



# IDAHO VANDAL

## 2025 SPRING FOOTBALL

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS | FB CONTACT: AUSTIN CHRISTENSEN | C: 801-792-0270 | EMAIL: AUSTINC@UIDAHO.EDU

### 2024 RESULTS 10-4 (6-2 BIG SKY)

	AT #3 OREGON AUG. 31 - EUGENE, ORE.	L, 14-24
	AT WYOMING SEPT. 7 - LARAMIE, WYO.	W, 17-13
	VS. #17 ALBANY SEPT. 14 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 41-13
	VS. #4 SACRAMENTO ST.* SEPT. 23 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 36-27
	AT #19 ABILENE CHR.* SEPT. 21 - ABILENE, TEXAS	W, 27-24
	AT #14 UC DAVIS* SEPT. 28 - DAVIS, CALIF.	L, 26-28
	#25 NAU* OCT. 5 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 23-17
	AT #3 MONTANA ST.* OCT. 12 - BOZEMAN, MONT.	L, 7-38
	VS. CAL POLY* OCT. 19 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 34-29
	VS. EWU* OCT. 26 - CHENEY, WASH.	W, 38-28
	AT PORTLAND ST.* NOV. 9 - HILLSBORO, ORE.	W, 39-30
	VS. WEBER ST.* NOV. 16 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 31-24
	AT IDAHO ST.* DEC. 9 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 40-17
	VS. LEHIGH^ DEC. 7 - MOSCOW, IDAHO	W, 34-13
	AT MONTANA ST.^ DEC. 13 - BOZEMAN, MONT.	L, 19-52

\*Big Sky Conference games ^FCS Playoff game

### 2025 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Aug. 30	at Washington St.	Pullman, Wash.
Sept. 6	St. Thomas	Moscow, Idaho
Sept. 13	Utah Tech	Moscow, Idaho
Sept. 20	at San Jose St.	San Jose, Calif.
Sept. 27	at *Montana	Missoula, Mont.
Oct. 11	*N. Colorado	Moscow, Idaho
Oct. 18	at *E. Washington	Cheney, Wash.
Oct. 25	*Portland St.	Moscow, Idaho
Nov. 1	*NAU	Flagstaff, Ariz.
Nov. 8	*UC Davis	Moscow, Idaho
Nov. 15	*Sacramento St.	Sacramento, Calif.
Nov. 22	Idaho State	Moscow, Idaho
Nov. 29	FCS Playoffs	TBD

### PRACTICE SCHEDULE

<b>Practice 1</b> Tue. March 25.....6:00 a.m.	<b>Practice 9</b> Sat. April 12.....10:00 a.m.
<b>Practice 2</b> Thurs. March 27.....6:00 a.m.	<b>Practice 10</b> Tues. April 15.....6:00 a.m.
<b>Practice 3</b> Sat. March 29.....10:00 a.m.	<b>Practice 11</b> Thurs. April 17.....6:00 a.m.
<b>Practice 4</b> Tues. April 1.....6:00 a.m.	<b>Practice 12</b> Sat. April 19.....10:00 a.m.
<b>Practice 5</b> Thurs. April 3.....6:00 a.m.	<b>Practice 13</b> Tues. April 22.....6:00 a.m.
<b>Practice 6</b> Sat. April 5.....10 a.m.	<b>Practice 14</b> Thurs. April 24.....6:00 a.m.
<b>Practice 7</b> Tues. April 8.....6:00 a.m.	<b>SPRING GAME</b> Fri. April 25.....6:00 p.m.
<b>Practice 8</b> Thurs. April 10.....6:00 a.m.	<i>Practice Times Subject to Change</i>

### PREVIEW

First-year Head Coach Thomas Ford and the Idaho Vandals opened spring practice on a sunny Tuesday morning outside the P1FCU Kibbie Dome.

“Day one, it felt great. The energy was really good today, the guys came out with a purpose,” Ford said after an energetic first practice. “It was really awesome to see all their work come to something. [...] For them to be able to play football today and be able to be their head coach, it’s pretty special.”

