



## *MEDIA RELEASE*

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*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:*

Jennifer Miller  
Director of Admissions  
Twin City Catholic Educational System  
920-722-7796 ext. 206  
jmiller@tcces.k12.wi.us

### **Brightwell to Lead Zephyr Football Program**

NEENAH: St. Mary Central High School (SMC) is pleased to announce that Mr. Jeff Brightwell has been named head football coach. St. Mary Central and the Zephyr community are very excited to have Mr. Brightwell share his enthusiasm and talent for football with our athletes.

Coach Brightwell was born and raised in Southern California and was privileged to play for Dick Haines at Vista High School in Vista, CA. As a high school junior, he was a member of teams that reached division 4A semifinal playoffs and were San Diego Section C.I.F. Champions (The highest level in California prep football) with a 13-0 record.

He attended Colorado State University from 1982-1985 where he met his wife Sara and played as an Offensive Lineman. Coach Brightwell completed Bachelor's Degree in History at California State University Fresno, Teaching Credential through National University and took a teaching position with the Fresno county office of Education court and community Schools. At the same time he served as a Junior Varsity Head coach and Varsity Assistant under Pat Plummer at Hoover High School in Fresno.

In 2001, Coach Brightwell accepted a teaching position with Hortonville High School as an Alternative Ed Teacher. While there, he has worked with the Hortonville 7th grade football team and joined Coach Jeff Nault's staff as Offensive Line coach then became the Offensive Coordinator the following year.

Two years ago Coach Brightwell joined the SMC staff as a Varsity assistant and served as Co-Head coach in 2011.

The Brightwells have lived in Neenah for the past 24 years, and have two children. Conner, a 2010 graduate of SMC, currently attends South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and Kara, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Seton middle school who will be attending SMC next year.

“The St. Mary Central community is very excited that Coach Brightwell will be heading the football program. I know that his leadership and dedication will have a tremendous impression on our student athletes. Jeff will provide much needed continuity while bringing a new focus and energy to the Zephyr football program.” stated Mr. Scott Werfal, SMC Athletic Director

“I am looking forward to the continued improvement of the football program. Coach Kuehn has made substantial progress in building this program. The opportunity to work with him as Co-Head Coach last season has already facilitated a smooth transition. Darrin will remain a valued member of the coaching staff as we work to develop an increasingly competitive football program.” stated Coach Brightwell.

St. Mary Central is a member of the Olympian Conference and part of Twin City Catholic Educational System (TCCES), which also includes St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel Elementary Schools in Neenah, as well as St. Mary Elementary and Seton Catholic Middle Schools in Menasha. SMC is dedicated to the individual development of students by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.

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