

# MCNEESE GAMEDAY

The Eastern Illinois Game • November 5, 2022

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# 2022 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year



**John Belton**  
1986 Graduate

The McNeese State University Alumni Association has announced its 2022 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award recipients: 3rd Judicial District Attorney John Belton; retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Lundy; and Blake McCaskill, senior vice president of commercial lending for First National Bank of Louisiana.

This award recognizes McNeese graduates who have distinguished themselves in their chosen field of endeavor on a national or international level and is the highest award presented by the alumni association.

The three will be recognized at halftime of tonight's game.

**Belton**, of Ruston, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies in 1986 from McNeese and his Juris Doctor degree from Southern University in 1990.

In 1991, he moved to north Louisiana to practice law, and for over 30 years, Belton has served as a prosecutor in the 3rd Judicial District, which includes Lincoln and Union parishes. He was elected district attorney in 2014 and re-elected in 2020 without opposition.

He is currently vice president of the National District Attorneys Association and past president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

From 1999 to 2005, Belton served on the Southern University Board of Supervisors and served two terms as chairman of the board. He has also served as a board member on the University Medical Center Management Corp., Life Choices North Central Louisiana, Lincoln Health Foundation and Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

He presently serves on the board of directors of Louisiana National Bank, the Eddie G. Robinson Museum and Teach One to Lead One mentoring program. He is a co-founder and board member of the North Central Louisiana Boys and Girls Club. Belton and his wife, Alana, own the Belton Companies, which have a portfolio that includes restaurants, real estate and timber land holdings.

At McNeese, Belton played football and was active in the Student Government Association. He has been recognized as a Trailblazer by the McNeese Black Alumni Chapter for his significant contributions to his alma mater and the Black community.



**Ret. Lt. Gen. Michael Lundy**  
1987 Graduate

**Lundy**, of Blanco, Texas, received his Bachelor of Science degree in botany in 1987 from McNeese. He served as vice president and president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, president of Blue Key Honor Fraternity and Student Government Association Executive Assistant. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate from the university's ROTC program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in Army Aviation.

He retired from the U.S. Army in 2020 after serving more than 33 years in the military.

During his service, Lundy commanded at every level, with his final assignment as commanding general at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC) from 2016-2019, where he led over 70,000 soldiers and civilians at 57 different global locations in the U.S. Army's strategic organization. In this capacity, he was responsible for leading the development of the Army's doctrine (how the Army fights), organizational (unit) designs, collective training requirements and strategy, and the Army's Leader Development and Education program.

Also head of Army University, Lundy was responsible for providing professional military education annually to over 180,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, as well as thousands of international partners from over 90 different countries.

Previously, Lundy commanded the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and served as deputy commanding general of CAC, the 1st Armored Division and the 25th Infantry Division and as commander of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and the 1-25th Attack Helicopter Battalion. During his various assignments, he deployed on multiple operational and combat assignments, including combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan and peace enforcement deployments to Haiti and Bosnia.

Lundy earned a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and he received numerous awards for his service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legions of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medals for Valor and for Achievement, the Army Master Aviator, Combat Action and Army Parachutist Badges and the Ranger Tab.

He is currently the owner of MDLundy LLC Defense Consulting Services, serves on the advisory board of a major international aviation company and continues to serve as a Headquarters Department of the Army Senior Mentor, providing mentorship and leader development for U.S. Army senior leaders and their headquarters staffs during major Army wargames.



**Blake McCaskill**  
1987 Graduate

**McCaskill**, of Sulphur, received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration in 1987 from McNeese. He was a member of the Blue Key Honor Fraternity and McNeese football team, earning All-Academic Team honors.

He is a past president of the McNeese Alumni Association and is currently on its board of directors. He is also on the board of directors of the McNeese Quarterback Club and is a member of the McNeese Athletic Foundation.

McCaskill is a proven leader with over 30 years of experience in the banking industry. He has also served as a leader on a multitude of boards and various civic organizations including: chairman of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation's Board of Directors; United Way of Southwest Louisiana; Better Business Bureau; the Calcasieu Community Clinic; the Volunteer Center of SWLA; and the Kiwanis Club of Southwest Louisiana.



# MCNEESE

14 SLC Championships • 16 FCS Playoff Appearances • 2-Time National Runner-Up

## THIS WEEK'S MATCHUP

### McNEESE

**Record:** 1-7 (0-4 SLC)  
**Ranking (STATS/AFCA):** NR/NR  
**Conference:** Southland  
**Head Coach:** Gary Goff (Valdosta State '96)  
**Goff's Record at McNeese:** 1-7, 1st year  
**Goff's Overall Record:** 61-60, 11th year

### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**Record:** 2-6 (1-2 OVC)  
**Ranking (STATS/AFCA):** NR/NR  
**Conference:** Ohio Valley  
**Head Coach:** Chris Wilkerson (EIU '95)  
**Record at EIU:** 2-6, 1st year  
**Overall Record:** 53-33, 9th

### BROADCAST INFORMATION

**Kickoff:** 7 p.m. CT  
**Television:** ESPN+ (Jeff Palermo, play-by-play; Kip Texada, analyst)  
**McNeese Radio Network:** Tom Hoefler, play-by-play; Ron Hayes, analyst

**Station:** 92.9 FM The Lake

**Mobile App:** 929 The Lake (iTunes, Android)

**Online Information:** McNeeseSports.com

### McNEESE SOCIAL MEDIA

**Hashtags:** #GeauxPokes | #TAD  
**Twitter:** @McNeeseFootball  
**Instagram:** @McNeeseSports  
**Facebook:** /McNeeseAthletics

### McNEESE ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

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## GAME 8 HOMECOMING GAME

# McNEESE COWBOYS (1-7, 0-4) VS. EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHERS (2-6, 1-2)



**LOUIS BONNETTE FIELD AT COWBOY STADIUM (20,000) • LAKE CHARLES SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 2022 • 7 PM (ESPN+)**



**Series vs. Eastern Illinois:** 3rd Meeting

**Series Leader:** McNeese 2-0

**Last Meeting:** McNeese 49, EIU 7

September 11, 1993 at McNeese

**Series Streak:** W2



## GAME INFO

### POKES KICK-OFF NOVEMBER WITH OUT-OF-CONFERENCE TASK

- McNeese will open up the month of November with a battle against Eastern Illinois of the Ohio Valley Conference.
- Both teams are led by first-year head coaches - Goff for McNeese and Williamson for EIU.
- The Cowboys are coming off a nail-biting 28-27 loss to league favorite Southeastern Louisiana while the Panthers dropped a tough 20-17 game to Tennessee State.
- The game against EIU is part of the OVC/Southland scheduling alliance... McNeese will make a return trip to Eastern Illinois next season.

### COWBOYS AND PANTHERS

- McNeese and Eastern Illinois will play for just the third time in the series and the first since the 1993 season.
- The Cowboys won the previous two games (49-7, 1993, in Lake Charles; 15-7, 1990, in Charleston).
- EIU first-year head coach Chris Wilkerson was a member of the Panthers in 1993 when they visited Cowboy Stadium for the first time.

### Series: 3rd Meeting. McNeese leads 2-0 (1-0 at home; 1-0 on road)

9/11/93 at McNeese 49, EIU 7

9/15/90 McNeese 15, at EIU 7

### McMAHON NAMED LSWA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Senior running back Deonta McMahon was named this week's Louisiana Sports Writers Association College Football Offensive Player of the Week after his performance against Southeastern this past Saturday.
- McMahon scored three touchdowns - 2 rushing and 1 receiving, rushed for 97 yards and totaled 106 offensive yards.
- He scored on runs of 5 and 3 yards and again on a 5-yard reception.
- Currently No. 1 in the SLC and 21st in FCS with 761 rushing yards and 1st in SLC/22nd FCS with 95.1 rushing yards per game.

### KORDELL WILLIAMS ADDED TO BUCK BUCHANAN AWARD WATCH LIST

- Senior linebacker Kordell Williams has been added to the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List as the top defensive player in the FCS.
- Currently 2nd in the SLC with 88 total tackles and with 11.0 tackles per game which ranks him 4th in the FCS.
- Tops the league and is 5th in the FCS with 53 solo tackles and a 6.5 per game average.
- He's tied for 7th in the Southland with 7.5 tackles for a loss.
- Coming off a 15-tackle game against Southeastern, marking his fifth, double-digit tackle game of the season.



**2 FCS National Title Appearances (1997 & 2002) • 16 FCS Playoff Appearances • 14 SLC Championships**

**McNEESE QUICK FACTS**

**HEAD COACH GARY GOFF**

Alma Mater: Valdosta State, 1996  
 Career Record: 61-60, 11th year  
 Record at McNeese (SLC): 1-7 (0-3), 1st year

**ASSISTANT COACHES**

- Ryan Allgood Asst. Head Coach/OL
- Tony Pecoraro Defensive Coordinator/LB
- Thomas Reese Special Teams Coordinator/RB
- Phillip Ely Quarterbacks
- Felton Huggins Wide Receivers
- Dwight Jackson Linebackers
- Mike Johnson Defensive Backs
- Ryan Nehlen Tight Ends
- Marc Yellock Defensive Line
- Marco Sanchez Defensive Assistant
- Chris St. John Defense Quality Control
- Ty Hinson Offense Quality Control

**COACHES IN THE BOOTH**

- Phillip Ely, Ryan Allgood, Mike Johnson,
- Dwight Jackson, Chris St. John, Ty Hinson

**FOOTBALL STAFF**

- Kelsey Curry Director of Operations
- Sam Pruet Equipment Manager
- JR Griffin Head Strength & Conditioning
- Hunter Martin Asst. AD for Sports Medicine
- Hannah Hampton Asst. Football Athletic Trainer
- Luke Cody Asst. Football Athletic Trainer
- Raymond Donovan Video Coordinator

**TEAM INFORMATION**

2021 Overall Record: 4-7  
 2021 SLC Record (Finish): 3-5/T-4th  
 2021 Final Rank (STATS/AFCA): NR/NR

**TEAM HISTORY**

First Year of Football: 1940  
 Record (Years): 516-313-13 (79th)  
 SLC Record (Years): 201-113-7 (51st)  
 SLC Championships (Last): 14 (2015)  
 FCS Playoff Appearances (Last): 16 (2015)  
 FCS Playoff Record: 11-16  
 Consensus All-American Selections: 17  
 First Team All-SLC Selections: 210

**COWBOY STADIUM**

Field: Louis Bonnette Field  
 Capacity: 20,000  
 First Year: 1965  
 Surface: Artificial, AstroTurf  
 Record at Cowboy Stadium: 218-101-5  
 Non-SLC Record at Cowboy Stadium: 104-35

**2022 McNEESE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (TV)	SPECIAL EVENT
Sat.	Sept. 3	at Montana State	Bozeman, Mt.	L, 40-17 (ESPN+)	
Sat.	Sept. 10	at Rice	Houston, Texas	L, 52-10 (ESPN3)	
Sat.	Sept. 17	Alcorn State	Lake Charles	L, 30-19 (ESPN3)	Military Appreciation
Sat.	Sept. 24	Mississippi College	Lake Charles	W, 32-17 (ESPN+)	Mental Health Awareness
Sat.	Oct. 1	*at Incarnate Word	San Antonio, Texas	L, 48-20 (ESPN+)	
Sat.	Oct. 15	*A&M-Commerce	Lake Charles	L, 40-15 (ESPN3)	Breast Cancer Awareness
Sat.	Oct. 22	*at Nicholls	Thibodaux, La.	L, 40-35 (ESPN+)	
Sat.	Oct. 29	*Southeastern	Lake Charles	L, 28-27 (ESPN+)	Homecoming
Sat.	Nov. 5	Eastern Illinois	Lake Charles	7 p.m. (ESPN+)	Distinguished Alumni
Sat.	Nov. 12	*at HBU	Houston, Texas	2 p.m. (ESPN+)	
Sat.	Nov. 19	*Lamar	Lake Charles	7 p.m. (ESPN+)	Senior Day

**COWBOY HEAD COACHES**

Coach	Tenure	Yrs.	W-L-T
Wayne Cusic	1940-45	2	4-8-0
A.I. Ratcliff	1946-54	9	50-42-2
John Gregory	1955-56	2	10-8-1
Les DeVall	1957-65	9	58-24-1
Jim Clark	1966-69	4	17-22-0
Jack Doland	1970-78	9	64-32-3
Ernie Duplechin	1979-81	3	28-6-1
Hubert Boales	1982	1	4-6-1
John McCann	1983-86	4	21-20-2
Sonny Jackson	1987-89	3	13-20-0
Bobby Keasler	1990-98	9	78-34-2
Kirby Bruchhaus	1999	1	6-5-0
Tommy Tate	2000-06	7	49-26-0
Matt Viator	2006-15	10	78-33-0
Lance Guidry	2016-18	3	21-12-0
Sterlin Gilbert	2019	1	7-5-0
Frank Wilson	2020-21	2	7-11-0
Gary Goff	2022-	1	0-1-0

**COWBOY HEAD COACHES MOST WINS**

1. <b>Matt Viator, 2006-15</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Bobby Keasler, 1990-98</b>	<b>78</b>
3. Jack Doland, 1970-78	64
4. Les DeVall, 1957-65	58
5. A.I. Ratcliff, 1946-54	50

**COWBOY HEAD COACHES MOST YEARS**

1. <b>Matt Viator, 2006-15</b>	<b>10</b>
2. Bobby Keasler, 1990-98	9
Jack Doland, 1970-78	9
Les DeVall, 1957-65	9
A.I. Ratcliff, 1946-54	9

**SLC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1976 (10-2 overall, 4-1 SLC) • Doland  
 1979 (11-1 overall, 5-0 SLC) • Duplechin  
 1980 (10-2 overall, 5-0 SLC) • Duplechin  
 1991 (6-4-2 overall, 4-1-2 SLC) • Keasler  
 1993 (10-3 overall, 7-0 SLC) • Keasler  
 1995 (13-1 overall, 5-0 SLC) • Keasler  
 1997 (13-2 overall, 6-1 SLC) • Keasler  
 2001 (8-4 overall, 5-1 SLC) • Tate  
 2002 (13-2 overall, 6-0 SLC) • Tate  
 2003 (10-2 overall, 5-0 SLC) • Tate  
 2006 (7-5 overall, 5-1 SLC) • Viator  
 2007 (11-1 overall, 7-0 SLC) • Viator  
 2009 (9-3 overall, 6-1 SLC) • Viator  
 2015 (10-1 overall, 9-0 SLC) • Viator