With the start of spring practice, Ford mentioned that some of the priorities is maintaining student-athlete health and further evaluating position battles – specifically mentioning the offensive line, quarterback, linebacker, and defensive end positions – and instilling the culture of viewing every day as an opportunity.

Senior leaders Nate Azzopardi and Eli Cummings both had great days and were spotlighted Ford who said, “Having guys like that that know me so well on an individual level [...] it’s huge! Now they’re echoing our message in the locker room every day.”

Cummings was awarded the first battle axe of the season as the best performer of the day. “Day one was a blast” a bulked-up Cummings mentioned, mentioning how good it was to be back at full speed. Despite roster turnover and bringing in new players, the senior running back also said that it feels even more like a brotherhood and a family than in years past.

Of the players who were not on Idaho’s roster last season, Ford and the Vandals welcome 10 new transfers to the squad:

- Lonyatta Alexander Jr. (wide receiver; Montana State)
- Will Cornelison (linebacker; Tyler JC)
- Maurice Heims (defensive line; Washington)
- Tim Jackson (defensive back; College of the Canyons)
- Donovan Parham (defensive line; Mississippi Valley State)
- Khaled Rawls (defensive back; NE Mississippi CC)
- Kai Richardson (defensive line; Oregon State)
- Zahkari Spears (defensive back; UConn)
- Howard Stedford (offensive line; Pace)
- Daveon Superales (wide receiver; Montana State)



