

Vonner takes helm as Jr. Viking head coach

BY SETH WILKERSON

The Jr. Vikings have a new head coach with Jeremy Vonner coming from South

Jr. Viking Roster	
No.	Name
5	Tyland Richmond
10	Zakius Whiteside
12	Qua Hampton
14	Edward Agnew
15	Tyler Cole
21	Tyon Campbell
22	Jedaiah Hassell
24	Jakylen Ford
25	Kelsey Rose
32	Jaden Champion
35	Kendre bonds
42	Braydon Guyton
45	Tyreke Boykin

Gibson to steer the ship. The Jr. Vikings have experienced a great season so far. Following the opening night loss to Dyersburg, October 25, Humboldt is undefeated winning one at home and three on the road (4-1).

Coach Vonner is a native out of Carroll County, a graduated with class of 1998 and is familiar with a lot of Humboldt Viking football teams.

“They had some very good players when I was playing in high school,” Coach Vonner commented.

Vonner’s past includes coaching in Texas, marrying a girl from Humboldt, moving back to West Tennessee, coaching college basketball for five years, getting out of coaching and into training, returning to coaching at South Gibson and now is happy to be in Humboldt doing what he loves—helping students succeed, both in the classroom and on the court.

When asked about his coaching philosophy, Coach Vonner said, “I’ve had to learn that these kids are 12 to 14 years old. Patience is the first thing

I’ve learned and fundamentals a close second. I think with middle school, it’s such a quick turnaround with football to basketball. In my situation, I didn’t have them in the summer so we had eight to 10 days of practice and it was game time. We are having to find a balance between fundamentals and what kind of offense/defense we are going to run.”

One thing is obvious, he is a straightforward kind of guy. He wants the same from his athletes. Even though they are in middle school students, there is a still a standard that is expected.

The Jr. Vikings are having great success so far this season despite the ups and downs of some games.

“We’re still developing a relationship in where we are figuring each other out,” Coach Vonner remarked. “They play very hard and have accepted the pre-requisite of working and playing hard. That’s a huge thing for basketball. Defensively, the Jr. Vikings have been on point in most games. This team has a couple of athletes that can play more than one position. Playing hard and

defending the ball very well has been key to the start which is showing in the wins/losses for this team so far.”

As a first-year head coach in Humboldt, Vonner is stepping into a very successful program that last year was deflated leaving the post-season as early as they did.

Coach Vonner is trying to refocus the team and said, “We are taking this season one day at a time. We can only control the practice that we are in. You can’t do anything else but worry about that day. And when it comes to games, you have to take it one game at a time. It’s hard not to get ahead on the schedule but I don’t even talk about other people until we finish that objective in front of us.”

The Jr. Vikings are still focused on improving, even though the record is very positive. The season is still early and the coaching staff has seen where situational basketball might not be at its best for the time being.

“We are working on the end of quarter and clock running down situations,”

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JR. VIKING COACHES - Coaching the Humboldt Jr. Viking basketball team this year are Head Coach Jeremy Vonner and Assistant Coach Steve Shivers.