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RANDLEMAN - High School sports teams often have to overcome adversity during the course of a season. Whether it's an injury to a key player or a situation that causes a major change, how the team adapts and adjusts is often the difference in reaching or not reaching high expectations.

The Randleman High School varsity football team has been forced to deal with an incredible challenge as head coach Shane Timmons left the team earlier this season in order to be with his family in Tennessee as his young daughter continues to fight brain

cancer. The Tigers have not only met this challenge, but they continue to thrive on the field while continuing to pray for their coach's family who is now many miles away.

"A lot of it has to do with how we run our program," said Brian Hughes, who is the acting head coach. "All our coaches coach all our kids all the time. Coach Timmons talks all the time about circumstance and dealing with circumstance. Coach Timmons has said it's just like coming to work and these guys are coming to work."

And doing it quite well. Entering Friday night's Piedmont Athletic Conference game with Southwestern Randolph, the Tigers are unbeaten both in the conference and overall. RHS is 2-0 in league play and 7-0 overall. RHS has outscored opponents 268-55, by far the most points scored in the PAC and the least given up.

"Everything that happened with Coach Timmons has brought us together more," said starting sophomore quarterback John Kirkpatrick, who threw six touchdown passes in a 42-14 win over Providence Grove last week. "We are all playing as well as we should be. We're playing for Coach Timmons."

Hughes said although the coaching staff has certainly done their part, it's the players who have shown incredible resilience during a tough time.



"They do talk about it, they care about it," Hughes said of his team dealing with losing their head coach. "It's really all about them. They made a decision that we are going to keep this going and that's what they have done. Coach Timmons has built this the past two or three years and it's made it easier for the seniors to lead."

Of course, no one is sure when or if Timmons will return this season. All that is sure is that a group of players and their coaching staff are performing as well as possible while dealing with a very difficult situation.