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## Emerald's Bishop Serves As Trainer For All-Stars

By KEVIN FIORENZO/Index-Journal sports writer

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With the amount of injuries Emerald High School's football team suffered this past season, serving as the athletic trainer all week leading up to today's North-South All-Star Football Game in Myrtle Beach has been almost like a vacation for Brian Bishop.

The Vikings won three of their final four regular season games and made the Class AA playoffs for the first time since 2005, but were plagued by injury, particularly on defense, forcing Bishop to work overtime. "It's really been easier this week than at Emerald because here you don't have the amount of injuries that you usually see since it is an all-star game and the hitting isn't as bad," Bishop said.

Bishop, who has been at Emerald for the past five seasons after a five-year stint at Mauldin, has been a certified athletic trainer for 17 years and is looking at this week as a rare experience. "I was pretty excited when I found out I'd be going," Bishop said. "When you only get to do this maybe once every 10 to 15 years, it's been great. "They just do a wonderful job and have an awful lot of things going on for the kids. There's really been an activity for them every night. I just think I ate too much."

Bishop's presence has been an asset for the Vikings because of the experience he brings. "Brian's been around for awhile, with us and at Mauldin, and we're lucky because a lot of schools don't even have an athletic trainer," Emerald athletic director and football coach Mike Clowney said. "We're fortunate to have him and his expertise. He's very well-respected in the medical community."

After arriving Sunday, Bishop's week began by helping administer physicals to all the players and then attending practice each day, similar to his duties at Emerald.

He acknowledges this season was unusual in terms of the sheer number of injured players the Vikings had on their roster. "It has been strange. We were really on a streak of bad luck there and it was pretty hectic for me," Bishop said. "I remember there were times I'd be on the sidelines with coach Clowney, and we would see like seven or eight kids sitting there in casts, missing time due to injury. "It's been pretty relaxing coming down here."