

# Former Vol Respert takes reigns at Douglas County

By Chase Wallace - cwallace@neighbornewspapers.com - Staff / Lindsay Fendt



Jason Respert, Douglas County High School's new football coach, stands on the school's football field.

As the coaching carousel makes its rounds through the offseason, Douglas County became one of the first schools in the state to name their new leader — anointing former University of Tennessee offensive lineman Jason Respert as the Tigers' new head coach.

Respert, 30, comes to Douglasville with seven years of coaching experience, most recently serving as the offensive coordinator at Howard High School in Macon.

He replaces John Oglesby, who resigned following a 2-8 season and 23-28 record over five years.

"I'm excited to be here and eager to jump in and start developing a tempo and new attitude at Douglas County," said Respert, who is embarking on his first head coaching position. "When this job came open I knew it would be a perfect situation for me. I'm honored to have this responsibility and eager to get things going."

Respert's perfect situation involved a previous relationship with Douglas County Principal Tim Scott, who coached him in high school, and Torrey Howard and Corey Harris — two assistants at Douglas County that he played and coached with in the past.

Despite now being one of the youngest coaches in Georgia, Respert said he has developed plenty of football acumen over the past 15 years.

He was a Parade All-American at Northside-Warner Robins in 2000 before playing for four years under Phillip Fulmer at Tennessee. He was voted the Volunteers' team captain in 2004, awarded the Al Wilson Leadership Award by his coaching staff, and became the only student-athlete in the school's history to win the Bert E. Sams Service and Leadership Award.

Following a Chicago Bears mini-camp, Respert returned to his high school alma mater as an assistant coach from 2005-2007, winning state championships in 2006 and 2007.

He spent 2007-2008 as the special teams coordinator at Peach County before coaching at Howard from 2008-2011.

"Working at Northside and Peach, who are two of the top programs in the state, let me see the work that needs to be put in to reap the success that we want to have here at Douglas County. I'm excited to get to work, start changing the tempo and to get this program moving in the right direction," said Respert.

Douglas County's new tempo will involve an increased focus on the weight room to develop an "attitude

of effort and toughness.”

“We’re going to work hard to not only be the best team we can be, but the best team in the county, the best team in our region, and to have a product on the field by next fall that every member of the Douglas County family can be proud of.”