

Changing the Playbook: Coy Gideon Takes Charge

Southern Valley's football team has received a new look. Following the 0-8 season of 2024, assistant coach Coy Gideon was hired as the head coach for the 2025 season. Having success as an athlete and coach at Burwell Public Schools, Coach Gideon was a highly sought-after coach.

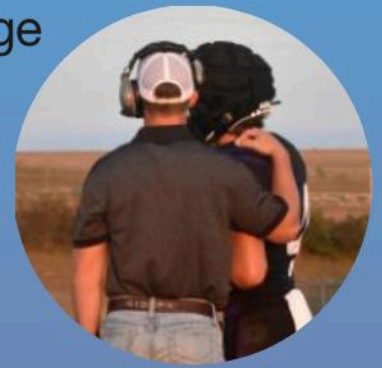
Although Gideon is new in the role of head coach, he isn't new to Southern Valley. In the Summer of 2023, Southern Valley Schools hired Coy Gideon as an assistant coach for the football team. He has now been hired as the head coach of both the football and wrestling teams, and as the school's full-time substitute teacher.

Senior, Prestin Horwart, quarterback and team captain for Coach Gideon's team, says, "Coach Gideon is a very fun and electric guy to be around. He definitely brings the team together and is fun to play for." Prestin has also noticed some changes within the team, "I think we are playing together as a team more than we have in the past years." With the team having the season cut short last year, and the morale being at an all-time low, a change was needed in the program, and Prestin believes that it was found.

Dave Hunt, a long-time fan and sponsor of Southern Valley Athletics, thinks that the fanbase is very happy about the hiring of Coach Gideon. He says, "I have noticed a new spark in the bleachers. There hasn't been any negativity spoken about the coaching or players this year; it has all been positive." With the team having struggled in the past years, the positivity from the stands has really helped the team. Negativity in the past has really brought the team down, but this year, with there just being positivity, the team has felt supported the entire season.

Assistant coach Jason Huerta sees that Coach Gideon isn't just on the physical side of things but also the mental. "I think that every week he can help prepare us and be confident to go against any team, whether it's a returning state championship team or a team that isn't as experienced as others." Not only is confidence needed when playing football, but there is also the side of having a plan every week. Dexter Becker has enjoyed working with Coach Gideon and has been able to learn from him. "He brings a different scheme to the offensive side of the ball and has helped me understand how to make a plan for any team that we face."

Gideon's goals for the season was to make a change in the culture of the program. "I want a culture that reciprocates and feeds off of itself. It will take a couple of good classes to start a good culture, but I believe that it will happen," he says. Coach Gideon believes that leaders can help a team find success, and he was proud of the leaders on his team this year. "We had some leaders step up this year. The upperclassmen, and even some underclassmen, really took some leadership roles and led the team in the right direction, doing extra sprints and holding each other accountable." Gideon understands that it will take a few seasons to build a program, but hopes to create a culture of excellence at Southern Valley.



"I want to be able to give the kids a chance to be a part of a team and know what it's like to play for each other, and know that they're hurt, but I want them to be the best they can be."
Coy Gideon