

# MARK SNYDER

Head Coach - Second Season at Marshall (Marshall, 1988)



Marshall University's football program welcomed home one of its own when Mark Snyder was introduced as Marshall's 28th head football coach on April 14, 2005. Snyder, one of the top young coaches in the collegiate ranks, was a standout player from nearby Ironton High School that went on to star at Marshall in 1987.

His record-setting play in 1987 helped Marshall lay the foundation for what has become one of the nation's winningest college football programs. Snyder then went on to a remarkably successful coaching career that has taken him to the highest levels of success in the collegiate football world. Now, his career has come full circle as oversees the Thundering Herd program.

"I have always been proud to have been a part of Marshall's resurgence in football and now I am honored to have the opportunity to return to my alma mater and lead Marshall into a new era," Snyder, 41, said. "This is an exciting time for the Thundering Herd family and

our football team will not only represent, but serve the University and the Tri-State area well on and off the field."

The former Marshall standout led one of the youngest Thundering Herd teams on record, one that lost 25 seniors from the previous year and had only six returning starters, to a 4-7 overall and 3-5 conference mark in his first season – Marshall's first in the highly competitive Conference USA. Marshall had only three returning starters on offense and had to replace its entire defensive front seven in 2005. Adding to the challenge was the fact that Snyder did not take over the program until the end of spring practice. The first year head coach participated in only one spring practice and did not have an opportunity to install his system or get to know his personnel until August. Despite this, the Thundering Herd managed to be competitive in nearly every contest. In fact, the Thundering Herd was only a couple of breaks away from a seven win season and a bowl berth with three of the squad's losses coming by a mere five points or less.

Snyder's first season had plenty of highlights as well. It marked the emergence of sophomore running back Ahmad Bradshaw, who finished the season with 997 yards rushing (tops among underclassmen in Conference USA) en route to earning second-team All-C-USA honors. Thanks to the Herd's membership in Conference USA and the league's multi-year agreements with ESPN and CSTV, Marshall gained a record amount of exposure by appearing on national television a record eight times in 2005. In addition, the Thundering Herd set a school single-game attendance record with a crowd of 36,914 for the Kansas State contest on September 10 and in the spring of 2006 set a Green & White Game record with 17,346 fans.

Snyder came to Marshall after four years as an assistant coach under Jim Tressel at Ohio State University and was coming off of his first season as the Buckeyes' defensive coordinator. In Snyder's four years at Ohio State, the Buckeyes posted a 40-11 overall record and tallied a 3-1 record in bowl games, including victories in the 2003 and 2004 Tostitos Fiesta Bowls.

"I am pleased that Mark decided to return to his alma mater and lead our football program into a new era," Marshall Director of Athletics Bob Marcum said at Snyder's hiring. "He brings a great deal of experience, enthusiasm, and a proven record of success at the highest levels of college football to Marshall."

Snyder helped develop a number of outstanding players at Ohio State, including All-Americans Matt Wilhelm, Cie Grant, and A.J. Hawk. Both Wilhelm and Grant played key roles in Ohio State's 2002 national championship before going on

## THE SNYDER FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** Second

**Career Record:** 4-7 (First season)

**Birthdate:** Dec. 30, 1964

**Family:** Wife - Beth

**Children:** Chelsea (13), Lindsay (12), Shaylee (5)

### ALMA MATER

Marshall, 1988

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Marshall, 1987

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005-.....	Marshall (Head Coach)
2001-04 .....	Ohio State (LB/Def. Coord.)
1997-00 .....	Minnesota (Defensive Ends)
1991-96 .....	Youngstown State (LB/Def. Coord.)
1989-90 .....	UCF (Graduate Assistant/LB)
1988.....	Marshall (Student Assistant)



to become NFL draft picks. Last season, Hawk led OSU with 141 tackles en route to becoming the No. 5 overall pick by the Green Bay Packers in the 2006 NFL Draft.

Snyder came to Ohio State from the University of Minnesota, where he spent four years coaching the Golden Gophers' defensive ends. Prior to Minnesota, he also coached at Marshall, Central Florida and Youngstown State.

The South Point, Ohio, native was an all-state selection at Ironton High School and played collegiate football at Marshall.

In 1987, Snyder led the Southern Conference with 10 interceptions and was second on the team with 124 tackles his senior year at Marshall and helped lead the Herd to a landmark come from behind win at Louisville and a berth in Marshall's first-ever national championship game. He captured honorable mention All-America honors and first-team All-Southern Conference honors that season as the Thundering Herd posted a 10-5 overall record and finished as national runners-up to Northeast Louisiana (43-42) in the 1987 Division 1-AA National Championship game. Snyder's 10 interceptions in 1987 still stands as the Marshall and Southern Conference single-season record.

Snyder graduated from Marshall in the spring of 1988 and started his coaching career the following fall as a student assistant for the Herd. He went to Central Florida the following year and spent two seasons at UCF, the first as a graduate assistant and the second as a part-time coach working with the linebackers.

In 1991, Snyder joined Tressel's Youngstown State staff as the outside linebackers coach. Snyder was given the added responsibility of special teams coordinator and inside linebackers coach in 1994 and was promoted to defensive coordinator and secondary coach in 1996. During his tenure at Youngstown State, the Penguins won three NCAA Division 1-AA national championships and played in four consecutive national championship games, facing Marshall in three of those contests (1991, 1992, and 1993).

Following the 1996 season, Snyder went on to spend four years as the defensive ends coach under Glen Mason at Minnesota. While he was with the Golden Gophers, Minnesota's defense twice set school records for single-season sacks and averaged 40.7 sacks during a three-year span. While at Minnesota, Snyder helped develop Lamanzer Williams, who led the nation in sacks in 1997, and Karon Riley, the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year in 2000.

