

# Ellison Head Football Coach Trent Gregory Calls It a Career

By JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ - Jan 25, 2018

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Former Ellison HC Trent Gregory watches on at practice (Photo: Killeen Daily Herald)

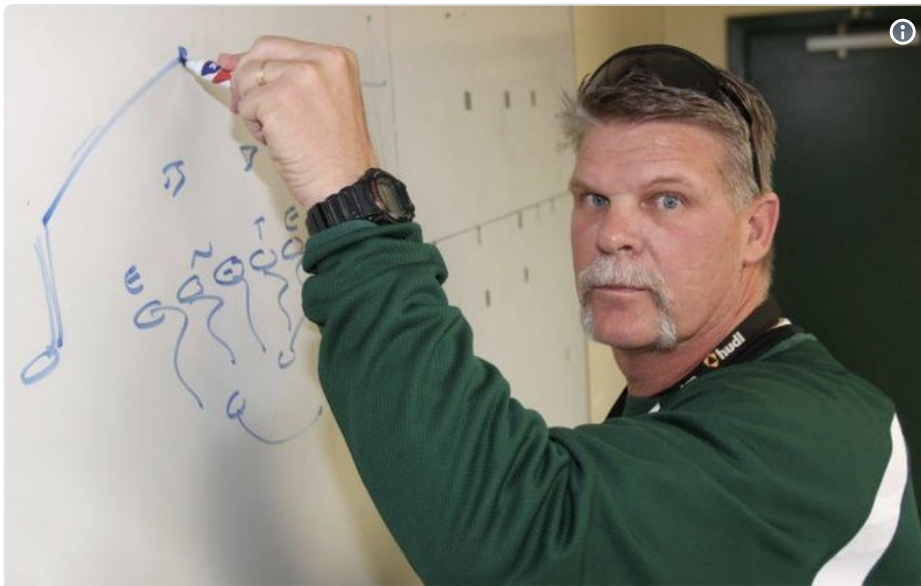
After 33 years, HC/AD Trent Gregory announced Wednesday that Ellison would be his final stop in a long coaching career.

Gregory joined Ellison in 2013 and finished with a 19-32 record in his five seasons with the school. Gregory was instrumental in advancing the program after his first season where they went 0-10.

Gregory would then see his program gradually improve and including consecutive six win seasons and their first playoff berth since 2007 this past season.



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Ellison HC Trent Gregory retires. Finishes 19-32 in 5 years w/ Eagles.

Concludes 33-year coaching career.

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Gregory had stints at Bartlett ISD, Austin ISD and Mansfield ISD prior to his time with Killeen ISD. Including his duties as a head coach/athletic director, Gregory had also coached baseball, wrestling, powerlifting and taught subjects such as health and history.

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**From:** Dominguez, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:31 AM  
**To:** DL - Ellison HS <[DL-Ellison@killleenisd.org](mailto:DL-Ellison@killleenisd.org)>  
**Subject:** Congratulations, Coach Gregory!

Eagle Family,

Today, our Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator Trent Gregory announces that he will retire from public education, after 33 years teaching and coaching in the state of Texas.

It's hard to believe five seasons have flown by since Coach Gregory arrived here at EHS in January of 2013. We have seen so many student-athletes enjoy great success during that time in all of our athletic programs, and we celebrate the student success we have seen under Coach Gregory's leadership, especially Coach Gregory's commitment to the academic success of our student-athletes, as seen in the development of our Plus One program, which honors varsity student-athletes who achieve all-district and all-state academic honors.

Coach Gregory will be greatly missed, and will always be an Ellison Eagle!

We will begin the search for a new Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator very soon, with our goal to have a new person in place by Spring Break. Coach Gregory will finish out the year with KISD, transitioning to the district athletic office once the new coach is aboard.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm for our athletic programs here at EHS. Just as when we hired Coach Gregory, we are committed to finding a person whose primary focus will be student-athletes' academic success, as well as the health of all of our athletic programs. And, of course, we are looking for another highly skilled football coach who will continue the progress Coach Gregory made with our football team, leading us from a winless slump to a playoff berth.

Be sure to take a moment sometime this spring, and wish Coach Gregory all the best in his next chapter!

Blessings,

DD



**Clay Whittington**  
@C\_Whittington



**BREAKING:** Ellison head football coach Trent Gregory is stepping down from the position after five years with the team.

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For Gregory his biggest motivation was to spend time with his family after giving so much to his profession for over three decades.