**POSTSEASON APPEARANCES**

- (35 total: 13 wins, 21 losses, 1 tie)**
- 1946 Tung Bowl: lost to Pearl River JC, 12-6
  - 1947 Cajun Bowl: tied Arkansas A&M, 0-0
  - 1949 Oil Bowl: lost to Pearl River JC, 33-8
  - 1951 Cosmopolitan Bowl: defeated Louisiana College, 13-6
  - 1971 Grantland Rice Bowl: lost to Tennessee State, 26-23
  - 1976 Independence Bowl: defeated Tulsa, 20-16
  - 1979 Independence Bowl: lost to Syracuse, 31-7
  - 1980 Independence Bowl: lost to Southern Miss, 16-14
  - 1991 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to Nevada, 22-16
  - 1992 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, defeated Idaho, 23-20
    - Quarterfinals, lost to Northern Iowa, 29-7
  - 1993 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, defeated William & Mary, 34-28
    - Quarterfinals, lost to Troy, 35-28
  - 1994 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, defeated Idaho, 38-21
    - Quarterfinals, lost to Montana, 30-28
  - 1995 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, defeated Idaho, 33-3
    - Quarterfinals, defeated Delaware, 52-18
    - Semifinals, lost to Marshall, 25-13
  - 1997 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, defeated Montana, 19-14
    - Quarterfinals, defeated Western Illinois, 14-12
    - Semifinals, defeated Delaware 23-21
    - Championship, lost to Youngstown State, 10-9
  - 1998 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to UMass, 21-19
  - 2000 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to Georgia Southern, 42-17
  - 2001 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to Maine, 14-10
  - 2002 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, defeated Montana State, 21-14
    - Quarterfinals, defeated Montana, 24-20
    - Semifinals, defeated Villanova, 39-28
    - Championship, lost to Western Kentucky, 34-14
  - 2003 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to Northern Arizona, 35-3
  - 2006 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to Montana, 31-6
  - 2007 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to Eastern Washington, 44-15
  - 2009 FCS Playoffs:
    - 1st round, lost to New Hampshire, 49-13
  - 2013 FCS Playoffs:
    - 2nd round, lost to Jacksonville State, 31-10
  - 2015 FCS Playoffs:
    - 2nd round, lost to Sam Houston State, 34-29



2 FCS National Title Appearances (1997 & 2002) • 16 FCS Playoff Appearances • 14 SLC Championships

**SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

TEAM (STATS/AFCA)	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
Northwestern St.	3-0	1.000	3-5	.375
UIW (7/8)	3-1	.750	8-1	.889
TAMU-Commerce	3-1	.750	5-3	.625
Southeastern (RV/RV)	2-1	.667	5-3	.625
Nicholls	2-2	.500	2-7	.222
HCU	1-3	.250	2-6	.250
Lamar	1-3	.250	1-7	.125
McNeese	0-4	.000	1-7	.125

**WEEK 10 SCHEDULE** (ALL TIMES CENTRAL)

**Saturday, November 5**

UIW at HCU	2 p.m.	ESPN+
Northwestern State at TAMU-Commerce	2 p.m.	ESPN+
Southeastern at Lamar	3 p.m.	ESPN+
Eastern Illinois at McNeese	7 p.m.	ESPN+

**WEEK 9 RESULTS**

Southeastern 28, at McNeese 27  
 at Lamar 24, Nicholls 17  
 UIW 35, at TAMU-Commerce 7  
 UT Martin 52, at HCU 28  
 Northwestern State was open

**POKES PICKED 4TH IN POLL**

- McNeese has been predicted for a 4th place finish in the Southland Conference preseason poll for the second straight year.
- Southeastern Louisiana, the 2013 and 2014 league champion, has been tabbed to win it in 2022 followed by UIW, the 2021 conference champions
- The league has increased its membership by two schools to give it eight football playing programs after adding Lamar following a year hiatus in the WAC, and the addition of Texas A&M-Commerce who is transitioning from the Division II ranks.

**2022 SLC Preseason Poll**

	Total
1. Southeastern (7)	90
2. UIW (7)	86
3. Nicholls (2)	79
4. McNeese	61
5. Northwestern State	44
6. Texas A&M-Commerce	39
7. Lamar	25
8. HBU	24

**PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE**

**FIRST TEAM OFFENSE**

Pos.	Name	School	Class
QB	Lindsey Scott Jr.	UIW	Sr.
RB	Collin Guggenheim*	Nicholls	So.
<b>RB</b>	<b>Deonta McMahon*</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
TE/HB	Lee NeGrotto*	Nicholls	So.
WR	Taylor Grimes*	UIW	Sr.
WR	K.J. Franklin*	Nicholls	Jr.
WR	Gage Larvadain*	Southeastern	So.
<b>OL</b>	<b>Caron Coleman*</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
OL	Nash Jones*	UIW	Jr.
OL	John Allen*	Southeastern	Jr.
OL	Jalen Bell*	Southeastern	Sr.
OL	Evan Roussel*	Nicholls	So.
PK	Gavin Lasseigne*	Nicholls	Jr.
P	Brady Buell*	HBU	Sr.

**FIRST TEAM DEFENSE**

Pos.	Name	School	Class
DL	Perry Ganci*	Nicholls	Jr.
<b>DL</b>	<b>Mason Kinsey*</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
DL	Cameron Preston*	UIW	Gr.
DL	Garrett Crawford*	Southeastern	Jr.
<b>DL</b>	<b>Accord Green*</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
LB	Kelechi Anyalebechi*	UIW	Gr.
<b>LB</b>	<b>Kordell Williams*</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>R-Sr.</b>
DB	Zy Alexander*	Southeastern	So.
DB	Kaleb Culp*	UIW	Jr.
DB	Shemar Bartholomew*	Northwestern State	Sr.
DB	Donniel Ward-McGee*	Southeastern	Sr.
DB	PJ Herrington	Northwestern State	Sr.
KR	Gage Larvadain*	Southeastern	So.
<b>PR</b>	<b>Mason Pierce*</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>R-So.</b>

\* Automatic selection; returning all-conference player

**SECOND TEAM OFFENSE**

Pos.	Name	School	Class
QB	Kohen Granier	Nicholls	Sr.
RB	Taron Jones*	Southeastern	Sr.
RB	Scooter Adams	Northwestern State	R-Jr.
TE/HB	Roger McCuller	UIW	Gr.
WR	Darion Chafin	UIW	Gr.
<b>WR</b>	<b>Mason Pierce</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>R-So.</b>
WR	CJ Turner	Southeastern	R-Sr.
OL	Mark Barthelemy	Nicholls	Sr.
OL	Reid Francis	UIW	Jr.
OL	Caleb Johnson	UIW	Gr.
<b>OL</b>	<b>Calvin Barkat</b>	<b>McNeese</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
OL	Brennan Lanclos	Southeastern	R-Jr.
PK	Carson Mohr	UIW	Sr.
P	Keven Nguyen*	UIW	Gr.

**SECOND TEAM DEFENSE**

Pos.	Name	School	Class
DL	Isaiah Longino	Northwestern State	Sr.
DL	Jomard Valsin	Northwestern State	Sr.
DL	Bryce Cage	Southeastern	So.
LB	Rodney Dansby*	HBU	So.
LB	Isaiah Paul*	UIW	R-Jr.
LB	Hayden Shaheen*	Nicholls	So.
LB	Brennan Young	HBU	Sr.
DB	Elliott Davison	UIW	Jr.
DB	Jordan Jackson	Nicholls	Jr.
DB	Isaiah Cash	HBU	So.
DB	Brandon Richard	UIW	Sr.
DB	Coi Miller	HBU	Sr.
KR	Ce'Cori Tolds	UIW	Gr.
PR	Gage Larvadain	Southeastern	So.

\* Automatic selection; returning all-conference player

**SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE FOOTBALL NEWS AND NOTES**

**SOUTHLAND SLATE FEATURES FOUR GAMES THIS WEEK**

• Action around the Southland is featured by a key contest in the conference title race, with three other intriguing contests.



**UIW at TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE**

- Saturday's key game in league action will have major implications on the Southland title race, as 3-0 A&M-Commerce hosts 2-1 UIW.
- This game features the Southland's top two scoring offenses and top two scoring defenses.
- UIW and A&M-Commerce each also still have 3-0 Northwestern State on their schedules.
- This is the fourth meeting between the two former Lone Star Conference foes, with UIW winning all three previous matchups in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

**UT MARTIN at HCU - 2 p.m. - ESPN+**

- The Huskies will look to rebound from a loss at Commerce by hosting nationally-ranked UT Martin.
- The Skyhawks are ranked in the top 25 after suffering a loss at Tennessee last week.
- This is the first meeting between the two schools.

**NICHOLLS at LAMAR - 3 p.m. - ESPN3**

- The Colonels head west to Beaumont after an exciting win over McNeese. Lamar is searching for its first win of the season.
- This all-time series is tied 6-6, with Nicholls on a five-game winning streak.
- Lamar is 4-2 in games played in Beaumont, with the last home win in 2013.

**SOUTHEASTERN at McNEESE - 7 p.m. - ESPN+**

- The conference nightcap features McNeese's homecoming contest for the 49th meeting between the in-state foes.
- McNeese holds a 25-23 lead in the all-time series, but Southeastern has won the last three meetings.
- The Cowboys are 18-6 in games played in Lake Charles.
- The last four meetings in the series have been one-score games.



**McNEESE SCHEDULE NOTES**

- The Cowboys opened the season on the road for the third time in the last five years and the second time against a Big Sky Conference opponent (at Northern Colorado in 2018 - won 17-14), falling to Montana State by a 40-17 score.
- **Montana State:** The Cowboys and Bobcats met for just the second time in history and first in the regular season. McNeese defeated Montana State 21-14 in the first round of the 2002 FCS playoffs in Lake Charles. The Cowboys went on to play for the national championship for the second time in school history, falling to Western Kentucky by a 34-14 score.
- **Rice:** The Cowboys dropped a 52-10 decision to Rice in the first-ever meeting between the two schools.
- **Alcorn State:** The Cowboys welcome back Alcorn State to The Hole for the second time in the last four seasons. McNeese is 4-0 all-time against the Braves, having won 17-14 in 2019. This game will also mark the return of 7 p.m. kick-offs, the first time that has happened since 2013, and will be under the lights for the first time since 2019 after Hurricane Laura destroyed the standards in August 2020.
- **Mississippi College:** The Cowboys hold a 3-0 all-time lead over the Division II Choctaws. Mississippi College is a member of the powerful Gulf South Conference, a league where Cowboys' head coach Gary Goff competed in the last two seasons.
- **Incarnate Word:** The Cowboys will open up Southland Conference play at the defending conference champions. The two squads split the series last season with UIW winning 31-0 at San Antonio and the Cowboys coming back with a 28-20 upset win in Lake Charles and snapping a three-game losing streak to the Cardinals.
- **Texas A&M-Commerce:** This game will mark the first meeting between the two schools since 1971 when Commerce went by East Texas Baptist. The Lions won the first meeting, 57-26, in 1970 while the Cowboys took a 47-3 win the following year.
- **Nicholls:** The two teams have traded wins the last six meetings while the home team has won five of the last six. Nicholls held off the Cowboys 24-14 in Lake Charles last year. McNeese leads the all-time series 31-15.
- **Southeastern:** The Cowboys will host the Lions for their homecoming game this season while looking to snap a three-game losing streak. McNeese leads 24-22 all-time. McNeese head coach Gary Goff was the WR coach for the Lions in 2003-04 while Cowboys' WR coach Felton Huggins was a record-holder WR under Goff.
- **Eastern Illinois:** McNeese is 2-0 all-time vs. the Panthers with a 49-7 win at home in the second game of the 1993 season.
- **HBU:** This game will be played at HBU for the second straight season. McNeese leads the all-time series 4-0 and posted a 44-3 win last year.
- **Lamar:** The Battle of the Border returns after a year hiatus. McNeese leads 28-15-1 all-time and has held the upper hand in the series since Lamar's return to football in 2010 with the Cowboys holding an 8-3 advantage.

**POKES vs. THE OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE**

- Saturday's game against Eastern Illinois will mark the 9th meeting against a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.
- The Cowboys are 6-2 all-time against OVC teams - 2-0 vs. Eastern Illinois, 4-1 vs. UT Martin, and 0-1 vs. Tennessee State.
- The Cowboys' last matchup against an OVC team was vs. the Panthers in 1993.
- Tennessee State beat McNeese 26-23 in the 1972 Grantland Rice Bowl.

**NOTES ON THE COWBOYS**

- In all four conference losses, McNeese trailed by one score or led in the fourth quarter (led 27-21 with 13:44 vs. SLU; led 35-34 with 11:15 left at Nicholls; 28-20 at UIW with less than 10 minutes to play; 20-15 vs. TAMUC with 12 minutes remaining).
- After playing its first five games without an interception, McNeese has picked off 7 passes in the last three games and has gone from last in the league to 3rd, just 2 behind leader SLU (9).
- The 3 picks vs. SLU was the first 3-interception game for the Cowboys since picking off 3 at HCU last fall.
- McNeese has scored in all 12 of its red-zone appearances over the last four games with 11 of those scores being TDs (1 FG).
- Averaged 19 points and 309 yards of offense through the first six games of the season... the last two the Cowboys have averaged 31 points and 361 yards of offense.
- Ranked No. 1 in the SLC in fumbles recovered (10), punt return defense (4.4), and turnovers gained (17).

**ABOUT THE PANTHERS**

- Member of the Ohio Valley Conference and was selected for a 6th place finish in the pre-season poll.
- Coached by Chris Wilkerson who is in his first season as head coach at his alma mater... Wilkerson played for the Panthers and was on the team when EIU came to Lake Charles in the 1993 season... was a defensive lineman and made one tackle in that game.
- Had six players named to the preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference team heading into this season. Wide receiver Isaiah Hill and tight end Jay Vallie were selected on the offensive side of the ball. Defensive linemen Jordan Miles and Tim Varga were joined on the defensive pre-season All-OVC team by safety Jordan Vincent and corner Russell Dandy. Transfer Foday Jalloh was named a top newcomer to watch this season.

**McMAHON LEADS SLC IN RUSHING**

- Senior RB Deonta McMahon continues to lead the Southland Conference in rushing with a 95.1 yards per game average.
- He's looking to become the first Cowboy since 2008 (Toddrick Pendland) to win the league rushing title.
- In addition, he also leads the league with 761 total rushing yards and with 151.3 all-purpose yards per game.
- He rushed for a career-high 138 yards in the Sept. 24 win over Mississippi College to mark his 3rd straight 100-yard rushing game, fourth on the season and 6th in his career.
- He has 7, 100-yard rushing games in his career, ranking him tied as the 8th-most in school history.
- His 4, 100-yard games this season ranks as the 4th-most in school history.
- To date, McMahon has rushed for 1,508 yards in his career, ranking him 26th on the school's career list.
- Attempting to become the first Cowboy player to rush for 1,000 yards in a season since the 2015 season (Marcus Wiltz 1,287).
- Has 18 career rushing TDs, needing 2 to break into the top 15 all-time in school record book.