No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown / Previous School	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown / Previous School
0	Jhamell Blenman	DB	5-9	190	R-Sr.	Compton, Calif./Cerritos College	44	Cruz Hepburn	LB	6-1	218	R-Jr.	Lewiston, Idaho/Lewis-Clark State
0	Marquawn McCraney	WR	6-0	208	R-Fr.	SeaTac, Wash./Highline HS	45	Mitchel Jaskowiak	DE	6-3	265	R-Jr.	Glencoe, Minn./Glencoe-Silver Lake
1	Michael Graves	WR	6-3	212	R-Sr.	Sacramento, Calif./American River	46	Dylan Fischer	LS	6-1	220	R-Jr.	Burnsville, Minn./Alcorn State
1	Hayden John	S	6-1	198	So.	Anacorees, Wash./Anacortes HS	47	LJ Harm	K	6-0	185	Sr.	Spokane, Wash./Ventura College
2	Lonyatta Alexander Jr.	WR	6-3	210	R-Jr.	Auburn, Wash./Montana State	48	Jace Eastlick	LS	6-2	225	R-Fr.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho/Coeur d'Alene HS
2	Donovan Parham	DE	6-3	230	Gr.	Lakeland, Fla./Mississippi Valley State	49	Jonathan Stromberg	TE	6-4	220	R-So.	Ridgefield, Wash./Skyview HS
3	Trais Higgins	WR	5-11	200	R-Jr.	Nampa, Idaho/Nampa	50	Dylin McIntyre	LB	6-1	235	R-Fr.	Kennewick, Wash./Kennewick HS
4	Tony Harste	WR	5-11	175	So.	Puyallup, Wash./Emerald Ridge HS	50	Layton Vining	OL	6-2	285	Jr.	Peoria, Ariz./Liberty HS
4	Isiah King	LB	6-3	215	R-Sr.	San Diego, Calif./Montgomery HS	51	Leon Evans	OL	6-4	270	R-Fr.	Eagle, Idaho/Eagle HS
5	Holden Bea	QB	6-2	215	R-Fr.	Washougal, Wash./Washougal HS	52	Kiegan Henson	OL	6-5	290	R-So.	Meridian, Idaho/Mountain View HS
5	Maurice Heims	DL	6-5	263	Gr.	Hamburg, Germany/Washington	54	Alex Green	OL	6-6	290	R-So.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho/Lake City HS
6	Zahkari Spears	DB	6-2	197	R-Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif./UConn	54	Titus Ringor	DL	6-3	305	R-Fr.	Wahiawa, Hawaii/James Campbell
7	Emmerson Cortez-Menjivar	WR	6-1	192	R-So.	Salina, Calif./Salinas HS	57	Xander Echols	LS	5-11	220	R-Sr.	Chelsea Alaska/UAB
7	Aaron Kinsey	DB	5-11	180	R-Fr.	Spokane, Wash./John R Rogers	58	Sone Falealo	OL	6-6	312	R-Fr.	Anchorage, Alaska/W. Anchorage HS
8	Nick Josifek	QB	6-0	200	R-So.	Walla Walla, Wash./College Place, HS	65	Christopher Quinonez	OL	6-2	260	R-Fr.	San Jose, Calif./St. Francis HS
8	Joshua Barnes	DB	5-10	185	R-Fr.	Los Angeles, Calif./St. Monica HS	66	Ryan Kawalek	OL	6-3	292	R-Fr.	La Center, Wash./La Center HS
10	Will Cornelson	LB	6-2	230	R-Jr.	Cedar Park, Texas/Tyler JC	67	Tyler Skinner	OL	6-4	306	R-So.	Moscow, Idaho/Moscow HS
10	Jack Wagner	QB	6-4	190	R-So.	Tualatin, Ore./Tualatin HS	68	Charlie Vliem	OL	6-8	295	R-Jr.	Duvall, Wash./Cedarcrest HS
11	Orion Peters	WR	5-8	177	R--Sr.	Inglewood, Calif./Washington State	70	Zach Penner	OL	6-4	298	R-So.	Eagle, Idaho/Rocky Mountain HS
11	Khaled Rawls	DB	5-10	185	Jr.	Walls, Miss./NE Mississippi CC	71	Howard Stedford	OL	6-4	285	R-So.	Orlando, Fla./Pace University
12	Kamari Baker	DB	6-0	210	R-Sr.	Sacramento, Calif./Sierra College	72	Gabe Staszak	OL	6-6	280	R-Fr.	Medford, Ore./South Medford HS
12	Kage Repenn	WR	6-1	205	R-Fr.	Ravensdale, Wash./Tahoma Senior	74	Nate Azzopardi	OL	6-3	296	R-Sr.	Pacifica, Calif./Junipero Serra
13	Chance Bogan	TE	6-3	235	R-Jr.	Tacoma, Wash./Lincoln HS	77	Nathan Knapik	OL	6-7	285	R-Fr.	Kennewick, Wash./Kennewick HS
14	Kai Richardson	TE	6-4	255	R-Fr.	Puyallup, Wash./Oregon State	78	James Cobb IV	OL	6-4	280	R-Fr.	Phoenix, Ariz./Desert Mountain
