



# PAT NARDUZZI

HEAD COACH

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** April 22, 1966

**HOMETOWN:** Youngstown, Ohio

**ALMA MATER:** Rhode Island, 1990

**FAMILY:** Narduzzi and his wife, Donna, have four children: Arianna, Christina, Patrick and Isabella.

## COLLEGIATE PLAYING EXPERIENCE

**RHODE ISLAND**, three-year starter at linebacker (1987-89).

**YOUNGSTOWN STATE**, starter at linebacker (1985).

## COLLEGIATE COACHING EXPERIENCE

**MIAMI (OHIO)**, 1990-91, graduate assistant; 1992, wide receivers.

**RHODE ISLAND**, 1993-97, linebackers; 1998-99, defensive coordinator.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS**, 2000-02, linebackers.

**MIAMI (OHIO)**, 2003, defensive coordinator.

**CINCINNATI**, 2004-06, defensive coordinator.

**MICHIGAN STATE**, 2007-14, defensive coordinator; 2013-14, assistant head coach.

**PITTSBURGH**, 2015-present, head coach.

Family and football are Pat Narduzzi's life passions. The two have long been interwoven for Pitt's head coach. Narduzzi's wife, Donna, and their four children are a familiar sight in the Pitt football offices and at university events. This mirrors his own boyhood when he was a constant shadow for his father, longtime football coach Bill Narduzzi, in locker rooms and on the sidelines.

Those early experiences with his dad planted the seed for Narduzzi's coaching career. Moreover, it provided a vivid example of how he would one day handle a team of his own—like they were his own family.

"Coach Narduzzi always has an open door for us," says junior offensive lineman Brian O'Neill. "That's well known throughout our team. If we need to talk, he's there. It's great to have a head coach you feel comfortable talking to about anything. It doesn't have to be about football."

Like a team made up of blood brothers, the Panthers have played the past two seasons with a passionate style that reflects their coach. Narduzzi has provided the fire for a program that, prior to his arrival, was frozen in a stretch of middling results.

"Coach is real energetic, real hands on," said James Conner, who concluded his Pitt career as the ACC's all-time touchdowns leader and was a Pittsburgh Steelers draft pick. "Sometimes I think he's going to jump in the drills. He's just a real hands-on, real focused guy. He's the man for the job for us."

Narduzzi has directed Pitt to eight regular-season wins in each of his first two years, something the Panthers had not achieved since 2008-09. Narduzzi owns a 16-10 overall mark and 11-5 ACC record. The last Pitt coach to achieve as many victories in his first two years was the late Serafino "Foge" Fazio, who went 17-6-1 over his initial two seasons in 1982-83.

In ACC annals, Narduzzi is only the fifth man to begin his head coaching career with at least eight wins in each of his first two seasons. The others are Charley Pell of Clemson (1977-78), Ralph Friedgen of Maryland (2001-02), Jeff Jagodzinski of Boston College (2007-08) and Jimbo Fisher of Florida State (2010-11).

Under Narduzzi's direction, Pitt is seizing attention across the country as a rising contender in the ACC, a conference widely hailed as college football's finest last season. In 2016, Pitt was the only school to have wins over two teams that finished in the top 5 of the final College Football Playoff rankings. The Panthers gave No. 2 Clemson—the eventual national champion—its only loss (43-42) and essentially kept No. 5 Penn State out of the playoff field by defeating the Nittany Lions, 42-39.

From an individual standpoint, Quadree Henderson earned consensus All-America status as a return specialist after leading the country in kickoff return touchdowns (three) and combined kick return yards (1,166). Additionally, guard Dorian Johnson was a first team All-American—the first Pitt offensive lineman to earn that designation in 22 years—and was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals.

Narduzzi re-energized Ejuan Price's career, which had previously been beset by injuries. Price emerged as one of the country's top pass rushers, totaling 24.5 sacks over his junior and senior seasons. He finished his Pitt career as a second team All-American and was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams.