**McMahon 100-Yard Career Rushing Games:**

- 121 (25 carries) at Nicholls (Oct. 22, 2022)
- 138 (12 carries) vs. Mississippi College (Sept. 24, 2022)
- 102 (10 carries) vs. Alcorn State (Sept. 17, 2022)
- 101 (5 carries) at Rice (Sept. 10, 2022)
- 111 (17 carries) vs. Northwestern State (Nov. 20, 2021)
- 124 (23 carries) at HBU (Nov. 13, 2021)
- 111 (11 carries) vs. Nicholls (Apr. 3, 2021)

**WILLIAMS ADDS TO TACKLING TOTAL**

- Senior LB Kordell Williams leads the Cowboys and is ranked No. 2 in the SLC with 88 total tackles.
- He's 2nd in SLC and 4th FCS with 11.0 tackles per game.
- He has five, 10-tackle games on the season.
- 308 tackles in his career, ranking him 15th on the school's career list.
- Recorded 10 or more tackles 13 times in his career and since recording his first 10-tackle game, has posted 10 or more in 13 of his last 20 games going back to the 2021 spring season.

**WILLIAMS 10+ TACKLE GAMES**

TKLS	Opponent	Date
15	vs. Southeastern	10/29/22
10	vs. Texas A&M-Commerce	10/15/22
12	vs. Mississippi College	9/24/22
15	vs. Alcorn State	9/17/22
12	at Rice	9/10/22
11	vs. Nicholls	11/6/21
12	at Southeastern	10/30/21
11	vs. UIW	10/23/21
17	vs. Southeastern	10/2/21
10	at UIW	9/25/21
11	at Southern	9/18/21
10	at LSU	9/11/21
13	at Sam Houston	4/10/21



**COWBOY TRENDS**

	2021	2022	Streak
September	1-3	1-3	W1
October	2-2	0-4	L5
November	1-2	0-0	L1

**McNeese's Conference Record...**

at home	1-3	0-2	L4
on the road	2-2	0-2	L2

**McNeese's Non-Conference Record...**

at home	0-1	1-1	W1
on the road	1-1	0-2	L2

**McNeese vs. Ranked Opponents...**

overall	1-2	0-2	L3
at home	1-1	0-0	W1
on the road	0-1	0-2	L3
vs. Top 10	0-1	0-1	L2

**McNeese's Record in Games...**

decided by 7 pts or less	1-4	0-2	L6
decided by 3 pts or less	0-2	0-1	L3

**McNeese's Record When Scoring...**

less than 21 points	0-5	0-5	L10
21 or more points	4-2	0-1	L1
24 or more points	4-2	0-1	L1
30 or more points	3-2	1-1	L1

**McNeese's Record When Allowing...**

less than 21 points	3-0	1-0	W4
21 or more points	1-7	0-5	L9
24 or more points	1-6	0-5	L9
30 or more points	0-4	0-7	L11

**McNeese's Record When...**

McNeese scores first	2-4	1-2	L1
Opponent scores first	2-3	0-5	L5
Leading after 1Q	2-2	1-1	L1
Trailing after 1Q	2-4	0-4	L5
Tied after 1Q	0-1	0-2	L3
Leading at halftime	3-1	1-3	L2
Trailing at halftime	1-5	0-5	L8
Tied at halftime	0-1	0-0	L1
Leading after 3Q	3-0	1-1	L4
Trailing after 3Q	1-6	0-6	L10
Tied after 4Q	0-1	0-0	L1

**McNeese's Record When...**

less than 300 yards	1-2	0-2	L3
400+ yards total offense	1-2	1-0	W2
500+ yards total offense	1-0	0-0	W1
600+ yards total offense	0-0	0-0	-
less than 100 yards rush	0-2	0-2	L4
150+ yards rush	4-3	1-5	L3
200+ yards rush	1-1	1-0	W2
250+ yards rush	1-0	1-0	W2
less than 200 yards pass	3-3	1-5	L3
200+ yards pass	1-4	0-2	L3
300+ yards pass	0-1	0-0	L1
350+ yards pass	0-1	0-0	L1
400+ yards pass	0-0	0-0	-

**TEAM AND PLAYER NOTES**

- McNeese scored on its first possession of the game against SLU last Saturday, making it the second time this season the Cowboys scored on their opening drive.
- Cowboys have scored 20 or more first half points in two consecutive games.
- The Cowboys have forced multiple turnovers in all but one game on the season.
- Senior **QB Walker Wood** started his first game behind center last Saturday and threw his first collegiate TD pass.
- All-conference **OL Caron Coleman** has started the last three games after missing the first five due to concussion protocol.
- With 761 rushing yards, **RB Deonta McMahon** is looking to become the first 1,000-yard rusher since the 2013 season (Marcus Wiltz 1,287).
- **WR Mason Pierce** leads the team with 32 catches, a career high in a season for the RS sophomore and has 852 receiving yards, 148 short of becoming just the 27th player in school history to reach the 1,000-yard milestone.
- **Pierce** has caught at least one pass in 21 straight games going back to the 2021 spring season.
- **McMahon** has made at least one catch in 20 consecutive games.
- **McMahon** has scored 7 touchdowns in the last two games and has at least one rushing TD in five consecutive games.
- **WR/KR Aalah Brown** returned his first KO of the season against SLU and going for 44 yards.
- **OL Calvin Barkat** has started 24 straight games.
- **OL Cole LeClair** has started in 22 straight games (8 at McNeese and 14 at Valdosta State last season).
- Reshirt sophomore **DB Darius Shields**, RS freshman **WR Jon McCall** and true freshman **DB Crajean Bennett** made their first career starts last Saturday against the Lions.
- **Bennett** picked off his first collegiate pass against the Lions.
- Sophomore **DB Thomas Miles** picked off his first career pass against the Lions.
- **DB Tyler Barnes** has intercepted a pass in three consecutive games and is now 2nd in the conference with 3 total picks.
- **LB Kordell Williams** has two sacks on the season, both coming in the last three games.
- **K Garrison mith's** 47-yard FG at UIW was the 8th longest in school history (54 is the record by Eric Roberts vs. Northern Iowa in 1991).

**KEEPING AN EYE ON THE RECORD BOOK**

**CAREER CATCHES**

Name (Years)	Catches
1. Jermaine Martin (1999-02)	160
15. Adam Henry (1990-93)	89
Britt Brodhead (2000-03)	89
17. <b>Josh Matthews (2020-)</b>	82
21. Mason Pierce (2019-)	71

**CAREER TOUCHDOWN CATCHES**

Name (Years)	Tds
1. Terence Davis (1992-95)	21
12. Diontae Spencer (2010-13)	11
Jeff Delhomme (1987-90)	11
Jermaine Martin (1999-02)	11
15. James Moore (1969-72)	10
Carlese Franklin (2004-07)	10
<b>Moving Up:</b>	
<b>Mason Pierce (2019-)</b>	9
<b>Josh Matthews (2020-)</b>	9

**CAREER PASS RECEIVING YARDAGE**

Name (Years)	Yards
1. Jermaine Martin (1999-02)	2,636
22. Keith Ortego (1981-84)	1,202
23. Gary Broussard (1973-76)	1,201
24. James Moore (1969-72)	1,124
25. <b>Josh Matthews (2020-)</b>	1,117

**CAREER ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE**

Name (Years)	Yards
1. B.J. Sams (2000-03)	4,903
7. Toddrick Pendland (2006-09)	3,504
8. Diontae Spencer (2010-13)	3,315
<b>On the Move</b>	
<b>Mason Pierce (2019-)</b>	2,204

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<b>On the Move</b>	
<b>Mason Pierce (2019-)</b>	2,204

**CAREER RUSHING TDS**

Name (Years)	Tds
1. Buford Jordan (1980-83)	45
10. Marcus Wiltz (2001-03)	24
Theron McClendon (1978-81)	24
12. Ryan Ross (2014-18)	22
Luke Lawton (2000-03)	22
14. Artie Shankle (1976-79)	21
<b>On the Move</b>	
<b>Deonta McMahon (2020-)</b>	18

**CAREER TACKLES FOR LOSS**

Name (Years)	TFLs
1. Bryan Smith (2004-07)	56.5
10. Rod Royal (2002-03)	33.0
11. Dominique Hill (2014-17)	31.5
Vaalyn Jackson (2004-08)	31.5
<b>On the Move</b>	
<b>Kordell Williams (2018-)</b>	27.0



**2 FCS National Title Appearances (1997 & 2002) • 16 FCS Playoff Appearances • 14 SLC Championships**



**GARY GOFF**

**HEAD COACH**  
**1ST YEAR AT McNEESE (1-7)**  
**11TH SEASON OVERALL (61-60)**  
**VALDOSTA STATE (1996)**



Gary Goff, who led Valdosta State to the program's sixth NCAA National Championship appearance this past Saturday and back-to-back Gulf South Conference titles in his two playing seasons as head coach in Title-town (three overall seasons), was named McNeese's 18th head coach in school history back in December.

Goff finished his VSU career with a 22-3 record. He also coached eight seasons at Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio, and is 60-53 in 10 playing seasons of coaching.

The Blazers finished the 2021 season with a 12-2 record overall, falling in the NCAA Division II National Title to Ferris State. VSU went 6-1 in the Gulf South Conference, sharing the league title with West Florida. Goff was named GSC Coach of the Year for the second time in 2021, as he was Co-GSC Coach of the Year in 2019.

This past season, the Blazers placed 17 players on the All-GSC team including nine on the first unit. Valdosta led the NCAA in total offense for the season, averaging 527.2 yards per game, was second in rushing (267.0, 5th in NCAA) and third in passing (260.2, 30th in NCAA).

Defensively, the Blazers led the league in passing defense (159.9), sixth in rushing defense (188.3) and third in total defense (348.2). Additionally, VSU

averaged 43.2 points per game (2nd in the GSC, 5th NCAA) while allowing just 22.7 points to rank third in the conference.

His team this past season included three Division II Conference Commissioner's Association (D2CCCA) All-Americans - offensive lineman Ralph Singleton (1st team), linebacker Nick Moss (1st team), and defensive lineman Brian Williams (2nd team). Singleton also garnered first team AP All-America honors while Moss earned AP second team honors.

VSU also ranked No. 3 in the NCAA with 320 first downs made, seventh with four defensive TDs scored, seventh in 3rd-down conversion percentage (.500), fourth in red-zone offense percentage (.929), first in sacks allowed per game (0.15), and ninth in tackles for loss allowed per game (3.31).

In 2019 he led the Blazers to a season of 10-1 and 8-0 in Gulf South Conference play, earning Gulf South Conference Co-Coach of the Year honors. Goff continued on the

outstanding tradition of VSU football as the Blazers won their first ten games of the season, ranked No. 1 nationally throughout the regular season and a berth in the second round of the NCAA Division II Football playoffs.

**G o f f**

coached a league-best 13 All-GSC selections in 2019 and GSC Offensive Player of the Year Rogan Wells. Wells earned American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) All-America honors, was a finalist for the prestigious Harlon Hill Trophy and recently named the GSC Offensive Player of the Decade. Along with Wells, senior offensive linemen Adonis Sealey and Brandon Kemp earned All-America honors. Junior long snapper Pippin Davis was named Second Team Academic All-





# HEAD COACH GARY GOFF

America<sup>®</sup> by CoSIDA. Kemp signed an undrafted free agent contract with the Tennessee Titans of the NFL in April.

Under Goff's guidance, the Blazers continued their outstanding offensive play as the team finished second nationally in third down conversion percentage at a .528 clip. The Blazers were fourth nationally in completion percentage (.701), while finishing 14th nationally in first downs gained (276). VSU was 11th nationally in rushing offense at 260.2 yards on the ground per game, while it was 12th nationally in passing efficiency at 162.12. VSU finished third nationally in total offense at 522.1 yards per game, while finishing 20th nationally in scoring offense at 38.9 points per game.

The Blazers also were outstanding on defense as the team was 32nd nationally in total defense, allowing 311.5 yards per game and held teams to a 111.71 passing efficiency for 33rd nationally out of 166 NCAA Division II programs. The Blazer defense held teams to 124.4 yards per game on the ground for 44th nationally. The opposition scored just 18.5 points per game on the Blazers for 23rd nationally and tops in the conference.

Goff arrived at VSU from NCAA Division II Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio, where he was the head coach of the Dragons from 2011-18. In 2018, Goff had his best season at Tiffin as he guided the Dragons to a 9-2 campaign and a 6-2 record in the Great Midwest Conference as the team began the season 9-0. Tiffin was ranked as high as No. 15 in the American Football Coaches Association Top 25 in 2018. Goff had 16 Dragons named to G-MAC All-Conference teams in 2018.

In 2016, Goff guided the Dragons to their first winning season since the 2006 season as the team went 8-3 with Goff earning Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Coach of the Year honors, the first in program history. He had one of the top offenses in

country in 2016 averaging 434.5 yards per game, while his quarterback Antonio Pipkin was a Harlon Hill nominee and was named GLIAC Player of the Year. Pipkin tallied seven Tiffin career records and four GLIAC records, ranking 13th all-time in career total offense, 19th in total offense per game, 27th in career passing yards, and is only the third quarterback at the Division II level to ever accumulate at least 2,000 rushing yards and throw for 10,000 passing yards in a career. That season, Goff also had the program's first Academic All-American as 74 players finished the 2016 fall semester

## GARY GOFF YEAR-BY-YEAR COACHING RECORD

### INSIDE THE NUMBERS

- 11-year Head Coach Veteran
- 2011-2018 (Tiffin University)
- 2019-2021 (Valdosta State University)
- 2019, 2021 GSC Coach of the Year
- 22-3 (.880) Record at Valdosta State
- 38-50 Record at Tiffin University
- 23-10 Final 3 Seasons at Tiffin
- 45-13 (.776) Record in last 5 Seasons
- 2016 GLIAC Coach of the Year
- 14-1 in home games at VSU including 9-0 in 2021
- 30 All-GSC selections with 18 earning 1st team
- 16 All-GLIAC selections

### HEAD COACH

Year	School	Record	Postseason
2022	McNeese	1-7	
2021	Valdosta State	12-2 (6-1 GSC, T-1st)	NCAA Division II National Runner-Up
2020	Valdosta State	No Season Due to Covid	
2019	Valdosta State	10-1 (8-0 GSC, 1st)	NCAA Division II Playoffs 2nd Round
<b>(2 Seasons, 22-3 Overall Record, 14-1 GSC Record)</b>			
2018	Tiffin University	9-2 (6-2 GMAC, T-2nd)	
2017	Tiffin University	6-5 (5-4 GMAC, T-4th)	
2016	Tiffin University	8-3 (7-3 GLIAC, 2nd South, 4th Overall)	
2015	Tiffin University	5-6 (4-6 GLIAC, 4th South, T-11th Overall)	
2014	Tiffin University	5-6 (4-6 GLIAC, T-3rd South, T-7th Overall)	
2013	Tiffin University	2-9 (1-8 GLIAC, T-6th South, T-13th Overall)	
2012	Tiffin University	3-8 (2-8 GLIAC, T-5th South, T-13th Overall)	
2011	Tiffin University	0-11 (0-10 GLIAC, 7th South, 14th Overall)	
<b>(8 Seasons, 38-50 Overall Record, 23-10 Final Three Seasons)</b>			

### ASSISTANT COACH

2010	WV Wesleyan (QB)	9-2
2009	Princeton (WR)	4-6 (WR Coach)
2008	NM State (Co-OC)	3-9, 1-7 WAC (Co-OC; WAC Leader in Passing Offense; WAC Individual Leader in Receptions and Receiving Yards)
2007	NM State (Co-OC)	4-9, 1-7 WAC
2006	NM State (Co-OC)	4-8, 2-6 WAC (WAC Individual Leader in Receptions and Receiving Yards)
2005	NM State (Co-OC)	0-12 (0-8 WAC)
2004	SLU (WR)	7-4 (Coached All-American WR Felton Huggins; Led FCS in Total Offense)
2003	SLU (WR)	5-7 (Helped Restart a Program that hadn't fielded a Team Since 1987)



**HEAD COACH GARY GOFF**



*Head coach Gary Goff with his wife, Tiffanie, son Tyler, and daughter Audrey.*

Titletown, Goff helped lead the Blazers to their first Gulf South Conference title in 1996 and the first two NCAA playoff seasons in program history in 1994 and 1996. Goff began as a walk-on for the Blazers in the spring of 1993 after transferring to VSU from the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. He then earned a scholarship culminating in being named a team captain in 1996. Goff and the Blazers went 35-13 during his career at VSU under Mumme earning letters in 1995 and 1996. While at VSU, Goff and his teammates helped lay the foundation for where the VSU football program is today.

with a 3.0 grade point average or higher.

