

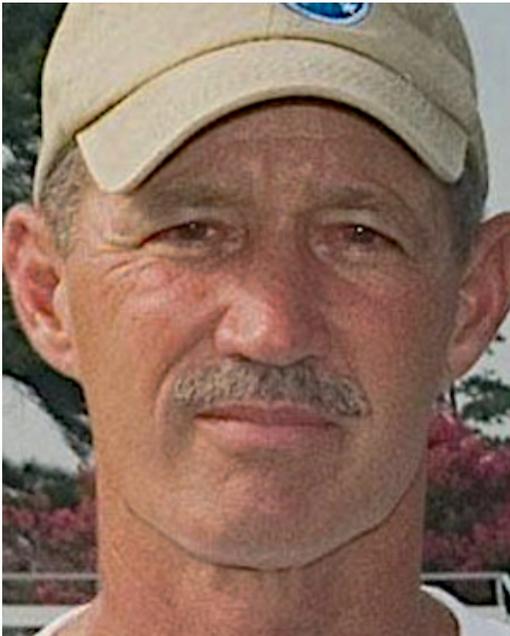
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By Dennis Garcia  
SportsTone.net

ASHEBORO - Being the commissioner of a high school conference is a daunting position. There are so many areas that must be mastered in order for that conference to run smoothly. It doesn't matter the size of the league, there are numerous duties for the conference commissioner throughout the entire high school sports season.

Then who in the world would want to not only take on all the responsibilities of one conference, but two?

Charlie Chapman, that's who.



*Commissioner Charlie Chapman. Photo provided.*

The former athletic director and coach at Asheboro and Southwestern Randolph high schools, who has acted as the Mid-Piedmont Conference commissioner the past 12 seasons, will not only be the commissioner for the new MPC, which includes AHS, but he's taken on the commissioner duties for the new Piedmont Athletic Conference, which features the seven other Randolph County teams.

Chapman was set to be the commissioner for the new PAC, and then added the MPC duties when asked by AHS Athletic Director Steve Luck and other league personnel to remain the commissioner of the new MPC.

"They caught me at a weak moment," Chapman joked about being asked to continue on as the MPC commissioner. "I had planned to do the Randolph County league (PAC) next year since I've been helping with

Southwestern and then was asked to do the new Mid-Piedmont Conference. I thought about it for a while and said I would do it. I will see how things go. We've already hit the ground running in both leagues and we're ready."

The new MPC will include six 3-A teams: Asheboro, Central Davidson, Ledford, Montgomery Central, North Davidson and Oak Grove.

The new PAC will include 2-A members Providence Grove, Randleman, Southwestern Randolph, Trinity and Wheatmore and 1-A members Eastern Randolph and Uwharrie Charter Academy.

Chapman and each of the league's athletic directors have had numerous meetings to set up bylaws, constitutions and standards for each of the new conferences.

"The constitution part for most of the conferences is basically the same, but when you get to the bylaws and standards, it might be different," Chapman said. "Things like how all-conference teams are selected or how many should be on the all-conference team. When you take two or three conferences and combine them into one, there has to be some give and take."

Chapman said the athletic directors from both conferences have been great to work with and any potential problems have been discussed and agreed upon.

"They are thinking of the total picture," Chapman said. "Some of the ADs may be thinking, we did it this way but maybe that way is a better way. The ADs and coaches in both leagues are really good people, really good to work with. If we have a situation or problem, they are good to sit down and hash it out."

Chapman said both leagues are ready to embark on its first seasons beginning in the fall.

"I know we will have to tweak some things, that's the way it normally is when you start a new conference," Chapman said. "There will be things that come up that we haven't thought of, but everyone has been working together."

Chapman, who has been involved in high school athletics for 50 years, said he has one big concern about doing both leagues.

"I am going to have to remember who I am talking to and what league and have both books with me," he said jokingly.

If anyone can pull this off, it's Chapman.