

COACHES



MIKE NORVELL
HEAD COACH

Experience: 6th Season at FSU | 10th Season as head coach | 20th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Irving, Texas | Alma Mater: Central Arkansas, 2005; Central Arkansas, 2007
Family: wife, Maria; daughter, Mila

Mike Norvell, who was named Florida State's head football coach on Dec. 8, 2019, and led the Seminoles to an undefeated regular season and the program's 16th ACC championship in 2023, enters his sixth season overseeing the FSU program in 2025.

The 2024 team produced two first-team All-Americans, including the program's first Consensus All-American since 2016, and an FWAA Freshman All-American, also FSU's first since 2016. In his career, Norvell has coached 37 NFL Draft picks, 22 All-Americans, including 14 first-team selections, five conference Players of the Year, one ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year and 114 all-conference recognitions.

Norvell earned the Dodd Trophy and Bryant Award in 2023, becoming the eighth coach and second since 2003 to win both national Coach of the Year recognitions in the same season. He also was named ACC Coach of the Year, joining the legendary Bobby Bowden as the only FSU coaches to earn the conference's top coaching honor, and the AFCA Region 1 Coach of the Year while also being named one of five finalists for the George Munger Coach of the Year Award presented by the Maxwell Football Club and one of 12 finalists for the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

Florida State rolled through an unbeaten, 13-0 regular season that included wins over eight P5 bowl-eligible teams, including No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship Game, and was No. 4 in the final Associated Press poll of the regular season. It was the third 13-win season in program history, and Norvell became only the sixth different ACC coach since 2000 to lead his team to an undefeated record in conference play. His ACC Championship Game appearance marked his fourth conference championship game, which ranks fourth among head coaches active in 2025, and he also is one of only eight head coaches ever to make three conference championship game appearances in their first four years.

FSU showcased dominance in all three phases, as it was the only team in the nation that produced a stretch in which it outscored its opponent by at least 17 points in every regular-season game, with eight of those games featuring a scoring run of plus-24 or better.

The 2023 Seminoles produced a program-record 25 selections to the All-ACC team, led by ACC Player of the Year and first-team all-conference quarterback Jordan Travis. FSU's eight first-team selections were the most in the conference, and Florida State also led the ACC in second-team and third-team honorees. Keon Coleman became the first FSU player to earn three first-team all-conference honors in one season after being named first-team All-ACC at wide receiver, all-purpose player and return specialist.

Travis flourished in his final year under Norvell's guidance, developing into one of the best players in the nation and finishing fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting despite being injured in the first quarter of FSU's 11th game of the season. In only 10 full games, Travis passed for 2,756 yards and 20 touchdowns and added another 176 yards and seven touchdowns rushing for 2,932 yards of total offense and 27 total touchdowns. He completed his Florida State career holding program records for career touchdown responsibility, total offense yards, quarterback rushing yards and quarterback rushing touchdowns while also placing himself in the top-five in passing touchdowns, passing yards, wins as a starting quarterback, completions, completion percentage and rushing touchdowns.

Florida State's 2023 campaign showcased playmakers in all three phases. The Seminoles led the nation in opponent completion percentage, pass breakups and passes defended while ranking second nationally in fewest interceptions thrown, third in net punting, sixth in passing efficiency defense, sacks and third-down defense and seventh in kickoff return average. FSU led the ACC in scoring offense for the second straight year while also leading the conference in yards per completion, sacks per game, kickoff return average, fewest interceptions thrown and fewest total turnovers.

Thirty-one of Norvell's pupils have been selected in the last eight NFL Drafts, led by first-round picks Jared Verse in 2024 and Jermaine Johnson II in 2022. Norvell has coached multiple picks in seven of the last eight years. In addition to Johnson and Verse, Norvell also guided second-round picks Keon Coleman, Braden Fiske, Renardo Green, Anthony Miller and Asante Samuel, Jr., as well as third-round selections Trey Benson, Jarrian Jones, Azareye'h Thomas, Darrell Henderson, Antonio Gibson and Dylan Parham.

Norvell's offenses are averaging 34.7 points per game during his nine years as a head coach, which ranks as the fourth-highest average in the country among head coaches active each year from 2016-25. Norvell is one of only three head coaches to produce a top-7 rushing offense and top-7 passing offense since 2016. His offense has showcased 60 individual 100-yard rushing games, 43 individual 100-yard receiving games and 26 individual 300-yard passing games. In addition to his high-powered offenses, Norvell's teams have also scored 15 defensive touchdowns and 17 touchdowns on special teams.

Norvell has developed an impressive coaching tree in his first eight seasons as head coach. For the 2025 season, 54 current Division I coaches, including four head coaches and nine coordinators, have served on a Norvell staff. He has hired coaches who are now on staffs at Arizona State, Oregon, Buffalo, Memphis, Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Miami, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, SMU and USC, among others.

Statistically, the 2022 team was among the nation's best in multiple categories in all three phases. FSU was the only team to lead its conference in both total offense and total defense in 2022. Florida State was one of two teams nationally to average at least 270 passing yards and at least 210 rushing yards per game. The Seminoles, along with Alabama and Georgia, were the only three teams to rank in the top-15 in yards per play on offense and defense. Those three teams were also the only ones ranked in the top-20 in total defense, scoring defense, total offense and scoring offense.





Florida State led the country with an average of 7.46 plays of at least 20 yards per game and ranked second nationally with an explosive play differential of +7.41. The defense was fourth in the country in passing defense, and FSU was one of six teams nationally to rank in the top-25 in kickoff return and punt return average. Florida State led the ACC in passing defense, third-down offense, yards gained per pass, yards gained per play, yards gained per rush, total offense per game, yards per completion, yards allowed per pass, rushing offense per game, yards allowed per play, total defense per game and scoring offense per game.

The Seminoles were led by Jordan Travis, who was PFF's highest-graded quarterback and the highest-graded offensive player in the ACC. Travis continued to showcase his development under Norvell, ranking first in the ACC in yards per play, yards per pass attempt, yards per completion and pass efficiency rating. He had a school-record six straight games accounting for at least three touchdowns and became the first player in program history with at least 20 passing touchdowns and seven rushing touchdowns in one season. The redshirt junior saved his best performance for last, accounting for an FSU bowl-record 468 yards of total offense in the Cheez-It Bowl victory over Oklahoma that included a career-high 418 passing yards and 50 rushing yards, making him only the fifth player nationally with at least 400 passing yards and 50 rushing yards in a bowl game since 2000.

The defense was led by first-team All-Americans Jared Verse and Jammie Robinson. Verse was the ACC's Newcomer of the Year after he dominated in his first season at Florida State following a transfer from Albany, leading the conference with an average of 0.75 sacks per game and ranking second in the ACC and 10th nationally with an average of 1.4 tackles for loss per game. Robinson, FSU's first back-to-back first-team All-ACC defender since Jalen Ramsey in 2014-15, was the Seminoles' leading tackler for the second straight season. He registered 99 stops, including a game-high 13 in the Cheez-It Bowl victory, and recorded 5.0 tackles for loss, 1.0 sack, five pass breakups, one interception and one fumble recovery.

Offensive lineman Dillan Gibbons became the first FSU player to win the prestigious Wuerffel Trophy, given to the FBS player who best combines exemplary community service with leadership achievement on and off the field. Along with the Wuerffel, Gibbons, who started all 13 games at left guard, was voted captain of the Good Works Team, named the winner of the ACC's Jim Tatum Award given to the league's top football senior scholar-athlete and was selected as a first-team All-ACC performer.

The 2021 season was highlighted by first-team All-American and ACC Defensive Player of the Year Jermaine Johnson II, who elevated his game into a first-round NFL Draft pick in his one season at Florida State. Johnson, the only athlete to win a Player of the Year award in his first season with an ACC program, and first-team All-ACC defensive back Jammie Robinson led FSU's contingent of eight all-conference recognitions for the program's most All-ACC honorees since 2016.

Florida State ended the 2021 season converting 32 consecutive red zone trips, the longest active streak in America and the second-longest streak at any point in 2021, scoring an average of 6.1 points per red zone trip during the streak. The Seminoles also grabbed at least one interception in each of the last eight games of 2021, tied for the longest streak in the country that year.

Florida State ranked second in the ACC and seventh nationally in red zone defense, allowing points on only 70.6 percent of red zone drives. The Seminoles also ranked third in the ACC with 20 total takeaways and 7.2 tackles for loss per game, while their 14 interceptions were fourth overall in the conference. The tackles-for-loss average ranked 12th nationally and was FSU's highest for a season since 2016.

In his first season at Florida State, Norvell led the youngest team in the nation as freshmen and sophomores made up 75 percent of FSU's roster and 34 players made their first appearance for the Seminoles. While navigating through a global pandemic that ended spring practice after only three sessions and impacted summer workouts and the regular season, Norvell became the only coach in ACC history to defeat a top-five team in his first season when FSU earned a 31-28 victory over No. 5 North Carolina. In the season finale, a 56-35 win over Duke, Florida State scored six rushing touchdowns, matching the program record for rushing touchdowns in an ACC game.

The Seminoles averaged 199.9 rushing yards per game, the program's highest since 2016 and 20th nationally among teams that played at least nine games in 2020, and 5.11 yards per rush, 16th in the nation among teams with at least 350 carries and FSU's most in a season since 2015. Florida State topped 400 yards of total offense in five of the last seven games, including more than 500 yards of total offense twice, and produced FSU's first game with at least 250 yards rushing and passing since 2016.

Norvell's teams are known for elite special teams play, and that was on display in his first season with the Seminoles. Florida State tied for second in the NCAA with five blocked kicks, including two blocked field goals, two blocked punts and one blocked PAT. FSU was one of only two teams in the country to block multiple field goals and multiple punts in 2020. Additionally, the Seminoles ranked 16th in the nation in net punting average.

The team posted a program-record 3.310 grade-point average in the spring 2025 semester, following a fall-record 3.095 in the fall of 2024. The overall semester GPA record bested the 3.127 earned in Norvell's first semester at FSU, setting an immediate indication of the importance Norvell places on academics in his program. Florida State has produced 73 Academic All-ACC selections under Norvell and has broken the single-season program record in three straight years, highlighted by 30 academic all-conference honorees in 2024, the fifth-highest total in the ACC. FSU's multi-year Academic Progress Rate of 990 released in May of 2025 set a program high for the third straight year, and FSU also tied its program-best single-year score of 997 for the second straight report. As another public signal, 468 players have earned a Seminole Scholar patch on their uniform as part of a program Norvell introduced to recognize academic achievement.

Norvell spent the 2016-19 seasons as the head coach at Memphis, compiling a record of 38-15, including the 2019 American Athletic Conference championship and a spot in the New Year's Six Cotton Bowl. His 71.7 winning percentage was the highest in Memphis history. Memphis was the first school to appear in three straight American Athletic Conference Championship

MIKE NORVELL HEAD COACH CAREER YEAR-BY-YEAR

2016	Memphis	8-5	Boca Raton Bowl
2017	Memphis	10-3	Liberty Bowl
2018	Memphis	8-6	Birmingham Bowl
2019	Memphis	12-1	Cotton Bowl*
2020	Florida State	3-6	
2021	Florida State	5-7	
2022	Florida State	10-3	Cheez-It Bowl
2023	Florida State	13-1	Orange Bowl
2024	Florida State	2-10	
Total		**71-42**	**did not coach bowl game*



Games, and Norvell is one of 17 head coaches in any conference to appear in three straight conference championship games. He is also one of only eight to make three conference championship game appearances in their first four years as a head coach.

Memphis was one of three FBS teams to rank in the top-15 nationally in scoring offense every year from 2016-19, along with Ohio State and Oklahoma. Memphis shined on special teams under Norvell as the Tigers were one of only two schools with at least one kickoff return touchdown each year from 2016-19, and their 11 kickoff return touchdowns over that span were the most in the nation. The 2019 team ranked second in the country in special teams efficiency by ESPN, trailing only Penn State which hired Norvell's special teams coordinator prior to the 2019 season.

The Tigers' defense wreaked havoc on opponents, forcing 99 total takeaways and averaging 6.8 tackles for loss per game. Memphis was one of only six FBS teams with multiple defensive touchdowns every year from 2016-19.

In 2019, Norvell led Memphis to a school-record 12 wins and the program's first outright conference championship since 1969. Norvell, who is the only coach in Memphis history with two 10-win seasons, produced two of the four 10-win seasons at the school and holds program records with eight wins in his first season, 18 over his first two, 26 in his first three and 38 in his first four seasons. He also holds the school record for the most wins over a three-year span with 30 victories from 2017-19 to bypass his 26 wins from 2016-18.

The 2019 Tigers produced a program-record 14 all-conference selections, including co-Special Teams Player of the Year Antonio Gibson and Rookie of the Year Kenneth Gainwell, in addition to Mortell Award winner Preston Brady as the national holder of the year. Gibson's average of 28.8 yards per kickoff return ranked sixth in the country, while Gainwell ranked ninth with 150.54 all-purpose yards per game and 12th with an average of 6.42 yards per rush. Brady White, named a finalist for the Manning Award and Johnny Unitas Award, ranked in the top-20 in FBS in passing yards per completion, yards per attempt, passing efficiency, passing touchdowns, passing yards per game and points responsibility. He had a streak of 11 straight games with at least two passing touchdowns, tied for the longest streak in AAC history, and was one of five quarterbacks in the nation with at least 11 multiple-touchdown games. In 2018, Norvell's team boasted the fourth-best rushing attack in the nation, averaging 279.9 yards per game with a school-record 3,919 total rushing yards and 48 touchdowns on the ground. He produced the first season in Memphis history with two 1,000-yard rushers, led by Doak Walker Award finalist and unanimous All-American Darrell Henderson. Henderson broke the NCAA career record with an average of 8.22 yards per carry, and his 2018 average of 8.92 yards per carry was the highest for a season with a minimum of 200 carries in records dating back to 2000.

The 2017 team averaged 45.5 points per game, the second-highest average in the country, and ranked fourth in the NCAA with 523.1 yards per game and 7.35 yards per play. That year, Memphis forced 31 takeaways, good for third in the country, and ranked third with a turnover margin of plus-1.15 per game. The team's average of 26.02 yards per kickoff return also ranked fourth. Anthony Miller earned consensus All-America honors after leading the NCAA with 18 receiving touchdowns and ranking third in the country with 96 receptions and 1,462 yards.

In his first year at the helm, Norvell immediately put his stamp on the program. Memphis ranked second in kickoff return defense, allowing only 16.04 yards per return, while boasting the nation's fifth-best kickoff return average of 26.57 yards per return. The Tigers were the only team to rank in the top-17 of both categories in 2016. Memphis also forced 29 takeaways, the fifth-highest total in the country, and ranked in the top-15 in scoring offense, averaging 38.8 points per game, and passing offense at 304.4 yards per game.

