

Football: Team Kentucky squads finish strong in national tourney

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State Journal staff report

Local dentist and football coach Tim Rose recently assembled a staff and team of seventh-grade football players from across the state to represent the Kentucky Middle School Football Association (KYMSFA) in the Football University (FBU) national championship tournament.

Both the seventh- and eighth-grade teams were invited to compete for a championship in the final eight in Naples, Florida, after being crowned region champions. This was the first time that a seventh-grade team from Kentucky has won a regional championship and received an invite to the nation's final eight in Florida.

Both teams included local talent. Gabe Goodpaster, Keaton Lee, Hunter Popp, Ty Taylor and Kyese Walker represented seventh-grade Team Kentucky and Gavin Hurst and Kaden Moorman represented the eighth-grade team.

Rose's seventh-grade team defeated Minnesota (52-6) and Indiana (20-3) to be crowned the central region champions. While in Naples it defeated OC California (42-0) and Massachusetts (12-6). The team's only loss was to Georgia, which went on to be crowned the national

champion.

The seventh-grade team finished in a three-way tie for third and was seeded the fifth-best seventh-grade football team in the nation. The eighth-grade team finished seventh in the national tournament.

The FBU tournament is the largest nationwide tournament and includes teams from across the country, including Georgia, Florida, Texas and California. This was the highest ranking a seventh-grade team from Kentucky has ever achieved.

In addition to the local players, Rose assembled a staff of seven other coaches from across the state, including Phil Smith, of Elkhorn Middle School.

At the tournament, Rose was selected to be on the board of the KYMSFA, which governs middle school football in the state of Kentucky. It is the middle school equivalent of the KHSAA.

Rose has coached for 26 years, which includes 21 years in the Franklin County School system. He went 21-5 with his seventh- and eighth-grade teams at Bondurant in 2017, while taking the seventh-grade team to the regional championship.

Rose is also credited for winning Elkhorn's only state regional championship in 2013. His teams have won 13 city championships.

Along with his local success, he also led Lexington Catholic to a state championship runner-up finish in 2010.

Rose is a 1983 graduate of Franklin County High School, where he

played for coach Gary Dearborn, and is currently coaching with Chad Pennington at Sayre High School, which revived a varsity program after a 41-year absence.