



Photo by Mike Lee

Graduating senior quarterback Dakota Farmer holds his state championship aloft as his fellow senior teammates examine their own rings. Former Central High School football coach Bryson Rouser makes a surprise visit to present the Bobcats with their 2009 Class 5A State Championship rings in a ceremony Thursday at Dan T. Boring Stadium.

Central football team receives title rings, surprise visit at ceremony

By **Karl Lay**

The 2009 Central High School football team got its Class 5A State Championship rings Thursday at Dan T. Boring Stadium. The rings were the jewels that culminated a second consecutive championship.

The ceremony, which was conducted with social distancing

protocols in place, was unexpected.

But the surprise guest who presented the players, coaches and support staff with their rings wasn't expected.

Former Bobcats' head coach Bryson Rouser returned to Knoxville to present the rings.

Rouser came down from Massachusetts for one last

hunch with the 2009 Cats. Rouser, who guided Central to a pair of consecutive state titles in 2008 and 2009, left earlier this year because he will get a new job.

"People asked if I was going to be here and I told (athletic director) J.D. (Lambert) to tell everybody no because I wanted

this to be a surprise," Rouser said.

But anyone who knows Rouser knows that he wouldn't have missed this ceremony for anything.

And he didn't.

He wanted to be there for his players, especially his seniors.

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deducted by committee member James Cochran. It would have removed the authority to pursue, try or settle suits from the law director and any matter greater than \$50,000.

"The Knox County Law Director shall abide by the decisions of the Mayor or the Mayor's designee," the proposed charter change read.

Cochran withdrew the proposals after Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong said the change would not pass legal challenges.

The Charter Committee is under a deadline to submit changes by August 15 to get suggestions changed on the November ballot. Charter Chairman Brad Anders said all charter items are on the table for discussion given the time limits.

"I think we've taken care of the

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