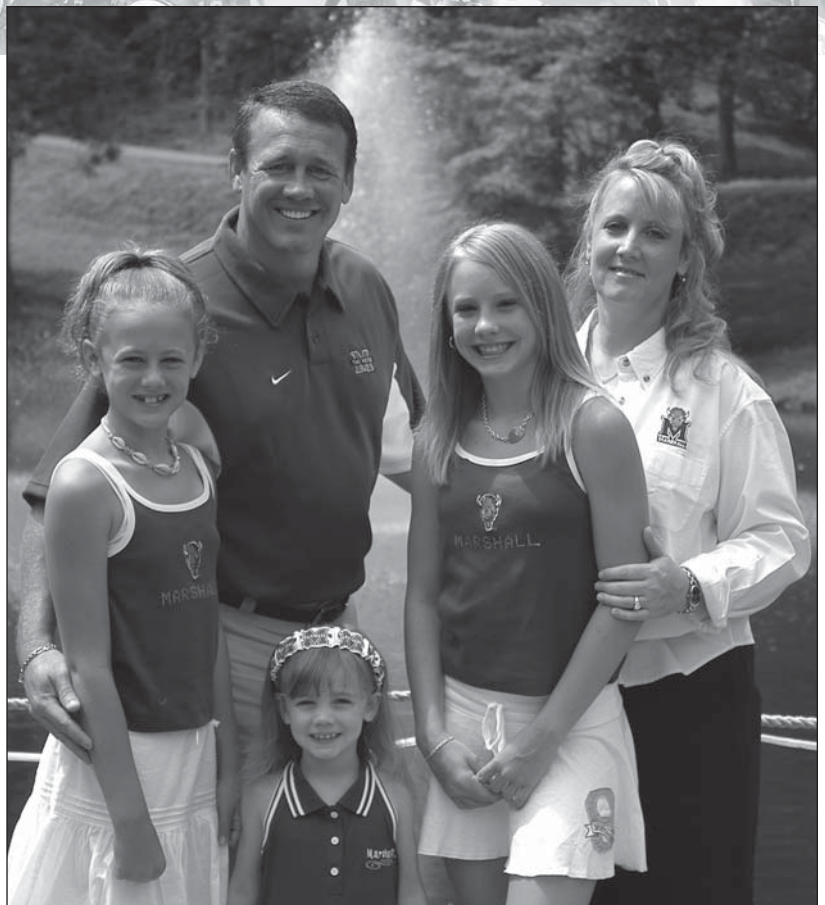
Snyder's coaching record is remarkable. He has been successful throughout his career and has achieved that success with a strong belief in family, commitment to others and work ethic. Those are the principals that he hopes to instill into his student-athletes and into the Marshall football program.

"We want to be the class of college football," Snyder said during his first press conference as Marshall's head coach. "We will be the class of college football."

Under Snyder's leadership look for Marshall to continue its championship tradition and continue to raise the bar in the classroom and on the field. Snyder knows as well as anyone how far the Thundering Herd football program has come. He is quick to credit his predecessors for building the program to a level of national recognition and he understands what it will take to raise the bar even further.

"Our goals are simple. We want to win the conference championship. We want to get to a (Bowl Championship Series) bowl game and we want to graduate all of our players."

Mark and his wife Beth, who is a native of Ironton and a graduate of the University of Kentucky, have three daughters: Chelsea, 12, Lindsay, 11, and Shaylee, 4.



▲ The Snyder Family - Mark, Beth, Chelsea, Lindsay and Shaylee.

**SNYDER YEAR-BY-YEAR**

Year	Position	Record/Post Season
2005	Head Coach, Marshall	4-7, 3-5 C-USA
2004	Ohio State, def. coordinator	8-4, Alamo Bowl
2003	Ohio State, linebackers	11-2, Fiesta Bowl
2002	Ohio State, linebackers	14-0, Fiesta Bowl National Champions
2001	Ohio State, linebackers	7-5, Outback Bowl
2000	Minnesota, defensive ends	6-6, Micron PC Bowl
1999	Minnesota, defensive ends	8-4, Sun Bowl
1998	Minnesota, defensive ends	5-6
1997	Minnesota, defensive ends	3-9
1996	Youngstown State, def. coord./secondary	8-3
1995	Youngstown State, special teams/LBs	3-8
1994	Youngstown State, special teams/LBs	14-0-1, National Champions
1993	Youngstown State, outside linebackers	13-2, National Champions
1992	Youngstown State, outside linebackers	11-3-1, National Runners-up
1991	Youngstown State, outside linebackers	12-3, National Champions
1990	Central Florida, part-time linebackers	10-4, Playoffs
1989	Central Florida, graduate assistant	7-3
1988	Marshall, student assistant	11-2, Playoffs
1987	Marshall, player	10-5, National Runners-up

# JIM COLLINS

Defensive Coordinator - Third Season at Marshall (Elon, 1974)



Jim Collins was promoted to defensive coordinator in April 2005 after serving as the Thundering Herd's defensive backs coach in 2004.

"Jim brings a ton of experience, including many bowl victories, to the table. His time in the NFL, coaching at the game's highest level, brings instant credibility," head coach Mark Snyder said. "He brings an incredible amount of knowledge and a track record of proven success to our staff."

Collins took over defensive coordinator duties in 2005 and inherited a defense that had to replace its entire front seven and returned only a handful of starters. Despite the inexperience the Marshall defense led C-USA in total defense (allowing 340.27 ypg) and ranked 12th in the nation in pass defense allowing only 178 yards through the air per game.

