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# HUSKIE COACHING STAFF



## ROD CAREY

**Head Coach | Second Season**  
**Indiana (1993) | Fourth Season at NIU**

Over a four-month period in the fall of 2012, Rod Carey went from coordinating the run game and coaching the offensive line of the NIU Huskies, to offensive coordinator of one of the most explosive offenses in the country, to head

coach of the first Mid-American Conference team to play in a Bowl Championship Series (BCS) bowl game.

Carey's promotion to head coach of Northern Illinois University's football team was announced on December 2, 2012, just minutes before NIU learned that the team had earned a historic bid to face Florida State in the 2013 Discover Orange Bowl.

After two fourth-quarter touchdowns by the Seminoles turned a 17-10 game into a 31-10 final score in that game, Carey returned to DeKalb where he and his newly-built staff went to work, determined to capitalize on the momentum of the Orange Bowl appearance and the Huskies' second straight MAC Championship.

That hard work paid off in 2013 as Carey led NIU to an undefeated regular season that included two wins over Big Ten Conference teams – a 30-27 last-minute win over Iowa in the season opener and a 55-24 blowout victory at Purdue. Behind All-Americans Jordan Lynch and Jimmie Ward, the Huskies spent 12 weeks in the Top 25 rankings and coasted through the league slate to win the MAC West title and advance to the MAC Championship game for the fourth straight year.

Carey became the third NIU mentor to be named the MAC Coach of the Year, following in the footsteps of greats Bill Mallory (1983) and Joe Novak (2002), and was a semifinalist for the Maxwell Football Club Coach of the Year Award. He is the first league coach to win two games over Big Ten Conference opponents in one season.

Prolific offensive production, leading to four consecutive 11-plus win seasons, has been a hallmark of Carey's four seasons in DeKalb.



Rod Carey became the first NIU head coach to lead the Huskies to wins over two Big Ten teams in the same season en route to earning 2013 MAC Coach of the Year honors.

### About Carey

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2011-	Northern Illinois University
	• Head Coach^ (2012)
	• Offensive Coordinator* (2012)
	• Offensive Line/Run Game Coord. (2012)
	• Offensive Line (2011)
2008-10	North Dakota (Offensive Line)
2007	Illinois State (Offensive Line)
2000-06	Wisconsin-Stout (Off. Coord./Off. Line)
1998-99	Minnesota (Graduate Assistant)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013 Orange Bowl (NIU Head Coach)
2012 GoDaddy.com Bowl (NIU)
2000 NCAA D-III Playoffs (UW-Stout)
1999 Sun Bowl (Minnesota)
1993 Independence Bowl (Indiana, Player)
1991 Copper Bowl (Indiana, Player)
1990 Peach Bowl (Indiana, Player)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1989-93	Indiana (Center)
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#### EDUCATION

College	B.A., Indiana, 1993
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#### PERSONAL

Birthdate	July 24, 1971
Birthplace	Madison, Wis.
Hometown	Wayzata, Minn.
Family	Wife, Tonya, daughter Kennedi (10) and son Charlie (7).

^ – Named NIU's 22nd head football coach Dec. 2, 2012

\* – Assumed offensive coordinator duties Sept. 2, 2012

In his first season at NIU, he coached a pair of All-American offensive lineman as center Scott Wedge and left tackle Trevor Olson were named All-Americans by CBSSports.com and Phil Steele's magazine, respectively. Three Huskies, including first-team selections Jimmie Ward and Jordan Lynch, earned All-America honors a year ago, while Lynch's historic career was capped by a third-place finish in the Heisman Trophy voting and a trip to New York for the Heisman festivities. Huskies have won the Vern Smith Award, presented annually to the MAC MVP, every year under Carey.

A fiery competitor who despises losing, Carey immediately connected with last year's Huskie team, thanks in part to his familiarity with the program, and especially the offense. His connection to NIU goes through Mallory as the former Huskie mentor was Carey's collegiate coach at the University of Indiana. Given that, he brought a healthy respect for NIU's history of success when he arrived, and he has worked to foster appreciation for the NIU tradition among the current Huskies and has made a special effort to connect with the football alumni.

In addition, he has continued to prioritize academic success and the development of each individual by providing community service opportunities and bringing in guest speakers to address issues from leadership to social media usage to life after football and beyond.

Carey joined the Huskies after three seasons coaching the offensive line at the University of North Dakota. His line paved the way for UND 1,000-yard rusher Josh Murray (1,146 yards) in 2008 and for the No. 2 running back in the Great West Conference a year later. The Fighting Sioux also passed for 2,000 yards in 2009. Five of Carey's offensive linemen earned GWC all-conference honors in his last three seasons.

Prior to going to North Dakota, Carey spent the 2007 season as the offensive line coach at Illinois State. His Redbird offensive line featured three players that received professional football opportunities.

From 2000-06, Carey served on the coaching staff at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, where he was the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach. His offensive units averaged nearly 400 yards per game during his seven seasons and set 14 records, including the all-time conference rushing record. He coached Blue Devils' offensive lineman Ben Knepper, one of the most decorated players ever at UW-Stout, to multiple All-American and all-conference honors. In all, Carey coached 26 all-conference selections and seven All-Americans during his time at UW-Stout.

Carey began his collegiate coaching career at the University of Minnesota (1998-99) where he helped the Gophers to their first bowl game in over a decade with a trip to the 1999 Sun Bowl. Prior to UM, he spent four seasons in the high school ranks at his alma mater, Wayzata (Minn.) High School, from 1994-97.

A three-year starter at center for Indiana during his collegiate playing days, Carey served as a team captain and won IU's Corby Davis Outstanding Offensive Player Award as a senior. He earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana in 1994.

Mallory was happy to see one of his former players take the reigns of the Huskie program.

"I had the greatest respect for Rod as a player," Mallory said. "He had everything you want to see in a person and in a coach.

