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## **PRESS RELEASE** May 6, 2019

### **Dade County Welcomes New Football Coach Dale Pruitt**

The Dade County Board of Education concluded the hunt for a new football coach today. Dade County Superintendent, Dr. Jan Irons Harris, announced that Coach Dale Pruitt will be joining the Dade County team as Head Football Coach and faculty member at Dade County High School.

Dale Pruitt graduated from Plainview High School and Jacksonville State University. His first stint as a head football coach came in 1982 at Pisgah. His two teams there finished 18-4 with an undefeated (10-0) regular season in 1983. In 1984 Coach Pruitt was named to the head football coaching position at his alma mater in Plainview. The Bears won 164 games and lost 64 during a 17-year run with Pruitt as head coach. During his tenure, Plainview made two appearances in the 3A state championship game and won ten area titles. Coach Pruitt left to become the head football coach at Fort Payne in 2001. He stayed three years, going 18-13 and leading the team to its first playoff berth since 1993. After leaving Fort Payne, Pruitt took over as head coach at Marion County, Tennessee. In two years there, his teams went 14-9. In 2006, Coach Pruitt returned to Plainview for a second run as the head coach. His success continued with playoff appearances in all but one season. He moved to Albertville following the 2014 season. Coach Pruitt's overall record in Alabama is 275-129 and 289-138 in both states. His teams have made the playoffs a total of 25 times, and he has won 13 region championships. His 121 region wins rank among the best of all-time. Additionally, Coach Pruitt coached four teams to undefeated regular seasons (1983, 1990, 1991 and 1999).

Dade County High School Principal James Fahrney stated, "The opportunity to hire a legend doesn't come around very often. Many talented candidates applied for this key leadership position, but the interview team unanimously selected Coach Pruitt without reservation."

Superintendent Harris said, "We are thankful for the contributions Coach Bradley Warren made to the overall athletic and football program in Dade County during his eleven years of service. We wish the Warren family well as they transition to McIntosh County. At this time, I am delighted to welcome Coach Dale Pruitt to Dade County. Our students will benefit from his experience and wisdom. I am confident that Coach Pruitt will prove to be a tremendous asset not only to our students, but to the entire Dade County community."