The Tigers flourished academically under Norvell as well, posting single-year APR scores of 991 in 2018-19, 988 in 2017-18 and 976 in 2016-17. Under his guidance, the football team earned its highest grade-point average in program history in the fall of 2017. Through his first three years, 55 players earned their bachelor's degree, including eight on the 2019 team.

Norvell took over at Memphis after four years as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Arizona State. The Sun Devils averaged 38.1 points per game and scored nearly 2,000 points in his four seasons. His 2014 offense gained 5,750 yards, 3,556 of those through the air, and ranked 13th in the nation with 34 touchdown passes. The 2013 team's average of 39.7 points per game ranked 10th nationally.

Norvell spent one year as Pitt's co-offensive coordinator, wide receivers coach and director of recruiting. From 2007-10 he coached wide receivers at Tulsa, adding passing game coordinator duties in 2009 and director of recruiting responsibilities in 2010. The Golden Hurricane had five 1,000-yard receivers under Norvell's leadership, led by All-American Damaris Johnson. Johnson broke the NCAA record for career all-purpose yards with 7,796 and is one of four players in NCAA history with three seasons of at least 2,000 all-purpose yards.

Norvell was a four-year letterwinner at Central Arkansas and was inducted into the UCA Sports Hall of Fame in 2015. He broke the school record with 213 career receptions and was second on the program's all-time list with 2,611 receiving yards and an average of 4.6 catches per game. He helped lead the Bears to 33 wins in his four years, including an 11-3 mark in 2005. The next year, he began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater.

Norvell earned two degrees from Central Arkansas, completing his bachelor's degree in social science in 2005 and his master's degree in training systems in 2007. Norvell and his wife, Maria, have a daughter, Mila.

MIKE NORVELL COACHING HISTORY

2020-	Florida State Head Coach
2016-19	Memphis Head Coach
2012-15	Arizona State Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach
2011	Pitt co-Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach/Director of Recruiting
2010	Tulsa Passing Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach/Director of Recruiting
2009	Tulsa Passing Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach
2007-08	Tulsa Graduate Assistant Coach
2006	Central Arkansas Graduate Assistant Coach

MIKE NORVELL: BY THE NUMBERS

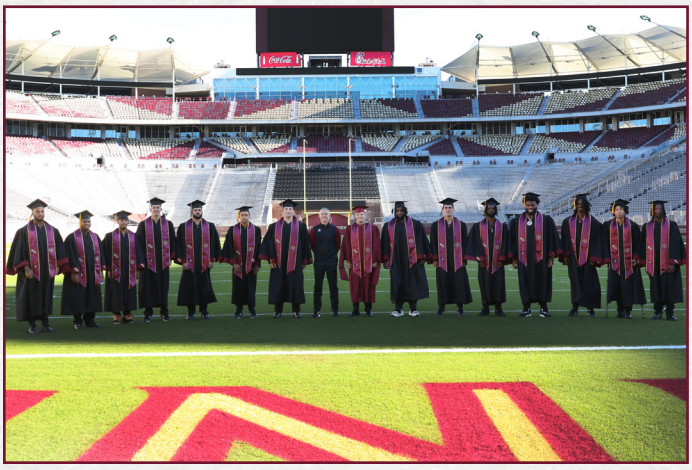
34.7	Points per game as a head coach, 4th-highest nationally among coaches active each year from 2016-25
40	45 games scoring at least 40 points as a head coach
50	20 games scoring at least 50 points as a head coach
60	6 games scoring at least 60 points as a head coach
70	3 games scoring at least 70 points as a head coach
3,000	Coached a 3,000-yard passer in seven of the last 10 seasons
300	26 individual 300-yard passing games in 113 games as a head coach
1,000	Produced six 1,000-yard rushers in the last 10 seasons
100	60 individual 100-yard rushing games in 113 games as a head coach
100	43 individual 100-yard receiving games in 113 games as a head coach
24	Blocked kicks in his nine seasons as a head coach
15	Defensive touchdowns in his nine seasons as a head coach
14	Kickoff return touchdowns in his nine seasons as a head coach
108	All-Conference performers coached
37	NFL Draft picks coached, including 30 selected in the last seven years
990	FSU's multi-year Academic Progress Rate released in May 2025, the highest in program history
54	Current Division I coaches who have served on his staff

The list of 54 current Division I coaches and staff who have worked under Norvell includes four head coaches and nine coordinators:

Coach	*Current Position*	*School*
Kenny Dillingham	Head Coach	Arizona State
Dan Lanning	Head Coach	Oregon
Pete Lembo	Head Coach	Buffalo
Ryan Silverfield	Head Coach	Memphis
Carter Barfield	Special Teams Coordinator	Tulsa
Joe Bowen	Defensive Coordinator	Buffalo
Gabe Fertitta	Offensive Coordinator	Nicholls State
Joe Lorig	Special Teams Coordinator	Oregon
Gus Malzahn	Offensive Coordinator	Florida State
John Papuchis	Special Teams Coordinator	Florida State
Scott Symons	Defensive Coordinator	SMU
Tony White	Defensive Coordinator	Florida State
Marcus Woodson	co-Defensive Coordinator	Arkansas



Mike Norvell's commitment to academics has been visible on FSU's jerseys starting with the 2020 season with the addition of the 'Seminole Scholar' patch that has now been recognized on 468 jerseys. The 2025 season features 78 players who have graduated, earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA or finished their previous semester with a 3.0 GPA.





GUS MALZAHN
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Experience: 1st Season at FSU | 20th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Fort Smith, Ark. | Alma Mater: Henderson State, 1990
Family: wife, Kristi; daughters, Kylie and Kenzie

Renowned offensive innovator Gus Malzahn is in his first season as Florida State's offensive coordinator after joining the program on December 2, 2024.

Malzahn, who has 19 years of experience as a head coach or offensive coordinator at the FBS level, most recently spent the last four seasons leading the football program at UCF where his team produced a top-10 rushing attack and top-20 total offense each of the last three years. His extensive resume includes a national championship, another National Championship Game appearance, three conference championships and eight conference championship game appearances. He has a record of 105-62 as a collegiate head coach and is the only coach to earn 100 wins as an FBS head coach and as a high school head coach.

As head coach, he led Auburn to the 2013 BCS National Championship Game behind an offense that was the first SEC team to lead the country in rushing yards per game and only the second SEC offense to top 7,000 total yards in a season. As offensive coordinator, he directed offenses that showcased Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton and Heisman Trophy runner-up Darren McFadden. He has coached 16 1,000-yard rushers, including in each of the last two seasons at UCF, and three times has produced multiple 1,000-yard rushers in the same season. His 2007 Tulsa offense, with Norvell serving as his graduate assistant, is the only team in NCAA history to produce three 1,000-yard receivers, a 5,000-yard passer and a 1,000-yard rusher.

Malzahn's offenses have averaged 447.7 yards of total offense per game over his 19 years as an offensive coordinator or head coach. He has directed offenses that eclipsed 5,000 yards of total offense 16 times, with eight seasons above 6,000 yards and three totaling more than 7,000 yards. His offenses have shown the ability to adapt to strengths year-over-year, evidenced by eight years with more than 3,000 passing yards, including three with more than 4,000 yards passing, and seven seasons with 3,000 rushing yards.

Each of Malzahn's last three UCF teams produced a top-10 rushing attack as the Knights ranked seventh in 2024 with an average of 248.1 yards per game after ranking fourth in 2023 and ninth in 2022. The 2023 team also was eighth in the country in total offense, averaging 487.0 yards per game, fourth in third-down conversion percentage and eighth in passing yards per completion. His 2024 offense ranked 16th nationally in total offense behind running back RJ Harvey who ranked in the top five nationally in all-purpose yards, points per game, rushing yards per game and rushing touchdowns.

In 2023, Malzahn led the Knights into the Big 12 and became the only program out of the four that joined the conference to reach a bowl game in their initial season. He ended his first season at UCF with a win over Florida in the 2021 Gasparilla Bowl before taking the Knights to the 2022 AAC Championship Game with an offense that averaged 469.6 yards per game to rank 16th in the country in total offense.

Malzahn is responsible for the first two 50-point totals in the SEC Championship Game, a mark that has only been reached five times in the game's 33-year history. His 2013 team set SEC Championship Game records with 59 points scored, 677 yards of total offense, 545 rushing yards and seven rushing touchdowns in a 59-42 win over No. 5 Missouri. The 2010 team set a conference championship game record with its 39-point margin of victory by defeating No. 19 South Carolina 56-17.

In 2013, his first season as head coach at Auburn, he led a remarkable turnaround as the program posted a 12-2 record, won the SEC championship and played in the BCS National Championship Game at the Rose Bowl. Malzahn earned the Bear Bryant, Bobby Bowden and Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year awards and was named Coach of the Year by multiple national media organizations for his performance taking over a team that finished with three wins the season before. He was the third coach in SEC history, and first since 1947, to win the conference title in his first year.



Malzahn led the Tigers to eight victories over top-10 opponents during his time as head coach, including defeating No. 1 Georgia and No. 1 Alabama in a span of three weeks in 2017. Auburn reached the postseason in all eight of his seasons as head coach and won two SEC Western Division titles. He produced 32 NFL Draft picks in his time leading the Auburn program, with four first-round selections highlighted by offensive tackle Greg Robinson taken No. 2 overall in 2014, and 14 All-Americans.



In his first FBS head-coaching stint, Malzahn led Arkansas State to the 2012 Sun Belt Conference championship. The Red Wolves led the conference in rushing offense and passing efficiency and ranked in the top 25 nationally in rushing, passing efficiency, third-down conversion percentage, first downs, red zone offense and total offense.

Malzahn earned the 2010 Broyles Award as the nation's best assistant coach while directing an offense that powered Auburn to the school's first national championship since 1957. He directed quarterback Cam Newton to the Heisman Trophy and the Davey O'Brien, Maxwell and Manning awards before being selected No. 1 overall in the 2011 NFL Draft. The 2010 Tigers averaged 499.2 yards of total offense, 287.2 yards of rushing offense and 41.2 points per game to lead the SEC in all three categories.

During his two seasons as co-offensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Tulsa, Malzahn put together the best offense in the nation. The 2007 offense averaged 543.9 yards and 41.1 points per game before improving to 569.9 yards and 47.2 points per game in 2008. Tulsa led the nation in total offense in 2007 and 2008 and ranked second nationally in scoring offense in 2008.

Malzahn began his collegiate coaching career as offensive coordinator at Arkansas, where he helped the Razorbacks reach the SEC Championship Game with the nation's No. 4 rushing offense and Heisman Trophy runner-up Darren McFadden. In addition to McFadden, the No. 4 overall pick in the 2008 NFL Draft, the offense featured first-round NFL Draft pick Felix Jones and Peyton Hillis, who was drafted by the Denver Broncos and played seven years in the NFL.

Before entering collegiate coaching, Malzahn was a high school head coach in Arkansas for 14 seasons. His overall record of 144-36-1 included three state championships. He led Shiloh Christian to perfect 15-0 marks and the 2A state title in 1998 and 1999 and directed Springdale High School to a 14-0 record and the 5A state crown in 2005. Malzahn was inducted into the Arkansas High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

Malzahn earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Henderson State in 1990. He began his collegiate career at Arkansas, playing wide receiver for the Razorbacks in 1984 and 1985 before transferring to Henderson State. Malzahn and his wife, Kristi, are the parents of two daughters, Kylie and Kenzie.

GUS MALZAHN COACHING HISTORY

2025-	Florida State Offensive Coordinator
2021-24	UCF Head Coach
2013-20	Auburn Head Coach
2012	Arkansas State Head Coach
2009-11	Auburn Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach
2007-08	Tulsa Assistant Head Coach/co-Offensive Coordinator
2006	Arkansas Offensive Coordinator
2001-05	Springdale (Ark.) High School Head Coach
1996-2000	Shiloh Christian (Ark.) High School Head Coach
1992-95	Hughes (Ark.) High School Head Coach



TONY WHITE
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Experience: 1st Season at FSU | 19th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: El Paso, Texas | Alma Mater: UCLA, 2002
Family: wife, Angela; son, Anthony III; daughter, Ava

Tony White is in his first season as Florida State's defensive coordinator after joining the program on December 5, 2024 and bringing with him an aggreesive, innovative approach.

White, a two-time Broyles Award nominee for the nation's best assistant coach, has produced a top-25 defense in each of the last four seasons at two different schools and held opponents to 20 or fewer points 25 times, including 15 times in 24 games over the past two seasons. From 2021-24, White's defense held its opponent to less than 100 rushing yards in 25 games and 15 times held the opponent to less than 75 rushing yards. His recruiting acumen has been recognized with three Recruiter of the Year awards.

White came to Florida State after two seasons as the associate head coach and defensive coordinator at Nebraska. He made an immediate impact on the Huskers in his first season by directing the program's best defensive season since joining the Big Ten more than a decade earlier. Nebraska allowed only 92.9 rushing yards per game, the eighth-best rushing defense in the country in 2023 and the best at Nebraska this century, while also ranking 11th nationally in total defense and 13th in scoring defense.





In 2024, he followed that up with another top-20 defensive performance as the Huskers ranked 14th in rushing defense, 19th in total defense and 20th in scoring defense. Nebraska held five opponents to 10 or fewer points and six opponents to fewer than 300 yards of total offense, including limiting eventual national champion Ohio State to 285 yards when the Buckeyes entered the game averaging more than 500 yards of total offense. The Huskers allowed only six rushing touchdowns, the third-fewest in the nation, and held 10 opponents without a rushing touchdown, including all seven at home. Nebraska was the first team nationally since 2021 to not allow a rushing touchdown at home and kept all its home opponents out of the end zone on the ground for the first time since 1939.

White was the defensive coordinator at Syracuse from 2020-22, where he tutored four Freshman All-Americans and 13 All-ACC selections. The Orange were one of 12 teams to rank in the top 25 nationally in total defense in both 2021 and 2022 after the 2021 team improved 93 spots to 19th in the national total defense rankings. The 2022 team allowed 184.8 passing yards per game to rank 14th in the country while also ranking 21st nationally in total defense and helping Syracuse reach a bowl game for the first time since 2018.

Before his time at Syracuse, White was Arizona State's defensive passing game coordinator and cornerbacks coach in 2018 and 2019. He helped the Sun Devils to a dramatic improvement in pass defense and aggressive play, as the 2019 team's average of 5.54 passes defended per game was No. 7 in the country and its 13 interceptions were the country's 25th-highest total. White served as the interim defensive coordinator in the Sun Bowl when Arizona State forced six takeaways, including an interception return touchdown for the game-winning points, and recorded 10 tackles for loss.