"He is a quality person, a great character individual, a good people person and a caring individual, the qualities you like to see in a person and in a coach. He is very focused, he is a competitor, he knows his football and has an excellent coaching background. He understands Northern and I think he will do an excellent job."

Carey and his wife Tonya have two children, daughter Kennedi (10) and son Charlie (7).



Coach Carey and his family: wife Tonya, son Charlie and daughter Kennedi.

## CAREY'S COACHING RECORD

Year	School	W-L-T	Postseason	Responsibilities
1998	Minnesota	5-6-0	None	Graduate Assistant
1999	Minnesota	8-4-0	Sun Bowl	Graduate Assistant
<b>Minnesota Totals (2 seasons)</b>		<b>13-10-0</b>	<b>One Bowl Appearance</b>	
2000	Wisconsin-Stout	10-1-0	NCAA Playoffs	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
2001	Wisconsin-Stout	6-3-0	None	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
2002	Wisconsin-Stout	7-3-0	None	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
2003	Wisconsin-Stout	6-4-0	None	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
2004	Wisconsin-Stout	5-4-0	None	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
2005	Wisconsin-Stout	6-4-0	None	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
2006	Wisconsin-Stout	3-7-0	None	Offensive Coord./Offensive Line
<b>Wisconsin-Stout Totals (7 seasons)</b>		<b>43-26-0</b>	<b>One Playoff Appearance</b>	
2007	Illinois State	4-7-0	None	Offensive Line
<b>Illinois State Totals (1 season)</b>		<b>4-7-0</b>		
2008	North Dakota	6-4-0	None	Offensive Line
2009	North Dakota	6-5-0	None	Offensive Line
2010	North Dakota	3-8-0	None	Offensive Line
<b>North Dakota Totals (4 seasons)</b>		<b>19-29-0</b>		
2011	NIU	11-3-0	MAC Championship, GoDaddy.com Bowl	Offensive Line
2012	NIU	12-2-0	MAC Championship, Orange Bowl	Off. Line/Run Game Coord./Off. Coord./Head Coach
2013	NIU	12-2-0	MAC West Champions, Poinsettia Bowl	Head Coach
<b>NIU Totals (3 seasons)</b>		<b>61-17-0</b>	<b>Two MAC Championships, Three Bowl Appearances</b>	
<b>CAREER TOTALS (17 seasons)</b>		<b>140-89 (.611)</b>	<b>Two MAC Championships, Three Bowl Games, One Playoff Appearance</b>	
<b>As NIU Head Coach (1+ season)</b>		<b>12-3-0</b>	<b>MAC West Championship, Two Bowl Appearances</b>	





## BOB COLE

### Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks | Fourth Season at NIU Widener (1982)

An experienced offensive coach who has served as offensive coordinator at six different universities, Bob Cole begins his second season calling the plays for the Huskies as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach in his fourth season

with NIU overall.

After working with the wide receivers in his first year at NIU, Cole returned to lead the position group he has worked with the most over the years, tutoring the Huskie quarterbacks in 2012.

Under his tutelage, quarterback Jordan Lynch, who finished seventh in the 2012 Heisman voting, turned in a record-setting season last year, becoming the first NCAA player to pass for 3,000 yards and rush for 1,500 yards. The 2012 Mid-American Conference MVP tallied 353.8 yards of total offense and led the nation with 12 rushing touchdowns.

Lynch took his play to a new level in his second season working with Cole en route to finishing third in the 2013 Heisman Trophy voting to set a Mid-American Conference record. Lynch, who was named a first team All-American and was a finalist for multiple awards, passed for 2,892 yards and rushing for 1,920 while breaking NCAA, league and school records. The Huskie offense set three MAC and nine school records in 2013.

Cole has helped guide one of the most productive offenses in NIU history. Under Cole's guidance in 2011, the Huskies developed one of the most consistent and deep receiving corps in NIU history, contributing to a record-setting offensive season and the 2011 Mid-American Conference Championship.

Cole is a 25-year collegiate coaching veteran who has made stops at seven colleges and two high schools in his career. Prior to spending the 2009 campaign at Western Kentucky where he served as quarterbacks coach, Cole was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at the University of Wyoming in 2008. He went to Wyoming after three seasons (2005-07) in the same role at Florida A&M University, where Rattlers' quarterback Albert Chester led the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference in passing and total offense in 2006.

A native of Whitehall, Pa., Cole led a successful offense as coordinator at Utah State from 2000-04. Under his direction, the 2002 Aggies ranked seventh in the nation in passing offense. The previous year, Cole's USU offense ranked 13th in the NCAA in passing and receiver Kevin Curtis, who led the nation in receptions (9.09/game) and was third in receiving yards.

As offensive coordinator at Montana in 1999, the Grizzlies reached the NCAA I-AA (now FCS) playoffs and Cole's offense ranked second in total offense (517.4 yards per game), scoring offense (46.4 points per game) and passing offense (370.0 yards per game). Quarterback Drew Miller led the nation in passing efficiency with a quarterback rating of 168.6, marking the second consecutive season that Cole coached the nation's passing efficiency leader. Miller also ranked second in the nation with an average of 346.1 passing yards per game.

Cole spent six seasons (1993-98) at Portland State as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. During his tenure, PSU ranked in

### About Cole

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2011-	Northern Illinois University
	• Off. Coordinator/Quarterbacks (2013)
	• Quarterbacks (2012)
	• Wide Receivers (2011)
2009-10	Western Kentucky (Quarterbacks)
2008	Wyoming (Off. Coord./QBs)
2004-07	Florida A&M (Off. Coord./QBs)
2000-04	Utah State (Offensive Coordinator)
1999-2000	Montana (Offensive Coordinator)
1993-99	Portland State (Off. Coord./QBs)
1988-93	Sonoma State (Off. Coord./QBs)
1985-88	San Leandro H.S. (Head Coach)
1983-84	Moreau H.S. (Assistant Coach)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2013	Orange Bowl (NIU)
2012	GoDaddy.com Bowl (NIU)
2000	FCS National Finals (Montana)
1999	FCS Playoffs (Montana)
1993-95	Division II Playoffs (PSU)
1979-81	Division III Playoffs (Widener, Player)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1979-81	Widener (Quarterback)
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#### EDUCATION

College	B.S., Widener, 1982
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#### PERSONAL

Birthdate	Sept. 26, 1959
Birthplace	Allentown, Pa.
Hometown	Whitehall, Pa.
Family	Wife, Kathy, daughter Zoe (15) and son Bobby (14).

the top 10 in the nation in total offense three times - in 1994, 1995 and 1998. Vikings' quarterback Jimmy Blanchard led the nation in passing efficiency in 1998.