Prior to Goff's arrival in 2011, Tiffin University was a combined 2-31 from 2008-2010.

Goff joined Tiffin after a highly successful 2010 season at West Virginia Wesleyan where he was the offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. There, he helped guide the team to a massive turnaround as it was 2-8 in 2009 and went 9-2 in 2010, tying for the most wins in school history. The team was ranked nationally for the first time and broke 12 offensive school records.

Before West Virginia Wesleyan, Goff coached at Division I Princeton University where he was the pass game coordinator and receivers coach. He also served as co-offensive coordinator and receivers coach at New Mexico State for four seasons as he helped lead the team to second nationally in passing offense and total offense.

The Aggies broke 21 offensive school records, while ranking 15th nationally in scoring offense. Goff coached the nation's top receiver, two-time All-America selection Chris Williams, who signed with the Cleveland Browns.

Goff, who has served as offensive coordinator for three teams, also was offensive coordinator at Iowa Wesleyan University (2002-03) and coached at Southeastern Louisiana, helping it to lead the nation in total offense. He also had coaching stints at Woodstock (Ga.) High School and Cherokee (Ga.) High School.

He played for former Blazer head coach Hal Mumme and former offensive coordinator Mike Leach at Valdosta State and graduated in 1996. During his time in

Goff earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from VSU and holds a master's degree from Tiffin. Goff is a native of Picayune, Miss., and he and his wife Tiffanie have two children, Tyler and Audrey.





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MEET THE COWBOYS



**0** KOBY DURU  
WR • Jr. • 6-2 • 200  
Diamond Bar, Calif.



**1** MASON PIERCE  
WR • So. • 5-7 • 152  
Pearland, Texas



**2** AALAH BROWN  
WR • Fr. • 5-10 • 185  
Valdosta, Ga.



**3** CAM RANSOM  
QB • So. • 6-3 • 220  
Lakeland, Fla.



**4** JOHNQUAI LEWIS  
DB • So. • 6-2 • 182  
Hialeah, Fla.



**5** D'ANGELO DURHAM  
RB • Sr. • 6-1 • 200  
Augusta, Ga.



**5** JAVON DAVIS  
DB • Fr. • 6-0 • 170  
River Ridge, La.



**6** JOSH MATTHEWS  
WR • Sr. • 6-2 • 200  
Baton Rouge, La.



**6** TYLER BARNES  
S • Sr. • 5-10 • 195  
D'Iberville, Miss.



**7** RAE'KWON STARKS  
DB • So. • 6-0 • 173  
Harvey, La.



**8** MALIK WELCH  
DB • Jr. • 6-1 • 195  
Torrance, Calif.



**9** WALKER WOOD  
QB • Sr. • 6-0 • 195  
Lexington, Kent.



**9** AMAUD WILLIS-DALTON  
LB • Jr. • 6-1 • 200  
Cypress, Texas



**10** KNOX KADUM  
QB • So. • 6-1 • 200  
Rome, Ga.



**11** DILLON SIMON  
DB • R-Fr. • 5-9 • 190  
Lake Charles, La.



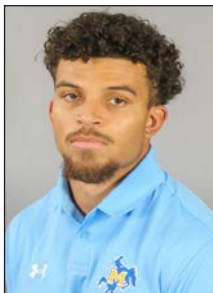
**11** TAG STELLY  
WR • Fr. • 5-11 • 185  
Sulphur, La.



**12** CAMERON McCALISTER  
QB • Fr. • 6-3 • 165  
Friendswood, Texas



**13** RYAN ROBERTS  
QB • R-Fr. • 6-0 • 185  
Lafayette, La.



**14** SEVERYN FOSTER  
WR • R-Jr. • 6-1 • 208  
Lincoln, Neb.



**15** JALEN JOHNSON  
WR • So. • 5-9 • 175  
New Orleans, La.



**17** GERELL GREEN  
DB • Jr. • 5-10 • 166  
Birmingham, Ala.



**19** THOMAS MILES  
DB • So. • 6-1 • 192  
Alexandria, La.



**18** NATHAN BARNETT  
WR • Fr. • 6-1 • 185  
Houston, Texas



**20** DEONTA McMAHON  
RB • Sr. • 5-9 • 185  
Frostproof, Fla.



MEET THE COWBOYS



**22** KYLE KLINK  
TE • Jr. • 6-4 • 245  
Middletown, Md.



**23** KORDELL WILLIAMS  
LB • Sr. • 5-10, 205  
Carencro, La.



**24** JOSH PARKER  
RB • So. • 5-10 • 190  
Baton Rouge, La.



**25** JOSHON BARBIE  
RB • Fr. • 5-9 • 180  
Harvey, La.



**25** DARIUS SHIELDS  
DB • So. • 5-10 • 184  
Houston, Texas



**26** RICHARD AKERS  
DB • R-Fr. • 5-11 • 160  
Parkville, Md.



**27** ENOS LEWIS  
DB • Sr. • 5-10 • 190  
Miami, Fla.



**27** SIMEON JONES  
WR • Fr. • 6-1 • 181  
Lafayette, La.



**28** JOE WARD  
DB • Fr. • 5-11 • 170  
Lake Charles, La.



**28** MARCUS MCELROY  
RB • Sr. • 6-0 • 236  
Denver, Colo.



**29** GARLAND ROBERTSON  
DB • Jr. • 5-11 • 180  
LaPlace, La.



**30** CJ MOYA  
PK • So. • 5-10 • 180  
Naples, Fla.



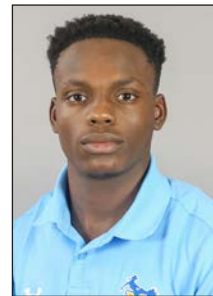
**31** TWILLIE LOVETT  
DB • So. • 6-1 • 164  
Belle Chasse, La.



**32** JEROME ROBINSON  
DB • Fr. • 5-11 • 170  
Zachary, La.



**33** IVORY ROBERTS  
RB • So. • 5-7 • 190  
Houston, Texas



**33** CRAJAUN BENNETT  
DB • Fr. • 5-11 • 160  
Iowa, La.



**34** JORDAN TOASTON  
LB • Fr. • 6-3 • 230  
Baton Rouge, La.



**35** BRANDON HAYDEN  
PK • So. • 6-0 • 194  
Sulphur, La.



**35** RYAN BRUBAKER  
LB • Fr. • 6-2 • 215  
Flower Mound, Texas



**36** TREMAYNE EVANS  
DB • So. • 5-10 • 174  
Houston, Texas



**37** GARRISON SMITH  
PK • Fr. • 5-10 • 150  
Norwalk, Ohio



**38** CALLUM EDDINGS  
P • So. • 5-11 • 160  
Melbourne, Australia



**39** JAKE HELD  
DB • Fr. • 5-11 • 170  
Youngstown, La.



**40** TY FUSELIER  
HB • R-Fr. • 5-10 • 227  
Kinder, La.



MEET THE COWBOYS



**41** TYRONNE HAYES  
TE • Fr. • 6-3 • 205  
New Orleans, La.



**42** EARENEST GRAYSON III  
DE • So. • 6-3 • 250  
Tulsa, Okla.



**43** CALE JACOBSEN  
LB • Fr. • 6-0 • 195  
Longville, La.



**44** PHILLIP BRADFORD  
DL • Fr. • 6-6 • 318  
Monroe, La.



**45** SEDRIC APPLEWHITE  
DL • Fr. • 6-6 • 200  
Bossier City, La.



**47** KHAYLON CHAPEL  
DE • R-So. • 6-3 • 249  
Haughton, La.



**48** MICAH DAVEY  
LB • R-Fr. • 6-2 • 236  
Baton Rouge, La.



**49** MASEY LEWIS  
DE • Fr. • 6-4 • 250  
Breaux Bridge, La.



**50** TREY VONDENSTEIN  
LS • Jr. • 6-3 • 199  
Katy, Texas



**52** MASON KINSEY  
DE • Sr. • 6-2 • 246  
Mansfield, Texas



**54** PAYTON PARKS-SMITH  
OL • Fr. • 6-5 • 287  
Sterlington, La.



**55** LANCE BLUDAU  
OL • Fr. • 6-1 • 270  
Hallettsville, Texas



**55** JOEY McNEELY  
DL • Jr. • 6-4 • 300  
Kinder, La.



**56** BRAYDEN ADAMS  
LB • R-Jr. • 6-2 • 218  
Lake Charles, La.



**57** WIL ROGERS  
DL • Jr. • 6-4 • 300  
Hampton, Ga.



**59** GRAYSON MAYS  
DL • R-Fr. • 6-2 • 234  
Bellville, Texas



**60** PAXTON CROUSE  
OL • So. • 5-9 • 255  
Ponchatoula, La.



**61** COLE LeCLAIR  
OL • Fr. • 6-3 • 311  
Middleburg, Fla.



**62** JUAN GONZALES  
OL • R-Fr. • 6-1 • 321  
New Orleans, La.



**63** CHARLEY ZENO  
OL • Jr. • 6-2 • 313  
Cibolo, Texas



**65** JAMES REDDICK  
OL • Fr. • 6-3 • 320  
Fort Valley, Ga.



**66** DYLAN DALUZART  
OL • So. • 6-3 • 300  
Alexandria, La.



**67** JAYDEN DAVIS  
OL • Fr. • 6-4 • 280  
Beaumont, Texas



**68** JAYLN EASTON  
OL • Fr. • 6-5 • 295  
Lake Charles, La.



MEET THE COWBOYS



**69** AARON MCDANIEL  
OL • R-Fr. • 6-3 • 336  
Oakdale, La.



**70** HEZEKIAH NEASON  
OL • So. • 6-4 • 323  
Amite, La.



**71** CARON COLEMAN  
OL • Sr. • 6-2 • 322  
St. Louis, Mo.



**72** CAMERON FOSTER  
OL • So. • 6-3 • 306  
Shreveport, La.



**73** CALVIN BARKAT  
OL • Sr. • 6-3 • 290  
Sachse, Texas



**75** HAYES CREEL  
OL • Fr. • 6-7 • 300  
Mt. Hermon, La.



**77** CHRIS STEPHENS  
OL • So. • 6-4 • 334  
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



**78** TREY WINTERS  
OL • So. • 6-7 • 344  
Ankeny, Iowa



**79** GREG KNOX  
OL • Fr. • 6-6 • 305  
Pineville, La.



**80** JON McCALL  
WR • R-Fr. • 6-1 • 203  
New Orleans, La.



**81** KAMERAN SENEGAL  
WR • Fr. • 5-9 • 160  
Zachary, La.



**83** CARSON POWERS  
TE • Fr. • 6-3 • 220  
Fort Myers, Fla.



**85** ZACH HAYES  
WR • Jr. • 5-11 • 191  
Welsh, La.



**86** MARKEL COTTON  
WR • R-So. • 6-1 • 203  
Franklinton, La.



**87** JOE BROWN  
TE • Fr. • 6-2 • 237  
Crowley, La.



**90** INCEAS OPUTA  
DL • Fr. • 6-2 • 225  
Katy, Texas



**91** WELLAND WILLIAMS  
DL • R-Fr. • 6-1 • 271  
Reserve, La.



**92** ARTHUR LOTT  
DL • R-So. • 6-3 • 268  
Missouri City, Texas



**93** MASRY MAPIOU  
DL • Sr. • 6-5 • 270  
York, Neb.



**96** C.J. SEMIEN  
DE • Sr. • 6-3 • 251  
Lake Charles, La.



**99** ACCORD GREEN  
DL • Sr. • 6-4 • 271  
New Orleans, La.



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**RYAN ALLGOOD**

**ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/OFFENSIVE LINE  
RECRUITING COORDINATOR  
1ST YEAR AT McNEESE  
OKLAHOMA (2011)**



Ryan Allgood is in his first season at McNeese and has been with head coach Gary Goff the past five seasons - two at Tiffin University and the last three at Valdosta where his offensive lines have been a key part in the success of the Blazers putting up big offensive numbers both on the ground and in the air.

He'll serve as Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line and as the Recruiting Coordinator

His offensive line led the Gulf South Conference by allowing just four sacks in 14 games in 2021 to help the Blazers reach the NCAA Division II National Championship game.

In 2019, Allgood helped guide VSU to its second-straight Gulf South Conference title and a berth in the second round of the NCAA playoffs with a 10-1 record and an 8-0 mark in Gulf South Conference play. The Blazers finished the season third nationally in total offense at 522.1 yards per game for tops in the conference, while the team was 12th nationally in passing efficiency (162.12) to lead the league and was first in the league in rushing offense at 260.2 yards per game for 11th nationally. VSU rushing offense was best in the nation at 6.8 yards per carry, while the team was second nationally in third down conversion percentage at 53% and VSU finished fifth nationally in sacks allowed at just 0.73 sacks allowed per game.

Allgood's line blocked for two-time Harlon Hill finalist quarterback Rogan Wells who earned All-America honors for the second-straight season and Wells was named GSC Player of the Year for the second-straight season in 2019. Allgood coached two linemen to first team all-region honors in Adonis Sealey and Brandon Kemp. Sealey earned All-America accolades and Kemp signed a free agent contract with the Tennessee Titans.

