

# PIRATES ANNOUNCE NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



*Corey Olson was named the new varsity head football coach at Palatine High School.*

Corey Olson has been named varsity head football coach at Palatine High School, effective with the 2017 season. Olson, who is currently an assistant coach with the Pirates, will take over the head coaching responsibilities from Rick Splitt. Splitt is stepping down after four seasons as the Pirates head coach, posting a 34-12 overall record (.739 winning pct.), with three IHSA playoff appearances and reaching the semifinals the past two seasons.

“Coach Olson knows football, but more importantly, he knows what it takes to build a team and develop student-athletes,” said Palatine High School Principal Gary Steiger. “He has a passion for helping teenagers be successful on the field, in the classroom, and in life. His plan for the future of Palatine football combines our current strengths with his vision for a winning program. Our football program and players are in great hands with him leading the way.”

Olson served this past season as the Pirates offensive line coach, and was instrumental in preparing the offensive game plan for a 12-1 PHS squad that lost in the state semifinals to eventual 8A champion Maine South High School. He also assisted with off-season strength and conditioning in the weight room, as well as leading flexibility training with yoga. Prior to coming to Palatine High School, Olson spent seven years (2008-2014) at Conant High School, working with the offensive line and serving as the offensive coordinator for six years. From 2003-2006, Olson coached football at Hoffman Estates High School as the defensive coordinator/linebackers coach and the strength and conditioning coordinator. Before moving to District 211, Olson was the defensive line coach and strength and conditioning coordinator (2002-2003) at Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox, Ill.

"We feel Coach Olson is a great fit for us," said Palatine High School Athletic Director Jerry Dobbs. "Having served as an assistant coach this past year helped him gain familiarity with our program and our student-athletes. We're not only excited about the expertise he brings to our program, but also the enthusiasm he has for the kids and the sport."

Olson began his coaching career in the collegiate ranks at his alma mater, Western Illinois University (Macomb, Ill.), where he coached from 1998-2002. He served as the Leathernecks assistant defensive line coach (1998-1999) and assistant offensive line coach (1999-2002), while also working as assistant strength and conditioning coach (1998-2000) before moving into the head strength and conditioning role in 2001. He played offensive tackle at Western Illinois (1995-1997), was team captain and offensive co-MVP, and was named second-team All-Gateway Conference (1997). He received his bachelor's degree in individual studies from Western Illinois University in 1998, a second bachelor's degree in special education from WIU in 2001, and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, Ill.) in 2005.