White coached cornerbacks at San Diego State from 2009-17 and added recruiting coordinator duties for his final six years, helping the Aztecs win three conference championships and play in eight bowl games. San Diego State led the country with 26 interceptions in 2016 one season after grabbing 23 interceptions to rank second nationally. The 2014 and 2015 teams both ranked in the top 10 in the country in pass efficiency defense, posting the nation's No. 3 mark in 2014 and No. 10 in 2015. In 2017, the Aztecs had the nation's 15th-best pass defense, allowing only 178.7 passing yards per game.

His tenure at San Diego State included eight all-conference honors from his cornerbacks, led by 2015 and 2016 Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year Damontae Kazee. Kazee, the first cornerback to win the conference's Defensive Player of the Year honor twice, was also a second-team All-American in 2015 and is in his ninth season in the NFL in 2025 after being selected by the Atlanta Falcons in the 2017 NFL Draft. White was named Mountain West Recruiter of the Year twice by Scout.com and the nation's best non-P5 recruiter by Rivals in 2014.

White spent the 2008 season as the linebackers coach at New Mexico, helping the Lobos rank 26th nationally in rushing defense behind two all-conference linebackers, after spending the 2007 season as a graduate assistant at UCLA. White began his coaching career in 2006 as the head coach at St. Genevieve High School in California and led the Valiants to a 3-1 league record in his only season at the helm.

White earned his bachelor's degree in history from UCLA in 2002. He was a three-year starter at linebacker and a team captain in 2000, helping the Bruins win 30 games and appear in the Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl and Sun Bowl during his four years. White and his wife, Angela, have one son, Anthony III, and one daughter, Ava.

TONY WHITE COACHING HISTORY

2025-	Florida State Defensive Coordinator
2023-24	Nebraska Associate Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator
2022	Syracuse Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers Coach
2020-21	Syracuse Defensive Coordinator
2018-19	Arizona State Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/Cornerbacks Coach
2011-17	San Diego State Cornerbacks Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2009-10	San Diego State Cornerbacks Coach
2008	New Mexico Linebackers Coach
2007	UCLA Graduate Assistant
2006	St. Genevieve (Calif.) High School Head Coach



JOHN PAPUCHIS

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR/LINEBACKERS

Experience: 6th Season at FSU | 25th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Gaithersburg, Md. | Alma Mater: Virginia Tech, 2001; Kansas, 2003
Family: wife, Billie; daughters, Addyson, Sophia and Rylee; sons, John and Jack

John Papuchis enters his sixth season at Florida State and first as linebackers coach in 2025. He continues to serve as the special teams coordinator, a role he has held since arriving in Tallahassee prior to the 2020 season.

Papuchis' players have earned 55 all-conference recognitions, four conference Player of the Year awards and one Rookie of the Year. He has coached 16 NFL Draft picks, highlighted by Jared Verse's selection at No. 19 overall by the Los Angeles Rams in 2024, and seven All-Americans, including the first defensive player to earn Associated Press Player of the Year honors. Papuchis won the 2007 national championship as part of the staff at LSU and has coached in seven conference title games.

Both of Florida State's first-round draft picks under head coach Mike Norvell were Papuchis products – Verse in 2024 and Jermaine Johnson II in 2022, No. 26 overall by the New York Jets. In addition to Johnson and Verse at defensive end, Papuchis has also led punter Alex Mastromanno, kicker Ryan Fitzgerald and long snapper James Rosenberry Jr. to first-team All-America honors during his time at Florida State.

Mastromanno capped a five-year career at Florida State with an ACC-record 49.3 yards per punt in 2024, the highest average in the country. He became FSU's second punter to earn consensus All-America honors and joined Fitzgerald as the first punter-kicker duo to be named first-team All-Americans in the same season by the AFCA.

Mastromanno was a two-time finalist for the Ray Guy Award after finishing his career as FSU's all-time leader in punts, punt yards and punting average.

Fitzgerald was a 2024 finalist for the Lou Groza Award after connecting on all 13 field goal attempts and 14 point-after tries. A Seminole for six seasons, Fitzgerald was 5-for-5 from over 50 yards as a redshirt senior, including a 59-yard field goal against Georgia Tech that was the second-longest in program history.



Fitzgerald ended his Florida State career fourth in program history with 178 made PATs, fifth with 352 points and seventh with 58 field goals made.

As part of their five blocked kicks in 2024, the Seminoles blocked four field goals, tying the single-season program record and leading the nation. Since Papuchis was hired as special teams coordinator, Florida State has blocked 14 total kicks, the seventh-highest total in the country. FSU blocked two field goals against Clemson in 2024, the fifth game under Papuchis that FSU blocked multiple kicks in a game.

Freshman Samuel Singleton Jr. was named the FWAA's Freshman All-American kick returner, becoming Florida State's first FWAA Freshman All-American since first-round NFL Draft pick Brian Burns in 2016. Singleton returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown at Duke, the third consecutive season that FSU has scored on a kickoff return, a school record. Singleton's 165 kickoff return yards against the Blue Devils were the seventh-highest total in program history and the most by any freshman in a single game in the country in 2024. FSU is one of just two teams nationally with a kickoff return touchdown each of the past three seasons.

The 2023 team completed a 13-0 regular season that culminated in the program's 16th ACC championship with a victory over No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship Game and earned a berth in the Orange Bowl. Florida State ranked sixth in the country with 3.29 sacks per game and by holding opponents to a 28.8 percent third-down conversion rate. The Seminoles broke ACC Championship Game records with 14.0 tackles for loss and 188 yards of total offense allowed and also became the first team in at least 20 seasons to hold their opponent to negative yards in the fourth quarter in back-to-back games.

Verse, a first-team All-American, continued wreaking havoc in his second season under Papuchis' guidance, becoming FSU's first two-time first-team All-ACC defensive end since 1995-96 after registering 12.5 tackles for loss with 9.0 sacks in 2023. Sophomore Patrick Payton built on his ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year season by leading the team with 14.5 tackles for loss and becoming the first ACC defensive lineman since 2016 with 10 pass breakups. In the final two games of the regular season, wins at Florida and in the ACC Championship Game, Payton and Verse combined for 10.0 tackles for loss as the FSU defense held the Gators and Cardinals to a total of 21 points and 420 yards of offense.

Florida State's 2023 ACC championship team was heavily impacted by the special teams units, with All-American Rosenberry at long snapper, second-team All-American Mastromanno at punter and first-team All-ACC return specialist Keon Coleman.

Fitzgerald was 19-of-21 on field goals and a perfect 58-for-58 on PATs in 2023. He led the ACC with 115 points and 58 made PATs to became the first player in FSU history with multiple seasons of at least 57 made PATs. His made PATs total was the second-highest single-season total without a miss in program history.

In 2022, Florida State finished 10-3 and No. 11 in the AP poll. FSU ranked in the top-15 nationally in passing defense, yards per pass attempt and total defense.

In 2021, Papuchis guided the development of first-team All-American and ACC Defensive Player of the Year Jermaine Johnson II as well as third-team all-conference defensive end Keir Thomas. Johnson authored one of the best seasons in recent memory as the defensive end ranked first in the ACC with 12.0 sacks and 18.0 tackles for loss – both the highest totals for an FSU defender since 2016 – and led all defensive linemen nationally with 70 tackles. Johnson and Thomas, who recorded 12.0 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks with 15 quarterback hurries, were the only teammates in the ACC, and one of only three pairs in the country, to average at least 1.3 tackles for loss per game in conference play.

Florida State's special teams featured redshirt freshman punter Mastromanno and redshirt freshman kicker Fitzgerald continuing their ascent as primary contributors for the Seminoles. Mastromanno averaged 42.7 yards per punt, the sixth-highest average in the ACC, and landed 18 punts inside the 20-yard line with none of his 61 punts resulting in a touchback. Fitzgerald scored 67 points in his first season as FSU's primary kicker, including a career-high 11 points in the 31-28 victory vs. Miami and the 59-3 win vs. UMass.

Papuchis made an immediate impact on special teams his first season on staff, vaulting FSU back into the realm of the nation's elite in 2020. The Seminoles tied for second in the NCAA with five blocked kicks, including two blocked field goals, two blocked punts and one blocked PAT. FSU was one of only two teams in the country to block multiple field goals and multiple punts in 2020. Additionally, the Seminoles ranked 16th in the nation with a net punting average of 41.34 yards per punt.

Florida State tied multiple single-game school records in 2020. The Seminoles had a school-record-tying three blocked kicks, including tying the single-game record of two blocked field goals, in the season opener against Georgia Tech. In FSU's 31-28 victory over No. 5 North Carolina, the Seminoles tied a single-game school record with two blocked punts, both of which came in the first quarter. Florida State's punt coverage unit registered three takeaways in 2020 by recovering fumbles on punt returns.

His defensive ends made an impact in 2020 as well, led by Janarius Robinson and Joshua Kaindoh. Kaindoh gave FSU a 24-0 lead in the win over UNC with a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown, the first pick-six by a Seminole defensive lineman since 2009, and Robinson had 3.0 tackles for loss with a career-high 2.0 sacks against the Tar Heels. The 2021 NFL Draft featured both Robinson and Kaindoh being taken in the fourth round. Kaindoh won Super Bowl LVII as a member of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Papuchis came to Tallahassee after coordinating Maryland's special teams and coaching inside linebackers in 2019. He previously was the defensive coordinator at North Carolina and Nebraska and also served as special teams coordinator at Nebraska.



Papuchis was the special teams coordinator and inside linebackers coach at Maryland in 2019. The Terrapins were 11th in ESPN's efficiency rankings and one of only four Power 5 teams with a kickoff return touchdown and punt return touchdown.

Papuchis spent the 2015-18 seasons at North Carolina, serving as linebackers coach his first two seasons before being promoted to defensive coordinator for 2017 and 2018. In his first season as defensive coordinator, Papuchis helped direct M.J. Stewart, a second-team All-ACC performer and second-round pick by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Jacksonville native Andre Smith who was taken in the seventh round by the Carolina Panthers. Stewart ended his career with a school-record 41 pass breakups.

Papuchis spent seven seasons at Nebraska and was the Huskers' defensive coordinator for the last three. He was the youngest solo defensive coordinator in the country when he was promoted to the post in 2012. In 2014, his defense ranked second in the country by allowing a completion percentage of just 48.5 while also ranking fourth nationally in pass efficiency defense at 104.83 and fifth in third-down percentage at 30.1.

On defense, he coached back-to-back Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year winners in Ndamukong Suh and Prince Amukamara. In 2009, Suh won the Outland Trophy, Bronko Nagurski Trophy, Lombardi Award and Bednarik Award while also being a Heisman finalist. Suh, the first defensive player to earn AP Player of the Year honors, was picked second overall in the 2010 NFL Draft. Amukamara become a unanimous All-American and the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year in 2010 before being drafted 19th overall by the New York Giants.

Papuchis was on staff at LSU from 2004-07, culminating in the 2007 BCS National Championship. His career began as a graduate assistant at Kansas from 2001-03.

Papuchis graduated from Virginia Tech in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in business management and earned his master's degree in sports administration from Kansas in 2003.

Papuchis and his wife, Billie, have three daughters, Addyson, Sophia and Rylee, and two sons, John and Jack.

JOHN PAPUCHIS COACHING HISTORY

2025	Florida State Special Teams Coordinator/Linebackers Coach
2020-24	Florida State Special Teams Coordinator/Defensive Ends Coach
2019	Maryland Special Teams Coordinator/Inside Linebackers Coach
2017-18	North Carolina Defensive Coordinator
2015-16	North Carolina Linebackers Coach
2012-14	Nebraska Defensive Coordinator
2011	Nebraska Special Teams Coordinator/Defensive Line Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2008-10	Nebraska Special Teams Coordinator/Defensive Line Coach
2004-07	LSU Defensive Intern
2001-03	Kansas Graduate Assistant



CHRIS THOMSEN
DEPUTY HEAD COACH/TIGHT ENDS

Experience: 6th Season at FSU | 29th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Vernon, Texas | Alma Mater: TCU, 1993; Abilene Christian, 2000
Family: wife, LeAnn

Chris Thomsen was named Florida State's deputy head coach and tight ends coach on Dec. 19, 2019, and enters his sixth season in Tallahassee in 2025.

Thomsen has coached 117 different all-conference players who have combined for 185 all-conference recognitions as well as 25 individual All-Americans who have earned 38 All-American certificates, including 13 first-team selections.

Thomsen oversaw the development of true freshmen tight ends Landen Thomas and Amaree Williams in 2024. In consecutive weeks, both players caught a touchdown for their first career reception, FSU's first true freshmen tight ends with a touchdown since 2011. Four different tight ends started at least one game in 2024, and the group combined for 33 receptions, 396 yards and three touchdowns.

The 2023 team completed a 13-0 regular season that culminated in the program's 16th ACC championship with a victory over No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship Game and earned a berth in the Orange Bowl behind an offense that led the conference in scoring for the second consecutive year.



Florida State's tight ends made huge contributions in the passing attack while helping anchor a strong running game. Jaheim Bell, who was selected by the New England Patriots in the 2024 NFL Draft, earned second-team All-ACC honors in his first season under Thomsen's tutelage after catching 39 passes for 503 yards and two touchdowns plus one rushing touchdown, the highest production for an FSU tight end since 2018 NFL Draft pick Ryan Izzo. Bell made a career-high eight catches in FSU's win over No. 16 Duke and scored one receiving and one rushing touchdown in the season-opening victory over No. 5 LSU. Kyle Morlock appeared in all 14 games with 11 starts and made 19 receptions for 255 yards, including a career-long 63-yard catch at Pitt.

During his first three seasons, Thomsen elevated the tight end position into a play-making group contributing valuable receptions and powerful blocking. In 2022, his group helped lead FSU to a 10-3 record and a final ranking of No. 10 in the Coaches Poll and No. 11 in the AP poll. Florida State led the nation with its average of 7.46 plays of 20-plus yards per game, the program's highest season average since the 2013 national championship, and was third in the country with an explosive play rate of 17.15 percent. The Seminoles were one of two teams nationally to average at least 270 passing yards and at least 210 rushing yards per game in 2022. FSU also tied for the national lead with eight touchdown drives of 90-plus yards, and its 16 touchdown drives of 80-plus yards were third-most in the country.

The Seminoles led the ACC in third-down offense, yards gained per pass, yards gained per play, yards gained per rush, total offense per game, yards per completion, rushing offense per game and scoring offense per game. Florida State was the first team to lead the ACC in scoring and total offense in the same season since 2019 and was one of two teams nationally to lead its conference in yards per rush, yards per pass and yards per play in 2022. Three different tight ends caught a touchdown pass in 2022, including two scoring their first collegiate touchdown, and two tight ends made receptions for two-point conversions.

