



Head Coach Pete Adrian
2007 MEAC Coach of the Year

NSU

Football

Coaching Staff

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide



HEAD COACH PETE ADRIAN



PETE ADRIAN

Head Coach

When Pete Adrian was named the 16th head coach in Spartan football history on January 19, 2005, he said that Norfolk State was a gold mine waiting to be discovered. After just three seasons at the helm of the program, Adrian's words are proving to be prophetic.

After NSU won a total of two games in the two seasons prior to his arrival, the Spartans won eight games in Adrian's first two seasons. That set the stage for a memorable 2007 campaign. The Spartans recorded the school's first winning season in its 11-year Division I history, going 8-3 and coming within an overtime loss to Delaware State from capturing the program's first MEAC championship.

For all of his team's success, Adrian was named 2007 MEAC Coach of the Year, the first time a Spartan football coach has won that award. He was also named the MEAC Coach of the Year by the 100% Wrong Club of Atlanta, Ga. Adrian was the recipient of the J. Roy Rodman Memorial Award as the Virginia Collegiate Coach of the Year by the Norfolk Sports Club.

In addition, a school-record 10 Spartans were named to the All-MEAC football team. Included among them was defensive back Terrell Whitehead, who also earned third-team All-America honors from The Sports Network.

After being picked to finish seventh in the preseason MEAC poll, the Spartans won a school-record six MEAC games last season. That included the program's first win over

Bethune-Cookman since 1997, first over South Carolina State since 2000, first over Hampton since 2001, and first-ever over Florida A&M. Along the way, the Spartans also garnered the school's first-ever Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS, formerly I-AA) national ranking, reaching as high as No. 23.

NSU also set a season attendance record for Dick Price Stadium, averaging 17,220 fans per game. That ranked seventh nationally, first among MEAC and state FCS schools.

The Spartans have made steady strides under Adrian, who stresses a balanced offense and an attacking style of defense. In 2007, NSU ranked fifth nationally in pass defense (147.8 yards per game allowed) and 19th in total defense (319 ypg), up from 71st the year before. In 2006, NSU ranked fifth nationally in tackles for losses and 19th in sacks.

Special teams play, a weakness in seasons past, has become a Spartan strength. NSU led all of Division I FCS in punt return average in 2006 and ranked 23rd in kickoff return average in 2007.

Adrian has also developed a reputation for being a good recruiter. In his first three full recruiting seasons at the helm of the program, Adrian signed 10 players from the South-eastern Virginia area who were named to *The Virginian-Pilot's* All-Tidewater team.

His freshman class of 2007 was ranked sixth among Division I Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Adrian came to NSU after serving as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach for seven seasons at one of the Spartans' MEAC rivals, Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Adrian, who preaches accountability, hard work and discipline, joined the Wildcats' staff in 1997 after serving as head coach and athletic director at Deltona High School in Deltona, Fla., from 1993-96. Adrian left Bethune-Cookman briefly to serve as defensive coordinator of the XFL's Chicago Enforcers in 2001, and returned to his post at B-CU in 2002.

During his tenure at Bethune-Cookman, Adrian helped the Wildcats to the most successful period in school history. In his seven seasons, the Wildcats went 54-25 and had winning records in each of his last six years there. B-CU made the first two Division I FCS playoff appearances in school history in 2002 and 2003, and won a MEAC title in 2002.

The Wildcat defense was a big reason for that success, regularly ranking among the conference leaders in numerous categories. In 2004, Adrian's last year with the Wildcats, B-CU finished second in the MEAC in scoring defense (20.9 ppg) and total defense (325.1 ypg). The 2004 unit also forced the second-most turnovers in the MEAC (35) and ranked 14th in FCS in passing efficiency defense.

Adrian has coached numerous players who have reached the professional ranks. Among them are current Green Bay Packers starting safety Nick Collins and Jacksonville Jaguars Pro Bowl cornerback Rashean Mathis, the second HBCU athlete to win the Buck Buchanan Award as the top

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide

HEAD COACH PETE ADRIAN



NSU Athletics Director Marty L. Miller (left) presents Pete Adrian with the 2007 MEAC Coach of the Year Award.

injury cut short his career in Morgantown, W.Va., but he coached the Mountaineers' freshman football team as a senior in 1969. He earned his bachelor's degree from WVU in 1970 and received his master's from Rhode Island University in 1972.