Marshall's defensive backs recorded a strong year under Collins in 2004. Safety Curtis Keyes led the team in tackles and earned all-conference accolades, while Chris Royal finished the season with six interceptions, the second highest total in the nation. Marshall also led the Mid-American Conference in scoring defense, allowing only 22.2 points per game.

Collins, who has more than 30 years of coaching experience at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels, came to Marshall from the Washington Redskins, where he served as an assistant coach for outside linebackers and special teams assistant since January 2002.

Prior to his stint with the Redskins, Collins was an assistant coach at the University of Florida from 1990-2002. He served as the Gators recruiting coordinator and worked with linebackers, defensive ends, and tight ends during his tenure in Gainesville.

Collins has been a part of seven conference championship teams during his collegiate coaching career (Duke in 1989, Florida in 1991, 1993-96, 2000). In 1996, he also helped Florida to the NCAA Division 1-A National Championship. Overall, he has coached in 13 bowl games and helped develop several student-athletes that have gone on to careers in the National Football League.

Collins began his coaching career at Page High School in his hometown of Greensboro, N.C., in 1974. In 1980, he was named defensive coordinator at Lees-McRae Junior College before joining the staff at Appalachian State as defensive backs and outside linebackers coach (1981-82). He went on to join the Duke University coaching staff as a graduate assistant in 1983, and left for a brief stint as defensive coordinator/linebackers coach at Jacksonville State in 1984 only to return to Duke where he served as an assistant until moving to Florida in 1990.

Collins was a defensive back at Elon College from 1970-73, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical education from the school in 1974. He earned a master's degree in education from North Carolina A&T in 1979. He and his wife, Geri, have a daughter, Jennifer, who is a graduate of the University of Florida.

## THE COLLINS FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 3rd

**Family:** Wife - Geri

**Children:** Jennifer

### ALMA MATER

Elon, 1974

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Elon, 1970-73

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2004-..... Marshall (Def. Coord./DB)  
 2002-03..... Washington Redskins (LB/Sp. Teams)  
 1990-2002..... Florida (Recruiting/LB/DE/TE)  
 1985-89..... Duke  
 1984..... Jacksonville State (Def. Coord./LB)  
 1983..... Duke (Graduate Assistant)  
 1981-82..... Appalachian State (DB/Outside LB)  
 1980..... Lees-McRae JC (Defensive Coordinator)  
 1974-79..... Pace (N.C.) High School (Head Coach)



▲ The Collins Family - Jim, Geri and Jennifer.

# MIKE CUMMINGS

**Offensive Line - Second Season at Marshall (Buffalo, 1984)**



Mike Cummings joined the Thundering Herd staff as offensive line coach in February 2005.

"Mike is energetic, a great recruiter and tremendous football coach," Mark Snyder said. "I'm excited to have him on our staff."

During his first campaign as offensive line coach in 2005, Cummings worked with sophomore center Doug Legursky, who was selected to the Rimington Trophy Watch List and garnered second-team all conference honors. Following the season Cummings was promoted to Recruiting Coordinator.

Cummings came to Marshall after serving as Western Michigan University's offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator for three seasons.

During his three seasons at WMU, Cummings brought stability to the Bronco offensive line, helping the Broncos rank eighth nationally in passing offense in 2003 and set three offensive records

for passing yards in individual games and touchdown passes thrown.

He also coached two All Mid-American Conference All-Academic players during his tenure, and a Freshman All-American at center in 2004.

As Western Michigan's recruiting coordinator, Cummings helped build a 2004 recruiting class that was ranked first in the MAC by Phil Steele's College Football Preview and second-best by Street & Smith's.

Cummings, a coaching veteran of more than 20 years, served on football staffs at Eastern Michigan, Michigan State, Central Michigan, Millersville and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute prior to his stint at Western Michigan.

During his collegiate coaching career, he has coached 20 all-conference players, 11 academic all-conference players, two All-Americans and two freshman All-Americans.

At EMU, he served as defensive line coach, special teams coach, and recruiting coordinator for the 2000 and 2001 seasons. During his time in Ypsilanti, he coached three all-conference selections and four all-conference academic team selections.

Prior to EMU, Cummings spent a season as offensive line coach at Central Michigan. That assignment was his third stint with the Chippewa program. He coached the offensive line at CMU from 1992-1997 and was a graduate assistant at CMU from 1988-1990. Cummings tutored seven all-conference selections during his time at CMU.

Cummings served as the tight ends and special teams coach at Michigan State during the 1998 season, a year in which the Spartans recorded wins over Notre Dame and Ohio State. He also coached offensive lines at Millersville during the 1990 and 1991 seasons, and at RPI in 1987.

Cummings, a native of Jamestown, N.Y., earned three varsity letters in football at the University at Buffalo, graduating with a bachelor's degree in physical education and exercise science in 1984. He earned a master's degree in athletics administration from Central Michigan in 1990. He and his wife Donna have two daughters, Elizabeth (14) and Emily (11).



▲ The Cummings Family - Emily, Elizabeth, Donna and Mike.

## THE CUMMINGS FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 2nd

**Family:** Wife - Donna

**Children:** Elizabeth (14), Emily (11)

### ALMA MATER

Buffalo, 1984

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo, 1981-83

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005-..... **Marshall (Offensive Line)**  
 2002-04 ..... Western Michigan (Offensive Line)  
 2000-01 ..... Eastern Michigan (D-Line/Recruiting)  
 1999..... Central Michigan (Offensive Line)  
 1998.... Michigan State (Tight Ends/Special Teams)  
 1992-97 ..... Central Michigan (Offensive Line)  
 1990-91 ..... Millersville (Offensive Line)  
 1988-90 ..... Central Michigan (Graduate Assistant)  
 1987..... RPI (Offensive Line)

# MARK GALE

Assistant Athletics Director for Football Operations - 17th season at Marshall (Oklahoma State, 1981)



Mark Gale is entering his second season as Marshall's Assistant Athletic Director for Football Operations. He is the longest serving member of the Marshall coaching staff having been on staff at MU since 1990.