15	Daveon Superales	WR	6-0	185	R-Fr.	Graham, Wash./Montana State	81	Noah West-Baranco	WR	6-4	210	R-Fr.	Nampa, Idaho/Melba HS
15	EJ Wash	DB	5-8	170	Jr.	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif./Central State	82	Trenton Swanson	WR	6-1	195	R-Fr.	Camas, Wash./Camas HS
16	Divine Ibe	DL	6-2	240	R-Fr.	South Salem, Ore./South Salem HS	87	Everson Harker	TE	6-7	230	R-Fr.	Raymond, Alberta, CA/Raymond HS
16	Rocco Koch	QB	6-0	220	R-Fr.	University Place, Wash./Curtis Senior	88	Gus Donnerberg	TE	6-3	225	R-Fr.	West Linn, Ore./West Linn HS
18	Davis Fry	WR	6-1	190	R-So.	College Place, Wash./College Place HS	89	Ryan Jezioro	WR	6-3	202	R-Fr.	Peoria, Ariz./Liberty HS
18	Tim Jackson	DB	6-5	200	Jr.	Van Nuys, Calif./College of the Canyons	89	Matyus McLain	DE	6-4	245	R-So.	Priest River, Idaho/Priest River HS
19	Brayden Rice	S	6-0	195	So.	Lewiston, Idaho/Lewiston HS	91	Malakai Ralton-Stewart	DL	6-4	270	R-So.	Brisbane, Australia/Indooroopilly St.
19	Oliver Fisher	TE	6-5	245	R-So.	Sherwood, Ore./Boise State	91	Cameron Pope	K	5-10	175	R-Jr.	East Wenatchee, Wash./Eastmont HS
20	Elisha Cummings	RB	5-8	188	R-Sr.	Waco, Texas/Bishop Reicher	93	Sam Brown	DL	6-3	255	R-Sr.	Spokane, Wash./Central Valley
20	Owen Forsman	K	6-0	200	R-Fr.	Rathdrum, Idaho/Lakeland HS	94	Payton Gunter	OL	6-5	285	R-So.	Nampa, Idaho/Nampa HS
21	Dylan Lane	LB	6-1	222	R-Jr.	Lake Oswego, Ore./Lake Oswego	96	Zach Krotzer	DL	6-2	270	R-Sr.	Spokane, Wash./Shadle Park
21	Aiden Nixon	TE	6-5	225	R-Fr.	Boise, Idaho/Timberline HS	99	Trevor Miller	DL	6-2	245	R-So.	Post Falls, Idaho/Post Falls HS
23	Wiley Donnerberg	LB	6-3	215	R-Fr.	West Linn, Ore./West Linn HS							
23	Art Williams	RB	5-11	205	R-So.	Meridian, Idaho/Rocky Mountain HS							
24	Markhi McKinnon	RB	5-11	210	R-Fr.	Detroit, Mich./Desert Edge							
25	Braxton Lawrence	DL	6-4	212	R-Fr.	Madison, Tenn./Goodpasture Christian							
25	Carlos Matheney	RB	5-10	212	R-So.	Olympia, Wash./Tumwater HS							
27	Jacob Turagavou	S	6-1	200	Fr.	Provo, Utah/Timpview HS							
28	Matt Irwin	S	5-11	180	So.	Meridian, Idaho/Owyhee HS							
28	Nate Thomas	RB	5-8	210	R-Sr.	South Holland, Ill./South Dakota							
29	Owen Adams	K/P	6-0	200	So.	Laurel, Mont./Laurel HS							
30	Cale Allen	LB	6-0	230	R-Fr.	Olympia Wash./Olympia HS							
31	Martin Rhyne	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Western HS							
32	Wayne Queen	LB	6-4	212	R-So.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho/Lake City HS							
33	Jake Cox	TE	6-3	245	R-Sr.	El Paso, Texas/Coronado							
33	Julian Lee	DL	6-6	292	R-So.	Lacey, Wash./North Thurston HS							
34	Jona Turagavou	DL	6-3	245	R-So.	Spanish Fork, Utah/Spanish Fork HS							
35	Isiah Bivins	DB	6-1	200	R-Fr.	Monterey, Calif./Monterey HS							
36	Calvin Macy	LB	6-2	215	R-Fr.	Lake Oswego, Ore./Lake Oswego HS							
37	Hayden Kincheloe	TE	5-10	235	R-Jr.	Homedale, Idaho/Homedale HS							
38	Ty Hirrlinger	S	6-0	185	R-Fr.	Sugar City, Idaho/Sugar-Salem HS							
39	Jacob Skobis	DB	5-8	174	R-Jr.	Downey, Calif./Washington State							
40	Harrison Deshazer	DL	6-5	230	Fr.	Washougal, Wash./Washougal HS							
41	Ethan Beard	LB	6-5	210	R-So.	Meridian, Idaho/Meridian HS							
42	Ryder Bordner	LB	6-1	210	R-So.	Boise, Idaho/Bishop Kelly HS							
43	Trenton Fisher	S	5-11	195	R-Fr.	Homedale, Idaho/Homedale HS							

