



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

November 6, 2020

Trent Lowman Named NFHS/NCHSAA Coach of the Year

Pilot Mountain, NC — East Surry High School Varsity Head Football Coach, Mr. Trent Lowman has been named the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) Coach of the Year in football for NCHSAA (North Carolina High School Athletic Association) schools in 2019-2020. This announcement came after Lowman led the Cardinals to a 15-0 season and the state Class 1AA football championship.

Lowman was named East Surry's head football coach in 2018. Key statistics for Lowman and the Cardinals include:

- In 2018, Lowman's first year, the team had eleven wins and four losses. The Cardinals were the Northwest 1AA Regional Champions and the NCHSAA 1AA State Runner Ups.
- During the 2019 football season, the Cardinals amassed fifteen wins, were the Northwest 1A Conference Champions, the Northwest 1AA Western Regional Champions, and the NCHSAA 1AA State Champions.
- In 2019, East Surry ended the 43 regular game winning streak of 2A Reidsville High School, the two-time 2A defending champions.
- The Cardinals also defeated Tarboro High School, who had won back-to-back state championships, with East Surry breaking their 44-game winning streak.

Aside from the wins on the football field, Lowman has been committed to the community and has continued to nurture the strong tradition of feeder programs in the east district by supporting little league football teams. He invited little league coaches to be a part of the sideline on Friday nights to assist with games. He, his staff, and players continue to provide a summer camp for youth focused on fundamentals and safety.

Notably, Lowman has focused on helping athletes showcase their talent in front of numerous college coaches. "Coach Lowman created a Premier Football Academy for athletes who were financially unable to travel and participate in costly clinics throughout the state. The Premier Football Academy was

offered to any high school age football player in our area,” shared Randy Marion, Athletic Director at East Surry. “Multiple Division I, II, and III coaches were provided evaluations and video from the camp while local coaches helped run the camp under Lowman’s leadership. Coach Lowman also organized recruiting combine days for college coaches of all levels to attend and evaluate East Surry football players as if they were attending a college camp. This may have been the only means for some players to receive exposure in front of college coaches.”

Coach Lowman created a Recruit East Surry Twitter account @RecruitESFB to communicate with college coaches about the success of his players. Recruit East Surry features highlights of players’ hudl video, GPA, and stats. Subsequently, the 2019 East Surry Cardinals had five players with power-five offers ranging from Auburn University, the University of Georgia, the University of South Carolina, the University of Louisville, the University of Tennessee, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest University, the University of North at Carolina at Chapel Hill, and NC State University. Several other players were considered by various Division II and Division III schools.

The NFHS has been recognizing coaches through their awards program since 1982. Each state’s athletic association selects a deserving coach award recipient as state coach of the year to progress to the next award level. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association named Coach Lowman its Coach of the Year. Lowman will now compete against other state winners from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee in the NFHS Section 3 - South for sectional coach of the year. From there, sectional winners move on to the national competition.

“Coach Lowman keeps his players at the forefront of everything he does. He maintains a positive culture within his program that encourages players to enjoy the full experience of being a high school athlete, stated Mr. Jared Jones, Principal of East Surry High School. “Not only does he create an atmosphere of hard work and excellence on the field, but the impact that he has on his players extends well beyond the gridiron. He has an innate ability to connect with his players at a high level and a desire to develop them as a student-athlete to ensure their success beyond their high school years.”

Coach Lowman and his wife, Heather, have two daughters, Aniston and Scarlett, and three older children, Olivia, Blake, and Braxton. Additionally, they have a new grandson, Cohen. The East Surry High School family and the Surry County Schools family wish Coach Lowman well as he progresses in the NFHS competition.

Pictured are:

- Coach Lowman celebrating the NC Class 1AA football championship with his wife Heather and daughters, Aniston and Scarlett (photo credit: Steven D. Smith).
- East Surry Football Coaching Staff left to right: David Johnson, Rusty Slate, Trent Lowman, Steven Whitt, Joe Denny, Darrin Haywood, and Randy Marion.
- Coach Lowman celebrating with the East Surry NC Class 1AA football championship team (photo credit: Steven D. Smith).

