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CLIMAX - For 11 years, Calvin Brown was a key member of the Providence Grove High School athletic department, serving as athletic director, head boys basketball coach and head football coach during different periods of his stay.

During his seven-year tenure as head football coach with the Patriots, he helped revive a program that went on to have four straight winning seasons, including the very first playoff victory in school history.

On Friday night, Brown will once again be walking the sidelines at PGHS, but he'll be doing so as the head coach of the Asheboro High School Blue Comets. Brown and five members of the PG football staff made the move to Asheboro for the coming season, and all will return to PG for the non league game Friday night.

"We're going to try and treat it like any week, but it will be emotional," said Brown. "I spent 11 years there and my kids, the only thing they have known is Providence Grove sports and athletics. At the end of the day, we're going to have to prepare our guys at Asheboro to play a very good team."

The Patriots, under first-year coach David Hayes, are a perfect 3-0 this season with wins over East Davidson, Southern Guilford and Bishop McGuinness. PG has outscored opponents 95-39.

"Our kids right now have a feeling they got something to prove to a lot of people," Hayes said after the Patriots captured last week's win. "That's a really good thing. I know there is a history there and we respect what that staff did here before we got here. Our kids are going to lock in and go to work this week and we're



going to keep grinding and that's the approach we're going to take and hopefully we can pull one out."

Brown was 42-34 in his seven seasons at Providence Grove. The Patriots were 4-7 the first two years, but they won eight games in each of the last three full seasons and defeated McMichael 48-14 last year for the first playoff victory.

Brown has led the Blue Comets to a 1-1 mark this year, earning a season-opening win over Albemarle and a tough 27-16 loss to Eastern Randolph in Week 2. The Blue Comets had a bye last week. AHS has earned just seven wins in the prior six years, and have lost twice to PG in the past two seasons, losing 28-14 in 2021 and 49-0 last season. However, AHS has a 6-4 advantage in the all-time series.

"It's going to be cool to see two teams compete, a lot of guys on both teams we've had an impact on," Brown said. "The emotion will be there for not only myself but for the other coaches as well. As a coaching staff, we're going to be professional, but after the game, some of those emotions are going to be let loose when we speak to the kids."