

LOCAL

New assistant to coach Bullard sports



John Lamberth, BHS's new assistant football and basketball coach.
M.D. "Doc" Smith
Bullard Editor Sports Editor

The Bullard coaching staff made another big addition to the staff for the upcoming year as they hired John Lamberth this past week.

A coaching veteran of 35 years, Lamberth graduated from Clear Creek High School, where he made a name as an all-district basketball and baseball player. Beginning his coaching career at Clear Creek, he moved on with stints at West-Orange Stark, Woodville, Warren, Magnolia, Springtown, and started at his alma mater.

During his coaching tenures, he has been a head basketball coach for 24 years, and assisted in football for 25.

Lamberth's duties with the Panthers will consist of helping out with fullbacks and defensive backs in football, and will be the second-man in charge on the hardwood, as an assistant to new head coach, Hank Hargraves.

"We are very happy and lucky to have someone like Coach Lamberth on the staff," said Bullard athletic director, Jim Taylor. "He knows what it takes to be a winner, and I know he will be a big contributor in the growth and building our program here in Bullard."

Lamberth took a brief retirement and moved to DeRidder, Louisiana to be close to his married daughter, Whitney. Lamberth coached hoops for DeRidder High School during his stay in the Cajun state.

"We at first moved to Louisiana to be closer to fam-

ily," Lamberth said. "Then my daughters family got transferred and with my son (Josh) in Dallas, and my other daughter (Candace) married to a coach in Pflugerville, we felt like Bullard and East Texas was the best spot for us, and we love it here."

Lamberth is a big stickler for teaching the basics in all facets of the two sports he will be coaching. Certainly going to be a big help to newly signed on, head basketball Coach, Hank Hargraves.

"We are very fortunate to find a coach with such a great background and so much knowledge of a lot of various sports," said Hargraves of his new assistant. "His experience on the bench in basketball I know, will be nothing but a plus for me and the players, and I look forward to working together and continuing to build a strong basketball program in Bullard."

When asked about his forte in coaching, Lamberth was very humble about his well-known knowledge of the games.

"My basic philosophy is to focus on the fundamentals of the game, and impress on the kid's to try and get better each time they take the field, whether it's practice or a game, and that's all anybody could ever ask of them."

"Bullard is a good situation for me with a great staff to work with and I will do my best to make a difference," added Lamberth. "I feel as though I have a lot to offer but I was most impressed with the fact that with all the Bullard staff, the best interest of the kid always comes first."

GREENE: No regrets for former Bullard Panther slugger

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of luck on my part I think," Greene said about becoming an Aggie. "It was about mid-district during my senior year and Coach Deggs happened to come watch a game and asked me to come on a visit, and after I went he put the offer on the table and I took it."

"I don't have any regrets of coming to a division one school straight out of high school," said the Bullard High School two-sport record-setter. "The coaches are great here."

"Our head coach, Coach Childress is an East Texas guy like myself so we relate to each other a lot with stories about being back home in small towns."

This past year the Aggies rattled off a 46-19 overall record, and went 19-8 before winning the Big 12 tournament to advance and beat Houston at regionals in the finals.

The Aggies ran into the always tough, Rice Owls in super-regionals and lost. But it was a television broadcast of that Aggie-Owl matchup that ESPN later named Greene's catch in rightfield a 'Play of the Day,' on SportsCenter News.

But about playing at the next level, Greene says there is still more to learn.

"The game is totally different at this level and they've taught me so much. I can learn something new everyday when I'm around these coaches," Brodie added.

After graduation from Bullard, Greene played spring-camp, as a freshman, used mainly for sure-handed defense support and base-running.

This past season however, the one-year letterman began to etch his spot as a regular for the Aggies in the near future.

This past season, he played in 53 games, starting 26 of



Former Bullard Panther Brodie Greene shows his power with a homerun for the Texas A&M Aggies.

those and playing three positions.

Nineteen games in right-field, four games at second base and three games at third.

Greene has had his share of highlights but none like his play in rightfield against Rice.

"I came in to A&M as an infielder, but they also brought in two great shortstops my first two years so to play I had to move to the outfield," Greene said about his versatility. "It honestly wasn't a tough transition. I feel very natural and comfortable when I'm in the outfield."

"I'm also free to run into walls and rob home runs," jokingly said the former Panther about his 'SportsCenter Special' catch.

This past season overall, Brodie hit at a .290 average, had 42 hits in 145 plate appearances. Greene scored 34 runs and knocked in another 27 with RBIs. Seven hits went for doubles, three for triples and Brodie batted out four round-trippers.

Brodie put together two separate five-game hitting streaks.

In Big 12 action, Greene batted at a .315 average playing in 26 games with 11 starts. Brodie was 17-of-54 at the plate, scoring 13 runs while doubling twice.

In post season play this last season, Greene hit at a .333 clip, scoring five runs in his 10 appearances and six playoff starts.

Greene's first game-winning hit could not have come at a better time.

With two outs, Greene slapped two-run single to beat Houston at the regional tourney.

"One thing I've learned while being here is a quote the coach tells us, 'Championships are won when nobody is watching,'" Brodie emphasized.

"It's a quote that's up in our batting cage to let us know that when we're away from practice there's always work that can be done to get better whether it's hitting in the cage or taking ground balls."

Greene's Bullard Panther days were a wonder in itself.

Four years of varsity basketball, all-district two of those years, and named Class 3A

Player of the Year his final year that ended at the state tournament.

Four years of all-district shortstop play garnered District MVP honors as a sophomore, junior and senior.

Greene was also named first team All-State to the Class 3A squad as a junior and senior. Brodie batted .525 as a senior at Bullard and hit 12 homeruns as a junior.

Add-on four years of varsity baseball as the all-district shortstop, all four seasons. Named to every All-East Texas superlative possible. Brodie then capped off the high school laurels with a first team baseball spot for the second consecutive year.

This past summer, Brodie played summer league ball with the Beatrice Bruins of the M.I.N.K. League. During their short season Greene had a .303 average, hit one homerun, added 22 runs scored and drove-in another 10 with RBIs. Five doubles, two triples and 16 stolen bases aided the summer stats.

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