

# 'I've been called': Parker set to take AHS football reins



GODFREY - David Parker said he felt called to become the next football coach at Alton High School. The school board agreed and last week officially made him the Redbirds' new grid coach.

"I've been looking at getting back to being a head coach," said Parker, who served last spring season as an assistant coach at Marquette Catholic High school. "When I heard the Alton coaching job was opening, I thought it would be a good opportunity."

Parker also works as an RTI Attendance/Behavioral Interventionist in the Riverview Gardens School District and is an assistant pastor at an African Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Louis.

Parker replaces Eric Dickerson as the Redbirds' head coach. Dickerson stepped down following last season after seven seasons as the AHS coach.

"While I was helping at Marquette, I got a chance to see Alton, since we both play at (Public School) stadium," Parker said. "I saw a couple of their games. Alton is in the Southwestern Conference and I think it's the best conference in the state outside Chicago.

"I was impressed by them and I continue to be impressed."

Parker has previous head coaching experience. He led Berkley High School in St. Louis for two seasons in 2002 and 2003. Most of his experience has been as an assistant coach and includes a stint at Hazelwood East High school in north St. Louis County. He was defensive coordinator for East in 2008 and helped the Spartans to the Missouri Class 5A state championship.