

## Messina filling big baseball shoes at Chaparral

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After 37 years, **Scottsdale Chaparral** has a new baseball coach. **Sam Messina** will replace legendary coach Jerry Dawson, athletic director Corey Newland said.

Messina has helped with Dawson's program the past four seasons.

"He's a great man," Newland said. "We're happy and excited."

Newland said Messina did his principal internship at Chaparral under him, and the players really like him.

"It's going to be great for us," Newland said.

Messina, a former baseball player at Phoenix Cortez and the University of Arizona, ran Goodyear Millennium's baseball program before coming to Chaparral. Messina's got big shoes to fill.

All the 67-year-old Dawson did was win 773 games and eight state championships. All eight titles came since 1994.

Chaparral two-sport star Colby Targun, a second baseman in baseball and safety in football, said Dawson will be missed. But he's happy that Messina was promoted.

"We believe in our new head coach and we believe that we'll have a great season this year," Targun said.