



Lionel Hollins is the new head of the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies. Hollins starred in prep basketball at Rancho High.

Coach

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"Any time there's an interim tag in front of someone's name, the players feel like it's the substitute teacher. They feel like it's time to play, and they don't have to do their work the same way," Hollins said. "No matter how hard you try, there's always a few who aren't going to be on board because they know you're not truly the boss."

Iavaroni was fired after 1-1/2 seasons, compiling a record of 33-90. He became the seventh coach fired in the NBA this season.

Hollins inherits a team that has lost 17 of its last 19 games, including nine straight. The Grizzlies have failed to reach 100 points in any of the losses during the skid, and scored 90 points only once. The setbacks have been by an average of 12.5 points, and only once in the streak has Memphis kept the deficit under double-digits.

Changing that mindset is one of the primary goals facing Hollins. He said it may take lineup changes, challenging players to play harder or becoming more team-oriented.

"We're going to jump in and try to do it all," Hollins said. "I'm looking to establish an identity defensively and offensively from Day 1. How long that takes, I don't know."

"I'm not concerned with the wins and losses as much as I'm concerned with the progress we make, how hard we play, how well we play together. And if we're talented enough to steal some games, that's great."

Grizzlies owner Michael Heisley acknowledged that he talked to former Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson about the job. When Johnson declined, Hollins was his next choice, the owner said. In addition to changing the attitude, Heisley said it is about staying on his plan of turning the Grizzlies around with young players and the draft over the next three years.

"I thought Lionel would be a very good person for us to bring in with these young players," Heisley said.

Hollins talked little about specific players, but did say he would like better play from his point guards. Mike Conley, the fourth overall pick in the 2007 draft, is sharing time with Kyle Lowry. Hollins said it is "atrocious" that the Grizzlies have the worst turnover average in the league. Conley appears to have the edge in Hollins' mind.

"I want to see if Mike Conley is a basketball player on a high level," the new coach said. "I'm going to give him a lot of pushing and give him a lot of freedom to make decisions and see if he can do it."

That appears to be Hollins' goal for the rest of the season, as the Grizzlies want to evaluate players to prepare for offseason moves that will take the franchise forward.

"We're going to coach, going to teach, we're going to demand," Hollins said. "It's going to be difficult. That's what makes coaching nice is because it is challenging."

"Try to get them to step outside of the spirit they have now and step into a new spirit. We're going to push and we're going to demand and we're going to show them this is the way you win."

Edwards fired as Chiefs' coach

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Herm Edwards, the head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs during the worst two-year span in team history, was fired recently. Edwards goes out with a three-year regular-season record of 15-33 and with one year remaining on a four-year, \$12 million contract. As head coach of the New York Jets in 2001-05, he had a regular-season mark of 39-41 and was 2-3 in the playoffs.

Edwards had been waiting to learn his fate since President and General Manager Carl Peterson abruptly resigned on Dec. 15. When Scott Pioli was introduced as Peterson's successor on Jan. 13, he was noncommittal and said only that he intended to speak with Edwards.

"This was not an easy decision. Herm is an outstanding football coach and a man of integrity. We appreciate his leadership over the past three seasons, and we wish him all the best in the future," Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said in a written statement.

Pioli said he has had several conversations with

Edwards over the last week.

"After careful consideration, Clark and I felt that it was best to make a change," Pioli said.

Bob Moore, a spokesman for the team, said the Chiefs didn't have a timeline for replacing Edwards. He said all the assistant coaches still with Kansas City are under contract.

After Edwards and Peterson launched a full-fledged rebuilding project in 2008, youth and injury led to a 2-14 record and a distressful two-year tally of 6-26 that cost both men their jobs. Particularly embarrassing to Edwards was a defense that managed only 10 sacks this season, gave up a team-record 332 yards rushing in one game and a team-record 54 points in another. Edwards had promised on his first day as head coach to repair the weak defense that characterized the five-year Dick Vermeil regime.

Following a 10-year career as an NFL cornerback, Edwards' first experience with Kansas City came as a training camp assistant in

1989. Seventeen years later, he had the distinction of being the first man to become head coach of the team that brought him into the NFL through the league's minority coaching fellowship program.

