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#### **GUERIN PREP WELCOMES HOME NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH**

RIVER GROVE, IL—Guerin College Preparatory High School has named Virgil Gerin as its new head football coach.

Gerin will be returning to his old haunts when he assumes command of the football program. A 1983 graduate and football standout at Holy Cross High School, one of Guerin Prep's foundation schools, Gerin served 10 years in the football program at Holy Cross, three years as head coach, seven years as varsity assistant coach and defensive coordinator.

For the past five seasons, Gerin was a varsity assistant football coach, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Fenwick High School, Oak Park.

In introducing Gerin to Guerin Prep football players Tuesday, Dec. 2, Terry John Malik, Guerin Prep's President, had the football captains present Gerin with a football imprinted with Coach Gerin's name and the greeting, "Welcome Home."

Gerin's name is pronounced the same as the name of the high school, a fact which was pointed out by Malik during his announcement to the students. "Guerin Prep now has a Coach Gerin."

Gerin didn't lose any time letting the students know what he expected and slated the first weight training session for football players for the following day.

#### **Comments from the Coach**

"I will miss my players and fellow coaches at Fenwick," said Gerin. "Fenwick is a very special place and a piece of me will always be there wishing them well with continued success. As the saying goes, one door closes and another door opens."

**(MORE)**

## 2—Guerin Prep New Head Football Coach

Gerin explained his first moves as Guerin's coach. "I am in the process of assembling a great football staff, with an emphasis on bringing in coaches that have played and/or coached on the collegiate level. We will be implementing a 'youth movement' with our coaching staff as I will be one of the oldest coaches on the staff at 43 years old.

"My coaches will be expected to market Guerin Prep to all youth level football schools and programs within a seven-mile radius. We will be out 'beating the bushes' trying to convince many student athletes that Guerin Prep is the school for them.

"My coaching staff will stress our belief that boys should play more than one sport and not specialize. We will be talking to these boys and their families about what we can offer at Guerin Prep. Letting them know they can receive a quality education, within a Christian faith-based environment in a very safe community, is a good start," Gerin said.

### **Gerin's Coaching Record**

Gerin brings a winning record and tradition to his new position. During the past five seasons at Fenwick, the team made the IHSA playoffs all five years and played in two Prep Bowl Championship Games.

When Gerin took over the football program at Holy Cross in 1990, the team had only one win in 27 games. In Gerin's 10 years as head coach and defensive coordinator, the varsity football team made IHSA playoffs eight times, going on to the quarterfinals twice. Holy Cross teams played in several Prep Bowl Championship Games during this time frame. Gerin helped place several Division I, II and III collegiate players including current Chicago Bear Garrett Wolfe.

As head coach, Gerin will have overall responsibility for the football program and facilities, including conditioning, weight training, personnel development, and he will play an active role in the school's Admissions and Development programs. He is well known to several thousand Holy Cross alumni.

Gerin will have the additional task of bringing the Guerin Prep football team into the newly formed Suburban Christian Conference, which will begin play with the 2009-2010 school year.

"This is a new day for Guerin Prep football," said Malik. "With Coach Gerin at the helm, we expect to have a winning program that still emphasizes the importance of Catholic education. Virg Gerin knows how to win and how to make winners out of his student-athletes."

### **Gerin's Background**

Following graduation from Holy Cross, Gerin attended Northern Illinois University where he was a four-year starter on the Huskies football team and led the team in receiving two years. He has been inducted into the NIU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Gerin is married, and he and his wife and two daughters live in River Forest.

**Guerin Prep**

Guerin Prep was established as a co-ed Catholic secondary high school in 2004, following the announcement that Holy Cross would be closing. Neighboring Mother Theodore High School, then an all-girls school, changed its mission at the request of the Archdiocese of Chicago and welcomed boys. Guerin Prep builds on 40 years of history created by Mother Theodore Guerin and Holy Cross high schools. Current enrollment is 650 students.

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