Gale has coached 158 wins at Marshall against only 44 losses, making him the winningest assistant coach in Marshall history. His career record as an assistant is 216-56-1, and he has been to 12 bowls (in 14 seasons at the Div.-1A level). Gale has also been a part of three NCAA National Championships (1985, 1992 and 1996).

As tight ends coach in 1990-91, Gale tutored Eric Ihnat, who was named All-American by the Walter Camp Football Foundation, Kodak and AP while catching a league leading 55 passes, and NFL veteran Mike Bartrum.

He coached B.J. Cohen, who, as a freshman in 1994, was the Southern Conference co-leader in sacks with 12. Cohen, the school's all-time sack leader (51), was an All-American in 1996 as he led

the Herd with nine sacks and was rated as the 11th best defensive end in the country by Street & Smith in 1997. Cohen currently is one of the top defensive players in the Arena Football League and is their all-time sack leader.

In 1999, Gale guided Paul Toviessi and Ron Puggi to All-Conference accolades. Toviessi followed up with a second straight All-Conference nod in 2000 before going in the third round of the NFL draft to the Denver Broncos.

Gale moved to coach the Herd's inside linebackers in 2001, helping guide Max Yates to All-MAC and MAC Defensive Player of the Year honors. He also coached Duran Smith to a runner-up for MAC Defensive Player of the Year in 2002, and in 2003 he coached a talented crop of linebackers, led by the team's leading tackler Kevin Atkins, that helped Marshall's defense rank No. 1 in conference total defense (329.8 yards per game).

Gale was named one of three finalists for the American Football Coaches Association's 2003 Division 1-A Assistant Coach of the Year Award in December. He was also one of only 500 high school and college assistant coaches out of more than 350,000 nominees from across the nation to be named an AFLAC National Assistant Coach of the Year Award in 2003, and was one of only 20 ethnic minority football coaches selected by the NCAA to participate in the first NCAA Advanced Coaching Program in Orlando in January 2004. Gale was also one of 12 coaches selected to participate in the first NCAA Expert Coaching Program in Indianapolis in June 2004.

In six seasons at the University of Oklahoma, Gale helped coach teams that went 58-12-1. Those teams captured four Big Eight Conference titles and made four appearances in the Orange Bowl and one in the Florida Citrus Bowl. The 1985 Sooners captured the national title.

Gale was born on August 27, 1959, in Ada, Okla., and grew up in Purcell, Okla. (located 30 miles south of Oklahoma City). He graduated from Purcell High School in 1977 and Oklahoma State University in 1981. Following his graduation from OSU, Gale was a high school football coach. He was hired in 1984 at the University of Oklahoma. Gale began his Master's work at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and continued that while at Oklahoma.

Gale is married to the former Carol Lutz of Ironton, Ohio, and the couple has two daughters, Caitlin (8) and Chelsea (6).



▲ The Gale Family - Mark, Carol, Caitlin and Chelsea.

## THE GALE FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 17th  
**Birthdate:** August 27, 1959 in Ada, Okla.  
**Family:** Wife - Carol  
**Children:** Caitlin (9) and Chelsea (7)

### ALMA MATER

**College:** Oklahoma State, 1981

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005-..... Marshall (Director of FB Operations)  
1990-04 ..... Marshall (TE/DE/LB/Assoc. Head Coach)  
1984-90 ..... Oklahoma (Asst. Coach)  
1981-84 ..... High School coaching

# TODD GOEBBEL

**Special Units/Receivers - Second season at Marshall (Northern Iowa, 1998)**



Todd Goebbel is entering his second year as the special units and wide receivers coach at Marshall.

Under his direction Marshall made great strides in kickoff and punt returns in 2004. In fact, true freshman Chubb Small ranked second in Conference USA and 22nd in the nation in kickoff return average with 25.9 yards per return en route to being selected to the C-USA All-Freshman team.

He came to Marshall after serving as Ohio State's defensive quality control coach for one season. In that role he assisted with film breakdown of the opponents, scouting and self-evaluation of the Buckeye defense. Goebbel helped Ohio State to an 8-4 record that included a win over Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl.

"Todd Goebbel has coaching blood lines. His father is a successful high school coach in Ohio and after Todd's playing days were over he went right out and earned his coaching stripes," Mark Snyder

said. "He brings tremendous special teams knowledge to the program and special teams are very, very important here."

Goebbel, a native of Delaware, Ohio, attended Kent State University and was a three-year starter at quarterback for the Golden Flashes, winning MVP honors as a sophomore in 1996 while being selected as captain as a junior in 1997.

Following the 1997 season, Goebbel transferred to the University of Northern Iowa, where he was the starting quarterback in 1998 and earned Gateway Conference Newcomer of the Year honors.

He graduated from Northern Iowa in 1998 and briefly played for the Buffalo Destroyers of the Arena Football League.

In 1999 he coached tight ends at the College of Wooster and following the season was named the quarterbacks and wide receivers coach at Tiffin University where he coached for two years before moving on to Quincy University where he served as offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator for the 2002 and 2003 seasons.

Todd's wife, Sara, is a Kent State graduate, and the couple resides in Putnam County. His brother, Aaron, works for the Marshall facilities/game operations crew.

