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LINDENWOOD

LU hires Gorzynski as new football coach

Rick Gorzynski, one of the most heralded high school football coaches in St. Louis history, has been hired as the new head coach at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.

Gorzynski has spent the last 27 years as head coach at Hazelwood East High School, where he won two state championships. Over 32 years, his high school coaching record is 223-53.

Gorzynski inherits a Lindenwood program hungry for a return trip to the NAIA National Championships. LU was there just two years ago when the Lions finished 8-4, but in 2000 Lindenwood fell to 4-8.

"I am excited to be here, and I can't wait to begin recruiting," said Gorzynski, who plans to recruit heavily in the metropolitan area. "We have a great facility here at Lindenwood and we want the great players in St. Louis to stay at home and play right here."

Gorzynski's two state championships came in 1989 and 1995, and many consider the 2001 Hazelwood East squad a heavy favorite to be in the championship game again. Gorzynski's teams have been to the state semifinals four times, and have won 14 district championships and 14 conference championships. On six different occasions, his teams were ranked nationally by USA Today.

"We've got the right guy for the job," said Lindenwood President Dennis Spellmann. "Coach Gorzynski is committed to recruiting locally, he's committed to winning, and most importantly, he's committed to our students succeeding in the classroom."

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