

Don Knock intrigued by Prairie football job

Written by Jim Ecker

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A member of the Iowa Football Coaches Hall of Fame might be interested in becoming the new head football coach at Cedar Rapids Prairie.

Don Knock, 56, told the Metro Sports Report he might be interested in applying for the job, depending on what teaching or administrative duties go with it.

Craig Jelinek retired as Prairie's head football coach after the 2010 season with a 106-96 record in 21 years. Knock served as Cedar Rapids Kennedy's head football coach from 1987-2000 and won a Class 2A state title in 1984 at Grundy Center. He is currently director of athletics for the Gilbert Community School District in Iowa.

Knock competed against Prairie during his years at Kennedy and was intrigued by the possibilities at Prairie, where it's the only high school in the College Community district with many good athletes in a growing community.

"It was a program that I always wondered how good they could be," he said.

Knock stopped short of saying he definitely would apply, but said "It's something I would probably take a look at."

Rocky Bennett, Prairie's director of athletics, has declined comment on the search and will not comment on any possible candidates.

Knock played football at Central College. He was a starting offensive lineman when the Dutch won the NCAA Division III title in 1974 and was a team captain in 1976.

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He was a member of the football staff at Iowa State University under Dan McCarney from 2000-06, serving as Director of Football Operations and recruiting coordinator. He also has coached at Central College, the University of South Dakota, Nebraska-Omaha and Kickapoo High School in Springfield, Mo.

Knock served as president of the Iowa Football Coaches Association for two years and was a board member for 16 years.

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