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**Nick Canizales** ✓

@NickCanizales



I just spoke with Ellison Head Coach Trent Gregory, who retired after 33 years: "I've been thinking about it for a little bit. It's a young man's profession. I just love the kids so much. I'm just ready to spend time with my beautiful wife and my family."

♥ 23 8:25 PM - Jan 24, 2018

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Ellison hopes to fill the position by spring break according to a statement released by the principal of Ellison High School.

Start the Conversation

# Tate Martell could break college football's transfer system

By **CHRIS HUMMER** - Mon Feb 11 2019

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College football's shifted with the aggressiveness of the new-age transfer market. No player more profoundly represents that than **Tate Martell**.

The former Ohio State and current Miami signal caller was once a recruiting trailblazer of the modern age. Now, the third-year QB is pushing the boundaries of a transfer guideline that's long held firm against immediate eligibility.

**Justin Fields** is a notable example of this trend. Georgia's freshman backup a season ago, Fields bolted for Columbus this offseason and submitted an appeal the NCAA approved last week for immediate eligibility. Playing time played a role in Fields' desire to depart – **Jake Fromm** wasn't budging off Georgia's starting job – but his appeal centered around an off-field incident at Georgia.

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Martell is a different sort of case.

The former Top247 quarterback loudly proclaimed his intention to compete with Fields before the five-star arrived in Columbus. Yet Martell left Ohio State shortly after Fields' announcement. Martell's transfer reasoning seems simple: He wanted to play and thought he had a better opportunity to do so elsewhere.

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It's what makes Martell's waiver so intriguing. A long-standing NCAA rule states football undergraduate transfers must sit out a year in residence transferring to another FBS program. Fair or unfair – and that's not the question for today – non-graduate athletes can't transfer without penalty on the grounds of playing time. Martell's case could open the floodgates for NCAA policy change and create a precedent that would shake the college football world if approved.

Not that Martell's waiver is simple.

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Publicly, it's presumed Martell will challenge for immediate eligibility citing Ohio State's sudden coaching change from **Urban Meyer** to **Ryan Day**. Martell's lawyer, Travis Leach, has said as much. But Martell's waiver will have more layers than that. You should fully expect Martell to cite a number of previous precedents in his appeal, including potential "egregious behavior" by Ohio State or the more recent modification to the waiver guidelines that allows an athlete to cite "documented mitigating circumstances that are outside the student-athlete's control and directly impact the health, safety and well-being of the student-athlete." Fifty-one of 64 NCAA players who appealed for immediate eligibility since that modification saw their waivers approved, per the most recent NCAA data.

One does not need much mental exercise to connect potential "mitigating circumstances" for Martell to Ohio State's offseason issues with **Urban Meyer** and **Zach Smith**. CBS Sports previously reported Martell considered using those program transgressions as a reasoning for *transfer prior to the season*; one might surmise that was a leak by Martell's camp to show Martell considered transferring before Fields arrived.

"There were some things that happened at Ohio State that we can potentially get some relief from the NCAA, and we're going to try it that way," Leach told the Toledo Blade. "The coaching

staff turnover is an issue. There are a few things. There's no real bright-line test that tells you 100 percent how you can get a waiver. This is a tough one, but there are some good facts on his side.

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“You try to throw as much against the way as you can.”



(Photo: Joe Scarnici, Getty)

That leads to something many miss with Martell's case. His is not a cut and dry appeal – nobody's is. The NCAA's process is convoluted, so much so a mini-industry's popped up around waivers to help athletes parse the hundred of pages of documents needed to deal with the waiver process.

“People know publicly about certain factors that go into cases, but they don't know everything,” said Tim Nevius, a New York lawyer who operates a practice that centers around advocating for college athletes. “The public doesn't know all the facts and circumstances an athlete is dealing with in his or her life that would give the NCAA a basis to grant a waiver.”

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Thus, whatever the result of Martell's waiver, it's important to remember his situation is unique. Nobody will have the same set of circumstances as Martell in the future, which makes speculation about any future results hazardous.

That's why athletes are hiring representation.

“The system is stacked against the athletes,” Nevius said.

Martell isn't the last notable waiver the college football world will follow this offseason. His is, however, the most important. Martell's case could serve as a spark for significant legislative change. No matter the circumstances Martell cites in his documentation, the reasoning for his appeal is transparent. He wants to play now. His desire to do so could expose flaws in an entire system. If Martell's waiver is granted, it'll inspire a flood of similar cases that could lead to the elimination of the year-in-resident requirement, bringing college football one step closer to quasi-free agency.

47  
COMMENTS

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