McCollum Names Ex-Bills, Titans Assistant as Offensive Line Coach

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee Head Football Coach Andy McCollum announced today the hiring of Ronnie Vinklarek (vin-KLARR-ek) as the team's offensive line coach. Vinklarek takes over for Steve Campbell, who is now the offensive line coach at Mississippi State.

"Ronnie will not only bring a great deal of experience to our program, but he will add energy and a get-after-it type attitude," McCollum said. "He has coached the game from every level and is very knowledgeable. He will be a great representative of our University and football program. I am excited to have him as a member of our staff."

Vinklarek, 44, spent the past two years as the offensive line coach for the Buffalo Bills where the offensive line paved the way in 2002 for a 4,359-yard passer in Drew Bledsoe, a 1,439-yard rusher in Travis Henry, and two 1,200-plus receivers in Eric Moulds and Peerless Price. Vinklarek was on the same Bills staff as former Blue Raider defensive coordinator Miles Aldridge.

Prior to his coaching stint at Buffalo, Vinklarek spent the 2000 season as the defensive quality control/linebackers/special teams coach for the Tennessee Titans.

During the 1998 and 1999 seasons, Vinklarek was the offensive line coach for Oklahoma State.

The Flatonia, TX, native also has had stops at Valdosta State (1997) as the offensive line coach,

Houston (1988-93) as the offensive line coach, and the Birmingham Barracudas of the CFL in 1995.

At Houston, Vinklarek helped the Cougars to the 1988 Aloha Bowl and directed an offensive line that protected for Heisman Trophy winner, Andre Ware. Vinklarek also spent time as the strength and conditioning coach, special teams assistant, and camp director for the Cougars.

The 23-year coaching veteran, who has spent nine years on the high school level, was also selected to coach in the 1990 Blue-Gray All-Star Game where he handled the offensive line and special teams for the South squad.

Vinklarek, who earned his bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State in 1981, is married to the former Marianne Britz. The couple has two sons, Trevor (5) and Trent (3).

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