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Coach Aaron Pixley Receives Honorary Charles Bland Award

NOVEMBER 10TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Dexter, MO - There is only one award given to a Bearcat Football Athlete each year that all seniors strive to obtain, the Charles Bland Award! It's a bronze trophy, similar in appearance to the Heisman Memorial Trophy. It was first awarded in 1994, 27 years ago. This year's award went to the 28th recipient Camden Riley; however one more trophy was created and given this year to a man who loves his athletes, his football team, and his community. He's a true Bearcat and is retiring at the end of the 2022 academic school year. That man is none other than Coach Aaron Pixley.

Pixley has a passion for football. He loves his wife and family and enjoys being "Pop Pop" to his grandchildren. He also is a community man. He not only teaches and instructs athletes on the field, but off the field he is a mentor to many. He loves his community.

“(I was) very surprised. I had no idea,” Pixley said of winning the award. “I think these guys know they’ve got to keep it from me or I’ll try to talk them out of it. It was very nice. I’m very honored. I’ve worked for good people. It’s a great school. More than anything, we have great kids. It’s been my honor to coach them all these years. I’m just blessed to have been here.”

Pixley, graduated DHS in 1988, was hired as head football and weightlifting coach in 2000 and became the school’s all-time wins leader over the next 13 seasons.

“The dedication to the weight room and molding minds to get tougher than anyone you come up against has led him to become the winningest football coach in Dexter history,” Jason Comfort said. “He’s a man of great humility who will tell you he was simply blessed with some great kids, great assistant coaches, and he doesn’t deserve any accolades.”

During Pixley’s first run as head coach, the football team compiled a 78 - 59 record and won district championships in 2002, 2010 and 2011 and conference titles in 2002, 2005 and 2011. They reached the quarterfinal round in 2011.

He left Dexter and went to Kennett for four years as head coach, returning to his home town in 2018 coaching another four years as head football coach of the Bearcats.

“Coach got to come back home,” Comfort stated. “Never accept mediocrity became his war cry when he hit the ground. He even had it on T-shirts.”

With a total of 17 years, he is the longest-tenured football coach in Dexter High School history. He retires this season with a record of 93-83 at DHS and his total 21-year career as a head coach was 114-105.

“All the time and energy he’s put in the weight room and football field over the last 21 years, the impact this man has made on students is immeasurable,” Comfort said. “The lessons taught are not just lessons for high school athletics. They were lessons for life. The lesson was life’s tough. It’s going to kick you. We must be better, stronger and tougher. The lesson is the most important thing is to always do the right thing, even when it sucks and it’s not any fun. The lesson is when times are hard, we must stay together and love on each other.”

Congratulations Coach Pixley it's been one heck of a ride!!

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