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SETON LASALLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HIRES MIKE ZMIJANAC AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Legendary WPIAL coach brings over 20 years of experience to Seton LaSalle

Mt. Lebanon, PA — December 2018 Seton LaSalle Catholic High School is proud to announce the hiring of its newest Varsity Head Football Coach, Mike Zmijanac.

“We were fortunate to interview some great candidates for the Head Coach position,” Interview Committee Member Tom Donahoe, ‘65, said. “Coach Mike Zmijanac was most impressive with his resume of winning football, creating leaders and good citizens, and bringing great energy and commitment to the job. Our students, fans and supporters should be excited about where our program is going. All the best to Mike and our student-athletes.” Donahoe is the Senior Director of Player Personnel for the Philadelphia Eagles, previous GM of the Buffalo Bills and Pittsburgh Steelers, and former SLS Head Football Coach.

A Mt. Lebanon, PA resident, Zmijanac joins Seton LaSalle as a member of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and is the 13th-winningest coach in WPIAL history. Before serving Ringgold High School last season, Zmijanac spearheaded the Aliquippa Quips for a storied 21 seasons, with an astounding record of 237-36, giving him an 86.8 win percentage. Zmijanac’s football coaching record includes six WPIAL titles in 13 championship games and one PIAA championship in four title appearances. Zmijanac led the Quips to 10 consecutive WPIAL tournament appearances, had 11 undefeated regular seasons, and boasted a 62 consecutive-game winning streak. Zmijanac was also elected to the Minor Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2015 and to the Pennsylvania State Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2016. Zmijanac is the only coach in Pennsylvania history to ever win State titles in both basketball and football.

“We are thrilled to have Mike on board at Seton LaSalle. His years of experience and tradition of success will provide our student-athletes with wonderful opportunities for growth as they look to further their academic and football careers at the collegiate level,” Lauren Martin, Seton LaSalle Principal, said.

Zmijanac’s decades of football coaching experience, combined with his 39-year teaching career will further the understanding of academic/athletic balance in the Rebels locker room, ensuring that our student-athletes are reaching their fullest potential in the classroom and on the field.

“When it comes to wins and losses, Coach Zmijanac’s track record speaks for itself, yet I was most impressed with his continued commitment to teaching his players how to play and live with discipline, integrity, and respect,” Interview Committee Member Jim Reilly, ‘97, said. “He is a teacher first and his approach is right in line with our Catholic philosophy. We anticipate that he will have the same profound impact on the lives of our young men that he has had on the lives of so many players over the years.” Jim Reilly is the Vice Chair of Medical Education for Allegheny Health Network, Assistant Professor at Temple and Drexel Universities, and was the starting center for the SLS varsity football program.

“I am enthused to join a school with such a rich history in athletics and academic excellence,” Zmijanac said. “Looking forward to building a successful program in my own community at Seton LaSalle.”

“Mike’s history of winning at Aliquippa combined with Seton LaSalle’s tradition of excellence will ensure a promising future for the Rebel football program,” said Bill DaBaldo, Seton LaSalle Athletic Director.

Seton LaSalle Catholic High School is a private, Catholic high school in Mt. Lebanon, PA — a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA. It is located in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Seton LaSalle was voted Best Private School in the South Pittsburgh region by *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* readers in 2018. For more information about Seton LaSalle Catholic High school, visit SLSHS.org.

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