## THE GOEBBEL FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 2nd

**Family:** Wife -Sara

### ALMA MATER

Northern Iowa, 1998

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Kent State, 1995-97

Northern Iowa, 1998

Buffalo Destroyers (Arena Football), 1999

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005- ..... Marshall (Special Units/WR)

2004..... Ohio State (Def. Quality Control)

2002-03 ..... Quincy (Off. Coord./Recruiting)

2000-01 ..... Tiffin University (QB/WR)

1999..... College of Wooster (Tight Ends)



▲ Todd and Sara Goebbel

# LARRY KUECK

Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks - Sixth season at Marshall (Stephen F. Austin, 1975)



Larry Kueck is now in his sixth season on the Marshall coaching staff and serves as the Thundering Herd's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

"Having coached head-to-head against Larry Kueck, it was a no-brainer to have him as our offensive coordinator," head coach Mark Snyder said. "Had Larry been at another school at the time I would have tried to hire him."

Kueck joined the Marshall staff in 1996, helping to install the offensive system still employed by the Thundering Herd. He helped the team to the Division I-AA national title and an undefeated season in 1996, while working with quarterback Eric Kresser and receiver Randy Moss.

He returned for the 2002 season as quarterbacks coach, guiding Byron Leftwich through his senior season. Under Kueck's guidance sophomore Stan Hill took over for an injured Leftwich and led the Herd past Miami in the pivotal game of the 2002 season.

In 2003, as associate offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, he helped the Herd to an 8-4 record that included a win over perennial Big 12 power Kansas State, despite losing starting quarterback Stan Hill for nearly half the season to injury. He helped Hill to the nation's second-highest quarterback rating, while both Hill and Graham Gochneaur (both juniors) finished ranked among the top 10 quarterbacks in the nation in terms of completion percentage.

During the 2004 season, Kueck tutored then seniors Hill and Gochneaur to help the Thundering Herd to its 21st consecutive non-losing season and a berth in the Fort Worth Bowl. In addition to this, Kueck served as Marshall's interim head coach following the retirement of Bob Pruett in March of 2005.

The 2005 season saw the Marshall offense experience growing pains with only a handful of returning starters and a wealth of inexperience. Despite the youth, the offensive unit under Kueck's direction produced two all-conference second-team selections in sophomores Doug Legursky and Ahmad Bradshaw. Bradshaw also recorded an outstanding year with 997 yards rushing and nine touchdowns along with a team-high 56 catches for 381 yards.

After leaving Marshall following the 1996 season Kueck spent three years at the University of Southern Mississippi and two at Southern Methodist University.

During his three seasons in Hattiesburg he helped the Golden Eagles to a pair of Conference USA titles and three straight bowl appearances. In his first two years in Hattiesburg, Southern Miss was one of just two teams in the nation to have a 1,000-yard rusher, a 1,000-yard receiver and a 2,000-yard passer. He helped Lee Roberts break Brett Favre's school season records for passing yards and touchdown passes and helped then-sophomore Jeff Kelly to a Top 10 national finish in passing efficiency in 1999.

During his career he has helped to develop four NFL quarterbacks, one running back and four receivers, including 1998 NFL Rookie of the Year Randy Moss. Among the NFL players he has helped are Eric Kresser, Craig Whelihan, Chad Pennington, Byron Leftwich, Jeff Kelly, Doug Chapman, Randy Moss, Todd Pinkston, Sherrod Gideon and Roell Preston.

Kueck was born June 1, 1951 in Freer, Texas. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin in 1975 with a degree in education. and earned a master's degree from SFA in 1976. He was a three-year letter winner as an offensive lineman at Stephen F. Austin and was an honorable mention All-Lonestar Conference pick in 1973 and 1974. He and wife Rhonda have two daughters, Megan and Cara, who both attend Marshall.



▲ The Kueck Family - Larry, Rhonda, Megan and Cara.

## THE KUECK FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 6th  
**Family:** Wife -Rhonda  
**Children:** Megan and Cara

### ALMA MATER

Stephen F. Austin, 1975

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Stephen F. Austin, 1972-74

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2002-.....	Marshall (Off. Coord./QB)
2000-01 .....	SMU (Off. Coord./QB)
1997-99 .....	Southern Miss (Off. Coord./QB)
1996.....	Marshall(Off. Coord.)

# SHANNON MORRISON

## Linebackers - Second season at Marshall (Marshall, 1995)



Shannon Morrison returned to his alma-mater to serve as linebackers coach in May 2005.

"I think it is important to bring back people who did great things here at Marshall," Mark Snyder said. "He is a native West Virginian who went out and made a name for himself as a young coach on the rise and we're excited to have him on our staff."

Morrison oversaw a Thundering Herd linebacking corps in 2005 that featured two of Conference USA's top tacklers in juniors Dennis Thornton (104) and Matt Couch (97). The linebacker unit also helped the MU defense limit opponents to a C-USA best 340.27 yards per game.

Morrison was a four-time letterwinner at Marshall and was an All-Southern Conference and honorable mention All-America selection for the Herd in 1994. During his Marshall career he intercepted 11 passes and is still sixth on the Thundering Herd's all-time

interceptions list. He also helped Marshall to its first-ever national title in 1992 and was coached by Mark Gale, the Thundering Herd's Assistant Athletic Director for Football Operations. The Oak Hill native graduated from Marshall in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Morrison, who served as a graduate assistant coach at Marshall following his graduation, spent last season as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Lehigh University. Under Morrison's guidance, the Lehigh defense led the Patriot League in scoring defense and fewest yards allowed per game. Lehigh also captured a share of its seventh Patriot League title in 2004, and the Mountain Hawks earned an at-large berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

Prior to Lehigh, Morrison was the defensive coordinator at Southeast Missouri State University for three years under former Marshall assistant Tim Billings. During the 2003 season, Morrison's Indians led the Ohio Valley Conference in pass defense and ranked third in total defense. Southeast Missouri also ranked seventh nationally in turnovers caused.