At Tiffin in 2018, his unit continued to excel, leading an offense averaging 30.4 points per game, 271.2 passing yards per game and 425.7 total yards per game. He had three students-athletes earn all-conference honors. In 2017, the offensive line aided a Tiffin offense which averaged 23.8 points per game, 366 passing yards and 202.5 rushing yards per game. His line was a big part of JaQuan Hardy's 1,000-yard rushing season, marking the first for the Dragons since 2005. Allgood also had three all-conference selections in 2017.

Prior to Tiffin, Allgood was graduate assistant at his alma mater the University of Oklahoma. There as a graduate assistant, the of-

fensive line had one of its most productive years in Sooner history as it ranked first nationally in passing efficiency (193.79) and pass completion percentage (.706), while ranking second nationally in total offense at 554.8 yards per game and third in scoring offense (43.9 ppg). OU also led the Big 12 Conference in allowing just 1.6 sacks per game.

Allgood played for the Sooners from 2006-2008 and was a student assistant from 2009-2011 and a graduate assistant from 2014-2016. In 2015, he helped an offensive line unit featuring First Team All-Big 12 selections Ty Darlington and Nila Kasitati. Darlington won the Campbell Trophy, Wuerffel Trophy and Bowden Award for his efforts on the field and in the classroom. OU had a pair of freshmen at the tackle positions, including left tackle Orlando Brown, who was named a Freshman All-America selection by Sporting News. That line led the way for an offense that ranked fourth in scoring, 17th in passing and 22nd in rushing. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Oklahoma in 2011.

In 2014, Allgood helped OU to lead the nation in sacks allowed at just 9.0 for the season, while the Sooners led the Big 12 and ranked tenth nationally averaging 261.2 yards rushing, the highest total produced by the Sooners under head coach Bob Stoops. The offensive line helped freshman Samaje Perine lead the Big 12 in rushing (131.8 ypg), and set the FBS single-game rushing record with 427 yards against Kansas (11/22/14).

In between his stints with the Sooners, Allgood was the offensive line coach during the 2013 season at NCAA Division III College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., where it won the UMAC Championship. He also spent two years as a graduate assistant at Fort Hays State in Fort Hays, Kan., where he coached tight ends, full backs and was the assistant offensive line coach in 2011-12.





**TONY PECORARO**

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/LINEBACKERS**  
**1ST YEAR AT McNEESE**  
**FLORIDA STATE (2003)**



Tony Pecoraro joins the Cowboys after spending the 2021 season at South Alabama and has had stops at Kansas, Florida Atlantic, Southern Mississippi, Alcorn State, North Alabama, Webber International and Florida State, where he earned his bachelor's degree.

Prior to his year at South Alabama as a quality control analyst, Pecoraro served his second stint at Southern Miss in 2020. Before then, he was a quality control analyst at Kansas. In 2018, he was defensive coordinator and linebacker coach at Florida Atlantic.

Pecoraro, in his first Southern Miss stop, helped lead two Top 20 total defenses nationally.

He guided the defense to a No. 15 ranking in his first season. Southern Miss played in the 2016 R&L Carrier New Orleans Bowl where the defense was led by All-Conference defensive linemen Dylan Bradley and Xavier Thigpen, and linebackers D'Nerius Antoine and Elijah Parker.

The 2017 Southern Miss team, which finished No. 20 nationally in total defense, participated in the Walk-On's Independence Bowl and were led defensively by C-USA selections Thigpen and Curtis Mikell.

Before going to Southern Miss, Pecoraro worked as Alcorn State's defensive coordinator, a position he held for four seasons. His efforts at Alcorn State helped to lead the Braves to two Southwestern Athletic Conference championships and was instrumental in helping lead the Braves to the 2014 HBCU National Championship.

Prior to his stint in Lorman, Pecoraro served a two-year stint at North Alabama as defensive coordinator. Pecoraro had an integral part in North Alabama's success, producing five All-Americans and 11 All-Gulf States Conference players. In both seasons at North Alabama, Pecoraro helped lead

the Lions to back-to-back appearances in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Previous to North Alabama, Pecoraro earned his stripes during eight years of collegiate coaching, including five seasons over two separate stints at Florida State (2002-03, 2005-08).

During his tenure at FSU, Pecoraro was a part of Atlantic Coast Conference championship teams in 2002-03. The Seminoles played in five bowl games during Pecoraro's time in Tallahassee, including the Nokia Sugar Bowl in 2003, the FedEx Orange Bowl in 2004, the Music City Bowl in 2007, the Champs Sports Bowl in 2008 and the Gator Bowl in 2009.

Pecoraro began his collegiate coaching career at Webber International University in Babson Park, Fla., where he worked as a graduate assistant from 2004-05. In 2006, Pecoraro was promoted to a full-time position, coaching the defensive line and serving as recruiting coordinator. During this time, Pecoraro also earned his M.B.A.

In his first experience with FSU, Pecoraro served as a student assistant from the 2002-03 season working directly with the quarterbacks. He also earned his Bachelor's degree in Sports Management.

Pecoraro is married to the former Tania Fernandez, and have a son, Rocky Tarim and a daughter, Isabella Amore.





**PHILLIP ELY**

**QUARTERBACKS  
1ST YEAR AT McNEESE  
TOLEDO (2019)**



Phillip Ely reunites with head coach Gary Goff and will coach the quarterbacks.

Ely spent the 2021 season as the Blazer's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, guiding the offense to averaging more than 500 yards and 41 points per game.

Prior to Valdosta State, he joined the Western Carolina coaching staff in mid-March 2019 as the program's quarterbacks' coach after two years as the quarterback coach and a co-offensive coordinator at Tiffin University.

Ely earned his coaching start as a graduate assistant at Iowa State in Ames, Iowa, first on the defensive side of the ball with the secondary before moving back to offense where he mentored with the Cyclones' quarterbacks and wide receivers. From there, Ely landed the quarterbacks coach and co-coordinator role at Tiffin University that also included play-calling duties.

In his first season at Tiffin, Ely coordinated a passing attack that featured a freshman QB in Nick Watson who went on to complete nearly 61-percent of his passes for 2,124 yards and 12 touchdowns. Last season, Tiffin averaged 30.4 points and 271.2 yards passing per game, throwing for just shy of 3,000 yards collectively as a team. Watson improved to 65-percent passing with 23 TD strikes against just eight interceptions, collecting All-Great Midwest Conference honors.

In 2018, Tiffin opened the year with nine consecutive wins and its highest national ranking at No. 15, but just missed the postseason following a pair of consecutive losses in the final two weeks of the season.

A two-time graduate of the University of Toledo, Ely was a two-year starter on a pair of bowl champion-

ship teams in the Rockets' fast-tempo, spread offense. Twice elected team captain, Ely threw for over 3,000 yards and 23 touchdowns against only 10 interceptions in 2015, collecting All-Mid-American Conference honors.

Ely guided the Rockets to an 11-2 record including wins over No. 12 Arkansas and No. 21 Temple, the latter victory coming in the Boca Raton Bowl in which he collected MVP honors. He parlayed that season into an invite to NFL preseason camps with both the Tennessee Titans and Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the spring of 2016.

Ely began his collegiate career at the University of Alabama as a highly touted recruit from Plant High in Tampa, Fla., where he played in three state championships, winning a pair of Florida state titles. He was additionally dubbed a U.S. Army All-American as a prep. Ely played in seven games in 2012 for the Crimson Tide while serving as the back-up to A.J. McCarron for two seasons.

Ely and his wife, the former Ms. Kallie Case of Suwanee, Ga., who played collegiate softball at Alabama, were married in June 2018. The couple has one child, daughter, Raelynn Estelle.





**MARC YELLOCK**

DEFENSIVE LINE  
1ST YEAR AT McNEESE  
EAST CAROLINA (2000)



Marc Yellock joined Gary Goff at Valdosta State in the summer of 2020 and arrived to Titledown from the University of North Texas where he served as defensive line coach since 2017. Yellock helped coach the Mean Green to nine wins in both 2017 and 2018 and a pair of bowl game appearances.

He's in his first season at McNeese and will coach a talented defensive line group.

In 2018, Yellock's position group helped anchor a much-improved defense that allowed 10.8 points per game less than it did in 2017. Defensive end LaDarius Hamilton (33 tackles, 11 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks and three quarterback hurries) was named First Team All-Conference USA. Fellow starters Ulaiasi Tauaalo (41 tackles, 4.0 tackles for loss and a sack) and Roderick Young (30 tackles, 6.0 tackles for loss and 3.0 sacks) as well as key fixture Dion Novil (34 tackles, 7.0 tackles for loss and a half sack) performed very well for North Texas.

Prior to North Texas, Yellock spent season seasons on staff at East Carolina under former head coach Ruffin McNeil, working with the defensive line from 2010-15. Just a head of the 2016 National Football League season, Yellock worked with the New Orleans Saints defensive line and special teams during the preseason.

While at ECU, he oversaw a unit that played a huge part in being ranked 13th nationally in rushing defense in 2013 and 2014. In 2013, the team finished 13th in sacks per game at 2.9, while six of his linemen earned all-conference honors and another earned a spot on the all-freshman team. During 2012, the duo of Michael Brooks and Lee Pegues were the key components of the Pirate defensive line. The pair earned All-Conference USA honors at defensive end and, along with Terry Williams and fellow nose tackle Terrell Stanley combined to tally 149 stops and 175 TFLs.

In just his second year in charge of the ECU defensive line, the Pirates saw a staggering turnaround, vaulting 64 spots on the Football Bowl Subdivision total defense rankings, holding opponents to 102.5 fewer yards per game than the year before. Yellock guided Brooks to a 55-tackle effort during the 2011 campaign – the most among all

Pirate linemen. He gained additional experience during the summer of 2009, completing an internship with the New Orleans Saints where he worked with the organization's defensive line and special teams unit.

Before ECU, Yellock was the defensive line coach at Elon in 2006 where he coached First Team All-Southern Conference honorees Andre Campbell and Eric Ludwig, helping lift the Phoenix to the No. 11 ranking in total defense and No. 15 in rushing defense in the country at the Football Championship Subdivision level.

Yellock began his coaching career with his first stint at ECU as a defensive staff assistant in 2004 and 2005. He played for the Pirates from 1997-2000 for then-head coach Steve Logan. Yellock appeared in 26 games across four seasons, starting 18 and was a component of two ECU bowl teams.

He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from ECU in 2000. Yellock worked for two years at Metric, Inc., of Greenville, N.C., serving as a lab analyst for one year and as an analytical chemist for one year before returning to football as a linebackers coach at J.H. Rose High School in 2002. He followed his one-year prep stint by joining the Pirate staff as a video intern in 2003, before being elevated to a staff assistant a year later.

Yellock and his wife Rashida have five children; Hunter, Taylor, Ariel, Chloe and Sage.





**THOMAS REESE**

**RUNNING BACKS/SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR  
1ST YEAR AT McNEESE  
WINGATE (2011)**



Thomas Reese is in his first season at McNeese and will coach the running backs as well as coordinate special teams.

Reese follows head coach Gary Goff from Valdosta where he coached the RBs and was special teams coordinator in 2021.

2021 was a banner year for Valdosta in the running department as three players rushed for over 1,000 yards each while the team racked up over 3,700 yards on the ground.

Prior to Valdosta State, Reese spent ththree seasons at Mars Hill University as the wide receivers coach. During Reese’s first year with the Lions, he was also named Recruiting Coordinator and Special Teams Coordinator.

Reese coached Craig Rucker during the 2018 & 19 campaigns as Rucker rack up several postseason accolades including two-time SAC Offensive Player of the Year, two-time AFCA First Team All-American, two-time D2Football.com First Team All-American, Don Hansen First Team All-American (2018) and Second Team All-American (2019), two-time D2CCA Second Team All-American, and two-time Harlon Hill trophy nominee, recognizing the best players in DII football. Rucker currently holds several SAC and MHU records.

Reese oversaw an offense in 2019 that led the South Atlantic Conference in total offense per game (430 ypg), total passing (3,367 yards), passing yards per game (306.1 ypg), and first downs per game (23.7).

Prior to joining Mars Hill, Reese was the running backs and tight ends coach at Valdosta High School. In addition to those responsibilities, he also served as special teams coordinator, recruiting coordinator and academic coordinator. In his first year with the Wildcats in 2016, Reese headed the tight end coaching role and special teams coordinator position, while helping lead VHS to a GHSA AAAAAA State Championship and appearance in the Geico State Champions Bowl in Dallas, TX.

Reese’s first foray into collegiate coaching took place in 2011 when he took the position of wide receivers coach at Guilford College. While serving as wide receivers coach, he

also took on the roles of special teams assistant, offensive video coordinator and travel coordinator. During his three years at Guilford, Reese coached two First Team All-ODAC wide receivers in Ben King and Adam Smith.

For the 2014 season, he accepted the role of wide receivers coach and in 2015, the running backs coaching position at Valdosta State University, in addition to also being a special teams assistant and academic coordinator. While at VSU, Reese coached All-American Running Back Cedric O’Neal. During his time at Valdosta State, the team went 19-6 along with two appearances in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Reese played quarterback at Wingate University from 2007-10, earning his bachelor’s degree in Physical Education. In his final season at Wingate, he helped lead the Bulldogs to the South Atlantic Conference crown and an appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Continuing his education at Valdosta State University, Reese earned his master’s degree in Public Administration in 2016.

Reese has a wife, Sarah, a daughter, Kamden, and son, Reagan.





## FELTON HUGGINS

WIDE RECEIVERS  
1ST YEAR AT McNEESE  
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA (2006)



Former Southland Conference All-American wide receiver Felton Huggins joins Gary Goff's staff for his first as a Cowboy but no stranger to Cowboy Stadium.

As a member of the Southeastern Louisiana Lions, Huggins, coached by Goff at the time, torched the Cowboys in 2004 with 13 catches for 235 yards in a 51-17 route over the 6th-ranked Cowboys, setting new Cowboy Stadium records for most catches and receiving yards in a game that still stand today.

He was previously on the staff at Charleston Southern in 2019 as the offensive coordinator and inside wide receivers coach. He arrived to CSU after six years at LaGrange College in Georgia where he was the associate head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach, and academic coordinator.

Huggins' first season calling the plays for the Bucs put CSU players in the top-100 in FCS in multiple offensive categories, including pass efficiency, passing touchdowns, passing yards, points, receiving touchdowns, scoring, and yards per attempt. Kameron Brown set the CSU single season receiving touchdown record (10), while the Bucs posted the second-most first downs per game in CSU history (20.1)

The Bucs posted a trio of All-Big South Second Team selections (Kameron Brown – WR, Zack Evans – OL, Stephen Haralambis – OL) as the Bucs recorded the third-most total offensive yards in a CSU single season (4,341). A CSU record 21 different receivers caught passes in the 2019 season as well with five different receivers hauling in at least 20 catches.

Huggins' offenses at LaGrange were often among the best in the USA South conference. In his six years with the team, the Panthers ranked top five in the conference in total offense all but one year and finished as high as second in 2017 when they averaged 408.6 yards per game.

