

Tim Lewis – Head Coach 2000-2013



Tim Lewis is a native of Grundy Center, IA. As a child he served as ball boy for the Grundy Center High School football team, and Coach Don Knock, the man Lewis would later succeed as Head Coach at Kennedy. Lewis lived in Grundy Center until he was in 8th grade, when his family moved to Oskaloosa. Lewis played football and wrestled at Oskaloosa High School. He played fullback, guard, and linebacker for former National High School Coach of the Year (for the state of Iowa) Jerry Staton. Lewis was named 1st Team All-Conference and All-Area as a junior and senior, and was also named 2nd Team All-State as a senior. His accomplishments also landed him a spot in the Shrine Bowl following his senior year. Lewis wrestled at 167 lbs., placing 5th at the state meet his senior year.

After graduating from Oskaloosa in 1987, Lewis attended Central College, where he played football. He played mostly on Special Teams as a freshman. After his freshman year, Lewis decided he wanted to become an eye doctor and transferred to Iowa State. After one year at Iowa State, Lewis reversed course about becoming an eye doctor, and returned to Central College to pursue a degree in Education, with an emphasis in Physical Education. Lewis also returned to playing football, where he had 3 years of eligibility remaining. He played on some great Central teams, qualifying for the Division III playoffs his sophomore and junior seasons. Unfortunately, the season Lewis missed while attending Iowa State, Central advanced through the playoffs and made it to the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Division III National Championship. Lewis played Defensive End, earning 1st Team All-Iowa Conference his junior and senior seasons, as well as being named 3rd Team All-American his senior season. Lewis graduated from Central in 1992.

After his playing career ended, Lewis began his education career as a Physical Education teacher at Ontario Christian High School in Ontario, CA. Lewis also served as Head JV Football Coach, his team going 10-0 during his lone season at Ontario.

After one year away from family, Lewis returned to Iowa. Lewis landed the job of Head Football Coach and PE Teacher at Ackley-Geneva High School in 1993. He experienced immediate success, turning around the program by posting a record of 7-3 and qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in many years for the program. During his second season, current Kennedy Activities Director Aaron Stecker joined Lewis' coaching staff. Lewis coached three years at Ackley-Geneva, finishing with a record of 18-10.

After his third season at Ackley-Geneva, then-Kennedy Coach Don Knock contacted his former ballboy, asking Lewis to join his staff at Kennedy as Defensive Coordinator. Since Lewis had aspirations of becoming a college football coach, he figured the jump to a 4A school with a coach like Don Knock would help him attain his ultimate goal, so he accepted Knock's offer and

served in that role for four seasons. Lewis accepted the only vacant PE Teacher position at Kennedy as a swimming instructor, a subject with which he had no experience. Further complicating matters, during the 1998-99 school year, Lewis' teaching job was surplus, and he shifted to PE Teacher at Truman Elementary in Cedar Rapids.

Knock resigned as Head Football Coach in 1999 to take a job with the Iowa State football team. Lewis was named Head Football Coach at Kennedy beginning in the 2000 season. He led Kennedy to 9 consecutive appearances in the playoffs. He resigned after the 2013 season as Kennedy's all-time winningest coach, with a record of 78-65. Lewis coached 37 players that earned 1st, 2nd, or 3rd team all-state honors.

When Lewis was named Head Football Coach in 2000, he left Truman Elementary and returned to Kennedy as a Physical Education Teacher. Lewis' passion since his days at Central College has been weight training and nutrition. Lewis has served as strength coach since arriving at Kennedy in the 1990's. For the past five years Lewis has served as a full-time Performance PE teacher at Kennedy.

Lewis resides in Hiawatha. He and his wife Shelly have two children. Courtni is completing her degree at Kirkwood and will attend Mt. Mercy next fall, studying to become a teacher. Matt, an alum of Kennedy's 2015 state runner-up team, is currently attending the University of Iowa, studying to become a perfusionist.