

Hazel Park's Chuck Skinner

Seaholm has grid coach

By JOHN BOZZO

Seaholm's new head football coach is Charles J. Skinner, the dean of the Southeastern Michigan Association grid coaches.

Skinner's appointment as physical education teacher and head football coach was approved Tuesday, at the Birmingham Board of Education meeting.

At 46, Skinner has 21 years of teaching and coaching experience at Hazel Park High School. Hazel Park and Seaholm are both members of the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA).

He was junior varsity coach his first two years at the school and has been the head football coach the past 22 years. Skinner guessed that his total football record is 110-65, including four SMA titles.

"What's important," Skinner said, "is that when I first went to Hazel Park there was a split schedule in the high school and millage problems. They cut out junior high school sports for awhile. The last few years my record has been 32-13, that's because the school was stable the last eight years."

Skinner will replace Bob Rankin as the head football coach. Rankin resigned from the coaching job Jan. 27, after a 12-3 record in his four years at Seaholm. His teams were 1-3 the past two seasons.

BIRMINGHAM'S coordinator of athletics, Carl Lemle, said Skinner had the qualifications that the school district was seeking. Lemle said there were 62 applicants for the job.

"We wanted somebody that had head coaching experience," Lemle said. "I don't think we could ask for

somebody with any more, or better experience than Chuck gives. We just felt that Chuck Skinner, being familiar with the league and the area all this time, was the man for the job."

Skinner has a BS degree from Eastern Michigan University, where he earned three varsity football letters. He received his MA from the University of Michigan.

When the position opened, Skinner said he called Seaholm principal John Schulz to verify that applications were being taken and ask for the best way to proceed.

"I just felt that it would be real interesting and an exciting challenge," Skinner said. "It's the same league and a good community. The community is willing to get involved in building up the program and willing to support the schools in the area."

"It would be a tremendous feeling to take a team that was beaten consistently and make an outstanding record in the league, particularly in the state too," he added.

Skinner attributed some of Seaholm's football problems to a lack of a coordinated training program from the junior high through high school.

"A LOT OF YEARS they've had good material," Skinner said. "I don't think they've had an adequate program for weight training and building size, weight and speed in their athletes through the use of weight training."

"I'm going to encourage them to get more into the area to provide facilities for building strength and size in the junior high and the high school," Skinner said.

Skinner said he believes the head coach should coordinate the junior high program, so players are learning the same systems the varsity uses.

"I don't think there's been the coordination between the high school and the junior high," Skinner said, "like there would be for teaching math, or anything else, and there should be."

He also wants to stop the "drift" of some Birmingham athletes to parochial schools.

"I'm going to strongly encourage boys in junior high to come to Seaholm," Skinner said. "We want them to know that they can't get better academic or athletic education anywhere in the state. I just feel we're going to have a number one program, we're going to be winners and we want them to stay in the district and join the crusade."

Despite Seaholm's football problems, Skinner never regarded the Miples as an easy game. Hazel Park has had a tough time with Seaholm. Scores the past three years, starting with 1977, were 13-12, 27-24 and 6-0.

"IT DOESN'T happen overnight," Skinner said about developing a winning program. "If we can get the kids to catch on fire, devote themselves and lift weights, it can make a tremendous amount of difference."

"Basically," he continued, "I'm a field position coach believing defense is most important and placing a lot of emphasis on the kicking game. If you get field position in an area where you can move the ball, you're more likely to score."

"If we have a passer and receivers we'll throw," he added. "I believe we should have a balanced attack with about two-thirds running and one-third passing."

Skinner lives in Royal Oak with his wife Anna, and his "football family" which includes six children.

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6 cagers sign with Oakland

Oakland University basketball coach Jim Mitchell has received signed national letters of intent from three of the big front court players he has been seeking. The players are Dan Rawlings, 6-10 center, Franklin, Ill., Don McVannell, 6-8 forward, Flushing, and Derek Knight, 6-8 forward, Knight is a community college graduate who prep'd at Detroit Redford St. Mary's.

McVannell will give the Pioneers size and strength inside. "He is a physical player, and he performs with a determination a lot of big men lack," coach Mitchell says. McVannell averaged 12 points and 12 rebounds a game this season for coach Bill Ballagh. He was first team all-conference and honorable mention all-state.

Mitchell calls Knight "an intelligent player on offense who knows his shots and is patient to work for them." He credits the 265-pounder with great defense and rebounding ability. Knight was all-city and all-state playing for Ben Bluit at Redford St. Mary's. He averaged 17 points and 14 rebounds a game this year completing his studies at Allen County Community College, Iola, Kan. He will be a junior at OU.

Rawlings was all-conference and all-district

competing for coach Ned Seymour at Franklin High School. He averaged 22 points and 12 rebounds a game, and "He is exceptionally fast for a big man," Mitchell says.

The coach earlier announced the signing of Duane Glenn, a 6-3 guard from Detroit St. Andrew, Wally Piese, 6-8 forward from Joliet West High School, Joliet, Ill., and Larry Williams, 6-5 guard from Perth Amboy, N.J.

Glenn averaged 20 points and 12 rebounds a game this season for St. Andrew's coach Bob Shoemaker. Glenn was all-conference, all-Metro-Detroit, and all-state AP and UPI. "He's

dedicated, knows how to win and will be a super player for us," Mitchell says.

Piese averaged 18 points and 9 rebounds a game for Joliet West. He is a good outside shooter and, at 205 pounds, he has size and speed to go to the basket, Mitchell says.

Williams was highly recruited by major colleges after helping his high school win two straight New Jersey state titles. He averaged 22 points and nine rebounds a game this past season playing at Hilbert College, Hamburg, N.Y. "Williams has the potential to be one of the best guards in the eastern part of the country," Mitchell says. Williams became interested in OU through his college coach John Kiesel, an old friend of Mitchell. Williams will be a junior at OU.

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