Adrian, 59, and his wife, Christine, have two sons, Rocco and Zach.

ADRIAN'S PROFILE

PERSONAL

- **Born:** August 11, 1948
- **Hometown:** Brilliant, Ohio
- **Alma Mater:** West Virginia '70
- **Family:** Wife, Christine; sons, Rocco and Zach

EXPERIENCE

- **West Virginia:** Freshman Football, 1969
- **Rhode Island:** Defensive Line, 1970; Receivers, 1971
- **Idaho State:** Defensive Line, 1972-75
- **Rhode Island:** Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator, 1976-85
- **Bloomsburg:** Head Coach, 1986-92
- **Delfona High:** Head Football Coach/ Athletic Director, 1993-96
- **Bethune-Cookman:** Defensive Coordinator, 1997-2000, 2002-04
- **Chicago (XFL):** Defensive Coordinator, 2001
- **Norfolk State:** Head Coach, 2005-present

HEAD COACHING RECORD

- **Bloomsburg:** 36-37-1 (7 seasons)
- **Norfolk State:** 16-17 (3 seasons)
- **Totals:** 52-54-1 (10 seasons)

defensive player in Division I FCS. Mathis still holds FCS records for interceptions in a season (14, in 2002) and a career (31). Adrian also coached back-to-back MEAC Defensive Players of the Year in 2002 (Mathis) and 2003 (defensive end Steve Baggs).

Adrian has 39 years of coaching experience, 34 at the collegiate level. He has held assistant coaching positions at West Virginia, Rhode Island and Idaho State. At Rhode Island, he was on staff for three Yankee Conference championships and NCAA playoff teams. He was also the head coach at Division II Bloomsburg (Pa.) University from 1986-92, compiling a 36-37-1 record. He has the third-most wins of any football coach in Bloomsburg history.

A native of Brilliant, Ohio, Adrian lettered in five sports at Brilliant High School before attending West Virginia. At WVU, he played one year of freshman football, in 1966, before playing parts of three seasons on the varsity in 1967-69. An



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide



ASSISTANT COACHES

ROD HOLDER

Asst. Head Coach/Offensive Line



Rod Holder, who has been a part of three national championship teams as either a player or coach, is in his fourth season as assistant head coach at Norfolk State University. He coaches the offensive line.

In his first season, Holder's no-nonsense style transformed the NSU offense into one of the more productive, well-balanced units in the MEAC. With mostly the same unit as 2004, and with only one senior starter, the offensive line helped NSU finish fourth in the conference in total offense.

NSU ranked third in the MEAC in passing yards per game in 2006 and third in scoring offense in 2007. Holder has coached an All-MEAC lineman each of his three previous years at NSU: guard Tyrus Lassiter in 2005, tackle Emanuel Swindell in 2006 and Black College All-America guard Jason Kressen in 2007. Holder's offensive line also helped lead the way for running back Daryl Jones to top the 1,000-yard mark last season.

Holder came to NSU after serving as offensive line coach at Rutgers University in 2004. That season, Rutgers led the Big East in passing offense (310.5 yards per game) and was third in total offense (394 ypg). The Scarlet Knights also allowed the second-fewest sacks in the conference (20 in 11 games).

Prior to working at Rutgers, Holder coached the offensive line at Western Illinois University from 2002-03. The Leathernecks' offense averaged over 36 points per game in each of his two seasons there and finished in the top two of the Gateway Conference in total offense both seasons. In that time, Western Illinois compiled a 20-6 record and finished No. 5 in the ESPN/USA Today Division I-AA Coaches Poll in both 2002 and 2003. Holder also helped coach All-America lineman Fred Layne in 2003.

Holder served as assistant offensive line coach at the University of Miami in 2002 when the Hurricanes won the Rose Bowl and the national title.

As a player at Miami from 1986-89, he earned over 20 starts on the offensive line and helped the Hurricanes to national championships in 1987 and 1989 under legendary coach Jimmy Johnson. In his four years as a letterwinner there, Holder helped the 'Canes compile a 45-3 record and three bowl wins, two in the Orange Bowl and one in the Sugar Bowl. He graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in business.

Holder played for one season in the World League of American Football with the New York/New Jersey Knights (1991). He began his coaching career as an offensive line coach for three Miami, Fla., area high schools from 1992-97. He then served as the graduate assistant offensive line coach at the University of Illinois in 1997-98, while earning his master's degree in educational policy studies.

