Written by George Browning
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Former West Washington boys' basketball Head Coach Neil Coyle recently accepted a postion as assistant athletic director and varsity boys basketball assistant coach at Bloomington South High School.

Coyle said he enjoyed teaching elementary students, but it wasn't what he say for his future.

"Being an Athletic Director is something that I have always thought I would like to do," he said. "I have enjoyed working with k-6 kids in the classroom, but is not something that I could see myself continuing to do for the next 20 years.

"The Administrative area of Athletics is something that I have always had an interest in and you look at guys like Ron Smith and Scott Newcomb, and you see the impact that they have had on their respective schools and communities, and I hope to be able to do the same."

Taking the new job was the easy part, but leaving the new one, that was the hardest part.

Coyle has not only spent the past 15 years as a teacher and a coach at West Washington, it's where he attended school.

"It is never easy to leave somewhere that you have worked for a long time, let alone a place that you were born and raised," he said. "I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of great people at West Washington the past 15 years and have developed a lot of great relationships with people in the community and am grateful to have had that opportunity."

While sad about leaving, there is excitement about what lies ahead.

Coyle will be working under Head Coach J.R. Holmes, who has coached for 31 years and has compiled a record of 526-182.

Last year the Panthers were 14-10, but in the previous season they were, 26-2 on their way to a state championship.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to work with the kids here at South and have the opportunity to coach under a Hall of Fame Coach like Coach Holmes," he said. "The people here have been very welcoming and helpful during my transition."

For know Coyle will commute back and forth from Bloomington , but he did say his house was on the market and eventually the entire family will move.

"Right now I am and will be commuting," he said. "That's quite a change from the three-mile trip I have made to WW the last few years. It takes me around 55 minutes to make the trip to Bloomington.

"We have had our house on the Market in case a great opportunity like this might present itself, just so happened that the opportunity came before the house sold. So, at this point until we sale the house I will commute and the kids will attend West Washington as well as Amy working at East Washington (in the elementary office)."

Coyle spent the majority of his coaching days at West Washington guiding the boys' program and he even coached the girls team for a season.

Last year he coached his son and his team at the junior high level.