

## MISD Welcomes Wes Wood and Family

Will Kates has resigned after three seasons to assume the role of Offensive Coordinator at 4A Eagles Mountain High School. Merkel ISD appoints Snyder Head Coach Wes Wood as the new Head Football Coach on April 18th.



Coach Wood, a Muleshoe, TX native, grew up in a family deeply rooted in education and athletics. His standout senior year saw him lead his team to an undefeated state championship. He earned top honors as the Dallas Cowboys Built Ford Tough Player of the Year and received Player of the Year accolades in both major polls. Additionally, he was selected as 1st Team All-State Quarterback in both polls and later inducted into the Texas Panhandle Hall of Fame. Graduating as salutatorian, Coach Wood's journey epitomizes excellence both on and off the field.

Awarded a full-ride scholarship, he excelled as the quarterback of Eastern New Mexico University, starting every game from his sophomore through senior year. Consistent with his high school achievements, he was named team captain, set multiple school records, and earned the LSC Offensive Player of the Year title in 2010. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Math Education and Magna Cum Laude honors, his time at ENMU was also marked by meeting his future spouse, Mika.

In 2013, Wes began his coaching and teaching career at Muleshoe, where he worked under his father, Coach David Wood, for four years. He was promoted to Offensive Coordinator and Head Track Coach in his final two years. During this time, Wes married Mika, and they welcomed two children: Julie in 2014 and Jax in 2016. Wes treasures his family, often referring to them as his best friends. Julie is entering 4th grade, while Jax is entering 3rd grade.

Following his time at Muleshoe, Coach Wood relocated to the DFW area. At Grandview High School in 2017, he served as

Offensive Coordinator, guiding the team to a notable 12-2 record and advancing four rounds deep. Simultaneously, he held various coaching roles, including Head Boys Track Coach and Assistant Powerlifting Coach. Transitioning to Azle High School, Coach Wood served as Offensive Coordinator and QBs Coach, contributing to a remarkable turnaround from a 6-14 record to an impressive 10-2 overall record. Despite initial low expectations, the team clinched the district title with an undefeated record, defying predictions.

Coach Wood joins us from Snyder ISD, where he served as Athletic Director and Head Football Coach for five years. Despite challenging district matchups, his teams made the playoffs three times during his tenure, achieving unprecedented success by advancing further than Snyder had in over a decade with a 9-4 finish and two gold ball victories. Notably, Coach Wood received several accolades, including recognition in Dave Campbell's Texas Football Top 40 under 40, 2023 Big Country FCA All-Stars Head Coach, Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union Coach of the Week, and the 2024 Best Coach of Scurry County. Throughout his football career, he has earned four district championships, 15 gold balls, and made 20 playoff game appearances, reflecting his dedication and expertise in the sport.

The Badgers are proud to welcome Coach Wood and his family to Merkel, Texas!

**It's a Great Day to be a Merkel Badger!**