In 2014, Huggins saw senior receiver Griffin Roelle earn USA South All-Conference honors. Rolle broke his own single-season record with 67 pass receptions and graduated as the Panthers' leading receiver with 126 receptions.

During the 2013 season, the Panthers' receivers broke or tied all of the team's receiving records. Sophomore Marsalis Jackson was named the USA South Offensive Rookie of the

Year after setting school records of 902 receiving yards and 12 touchdown receptions. Freshman Ervens Oge (713) and junior Griffin Roelle (675) also broke the previous season record for receiving yards in a season (450).

Huggins played collegiately at Southeastern Louisiana. He started for three years and finished his time at the school as the career leader in receptions (162) and receiving yards (2,350) when he finished his collegiate career. Huggins still holds school records for catches in a season (84) and receiving yards in a season (1,313). In addition, he is tied for the most catches in a game (13) and has the single game receiving yards record of 266. Huggins received third team All-America and All-Conference honors his junior and senior years.

Huggins played six seasons of professional football between the Jacksonville Jaguars, Frankfurt Galaxy, Buffalo Bills, and Montreal Alouettes.





**RYAN NEHLEN**

**TIGHT ENDS**  
**1ST YEAR AT McNEESE**  
**WEST VIRGINIA (2012)**



Ryan Nehlen joined McNeese’s staff as the tight ends coach in July of 2022.

He comes to McNeese after spending the last four seasons as the offensive analyst at West Virginia under head coaches Dana Holgorsen and Neal Brown.

Prior to returning to West Virginia, where he was a two-year letterman for the Mountaineers at wide receiver, he served two years as a graduate assistant for two years at Michigan where he worked with the offensive staff during the 2016 season and the defensive staff in 2017. The Wolverines won 10 games during the 2016 season.

Prior to arriving in Ann Arbor, he had a short stint as an offensive graduate assistant at Marshall and was the receivers coach for Glenville State during the 2015 season. He worked as a graduate assistant coach at Akron during the 2014 season.

He was a two-year letterman at wide receiver for the West Virginia University. Nehlen contributed to a successful offense and a team that held a 10-3 record in 2011 and a 7-6 record in 2012.

He was honored with All-Academic Team honors from the Big East (2011) and Big 12 (2012) during his career.

Nehlen earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise physiology from WVU in 2012. He and his wife, Micah, have a daughter, Penelope. He is the son of WVU football equipment manager Dan Nehlen and the grandson of Hall of Fame and former WVU head coach Don Nehlen.



**MIKE JOHNSON**

DEFENSIVE BACKS  
1ST YEAR AT McNEESE  
BRYANT (2014)



Mike Johnson comes to Lake Charles and McNeese after spending the last two seasons with Coach Gary Goff at Valdosta State, helping the Blazers to the 2021 NCAA Division II National Championship game as the squad’s defensive backs coach.

During that title run, Johnson coached VSU safety Mondrell Jefferson who earned All-Super Region Two honors while DB Christian Matthew earned All-GSC first team accolades. Two other of his DBs earned all-conference second team honors - Cory Roberts and Taurus Dotson.

Prior to arriving to Titledown in 2019, Johnson coached at Huntingdon College where he served as defensive backs coach since the 2016 season.

In 2019, Johnson coached the Blazers secondary and part of a defense that was second in the GSC and 32nd nationally in total defense at 311.5 yards allowed per game. The Blazers were 23rd nationally and first in the GSC in scoring defense allowing 18.5 points per game as the Blazers won their second-straight Gulf South Conference title and a berth in the second round of the NCAA playoffs. The Blazer “D” allowed 193 first downs for third in the GSC, while holding teams to a .331 clip on third down for second in the league and 45th nationally. VSU also allowed just 187.1 yards passing for the season for 40th nationally and third in the conference, while holding teams in the red zone to a .735 clip for 48th nationally and third in the league. The Blazers averaged 2.64 sacks per game for third in the conference and 39th nationally. Johnson coached junior Cory Roberts to second team all-conference honors

During his time at Huntingdon, Johnson coached three all-conference defensive backs in 2016 and 2017, along with one all-league honoree in 2018. In 2017, Johnson

helped coach Huntingdon to its third-straight USA South Conference title and advanced to the NCAA playoffs for the third-straight year.

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communication from NCAA Division I FCS Bryant in 2014, he then began his coaching career at NCAA Division II Malone University in February 2015. He produced one all-conference defensive back while he was at Malone.

Johnson was a four-year starter in the Bryant secondary at cornerback. During his senior year, he helped lead the Bulldogs to their most successful season in program history as they reached their highest national ranking in Week 11 at No. 21 in both the Coaches and Sports Network polls. Bryant finished the season 8-3 for the best record since the program moved to FCS.





**DWIGHT JACKSON**

**LINEBACKERS**  
**1ST YEAR AT McNEESE**  
**PUGET SOUND (2020)**



Dwight Jackson arrived to Lake Charles as McNeese's new linebackers coach not long after head coach Gary Goff was named to lead the program.

Jackson, who coached the 2021 season for Goff at Valdosta State and the linebackers, coached at talented crew in Tiletown that included 2nd Team All-GSC selection Nick Moss. Moss led the Blazers with 121 total tackles on the year and had 4.5 tackles for a loss.

Jackson got his coaching start at Stetson in 2020 as a defensive quality control assistant.

A native of Stockton, Calif., Jackson completed requirements for his degree in Business from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, in the spring of 2020. While in school, he was a member of the football program for five years, serving as a team captain in both 2018 and 2019.

As a linebacker on the field, he saw action in 32 games in his career, recording a total of 103 tackles. Much of his on-field success came during his senior campaign when he had 63 total tackles, including 4.5 sacks and 6.5 total tackles for loss.

Off the field, Jackson was an AFCA Good Works Team nominee three times in recognition for his volunteerism in the community. He received the Paul and Helen Perdue Community Service Award twice and served as a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee throughout his time, including serving as SAAC President during the 2018-19 academic year.

His volunteer activities included founding the Bryant Montessori Recess Program where he organized student-athletes in providing structured games and activities for middle school students while teaching them teamwork

and sportsmanship; coordinating the SAAC Coin Drive; volunteering with the Tacoma City Marathon, participating in the SAAC Trick-or-Can Food Drive and working with the University of Puget Sound Special Olympics program.

While also playing on the team, Jackson served as an office intern for the football program from 2017-19, assisting with recruiting, construction of special teams play books, working camps and assisting in the equipment room. He also had three years of experience as a member of the game day staff for the Seattle Mariners.





# MCNEESE FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF



**MARCO SANCHEZ**  
Defensive Assistant



**CHRIS ST. JOHN**  
Defense Quality Control



**TY HINSON**  
Offense Quality Control



**KELSEY CURRY**  
Director of Operations



**SAM PRUET**  
Head Equipment Manager



**RAYMOND DONOVAN**  
Video Coordinator



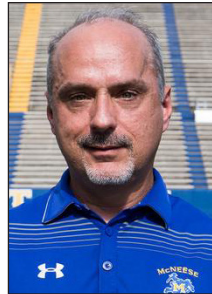
**HUNTER MARTIN**  
Asst. AD for Sports Medicine



**HANNAH HAMPTON**  
Asst. Athletic Trainer for Football



**LUKE CODY**  
Asst. Athletic Trainer for Football



**DR. ERROL WILDER**  
Team Physician



**DR. JOHN NOBLE**  
Team Orthopedic Surgeon



**DR. GEOFFREY COLLINS**  
Team Orthopedic Surgeon



**DR. MIKE BRANCH**  
Team Chiropractor



**JR GRIFFIN**  
Dir. of Strength & Conditioning



**ADAM LANGE**  
Assoc. Dir. of Strength & Conditioning



**ANTHONY ZACK**  
Asst. Dir. of Strength & Conditioning



**AUDRY HORN**  
Asst. Dir. of Strength & Conditioning



**GABBI HAACK**  
Asst. Dir. of Strength & Conditioning



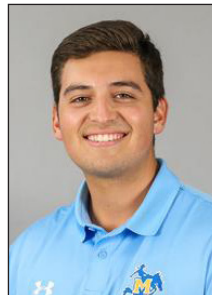
**LOGAN LOFTIN**  
Dir. of Ticket Operations



**BRAILEE LABOVE**  
Ticket Operations Assistant



**JENNIFER GREENE**  
Dir. of Marketing and Fan Engagement



**MICHAEL McLAUGHLIN**  
Marketing Assistant



**CONNOR BEAN**  
Coord. of Game Operations



**KOLBY CARTER**  
Coord. of Athletic Facilities



**PJ MITCHELL**  
Dir. of Creative Media



**LEIGHTON CHAMBLEE**  
Department Photographer



**McNEESE ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Previous School
0	Koby Duru	WR	Jr.	6-2	200	Diamond Bar, Calif.	Bishop Amat HS/San Diego State
1	Mason Pierce	WR	R-So.	5-7	152	Pearland, Texas	Pearland Dawson HS
2	Aalah Brown	WR	Fr.	5-10	185	Valdosta, Ga.	Valdosta HS/Jackson State
3	Cam Ransom	QB	So.	6-3	220	Lakeland, Fla.	Armwood HS/Georgia Southern
5	Javon Davis	DB	Fr.	6-0	170	River Ridge, La.	John Curtis Christian HS
6	Tyler Barnes	S	Sr.	5-10	195	D'Iberville, Miss.	D'Iberville HS/Southern Miss
6	Josh Matthews	WR	Sr.	6-2	200	Baton Rouge, La.	Dunham HS/Louisiana Tech
7	Rae'kwon Starks	DB	So.	6-0	173	Harvey, La.	Helen Cox HS
9	Amaud Willis-Dalton	LB	Jr.	6-1	200	Cypress, Texas	Cypress Ranch HS/University of Houston
9	Walker Wood	QB	Sr.	6-0	195	Lexington, Kent.	Lafayette/Univ. of Kentucky
10	Knox Kadum	QB	So.	6-1	200	Rome, Ga.	Rome HS/Virginia Tech
11	Dillon Simon	WR	R-Fr.	5-9	190	Lake Charles, La.	Lake Charles College Prep
12	Cameron McCalister	QB	Fr.	6-3	165	Friendswood, Texas	Clear Brook HS
13	Ryan Roberts	QB	R-Fr.	6-0	185	Lafayette, La.	Lafayette Christian Academy
14	Severyn Foster	WR	R-Jr.	6-1	208	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Southeast HS/Rochester (MN) College
15	Jalen Johnson	WR	So.	5-9	175	New Orleans, La.	Holy Cross HS
18	Nathan Barnett	WR	Fr.	6-1	185	Houston, Texas	Clear Brook HS
19	Thomas Miles	DB	So.	6-1	192	Alexandria, La.	Peabody Magnet HS
21	Jayce Bludau	LB	Fr.-TR	6-0	208	Hallettsville, Texas	Hallettsville HS/Kilgore CC
20	Deonta McMahon	RB	Sr.	5-9	185	Frostproof, Fla.	Frostproof HS/Butte College
22	Kyle Klink	TE	Jr.	6-4	245	Middletown, Md.	Middletown HS/Harvard
23	Kordell Williams	LB	R-Sr.	5-10	205	Carencro, La.	Carencro HS
24	Josh Parker	RB	So.	5-10	190	Baton Rouge, La.	Catholic High School
25	Darius Shields	DB	R-So.	5-10	184	Houston, Texas	Lamar HS
26	Richard Akers	DB	R-Fr.	5-11	160	Parkville, Md.	Milford Mill Academy/Shepherd College
28	Marcus McElroy Jr.	RB	Sr.	6-0	236	Denver, Colo.	Mullen HS/Colorado State
29	Garland Robertson	DB	Jr.	5-11	180	LaPlace, La.	Riverside Academy
30	CJ Moya	PK	So.	5-10	180	Naples, Fla.	Palmetto Ridge/Hutchinson CC
31	Twillie Lovett	DB	So.	6-1	174	Belle Chasse, La.	Belle Chasse HS
33	Crajaun Bennett	DB	Fr.	5-11	160	Iowa, La.	Iowa HS
34	Jordan Toaston	LB	Fr.	6-3	230	Baton Rouge, La.	Baton Rouge Catholic HS
35	Brandon Hayden	PK	R-So.	6-0	194	Sulphur, La.	Sulphur HS/Louisiana Christian
35	Ryan Brubaker	LB	Fr.	6-2	215	Flower Mound, Texas	Flower Mound HS
36	Tremayne Evans	DB	R-So.	5-10	174	Houston, Texas	Benjamin Davis High School
37	Garrison Smith	PK	Fr.	5-10	150	Norwalk, Ohio	Norwalk HS/Ohio State
38	Callum Eddings	P	So.	5-11	160	Melbourne, Australia	Ivanhoe Grammar School
40	Ty Fuselier	HB/TE	R-Fr.	5-10	227	Kinder, La.	Kinder HS
41	Tyronne Hayes	TE	Fr.	6-3	205	New Orleans, La.	Archbishop Rummel HS
42	Earenest Grayson III	DE	R-So.	6-3	250	Tulsa, Okla.	Jenks HS
44	Phillip Bradford	DL	Fr.	6-6	318	Monroe, La.	Ouachita Parish HS
45	Sedric Applewhite	DL	Fr.	6-6	200	Bossier City, La.	Bossier HS
47	Khaylon Chapple	DE	R-So.	6-3	249	Haughton, La.	Haughton High School
48	Micah Davey	LB	R-Fr.	6-2	236	Baton Rouge, La.	University Lab
49	Masey Lewis	DE	Fr.	6-4	250	Breaux Bridge, La.	Lafayette Christian Academy
50	Trey Vondenstein	LS	R-Jr.	6-3	199	Katy, Texas	Seven Lakes HS



