

THE COTTRELL ERA BEGINS

BY: BRIAN BOSARGE

Winter is over. Spring is in the air. With the beginning of spring practice, a new era begins in Alma Bryant history. Ronnie Cottrell, the former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Alabama, has officially been named the new head football coach and athletic director at Bryant High School. Cottrell last coached in 2005 at Carroll High in Ozark, where he posted a 9-12 record in two seasons. In his first season at Carroll, his team went 7-4 and hosted a playoff game for only the second time in school history.

Coach Cottrell has also been the head man at Kinston, W.S. Neal, and Flomaton High Schools. He is, however, better known for being an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at both Florida State University and the University of Alabama. While he was at Florida State the team he was part of won the 1993 National Championship and multiple ACC championships. At Alabama, he was part of the last SEC Championship team during the 2000 season.

With word of the hiring spreading throughout the community, enthusiasm is at a high, not seen since 1999. Coach Cottrell is now in the process of evaluating potential assistant coaches, including a few holdovers from the previous regime. He also is setting up the spring practice schedule, as well as the non-region schedule for the 2008-09 seasons.

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