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## Embry named as boys hoops coach

BY MARK MATHIS Messenger-Inquirer 8 hrs ago

Photo by Seth Dukes, Messenger-Inquirer

Alex Embry, the new basketball coach at McLean County High School, introduced himself to parents and future players on June 11.

Alex Embry played for an Ohio County 3rd Region championship team in 2005. Embry was an assistant coach with some of the best head coaches in the region.

The 29-year-old was ready for a head coaching job himself, according to former Muhlenberg County coach Steve Sparks, who was head coach at Ohio County for a short time with Embry as an assistant.

Embry will get that chance this season. He was named head coach at McLean County High School and introduced to parents and the team on Monday.

"I had that itch, I feel like I'm ready," Embry said of being a head coach for the first time. "I feel like I've got the experience, I felt like this was an opportunity to do that.

"All the pieces are in place with the administration, I think it could be a good situation."

The Cougars have some rebuilding to do after going 7-21 last season. They were

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3-26 in the 2016-17 season. Embry replaces Greg Stephens, who resigned.

McLean County and Embry will have their first workout Tuesday.

"They don't really have any returning seniors," Embry said. "They've got a pretty big returning junior class, we're expecting a lot out of those guys. (Tuesday) morning is going to be my first chance to really see them."

McLean County will practice for four days and play some scrimmage games next week before the KHSAA mandated dead period the last week of June and first week of July.

"We're going to use this first couple of weeks to evaluate, not really going to do a whole lot of basketball stuff," Embry said. "Then we'll be able to come back after the dead period and start working on improvement."



McLean County will try and go out of different offensive sets with a little motion offense mixed in, according to Embry. Man-to-man defense will be a calling card, but Embry wants to try and play uptempo if possible.

"I like to let the kids have some freedom," Embry said.

Embry graduated from Ohio County High School in 2007 then from Western Kentucky University. He started coaching right after getting out of WKU.

He was an assistant coach for two years with Paul Decker at Ohio County. Embry coached at Ohio County Middle School for a year, then coached with Steve Sparks at Ohio County and was an associate head coach with Tony Hopper at Ohio County.

"He assisted under Paul Decker and Steve Sparks, and both of them highly recommended him, he's a very good young coach," McLean County athletic director Marc Searcy said.

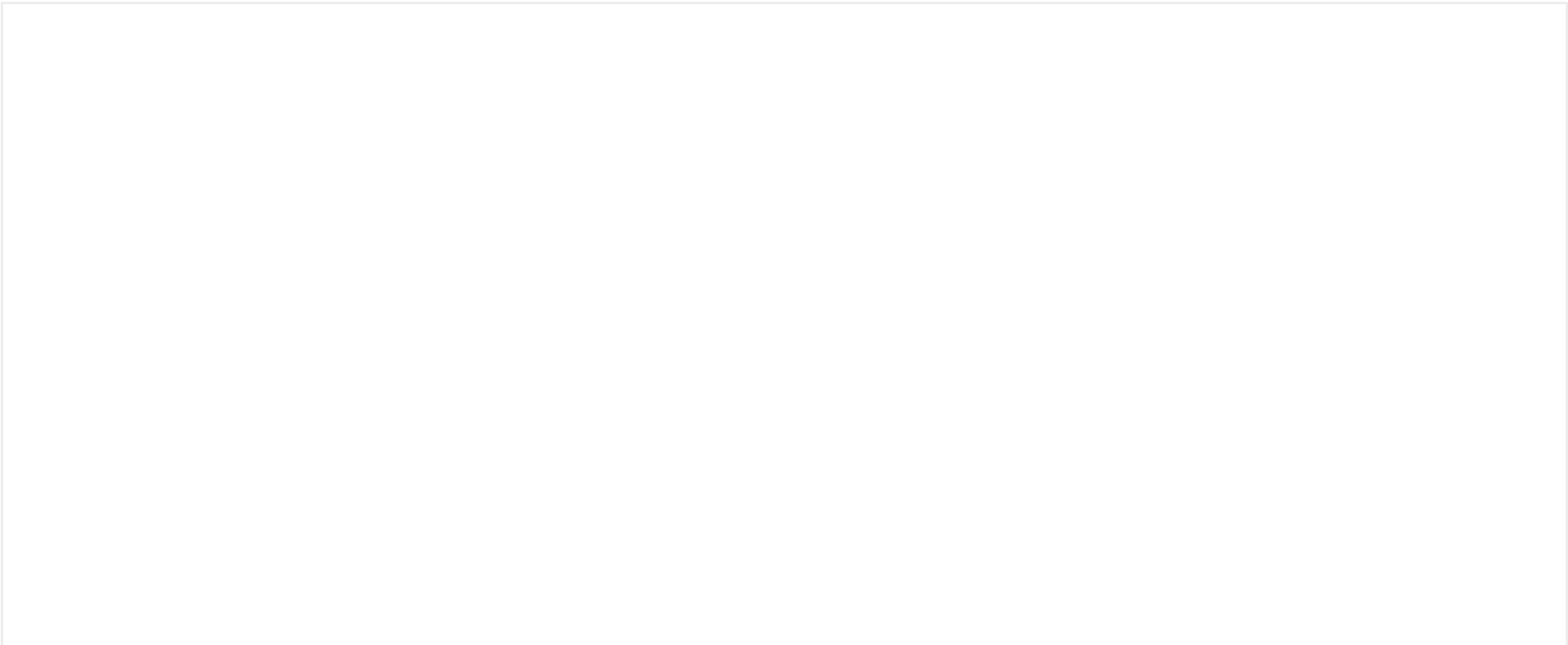
Embry will teach freshman social studies.

Embry and his wife, Jobeth, have an 8-month old son named Edison.

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