Cole has been a college coach since 1988, when he began his career as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks' coach at Sonoma State University in California, where he coached for five years (1988-92).

A 1982 graduate of Widener University in Chester, Pa., Cole was a three-year starter (1979-81) at quarterback for the Pioneers and led Widener to the 1981 NCAA Division III National Championship. Widener went 35-2 and advanced to the Division III Playoffs in all three of his years as the starting signal-caller.

Cole and his wife Kathy have two children, daughter Zoe and son Bobby.



## JAY NIEMANN

**Defensive Coordinator/Safeties | Fourth Season at NIU  
Iowa State (1983)**

Veteran defensive coordinator Jay Niemann returns for his fourth season running the Northern Illinois University defense and coaching the safeties.

In 2012, the NIU defense held five opponents to nine points or less en route to a second straight Mid-American Conference title and a berth in the 2013 Orange Bowl. The Huskie defensive unit totaled 40 sacks in 2012, second all-time in NIU history.

Niemann's top pupil at safety, Jimmie Ward, wrapped up a stellar career at NIU when he was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the 2014 NFL Draft. The 30th overall pick, Ward led the Huskie in tackles in each of the last two years, recording 95 tackles and a career-high seven interceptions in 2013 and 104 stops with three interceptions in 2012.

In all, Niemann's defense has produced seven players who signed with NFL teams in the last three years. In addition to Ward, and Rashaan Melvin, Alan Baxter, Sean Progar, Ken Bishop, Joe Windsor and Pat Schiller have signed with NFL teams since 2011.

In his first season in DeKalb, Niemann took over a young Huskie defense and watched it mature as the 2011 campaign progressed. By week six, the Huskies turned in their best defensive game of the season statistically and in the 2011 MAC Championship game, the NIU defense flipped the script on Ohio in the second half, en route to a 23-20 win and the school's first MAC football title in 28 years.

Niemann came to NIU after spending three seasons as co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Hardin-Simmons University in Texas. During his tenure with the Cowboys, Niemann helped turn a defense that ranked last in the nation prior to his arrival into the No. 2 unit in the American Southwest Conference in 2009. He coached free safety Matt Warnish to All-American honors in 2008 and saw three of his defensive backs earn all-conference accolades from 2009-10.

A native of Avoca, Iowa, Niemann spent much of his 26-year coaching career in his home state, with stops at Simpson (Iowa) College, the University of Northern Iowa and Drake University. Niemann compiled a 32-29 record in his six seasons as head coach at Simpson (2002-07). He led the Storm to the 2003 NCAA playoffs while also serving as defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach.

Niemann coached the secondary coach (1997, 2001), linebackers (1998-99) and filled the role of defensive coordinator (1999-2000) during his five seasons at Northern Iowa (1997-2001). The Panthers advanced to the semifinals of the 2001 NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (then Division I-AA) playoffs. One of Niemann's UNI pupils, cornerback Ty Talton, went on to play in the NFL.

Prior to his arrival at UNI, Niemann spent eight seasons at Drake. After serving as the defensive backs coach from 1989-94, he was promoted to defensive coordinator/assistant head coach in 1995. In his final three seasons, the Bulldog defense ranked in the top 10 nationally in scoring defense, pass efficiency defense and total defense.

### About Niemann

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2011-	Northern Illinois (Def. Coord./Safeties)
2008-10	Hardin-Simmons (Co-Defensive Coord./DBs)
2002-07	Simpson (Head Coach)
1997-2001	Northern Iowa
	• Def. Coord./LBs (1999-2000)
	• Linebackers (1998)
	• Defensive Backs (1997, 2001)
1989-96	Drake
	• Def. Coord./Asst. Head Coach (1995-96)
	• Def. Backs (1994-95)
1986-88	Washington (Grad. Assistant)
1985	Western Washington (LBs/Special Teams)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013 Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2013 Orange Bowl (NIU)
2012 GoDaddy.com Bowl (NIU)
2008 Division III Playoffs (HSU)
2003 Division III Playoffs (Simpson)
2001 FCS National Semi-finalists (UNI)
1987 Independence Bowl (Washington)
1986 Sun Bowl (Washington)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1979-82	Iowa State
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#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.S., Iowa State, 1983
	M.A., Western Washington, 1988
<b>High School</b>	Avo-Ha Community, 1979

#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	Nov. 27, 1960
<b>Birthplace</b>	Harlan, Iowa
<b>Hometown</b>	Avoca, Iowa
<b>Family</b>	Wife, LouAnn, sons Ben (19) and Nick (16)

Niemann began his coaching career in 1985 at Western Washington where he coached the linebackers and special teams units while pursuing his master's degree. He accepted the graduate assistant position at the University of Washington, working with the Huskies linebackers and defensive backs from 1986-88, and coached under UW legends Don James and Jim Lambright.

A graduate of Iowa State, Niemann played football for the Cyclones from 1979-82. He earned his master's degree from Western Washington in 1988. Niemann and his wife, Lou Ann, have two sons, Ben and Nick.



## KELTON COPELAND

**Running Backs | Second Season at NIU**  
**Emporia State (2003)**

Kelton Copeland, a Miami, Fla. native whose football playing and coaching career has led him to Michigan, Kansas, South Dakota and now Illinois, enters his second season as running backs coach on the Northern Illinois University coaching

staff.