In spite of the losses, his players remained loyal to their charismatic coach whose background as a cornerback on Philadelphia's 1980 Super Bowl team gave him a special rapport.

"A coach's main job is to make sure a team is prepared," Pro Bowl guard Brian Waters, one of the Chiefs' few veterans, said shortly before Kansas City ended this season. "There is no doubt that this team has been well prepared every week. Herm and the coaches can't go onto the field and make plays. That's up to the players, and that's just something we haven't done this year. In no way do I think Herm is responsible for our record."

Edwards' most costly mistake may have been overlooking Brodie Croyle's history of injuries and designat-

ing him as the foundation quarterback. A third-round pick out of Alabama in 2006, Croyle could never stay healthy and was 0-8 as a starter when he went down for the season with a knee injury.

Edwards' first year in Kansas City was a success. The Chiefs went 9-7 and captured the last wild-card playoff spot. He became only the fifth man to take two different teams to the postseason in his first year as head coach; the Jets went to the playoffs three times in his five seasons there.

He wanted to begin dismantling an aging team and start rebuilding in 2007. But he ran into opposition from a front office that felt there was enough left for another playoff run. After an encouraging 4-3 start, age and ineffectiveness at several key positions created problems and Kansas City ended 2007 on a nine-game losing streak.

With Hunt's blessing, Edwards finally launched his youth movement in 2008 and opened the season at New England with the youngest squad in the league.

Your Horoscope Says...Jan. 29-Feb. 4

ARIES

Take charge of a project at work and get it finished up. It's been languishing on someone else's shoulders and desk for way too long. A sensible outlook will get you far this week.

Soul Affirmation: My hunches work well for me this week.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 32, 48

TAURUS

You may find yourself faced with many distractions this week but you'll sail through and accomplish much if you stay focused on each task and take them one at a time. You know you can do it this evening.

Soul Affirmation: Money opens doors for friendship to enter.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 32, 44

GEMINI

Creativity is favored and yours is especially favored with some project that you've been working especially hard on. For the next few days watch for a romance that will bring special gifts.

Soul Affirmation: I care deeply about the feelings of others.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 29

CANCER

Your new ideas combine well with your will and skill. You get a lot done at work this week. Be soft and forceful. Make time for family life tonight. Your rewards come from those who are related to you by blood.

Soul Affirmation: I let positive emotions carry me through the week.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 22, 31

LEO

Before you spend your money, check the quality of the goods. This rule applies to intangible goods as well. Make the first move with your honey this week. Be sweetly aggressive.

Soul Affirmation: The enjoyment of good food is high on my agenda this week.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 45, 51

VIRGO

Let your creative juices flow. Advice from a child has a reward in it. On the job, coworkers will help you expand your sense of accomplishment. Only you can stand in your way.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy learning new things about myself this week.

Lucky Numbers: 40, 53, 54

LIBRA

Opportunity knocks this week, be ready and waiting. An old love resurfaces. This week is good for you financially. Look for a special opportunity at work. Families matters, spend time with yours.

Soul Affirmation: I let myself experience my true ambitions this week.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 28, 43

SCORPIO

Creativity comes from a deep source. Take the chance to pursue creative goals. Others will understand later. You and a child can come to an unmatched understanding.

Soul Affirmation: I do not allow demands to be placed on me this week.

Lucky Numbers: 27, 31, 52

SAGITTARIUS

This week is a week to let your diplomatic side work for you. Forcing will get you nowhere. No man or woman is an island, focus on togetherness — even if you are annoyed with people.

Soul Affirmation: Charm is my middle name this week.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 8

CAPRICORN

Take advantage of a burst of energy. Body and mind are in sync. Don't take things too personally this week, you might get your feelings hurt. If you do, tonight is a great time to make up. Make the call.

Soul Affirmation: My hunches are right often this week.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 16, 36

AQUARIUS

You have wonderful ideas about interior decorating. Be ready to accept a great opportunity at work. Money doesn't matter tonight, don't make finances more important than they need to be.

Soul Affirmation: I appear to others what I know myself to be.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 29, 30

PISCES

The influence of someone close can make all the difference in the world. Don't go alone. Your achievements are closely tied to someone who might not have agreed with you in the past.

Soul Affirmation: The grandeur of my presence reflects the sunshine of my soul.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 45, 51