Morrison has also coached at Hampden-Sydney and Sam Houston State.

Morrison and his wife Michelle, herself a Marshall graduate (B.A. 1993, M.A. 1995), have one daughter, Miya (4).

### THE MORRISON FILE

#### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 2nd  
**Family:** Wife -Michelle  
**Children:** Miya (5)

#### ALMA MATER

Marshall, 1995

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Marshall, 1990-1994

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

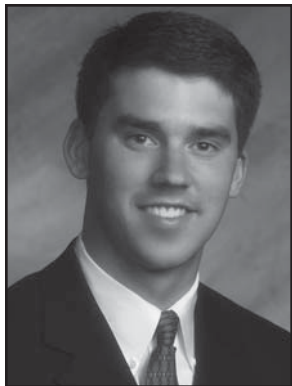
2005-.....	Marshall (Linebackers)
2004.....	Lehigh (Def. Coordinator/LB)
2000-03.....	SE Missouri State (Def. Coordinator)
1998-99.....	Hampden-Sydney (Def. Coord./LB)
1997.....	Marshall
1996.....	Sam Houston State (OLB)
1995.....	Marshall (Grad Asst.)



▲ The Morrison Family - Shannon, Miya and Michelle.

# PAUL NICHOLS

## Secondary - First season at Marshall (Davidson, 2003)



Paul Nichols joined the Thundering Herd coaching staff in February of 2006.

"I was very impressed with Paul during my time at Ohio State and I know that he is going to be an asset to our coaching staff," Snyder said. "He is a very intelligent young man who relates extremely well with players and is well respected. He is also from the Atlanta area which has been and will continue to be an important recruiting area for our program."

Nichols serves as Marshall's defensive secondary coach.

"It is a privilege to have the opportunity to coach at Marshall University and to be a part of Coach Snyder's staff," Nichols said. "Marshall has a great football tradition and I am excited about working with our players and coaches as we compete for a Conference USA championship."

Nichols completed his second season as a defensive graduate assistant coach at Ohio State in 2005 where he assisted with the defensive line and defensive backs. His responsibilities also included organizing and coaching the offensive scout team, breaking down opponent game film, creating weekly scouting reports and handling defensive signals on game day from the sideline.

The Dunwoody, Ga. (Marist H.S.), native graduated from Davidson with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in History in 2003. At Davidson, Nichols set school records for career passing yards (5,822), completions (465) and touchdown passes (51) and compiled a 22-6 record as a starting quarterback, which stands as the best mark in Wildcat history. As a sophomore he led Davidson to a perfect 10-0 record and a Pioneer League Championship, marking the school's first undefeated season in history.

Nichols was named first team All-Pioneer League, first team Pioneer League All-Academic and honorable mention All-American by Don Hansen's Football Gazette as a senior when he ranked among the top 25 in the nation in both passing efficiency rating (136.49) and yards passing per game (218.9).

### THE NICHOLS FILE

#### PERSONAL

Year at Marshall: 1st

Family: Single

#### ALMA MATER

Davidson, 2003

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Davidson, 1999-2003

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2006- ..... Marshall (Secondary)

2004-05 ..... Ohio State (Defensive G.A.)



▲ Paul Nichols

# PHIL RATLIFF

## Tight Ends - First season at Marshall (Marshall, 1994)



Marshall University head football coach Mark Snyder announced the hiring of former Thundering Herd All-American Phil Ratliff as the school's new tight ends coach in May of 2006.

"I am excited about being able to bring home one of our own," Snyder said. "Phil is an outstanding coach and a quality individual that has a great rapport with his players. There is no doubt in my mind that he will be a valuable asset to our program."

Ratliff was a two-time All-American selection as an offensive lineman at Marshall from 1989 to 1992 and was captain of the Thundering Herd's 1992 NCAA Division I-AA National Championship team. Ratliff won the Jacobs Blocking Trophy, which is presented annually to the Southern Conference Lineman of the Year, in 1992. He returns to Marshall following a two-year stint as tight ends coach at James Madison University.

"It has always been a dream of mine to coach at my alma mater," Ratliff said. "I believe in what Coach Snyder is doing with the program and I am ready to help take it to the next level."

During his two seasons at JMU, Ratliff helped the Dukes post a 20-6 overall record and win the 2004 NCAA Division I-AA National Championship. He also coached all-conference tight ends Casime Harris (2005) and Tom Ridley (2004).

Prior to his tenure at JMU, Ratliff was the head football coach at Spring Valley High School from 2000-2003. He led the Timberwolves to the West Virginia Class AAA state playoffs in 2001, 2002, and 2003 and was named the Mountain State Athletic Conference's Coach of the Year in 2001.

Ratliff was a student assistant at Marshall in 1993 following his collegiate career. He went on to serve as defensive coordinator at Lawrence County (Ky.) High School from 1994 to 1999. The native of Louisa, Ky., received his bachelor's degree in elementary education with a specialization in special education from Marshall in 1994. He and his wife, Jenni, have two children - a daughter, Haley (9), and a son, Dylan (6).

### THE RATLIFF FILE

#### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 1st

**Family:** Wife-Jenni

**Children:** Haley and Dylan

#### ALMA MATER

Marshall, 1994

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Marshall, 1989-92

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2006- ..... Marshall (Tight Ends)  
 2004-05 ..... James Madison (Tight Ends)  
 2000-03 ..... Spring Valley (W.Va.) HS (HC)  
 1994-99 ..... Lawrence Co. (Ky.) HS (Def. Coord.)  
 1993 ..... Marshall (student asst.)



▲ The Ratliff Family - Haley, Phil, Jenni and Dylan.