Copeland, a three-year starter at quarterback at Emporia State (Kan.) University who left the school ranked third all-time in total offense and fourth in passing yards, came to NIU after two seasons at the University of South Dakota, where he tutored the Coyotes' wide receivers in 2011 and 2012.

In his first season with the Huskies, Copeland helped guide former linebacker Cameron Stingily. Stingily, who teamed with quarterback and Heisman Trophy finalist Jordan Lynch to become the first Huskie duo to each gain more than 1,000 yards in a season, rushed for a career-high 1,119 yards on 203 carries while becoming a force in the NIU offense.



### About Copeland

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2013-	Northern Illinois University (Running Backs)
2011-12	South Dakota (Wide Receivers)
2007-11	Coffeyville (Kan.) C.C.
	• Offensive Coordinator (2011)
	• Wide Receivers (2008-10)
	• Secondary (2007)
2006	Northwood (Safeties)
2003-05	Emporia St.
	• Wide Receivers (2004-05)
	• Graduate Assistant (2003-04)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2010	Region IV Playoffs (Coffeyville C.C.)
2009	Region IV Playoffs (Coffeyville C.C.)
2007	Region IV Playoffs (Coffeyville C.C.)
2006	Division III Playoffs (Northwood)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1999-2002	Emporia State (Quarterback)
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#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.S., Emporia State, 2003
<b>High School</b>	Miami Southridge, 1998

#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	June 9, 1980
<b>Birthplace</b>	Miami, Fla.
<b>Hometown</b>	Miami, Fla.
<b>Family</b>	Wife, Bridgette, daughters Marlea (4), Devyn (3) and Kabryn (infant)

Prior to his time at South Dakota, Copeland spent four seasons on the coaching staff at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas, where he began as the secondary coach before moving to wide receivers for three seasons. He was named offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Coffeyville in spring 2011 before taking the South Dakota job in July. Coffeyville advanced to the Region IV Playoffs three times (2007, 2009, 2010) during Copeland's time at the school and boasted one of the top offenses in the Jayhawk Conference in his final year there.

He spent the 2006 season at Northwood University in Michigan where he coached safeties and nickel backs. The Timberwolves advanced to the NCAA Division II Playoffs that season. Copeland started his coaching career at his alma mater, Emporia State, in 2003 as a graduate assistant working with the linebackers. He moved to the offensive side of the ball the next spring and moved into a full-time role as wide receivers coach in 2004 and 2005. While at Emporia State, he also fulfilled duties as an assistant strength and conditioning coach.

As a player at Emporia State from 1999-2002, Copeland served as team captain for three seasons. As a senior in 2002, he set the school records for most rushing yards by a quarterback in a career and in a season. He led the Hornets in total offense in 2000 and 2001.

A product of Miami Southridge High School, Copeland earned his bachelor's degree from Emporia State in 2003. He is married to the former Bridgette Eldridge and the couple has two daughters, Marlea (4), Devyn (3) and Kabryn.





## BRETT DIERSEN

***Defensive Line | Second Season at NIU  
Huron (1998)***

Brett Diersen, a defensive line coach with extensive Midwest ties, enters his second season as defensive line coach at Northern Illinois University in 2013.

A year ago Diersen was tasked with rebuilding a defensive line that lost three of four starters from the 2012 MAC Championship team. Fortunately, a key player from that 2012 defensive line, noseguard from the 2012 team, Ken Bishop returned for his senior season. Under Diersen's tutelage, Bishop made 70 tackles, including seven tackles for loss, and two interceptions on the way to becoming a fifth-round draft pick by the Dallas Cowboys in the 2014 NFL Draft.

Diersen spent the 2012 season at Florida Atlantic University where he coached the Owls' defensive line and served as special teams coordinator under head coach Carl Pelini. In 2011, he was the defensive ends coach and recruiting coordinator at Indiana after spending the 2008-10 seasons on the University of Nebraska coaching staff, where he assisted with the defensive line and special teams.



### About Diersen

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2013-	Northern Illinois University (Defensive Line)
2012	Florida Atlantic (DL/Special Teams)
2011	Indiana (Recruiting Coord./DE)
2008-10	Nebraska (Intern/DL & Special Teams)
2007	Minn. State-Mankato (Defensive Line)
2004-06	Wisconsin-Stout (Def. Coord./DL/DB)
2001-03	Dubuque (DL/OLB/Special Teams)
1998-2000	Wisconsin-Stout (Graduate Assistant)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2010	Holiday Bowl (Nebraska)
2009	Holiday Bowl (Nebraska)
2009	Gator Bowl (Nebraska)
2000	Division III Playoffs (Wisconsin-Stout)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1994-98	Huron (S.D.) (Defensive End)
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#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.S., Huron (S.D.), 1998 M.S., Wisconsin-Stout, 2004
<b>High School</b>	Fox Valley Lutheran, 1994

#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	June 6, 1976
<b>Birthplace</b>	Appleton, Wis.
<b>Hometown</b>	Appleton, Wis.
<b>Family</b>	Wife, Jenna, son, Brody (1)

The connection between Carey and Diersen dates back to 2000 when Carey took over as offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Wisconsin-Stout, where Diersen was a graduate assistant on a Blue Devils team that went into the Division III playoffs undefeated. After coaching the defensive line, outside linebackers and special teams at the University of Dubuque from 2001-03, Diersen returned to UW-Stout as defensive coordinator in 2004 and was reunited with Carey. The two remained with the Blue Devils through 2006.

A native of Appleton, Wis., Diersen spent the 2007 campaign as defensive line coach at Minnesota State-Mankato before going to Nebraska the next season. He was on the Cornhuskers' defensive staff for three seasons, and Nebraska ranked in the Top 10 nationally in pass efficiency defense, passing defense and scoring defense in 2010 and led the nation in scoring, pass efficiency and red zone defense in 2009 behind Ndamukong Suh, who was named the Associated Press National Player of the Year and won the Bronko Nagurski, Rotary Lombardi, Outland and Chuck Bednarik awards.

