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# New Black River athletic director thrilled to work in hometown

*Kyle Lawton went to Holland High School and Hope College***By LEO MARTONOSI** | [leo.martonosi@hollandsentinel.com](mailto:leo.martonosi@hollandsentinel.com) (616) 546-4270

To say that Kyle Lawton, Black River Public School's new athletic director, is excited is an understatement.

The 24-year-old Holland native believes he is fortunate to have landed a full-time teaching position at Black River as well.

He will teach physical education and work as athletic director part time for the Class D school.

"I'm thrilled. I couldn't be happier," said Lawton, a 2001 Holland High School and 2005 Hope College graduate.

"It's hard to get a teaching job in this state, but to get one in West Michigan and in my own backyard is a bonus."

Dave Angerer, Black River's head of school, is confident Lawton will be a strong leader for Black River, which competes in the Alliance League.

"Kyle has an excellent background, both in athletics and in the classroom," Angerer said. "We are excited to have him working at Black River on a full-time capacity. We feel he'll do a great job."

Lawton played soccer and tennis for four years and two years of basketball at Holland.

He didn't play any sports for Hope but he was one of Glenn Van Wieren's student assistants for the men's basketball program.

"That was a great experience," Lawton said of working for Van Wieren. "I learned a lot from coach Van Wieren."

Lawton, who taught part-time at Black River last year, previously coached both the boys and girls junior varsity soccer teams at Zeeland West.

He also coached the Allegan boys junior varsity basketball team last winter.

"I enjoyed coaching," Lawton said. "It was a lot of fun."

Lawton said consistency is a key to running an athletic program.

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"We need to be on the same page with the other schools in our conference, and all the schools we play," Lawton said. "That's a must.

"My goal is to bring the athletic programs at Black River up to our academic standards. We'll be taking some baby steps along the way. Hopefully, that will happen down the road."

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