"Coach Narduzzi is a confident guy," Price said. "He reassured me...I was going to be playing fast and I was going to be playing free and I just believed him. He was so confident about it. Why would I not believe him? He put that in me and I just ran with it."

In the classroom, the Panthers had 11 players named to the ACC All-Academic Football Team the past two years, the second highest total among conference schools.

Narduzzi was named the Panthers' head coach on Dec. 26, 2014. He arrived at Pitt following eight highly successful years as the defensive coordinator for Mark Dantonio at Michigan State. Under his direction, the Spartans were the only team to rank in the nation's top 10 in total defense and rushing defense each season from 2011-14.

In 2014, the Spartans finished with a No. 5 national ranking and 11-2 record following a 42-41 victory over Baylor in the Cotton Bowl. Narduzzi's defense shut out the high-scoring Bears in the fourth quarter, opening the door for 21 unanswered points by Michigan State.

Michigan State boasted the nation's top rushing defense in 2014, yielding just 88.5 yards per game. The Spartans finished third nationally with 34 turnovers gained and eighth in total defense, holding opponents to just 315.8 yards per contest.

In 2013, Michigan State finished No. 3 in the country following a Big Ten title and 24-20 victory over No. 5 Stanford in the Rose Bowl. In the wake of that championship season, Narduzzi was named the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Broyles Award, annually presented to the country's top assistant coach.

Narduzzi tutored an impressive list of decorated defensive players at Michigan State, including first team All-Americans in cornerback Darqueze Dennard, safety Kurtis Drummond, linebacker Greg Jones and defensive tackle Jerel Worthy.

Dennard was a unanimous All-American in 2013, becoming the first Michigan State cornerback to earn that distinction. He also was the school's first winner of the Jim Thorpe Award, given annually to college football's top defensive back.

Narduzzi coached 19 first-team All-Big Ten selections. Four players won the conference's top individual awards, including two Big Ten Defensive Back of the Year honorees (Dennard in 2013 and Drummond in 2014). Shilique Calhoun was the Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year in 2013 while Greg Jones was the overall Defensive Player of the Year in 2009.

In coming to Pittsburgh, Narduzzi was reunited with former Michigan State running back Le'Veon Bell, now a Pro Bowler with the neighboring Steelers. Bell faced Narduzzi's defense every day in practice from 2010-12. The fiery defensive coordinator made a strong impression on him.

"When I watched the way he acted with the defense, I could just always tell that our players loved him," Bell said. "They loved playing for him. He is just an overall great guy. He is a player's coach. He is a guy who is always for his players. He loves his players. He always puts those guys first."

Prior to Michigan State, Narduzzi spent three years (2004-06) as defensive coordinator under Dantonio at Cincinnati, helping the Bearcats to a pair of bowl invitations.

In 2003, Narduzzi was the defensive coordinator at Miami of Ohio under the late Terry Hoepfner. The RedHawks stormed to a 13-1 record that season, capturing the Mid-American Conference (MAC) championship and defeating nationally ranked Louisville in the GMAC Bowl to finish No. 10 in the Associated Press poll. While quarterback Ben Roethlisberger headlined Miami's offense, Narduzzi's stout unit topped the MAC in rushing defense, scoring defense and pass efficiency defense.

Narduzzi served as linebackers coach at Northern Illinois for three seasons (2000-02). NIU won a pair of MAC divisional titles during his tenure and in 2002 had the league's top rushing defense.

From 1993-99, Narduzzi coached at his alma mater, Rhode Island, serving as the Rams' defensive coordinator his final two seasons. He began his coaching career at Miami of Ohio, working as a graduate assistant in 1990 and 1991, before earning his first full-time position as receivers coach for the 1992 season.

Narduzzi was an All-Ohio performer at Youngstown's Ursuline High School, leading the Irish to the Steel Valley championship and state playoffs as a senior in 1984. He was a starting linebacker under his father, the late Bill Narduzzi, as a freshman at Youngstown State in 1985 before transferring to Rhode Island, where he became a three-year starter for the Rams from 1987-89.