**MCNEESE ROSTER**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>High School/Previous School</b>
52	Mason Kinsey	DL	Sr.	6-2	246	Mansfield, Texas	Mansfield Legacy/Navarro JC/The Citadel
56	Brayden Adams	LB	R-Jr.	6-2	218	Lake Charles, La.	Barbe HS
57	Will Rogers	DL	R-Fr.	6-4	300	Hampton, Ga.	Lovejoy HS/University of South Carolina
59	Grayson Mays	DL	R-Fr.	6-2	234	Bellville, Texas	Bellville HS
61	Cole LeClair	OL	Fr.	6-3	311	Middleburg, Fla.	Valdosta State
63	Charley Zeno	OL	Jr.	6-2	313	Cibolo, Texas	Steele HS
65	James Reddick	OL	Fr.	6-3	320	Fort Valley, Ga.	Peach County HS/Jackson State
66	Dylan Dauzart	OL	So.	6-3	300	Alexandria, La.	Alexandria Senior HS
70	Hezekiah Neason	OL	So.	6-4	323	Amite, La.	Amite High School
71	Caron Coleman	OL	Sr.	6-2	322	St. Louis, Mo.	Pattonville HS/Coffeyville CC
72	Cameron Foster	OL	So.	6-3	306	Shreveport, La.	Northwood HS
73	Calvin Barkat	OL	Sr.	6-3	290	Sachse, Texas	Sachse HS
75	Hayes Creel	OL	Fr.	6-7	300	Mt. Hermon, La.	St. Paul's HS
77	Chris Stephens	OL	So.	6-4	334	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	Dillard High School
78	Trey Winters	OL	So.	6-7	344	Ankeny, Iowa	Centennial HS/Iowa Central CC/Univ. of Iowa
79	Greg Knox	OL	Fr.	6-6	305	Pineville, La.	Peabody HS
80	Jon McCall	WR	R-Fr.	6-3	201	New Orleans, La.	Sophie B. Wright HS
83	Carson Powers	TE	Fr.	6-3	220	Fort Myers, Fla.	Riverdale HS
85	Zach Hayes	WR	R-Jr.	5-11	191	Welsh, La.	Welsh HS
86	Markel Cotton	WR	R-So.	6-1	203	Franklinton, La.	Pine HS
91	Wellend Williams	DL	R-Fr.	6-1	271	Reserve, La.	East St. John HS
93	Masry Mapieu	DL	Sr.	6-5	270	York, Neb.	York HS/ULL
96	C.J. Semien	DL	Sr.	6-3	251	Lake Charles, La.	Barbe HS
99	Accord Green	DL	Sr.	6-4	271	New Orleans, La.	De La Salle HS/Hinds Community College

**COACHING STAFF:**

- Head Coach: Gary Goff (1st year at McNeese)
- Assistant Head Coach/OL: Ryan Allgood
- Defensive Coordinator/DB: Tony Pecoraro
- Special Teams Coordinator/RB: Thomas Reese
- Quarterbacks: Phillip Ely
- Wide Receivers: Felton Huggins
- Linebackers: Dwight Jackson
- Defensive Backs: Mike Johnson
- Defensive Line: Marc Yellock
- Tight Ends: Ryan Nehlen
- Defensive Assistant: Marco Sanchez
- Defensive Analyst: Chris St. John
- Director of Operations: Kelsey Curry
- Equipment Manager: Sam Pruett
- Video Coordinator: Raymond Donovan
- Asst. AD for Sports Medicine: Hunter Martin
- Assistant Athletic Trainer: Hannah Hampton
- Assistant Athletic Trainer: Luke Cody
- Director of Strength and Conditioning: JR Griffin



**EASTERN ILLINOIS ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
0	Bryce Dewberry	DB	5-10	215	Sr	McDonough, Ga. (Eagles Landing)
0	Dom Shoffner	QB	6-1	210	Sr	Cary, NC (UNC Charlotte)
1	Jordan Vincent	DB	5-10	195	So	Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson)
1	Markenzy Pierre	RB	5-11	230	R-Sr	Kissimmee, Fla. (Syracuse Univ.)
2	DeWayne Cooks Jr	WR	6-2	160	R-Jr	Tulsa, Okla. (Booker T. Washington)
2	Mark Aitken	DB	5-9	175	R-So	Chicago, Ill. (Northern Illinois Univ.)
3	Russell Dandy	DB	6-0	170	Sr	Hinesville, Ga. (Butte College)
3	Jaelin Benefield	RB	5-10	170	R-So	Pearland, Texas (Pearland)
4	Blake Ruffin	DB	6-4	215	So	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
4	Justin Thomas	WR	6-1	190	Sr	Wixom, Mich. (Albion College)
5	Anthony Shockey	LB	6-1	235	R-So	Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard East)
5	Aaron Rice	WR	6-5	190	Fr	Farmington Hills, Mich. (North Farmington)
6	Joel Barrows	DL	6-3	250	R-So	Chicago, Ill. (Brooks Prep)
6	Jonah O'Brien	QB	6-4	210	R-So	Kaukauna, Wis. (Colorado State Univ.)
7	Tyris Harvey	DB	5-11	175	So	Olympia Fields, Ill. (Rich Central)
7	Isaiah Hill	WR	5-11	190	R-Sr	Shorewood, Ill. (South Dakota State Univ.)
8	Zach Weir	QB	6-3	200	R-Fr	Grafton, Wis. (Grafton)
8	Foday Jalloh	LB	6-2	220	Jr	West Lawn, Pa. (Central Connecticut State Univ.)
9	Elijah Benoit	DB	6-0	180	R-Sr	Tampa, Fla. (Univ. of Central Florida)
9	James Cooper Jr	QB	5-11	180	R-Fr	Loves Park, Ill. (Iowa Western CC)
11	Anthony Manaves	TE	6-4	235	R-So	Chicago, Ill. (St. Patrick)
11	Alexandar Oyawale	LB	6-0	220	Jr	Murrieta, Calif. (Riverside City College)
12	Nick Coates	DB	5-10	180	So	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
12	Justin Kowalak	QB	6-0	180	Fr	Crystal Lake, Ill. (Crystal Lake South)
13	Trey Shaw III	DB	6-1	195	R-Fr	Nashville, Tenn. (East Nashville Magnet)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	210	So	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling)
14	Kirk Pinkston Jr.	WR	5-10	170	Jr	Indianapolis, Ind. (Lawrence Central)
14	Braylon Willis	DL	6-4	245	Jr	Lafayette, La. (East Los Angeles College)
15	Will Shumpert	WR	6-6	220	R-So	St. Louis, Mo. (Belleville West)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	200	Fr	New Lenox, Ill. (Diamond Football Academy)
19	Ira Armstead II	DB	6-4	225	So	South Bend, Ind. (Univ. of Virginia)
20	MJ Flowers	RB	6-1	205	Fr	Cincinnati, Ohio (Colerain)
21	Jay Pearson	RB	6-0	195	Fr	McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior)
22	Kaelin Drakeford	DB	6-4	205	So	Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County)
23	Logan Brown	LB	6-2	215	So	Effingham, Ill. (Effingham)
24	Collin Tyson	DB	6-0	190	R-Fr	Kansas City, Mo. (Platte County R-3)
25	AJ Sanders	DB	6-0	195	R-Fr	Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington Central)
26	Tyler Clark	RB	5-10	205	So	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
27	Zay Gentry	DB	6-0	190	So	Anna, Texas (Anna)
28	Brandon Guido	DB	5-9	190	R-So	Naperville, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley)
29	Kendi Young	RB	5-11	200	So	Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North)
30	Diego Oliver	DB	6-0	180	Fr	Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy)
31	Chris Williams	DB	6-2	190	R-Fr	Peoria, Ill. (Peoria)
32	Ty Schultz	RB	5-10	195	Fr	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
33	Nile Hill	WR	5-11	190	R-So	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
34	NiJhay Burt	SAF	5-11	165	Fr	Munhall, Pa. (Steel Valley)
35	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	220	R-Fr	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur St. Teresa)
36	Chauncey Lee	DB	5-9	175	R-Fr	Bellwood, Ill. (Immaculate Conception)
37	William Orth	K	5-10	155	So	Ames, Iowa (Ames)
38	Trey Wilhoit III	P	5-10	175	So	Tallahassee, Fla. (Dodge City CC)
39	Elijah Ball	SAF	6-1	205	Sr	Indianapolis, Ind. (Purdue Univ.)
40	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	225	R-Fr	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
41	Mike Smith	DB	6-0	170	Fr	Rockford, Ill. (Guilford)
41	Jordyn Turner	WR	6-5	230	R-Fr	Bothell, Wash. (Weber State Univ.)
42	Henry Woods Jr.	DB	5-10	175	So	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
43	Elijawah Tolbert	LB	6-1	230	So	Country Club Hills, Ill. (Hillcrest)
45	Colin Bohanek	LB	6-0	240	So	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
46	Ameer Aqel	DL	6-2	250	R-So	Orland Hills, Ill. (Andrew)
47	Shawn Pepp Jr	DB	6-2	180	So	Allen, Texas (Contra Costa College)
48	Michael Jarosz	LB	6-1	245	R-So	Wheaton, Ill. (Wheaton North)



**EASTERN ILLINOIS ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
49	Grant Edwards	DL	6-1	245	R-So	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
50	Luke Wagner	DL	6-4	230	So	Washington, Pa. (Santa Barbara City College)
51	Payton Orth	LB	5-11	220	So	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
52	Jamari Johnson	DL	6-4	250	R-Fr	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)
53	Stone Galloway	K	5-11	210	Jr	Collinsville, Ill. (Althoff Catholic)
54	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	270	So	Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
55	Terrance Shaw	OL	6-3	300	Jr	Clearwater, Fla. (Coffeyville CC)
56	Tre'jon Lewis	DL	6-4	275	R-So	Manor, Texas (Texas Tech Univ.)
57	Terence Simon Jr	DL	6-1	275	Jr	Inglewood, Calif. (Cerritos College)
58	Anthony Imperio	OL	6-4	300	Jr	Auburn, Ala. (Auburn)
59	Jaron Hacha	OL	5-11	305	So	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
60	Jason Jeanty Jr	OL	6-5	285	Fr	Miami, Fla. (Washington)
61	Jonathan Arellano	OL	6-3	300	So	Lancaster, Calif. (College of the Canyons)
62	Michael McNicholas	OL	6-4	315	R-So	Lombard, Ill. (Kent State Univ.)
63	Cody Green	K/P	5-11	170	Fr	Little Elm, Texas (Lone Star)
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	6-3	300	Fr	Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath)
66	Jack Valente	OL/LS	6-4	310	So	Batavia, Ill. (Batavia)
67	Chad Strickland	OL	6-5	295	Jr	Salem, Ala. (Smiths Station)
69	Brett Galetti	DB/LS	6-1	220	R-Fr	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
70	JJ Johnson	OL	6-4	360	R-Fr	Westerville, Ohio (Westerville Central)
71	Brody Rankin	OL	6-3	310	Fr	Charleston, Ill. (Charleston)
72	Elkhanan Tanelus	OL	6-2	335	Jr	Naples, Fla. (Barron Collier)
73	Joe McNab	OL	6-6	215	R-Fr	Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
74	Haven Hatfield	OL	6-3	250	Fr	Tuscola, Ill. (Tuscola)
75	Matthew Bean	OL	6-6	265	R-Fr	Lima, Ohio (Shawnee)
76	Bryce Burnett	OL	6-4	270	Fr	Danville, Ill. (Westville)
77	Ivan Gleyzer	OL	6-4	290	Jr	Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson)
78	Max Stineman	OL	6-4	325	So	Ewa, Haw. (Allan Hancock College)
79	Rasheed Anderson	OL	6-5	360	Fr	Oak Park, Ill. (Fenwick)
80	Jay Vallie	TE	6-3	255	Gr	Grand Blanc, Mich. (Univ. of Dayton)
81	Jaxson Isaac	TE	6-6	230	So	Regina, Saskatchewan (College of DuPage)
82	Justin Bowick	WR	6-5	185	Fr	Powder Springs, Ga. (Pace Academy)
84	Cam Thompson	WR	6-0	185	Fr	Boardman, Ohio (Boardman)
85	Josh St. Preux	WR	5-11	190	R-Fr	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Ag & Sciences)
86	Lazerick Eatman	WR	5-10	180	Jr	Willow Brook, Ill. (College of DuPage)
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	6-5	225	Fr	Wentzville, Mo. (Holt)
88	DeAirious Smith	WR	5-11	180	So	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
89	Daniel Luoma	TE / K	6-2	225	So	Porvoo, Finland (Porvoon)
91	Jordan Miles	LB	6-2	240	So	Indianapolis, Ind. (Decatur Central)
92	Colby Smith	DL	6-0	290	So	Dunnellon, Fla. (Dodge City CC)
93	Cameron Leach	DL	6-1	295	Jr	Chicago, Ill. (Nazareth Academy)
94	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	285	So	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
95	Cole Silzer	DL	6-3	250	Fr	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
96	Cody Silzer	DL	6-3	250	Fr	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
97	Tim Varga	DL	6-3	255	Jr	Elk Grove Village, Ill. (Elk Grove Village)
98	Connor Corrigan	LB	6-3	250	So	Naperville, Ill. (Naperville North)

**2022 Football Staff**

Chris Wilkerson – Head Coach (Eastern Illinois University, 1995) – 1st year  
 Kyle Derickson – Associate HC, Special Teams, Wide Receivers (Butler University, 2003) – 1st year  
 Joe Davis – Offensive Coordinator, Quarterbacks (Adrian College, 2002) – 1st year  
 Adam Gristick – Defensive Coordinator, Linebackers (Eastern Illinois University, 2015) – 5th year  
 Clay Bignell – Defensive Passing Game Cord, Safeties (Montana State University, 2011) – 1st year  
 DJ Bland – Defensive Backs (Eastern Illinois University, 2014) – 1st year  
 John Cannova – Offensive Line (North Central College, 2014) – 1st year  
 Colin Geier – Outside Linebackers (University of Missouri, 2018) – 1st year  
 Adam Morris – Defensive Line, Recruiting Cord. (Ball State University, 2013) – 1st year  
 Turner Pugh – Running Backs (Northern Illinois University, 2004) – 1st year  
 Gunnard Twyner – Tight Ends (Western Illinois University, 1996) – 1st year  
 Graduate Assistants: Andrew Brady (Def.), Cole Hoover (Off.) Reid Littleford (Ops)  
 Quality Control: Jackson King (Off.), Beau Snuggs (Def.), Tim Greene (ST), Peyton Naylon (Recruiting)



2 FCS National Title Appearances (1997 & 2002) • 16 FCS Playoff Appearances • 14 SLC Championships



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# TONY MANCUSO

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## SHERIFF

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Good Luck McNeese  
Football Team



SHERIFF



# MCNEESE CHEERLEADERS





# MCNEESE COWGIRL KICKERS





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## MCNEESE PRESIDENT DR. DARYL BURCKEL



Dr. Daryl V. Burckel is the seventh president of McNeese State University.

Dr. Burckel earned both his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1980 and his Master of Business Administration in 1982 from McNeese and then earned his Doctor of Business Administration in accounting from Mississippi State University. He attended McNeese on a football scholarship where he was starting middle linebacker for the Cowboys on two Southland Conference championship teams that played in the Independence Bowl. He was awarded one of four national NCAA-Postgraduate Scholarships that he used to earn his MBA and he is a member of the McNeese Hall of Fame.

He held faculty positions at the University of New Orleans and Mississippi State University before joining the McNeese faculty in 1992. He holds the rank of professor of accounting and still makes time to teach an accounting class.

Dr. Burckel is also a certified public accountant and a certified valuation analyst and his areas of expertise include financial analysis, business valuation of closely-held business interests, and taxation. He has performed extensive consulting work for local and state governmental agencies, small businesses and companies.

He has served as president and director of the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District Board and chairman of the board of directors for CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital. He also served on the board of directors for the Louisiana Housing Corporation and the Louisiana Land Trust. He currently serves on the board of directors for JD Bank and Council for a Better Louisiana.

