

## Gavin named new A.D. at Mount Mercy

Written by Jim Ecker

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Paul Gavin has been selected as the new athletic director at Mount Mercy University and he's already made two major appointments in the department, the Metro Sports Report learned Saturday.

Aaron Jennings has replaced Gavin as the men's basketball coach at Mount Mercy. And Bob Kintzel has replaced Jennings as the women's basketball coach on an interim basis for this season.

An official announcement of all three moves is expected Monday.

Gavin, 49, compiled a 387-329 record in 23 years as the men's basketball coach at Mount Mercy. He is the winningest men's basketball coach in school history and led the Mustangs to three NAIA national tournaments, including a trip last season to the second round.

Gavin succeeds Scot Reisinger as the school's athletic director. Reisinger became the new dean of adult programs at Mount Mercy in August after serving as the athletic director since 2006.

Gavin has spent most of his adult life at Mount Mercy as a successful student-athlete and coach. He graduated from Mount Mercy in 1988 and was a star basketball player and golfer for the Mustangs. He also has been the successful men's golf coach at Mount Mercy, but will be stepping aside from that post as well to become the full-time athletic director.

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Jennings compiled a 138-90 record in seven years as the women's basketball coach at Mount Mercy. He served as one of Gavin's assistant coaches with the men's basketball program for four years before becoming the women's coach.

Jennings, a native of Atkins, played basketball at Northwestern University and played pro basketball for two years.



Kintzel joined the Mount Mercy women's basketball program last season as an assistant coach after two seasons as an assistant coach at Cornell College. He was highly successful as the girls basketball head coach at Mount Vernon High School, compiling a 102-19 record in five seasons.

Kintzel led Mount Vernon to the Class 2A state title in 2010 and was named the Iowa Coach of the Year by several organizations that season. A year later, Mount Vernon was the runner-up at the Class 3A state tournament.

Kintzel played basketball at Mount Mercy and was inducted into the Mount Mercy Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992. He was named first team all-conference for the 1984-85 season and was an Honorable Mention All-American.

Jennings and Kintzel have begun their new assignments with the 2015-16 campaign about to begin. The women's basketball team opens the season at the Grand View Classic this Friday and Saturday in Des Moines. The men's basketball team begins its season Nov. 3 at Saint Ambrose.

One of Gavin's primary tasks in the weeks ahead will be helping Mount Mercy decide whether it wants to start a varsity football program. The

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Mustangs have joined the Heart of America Conference and have been told they must have a football team by 2017 if they want to stay in the league.