

# AHSAA hires assistant director for private schools

By

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Former Lee-Scott football coach Buster Daniel has been hired as the AHSAA's assistant director for independent schools. (Contributed)Contributed

Lee-Scott football coach Buster Daniel has stepped down after six years at the school to join the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

AHSAA executive director Heath Harmon announced Tuesday that Daniel would serve as an assistant director with his chief responsibility being director of private schools.

In January, [the Central Board voted to separate private schools from public schools in championship play](#). As part of that, Harmon announced the addition of a new private school advisory committee and an added director for the private schools.

Harmon said Daniel, 63, is the right person to serve in this new, important role.

“He grew up in the AHSAA as a student-athlete and later as coach, and he has spent the last six years coaching at Lee-Scott Academy, one of our member independent schools,” Harmon said in a release. “He understands the challenges moving forward and is just the right person to move us forward as we embrace the exciting changes that reclassification provide.”

Lee-Scott confirmed Daniel’s decision to step down in its own release.

“On behalf of the LSA Athletic Department, I want to express my deepest gratitude for what coach Daniel has done for our football program and our student-athletes,” Lee-Scott executive director of athletics Clay McCall said. “Coach Daniel developed, mentored and inspired young men to become part of something that was bigger than themselves.”

Daniel went 47-19 in his six years at Lee-Scott, leading the team to AISA Class AAA state titles in 2022 and 2023. The school transitioned to AHSAA play beginning in 2024, going 5-5 the first year and 9-3 in 2025.

“Thank you, Lee-Scott Academy, Dr. Stan Cox, and the Board of Trustees for the opportunity

to lead this football program over the last six years,” Daniel said. “Thank you to the administrative staff, coaches, faculty, students, cheerleaders, band members, booster club and parents for all the support I have received over the years. Most of all, I want to thank all the young men that I have had the pleasure of coaching. I hope that I have impacted your lives half as much as you have impacted mine. We celebrated two state championships and many historical victories over the last six years. The future is bright because of the young men in this program. More victories and celebrations are coming your way.”

Lee-Scott officials said an intensive search will begin immediately for its next head football coach.

Daniel also spent three years (2017-2019) as head football coach at his alma mater, leading Valley to a pair of playoff appearances. He played football and baseball at the school and graduated in 1983. A large portion of his teaching and coaching experience came at Opelika High from 1995-2017.

He served as tight end coach, offensive line coach, special teams coordinator and was assistant head coach in his last five seasons (2013-2017). He was also a varsity baseball assistant coach for nine seasons, head softball coach for two seasons and the field maintenance supervisor from 2001-2017.

“I’m extremely honored to accept the position of Assistant Director for the Alabama High School Athletic Association,” Daniel said. “I have been associated with the AHSAA for over 35 years, most of those as a high school coach. The history of the association speaks for itself, with honor and integrity, and I am grateful for the chance to be a part of such an institution.”