# JARED SMITH

## Running Backs - Second season at Marshall (Kansas, 1996)



Jared Smith is entering his second season as Marshall University's running backs coach.

"I have known Jared for quite a while. He was on our staff at Minnesota and he coached on the offensive line while I was coaching the defensive line and he really impressed me," Mark Snyder said. "He went on to coach in the junior college ranks and we jumped at the opportunity to bring him on staff at Ohio State and now at Marshall."

Smith oversaw a young and talented running back group in 2005 with second-team all-conference standout sophomore Ahmad Bradshaw and Conference USA All-Freshman team pick Chubb Small. Bradshaw rushed for 997 yards and nine touchdowns in addition to hauling in a team-high 56 receptions for an additional 381 yards and a score. Small rushed for 197 yards in a back-up role and excelled on punt and kick returns.

He came to Marshall after serving as Ohio State's quality control coach in 2004. In that role, he worked under Buckeye offensive coordinator Jim Bollman and helped with breaking down game film and self scouting.

A native of Pittsburg, Kansas, Smith was a four-year starter at center for the University of Kansas from 1993-1996. Smith was a member of the 1995 Kansas squad that posted a 10-2 overall record that included a win over UCLA in the Aloha Bowl. The '95 Jayhawks finished the season ranked ninth in the final Associated Press Poll.

Smith graduated from Kansas with a degree in English in December 1996. In March of 1998 he began a two-year stint as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Minnesota, where he served as the special teams coordinator on game days in addition to various other duties. Smith was promoted to assistant coach for guards and centers at Minnesota in February 2000.

During the 2000 campaign Smith coached Minnesota's first-ever two-time All-American center and helped guide the Gophers to the 2000 Micronpc.com Bowl.

In February 2001 Smith moved on to Fort Scott (Kansas) Community College, where he served as an assistant coach for three seasons. During the 2003 season he was Fort Scott's run game coordinator.

### THE SMITH FILE

#### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 2nd

**Family:** Single

#### ALMA MATER

Kansas, 1996

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Kansas, 1993-96

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005- ..... **Marshall (Running Backs)**  
 2004..... Ohio State (Quality Control)  
 2001-03 ..... Fort Scott (Kan.) CC (Assistant Coach)  
 2000..... Minnesota (Offensive Line)  
 1998-99 ..... Minnesota (Graduate Assistant)

# THIELEN SMITH

**Defensive Line - Second season at Marshall (LSU, 1977)**



Thielen Smith joined the Marshall coaching staff as defensive line coach in May 2005.

"He is an outstanding recruiter who relates well to parents and kids," Head Coach Mark Snyder said. "Thielen is a great football coach and an outstanding individual that is an asset to our program."

Smith took over a defensive line in 2005 that featured no returning starters and put together a group that helped Marshall rank first in total defense in Conference USA.

Smith came to Marshall after serving as an assistant coach at Clemson University for the last six seasons. He was responsible for the defensive interior linemen for the Tigers between 1999 and 2003 and oversaw Clemson's Whip linebackers and rovers in 2004.

Prior to his time at Clemson, Smith served as the defensive line coach at Tulane (1995-98), defensive line coach at Louisiana-

Monroe from (1993, 1994), inside linebackers coach at Louisiana State (1991, 1992), linebackers and defensive line coach at Tulane (1985-90), and as defensive line coach at Louisiana-Lafayette (1979-84). During his collegiate coaching career, he has participated in seven bowl games with the most recent being the 2004 Peach Bowl.

Smith (whose first name is pronounced THI-lihn) played linebacker at LSU and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from the school in 1977. During his senior season, he recorded a career high 62 tackles, including four for losses. He played on two bowl teams at LSU, including the 1973 team that earned a berth in the Orange Bowl.

Smith is married to the former Gail Scott and the couple has six children, Toyah (27), Keisha (22), Terrance (22), Temetria (17), Vincent (16), and Shaun (16).

## THE SMITH FILE

### PERSONAL

**Year at Marshall:** 2nd

**Family:** Wife - Gail

**Children:** Toyah (28), Keisha (23), Terrance (23), Temetria (18), Vincent (17), Shaun (17)

### ALMA MATER

Louisiana State, 1977

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

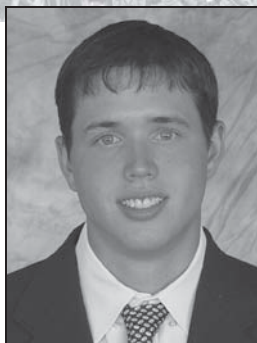
Louisiana State, 1973-76

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>2005-.....</b>	<b>Marshall (Defensive Line)</b>
1999-2004 .....	Clemson (D-Line/LB)
1995-98 .....	Tulane (D-Line)
1993-94 .....	Louisiana-Monroe (D-Line)
1991-92 .....	LSU (Inside LB)
1985-90 .....	Tulane (D-Line/LB)
1979-84 .....	Louisiana-Lafayette (D-Line)



▲ Thielen Smith



**Curtis Head**  
Graduate Assistant

Curtis Head serves as Marshall's defensive graduate assistant. "Curtis Head is another former Herd standout and knows the University and the community," Mark Snyder said. "Curtis has been a winner - he has four championship rings as a Marshall player and that is the kind of person we like having on our staff."

Head assists the defensive coaching staff with all aspects of game planning and practice, including breaking down and grading game film.

The two-time All-MAC punter played on four Marshall teams that won bowl games from 1999-2002 and also scored 181 points when he added place-kicking to his resume as a junior and a senior.

Head also played one season for the British Columbia Lions in the Canadian football league.

The Shelbyville, Kentucky, native graduated from Marshall in 2004.



**Edna Justice**  
Program Assistant

The Marshall football office would not be able to properly function without the hard work and dedication of Edna Justice. Edna is now in her 27th year of service in the athletic department.