Head Coach: Thomas Ford

# SPRING 2025 NEWCOMERS

#	FULL NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS SCHOOL
2	Lonyatta Alexander Jr.	WR	6-3	210	R-Jr.	Auburn, Wash. / Kennedy Catholic HS	Montana State
2	Donovan Parham	DL	6-3	230	Gr.	Lakeland, Fla. / George Jenkins HS	Mississippi Valley State
5	Maurice Heims	DL	6-5	263	Gr.	Hamburg, Germany / Santa Margarita Catholic HS	Washington
6	Zahkari Spears	DB	6-2	197	R-Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif. / Loyola HS	UConn
10	Will Cornelson	LB	6-2	230	R-Jr.	Cedar Park, Texas / Vista Ridge HS	Tyler JC
11	Khaled Rawls	DB	5-10	185	Jr.	Walls, Miss. / Lake Cormarant HS	NE Mississippi CC
14	Kai Richardson	DL	6-4	255	R-Fr.	Puyallup, Wash. / Puyallup HS	Oregon State
15	Daveon Superales	WR	6-0	185	R-Fr.	Graham, Wash./Graham-Kapowsin HS	Montana State
18	Tim Jackson	DB	6-5	200	Jr.	Van Nuys, Calif. / Birmingham Charter	College of the Canyons
71	Howard Stedford	OL	6-4	285	R-So.	Orlando, Fla. / Maloney HS	Pace Universty

# STATS AND NOTES

**NEW TRANSFERS**

The Vandals added ten transfers that will take part in spring ball. Lonyatta Alexander Jr. (WR; Montana State), Howard Stedford (OL; Pace), and Daveon Superales (WR; Montana State) will be on offense. Will Cornelson (LB; Tyler JC), Maurice Heims (DL; Washington), Tim Jackson (DB; College of the Canyons), Donovan Parham (DL; Mississippi Valley State), Khaled Rawls (DB; NE Mississippi CC), Kai Richardson (TE; Oregon State), Zahkari Spears (DB; UConn) will be playing defense.

**DOMESTIC FIELD ADVANTAGE**

In 2024, the Vandals went a flawless 6-0 in the P1FCU Kibbie Dome.

Idaho will hold nearly all its 15 spring practices inside the dome, including the annual spring game which will take place on Friday, April 25 at 6 p.m.

All weekday practices will take place at 6:00 a.m., Saturday practices and scrimmages will be held at 10:00 a.m.

**VANDAL QB ROOM**

The Vandals return four quarterbacks from the 2024 team. In the quarterback room, redshirt sophomore Jack Wagner saw the most playing time last year. In 11 games last season, Wagner threw for nearly 1,400 yards while throwing for 12 touchdowns. Nick Josifek saw playing time at QB last season, throwing for 282 yards on 42 attempts last season. Sophomores Holden Bea and Rocco Koch are also returning from last season's team.

**KEY DEFENSIVE RETURNERS**

Sam Brown, Isiah King, Zach Krotzer, and Dylan Lane all return for the Vandals in 2025. The four players were key members of last seasons' defense which was one of the top units in the Big Sky Conference.

**STACKED RUNNING BACK ROOM**

One of the most talented groups on the 2025 spring squad is the running back room. The Vandals return two backs who ran for over 500 yards in 2024 in Eli Cummings and Nate Thomas. Combined, the dynamic duo rushed for 1,120 yards and six touchdowns for the silver and gold last season.

**OFFENSIVE LINE**

Nate Azzopardi - one of the team leaders - returns for another year with the Vandals. Idaho also sees the return of Layton Vining, Kegan Henson, Tyler Skinner, and Charlie Vliem, all of whom saw significant playing time last season.

**QUICK FACTS**

Starters	Returned/Lost
Total	13/9
Offense	.5/5
Defense	.2/9
Redshirt Freshmen	35
Incoming Transfers	11
Early Enrollees	1
Grayshirts	0
Mid-Year Additions	10

**Head Coach Thomas Ford**

Season	First
Record	.0-0
Big Sky	.0-0
Playoff	.0-0



# PICK SIX

**1. QB PERFORMANCE:** Jack Wagner is the most experienced of the returning players. Last season, Wagner was second on the team in passing yards (1,389) and touchdowns (12), and played the most games of any quarterback on the 2024 roster. The Vandals are also returning Nick Josifek who appeared in six games for Idaho in 2024, throwing for 282 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Idaho is also bringing back redshirt freshmen Holden Bea and Rocco Koch.

