentals and conditioning through the summer months.

"We've been in the gym about five days a week just doing skill development. We've been hammering individual skill work for the last three to four weeks since I was hired," he said.

The limited summer time has been limited for the first-year coach,

but has still been fairly productive, but the challenge of getting to know the players still remains one of the biggest tasks for Brown.

"Bringing in a new face, they're used to a certain face, and then it's me trying to get used to them and them get used to me," he said.

"With the football guys, I've had them for one day. For the most part, I'm not going to have them out here for basketball until after football. That's going to leave me until after the season starts to mid-season to know those guys. So it's going to be my job to get out during

the school day and talk to those guys and get to know them so when we do meet in November or December, it's not a shock as far as style of play," he said.

While the challenges remain, Brown is excited to get to know the community and get to work on the hardwood.

"I am super excited. It takes a little bit of getting used to as far as some of the behind the scenes stuff at the high school level. I can't wait. I don't think there's any better place I could have been put into a situation than here at Cornersville," he said.

Titans shuffling around offensive line

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — Titans coach Mike Vrabel says Aaron Brewer is tougher than a \$2 steak as the undrafted offensive lineman from Texas State tries to become Tennessee's new left guard.

Dillon Radunz is trying to prove he can make the leap from North Dakota State to the NFL at right tackle.

Those are the two spots up for grabs in training camp on an offensive line looking to make serious improvement over 2021 when Ryan Tannehill was sacked 47 times — more than all but one other NFL quarterback.

And both Brewer and Radunz want those jobs to help block for running back Derrick Henry.

"I feel like it's my job, and I feel like I got to win every day," Brewer said. "This is the NFL. Every day you come into compete. ... There's new players coming in to compete. They're coming to take it too. I feel like it's mine, and I got to work every day to keep. I have to earn it every day."

Radunz has the same mindset: "Obviously I'm there, I'm in that spot and you're like, 'Yeah, that's the mindset.' It's my job. I need to protect it."

The Titans drafted the 6-foot-6, 301-pound Radunz with the 53rd overall pick in 2021 to be a starter. Radunz struggled not only making the leap from the Football Championship Subdivision in college but played only one game in 2020 because of the pandemic. He was an emergency starter as a third option at left tackle last December.

Then Radunz was one of the Titans' offseason award winners for how hard he worked. Offensive coordinator Todd Downing said Tuesday that Radunz has been committed to trying to improve in so many areas that they asked him to focus on including both physical development and individual techniques.

"The hard work has been really cool to see," Downing said. "It means a lot to him."

The 6-1, 295-pound Brewer joined the Titans as a camp body in 2020 and wound up doing more than making the final roster cuts for two straight seasons. Brewer played in 12 games as a rookie and another 12 last season, starting five games as the Titans dealt with injuries that forced them to play an NFL-most 91 players.

Brewer is trying to replace 6-5, 325-pound veteran Rodger Saffold, a salary cap casualty in March now in Buffalo. Brewer got some tips from Saffold on where to place his hands and how to run through whoever he's blocking.

A lineman who has been undersized even playing high school football in Texas is used to fight-

▶ See **Titans**, Page 8



Tribune Photos by Chris Siers

Forrest's Noah Brown turned in a two-over par 38 to claim medalist honors on Tuesday afternoon at Henry Horton.



Maggie Browning posted the Lady Rockets' top score and finished with a 41.

Rockets claim tri-match at Henry Horton

By **Chris Siers**
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CHAPEL HILL — The Forrest Rocket and Lady Rocket golf teams got off to a solid start on the season during Tuesday's tri-match at Henry Horton against Cascade and Commu-

nity. Led by Noah Brown's match medalist efforts, the Rockets took the team in convincing fashion, while the Lady

Rockets placed second.

Brown carded a round-low 38 to lead the Rockets to the win.

Kelton Grubbs, along with Community's Logan Miller, each carded a 45, while Trey Williamson and Shawn Brown turned in a 55 and 53, respectively, after the nine-hole match.

On the girls' side of the match, Cascade ran away with a 77 team score, led by the one-two punch of Tatyana

Greene and Anna Clanton, who shot a 39 and 38, respectively.

For the Lady Rockets, Maggie Browning wasn't far off the Lady Champs' mark.

She finished with a 41 to lead Forrest, while Ava Edmonson turned in a 66.

Forrest will be back in action on Tuesday, facing Cornersville and Marshall County in the annual Wells Cup.

Day 1 of the Wells

Cup will be held at Henry Horton, with Day 2 following at the Lewisburg Recreation Center.

The Wells Cup will conclude on Thursday at Saddle Creek.

Boys
Forrest (189)
Noah Brown 38
Kelton Grubbs 45
Trey Williamson 55
Shawn Brown 53

Community (207)
Cascade (NS)

Girls
Forrest (107)
Maggie Browning 41
Ava Edmonson 66

Cascade (77)
Community (126)