In 2021, Camren McDonald was named to the 2021 Allstate Good Works Team and to the Mackey Award Watch List. He caught 24 passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns, while redshirt senior Jordan Wilson returned from an injury to make 11 receptions for 132 yards. The tight ends also blocked for a running game that featured six 200-yard rushing games and seven individual 100-yard performances in 2021.

In his first year at Florida State, Thomsen developed a versatile tight end group led by McDonald, who started all nine games and made 23 catches for 263 yards and two touchdowns. McDonald's first career score came at No. 12 Miami and his second proved to be the winning points in FSU's 31-28 victory over No. 5 North Carolina.

The tight end group also helped block for a vastly improved rushing attack in 2020. The Seminoles averaged 199.9 rushing yards per game, the program's highest since 2016 and 20th nationally among teams that played at least nine games in 2020, and 5.11 yards per rush, 16th in the nation among teams with at least 350 carries and FSU's most in a season since 2015. Florida State topped 400 yards of total offense in five of the last seven games, including more than 500 yards of total offense twice, and produced FSU's first game with at least 250 yards rushing and passing since 2016.

Thomsen came to Tallahassee following three years coaching the offensive line at TCU, his alma mater. He was the head coach at Abilene Christian from 2005-11 and also brought experience as an assistant at Arizona State, Texas Tech and Central Arkansas.

Thomsen coached five all-conference performers during his three years at TCU. Thomsen made an immediate impact in the 2017 season as the Horned Frogs played in the Big 12 Championship Game and won 11 games behind an offensive line that placed all four seniors into the NFL, highlighted by Joseph Noteboom's third-round selection by the Los Angeles Rams.

Thomsen mentored Lucas Niang, a 2020 third-round pick by the Kansas City Chiefs, to All-Big 12 honors in 2018 after the junior started all 13 games and did not allow a sack the entire season.

Thomsen was the assistant head coach and offensive line coach at Arizona State from 2013-16, spending the first three years with Sun Devils' offensive coordinator Mike Norvell and helping lead ASU to the 2013 Pac-12 Championship Game. Their 2014 offense gained 5,750 yards, 3,556 of those through the air, and ranked 13th in the nation with 34 touchdown passes. The 2013 team's average of 39.7 points per game ranked 10th nationally. Thomsen coached five different Sun Devil linemen to All-Pac 12 recognition and three linemen were NFL Draft picks.



During Thomsen's time as the head coach at Abilene Christian, he led the Wildcats to a 51-21 record and six straight trips to the Division II playoffs with the 2008 team advancing to the quarterfinal round. He was a four-time Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year, receiving the honor in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010. ACU won Lone Star Conference championships in 2008 and 2010, winning 11 games both seasons. Prior to his arrival, the Wildcats had never played in the Division II playoffs and had not won a conference championship since 1977.

In the second round of the 2008 playoffs, Thomsen led ACU to a win in the highest-scoring game in NCAA history. His team defeated West Texas A&M 93-68 as the teams combined to break 45 Division II records. That year, the Wildcats led the NCAA with 558.8 yards per game and 52.3 points per game. In 2007, Abilene Christian ranked first in Division II with an average of 49.2 points per game.

Thomsen had five draft picks at Abilene Christian. Danieal Manning was picked in the second round of the 2006 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears, the first non-Division I player taken in 2006 and the highest ACU pick since 1977. Johnny Knox was a fifth-round selection by Chicago in 2009 and Bernard Scott, who earned the Harlon Hill Trophy as Division II's MVP in 2008, was taken in 2009's sixth round by the Cincinnati Bengals. Clyde Gates was a fourth-round pick by the Miami Dolphins in 2011, and Daryl Richardson was taken in the seventh round by the St. Louis Rams in 2012. He also helped develop wide receiver Taylor Gabriel, who had more than 2,000 career receiving yards in six NFL seasons, and running back Charcandrick West, who played five seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Before becoming the head coach at Abilene Christian, Thomsen served as Central Arkansas' offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator in 2003 and 2004. He began his coaching career in 1994 as a graduate assistant at Abilene Christian, before spending two seasons as the offensive line coach and one as the defensive line coach. He was named the Wildcats' offensive coordinator in 1998. After spending one season away from football, he got back into coaching as the offensive coordinator at Wichita Falls High School in 2001 and 2002.

Thomsen played football and baseball at TCU, lettering for the Horned Frogs on the gridiron from 1988-90 and on the diamond in 1991. During his lone season with the baseball team, he earned All-Southwest Conference, All-America and TCU Male Athlete of the Year honors after nearly hitting for the triple crown. He led the SWC with 21 home runs and 70 RBI, while his .373 batting average was second in the conference. Thomsen was selected in the 17th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Oakland Athletics and played two seasons in Oakland's minor league system.

After retiring from baseball, he returned to play one season on the football team at Abilene Christian. He was a second-team All-American and first-team All-Lone Star Conference tight end for the Wildcats in 1993.

Thomsen earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from TCU in 1993 and completed a master's degree in secondary education from Abilene Christian in 2000.

CHRIS THOMSEN COACHING HISTORY

2020-	Florida State Deputy Head Coach/Tight Ends Coach
2017-19	TCU Offensive Line Coach
2013-16	Arizona State Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line Coach
2012	Texas Tech Offensive Line Coach
2005-11	Abilene Christian Head Coach
2003-04	Central Arkansas Offensive Line Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2001-02	Wichita Falls (Texas) High School Offensive Coordinator
1998-99	Abilene Christian Offensive Coordinator
1997	Abilene Christian Defensive Line Coach
1995-96	Abilene Christian Offensive Line Coach
1994	Abilene Christian Graduate Assistant Coach



TIM HARRIS JR.

PASS GAME COORDINATOR/WIDE RECEIVERS

Experience: 1st Season at FSU | 11th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Miami, Fla. | Alma Mater: Miami, 2008
Family: wife, Nikki; son, Trey and daughter, Tailor

Miami native and veteran coach Tim Harris Jr., is in his first season at Florida State after he was named FSU's pass game coordinator and wide receivers coach on December 12, 2024.

Harris spent three of the previous four years at UCF. He served as the Knights' offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach in 2024 and was co-offensive coordinator for the 2021 and 2022 seasons. Harris served as the offensive coordinator at FIU in 2020 and also has experience as the offensive coordinator and head coach at Booker T. Washington High School in Miami.



In 2024, Harris coordinated the nation's No. 7 rushing offense and No. 16 total offense as the Knights averaged 248.1 yards per game on the ground, the highest average in the Big 12, and 447.8 yards of total offense per game. In addition to leading the Big 12 in rushing, UCF also ranked in the top five of the conference in total offense, first downs gained and passing yards per completion.

First-team All-Big 12 running back RJ Harvey shined with Harris coordinating the offense. Harvey ranked in the top five nationally in all-purpose yards, points per game, rushing yards per game, rushing touchdowns, total touchdowns and points scored per game. Wide receiver Kobe Hudson's average of 16.38 yards per reception was the conference's seventh-highest average.

Harris spent the 2023 season as Miami's running backs coach. The Hurricanes averaged 176.8 rushing yards per game and reached 200 yards on the ground five times. In 2022, as co-offensive coordinator and running backs coach at UCF, he helped the Knights reach the AAC Championship Game with an offense that averaged 469.6 yards per game, the nation's 16th-highest average, and ranked seventh in the country with an average of 228.4 rushing yards per game. That year, second-team all-conference performer Isaiah Bowser's 16 rushing touchdowns were second in the conference and 14th in the country.

In 2021, Johnny Richardson averaged 96.9 all-purpose yards per game to rank seventh in the conference. Bowser capped the 2021 season by rushing for 155 yards and two touchdowns as part of a 288-yard rushing performance by the Knights in their win over Florida in the Gasparilla Bowl.





Harris spent the 2015-20 seasons on staff at Florida International, first as running backs coach and then as offensive coordinator. He helped oversee the best stretch in FIU history as the Panthers won a program-record nine games, including the Bahamas Bowl, in 2018 one season after tying the previous record with eight wins in 2017. FIU qualified for a bowl game every year from 2017-19, the longest streak in program history. The 2019 team earned FIU's third straight bowl trip with a 30-24 win over Miami, the first win over an ACC team in school history.

In 2020, with Harris serving as offensive coordinator and running backs coach, D'vonte Price led the conference with his average of 6.84 yards per carry and ranked 11th nationally with an average of 116.2 rushing yards per game. The 2019 offense was paced by future NFL running backs Anthony Jones and Napoleon Maxwell. Jones produced three consecutive 100-yard rushing games, only the second such streak in program history, and Jones and Maxwell both broke the 100-yard mark in a win over Charlotte. It was only the seventh time FIU produced two 100-yard rushers in the same game and the fifth time it occurred under Harris' leadership.

FIU's 2018 offense was one of the most successful rushing attacks in Conference USA. The Panthers scored a school-record 27 rushing touchdowns and broke the single-season program record by averaging 4.8 yards per rush while posting a top-three ranking in the conference in total rushing yards, rushing yards per game, rushing touchdowns and yards per rush. The 2017 offense gained 5,100 total yards and scored 333 points, both the second-highest totals in program history, and led the NCAA with a 97.6 percent scoring rate in the red zone.

Before beginning his collegiate coaching career, Harris spent six seasons at Booker T. Washington High School in Miami. As the head coach in 2014, he led the Tornadoes to a perfect 14-0 record, the 4A state championship and a No. 2 national ranking by USA Today. He was named the Florida Dairy Farmers Football Coach of the Year, the Miami Dolphins George Smith South Florida High School Football Coach of the Year, the NIKE Football State Coach of the Year and a finalist for the U.S. Army All-American National Coach of the Year.

Harris was Booker T. Washington's offensive coordinator from 2009-13. He helped the Tornadoes win state titles in 2012 and 2013 and earn the national championship in 2013 with an offense that averaged 41.9 points per game. He also served as the head track and field coach from 2010-14, leading Booker T. Washington to the 2A state championship in 2014 after a runner-up finish in 2013. He was named the 2013 Miami-Dade County Boys Track & Field Coach of the Year.

Harris was a four-time All-American and six-time ACC champion while competing for Miami's track and field team. He still holds the program's indoor 800-meter record and was inducted into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame in 2022.

Harris earned his bachelor's degree in liberal arts with a concentration in English and creative writing from Miami in 2008.

Harris and his wife, Nikki, have two children, Trey and Tailor.

TIM HARRIS JR. COACHING HISTORY

2025-	Florida State Pass Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach
2024	UCF Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach
2023	Miami Running Backs Coach
2021-22	UCF co-Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs Coach
2020	FIU Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs Coach
2015-19	FIU Running Backs Coach
2014	Booker T. Washington (Fla.) High School Head Coach
2009-13	Booker T. Washington (Fla.) High School Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach/Quarterbacks Coach



EVAN COOPER
SAFETIES

Experience: 1st Season at FSU | 5th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Miami, Fla. | Alma Mater: Temple, 2009
Family: wife, Andisha; son, Evan III; daughter, Madison



NFL and college coaching veteran Evan Cooper is in his first season as Florida State's safeties coach after being hired on December 7, 2024.

Cooper, a Miami native who attended American Heritage, brings more than a decade of coaching experience and reunites with FSU defensive coordinator Tony White, who he was with at Nebraska in 2023, and defensive line coach Terrance Knighton, his college teammate and fellow coach with the Carolina Panthers and at Nebraska.

The 2023 Nebraska defense, with Cooper serving as the defensive pass game coordinator and secondary coach, produced four All-Big Ten defensive backs. The quartet was led by Tommi Hill, whose 13 passes defended were the most in the conference. Hill also ranked third in the Big Ten with nine pass breakups while posting the conference's fifth-highest individual interceptions total.

The Huskers held opponents to only 6.1 yards per pass attempt, ninth-lowest in the country, and had the nation's 15th-best passing efficiency defense. Nebraska kept seven of 12 opponents to less than 200 passing yards, including two under 100 yards. The Huskers allowed only 92.9 rushing yards per game, the No. 8 rushing defense in the country and the best at Nebraska this century, while also ranking 11th nationally in total defense and 13th in scoring defense. Hill led the team with 85 tackles and fellow defensive back Omar Brown tied for second among Huskers with 51 tackles.

Cooper was the Carolina Panthers' cornerbacks coach and director of player evaluation from 2020-22. In 2021, Carolina had the NFL's No. 2 total defense, allowing 305.9 yards per game. Cooper's cornerbacks contributed to the league's No. 4 pass defense, holding opponents to only 192.1 passing yards per game, and the fifth-lowest completions allowed total in the NFL.

Cooper spent three seasons at Baylor and helped lead a major transformation in the program that resulted in a trip to the Sugar Bowl in his last year in Waco. He spent the 2017 season as the Bears' director of player personnel before joining the on-field staff working with the secondary and defensive line in 2018. In 2019, he was promoted to cornerbacks coach and recruiting coordinator and helped the Bears post an 11-3 record with an appearance in the Big 12 Championship Game and Sugar Bowl. That year, Baylor's 17 interceptions ranked fifth in the country and contributed to a group that ranked 18th nationally in pass efficiency defense and 19th in scoring defense.

After a brief stint as the assistant director of player personnel at Miami early in 2015, Cooper was hired as Temple's director of player personnel. He served in that role in 2015 and 2016, helping the Owls reach 10 wins both years and qualify for bowl games in consecutive seasons for the first time in program history. The 2016 team also won the AAC, Temple's first conference title in 48 years, by defeating No. 19 Navy in the conference championship game.



Cooper began his coaching career as the defensive backs coach for Westminster Academy in Fort Lauderdale for the 2011 and 2012 seasons. He then accepted a graduate assistant position at Temple in 2013 and moved to the role of director of external operations for the Owls in 2014.

Cooper was a four-year letterman at defensive back for Temple and earned his bachelor's degree in sport and recreational management from Temple in 2009. He and his wife, Andisha, have one son, Evan III, and one daughter, Madison.



EVAN COOPER COACHING HISTORY

2025-	Florida State Safeties Coach
2023	Nebraska Defensive Pass Game Coordinator/Secondary Coach
2020-22	Carolina Panthers Cornerbacks Coach/Director of Player Evaluation
2019	Baylor Cornerbacks Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2018	Baylor Secondary/Defensive Line Coach
2017	Baylor Director of Player Personnel
2015-16	Temple Director of Player Personnel
2014	Temple Director of External Operations
2013	Temple Graduate Assistant
2011-12	Westminster Academy (Fla.) Defensive Backs Coach



HERB HAND
OFFENSIVE LINE

Experience: 1st Season at FSU | 35th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Westmoreland, N.Y. | Alma Mater: Hamilton College, 1990; West Virginia Wesleyan, 1993
Family: wife, Debbie; sons, Trey and Cade; daughter, Bailey

Renowned offensive line coach Herb Hand is in his first season at Florida State after being named FSU's offensive line coach on December 10, 2024.

