



# Coleman Joiner promoted to become new Whitefield football coach

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Coleman Joiner is already a veteran coach at 26 years old, and he is determined to make Whitefield Academy an elite program as its new football coach.

Joiner was named the Wolfpack's new leader Friday, replacing John Hunter. Hunter, who led the program for the last two years, will be transitioning back into an assisting role with the football team, while maintaining his job as coach of the school's boys lacrosse team.

Joiner, a former quarterback at Campbell, joined the staff at his alma mater right after graduating in 2009, and he stayed on for five seasons under then-coaches T.K. Dodd and Harris Rainbow while he was a student at Kennesaw State. Joiner then headed to Sprayberry for three seasons to learn under Billy Shackelford before making his way to Whitefield this past season.

“Being a head coach has always been a dream of mine,” Joiner said. “It’s usually a dream that doesn’t come this soon. I’m excited and feel blessed to have the opportunity.”

With Joiner serving as co-offensive coordinator under Hunter, Whitefield went 8-4, made it back to the state playoffs for the first time in nine years and won a playoff game for only the third time in school history.

“He 100-percent believes in the vision and purpose of what Whitefield is all about,” said Hunter, who will be Joiner’s defensive coordinator in the fall. “He wants to keep improving on what he we did this year and, hopefully, be one of the elite programs in the state.”

With only 10 seniors graduating, the future is looking up for Joiner and the Wolfpack program.

An offensive mind known for running a spread offense out of the shotgun, Joiner’s Whitefield offense averaged 19 points per game in 2017, after scoring just 10.4 points per game in 2016.

Joiner was first introduced to the offense while he served as tight ends coach at Campbell under Rainbow from 2011-13.

“We’re going to be more of a physical, run team out of the shotgun formation,” Joiner said. “We’re going to stretch the field and really ask a lot from our quarterback. Hopefully, we can spread the ball around, because we have a lot of athletes on the field.”

Whitefield will be graduating quarterback Luke Persons and running back K.J. Cainion, but the Wolfpack expect to be experienced up front with four offensive linemen returning. Even though Whitefield will be searching for a

new starting quarterback and running back, most of its receiving corps will be intact, led by tight end Kyle Holt.

Knowing he will have a veteran front line, Joiner said he would like to run the ball more than last season and would not mind having a dual-threat quarterback to take Persons' place.

Joiner also plans to organize a more intense offseason weight-training program.

"I believe Whitefield's better days are right here in front of us," Joiner said.