

Scott Smith

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Smith says he countered the immediate scheduling of all three schools starting in 2019 with his own proposal.

"I asked if we could start adding one at a time, getting an additional one every two years," said Smith. "We're still trying to build our program. We had two seniors and the rest are underclassmen."

"I met with the athletic director again this week and he said he had heard my thoughts on the schedule had changed. I told him, 'I would play whoever you want us to play. If that's what I need to do, that's what I will do. We aren't scared of anybody.'"

Woodlee believed the conversation expressed Smith's displeasure for the scheduling.

"He told me, 'I'll do the scheduling, but I don't like it.' He felt we were shoving it down his throat," said Woodlee. "Those three teams are important games for our program. They are rivals and bring their fans to our games."

Woodlee added the last conversation between the pair was preempted by him asking Smith to provide a list of supplies needed to improve the cleanliness of the fieldhouse, one he asked for Monday before Tuesday's meeting. With the scheduling disagreement, the dismissal of assistant coaches and no list surfacing, Woodlee made a decision.

"I told him, 'You've been

relieved of your duties.' He said, 'You ain't nothing but a damn coward,'" recalled Woodlee. "I could have sent him an email or text, but I was looking him eye to eye."

"It was about his overall attitude and not being a team player."

Smith believed the issue was deeper, with members of the school board throwing in their influence to expedite a change.

"I feel like this came down from a place of bitterness and resentment, with people that had personal issues that couldn't be resolved," said Smith. "This is a county full of super people. Of the people I've met in Grundy County, 99.9 percent are incredibly great. I feel like there's four people controlling everything."

"When you have ultimate power, you can make people disappear."

Part of Smith's shock came from the issue of loyalty, which was questioned of him during the interview process. Smith has been hired eight times as a head coach since 2000, with his most successful stop coming at Ezell Harding, the school he led to a state championship in 2001.

Smith was named the head coach of Glenciff in January 2017, only to leave five months later due to health and family issues. He never coached a game there either.

Being loyal to the Yellow Jackets was something he was going to have to prove upon

being hired, and he felt like he was taking steps to make that happen.

"I love the mountains and I grew up in the country. I wanted to finish with a school where I'm comfortable," said Smith. "Believe me or not, but I was about to buy a house here. I was planning on living here and retiring to live in a cabin."

"I know I've moved so many times that it's hard to believe, but I had made some bad decisions and was tired of job hopping. I wanted to take a program which almost lost football and make a difference. I wanted the incredible challenge."

Smith currently plans on staying in Grundy County, where he hopes the players can still accomplish great things.



"The kids were great. They never questioned anything and tried to do more than I asked. They're one of the sharpest groups of kids I've seen," said Smith. "I wish only the Yellow Jackets great luck this season. I'll be behind them all season and will help them in any way as long as I'm in Grundy County."

Woodlee announced Friday former UT linebacker Tracy Hayworth will be the new coach (more information to come in Wednesday's paper). He believes in his choice.

"When I walked out of the fieldhouse (after talking with Tracy), it was like taking 1,000 pounds off my shoulders. This was what I needed to do."

**SCOTT SMITH'S TEXT TO WC PLAYERS, INFORMING THEM HE WAS LEAVING AFTER ONE SEASON - NOV. 2014**

Guys I wanted to let u know b 4 u starting hearing rumors that as of 2 day at 2 pm I will have accepted an offer from Franklin County to become their head football coach. I would much rather have told u face to face but with the holidays that will not b possible. This was n no way what I had planned on happening. However this will allow us not to have to move and stay n our present home. Plez know how hard this was and that this was an incredibly hard thing for me and Mrs. Smith 2 do. I understand that u may be upset and I understand those feeling completely. Plez know that I love u guys and will continue to love u all.



**SCOTT SMITH TIMELINE**

**2000-03** - Ezell Harding, won state title in 2001  
**2005-06** - Independence  
**2007-09** - Science Hill  
**2010-13** - Moore County, left to take Warren County job in Dec. 2013  
**2014** Warren County, Pioneers finish 4-6  
**JAN. 2014** - "I didn't get begged to be here. I wanted to be on the Warren County sidelines. I want to be here for a long time," said Smith at a booster club meeting.  
**NOV. 2014** - Smith resigns as Warren County coach, informs team through text message  
**2015-16** - Franklin County (dismissed after two 3-7 seasons)  
**JAN. 2017** - Hired as Glenciff head coach  
**JUNE 2017** - Resigns citing health/family reasons  
**JULY 2017** - Joins Morristown West as OC  
**FEB. 2018** - Hired at Grundy County  
**JULY 2018** - Dismissed at Grundy County

**OVERALL RECORD:** 148-88



Halie Leonard, left, and teammate Morgan Vaughn catch Ethan Hall in a rundown during their junior league game Friday. Leonard and Vaughn helped lead Homeland Bank to a victory.



Jeffery Simmons photos  
Kaden Mullican drives a single into centerfield for Security Federal in youth league action.

Tournament action heats up in Morrison leagues

The stakes couldn't be higher for teams Friday while playing at Morrison Ball Park. Competing in win-or-go-home tournament games, squads were grinding to stay alive for the ultimate prize of a tournament title.

Homeland Bank avoided elimination in Friday's first game, topping WOW Country 105.3 15-9 to advance in the junior league bracket.

Homeland Bank, the No. 2 seed going into the tournament, found itself in the loser's bracket after an upset loss to Great Lakes Cheese Thursday. WOW Country sent a scare into Homeland Bank Friday, rallying to knot the score 9-9 in the fourth as time dwindled.

Christopher Barrett and Morgan Vaughn quickly made sure Homeland Bank would stay alive. Barrett and Vaughn each had two-run singles in the top of the fifth, when Homeland Bank scored six runs to pull away.

In other junior league action, Great Lakes Cheese continued to play the role of spoiler in the winner's bracket finals. Great Lakes Cheese upended top seed Make It Lash 14-9 to punch its ticket in Tuesday's tournament finals.

Thomas Myers and Jazilyn Cory sealed the deal on the victory, making big snags in the fifth to keep Make It Lash from mounting a rally.

The youth league also had a big showdown with a bid to the tournament finals at stake. Morrison Marathon and Security Federal renewed their rivalry from the regular season, where the teams split their meetings while rising to the top of the standings.

Morrison Marathon was able to claim the rubber match, topping Security Federal 11-6. Christopher Robledo led Morrison Marathon to victory, showing a strong arm and blazing speed to turn centerfield into a no fly zone for Security Federal. Robledo also was strong at the plate, with his three-run, inside-the-park home run in the fourth inning pushing his team ahead 11-4.

Security Federal had drawn to within four at 8-4 before Robledo's homer, using Jagger Felty's two-run, two-out single to rally. Security Federal couldn't rally in its last at-bat though and now will have to try to come out of the loser's bracket Monday night.

In senior league action Friday night, Homeland Bank pummeled Kidd Ford 27-7 in three innings and Summitville Feed topped Davenport Electric 14-2 in five innings.

Championship games in all leagues are scheduled for Tuesday night, with action beginning at 6 p.m.



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