Holder then coached at Northeastern in 1999 and at Bentley in 2000. He joined the XFL as offensive line coach of the Chicago Enforcers in 2001, before returning to Miami later that year. While in the XFL, he worked alongside Spartans head coach Pete Adrian, who was the defensive coordinator.

Holder and his wife, Michelle, have one son, Rod Jr.



JEFF PARKER

Passing Game Coordinator



Jeff Parker is in his fourth season as an assistant coach on the NSU football staff. Parker is the passing game coordinator and coaches the quarterbacks and receivers.

Under Parker's guidance, quarterback Casey Hansen became the first Spartan signal-caller since Aaron Sparrow (1994-95) to pass for at least 2,000 yards in back-to-back seasons. Hansen led the MEAC in total passing yards (2,166) in 2006 and threw for 2,111 more in 2007 before signing as a free agent with the Philadelphia Eagles. Another of Parker's pupils,

receiver Jamar Johnson, was a second-team All-MEAC choice last season.

Parker came to the Spartans from Bethune-Cookman, where he coached wide receivers for three seasons.

Parker has extensive experience coaching on the offensive side of the ball. He was an assistant at Seabreeze (Fla.) High School from 1993-2001, coaching the receivers for the first eight years of his tenure before taking over the offensive coordinator reins in 2001. That season, his offense led all Florida high schools in passing yards. Parker followed his stint at Seabreeze with an eight-month stint as head coach at Spruce Creek (Fla.) High School in the spring and summer of 2002 before taking his position at Bethune-Cookman.



Parker was a star receiver in college. He played two seasons at Tennessee State University before finishing his eligibility at Bethune-Cookman. In two seasons playing for the Wildcats, Parker caught 125 passes for 1,765 yards, earning first-team All-MEAC honors each season. He capped his career by being named a first-team All-American in 1991.

After completing his college eligibility, Parker had pro stints with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL (1992), the Charlotte Rage (1994) and Orlando Predators (1995-98) of the Arena

Football League, and the Rhine Fire of the World Football League (1995).

Parker earned his bachelor's degree in physical education and recreation from Bethune-Cookman in 1994. He is married to the former Onya Davis. The couple has one daughter, Jai.

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide

ASSISTANT COACHES



MARK DEBASTIANI

Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers



Mark DeBastiani is in his fourth season as the defensive coordinator/linebackers coach for Norfolk State University.

In each of his first three years in his current position, DeBastiani helped NSU improve over the previous season in its rushing yards allowed and points against. In 2006, NSU ranked fifth in the nation in tackles for losses and 19th in sacks per game. In 2007, the Spartans ranked fifth in pass defense and 19th in total defense. Two of his linebackers — twins Maguell and Marquez Davis — earned All-MEAC recognition last

season, with Marquez also earning honorable mention All-America accolades.

DeBastiani has won a conference championship at each of his previous coaching stops. He was the defensive line coach and video coordinator at Bethune-Cookman University for eight seasons prior to coming to NSU. There, DeBastiani worked alongside NSU head coach Pete Adrian, then the Wildcats' defensive coordinator, in turning the Bethune-Cookman defense into a force. The Wildcats' 3-4 ball-hawking defense was a key to the team's ascent to the top of the MEAC. The Wildcats ranked 13th and eighth, respectively, in Division I-AA total defense in their two national playoff seasons, 2002 and 2003. B-CU ranked second in the conference in 2004 in scoring defense and total defense. He also helped tutor one All-American, defensive lineman Damion Cook, from 1997–2000.

Prior to joining the B-CU staff, DeBastiani coached the defensive tackles at Appalachian State University from 1995–96. In 1995, Appalachian State went undefeated in the regular season, won the Southern Conference championship and advanced to the Division I-AA quarterfinals.

DeBastiani also coached the offensive and defensive lines at his alma mater, Division II Shepherd (W.Va.) College, in 1993 and 1994, helping the Rams to the 1994 West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship.

DeBastiani earned his bachelor's degree in health from Shepherd in 1993. He lettered three years for the Shepherd football team and started two years at center. During his career there, he was a member of back-to-back WVIAC championship teams (1991–92). The 1991 team advanced to the NAIA quarterfinals, and the 1992 team made it to the NAIA semifinals.