**2. BACK TO THE PLAYOFFS:** Idaho returned to the playoffs for the third-consecutive season last year. With a 34-13 victory over Lehigh last season and a 20-17 win against Southern Illinois in 2023, Idaho joins an elite group of just six schools to have won playoff games in back-to-back seasons (Mercer, Montana, North Dakota State, South Dakota State, Villanova). The Vandals are in another exclusive group of six schools that have made the the playoffs every season since 2022 (Montana, Montana State, North Dakota State, Richmond, South Dakota State)

**3. FBS WINS:** By recording a 17-13 win against Wyoming in Laramie last season and a dominant 33-6 victory against Nevada in 2023, the Vandals became one of just three FCS schools to have notched multiple wins against FBS programs over the past two seasons (Sacramento State, Southern Illinois). The Vandals have also been extremely competitive against Power Four teams like Oregon and California over that same time frame.

**4. IMPACT TRANSFERS:** The Vandals brought in 10 transfer players that are on the spring roster. Maurice Heims comes to the Palouse following four years at Washington. Heims, an edge rusher, played in 30 games for the Huskies and hopes to make an immediate impact on the Vandal defensive front. Donovan Parham is another player that hopes to fortify the Vandal defense. The defensive lineman spent last season at Mississippi Valley State where he totaled 47 tackles and five sacks, forcing a pair fo fumbles. Howard Stedford lines up on the offensive side of the trenches and joins Idaho from Pace University. Stedford is a 6'4", 285-pound junior with tons of potential. Zakhari Spears is a lengthy corner who has FBS experience having transferred to Idaho from UConn. His length and size make him a matchup problem in the Big Sky.

**5. RECEIVERS:** The Vandals' wide receivers room is bursting with skill. Michael Graves returns to the team with an incomparable frame among Big Sky receivers. Idaho also brought in a pair of players from Montana State last season in Lonyatta Alexander Jr. and Daveon Superales who look to make an impact for the Vandals. Both have shown promise throughout spring practice and have potential to provide downfield threats for Idaho quarterbacks. Emmerson Cortez-Menjivar also brings experience and speed to the wide receiver group.

**6. NEW STAFF, TONS OF EXPERIENCE:** With the coaching staff change, Head Coach Thomas Ford kept some of the old staff, but brought in a lot of new faces. Among the assistant coaches, Defensive Coordinator Cort Dennison has played and coached at the P4 level. Dennison spent his college days at the University of Washington, and has coaching stops at Utah (quality control), Louisville (defensive coordinator/linebackers), and Oregon (outside linebackers), among other stops in his career. Offensive Coordinator Matt Linehan is an Idaho legend. He was the starting quarterback on the 2016 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl winning team and threw for over 3,000 yards in his senior year with the Vandals. Coach Tevita Finau also join Ford's staff with P4 coaching experience having spent time at Utah. Coaches Neil Fendall and Sheldon Cross have previously spent time in the Big Sky Conference at various schools. Coaches Treston Decoud, Lance Dunbar, and Loren Endsley all spent time as players in the NFL.

# QUICK FACTS

## UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location.....	Moscow, Idaho
Founded.....	1889
Enrollment.....	12,286
Nickname.....	Vandals
Colors.....	Silver and Pride Gold
Affiliation.....	Division I-FCS
Conference .....	Big Sky
President.....	C. Scott Green
Athletics Director.....	Terry Gawlik
NCAA Faculty Rep. ....	Brian Wolf
Sport Admin .....	Tim Mooney
Athletic Dept. Phone.....	208-885-0200
Football Phone.....	208-885-0235
Ticket Office.....	208-885-6466
.....	1-888-884-3246
Press Box Phone .....	208-921-7396

## FOOTBALL INFORMATION

2024 Record.....	10-4
2024 BSC Record.....	6-2
2024 BSC Finish.....	3rd
2024 Postseason .....	FCS Playoff Quarterfinal
All-Time Record .....	466-599-23

## STADIUM INFORMATION

Home Facility.....	P1FCU Kibbie Dome
Capacity.....	16,000
Surface .....	Field Turf
Stadium Opening.....	9/20/1975
All-Time Record .....	155-98-1

