

March 3, 2009

WESTWORD

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Tate resigns as football coach

W ADRIANNA ZALLONI
Staff Writer

After three years, Curtis Tate has decided to step down from his varsity football head coach position.

“I resigned for personal reasons,” Tate said. “However, I am going to miss the players.”

According to Tate, he will continue to be involved with the current seniors.

“I always told the boys that if they wanted somewhere to play [football after high school], I would find them a place to play,” Tate said. “I don’t think it is my place to be involved hands on with the juniors when there is a new coach coming in. The new coach is going to take the lead in helping the younger guys.”

Within the last three years, a large number of varsity players who played under Tate went on to play college football. In his first year, players who moved on include: Danny Dahm (Carthage), Danny Kleppin (Benedictine), Mike Anderson (Grand Valley State), Kevin Balweirz (Illinois Wesleyan) and Michael Galambos (Illinois State). From the 2007 team, the players who went to play football in college were: Tyree Miller (Joliet Junior College), Jake Wengerki (Culver-Stockton) and Andy Gibbs (Concordia). This year, six varsity players will continue on in football: Adam Michael (Illinois Wesleyan), Nick Gremley (undecided), John May (Benedictine), Chris Wright (Eastern Illinois University), Leonard Panion (Eerie Community College) and John Kowalczyk (Benedictine).

According to athletic director David Rosengard, an extensive search will take place find a new coach. The search is open to both in school and out of school applicants.

“Tate did a great job with the [football] program. He put in a lot of hours and a lot of time,” Rosengard said. “We are excited about bringing a new coach in. Anytime there is a coaching change like this, it gives us a chance to take a look at the program. That is what we are doing: taking a fresh look, seeing where we are at and trying to make it better for the next year.”

Tate finished with a 6-21 record in his three seasons at the helm.



Tate