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Todd Hickman named Cougar head football coach

Summary: Athletic Director Mark Fohl announces that Todd Hickman has been named head football coach at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Hickman, who was selected following a national search, replaces Ken Crandall who resigned his position in December. Hickman will begin his duties immediately.

(February 15, 2007)-Athletic Director Mark Fohl announces that Todd Hickman has been named head football coach at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Hickman, who was selected following a national search, replaces Ken Crandall who resigned his position in December. Hickman will begin his duties immediately.

“I have been happy to have Todd on our staff for the past eight years as the football program has progressed,” said Fohl. “I feel confident in his ability to continue making progress and leading the program in the future.”

Hickman has served as an assistant football coach at UMM since 1998, serving as coordinator for both the offense and defense. In 2006, the Cougar football team won its first-ever Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) championship and its first conference championship since 1987.

Hickman said, “I am extremely excited to be named the head football coach at UMM. I want to thank all those who have supported me in this process. I also want everyone to know that Cougar Pride is still alive and is ready to run wild in Big Cat Stadium. For all the alumni out there, I will be in touch and together we will continue building a strong program for many years to come.”

Hickman played football at the University of Minnesota, Morris in the early 1980s, playing with the Cougars in the NCAA Division III national playoffs in 1981. Hickman also played football at Morris High School where he was coached by Jeff Arnold, a UMM alum and college football All-American. Hickman completed his bachelor’s degree at St. Cloud State University and his master’s degree at the University of Nebraska, Kearney.

“Coach Hickman has been a key leader in rebuilding Cougar football to a place of pride and excitement. We are ready to continue our success in the UMAC and are moving toward strength in the NCAA Division III,” said Sandra Olson-Loy, UMM vice chancellor for student affairs. She added, “Coach Hickman has strong support from our student athletes, from Minnesota high school principals and coaches, including many who are UMM alums, and from the community as he moves to this new leadership position.”

“Todd did a great job of keeping the football program on track during its recent transition,” added Fohl. “I would like to thank assistant coaches, Matt Johnson and Raven Battle, for assuming additional duties over the past two months.”

Hickman grew up in Morris. He and his wife Karie, returned to the Morris area in 1998. They have five children, Cody, Cassey, Calley, Correy and Cortney.

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