

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## South names new boys hoops coach



Marvin Brown

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**THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN**

High achievement is nothing new for Marvin Brown.

From a standout athletic career at Central High School that earned him a football scholarship to Northwestern University, to working life as an entrepreneur and educator, Brown has always operated at a high level.

Now he's landed one of the crown jewel prep coaching jobs in Pueblo.

Brown on Thursday was named the new boys basketball coach at South. He succeeds Dave Lockett, who resigned after compiling the most successful boys hoops coaching career in Pueblo history after 20 years with the Colts.

"I feel honored that they put their faith in me, honored to walk in the shoes of Dave Lockett, who is pretty much a legend in Colorado sports," Brown, 30, said. "I don't take for granted the responsibility that goes with it, but I also look forward to it. "I'm excited and ready for the challenge. Every coach wants to have challenges and I think this job presents that."

Brown's coaching resume is relatively brief to have scored a job like South

boys hoops. He was Pueblo County's boys basketball coach the last two seasons

and served as an assistant for two years under Hornets football coach Jeff

Wilson.

His basketball record at Pueblo County was 18-28 in two years, including two first-round playoff exits.

But there was something deeper that impressed South's administration.

"He's a character guy, a Northwestern graduate and guys like him don't come around very often," South Athletic Director Aaron Bravo said. "We're very excited to have him. He brings a lot of interesting and innovative ideas to the table."

D.J. Johnson, who served as an assistant to Lockett for 17 years, also interviewed for the job. Johnson was widely considered a natural successor to his longtime mentor. Bravo wouldn't comment on Johnson or the hiring process, other than to say "it went as well as could be expected."

Brown, who graduated from Central in 1997, worked in finance after earning his Northwestern degree and opened MBS Sports Performance, a sport-specific training business, with Bobby Solano in 2006. He has since given Solano full ownership and is now a full-time educator. He will teach special education at South, the same position he held at Pueblo County.

"What made it the hardest to leave Pueblo County was (principal) John DeLuca gave me the opportunity to teach and (athletic director) Cherie Toussaint gave me the opportunity to coach," Brown said. "It was equally hard to leave the relationships I built at County with the kids and the coaching staff." "But to coach at a school like South, when that opportunity presented itself, it was hard to pass up." Lockett built the Pueblo boys hoops version of a dynasty in his 20 years, winning two state championships, finishing runner-up twice and capturing 13 South-Central League titles. His 376-175 career record makes him the winningest boys coach in Pueblo history.

The last loss was the most difficult, as the 27-0 and wire-to-wire No. 1 Colts fell to Sierra on a last-second shot in the Class 4A state championship game.

Brown will inherit four players who were on the court for that game and all will be seniors next year. Tyrell Williams was the S-CL coaches' most valuable player, Jevon Hall is a dynamic shooting guard and Kivon Cartwright an athletic, powerful forward. Cody White could also open some eyes with his first extended playing time at South. "When you have a bad taste in your mouth, the best thing to do is work hard and try to end your Colt career the right way," Brown said. "They've had a lot of success and I don't think a wise person should try to fix something that isn't broken. Their defensive philosophy has won them a lot of games and I certainly want to keep that intact."