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LINDENWOOD

New football coach anxious to contribute

Patrick Ross, who guided Ottawa (Kan.) University to the NAIA national playoffs in 2003, is the new head football coach at Lindenwood University.

"We're very excited to have Patrick as a part of the Lindenwood family," President Dennis Spellmann said. "We're looking forward to watching his leadership in action. He's a very impressive young man."

Ross spent two seasons as head coach of Ottawa University football team. He recorded a 5-5 record in 2002 and his Braves were 9-2 in 2003. Prior to coaching at Ottawa, Ross served as the defensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator at Kansas Wesleyan University for four years.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to coach at Lindenwood," Ross said. "The university has taken so many strides to become successful and I'm looking forward to helping the football team become another successful part of the school."

Ross takes over for Rick Gorzynski, who remains at Lindenwood as director of the nation's first Coaching with Character program.

The Lions are returning nine players on the defensive side of the ball. Six offensive players are returning for next year's squad, including sophomore wide receiver George Mumphard, who ranked among the conference leaders in receiving yards and touchdowns.

"I hope to utilize our best players for the upcoming season," said Ross. "I hope to get a group of great student athletes for the team--students who excel in the classroom and athletes who excel on the football field. Hopefully, we'll be able to contribute to Lindenwood's next Directors' Cup."

Lindenwood University has won the Director's Cup, given annually to the top collegiate athletic program, for two consecutive years.

Ross received his undergraduate degree in business administration from University of Puget Sound (Wash.) in 1997. In 1998, he earned his master's in business administration from Kansas Wesleyan.

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