A native of Arthurdale, W.Va., DeBastiani was a football and basketball letterwinner in high school. He is married to Christine, and the couple has two children, Benjamin and Maria. The family currently resides in Chesapeake.

KIRK MASTROMATTEO

Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs



Kirk Mastromatteo is in his fourth season as Norfolk State's offensive coordinator/running backs coach.

In 2005, Mastromatteo joined fellow Spartan coaches Pete Adrian, Mark DeBastiani and Jeff Parker in coming to Norfolk from the Bethune-Cookman University coaching staff. He made an immediate impact. In 2005, the Spartans ranked fourth in the MEAC in rushing offense, increasing their per-game total from 2004 by nearly 80 yards per game. Under his guidance,

the trio of Terrell Johnson, Monte' Anthony and Daryl Jones combined for more than 2,000 yards on the ground.

In 2007, Jones became just the second NSU running back and first since Angelo Todd in 1998 to rush for 1,000 yards in the Spartans' Division I history. Jones was a second-team All-MEAC and second-team all-state selection.

Prior to coming to NSU, Mastromatteo was the recruiting coordinator and the running backs coach for the Wildcats for eight seasons. In each of the last seven of those seasons, Bethune-Cookman ranked in the top 21 in Division I-AA in rushing offense. He also helped the Wildcats to a MEAC championship in 2002 and back-to-back berths in the I-AA playoffs (2002–03). B-CU also played in the 1998 McDonald's Heritage Bowl, the now-defunct game that pitted the MEAC and SWAC football champions.

Prior to joining B-CU, Mastromatteo was offensive coordinator and running backs coach at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Fla., from 1996–97. His first collegiate coaching experience came at Division III Widener University in Chester, Pa., in 1995. He was a graduate assistant who coached the quarterbacks and served as assistant to the head coach. That season, he helped Widener to the Mid-Atlantic States Conference championship and a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Mastromatteo's experience is not limited to the offensive of the ball. He was the defensive line coach at New Smyrna Beach, High School during the 1994–95 school year, and he assisted with several positions while serving as a student assistant at his alma mater, the University of Akron, from 1989–94. At Akron, Mastromatteo assisted with administration and recruiting as well as coaching the defensive line, running backs and defensive backs.

Mastromatteo, a native of Kettering, Ohio, earned his bachelor's degree in business education from Akron in 1994.



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide



ASSISTANT COACHES

MARCO BUTLER

Defensive Backs



Marco Butler is in his fourth year on the Norfolk State coaching staff. He coaches the secondary.

After showing steady improvement under Butler during 2005 and 2006, last season was a stellar year for the Spartans' secondary. NSU ranked second in the nation in pass efficiency defense and fifth in total pass defense (147.8 ypg allowed). Two of Butler's defensive backs, Terrell Whitehead and Don Carey, earned All-MEAC honors.

Whitehead, who led the MEAC in interceptions, also earned third-team All-America honors by The Sports Network.

Prior to joining the coaching staff at NSU, Butler spent four seasons as an assistant coach at Fayetteville State University. He worked with the safeties for FSU, and was also video coordinator and academic coordinator.

At Fayetteville State, Butler coached for two CIAA championship teams, in 2002 and 2003, and one CIAA runner-up team, in 2004. The Broncos made NCAA Division II playoff appearances in two of his last three seasons there.

Butler also has coaching experience beyond the gridiron. He was the head men's and women's track coach at Fayetteville State from the fall of 2004 before coming to NSU, and was the head women's track coach and an assistant for the men's team in 2002-03.

Butler was a four-year player for Western Carolina University (1995-99), where he played receiver and defensive back for the Catamounts. He earned his bachelor's degree in sport management with a minor in marketing in May of 2000.

Butler is a native of Ware Shoals, S.C. He and his wife, LaShauna, have one daughter, Eva Marissa, and a son, Marco Deuce.



MARK THURSTON

Defensive Line



Mark Thurston is in his fourth year as an assistant coach at NSU. He coaches the defensive line.

Thurston has coached one All-MEAC performer during his time at NSU: current tackle Dennis Marsh, who garnered second-team honors in 2007.

Thurston was a three-year letter-winner at West Virginia University from 1997-99. He played rush linebacker and started his first two

years for the Mountaineers. He earned his liberal arts degree in 2003.

Thurston coached one year of semi-pro football with the West Virginia Wham! of the Mid-Ohio Valley League. He directed the defensive line and special teams.