Her duties are wide-ranging, but she is charged with assisting the Marshall coaching staff in everything from recruiting and camps to day-to-day operation of the football office.

As secretary for the Quarterback Club she assists in coordinating all of the major fund raising projects including the spring game, reverse raffle, football banquet and memberships.

Prior to moving to the football office in 1990, Justice served in the office of the Athletic Director from 1986-90. Her first assignment at Marshall was in the Marshall University Foundation Office, from 1978-86.

Edna is married to Marshall graduate John Justice Jr., and has one daughter, Jacqueline Leigh Hutchison, a grandson, Jeffery "Austin" Hutchison, and a granddaughter, Jacqueline "Grace" Hutchison.



**Jim Pittman**  
Graduate Assistant

Jim Pittman serves as Marshall's offensive graduate assistant coach.

"Jim is another guy who has the coaching bloodlines - his grandfather was at one time the head coach at Texas Christian," Mark Snyder said. "That sort of background can give guys a head start and some good insight into the coaching business and we are glad to have him here at Marshall."

The 2001 Louisiana State University graduate played football at Navarro Junior College (Texas) and returned to Navarro to tutor the quarterbacks and running backs in 2002-03 before spending last season as a graduate assistant at Texas Christian University.

Pittman is a native of San Antonio, Texas.



**Ashley Thierer**  
Administrative Secretary for Recruiting

Ashley Thierer is in her third season as the administrative secretary for recruiting.

She assists in the day-to-day operations of the office in regards to recruiting efforts for Marshall's football program.



**Shaun Sarrett**  
Quality Control (Video)



**Phil Armatas**  
Quality Control (Video)

# FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF



## **Rich Worner**

Head Equipment Manager, E.M.C.  
West Virginia State, 1996

Rich Worner enters his fifth season as the school's head equipment manager. Worner joined the Marshall athletics staff in March 2002.

Worner and his staff handle all of the equipment and uniform needs for all of Marshall's varsity athletics programs, including the football program, from the equipment facility located in the lower level

of the Shewey Administrative Building.

The 1996 West Virginia State graduate served as an assistant on the equipment (1988-92) and facilities (1993-95) staffs during his undergraduate years at Marshall.

Worner served as the head equipment manager at West Virginia State in 1995-96, an assistant equipment manager at Virginia from 1996-99 and the head equipment manager at Tulane from 1999-2002.

He is a certified member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association (AEMA) and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

He and his wife Tonya live in Barboursville and have one daughter, Kiersten Faith (3).



## **Zach Littleton**

Assistant Equipment Manager, E.M.C.  
Marshall, 2001

Zach Littleton joined the Marshall athletics staff in August 2004 as the school's assistant equipment manager.

The 2001 Marshall graduate served as student manager on the equipment staff from 1997-2001 at Marshall.

Prior to returning to Marshall, he was the Assistant Director of Equipment Services at the University of Connecticut in 2002-2004,

where he was directly involved with four NCAA national basketball champions (three women's and one men's title).

He is a certified member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association (AEMA).



▲ The Worner Family - Rich, Tonya and Kiersten.



## **Brad Helton**

Video Coordinator  
East Tennessee State, 1994

Brad Helton enters his eighth year as the Marshall video coordinator.

Helton and his team use state of the art broadcast-quality video production and computer editing equipment to insure that the Marshall Coaching Staff has a clear picture of the Thundering Herd practices and games. Helton also is responsible for obtaining and preparing materials on

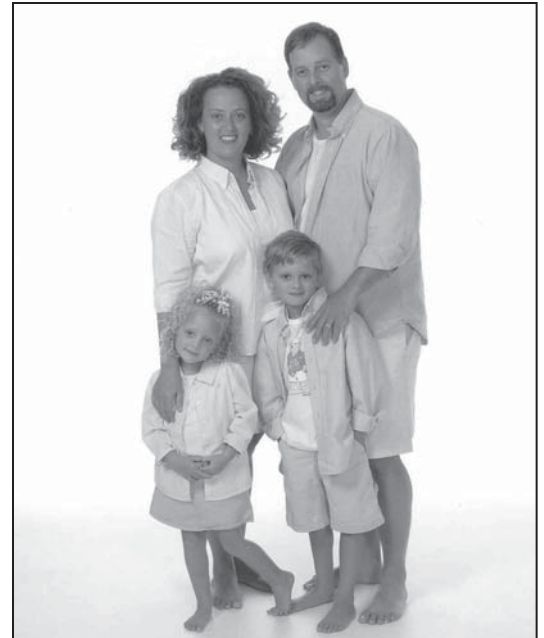
opponents, facilitating in-depth breakdowns and game planning. With a state of the art computer network/digital editing system, Helton provides Herd coaches with almost instant access to video and data on Marshall games, practices and opponents.

Helton has been named Mid-American Conference Video Coordinator of the Year, as selected by his peers, seven straight years. In addition, he was voted by the Collegiate Sports Video Association Bob Matey National Video Coordinator of the Year for his work in the 2002-2003 season.

Prior to his arrival at Marshall, Helton was a member of the production department for the local CBS affiliate in Huntington, WOWK-TV.

He is a 1994 graduate of East Tennessee State University with a bachelor's of science in mass communications. While at ETSU, he did work as the color commentator for women's basketball broadcasts. Before transferring, Helton played one year of college baseball at Gardner-Webb University. He is a 1988 graduate of Virginia High School in Bristol, Va.

Helton is married to Marshall graduate Tara Gilman and the couple has two children, Ryan Chandler (8) and Haley Elizabeth (5).



▲ The Helton Family - Brad, Tara, Ryan and Haley.