Hand reunites with head coach Mike Norvell, who he coached with at Tulsa, and offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn, who he has previously worked with at Tulsa, Auburn and UCF. Hand has coached offensive lines that blocked for rushers that broke the program's career rushing records at West Virginia, Tulsa and Vanderbilt and, most recently, helped RJ Harvey post the second-highest career rushing total in UCF history.

Hand brings 25 years of coaching experience at the FBS level, with stops at Clemson, West Virginia, Tulsa, Vanderbilt, Penn State, Auburn, Texas and UCF. He has been part of six conference championship teams and three more that won division crowns, and he has coached 38 all-conference performers.

Hand coached eight all-conference linemen while helping UCF produce a top-10 rushing attack in each of the last three seasons as the Knights ranked seventh in 2024 with an average of 248.1 yards per game after ranking fourth in 2023 and ninth in 2022. The 2023 team also was eighth in the country in total offense, averaging 487.0 yards per game, fourth in third-down conversion percentage and eighth in passing yards per completion.

UCF's 2024 offense ranked 16th nationally in total offense behind first-team All-Big 12 running back RJ Harvey who ranked in the top five nationally in all-purpose yards, points per game, rushing yards per game and rushing touchdowns. Hand wrapped up his first season in Orlando with 288 rushing yards in a win over Florida in the 2021 Gasparilla Bowl before helping the Knights reach the 2022 AAC Championship Game with an offense that averaged 469.6 yards per game to rank 16th in the country in total offense.

His time at Texas produced nine All-Big 12 linemen that helped the Longhorns earn three bowl wins, including a victory over No. 6 Georgia in the Sugar Bowl to conclude the 2018 season. In 2020, left tackle Samuel Cosmi earned first-team all-conference and third-team All-America accolades before being selected in the second round of the 2021 NFL Draft.

Hand worked with Malzahn for two seasons at Auburn, where he produced a Joe Moore Award finalist unit in 2017 led by first-team All-American and the conference's Jacobs Blocking Trophy winner Braden Smith. The line also blocked for running back Kerryon Johnson, the SEC's Offensive Player of the Year and a second-team All-American. That year, the Tigers were one of five teams in the country to average at least 230 passing yards and 215 rushing yards per game and also broke the school's single-season record with eight 40-point games. The 2016 Auburn offensive line featured two All-Americans and three All-SEC selections. Running back Kamryn Pettway ranked 11th in the country with his SEC-best average of 122.4 rushing yards per game.



Before his time at Auburn, Hand spent two seasons as Penn State's run game coordinator and offensive line coach. In 2015, his group paved the way for Big Ten Freshman of the Year Saquon Barkley to break the program's freshman rushing record with 1,076 yards on the ground. Hand's first season in Happy Valley produced second-round NFL Draft pick Donovan Smith who went on to a nine-year NFL career that included wins in Super Bowl LV with Tampa Bay and Super Bowl LVIII with Kansas City.



Hand coached the offensive line at Vanderbilt for four seasons from 2010-13 and added run game coordinator responsibilities in 2013. With Hand as the run game coordinator, the Commodores rushed for 34 touchdowns, including a single-season school-record 14 rushing scores by Jerron Seymour. Prior to Seymour's breakout performance, Hand's offensive line helped Zac Stacy break Vanderbilt records for rushing yards in a season and in a career.

Hand joined the Vanderbilt staff after three years at Tulsa. With Norvell, Malzahn and Hand on staff, Tulsa put together the best offense in the nation. The 2007 offense averaged 543.9 yards and 41.1 points per game before improving to 569.9 yards and 47.2 points per game in 2008. Tulsa led the nation in total offense in 2007 and 2008 and ranked second nationally in scoring offense in 2008. In 2009, Hand and Norvell continued the run by producing marking the first time in program history the Golden Hurricane had a 1,000-yard receiver in three consecutive seasons.

Before his time at Tulsa, Hand was the tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator at West Virginia from 2001-06, helping the Mountaineers win three conference championships and earn five consecutive bowl appearances. The 2006 team finished 11-2 after defeating Georgia in the Sugar Bowl and produced an offense that ranked No. 2 nationally in rushing, No. 3 in scoring and No. 4 in total offense.

Hand began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant coaching linebackers at West Virginia Wesleyan. He was then defensive coordinator at Glenville State from 1994-96, helping the Pioneers win three straight conference championships, before moving to Concord College as defensive coordinator and special teams coordinator in 1997 and 1998. He moved into FBS coaching as an offensive graduate assistant at Clemson in 1999 and 2000, helping the Tigers reach the Peach Bowl and the Gator Bowl.

Hand earned his bachelor's degree in history from Hamilton College in 1990 and completed his master's degree in business administration from West Virginia Wesleyan in 1993. He was a three-year starter on the offensive line at Hamilton College, where he also served as a team captain and earned All-New England Small College Athletic Conference honors in 1989.

Hand and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Trey and Cade, and one daughter, Bailey.

HERB HAND COACHING HISTORY

2025-	Florida State Offensive Line Coach
2021-24	UCF Offensive Line Coach
2018-20	Texas co-Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach
2016-17	Auburn Offensive Line Coach
2014-15	Penn State Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach
2013	Vanderbilt Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach
2010-12	Vanderbilt Offensive Line Coach
2009	Tulsa Associate Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach
2008	Tulsa co-Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach/Director of Recruiting
2007	Tulsa co-Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach
2001-06	West Virginia Tight Ends Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
1999-2000	Clemson Graduate Assistant
1997-98	Concord College Defensive Coordinator/Special Teams Coordinator
1994-96	Glenville State Defensive Coordinator
1991-93	West Virginia Wesleyan Graduate Assistant



DAVID JOHNSON

RUNNING BACKS/RECRUITING COORDINATOR

Experience: 6th Season at FSU | 18th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: New Orleans, La. | Alma Mater: Nicholls State, 1995
Family: wife, Akeia; children, Jermaine, De'Von and Karaaz

David Johnson was named Florida State's running backs coach and recruiting coordinator on Jan. 5, 2020, and is in his sixth season with the Seminoles in 2025.

Johnson has coached 19 all-conference performers who have combined to earn 29 all-conference recognitions, including four Special Teams Player of the Year honors.

Florida State completed a 13-0 regular season in 2023 that culminated in the program's 16th ACC championship with a victory over No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship Game and earned a berth in the Orange Bowl behind an offense that led the conference in scoring for the second consecutive year. Florida State's 34.6 points-per-game average was bolstered by a program-record-tying 20 different players scoring at least one touchdown and ranked 19th overall in the country. The Seminoles also led the ACC with 61 total touchdowns scored, 32 rushing touchdowns and an average of 13.5 yards per completion while posting the conference's fewest interceptions thrown and total turnovers.

Trey Benson, a third-round pick by the Arizona Cardinals in the 2024 NFL Draft, showcased his explosiveness and versatility during an All-ACC season, becoming the first player in program history with an 80-yard touchdown run and an 80-yard touchdown reception in a career and also tying the program record with three games scoring three rushing touchdowns. Benson finished the 2023 season with 1,133 all-purpose yards with 14 rushing touchdowns and one receiving score. His rushing touchdowns total tied for seventh on FSU's single-season list and ranked second in the ACC and 15th nationally in 2023, while his 15 total touchdowns were second in the conference and his average of 5.81 yards per carry ranked fourth. Benson, who in 2022 became the first FSU runner with a three-rushing-score game against Florida, matched that total to account for all three touchdowns in a 24-15 win at UF in 2023. He posted his first 200-yard rushing game in the win vs. Virginia Tech, the fifth-highest rushing total in Doak Campbell Stadium history, and broke FSU's single-game rushing average record with a mark of 18.2 yards per carry to better Warrick Dunn's record set in 1995.

Lawrance Toafili was named ACC Championship Game MVP after rushing for a career-high 118 yards, including a career-long 73-yard rush, and the go-ahead touchdown in FSU's 16-6 victory. Toafili's 73-yard run was the second-longest rushing play in ACC Championship Game history, and he became the third FSU running back to be named ACC Championship Game MVP and first since Dalvin Cook in 2014. Toafili, who ended the season with 649 all-purpose yards and five touchdowns, also led the team with 93 rushing yards in the 41-3 win over Syracuse.

Toafili built on his ACC Championship MVP as the Seminoles' leading rusher in 2024. His 28-yard rushing touchdown against Georgia Tech was the first touchdown of the 2024 FBS season and he ended the year with 456 yards on the ground.

Benson and Toafili finished their FSU careers tied for 18th in program history with 1,895 rushing yards. Toafili was also 18th with 2,800 career all-purpose yards.

In 2022, Johnson's running backs contributed to one of the most explosive offenses in the nation while helping lead FSU to a 10-3 record and a final ranking of No. 10 in the Coaches Poll and No. 11 in the AP poll. Florida State led the nation with its average of 7.46 plays of 20-plus yards per game, the program's highest season average since the 2013 national championship, and was third in the country with an explosive play rate of 17.15 percent. The Seminoles were one of two teams nationally to average at least 270 passing yards and at least 210 rushing yards per game in 2022. FSU also tied for the national lead with eight touchdown drives of 90-plus yards, and its 16 touchdown drives of 80-plus yards were third-most in the country.

The Seminoles led the ACC in third-down offense, yards gained per pass, yards gained per play, yards gained per rush, total offense per game, yards per completion, rushing offense per game and scoring offense per game. Florida State was the first team to lead the ACC in scoring and total offense in the same season since 2019 and was one of two teams nationally to lead its conference in yards per rush, yards per pass and yards per play in 2022.



Florida State's average of 214.1 rushing yards per game was the program's highest since 1995 and was bolstered by eight 200-yard rushing games, including a school-record-tying seven straight to end the regular season. In the season opener, FSU had three 100-yard rushers for the first time in school history and in the regular season finale, a 45-38 win over Florida, the Seminoles' five rushing touchdowns were the most by a Gator opponent since 1997.

Benson, a second-team All-ACC performer, paced the running backs with his five 100-yard rushing games, including three consecutive career-high totals, and led the ACC with his average of 5.5 yards per carry. Treshaun Ward, who had two 100-yard rushing games, was an honorable mention all-conference selection and semifinalist for the Burlsworth Trophy despite missing four games due to injury. The running back group combined for 2,283 rushing yards and 24 touchdowns.

The 2021 season featured a breakout performance by All-ACC running back Jashaun Corbin. The redshirt sophomore totaled 1,159 all-purpose yards, and his average of 6.2 yards per carry ranked first in the conference and 16th nationally among rushers with at least 10 rushing attempts per game. Corbin showed off his amazing speed with touchdown runs of 89 yards against Notre Dame and 75 yards against Louisville. He was the only rusher in the ACC and one of six nationally with multiple 75-yard runs in the 2021 season and only the fourth player in program history with multiple 75-yard touchdown runs in a season.

The running back group also received significant contributions from Ward and Toafili in their redshirt freshmen years. Ward rushed for 515 yards and four touchdowns, and his average of 6.36 yards per carry was the highest in the ACC among rushers with at least four attempts per game. Toafili rushed for 163 yards and one touchdown and added 116 yards and two touchdowns receiving. Toafili caught a 75-yard touchdown at Clemson, which made him the fifth player in program history with a receiving and rushing touchdown of at least 70 yards in a career.

In his first year at Florida State, Johnson coached a completely new group as Florida State's running back room featured zero returning scholarship players from the previous season. He utilized the group's youth and versatility to account for 1,855 all-purpose yards, led by Corbin and Toafili, and 13 touchdowns, including Ja'Khi Douglas' two receiving scores. Against Duke, Corbin rushed for a career-high three touchdowns, one shy of the school record, and Toafili posted a career-best 117 yards, including a 73-yard touchdown, on only seven carries. Toafili was one of only 12 rushers in the ACC with a 70-yard run in 2020.

Florida State averaged 199.9 rushing yards per game, the program's highest since 2016 and 20th nationally among teams that played at least nine games in 2020, and 5.11 yards per rush, 16th in the nation among teams with at least 350 carries and FSU's most in a season since 2015. In the season finale, a 56-35 win over Duke, Florida State rushed for six touchdowns, the most in the ACC and tied for the seventh-highest single-game total nationally in 2020. That also was only the second time in FSU history the Seminoles rushed for six touchdowns in a conference game, and the 346 rushing yards against Duke were the most by a Florida State team since 2012.



Prior to his time at Florida State, Johnson spent two seasons at Tennessee, two years at Memphis and four seasons at Tulane in a variety of roles.

Tennessee improved from four wins the season before Johnson arrived to eight wins and a Gator Bowl victory in 2019. He coached the Vols' wide receivers in 2018 before moving to running backs in 2019, leading a group that produced five 100-yard rushing games.

In his two seasons at Memphis, Johnson was the Tigers' wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator, where he developed former walk-on Anthony Miller to consensus All-America honors in 2017 after Miller led the NCAA with 18 receiving touchdowns and ranked third in the country with 1,462 yards and fifth with 96 receptions. Johnson joined Memphis after four seasons as Tulane's running backs and tight ends coach.

Johnson was the head coach at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans from 2009-11, developing future NFL talents Tyrann Mathieu and Leonard Fournette. As offensive coordinator at John F. Kennedy and O. Perry Walker High Schools in New Orleans, he coached NFL Draft picks Craig Davis and Mike Wallace.

A two-time all-conference player at Nicholls State, Johnson led the Colonels in receiving in 1992 and 1993. He totaled 50 receptions for 990 yards and eight touchdowns in those two seasons.

Johnson graduated from Nicholls State in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in general education. He and his wife, Akeia, have three children, Jermaine, De'Von and Karaaz.

DAVID JOHNSON COACHING HISTORY

2020-	Florida State Running Backs Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2019	Tennessee Running Backs Coach
2018	Tennessee Wide Receivers Coach
2016-17	Memphis Wide Receivers Coach/Passing Game Coordinator
2012-15	Tulane Running Backs Coach/Tight Ends Coach
2009-11	St. Augustine High School (La.) Head Coach
2005-08	Millsaps College Wide Receivers, Tight Ends, Special Teams Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2000-04	O. Perry Walker High School (La.) Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers, Tight Ends Coach
1997-99	John F. Kennedy High School (La.) Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers, Tight Ends Coach



TERRANCE KNIGHTON
DEFENSIVE LINE

Experience: 1st Season at FSU | 5th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Windsor, Conn. | Alma Mater: Temple, 2009

NFL veteran Terrance Knighton is in his first season as Florida State's defensive line coach after being hired on December 6, 2024.

