

Rebuilding job at Salem wasn't too big for Mo

Written by George Browning

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Mo Moriarity took over the reigns of the Salem High School football program in 2011 and managed just a 6-16 record over those two seasons.

He stepped down as SHS football coach just after the season ended, but said he'd stay on as athletic director.

Then on Monday, Dec. 10, he was hired as assistant athletic director and head football coach at Bloomington South, the school where he won two state championships.

At Salem, three of Moriarity's six wins came against Silver Creek, which just finished up its second season of varsity football.

During that stretch the Lions suffered some very lopsided losses.

In two games SHS was outscored 84-14 against West Washington and 113-14 in three games against Brownstown.

Charlestown beat the Lions 94-7 in Moriarity's two games against the Pirates.

Moriarity said the fact that Salem still has such a long way to get to the level of those programs didn't play into his decision to return to Bloomington South.

"The hill was not too big to climb," Moriarity said. "It is going to take time, there is no question about it. I do think we've taken some steps in the right direction and I think whoever replaces me should have the opportunity to get Salem where they are competing with the Brownstowns and Charlestown.

"I feel like I am leaving the program better than I found it. I know what I came in to and I know what I am leaving."

When Moriarity was hired, Salem fans began dreaming of sectional titles and deep runs in the tournament.

Those expectations didn't come to be, but they seem to follow Moriarity wherever he goes.

One person on a Bloomington South fan website asked the question shortly before the school board voted to re-hire him Dec. 10, if it was unrealistic to think another state title was just a few years away.

"That's Bloomington," Moriarity said of the expectations. "Expectations are always going to be high and I can't hide my past. When you've had success everyone thinks you are going to deliver. All I can do, is do my best."

Moriarity is currently sixth on the list of winning-est current coaches. In 27 seasons, he has compiled a 247-72 record, which is good for a .774 winning percentage.

He said he will finish up this school year as Salem's athletic director before starting at Bloomington next summer.