Thurston then went to Miami Norland High School, where he coached the defensive line and special teams from 2003-04. There, he coached four defensive ends who earned Division I scholarships, including current Spartan Jason Dent. The others now play at Miami (Fla.), Rutgers and North Carolina.

Thurston is a native of Miami, Fla. He was an all-county and all-state defensive end at Miami Senior High in the mid-1990s. He was a *USA Today* Honorable Mention All-American as a senior before attending West Virginia.

Thurston has one daughter, Jada, and one son, Major.



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide

ASSISTANT COACHES



CURTIS WILLIAMS

Assistant Receivers/Tight Ends



Curtis A. Williams, another product of Bethune-Cookman University, begins his fourth year as an assistant on the Spartans' coaching staff. He assists in coaching the receivers and tight ends.

Williams served as an assistant varsity football coach at Wilson High School in Portsmouth for three seasons. There, he coached the wide receivers and special teams. Some of the outstanding athletes he coached there include world-class

sprinter LaShawn Merritt and NSU football players Korey Jones and Jerome Johnson.

Williams was a four-year letterwinner at Bethune-Cookman from 1997-2000, where he was under the tutelage of current Spartan coaches Pete Adrian, Kirk Mastromatteo, Mark DeBastiani and Jeff Parker. Williams played receiver, tight end and long-snapper for the Wildcats. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology education in 2002.

Williams, a Portsmouth native, moved to Florida when he was eight. He was a standout basketball and football player at Lake Worth High School in Lake Worth, Fla. Williams has one son, Quentin Jordan Williams.



STEVE CANTER

Tight Ends



Steve Canter is in his first season as an assistant coach at Norfolk State. He coaches the tight ends.

Canter comes to NSU after serving as head coach at Landstown High School in Virginia Beach the last two seasons. His teams there went 13-7. Six of his players are currently on football scholarships at the collegiate level, including current Spartans' linebacker Anthony Taylor.

Canter was an assistant coach at Landstown in 2005 when the Eagles went 13-1 and advanced to the state Group AAA Division 6 championship game. That team featured current Florida Gators star Percy Harvin.

Canter lettered one year as a fullback at Virginia Tech, in 2003. That season, he received the Frederick Cobb Award, which is presented to the Hokies' most spirited and enthusiastic player.

After earning his bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies in 2003, Canter was a graduate assistant for the Hokies during their 2004 ACC championship season that culminated in a Sugar Bowl berth. During that season, he worked closely with two current NFL players, tight end Jeff King of the Carolina Panthers and safety Aaron Rouse of the Green Bay Packers.

Canter, a Virginia Beach native, received his master's in health promotion from Virginia Tech in 2004. Canter and his wife, the former Stephanie Rogers, reside in Virginia Beach.



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS

2008 Football Media Guide



ASSISTANT COACHES

VINCE SINAGRA

Assistant Linebackers



Vince Sinagra enters his first season as an assistant coach at NSU. He will work with the linebackers.

Sinagra brings a wealth of experience to NSU, including a total of 16 years at Division I FCS programs VMI, Stony Brook, Holy Cross, Hofstra and Fordham.

Most recently, Sinagra served as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at VMI during the 2006 and 2007 seasons. He served in the same capacity at Stony Brook from 2004-05.

Prior to his tenure at Stony Brook, Sinagra spent five seasons at Holy Cross (1999-2003), where he was linebackers coach and special teams coordinator. While at Holy Cross, Sinagra was responsible for game and practice planning as well as recruiting.

Sinagra also had two stints at Hofstra University serving as the Pride's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach during the 1998 season. Sinagra had earlier coached the Hofstra wide receivers during the 1993 season.

From 1994-98, Sinagra coached as an assistant at Fordham where he was defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. Sinagra also served under NSU head coach Pete Adrian as defensive coordinator and defensive line coach at Bloomsburg (Pa.) University from 1986-92. There, he also worked as an academic advisor and headed the summer football camp.

Sinagra graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1975, receiving a bachelor's degree in physical education and health before completing work on a master's degree in physical education, health and recreation from Rhode Island in 1983. Sinagra started three years at defensive tackle for URI and played professionally with the Philadelphia Bell of the World Football League and Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League.

Sinagra began his coaching career at Rhode Island in 1976-77 with the defensive line before moving to Milford Academy in Connecticut for nine seasons.

He and his wife, Elise, reside in Lexington.

