

THE INDEX-JOURNAL

Sports

EHS Job Draws 46 Applicants

By SCOTT J. BRYAN/ sbryan@indexjournal.com

Published: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 12:04 AM EST

Greenwood School District 50 has received 46 applications for the vacant football coach and athletic director jobs at Emerald High School, according to assistant superintendent for human resources Randy Vaughn. The vacancy was created Feb. 6, when Mike Clowney resigned after three years leading the Vikings to accept a position at Carson-Newman College as assistant head football coach.

During Clowney's three-year tenure, he posted a 10-21 record with one playoff appearance. "I think Emerald is a great opportunity," Vaughn said. "It's a diamond in the rough. I think it's a great school for AA competition. It's got great facilities and great people. "I think the right person can really get Emerald back on track."

A nine-member selection committee will meet to review applications and conduct interviews. The selection committee includes Vaughn, assistant superintendent for business Gary Johnson, assistant superintendent for instruction Pat Ross, assistant superintendent for administration Robert McClinton, Brewer Middle School principal Gerald Witt, District 50 director of secondary education Shirley Boyce, Westview principal Cyndi Storer, Emerald principal Les Gamble and Emerald assistant principal Brad Nickles.

Vaughn, Johnson, Ross, McClinton, Witt and Boyce served on a selection committee recently that recommended Gene Cathcart as Greenwood's new football coach and athletic director. Former football coach Frank Hill, who is serving as Emerald's interim athletic director, is not on the committee. Vaughn said he anticipates the committee will have a recommendation for the board of trustees by the March 16 school board meeting.

Emerald transitioned from a junior high school and began varsity competition in 1995. Hill was the Vikings' first football coach, serving 10 years before retiring. Emerald's football program has had sporadic success. The Vikings won a state championship in 1998, but have secured only two region championships in 14 seasons. Emerald has only one winning season -- an 11-3 campaign in 2005 -- since 1999. With Hill's retirement after the 2004 season, Emerald is seeking its third head coach in five years.

The job attracted four more applications than Greenwood's vacancy -- and a master's degree, much like with the Greenwood job, is required. Vaughn said Emerald's potential versus Greenwood's tradition might be the reason for more applicants. "You're going to have a lot of assistant coaches that are ready to move up to a head coaching position," Vaughn said. "Our job, our task is to find the very best person for that job."