Knighton has quickly risen to prominence coaching defensive linemen, building on a seven-year NFL playing career with coaching roles in the NFL and in two different college programs. He spent the 2023 and 2024 seasons as Nebraska's defensive line coach after two years as a coaching assistant for the Carolina Panthers working with the defensive line.

In 2024, Nebraska ranked 14th nationally in rushing defense, 19th in total defense and 20th in scoring defense. The Huskers held five opponents to 10 or fewer points and six opponents to fewer than 300 yards of total offense, including limiting eventual national champion Ohio State to 285 yards when the Buckeyes entered the game averaging more than 500 yards of total offense. The Huskers allowed only six rushing touchdowns, the third-fewest in the nation, and held 10 opponents without a rushing touchdown, including all seven at home. Nebraska kept all its home opponents out of the end zone on the ground for the first time since 1939 and was the first team nationally since 2021 to not allow a rushing touchdown at home.

In Knighton's first season at Nebraska, the Huskers allowed only 92.9 rushing yards per game, the eighth-best rushing defense in the country and the best at Nebraska this century, while also ranking 11th nationally in total defense and 13th in scoring defense. All 13 of the Huskers' defensive linemen who recorded a tackle set new single-season career-highs, and three defensive linemen earned All-Big Ten acclaim.

In his two seasons with the Carolina Panthers, Knighton served as a coaching assistant working with the defensive line. In 2021, his first year coaching in the NFL, the Panthers ranked second in the league in total defense and allowed only 4.1 yards per rush, the No. 9 yards-per-carry defense in the NFL. The 2022 team held opponents to only 4.3 yards per rush to rank 12th in the league.





Knighton began his coaching career as Wagner's defensive line coach for the 2019 and 2020 seasons. In his first season as a collegiate coach, Knighton oversaw the development of three all-conference defensive linemen, including NEC Defensive Player of the Year and All-American Cam Gill. Gill and fellow defensive lineman Chris Williams both earned invitations to the East-West Shrine Game, the first defensive players to earn an opportunity to participate in the pre-NFL Draft showcase event. They are both still active in the NFL.

Knighton was a standout defensive lineman at Temple and went on to play seven seasons in the NFL for Jacksonville, Denver and Washington. He played in 46 games with 34 starts during his four-year college career and in 2008 became the first Owl to earn first-team All-MAC honors. He was selected in the third round of the 2009 NFL Draft by the Jaguars and earned All-Rookie honors after starting all 16 games in 2009.

After playing four seasons in Jacksonville, he played the 2013 and 2014 seasons in Denver, starting all 36 games over those two seasons and helping the Broncos reach Super Bowl XLVIII. He played the 2015 season in Washington and started all 15 games played. He finished his career with 230 tackles, including 34.0 for loss and 14.0 sacks, 11 pass breakups, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

Knighton earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Temple in 2009.



TERRANCE KNIGHTON COACHING HISTORY

2025-	Florida State Defensive Line Coach
2023-24	Nebraska Defensive Line Coach
2022	Carolina Panthers Assistant Defensive Line Coach
2021	Carolina Panthers Coaching Assistant
2019-20	Wagner Defensive Line Coach



PATRICK SURTAIN SR.
DEFENSIVE BACKS

Experience: 3rd Season at FSU | 3rd Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: New Orleans, La. | Alma Mater: Southern Miss, 1998
Family: wife, Michelle; children, Patrick II, Paris and Parker

Patrick Surtain Sr., an 11-year NFL veteran and long-time South Florida high school coach, begins his third season on the FSU coaching staff in 2025 after being hired on Jan. 18, 2023.

In his first season, he helped the 2023 team complete a 13-0 regular season that culminated in the program's 16th ACC championship with a 16-6 victory over No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship Game and earn a berth in the Orange Bowl behind the country's most tenacious pass defense. Florida State was the only team in the nation to force more incompletions than completions allowed, and its 48.3 opponent completion percentage was the lowest by a P5 defense since 2016. Florida State also led the country with 80 pass breakups, 90 passes defended and an average of 6.43 passes defended per game while ranking sixth nationally in opponent passing efficiency rating at 103.83 and seventh with 12 passing touchdowns allowed. The Seminoles' aggressiveness was also showcased by ranking sixth in the country with 3.29 sacks per game and holding opponents to a 28.8 percent third-down conversion rate.

Florida State put together streaks of six consecutive games holding its opponent to 50-percent completions or lower, four straight games allowing fewer than 150 passing yards and four consecutive games without allowing a passing touchdown. All four games occurred in October, making FSU the only team in the country to not allow a passing touchdown for an entire calendar month during the 2023 season. In the ACC Championship Game, FSU held Louisville's offense to 14-for-36 passing for 111 yards with a season-high 10 pass breakups and tied for the second-fewest points allowed in an ACC Championship Game while recording only the third first-half shutout in the conference's championship game history.

The defensive backfield featured five all-conference performers, led by Thorpe Award semifinalist Renardo Green. Green led the ACC with 13 pass breakups and 14 passes defended. He twice recorded a single-game career-high three pass breakups, including in the ACC Championship Game, and grabbed an interception from Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels during FSU's season-opening 45-24 win over No. 5 LSU. In the senior night win over North Alabama, Jarrian Jones became the first player in program history to record a tackle for loss, sack, forced fumble, fumble recovery and interception in the same game.





He spent the previous nine seasons, including six as head coach, at American Heritage High School in Plantation, Florida, and was named the 2020 High School Football America National Coach of the Year. He led the Patriots to three state championships and a 65-10 overall record in his six seasons as head coach while developing numerous Division I players and NFL Draft picks, including Brian Burns who was the 16th overall selection in the 2019 NFL Draft after a three-year career at Florida State.

During the 2021 NFL Draft alone, six former Surtain pupils from American Heritage were selected, the second-highest total ever from one high school in a single draft. Cornerback Patrick Surtain II was the ninth overall pick by the Denver Broncos and earned a selection to the Pro Bowl each of the last three seasons. Cornerbacks Tyson Campbell and Marco Wilson were taken in the second and fourth rounds, respectively, wide receiver Anthony Schwartz was a third-round selection, defensive tackle Tedarrell Slaton was taken in the fifth round and running back Khalil Herbert was picked in the sixth round.

Green and Jones were both selected on the second day of the 2024 NFL Draft, part of six FSU players taken among the top 100 picks. Green was a second-round pick by the San Francisco 49ers, and Jones was off the board in the third round to the Jacksonville Jaguars. The pair combined to start 11 games as rookies in the NFL in 2024.

Redshirt sophomore Shyheim Brown started all 14 games at safety and earned the first All-ACC recognition of his career. Fentrell Cypress II, Akeem Dent and Jones also earned all-conference honors in recognition of their contributions to the ACC's best pass defense. In 2024, Azareye'h Thomas added all-conference honors for the first time in his career. Thomas was selected in the third round of the 2025 NFL Draft by the New York Jets, marking the third defensive back selected in Surtain's first two seasons on staff.

Surtain joined the Florida State football program after serving as a defensive assistant for the Miami Dolphins in 2022. The Dolphins advanced to the NFL Playoffs for the first time since 2016 and only the third time since 2001. The Dolphins' defense ranked fourth in the league allowing an average of 103.0 rushing yards per game and produced two Pro Bowl selections. In the final three weeks of the regular season, the defense led the NFL in total defense and ranked second in yards per play allowed, rushing defense and yards allowed per rush. The Dolphins held the New York Jets to six points in a final-week victory that clinched the playoff berth. In the AFC Wild Card round at Buffalo, the Dolphins registered a franchise playoff-record seven sacks and grabbed three takeaways.

Surtain played 11 seasons in the NFL, spending seven years with the Dolphins after they drafted him in the second round of the 1998 NFL Draft and four seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs. He was a two-time All-Pro and was selected to the Pro Bowl after the 2002, 2003 and 2004 seasons. Additionally, he was named the 2002 NFL Alumni Association's Defensive Back of the Year. For his career, he appeared in 163 games with 131 starts and recorded 547 tackles, including 435 solo stops, with 26.0 tackles for loss, 37 interceptions, eight forced fumbles and eight fumble recoveries. His 29 interceptions with the Dolphins are tied for fourth in franchise history.

Surtain, who played four years at Southern Miss, was a second-team All-American and the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year in 1997 and a first-team all-conference selection in 1996 and 1997. His 16 interceptions and 31 pass breakups rank third and fourth, respectively, on the school's career lists. He was a 2011 inductee into the Southern Miss Hall of Fame, was named to the Senior Bowl Hall of Fame in 2021 and was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

Originally from New Orleans, Surtain earned his bachelor's degree in coaching and sports administration from Southern Miss in 1998. He and his wife, Michelle, have three children, Patrick II, Paris and Parker.

PATRICK SURTAIN SR. COACHING HISTORY

2023-	Florida State Defensive Backs Coach
2022	Miami Dolphins Defensive Assistant
2016-21	American Heritage School (Fla.) Head Coach
2015	American Heritage School (Fla.) Defensive Coordinator
2013-14	American Heritage School (Fla.) Defensive Backs Coach



TONY TOKARZ
QUARTERBACKS

Experience: 6th Season at FSU | 14th Season as collegiate coach
Hometown: Worcester, Mass. | Alma Mater: Worcester State, 2012
Family: wife, Emily; son, Bo; daughter, Griffey

Tony Tokarz is in his sixth season on FSU's staff and fourth as quarterbacks coach in 2025.

Tokarz has been instrumental in the progression of the quarterback room, and especially developing Jordan Travis into the ACC's 2023 Player of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year while also becoming the eighth player in program history to finish in the top-five of the Heisman Trophy vote. Travis, who was selected by the New York Jets in the 2024 NFL Draft, ended his career ranked in the top-15 in ACC history in rushing touchdowns by a quarterback, touchdown responsibility, passing efficiency, quarterback rushing yards and total offense.

The 2023 team completed a 13-0 regular season that culminated in the program's 16th ACC championship with a victory over No. 14 Louisville in the ACC Championship Game and earned a berth in the Orange Bowl behind an offense that led the conference in scoring for the second consecutive year. Florida State's 34.6 points-per-game average was bolstered by a program-record-tying 20 different players scoring at least one touchdown and ranked 19th overall in the country. The Seminoles also led the ACC with 61 total touchdowns scored, 32 rushing touchdowns and an average of 13.5 yards per completion while posting the conference's fewest interceptions thrown and total turnovers.

Travis concluded his remarkable career in 2023 by earning recognition across the country. In addition to his ACC honors, Travis was a finalist for the Manning Award and semifinalist for the Walter Camp Player of the Year, Maxwell Award, Davey O'Brien Award and Jason Witten Man of the Year. He finished the season 207-of-324 passing for 2,756 yards with 20 touchdowns while adding 176 yards and seven touchdowns rushing. Travis was one of only two players nationally with at least 20 touchdown passes and two or fewer interceptions, and he led the ACC with a pass efficiency rating of 154.5 and an average of 8.51 yards per pass attempt. He became the first player to lead the ACC in pass efficiency in back-to-back seasons since Trevor Lawrence, who was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2021 NFL Draft.



Travis broke FSU career records for touchdown responsibility and total offense during the 2023 season, and the record-breaking plays both came in pivotal moments. He moved past 2000 Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke to the top of FSU's touchdown responsibility list with the game-winning touchdown pass in overtime of Florida State's 31-24 win at Clemson that snapped the nation's longest conference home winning streak and surpassed Weinke on the program's total offense list with the go-ahead touchdown run in the fourth quarter of a 38-20 win vs. No. 16 Duke. Travis also broke FSU records by accounting for multiple touchdowns in 16 straight games and tied his program record by recording at least one passing and one rushing touchdown in four straight games. His 65 passing touchdowns tied for second in program history, and his 31 rushing touchdowns are fourth on FSU's career list. Travis, the only FSU player with more than 50 passing touchdowns and 12 rushing scores, had seven rushing touchdowns in four straight seasons, another program first.

Due to injuries, five Florida State quarterbacks started between the 2023 and 2024 seasons, including a true freshman in each of those seasons. Despite the setbacks at the position, the Seminoles completed an undefeated regular season and won the ACC Championship Game in 2023 with backup quarterbacks, one of only four teams in the country that season to have three different quarterbacks earn a win.

Freshman Brock Glenn made his first collegiate start in the ACC Championship Game win against No. 14 Louisville, becoming the only true freshman to make his first career start in a P5 conference championship game in records dating back to 2004. Glenn ended 2023 with a start against No. 6 Georgia and made his first start of 2024 versus No. 15 Clemson, the fourth quarterback in the Playoff Era to make his first three career starts against Top 15 opponents.

In 2024, Luke Kromenhoek joined Glenn as the only Florida State true freshmen quarterbacks to win their first career start when FSU beat Charleston Southern. Kromenhoek threw three touchdown passes, the most for an FSU true freshman in their first career start, including a 71-yard pass that was the second-longest for a true freshman in Florida State history.

In 2022, Tokarz's quarterbacks directed one of the most explosive offenses in the nation while helping lead FSU to a 10-3 record and a final ranking of No. 10 in the Coaches Poll and No. 11 in the AP poll. Florida State led the nation with its average of 7.46 plays of 20-plus yards per game, the program's highest season average since the 2013 national championship, and was third in the country with an explosive play rate of 17.15 percent. The Seminoles were one of two teams nationally to average at least 270 passing yards and at least 210 rushing yards per game in 2022. FSU also tied for the national lead with eight touchdown drives of 90-plus yards, and its 16 touchdown drives of 80-plus yards were third-most in the country.

The Seminoles led the ACC in third-down offense, yards gained per pass, yards gained per play, yards gained per rush, total offense per game, yards per completion, rushing offense per game and scoring offense per game. Florida State was the first team to lead the ACC in scoring and total offense in the same season since 2019 and was one of two teams nationally to lead its conference in yards per rush, yards per pass and yards per play in 2022.

During his first season leading the quarterbacks, Tokarz oversaw the continued development of Travis among the nation's elite while continuing to grow depth in the room. Travis was PFF's highest-graded quarterback in the nation and highest-graded offensive player in the ACC after passing for 3,214 yards with 24 touchdowns and only five interceptions while adding 417 yards and seven touchdowns rushing plus one receiving score. Travis, whose 32 total touchdowns were third-most in a season in FSU history, became the only Florida State player with 20 touchdown passes and seven rushing scores in one season.



Travis, who was named second-team All-ACC, joined Heisman Trophy winners Charlie Ward, Chris Weinke and Jameis Winston as the only FSU players with at least 3,000 total yards and 30 total touchdowns in a season. His 3,631 yards of total offense was the fifth-highest single-season total in FSU history, while his passing yards total was seventh and passing touchdowns were 10th. Travis led the ACC in yards per play, yards per pass attempt, yards per completion and pass efficiency rating. His average of 8.35 yards per play was third in the country, while his 9.10 yards per pass attempt was fifth nationally and his 14.22 yards per completion ranked eighth.