As a player, Diersen was a three-time all-conference defensive end at Huron (S.D.) University from 1994-98, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1998. He added a master's degree in education from UW-Stout in 2005.

Diersen and his wife, Jenna, welcomed son Brody in August 2013.



## CRAIG HARMON

***Tight Ends/Fullbacks | First Season at NIU  
Quincy College (2002)***

Craig Harmon, a former player and graduate assistant coach at Northern Illinois University, returned to the Huskies as an assistant coach in 2014. Harmon, a native of Godfrey, Ill., coaches the NIU tight ends and fullbacks.

Harmon spent the 2013 season as tight ends coach at Division III power Wisconsin-Whitewater, which posted a 15-0 record and won the national title with a 52-14 win over Mount Union. Prior to 2013, he was the tight ends and assistant offensive line coach at Georgia State University in Atlanta from 2010-12, working for head coach Bill Curry to help start the GSU program. Georgia State began football in 2010 and by 2012 was in its first season of a two-year transition to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Harmon was offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator for four seasons (2006-09) at the University of St. Francis in Joliet. Under his direction, the offense broke 10 school records and improved statistically each year.



### About Harmon

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2014-	Northern Illinois University (Tight Ends/Fullbacks)
2013	Wisconsin-Whitewater (Tight Ends)
2010-12	Georgia State (Tight Ends/OL Asst.)
2006-09	St. Francis (Offensive Coordinator)
2004-05	Northern Illinois (Graduate Assistant)
2002-03	Quincy (Graduate Assistant)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Division III National Champions (UW-Whitewater)
2004	Silicon Valley Bowl (NIU)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1998-2000	NIU (Quarterback)
2001-02	Quincy (Quarterback)

#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.S., Quincy, 2002 M.S., Quincy, 2003
<b>High School</b>	Alton, 1998

#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	Sept. 8, 1980
<b>Birthplace</b>	Alton, Ill.
<b>Hometown</b>	Godfrey, Ill.
<b>Family</b>	Wife, Megan, son Cooper (4) and daughter Morgan (2)

A former quarterback for the Huskies, Harmon returned to NIU as a graduate assistant coach on Joe Novak's staff in 2004 and 2005, where he worked with the Huskie offense. NIU posted a 9-3 record and won the Silicon Valley Bowl in 2004 and played in the MAC Championship game to complete a 7-5 campaign in 2005.

Harmon's affiliation with NIU dates back to his playing days as a quarterback for the Huskies from 1998-2000. As a freshman walk-on on the 1998 team, the former sixth-string signal-caller took over as the NIU starter in the fourth game of the season when attrition and injuries hit the position. He finished the year as the Huskies' top quarterback, completing 82-of-177 passes for 810 yards and two touchdowns. He redshirted the 1999 campaign, but returned to play as a back-up quarterback in 2000 before transferring to Quincy University, where he completed his playing career and earned his bachelor's degree in physical education.

Harmon began his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at his alma mater in 2003-04.

At the time of his hiring, Harmon said returning to NIU was a homecoming for him and his family. He played his prep football at Alton High School in southern Illinois. His wife, the former Megan Anderson, played soccer for the Huskies. They have two children, daughter Morgan (2) and son Cooper (4).





## KEVIN KANE

*Linebackers/Special Teams Coordinator | Fourth Season at NIU  
Kansas (2006)*

Kevin Kane returns for his fourth season on the Northern Illinois University coaching staff and is in his second season coaching the linebackers.

A standout linebacker at the University of Kansas, Kane coached the Huskies' tight ends and fullbacks in 2011 in his first season at NIU. He took over as linebackers coach in 2013 and added the special teams coordinator role in 2013. He has coached two All-MAC linebackers over the last two years and his unit returns 2013 first team All-MAC linebacker Jamaal Bass in 2014.

Kane came to NIU after working on the football staff at the University of Wisconsin from 2008-10 where he was a graduate assistant for the 2008 and 2009 seasons before serving as the Quality Control Assistant for the UW defense in 2010. He earned a master's degree in education from Wisconsin in 2010.

Prior to going to Wisconsin, the Kansas City, Mo. native was a graduate



### About Kane

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2011-	Northern Illinois University
	• Linebackers/Special Teams Coord. (2013)
	• Linebackers (2012)
	• Tight Ends/Fullbacks (2011)
2008-10	Wisconsin
	• Quality Control (2010)
	• Graduate Assistant (2008-09)
2006-07	Kansas (Student Assistant)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2013	Orange Bowl (NIU)
2012	GoDaddy.com Bowl (NIU)
2011	Rose Bowl (Wisconsin)
2009	Champs Sports Bowl (Wisconsin)
2008	Champs Sports Bowl (Wisconsin)
2008	Orange Bowl (Kansas)
2005	Fort Worth Bowl (Kansas, Player)
2003	Tangerine Bowl (Kansas, Player)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

2002-05	Kansas (Linebacker)
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#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.S., Kansas, 2006
	M.S., Wisconsin, 2010
<b>High School</b>	Rockhurst, 2002

#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	Dec. 18, 1983
<b>Birthplace</b>	Kansas City, Mo.
<b>Hometown</b>	Kansas City, Mo.
<b>Family</b>	Wife, Theresa, sons Jack (2) and Colin (infant)

assistant coach at his alma mater for two seasons; and in 2007 he was part of the KU coaching staff that led the Jayhawks to the 2008 Orange Bowl Championship. Kane earned a bachelor of general studies in communication studies from KU in 2006.

As a Kansas linebacker tutored by former Huskies' head coach Dave Doeren, Kane earned honorable mention All-Big 12 accolades from the Associated Press following both his junior and senior seasons and was a three-time Academic All-Big 12 honoree. He won KU's Nolan Cromwell Award for Leadership following his junior year and served as a team captain as a senior. He also won a state championship as a high school junior at Rockhurst High School in Missouri.

He and his wife, Theresa, have two sons, Jack (2) and Colin (infant).



