

Perkins retires as Marion football coach

Written by Jim Ecker

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Tony Perkins has retired after 17 years as the head football coach at Marion High School, he said Monday morning.

Perkins compiled a 104-60 record with the Indians from 1999 through 2015, but his successful career ended with a 17-game losing streak and controversy surrounding his family.

Nick Perkins, the coach's younger brother, was fired as one of Marion's assistant coaches early this past season following an incident during the first game of the year and Tony Perkins was suspended for one game following that incident.

Tony Perkins won his 104th game as head coach at his alma mater in the season opener in 2014, drawing within one victory of tying Les Hipple for the most victories in Marion football history, but Perkins never won another game as the Indians went 1-8 in 2014 and 0-9 this year.

Perkins fell one win shy of matching Hipple, who fashioned a 105-42-10 record in 18 years as Marion's head coach from 1945 to 1962.

"It is time for me to open a new chapter in my life and I have retired from coaching. After 32 seasons it is time," Perkins remarked in an e-mail to the Metro Sports Report Monday morning.

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"I am very proud and feel privileged to have coached many wonderful people."

Perkins submitted his official resignation to Marion school officials Monday morning. He plans to remain at Marion as a science teacher.

"Tony did a great job over the last 17 years," Marion athletic director Corby Laube said. "He's passionate and puts so much time into it."

"It will be rewarding to see him enjoy some well-earned time for family, friends, travel and more."

Laube said Marion officials will meet soon to begin searching for a new coach.

Perkins finished his career with a 159-106 record in 28 years as a head coach at CAL, MOC-Floyd Valley and Marion. He made 11 trips to the playoffs, including two at MOC-Floyd Valley and nine at Marion. The Indians went 2-9 in the playoffs under Perkins with appearances in 1999, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013.

Perkins won six district titles at Marion.