

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Clay County Board of Education approved Ernie Hughes as Head Football Coach for Hayesville High School on Monday. Coach Hughes brings a wealth of high school experience to HHS. He has completed 21 yrs. as a head football coach in 4 different schools in South Carolina from the 1A level to the 4A level. He has also coached at two different schools in western North Carolina and is currently assistant football coach at football powerhouse Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, SC. Northwestern won the 4A state championship in 2010 and was runner up in 2008 and 2009. Hayesville High Principal, Keith Nuckolls said, "Coach Hughes brings lots of enthusiasm and a high level of energy to our program. Coach Hughes has been part of some very successful football programs during his career and knows what it takes to motivate high school players and get the very best from all involved."

Scott Penland, superintendent said, "we had over 30 applicants and we picked 12 of the best to interview. Out of that 12 there were some very good ones, but every way we looked at it, Coach Hughes kept coming to the top. He is a very personable person, highly motivated and full of energy. He will fit in well here in the community".

Mr. Hughes will begin working at HHS in the very near future.