## HEAD COACH AT A GLANCE

Head Coach .....	Thomas Ford
Alma Mater: .....	Linfield, 2004
Career Record .....	0-0/ First Year
Idaho Record.....	0-0
Big Sky Record .....	0-0

## COACHING STAFF

Matt Linehan .....	Offensive Coord./QBs
Cort Dennison.....	Defensive Coord./LBs
Neil Fendall.....	Special Teams/Safeties
Loren Endsley.....	Offensive Line/Run Game
Sheldon Cross .....	Recruiting Coord./TEs
Treston Decoud.....	Cornerbacks
Lance Dunbar.....	Running Backs
Tevita Finau.....	Defensive Line
Tyler Paopao.....	Wide Receivers
Avery Roberts.....	Edge Rushers
JD Johnson.....	Asst. AD-General Manager
Jamel Cooper .....	Strength & Cond. Coach
Skyler Cracraft.....	ST Quality Control
Ian Crocker.....	Defensive Quality Control
JJ Lemming.....	Offensive Quality Control
Andrew Morgan.....	Asst. Director of Recruiting

## COMMUNICATIONS

Dir. of Athletic Comms.....	Austin Christensen
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# HEAD COACH - THOMAS FORD



Thomas Ford was named the 37th head coach in Idaho Vandal History on Dec. 18, 2024.

Ford spent the 2024 season as the running backs coach at Oregon State University. In 2024, the Oregon State rushing attack racked up 2,270 yards, led by Anthony Hankerson who had 1,082 yards and 15 touchdowns.

He spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons as Idaho's special teams coordinator and running backs coach. Under Ford, Idaho's special teams and running back units were among the best in the FCS.

In 2023, Anthony Woods ran for 1,155 yards and 16 touchdowns, leading an effort that saw Idaho rush for 2,077 total yards and 22 TDs and 2,057 yards and 22 TD in 2022.

Two players who played special teams under Ford, long snapper Hogan Hatten and returner Jermaine Jackson, earned NFL Roster spots in 2024.

Ford leveraged his connections in the Pacific Northwest to establish Idaho as a go-to destination for recruits in the I5 corridor. Dozens of players have come to Idaho from Western Washington and the Portland area from connections to the Idaho staff established by Ford.

"We are excited to welcome coach Ford, his wife Shannon and their children Zoey and Kingston back to Moscow," Gawlik said. "It was clear during our interview process that Thomas is the man to lead Vandal football into the future. He knows what it takes to win at Idaho. He is an elite recruiter who was instrumental in laying the foundation of our recent success. We are confident in the future of Vandal football as we look forward to working with coach Ford and his staff."

Prior to his time at Idaho, Ford was a quality control analyst for two years at the University of Washington

He spent the 2018 and 2019 seasons as the head coach at Simon Frasier University, an NCAA DII school in British Columbia. He led SFU to their first win in four seasons and was named the 2018 GNAC Coach of the Year.

Before his time at SFU, he was the head coach at Stadium High in Tacoma from 2014-2017. He took an 0-10 team that had not seen a winning season in over two decades and to the playoffs in 2016 and 2017.

He was the Defensive Coordinator at the University of Puget Sound during the 2013 season. Ford's defense improved in almost every statistical category and finished second in the Northwest Conference and ranked 35th nationally in fumble recoveries.

He served as the Wide Receivers Coach and Special Teams Coordinator at SE Oklahoma State from 2009-2012. He coached Running Backs at Linfield from 2007-2008.

He played running back and ran track at Linfield College in Oregon. Ford set the Wildcats' single-game rushing record (237 yards against Redlands) in 2003. Linfield was 41-4 during Ford's playing career. He ranks still ranks fifth all-time on the career rushing list with 2,333 yards. Ford was a two-time Northwest Conference all-star, a member of four straight Northwest Conference championship teams, and team captain of Linfield's 2004 NCAA Division III national title team that was inducted into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016.



