



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Head Baseball Coach Named for Bishop Ward

October 8, 2018 (Kansas City, Kan.) – The Bishop Ward High School Athletic Department is excited to announce that Mr. Jim Yoakum, class of 1985, will be taking over as the Bishop Ward Head Baseball Coach for the 2018-2019 year.

Coach Yoakum will be taking over the program from Mr. Matt Carpenter, who led the Cyclones for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 seasons. Coach Carpenter and his staff led the Cyclones to become the Class 4A Division II Regional Champions last May which then earned the team a trip to the state tournament in Salina, KS. He then led the team to the Class 4A Div. II State Championship game at the tournament and they earned 2nd place at state.



Professionally, Mr. Yoakum is an attorney serving in Wyandotte, Johnson, and Leavenworth Counties. He taught in the Piper Unified School District and was the Varsity Baseball Coach for the Pirates for several years. Additionally, he was a coach and fundraiser for American Legion Baseball for many years and helped to organize the Bishop Ward Bowling Fundraiser for the Baseball team every winter for the past several years. He has played for and coached with and against former legendary Bishop Ward Head Baseball Coach Dennis Hurla. Coach Hurla commented, “Jim played for me and also coached with me. He did a great job in both areas. He is bright and well versed. He knows the fundamentals of baseball. I think he will do a great job for the Cyclones. I think this is great for the team and for him!”

Athletic Director, Mike Beaven, commented, “I know it was a very difficult decision for Coach Carpenter to leave Bishop Ward. He brought compassion for the game and developed a strong relationship with the team. I want to thank him for his hard work and effort the last couple of seasons. He and his staff worked hard to not only preparing the boys to play baseball, but the opportunity to grow as young men. I wish Matt the best of luck with his future endeavors.” He continued, “As an alumnus, Jim has been a part of the Bishop Ward family for a long time. I am very excited to have the capacity of his commitment expanded now as head baseball coach. He brings a lot of baseball knowledge with him and I know he is very excited to get started with preparations for the upcoming season. We are blessed to have Jim as our new coach and I am looking forward to working with him as we prepare for baseball season.”

The Cyclone Varsity Baseball Team begins their season at home against the Turner Bears on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 4:00p.m..For the team’s complete schedule, please visit www.crossroadsconference.org.

Bishop Ward High School
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