As a standout linebacker for the Cowboys from 1977-80, Dr. Burckel played a pivotal role in guiding the Cowboys to the 1979 and 1980 Southland Conference championships as well as invitations to the Independence Bowls both seasons.

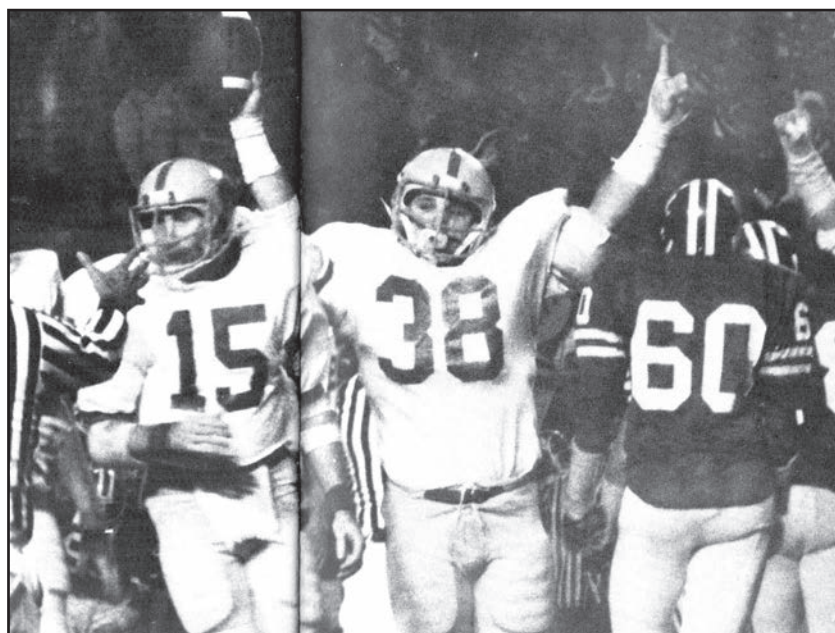
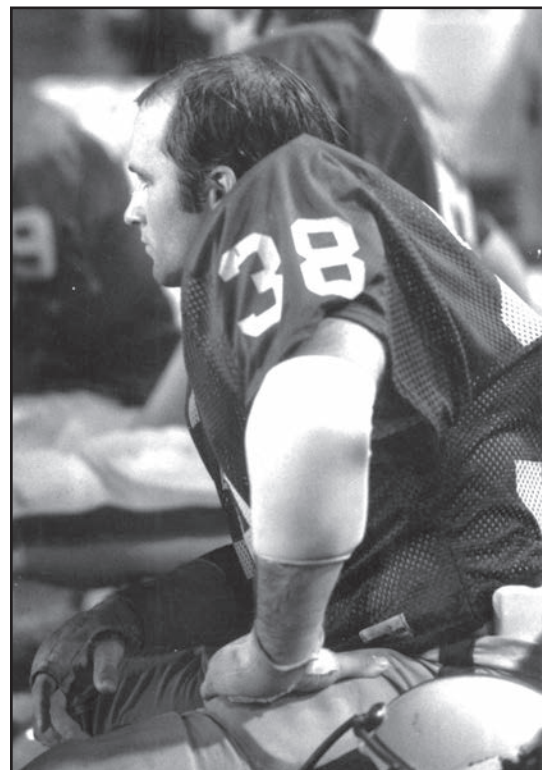
The New Orleans native led the Cowboys with 104 tackles in 1980 as the team posted a 10-2 overall record, including a 16-14 loss to Southern Mississippi in the Indy Bowl. He garnered 81 stops in 1979, second-most on the team, as the Pokes ended the regular season with a perfect 11-0 mark before falling to an Art Monk-led Syracuse team, 31-7, in the bowl game.

In his career, Dr. Burckel recorded 214 total tackles, 14 sacks, and intercepted four passes. His sack total currently ranks him tied for 12th on the school's career record list.

Because of his stellar career, Dr. Burckel earned All-Southland Conference honors in 1979 (second team) and 1980 (first team). He was named the Southland Conference's Defensive Player of the Year in 1980 as well as the McNeese Defensive Player of the Year in addition to being named team captain.

In 2013, Dr. Burckel was named to the Southland Conference 1980s All-Decade Team to help commemorate the league's 50th Anniversary, and in August of 2018, was named to the McNeese Football 75th Anniversary All-Time Linebacker team.

He was inducted into the McNeese Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.





## **MCNEESE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT DR. WADE ROUSSE**



Dr. Wade Rousse has over 25 years of combined experience in industry, government, and academia. He spent the first part of his career in the private sector in the marine transportation industry. In over a decade, he worked his way to becoming a partner at Maritime Logistics, and eventually played a key role in successfully selling the company.

After advancing his academic degrees, Dr. Rousse was on staff at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Initially he served as an Economic Outreach Specialist, and from there moved into the Financial Markets Group as a Policy Research Specialist. During this time, he was also a Visiting Lecturer of Economics at the University of Illinois – Chicago.

Dr. Rousse was the principal of a registered Investment Advisory firm, and has held several leadership roles in higher education. He was an Associate Dean at The W.A. Franke College of Business, and the interim Director of the Alliance Bank Economic Policy Institute at Northern Arizona University (NAU). In 2019, Dr. Rousse returned to McNeese State University where he has served as Dean of the College of Business, Vice President of University Advancement, and he is currently the Executive Vice President.

Dr. Rousse is a former member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. He is a current member of the American Economic Association, the Western Economic Association International, and the Financial Management Association International. Dr. Rousse has a Business Administration undergraduate degree from Nicholls State University, an MBA from the University of New Orleans, an MA and PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois – Chicago.





## MCNEESE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS HEATH SCHROYER



Heath Schroyer, who served as McNeese men's basketball coach for three seasons, was named Director of Athletics in 2019 and has transformed the Department of Athletics into a new model of excellence in a short amount of time.

In his short time since being named athletics director, Schroyer has implemented a mission statement that focuses on Community, Tradition and Excellence - the three pillars of McNeese Athletics, and has made the well-being of the McNeese student-athletes the top priority. He also launched the McNeese Athletics Motto: Student-Athlete Centered, Fan and Donor Friendly.

Schroyer earned his bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Armstrong Atlantic State in 1995 and master's degree in institutional leadership from National University in Fresno, Calif. in 1996.

### McNeese Athletics - A Sleeping Giant

Southwest Louisiana and Lake Charles is a gem that is waiting to be sculpted into a priceless destination with its two airports (regional and international), numerous hotels, outdoor adventures, etc.

Schroyer noticed that from the first time he arrived in Lake Charles and since, has McNeese Athletics reaching great heights to unlimited achievements.

Under Schroyer, McNeese signed an ESPN package to broadcast games of all sports onto the ESPN+ platform, the first of its kind in school history.

Schroyer negotiated a deal with the Southland Conference to have Southwest Louisiana and McNeese host the Southland Football Media Day event, men's and women's postseason basketball tournaments, and baseball and softball postseason tournaments.

Those events are expected to have a multi-million dollar economic impact to Southwest Louisiana.

### Student-Athlete Success

This past academic year, a total of 223 student-athletes were named to the Southland Conference Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll which requires a minimum GPA of 3.0. Of those 223, 51 student-athletes recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA. McNeese was awarded the 2020-21 Southland Strong Community Service Award for the exceptional community service and tireless hours with assisting in cleanup following the devastating Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta. McNeese student-athletes, staff and coaches stepped in to begin finding ways to clean, repair and help in any way possible, whether it was helping tarp roofs, cut trees, pick up debris, clean out houses and businesses, and collect and distribute supplies and serve food.

Baseball player Julian Gonzalez and track athlete Grace McKenzie were awarded the league's prestigious McCarty Citizenship Award for their work in the classroom and community.

Schroyer inherited a football program that was on APR probation and struck with a postseason ban. In just four semesters, the Cowboys became postseason eligible and posted the highest team GPA in seven years.

### Hiring Coaches

Schroyer has hired new head coaches in football, both men's and women's basketball, and volleyball. After stepping away from the basketball court following the 2020-21 season, Schroyer promoted top assistant John Aiken as his successor. Aiken became the 11th head coach in Cowboys basketball history, has 13 years as a Division I coach and 19 years overall. In his first season, he led the Cowboys to their first conference tournament win in four seasons.

In late March of 2021, Schroyer announced Lynn Kennedy as the Cowgirls new head coach, the first time in school history the program has hired a sitting Division I head coach. Kennedy came to McNeese from Portland State where he led his team to the 2019 NCAA Tournament. In his first season, Kennedy guided the Cowgirls to their best record and postseason tournament seeding in five seasons.

In December of 2021, Schroyer hired Gary Goff to lead the Cowboy football program. Goff had established himself as one of the top head coaches in the Division II ranks and most recently guided his Valdosta State team to the 2021 NCAA Division II national championship game.

Schroyer added highly successful volleyball coach Sasha Karelov as the Cowgirls new head coach where in her previous position as an assistant coach, helped lead Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to back-to-back Southland Conference championships and NCAA Tournament berths.

Schroyer also extended the contracts of softball head coach James Landreneau and baseball head coach Justin Hill, both whom guided their teams to the SLC tournament championship and NCAA Tournaments in 2021. Cowgirl soccer head coach Drew Fitzgerald also signed an extension, becoming the first Cowgirl soccer coach in the history of the program to do so.

### Enhanced Facilities

During his short time as Director of Athletics, Schroyer has taken a lot of pride in improving facilities and is committed to continuing to push the envelope on new and upgraded venues. Having been a coach, he understands that a commitment to facilities enhances recruiting.

The McNeese H&HP Complex, now the Legacy Center, was in its final stages of completion when Schroyer arrived at McNeese and Schroyer played a major part in assembling the pieces to create the finest basketball arena not only in the Southland Conference, but also in the region. His efforts were instrumental in obtaining \$3 million in funds for new turf field for football, baseball and softball as well as a renovation to the Cowgirl Softball Complex.

A total of \$800 thousand was raised to complete a new softball locker room and training center while \$700 thousand for a new baseball stadium canopy and press box was raised and with completion for the 2023 season.

He's also in the process of overseeing a new \$26 million football press box that is expected to be completed for the fall of 2024.

The playing court surfaces at the Nancy Hank Tennis Complex were re-done while the track surface at the Bill and Lena Track & Field Complex is brand new while reconstruction of the track field house is ongoing and will be complete for the 2023 spring season.

New scoreboards have also been installed at all venues.



## **MCNEESE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS HEATH SCHROYER**

### **Revenue Generation**

The Covid-19 pandemic along with Hurricane Laura and Delta, an ice storm and historic flooding in 2020-21, all provided a bump in the road for generating revenue, but that bump was flattened immediately by Schroyer's work which helped secure the department's largest-ever gift for naming rights to an athletic facility - \$2.5 million by David and Kimberly Griffin to rename the H&HP Complex, the Legacy Center.

Schroyer also secured \$250-thousand for a new weight room in the Legacy Center to benefit basketball and volleyball student-athletes.

Schroyer also started up the Platinum Club for men's basketball which generates \$175 thousand a year for basketball enhancement, as well as implemented The Champions Club for football which generates over \$200 thousand a year for football enhancement, and for the first time, a portion of those sales went directly back to those two programs.

He and his staff sold over \$1.3 million in corporate sponsorships, a school record by nearly a million, after acquiring the rights from Learfield IMG which the most allowable sold was \$550 thousand under their guidance.

He oversaw the signing of a partnership with Ochsner Christus to fund the athletic training department and full-time athletic trainers, a net profit of \$1 million for the department.

Schroyer worked tirelessly over the past year to hold a sellout fundraiser called The Gatsby Gala where patrons dressed in their best 1920s attire to enjoy live music, novelty acts as well as food and drinks. The event, which is part of Schroyer's vision to create unforgettable experiences for fans and donors, raised over \$300 thousand for the McNeese Athletic Foundation in just one night.

Private donations to the department totaled over \$1 million.



### **Engaging Fans and the Community**

After a 10-year absence, McNeese athletics re-started the Cowboy Caravan in the summer of 2021 - a four-stop tour in the five parish area where fans could meet and engage with football and basketball head coaches, as well as McNeese President Dr. Daryl Burckel, Vice President Wade Rousse, AD Heath Schroyer and other McNeese athletic and university staff and coaches. This summer, the caravan will branch out to the Lafayette and Houston communities.

On July 4 weekend of 2021, the very first Cowboy Country Fest concert series was launched over a two-day span that featured local, regional and national music artists, while on Friday nights in the fall before Saturday home games, McNeese Athletics hosted the Cowboy Block Party at the McNeese Alumni Pavilion, free concerts that features local, regional and national performers as well as food and drinks for all fans. The block parties will return this fall.

McNeese student-athletes, coaches and staff have volunteered over thousands of community service hours which helped the school be awarded the 2021 Southland Strong Community Service Award.

### **On The Field**

Since Schroyer took over as AD, McNeese's baseball and softball teams each won their respective Southland Conference Tournament championships in 2021 and participated in the NCAA Tournament. This season, both teams are in first place in the league standings with two weeks remaining.

Football ranked No. 1 in the Southland Conference in attendance this past fall despite having to play its games untraditionally during the day. The Cowboys will move back to 7 p.m. kick-offs in 2022.

Both the Cowboys and Cowgirls basketball teams and softball program led the league in home attendance.

The McNeese Cowboys cross country team won the 2021 SLC championship while the Cowgirls indoor track and field squad won the league team title for the first time in school history.

### **In The Public Eye**

McNeese Athletics' social media platforms have been recognized nationally several times over the past year for its content including videos and photographs.

The department launched a newly designed mobile app that keeps fans up-to-date and engaged more than ever.

Schroyer, along with local media personality Jim Gazzolo, kicked-off the Poke Nation television show this academic season, a weekly 30-minute all-access McNeese television show, the first of its kind in department history.

### **Schroyer's Story**

Was a college coach for 26 years with 24 of those at the NCAA Division I level. He was the head coach for 12 years at four different universities and was the second-youngest head coach in the nation when he was named the Portland State head coach.

Schroyer has seen four of his former assistants become D1 head coaches and he coached over 100 players that have signed professional contracts.

He was named the Big Sky Coach of the Year in 2005, the Tennessee Sportswriters Coach of the Year in 2014 and 2015, and was a finalist for the NCAA Mid-Major Coach of the Year.

Schroyer was an assistant coach at major universities such as BYU, Wyoming, North Carolina State and UNLV. While at UNLV, he signed four McDonald's All-American player in three years and the first All-American at UNLV since the Jerry Tarkanian era.

He was named one of the nation's top 15 assistant coaches in two of the three years while at UNLV.

Schroyer is a first generation college graduate who grew up on a Dairy Farm in Maryland. He prepped at the prestigious DeMatha High School program in Hyattsville, Md., where he played for the legendary coach Morgan Wootten, whose 1,274 wins as a head coach are the second-most victories in the history of basketball at any level.

A native of Walkersville, Md., Schroyer has one daughter, Sierra, and a son, Hayden, from a previous marriage.



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