Travis peaked in his final appearance of the season, totaling an FSU bowl-record 468 yards of total offense in the Cheez-It Bowl victory over Oklahoma while garnering MVP honors. He completed a career-best 27 passes for a career-high 418 yards and two touchdowns and added 50 yards on seven rushes. Travis was only the fifth player in records dating back to 2000, and first since LSU's Joe Burrow in the CFP National Championship Game, to have 400 yards passing and 50 yards rushing in a bowl game. Travis also ended the regular season with a program-record streak of six consecutive games accounting for at least three touchdowns.

Redshirt sophomore Tate Rodemaker and true freshman AJ Duffy benefited from Tokarz's tutelage as well. Rodemaker led a second-half comeback at Louisville after Travis was forced from the game due to injury and was 6-for-10 passing for 109 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winning score in the fourth quarter. In that game, Travis and Rodemaker became the first pair of FSU teammates with at least 100 yards passing and two touchdowns in the same game since 2005. Duffy played in three games and threw his first collegiate touchdown pass during FSU's 49-17 win over Louisiana.

Tokarz, who was FSU's senior analyst on offense for the 2020 and 2021 seasons, has been on head coach Mike Norvell's staff at both Memphis and Florida State. In addition to his time coaching quarterbacks, he also has experience coaching wide receivers and tight ends.

At Memphis, Tokarz was Norvell's tight ends coach in 2019 after two seasons as a graduate assistant. In 2019, the Tigers won a school-record 12 games and won the program's first outright conference championship since 1969. In 2018, Tokarz worked with running backs as Memphis had the country's fourth-best rushing offense with an average of 279.9 yards per game behind a school-record 3,919 total rushing yards and 48 touchdowns. Doak Walker Award finalist and unanimous All-American Darrell Henderson broke the NCAA record with an average of 8.22 yards per carry, and his 2018 average of 8.92 yards per carry was the highest for a season with a minimum of 200 carries in records dating back to 2000.

Tokarz's first stint at Memphis was in 2014 and 2015, working with the secondary and quarterbacks. He was the passing game coordinator and recruiting coordinator at Stonehill College in 2016.

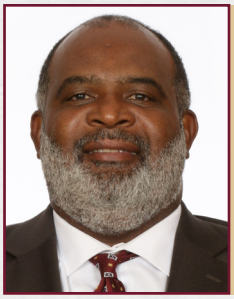
Tokarz began his coaching career in 2012 at Anna Maria College, where he coached wide receivers. In 2013, he was the wide receivers coach at Stonehill College, helping the Skyhawks post their best record since 1996.

Tokarz was a three-year starting quarterback at Worcester State and left as the program's all-time leader in rushing yards by a quarterback while also ranking second in career touchdown passes and fourth in career passing yards. He was a first-team all-conference performer in 2011 when he led the Lancers to an 8-3 record, the program's most wins since 2003, and an appearance in the ECAC Northwest Bowl to cap his senior season.

Tokarz earned his bachelor's degree in history from Worcester State in 2012. He is married to the former Emily Williams, and they have two children, one son and one daughter.

TONY TOKARZ COACHING HISTORY

2022-	Florida State Quarterbacks Coach
2020-21	Florida State Senior Analyst (Offense)
2019	Memphis Tight Ends Coach
2017-18	Memphis Graduate Assistant
2016	Stonehill College Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2015	Memphis Graduate Assistant
2014	Memphis Defense Staff Assistant
2013	Stonehill College Wide Receivers Coach
2012	Anna Maria College Wide Receivers Coach



ODELL HAGGINS

Associate Head Coach

32nd Season at FSU
Alma Mater: Florida State

Family: wife, Robin; daughter, Amelia Grace

After 31 years as a position coach at Florida State, Odell Haggins' role with the FSU football staff evolved for the 2025 season.

Haggins, who had been the associate head coach and defensive tackles coach since 2014, remains the associate head coach while taking a new role with a focus on impacting the entire program. He was the longest-tenured assistant coach at one institution in the country at the end of his assistant coaching career.

Haggins has helped FSU post a 279-113-1 (.713) record with 14 ACC titles and two national championships in his time on staff. In recognition of his many accomplishments at Florida State, he was inducted into the Florida State Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2018 and the Polk County Sports Hall of Fame in 2022.

Haggins twice served as interim head coach for the Seminoles and had a career record of 4-2 in that role. He led Florida State to bowl eligibility in both tenures as an interim head coach, taking over for the first time on Dec. 1, 2017, and defeating ULM 42-10 the next day as FSU clinched bowl eligibility for an NCAA-record 36th straight year. He then directed a 42-13 win over Southern Miss in the Independence Bowl to finish FSU's 41st consecutive winning season. He was named interim head coach again on Nov. 3, 2019, and led the Seminoles to wins over Boston College and Alabama State to return FSU to bowl eligibility.

Haggins repeatedly developed future NFL pros while at Florida State. He coached 22 defensive linemen selected in the NFL Draft, including first-round selections Brodrick Bunkley in 2006, Travis Johnson in 2005, Corey Simon in 2000 and Andre Wadsworth in 1998. Wadsworth was the No. 3 overall pick and remained the highest-drafted player in FSU history until 2015 when quarterback Jameis Winston was selected No. 1 overall. Haggins also coached second-round picks Braden Fiske, Eddie Goldman and Timmy Jernigan in addition to Pro Bowler Darnell Dockett as well as Larry Smith, Andre Fluellen, Jerry Johnson, Julian Pittman and Letroy Guion.

Haggins played in Tallahassee on the front end of Florida State's dynasty years, starring at nose guard for the Seminoles. FSU posted a 39-8-1 (.823) record with Haggins on the defensive line, and he was part of four bowl-winning teams. He earned Kodak, Walter Camp and UPI All-America honors as a senior in 1989.

A ninth-round pick in the 1990 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers, Haggins went on to play for the Buffalo Bills during their 1991 Super Bowl season. Following a three-year NFL career, he returned to Florida State, completed his degree and joined Bobby Bowden's staff following the Seminoles' 1993 national championship season.

Haggins and his wife, Robin, have one daughter, Amelia Grace.



BRUCE WARWICK

Senior Associate AD for Football

6th Season at FSU
Alma Mater: Columbia College

Family: wife, Debra; sons, Alexander, Joseph and Jacob

Bruce Warwick was named Florida State football's chief of staff on Dec. 28, 2019, and currently serves as FSU's senior associate athletics director for football.

In his role, Warwick is on the athletic department's leadership team while coordinating all aspect of the program's administrative impact and influence. He also works closely with the coaching, recruiting, operations, academics, public relations and creative staffs.

Warwick came to Florida State after spending the previous eight seasons as director of operations for the Rams following three years as assistant to the head coach, working from 2009-15 in St. Louis and then relocating with the team to Los Angeles from 2016-19. He led the organization's operations related to the move as he was responsible for all logistical operations and execution for players, coaches and front office staff. The move included building four fully operational team facilities in addition to two business operation sites and insuring all daily operational and technical needs were addressed as well as all NFL gameday requirements were met.

With the Rams, he worked for three different head coaches and was in charge of travel operations and organizing training camps as well as overseeing construction at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The Rams won two straight NFC West division titles and in 2018 advanced to Super Bowl LIII after a 13-win regular season.

Warwick served as the assistant athletic director for football operations at the University of Tennessee in 2007 and 2008, helping the Volunteers reach the 2007 SEC Championship Game and finish the year with 10 wins after defeating No. 18 Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl. In 2006 he was Duke's director of player personnel. In that role, he was heavily involved in recruiting efforts while serving as the program's liaison for academic support, community relations, ACC officials, computer technology and the Iron Dukes, a fund-raising arm of the athletics department.

From 2000-05, Warwick was the assistant to the general manager and director of football administration with the Green Bay Packers. In his six seasons with the Packers, he oversaw staff in strength, video, training room, equipment and player programs as well as managed the team's annual training camp and mini-camps. Additionally, he was responsible for all coaching and personnel staff contracts, new hires and the minority internship program while also serving as a liaison to the NFL office and NFL officials.

Warwick began his career at Syracuse, where was a football administrative graduate assistant in 1991. He returned to be the Orange's director of football operations from 1996-99, helping Syracuse win three straight Big East championships from 1996-98. In between stints at Syracuse, he worked in football operations at Maryland for two seasons and was Clemson's assistant athletic director for football management from 1994-95.

Warwick earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College in 1989 and completed his master's in sport management from the U.S. Sports Academy in 1993. He and his wife, Debra, have three sons, Alexander, Joseph and Jacob.



DARRICK YRAY

General Manager of Personnel

4th Season at FSU
Alma Mater: Fresno State

Family: wife, Minda; son, Kyran

Darrick Yray (pronounced Ray) was named Florida State's general manager of personnel on Feb. 7, 2022, and is in his fourth season with the Seminoles in 2025.

Yray played a pivotal role in assembling Florida State's 13-win ACC championship season in 2023. That 2023 squad produced a program-record 25 All-ACC selections and an ACC-best 10 picks in the 2024 NFL Draft, led by first-round selection Jared Verse and balanced with five offensive players and five defensive players for the first time in program history.

Yray joined Florida State after seven years at Oregon State, elevating to the role of director of player personnel. He also served as director of recruiting operations, coordinator of on-campus recruiting and assistant director of player personnel for the Beavers. Oregon State's 2022 signing class was the highest-rated nationally for OSU since 2011, and the 2021 team produced 17 All-Pac-12 recognitions, the program's most since 2008, while advancing to a bowl game for the first time since 2013.

He was responsible for managing all aspects of Oregon State's recruiting operation, including identifying potential student-athletes and scheduling official and unofficial visits to campus, while also serving as the Beavers' pro liaison.

Prior to his time in Corvallis, Yray spent four years as an offensive assistant and three as assistant director of football operations at Fresno State. He was the pro liaison with the Bulldogs along with his recruiting, team travel, player personnel and other operations duties. As an offensive assistant, he was tasked with preparing scouting reports, charts, film breakdown, academics and special teams. In 2010, Yray was a guest coach with the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders working with special teams and the defensive line.

Yray earned his bachelor's degree in communications from Fresno State in 2011 and completed his master's degree in kinesiology at Fresno State in 2013. He is married to Minda McCullough, and the couple has one son.



JEFF KUPPER

Director of Player Development & Operations

6th Season at FSU
Alma Mater: Texas

Family: wife, Lindsay; daughters, Ruby-Wayne and Jennings

Jeff Kupper is in his sixth season with the Seminoles in 2025. He was announced as Florida State's director of player development and operations on Jan. 6, 2020.

Kupper came to Tallahassee following 10 seasons as the director of operations at Memphis. In that role, he was responsible for many administrative duties, including team travel, camps and community service. He also was instrumental in daily communication with student-athletes regarding practice schedules and team meetings.

Prior to his time at Memphis, Kupper spent five years as director of football operations and special projects at Columbia. He was involved with football marketing, development, compliance, equipment and facility operations while also overseeing quality control for game day events and arranging all staff and team travel, both in and out of season. Kupper joined Columbia in August 2005 from Ohio University, where he was a facilities and equipment graduate assistant from 2003-05.

As an undergraduate at the University of Texas, Kupper earned three letters as a student football equipment manager. He oversaw the packing, handling and transportation of equipment and team bags for road games, organized team activities for the travel squad, acted as a liaison between the travel team and hotel staffs, maintained and organized football equipment and worked on reconciliation of equipment orders for six men's sports. He also was involved in logistical support for three Cotton Bowls and two Holiday Bowls.

Kupper was a three-time recipient of the Darrel K. Royal Scholarship Award and the Glen Swenson Award, both presented to an outstanding equipment manager. He spent four consecutive semesters on the Athletics Director's Honor Roll.

The Odessa, Texas, native graduated from Texas in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in religious studies. He earned a master's of business administration and a master's of sports administration and facility management from Ohio.

Kupper and his wife, Lindsay, have two daughters, Ruby-Wayne and Jennings.

SUPPORT STAFF



GREG MOSS
Assistant Defensive Backs Coach



ERNIE SIMS
Assistant Linebackers Coach



AUSTIN TUCKER
Assistant Wide Receivers Coach



COOPER WILLIAMS
Assistant Offensive Line Coach



ZACH ARNETT
Senior Analyst (Defense)



BRENDAN BOGNAR
Analyst (Offense)



PRESTON BRADY
Analyst (Offense)



KEVIN McGARRY
Analyst (Defense)



JONATHAN RUTLEDGE
Analyst (Special Teams)



ALEX ELEYSSAMI
Graduate Assistant (Offense)



D'MITRI EMMANUEL
Graduate Assistant (Defense)



JALEEL McRAE
Graduate Assistant (Defense - Secondary)



BEN MILES
Graduate Assistant (Offense)



JUSTIN CROUSE
Director of Scouting (Defense)



RICK STOCKSTILL
Director of Scouting (Offense)



CHUCK CANTOR
Director of Player Personnel



JEREMEY SMITH
Assistant Director of Player Personnel



BRODY SWEIGART
Assistant Director of Player Personnel



GERARD ROSS
Director of High School Relations



COREY FULLER
Director of Football Relations



DEVIN RISPRESS
Director of Recruiting



DJ DANIELS
Director of Recruiting Strategy



MOLLY JACOBY
Director of Recruiting Operations



SHAKIRIA HOPKINS
Coordinator of Recruiting Operations



MARIANNA McCOURT
Coordinator of Recruiting Operations



COURTNEY CASWELL
Director of Football Finance



CALVIN BRIDGES IV
Director of Creative Services and Strategy



SERGEI LeFAIVRE
Director of Creative Media



CANDICE HATCH
Assistant Director of Creative Media



GARRETT GOODWIN
Coordinator of Creative Video

SUPPORT STAFF



LOGAN FEASTER
Assistant Director of Creative Video



ISAIAH PHILLIP
Coordinator of Player Development



CAROL MOORE
Executive Assistant/ Office Manager



JOSH STORMS
Director of Football Strength & Conditioning



TOM FARNIOK
Deputy Director of Football Strength & Conditioning



NICK DOWDY
Associate Dir. of Football Strength & Conditioning



DARRION JONES
Senior Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



PRESTON SCOTT
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



JACKSON SCHAFER
Director of Sports Science



SCOTT TRULOCK
Associate Athletics Director Health & Performance



JADEN HAMIL
Director of Performance Nutrition



JOSH CHATMAN
Head Football Trainer



DR. JERRY LATIMER
Executive Associate Dir. of Sports Medicine - Dir. of Athletic Rehabilitation