## KELVIN SIGLER

**Cornerbacks | Second Season at NIU  
Alabama (2001)**

Kelvin Sigler, a former head coach at Blount High School in Mobile, Ala. who spent the 2012 season as a member of the University of Alabama football staff, enters his second season as the Huskies' cornerbacks coach in 2014.

A defensive back at Alabama from 1995-98, Sigler returned to his alma mater for the 2012 season as a defensive analyst for the national championship winning Crimson Tide.

He went to Alabama after four seasons as head coach at Blount High School in Mobile, Ala., where he compiled a 27-18 record and led the Leopards to four straight playoff berths. In 2011, Blount went 10-2 and advanced to the second round of the Class 6A Playoffs in Sigler's final season as head coach to post the school's first 10-win season since 1998.

Prior to taking over as head coach at Blount High School, Sigler served as defensive coordinator at Bob Jones High School in Madison,



### About Sigler

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2013-	Northern Illinois University (Cornerbacks)
2012	Alabama (Defensive Staff)
2008-11	Blount (Ala.) H.S. (Head Coach)
2004-07	Bob Jones (Ala.) H.S. (Defensive Coord.)
2002-03	Greensboro (Ala.) H.S. (Assistant Coach)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2012	BCS National Championship (Alabama)
2008-10	Alabama 6A Playoffs (Blount H.S.)
2005-07	Alabama 6A Playoffs (Bob Jones H.S.)
2003-04	Alabama 6A Playoffs (Greensboro H.S.)
1998	Music City Bowl (Alabama, Player)
1997	Outback Bowl (Alabama, Player)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1995-1998	Alabama (Cornerback)
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#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.S., Alabama, 2001
<b>High School</b>	Shaw, 1995

#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	June 20, 1976
<b>Birthplace</b>	Mobile, Ala.
<b>Hometown</b>	Mobile, Ala.
<b>Family</b>	Wife, Gemini, sons Yessman (12) and Kelvin Jr. (6), daughters Aubre (10) and Kelsie (4).

Ala. from 2004-08, and as an assistant coach and head track and field coach at Greensboro (Ala.) High School from 2002-04. Seven of Sigler's high school defensive backs earned college football scholarships.

In four seasons as a defensive back at Alabama, Sigler made six career interceptions and led the team in tackles his junior season. He was selected as one of five permanent team captains in 1998.

Sigler and his wife Gemini have four children, sons Yessman and Kelvin, Jr. and daughters Aubre and Kelsie.



## JOE TRIPODI

**Offensive Line | Fifth Season at NIU  
Northwestern (2006)**

Joe Tripodi returns for his fifth season as a member of the Northern Illinois University coaching staff and is in his second season as offensive line coach.

Tripodi spent the first three seasons as a graduate assistant on the Huskie coaching staff, serving as tight ends and fullbacks coach during NIU's 2012 MAC Championship season. Now the longest tenured coach on staff, he spent his first two seasons at NIU working with the offensive line and led the offensive line in the Huskies' 40-17 victory Fresno State in the 2010 Humanitarian Bowl.

During his career at NIU, Tripodi has been a part of a staff that has produced some of the most prolific offenses in NIU history. The Huskie offense set three MAC and nine school records in 2013, including yards rushing, yards per game and points scored. In 2012, NIU ran for a school record 44 touchdowns, while the 2010 Huskies set the school record for yards per carry average. In 2011, NIU set the single season mark for passing yards.

The Huskies have also ranked among the league and national



### About Tripodi

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2010- Northern Illinois University  
• Offensive Line (2013- )  
• Tight Ends/Fullbacks (2012)  
• Graduate Assistant (2010-11)  
2008-09 Chelsea H.S. (Defensive Line)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013 Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)  
2013 Orange Bowl (NIU)  
2012 GoDaddy.com Bowl (NIU)  
2010 Humanitarian Bowl (NIU)  
2008-09 Michigan Division 3 Playoffs (Chelsea H.S.)  
2005 Sun Bowl (Northwestern, Player)  
2003 Motor City Bowl (Northwestern, Player)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

2002-2006 Northwestern (Offensive Line)

#### EDUCATION

**College** B.S., Northwestern, 2006  
**High School** Chelsea, 2002

#### PERSONAL

**Birthdate** March 4, 1984  
**Birthplace** Chelsea, Mich.  
**Hometown** Ann Arbor, Mich.  
**Family** Wife, Rachel, daughter Emma (3)

leaders in fewest sacks allowed over the last two seasons. Tripodi has coached 2012 and 2013 All-MAC offensive tackle Tyler Loos.

Tripodi came to NIU from his hometown of Chelsea, Mich. where he served as defensive line coach his alma mater in 2008 and 2009.

Tripodi was Northwestern's starting left guard in 2005 and 2006 and was a co-recipient of the 2006 Randy Walker Wildcat Award, given for work ethic, toughness and warrior attitude. He was part of the offensive line that played a key role in Northwestern's record-setting offensive season in 2005.

Tripodi earned all-state honors in both football and track and field at Chelsea High School and was one of six finalists for the Michigan High School Athlete of the Year honor as a senior. The three-time all-conference and two-time all-area selection in football also won back-to-back state titles in the shot put. His football team went 30-4 in his three years as a starter.

He graduated from Northwestern in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in communications and earned his master's in adult and higher education at NIU. Tripodi is married to the former Rachel Munoz and the two have a daughter, Emma.





## THAD WARD

**Wide Receivers | Second Season at NIU**  
**Central Florida (2001)**

Thad Ward enters his second season as wide receiver coach at Northern Illinois University in 2014.

In his first season with the Huskies, Ward mentored two All-MAC wide receivers as Tommy Lee Lewis earned first team All-MAC

honors and Da'Ron Brown was a second team selection.

At Western Michigan in 2012, Ward developed Jaime Wilson into the Broncos' leading receiver en route to MAC Freshman of the Year honors. Wilson caught 67 passes for 792 yards and six touchdowns while averaging nearly 80 receiving yards per game.