<p><b>COACHING EXPERIENCE</b>                  2024 - Oregon State - Running Backs Coach                  2022-23 - Idaho - ST Coord./Running Backs Coach                  2020-21 - Washington - Quality Control Analyst                  2018-19 - Simon Fraser - Head Coach                  2014-17 - Stadium High School - Head Coach                  2013 - Puget Sound - Defensive Coordinator                  2009-12 - SE Oklahoma State - WRs Coach/ST Coord.                  2007-08 - Linfield - Running Backs Coach</p> <p><b>EDUCATION</b>                  Master's - SE Oklahoma State                  B.A. - Linfield</p> <p><b>PLAYING EXPERIENCE</b>                  Linfield - 2001-04                  Tri-Cities Fever - 2005-06                  2007 - Alaska Wild</p> <p><b>PERSONAL</b>                  Ford and his wife Shannon have two children, Zoey and Kingston</p>
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2025 FOOTBALL STAFF



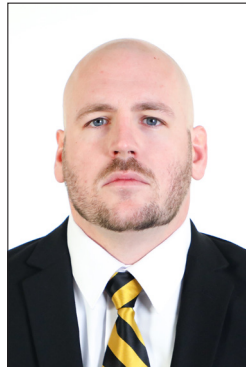
OFF. COORDINATOR/  
QUARTERBACKS  
**MATT LINEHAN**



DEF. COORDINATOR/  
LINEBACKERS  
**CORT DENNISON**



S. T. COORDINATOR/  
SAFETIES  
**NEIL FENDALL**



RUN GAME COORD./  
OFFENSIVE LINE  
**LOREN ENDSLEY**



RECRUITING COORD  
TIGHT ENDS  
**SHELDON CROSS**



CORNERBACKS  
**TRESTON DECOUD**



RUNNING BACKS  
**LANCE DUNBAR**



DEFENSIVE LINE  
**TEVITA FINAU**



RECEIVERS  
**TYLER PAOPAO**



EDGE RUSHERS  
**AVERY ROBERTS**

OFFENSIVE GRAD  
**JJ LEMMING**

DEFENSIVE GRAD  
**IAN CROCKER**

SPECIAL TEAMS.  
**SKYLER CRACRAFT**

ASSISTANT DIR.  
**ANDREW MORGAN**

ASST. AD - GM  
**J.D. JOHNSON**

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES.....	CHRIS WALSH
ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC TRAINER.....	CLAYTON MALINICH
DIRECTOR OF EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS.....	JARRETT PEELER
ASST. DIRECTOR OF EQUIPMENT OPS.....	LUKE DAVIS
HEAD STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH.....	JAMEL COOPER
ASST. STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH.....	SETH SOLANO
VIDEO COORDINATOR.....	TATE GRAHAM
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE.....	ROB KAUTZ
SENIOR OPS/RECRUITING ASST.....	JACK SCHNEIDER
OPERATIONS/RECRUITING ASST.....	EMILY SCRUPPS
GRADUATE ASSISTANT.....	RYAN HALFORD
HEAD STUDENT MANAGER.....	BLAKE MOORE
STUDENT MANAGERS.....	LUCAS WILLIAMS
	GRANT WOLF
	CLAE HOLLING
	COOPER WILSON
	KATIE BOOTH
	SULLIE WYKES
	BROOKS JENSEN
	JOSH YANEZ
	GRIFFIN SMITH
	REED CHAPMAN

## IN GAME LOCATION

<p><b>COACHES BOOTH</b></p> <p>MATT LINEHAN-OC/QBs</p> <p>AVERY ROBERTS-EDGE</p> <p>IAN CROCKER-DEF. GA</p> <p>JJ LEMMING-OFF. GA</p> <p>JD JOHNSON-GM</p>	<p><b>FIELD</b></p> <p>THOMAS FORD-HEAD COACH</p> <p>CORT DENNISON-DC/LBs</p> <p>NEIL FENDALL-ST/S</p> <p>LOREN ENDSLEY-OL/RUN GAME</p> <p>TYLER PAOPAO-WRs</p> <p>TEVITA FINAU-DL</p> <p>TRESTON DECOUD-CBs</p> <p>SKYLER CRACRAFT-ST. GA</p>
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