David Ernst – Assistant Coach, Varsity



By far the longest tenured Kennedy football coach, David Ernst is entering his 29th season coaching at Kennedy, all at the varsity level. A 1986 Kennedy alum, Ernst played defensive back and receiver while a student athlete at Kennedy. He was named Honorable Mention All-Metro and All-Conference as a junior, and 1st Team All-Metro and All-Conference as a senior, as well as being voted Team Captain.

After high school, Ernst continued his football career at Luther College, where he played one season and

lettered before transferring to Coe College. He earned a B.A. in Business Administration from Coe in 1991.

Ernst began his coaching career at Kennedy in the fall of 1988, while attending Coe College. He has coached defensive backs and receivers his entire career at Kennedy. Over 28 seasons, he has coached 67 All-Metro players, 83 All-Conference players, 5 All-District players, and 9 All-State players. In 2013, Ernst was honored as one of two Class 4A Assistant Coaches of the Year by the Iowa Football Coaches Association.

Ernst works as a Wealth Advisor for UICCU Wealth Management. He holds the AIF® designation, Accredited Investment Fiduciary.

Ernst is an active community servant in the Cedar Rapids area, serving as the current President of the Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Club of Cedar Rapids. He is a Chairperson of the Investment Committee, Boys and Girls Club of Cedar Rapids; Chairperson of the Endowment Committee, Catherine McAuley Center; Board of Directors, Cedar Valley Chapter of the Red Cross; and a member of the Cedar Rapids Downtown Rotary. Ernst received the Five Season's Citizenship Award, 2016 as well as the Citizen Recognition Award from the Cedar Rapids Police Department, 2016.

Ernst resides in Cedar Rapids.