ALEX WENDLER
Athletic Trainer



JORDAN WILLIAMS
Athletic Trainer



DR. KEELY KAKLAMANOS
Director of Clinical & Sports Psychology



JULIAN LEVY
Mental Health Specialist



AUSTIN PHILLIPS
Director of Coaching Video



MICHAEL CALHOUN
Technology Specialist



IAN LAVAN
Media Specialist



JASON BAISDEN
Assistant Athletics Director Equipment Operations



JESSE DEWS
Assistant Equipment Manager



KEVIN EARNSHAW
Assistant Equipment Manager



RYALS LEE
Memorabilia Coordinator



KENNETH TOWNS
Associate Director of Football Academics



LAUREN DAY
Assistant Director for Student-Athlete Academic Services



KEARSTEN PEOPLES
Assistant Director for Student-Athlete Academic Services



ELLE SELLERS
Senior Athletic Academic Advisor



CLINT PURVIS
Advisor



REGGIE HUTCHINS
FCA Campus Representative



JOHN BAGNARDI
Team Security

ALL-TIME ASSISTANT COACHES

Hugh Adams	1955 (GA), 1956-58
Jody Allen	2000-01 (GA), 2002-09
Chuck Amato	1982-1999, 2007-09
Mickey Andrews	1984-2009
AJ Antonescu	2017 (GA)
Bill Armstrong	1948 (GA), 1951-52
Charlie Armstrong	1948-50
Ned Ashton	1976 (GA)
Alex Atkins	2020-24
Joe Avezzano	1968
Art Baker	1984
Harlon Barnett	2018-19
Theron Bass	1971 (GA)
Ryan Becker	2015-16 (GA)
Tre' Bell	2021 (GA)
Walt Bell	2018
Don Blackwelder	1970
Monk Bonasorte	1982 (GA)
Bobby Bowden	1963-65
Jeff Bowden	1986 (GA), 1994-06
Terry Bowden	1982 (GA)
Tommy Bowden	1978-79 (GA), 1982 (GA)
Joe Bowen	2019-20 (GA)
Billy Joe Breakhouse	1974 (GA)
Don Breaux	1966-67
Tim Brewster	2013-17
Justin Bright	2014-15 (GA)
Kendal Briles	2019
Mack Brown	1974 (GA)
Jerry Bruner	1976-78
Slade Buckley	2020-21 (GA)
Terrell Buckley	2009 (GA)
Wally Burnham	1985-93
Mark Cala	2019 (GA)
Billy Canty	1971-73
Aaron Carter	1983-84 (GA)
Dexter Carter	2007-09
Doug Carter	1983-84 (GA)
Randy Clements	2019
John Coatta	1959-64
John Coatta, Jr.	1983-84 (GA)
James Coley	2008-12
James Colzie	2004-06 (GA)
John Conlin	1972-73 (GA)
Al Conover	1966-67 (GA), 1968-70
Evan Cooper	**2025-present**
Lee Corso	1957 (GA), 1958
Ronnie Cottrell	1989 (GA), 1990-97
Billy Cox	1970
Dameyune Craig	2010-12
Bill Crutchfield	1964-66
Marcus Davis	2020 (GA)
Lawrence Dawsey	2007-17
Frank DeBord	1974-75
Chris Demarest	1998-99 (GA)
John Devlin	1971-72
Daryl Dickey	1989 (VA), 2001-06
Kenny Dillingham	2020-21
Jim Donnan	1972-73
Ron Dugans	2006 (GA), 2019-24
Jeff Duke	1979 (GA)
John Eason	1981-93
Alex Eleyssami	**2025-present (GA)**
D.J. Eliot	2010-12
Sam Elliott	1974
D'Mitri Emmanuel	**2025-present (GA)**
Ed Feely	1973-74
Jeff Ferrington	1984 (GA)
Jimbo Fisher	2007-09
Dick Flowers	1959-62
Scott Fountain	1996 (GA)
Mike Fox	1980 (GA)
Greg Frey	2018
Adam Fuller	2020-24
Steve Gabbard	1997-99 (GA)
Dan Gayton	2011-12 (GA)
Joe Gibbs	1967-68
Vince Gibson	1959-63
Jim Gladden	1975 (GA), 1976-2001
Jake Gonos	1978-81 (GA), 1982
Jay Graham	2013-17
Eddie Gran	2010-12
Gary Grouwinkel	1975
Al Guy	1971 (GA)
Greg Guy	1991 (GA)
George Haffner	1976-78
Doug Hafner	1967-68
Franklin Hagenbeck	1977-78 (GA)
Odell Haggins	1994-2024
Owen Hale	1954
Alonzo Hampton	2018
Herb Hand	**2025-present**
Doug Hanlon	1990-91 (GA)
Bob Harbison	1948-72, 1974-85
Steve Hardin	1977 (GA)
James Harnes	1983 (GA)
Tim Harris Jr.	**2025-present**
Jack Haskin	1947
Jimmy Heggins	1981-82 (GA),1986-2004
George Helow	2013 (GA)
Gene Henderson	1971-73
Dan Henning	1968-70, 1974
George Henshaw	1976-82
Clark Herman	1992 (GA)
Jack Hines	1985-86 (GA)
Pat Hodgson	1971
Larry Holton	1972
Skip Holtz	1987-88 (GA)
Dick Hopkins	1978-1980 (GA)
Max Howell	1988 (GA)
Greg Hudson	2010-12
Herb Hughes	1957-58 (GA)
Bobby Jackson	1965 (GA), 1966-69
Doug Jackson	1971 (GA)
Don James	1959-65
Bobby Johns	1985 (GA)
David Johnson	**2020-present**
Cal Jones	1974-75
Willie Jones	1989 (GA)
Garin Justice	2008 (GA)
Steve Kalenich	1954 (GA)
Charles Kelly	2013-17
David Kelly	2018-19
Jack Kiker	1975 (GA)
Joe Kines	2000-02
Nick Kish	1976-77 (GA), 1978-82
Fredi Knighten	2018 (GA)
Terrance Knighton	**2025-present**
Mikhal Kornegay	2010 (GA)
Mike Kruczek	1982-83
Charlie LaPradd	1956 (GA), 1957-61
Brad Lawing	2015-17
Clint Ledbetter	1988-89 (GA), 1990-91 (VA)
Guy Lemonier, Jr.	2021-24 (GA)
John Lilly	1996-97 (GA), 1998-2007
Telly Lockette	2018-19
Mike Long	1953-54
Erik Losey	2009 (GA)
Addison Lynch	2012-14 (GA)
Ken MacLean	1952 (GA), 1963-66
Gus Malzahn	**2025-present**
Vaughn Mancha	1952-56
Dana Martin	1982 (VA), 1983-84 (GA)
Chris Marve	2020-21
Ralph Matherly	1950-51 (GA)
Gene McDowell	1965 (GA), 1966-69, 1974-84
Wayne McDuffie	1971-72 (GA), 1973, 1983-89
Bubba McGowan	1959-63
John McGregor	1968 (GA), 1969
Mark McHale	2005-06
Jimmy Messinese	1954 (GA)
Ken Meyer	1960-62
Ben Miles	**2024-present (GA)**
Bill Miller	2014-17
Pat Milligan	1987-88 (GA)
Bill Morris	1993 (GA)
Greg Moss	**2025-present**
Myles Notkin	2015-17 (GA)
Ben Odom	2004-05 (GA)
Paul Odom	1955 (GA), 1956
Joe Ostaszewski	2002-03 (GA)
Mike Owens	1989-90 (GA)
John Papuchis	**2020-present**
Bill Parcells	1970-72
Larry Pecatiello	1970
Larry Pendleton	1973 (GA), 1974
Jay Perkins	1985-86 (GA), 1987 (VA)
Jim "Red" Phillips	1972-73
Donte' Pimpleton	2018-19
Donald "Deek" Pollard	1974-75
Mike Pope	1970 (GA), 1971-74
Don Powell	1959 (GA), 1964-66
Andrew Priest	2017 (GA)
Bill Proctor	1962 (GA), 1963-65
Jeremy Pruitt	2013
Bill Ragans.	1993-95 (GA)
Vince Ragunas	1953-55
Larry Rayes	1975 (GA)
Jake Reed	2019 (GA)
Chris Revell	2013-14 (GA)
Barry Rice	1980-82 (GA)
Mark Richt	1985-86 (GA), 1987-88 (VA), 1990-2000
Gerald Riopelle	1987 (GA)
Tom Roberson	1951-52
Antonio Rodriguez	2022 (GA)
Pete Rodriguez	1974-75
Manrey Saint-Amour	2020 (GA)
Mark Salva	1990-93 (GA)
Bob Sanders	1972-73 (GA)
Randy Sanders	2013-17
Rick Schachner	1974 (GA), 1975
Neil Schmidt	1965-67
Jeff Schaum	1985 (GA)
Kent Schoolfield	1976-80
Joe Scola	2011-12 (GA)
Brad Scott	1983-84 (GA), 1985-93
Billy Sexton	1978 (GA), 1979-06
Randy Shannon	2022-24
Bill Shaw	1972-74 (GA), 1979-81
Kenneth Shipp	1959
Stan Shiver	1991-92 (GA)
Winston Siegfried	1953-55
Ernie Sims	**2025-present**
Malik Slater	2023 (GA)
Steve Sloan	1971
Hank Small	1971-72 (GA)
Kirby Smart	2002-03 (GA)
Moyer Smith	1973
David Snell	1975-76 (GA)
Mark Snyder	2018-19
Mike Spencer	1989-90 (GA)
Phil Spooner	1970
David Spurlock	2012-14 (GA)
David Stallworth	1992-93 (GA)
Jack Stanton	1973, 1976-83
Kevin Steele	2003-06
Bob Stinchcomb	1985-86 (GA)
Mark Stoops	2010-12
Chris St. John	2007-08 (GA)
Sal Sunseri	2013-2014
Patrick Surtain Sr.	**2023-present**
Hugh Taylor	1956-57
Dave Thomas	1950 (GA)
Mark Thomas	1979-80 (GA)
Chris Thomsen	**2020-present**
Tony Tokarz	**2022-present**
Frank Toomey	1954-58
Rick Trickett	2007-17
Travis Trickett	2010 (GA)
Austin Tucker	**2025-present**
Frank Vohun	1975-76 (GA)
Carl Wade	1975 (GA)
Will Walls	1959
John Westberg	1950 (GA)
Tom Wheeler	1991-92 (GA)
Tony White	**2025-present**
Bud Whitehead	1969-70
Cooper Williams	**2021-23 (GA), 2025-present**
Oscar Williams	1994-95 (GA)
Andrew Wilson	2022-24 (GA)
David Wilson	1992 (GA)
Eddie Wilson	1975
Jeremiah Wilson	2015-17 (GA)
Kyle Wilson	2000-01 (GA)
Jason Woodman	2007 (GA)
Raymond Woodie	2018-19
Marcus Woodson	2020-22
Charlie Wright	1969
Gary Wyant	1966 (GA), 1967-69

Bold – Current Assistant Coaches

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION



RICHARD McCULLOUGH

University President

Richard McCullough became the 16th president of Florida State University in August 2021, bringing more than three decades of academic leadership experience to the role. During his tenure, he has strengthened FSU's foundation as one of the nation's top public universities by investing in student and faculty success as well as academic and research excellence.

Since assuming the presidency, McCullough has recruited world-class faculty, staff, and administrators; grown the university's research portfolio; implemented a new structure to encourage entrepreneurial endeavors among students and faculty; cultivated relationships with elected officials and community leaders; enhanced fundraising efforts; and championed athletic success.

Under McCullough's leadership, Florida State University launched FSU Health — one of the most ambitious projects in the university's history — with a goal to improve health and health care throughout the region. FSU Health was initiated by a generous $125 million investment from the Florida Legislature to build a facility in Tallahassee, representing an academic health model combining education, research, and quality clinical delivery. Additional targeted investments have been secured to establish the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases and Sunshine Genetics, groundbreaking initiatives that position Florida as a national leader in improving the lives of children and families affected by devastating rare diseases.

McCullough has committed to expanding FSU's impact and presence across Northwest Florida. FSU was awarded $98.4 million from the Triumph Gulf Coast Board to launch InSPIRE, a state-of-the-art facility and dynamic consortium that unites partners from industry, economic development, government, and academia to drive regional economic prosperity, provide leadership in U.S. manufacturing and aerospace, and promote national security.

McCullough also led efforts to secure record levels of support from the Florida Legislature, increase research expenditures to a record high of $461 million annually, invest more than $100 million into the emerging field of quantum science and engineering, streamline the process of moving research to the market, and broaden funding opportunities from the National Science Foundation and the State of Florida to support the FSU-headquartered National High Magnetic Field Laboratory — the largest and highest-powered magnet laboratory in the world and the only one of its kind in the United States.

He also expanded scholarships and programs for honors and first-generation students and implemented a comprehensive strategy that has led to record student retention and graduation rates that are among the best in the country, as well as student debt levels that are among the nation's lowest.

In addition, McCullough has overseen major capital projects, including the opening of the new Student Union, completion of the Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building, and the construction of Legacy Hall — the new home of the College of Business and the largest academic space on the Tallahassee campus.

McCullough also was a national leader advocating significant reform in collegiate athletics, championing reforms that enhance student-athlete experiences, promote financial equity, and strengthen institutional competitiveness. He made major investments in athletics facilities, including stadium renovations and the construction of the Dunlap Football Center, and launched women's lacrosse — FSU's 21st varsity sport. During McCullough's presidency, FSU teams captured 16 conference championships and two national titles, while student-athletes across all sports achieved the highest cumulative GPA in university history.

Before joining FSU, McCullough served as vice provost for research for 10 years and professor of materials science and engineering at Harvard University. He previously spent 22 years at Carnegie Mellon University, where he began his academic career as an assistant professor of chemistry and rose through the ranks to become the Thomas Lord Professor of Chemistry. He also served as the head of chemistry, the dean of science and the university's vice president for research.

McCullough is a first-generation college student who attended Eastfield Community College and subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Dallas and a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from Johns Hopkins University. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University.

He has more than 110 publications, holds 16 U.S. patents, and is an entrepreneur who started two companies. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and was inducted into the Advanced Materials Journal Hall of Fame in 2021 and the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame in 2025. He also is the recipient of the Carnegie Science Center Award for Excellence as a Start-Up Entrepreneur.

McCullough and his wife, Jai Vartikar, have two sons and three granddaughters.

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Seminole Boosters



SCOTT TRULOCK
Sr. Assoc. Athletics Director
Health and Performance



BRUCE WARWICK
Sr. Assoc. Athletics Director
Football



CHRIS WILSON
Senior VP/Development
Seminole Boosters



BEN ZIERDEN
Sr. Assoc. Athletics Director
Facilities and Capital
Projects



DR. MIKE BRADY
Faculty Athletics
Representative



TASHA FISHER
Associate Athletics Director
Governance and
Compliance



MIGUEL NEGRON
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