Ward went to WMU after one season at Gardner-Webb University where he served as passing game coordinator in addition to coaching wide receivers. Prior to that, he spent six seasons as running backs coach at Western Illinois University. The Leathernecks had a 1,000-yard rusher in each of his six seasons, and the 2010 WIU offense ranked second in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in points per game and was third in yards per game.

In May 2009, Ward participated in the NCAA Football Coaches



### About Ward

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2013-	Northern Illinois University (Wide Receivers)
2012	Western Michigan (Wide Receivers)
2011	Gardner-Webb (WRs/Passing Game)
2005-10	Western Illinois (Running Backs)
2003-04	Tallahassee Rickards HS
	• Interim Head Coach (2004)
	• WRs/DBs (2003-04)
2002	Florida A&M (Graduate Assistant)

#### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2013	Poinsettia Bowl (NIU)
2010	FCS Playoffs (Western Illinois)
2004	Florida Class 3A Playoffs (Rickards H.S.)

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1999-2001	Central Florida (Defensive Back)
1997-98	Coffeyville C.C. (Defensive Back)

#### EDUCATION

College	B.S., Central Florida, 2001
High School	Godby, 1997

#### PERSONAL

Birthdate	Sept. 17, 1978
Birthplace	Tallahassee, Fla.
Hometown	Tallahassee, Fla.
Family	Wife, Jocelyn, daughters Jayda (14) and Journie (6), son Thaddaeus, Jr. (9)

Academy, and the NFL's Minority Internship Program, where he worked with the Baltimore Ravens.

At WIU, Ward helped tutor Herb Donaldson, who led Division I in rushing and scoring in 2008. He broke the school rushing record and was named the Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year. Donaldson twice gained over 300 yards in a game and averaged 149 rushing yards per game to rank fifth in the country.

Ward began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Florida A&M University in 2002, then spent the 2003 and 2004 seasons in the high school ranks at Tallahassee (Fla.) Rickards High School, where he coached wide receivers and defensive backs in 2003 and served for a time as interim head coach in 2004.

As a player, Ward spent three seasons at UCF, where he caught 43 passes for 446 yards as a senior while averaging 40.5 receiving yards per game. He joined the Knights' program after playing two years at Coffeyville Community College, where he was an All-Jayhawk Conference selection in 1998 as a redshirt freshman.

The Tallahassee, Fla. native was an all-state receiver at Godby High School as a senior. He and his wife, Jocelyn, have two daughters, Jayda and Journie, and a son, Thaddaeus, Jr.



## BRAD OHRT

**Director of Sports Performance | Fourth Season at NIU  
Appalachian State (1994)**

Brad Ohrt begins his 18th season in college football, and third at Northern Illinois, as Director of Sports Performance.

While overseeing the strength and conditioning efforts of the 17 Huskie Athletics teams and a four-person staff,

Ohrt works primarily with the NIU football program. During his tenure, the Huskies have appeared in four-straight Mid-American Conference championship games, winning the league title in 2011 and 2012. In addition to the team's success, Ohrt has trained two league MVPs and one Heisman Trophy finalist.

In 2014, Ohrt received the prestigious title of Master Strength & Conditioning Coach by the Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches association.

Ohrt came to NIU after three seasons at Western Carolina, where he was director of strength and conditioning from 2008-10. He spent the 2007 football season on the strength staff of the Miami Dolphins and previously served as head strength coach at Western Kentucky (2005-07) and Louisiana-Lafayette (2002-05).



### About Ohrt

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2011-	Northern Illinois University (Dir. of Sports Performance)
2008-10	Western Carolina (Strength & Conditioning)
2007	Miami Dolphins (Asst. Strength & Conditioning)
2005-07	Western Kentucky (Strength & Conditioning)
2002-05	Louisiana-Lafayette (Strength & Conditioning)
2001-02	Western Carolina (Asst. Strength & Conditioning)
1998-2001	Southern California (Asst. Strength & Conditioning)
1997-98	Wingate (Strength & Conditioning)
1997	Kansas (Graduate Assistant)

#### EDUCATION

<b>College</b>	B.A., Appalachian State, 1994 M.Ed., Kansas, 1997
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#### PERSONAL

<b>Birthdate</b>	Feb. 25, 1972
<b>Birthplace</b>	New Ulm, Minn.
<b>Hometown</b>	Sebring, Fla.
<b>Family</b>	Wife, Ashley, son Carson (2)

At ULL, Ohrt was responsible for developing and implementing programs for almost all of the Ragin' Cajuns athletic programs, including football, men's basketball and baseball, while his duties at Western Kentucky included overseeing the entire strength and conditioning operation while working directly with the Hilltopper football program.

Ohrt's first head strength and conditioning coaching position was at Wingate University in 1997-98. He earned his master's degree from Kansas in 1997, where he was a graduate assistant strength coach for the Jayhawks.

He served as an assistant strength coach at USC from 1998-2001, working primarily with the Trojan men's and women's basketball teams in addition to assisting with the USC football program. Ohrt spent 2001-02 on staff at Western Carolina where he helped develop the WCU men's and women's basketball, football and baseball teams as well as seven other programs.

The New Ulm, Minn. native was an All-American offensive lineman at Appalachian State in 1994 and earned All-Southern Conference honors his junior and senior seasons. As a senior, he was named a first-team FCS All-American by The Sports Network and Don Hansen's Football Gazette, and was a third-team Associated Press All-American. He was a three-year letterwinner for the Mountaineers and earned his bachelor's degree in exercise science.

Ohrt is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). Ohrt and his wife, Ashley, have a two-year old son Carson.



## MATT LIPMAN

***Asst. Athletic Director/Football Operations | Fourth Season at NIU  
Miami (OH) (2003)***

Matt Lipman begins his fourth year as assistant athletic director for football operations at Northern Illinois University.

In that role, Lipman is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the NIU football program, including organizing team travel, planning recruiting visits, coordinating team meals and meetings.

Among Lipman's more complicated duties is coordinating the annual bowl trip, including the team's schedule and all travel arrangements for the coaching staff and their families, student-athletes and staff. He has been a part of the process for the Huskies' last four bowl trips, including the week-long stay in Miami during the Discover Orange Bowl.

He was elevated from director of operations to assistant athletic director following the Huskies' 2011 MAC championship season. Lipman directs a staff of three, including two full-time assistants.

Lipman joined NIU after working as the assistant director of football operations at Wisconsin during the 2010 season. He served as the advance man for road trips and was heavily involved in the planning of the Badgers' trip to the 2011 Rose Bowl. In addition to assisting

with travel, Lipman directed the community service efforts for the Badger football team and organized and executed the team banquet and awards show. He also conducted all official recruiting weekends and assisted in the planning and execution of Badger summer camps.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Lipman served two stints with the Cleveland Browns of the National Football League. He worked as a full-time intern in the equipment room for the Browns from July 2005-February 2007, before returning to the organization in June of 2007 as coordinator of team operations. He assisted in coordinating and organizing training camp, and arranging new hire relocation. He was the acting director of team operations for the majority of the 2009 season and was the advance person for road games during that season as well.

In between tenures with the Browns, Lipman worked as a scout for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football league. He assisted in the Alouettes 2007 draft process, helped develop the 2007 CIS draft board and set up a tryout camp in North Carolina.

A graduate of Miami (Ohio), Lipman earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and journalism. He and his wife, Allison, were married in July 2014.

**MATT  
JACOBS**



Asst. Coach,  
Sports Performance  
Fourth Season at NIU

**JIM  
MAGUIRE**



Asst. Director of  
Football Operations  
First Season at NIU

**DAN  
WOLFE**



Asst. Director of  
Football Operations  
Second Season at NIU

**NATE  
McNEAL**



Graduate Assistant/  
Video  
First Season at NIU

**AARON  
CHRISTNER**



Graduate Assistant/  
Operations  
Third Season at NIU

**MATT  
KUEHL**



Head Football  
Athletic Trainer  
First Season at NIU

**BEN  
KASTLER**



Asst. Football  
Athletic Trainer  
Fourth Season at NIU

**MIKE  
VALENTINE**



Equipment Manager  
Second Season at NIU

**MELISSA  
DAWSON**



Senior Associate Athletic  
Director/Academic  
Support Services  
First Season at NIU

**JULIE  
EDWARDS**



Football Secretary  
18th Season at NIU



**NICK PESIK**

*Off. Graduate Assistant | Wide Receivers  
Ripon College (2011) | Third Season at NIU*

Nick Pesik enters his second season on the Northern Illinois University football staff as a graduate assistant for the offense. Pesik, who spent the 2012 season as a volunteer assistant for the Huskies, works with the wide receivers and also assists the offensive staff in game planning and scouting reports. In addition to his coaching responsibilities, he helps to coordinate the Huskies' walk-on program.

A graduate of Ripon College, Pesik earned his bachelor's degree in exercise science. A four-year letterwinner at Ripon, he played wide receiver for the Red Hawks and served as team captain his senior year. Pesik is a native of Stoughton, Wis. and is pursuing his master's degree in adult and higher education.

**JAKE VAN GROLL**

*Def. Graduate Assistant | Defensive Line  
Ripon College (2012) | Third Season at NIU*

Jake Van Groll begins his second season on the football coaching staff at Northern Illinois University as a defensive graduate assistant. Van Groll, who spent the 2012 season working in the football equipment room, assists with the Huskie defensive line and helps the defensive coaching staff with scouting and game planning each week.

A native of Maribel, Wis., Van Groll earned his degree in exercise science from Ripon College in 2012. He brings three years coaching experience to NIU, after spending three seasons working as a student assistant coaching the defensive line for the Red Hawks. Van Groll is pursuing his master's degree in adult and higher education.

**JOE PAWLAK**

*Off. Graduate Assistant | Offensive Line  
NIU (2011) | Third Season at NIU*

Joe Pawlak enters his first season as a graduate assistant on the staff of the Northern Illinois University football team working with the offensive line, a unit he excelled with as a player with the Huskies.

A three-year starter at NIU, Pawlak started the final 41 games of his career and played in 52 total games. A member of the 2011 Mid-American Conference championship team, he was part of the offensive line that allowed just 12 sacks to rank 10th in the nation for fewest sacks allowed. In 2011, Pawlak and the NIU offense broke 12 single-season records, including passing yards (3,386), touchdowns (67), net yards gained (6,664) and yards per game (476). A success on the field and in the classroom, Pawlak was an Academic All-MAC honoree in 2011.

While this is Pawlak's first year on the NIU coaching staff, it is his third as a graduate assistant at NIU. He spent the past two seasons working under Director of Sports Performance Brad Ohrt in the NIU Strength and Conditioning Center. In that role, Pawlak worked with several different Huskie sports teams.

**JAKE LANDRY**

*Def. Graduate Assistant | Linebackers  
North Dakota (2011) | Second Season at NIU*

Jake Landry enters his second season with the Northern Illinois University football team and is in his first season as a graduate assistant coach. Landry, who worked with Bob Cole and the Huskie quarterbacks as an intern with the Huskies a year ago, is assisting Kevin Kane with the NIU linebackers

in 2014.

Landry came to NIU after spending two seasons as the wide receivers coach at Minnesota-Duluth. He assisted in preparing the offensive game plans and helped coordinate the team's camps. During his tenure with Minnesota-Duluth, the Bulldogs won two Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference North divisional titles and won 21 games.

A four-year letterwinner at North Dakota, Landry played quarterback for UND, where he started and served as team captain his last two seasons. A native of Grand Forks, N.D., Landry received his bachelor's degree in communications for North Dakota in 2011 and is pursuing his master's in sports management at NIU.



*The 2014 NIU Football coaching and support staff, including graduate assistant coaches, operations staff, equipment and athletic training.*