Bill Narduzzi was head coach at YSU from 1975-85. He led the Penguins to two NCAA Division II playoff appearances, including the national championship game in 1979, and twice was named the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Coach of the Year.

"He's smiling from above. I got here because of him," Pat said of his father. "A guy who would wake you up on a Sunday morning and get two hours of work in before church. He pushed and guided me through the process of coaching."

Narduzzi completed his bachelor's degree in physical education at Rhode Island in 1990 and later earned a master's degree in sports studies at Miami of Ohio in 1992. He and his wife, Donna, have four children: Arianna, Christina, Patrick and Isabella.

## FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICANS UNDER NARDUZZI

### AT PITT

- Returner Quadree Henderson (2016 Consensus)
- Guard Dorian Johnson (2016)

### AT MICHIGAN STATE

- Safety Kurtis Drummond (2014)
- Cornerback Darqueze Dennard (2013 Unanimous)
- Defensive Tackle Jerel Worthy (2011 Consensus)
- Linebacker Greg Jones (2009 Consensus, 2010 Unanimous)

## ACC AWARD WINNERS UNDER NARDUZZI

### AT PITT

#### Brian Piccolo Award

- Running Back James Conner (2016)

### ACC Overall and Defensive Rookie of the Year (Media)

- Safety Jordan Whitehead (2015)

### ACC Offensive Rookie of the Year (Media)

- Running Back Qadree Ollison (2015)

### ACC Co-Rookies of the Year (Coaches)

- Safety Jordan Whitehead and Running Back Qadree Ollison (2015)

## BIG TEN AWARD WINNERS UNDER NARDUZZI

### AT MICHIGAN STATE

#### Big Ten Defensive Back of the Year

- Safety Kurtis Drummond (2014)
- Cornerback Darqueze Dennard (2013)

### Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year

- Defensive End Shilique Calhoun (2013)

### Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year

- Linebacker Greg Jones (2009)



# SHAWN WATSON

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QUARTERBACKS

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** September 21, 1959

**HOMETOWN:** Carbondale, Ill.

**ALMA MATER:** Southern Illinois, 1982

**FAMILY:** Watson and his wife, Anita, have three children: daughter Amber and sons Aaron and Adam.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**, 1982, graduate assistant.

**ILLINOIS**, 1983-84, graduate assistant; 1985, tight ends and offensive tackles; 1986, wide receivers.

**MIAMI (OHIO)**, 1987-88, wide receivers and tight ends; 1989, wide receivers; 1990-93, quarterbacks and recruiting coordinator.

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**, 1994-96, head coach.

**NORTHWESTERN**, 1997-98, quarterbacks.

**COLORADO**, 1999, quarterbacks; 2000-05, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks.

**NEBRASKA**, 2006, tight ends and recruiting coordinator; 2007-10, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks.

**LOUISVILLE**, 2011, quarterbacks; 2012-13, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks.

**TEXAS**, 2014-15, assistant head coach for offense and quarterbacks.

**INDIANA**, 2016, offensive quality control; quarterbacks (bowl game).

**PITTSBURGH**, 2017, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks.

Shawn Watson, a 35-year coaching veteran who owns an extensive and accomplished record overseeing offenses on the collegiate level, was named offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Pitt by Pat Narduzzi in February.

Watson previously served as offensive coordinator at Texas (2014-15), Louisville (2012-13), Nebraska (2007-10) and Colorado (2000-05). He also has head coaching experience on his résumé, serving in that capacity at his alma mater, Southern Illinois, from 1994-96.

Watson joined the Panthers from Indiana, where he spent the 2016 season as an offensive quality control assistant before being named the Hoosiers' quarterback coach. His Pitt appointment serves as a reunion with Narduzzi. The pair previously worked together on the late Randy Walker's staff at Miami (Ohio) from 1990-92.

Watson counts among his protégés Minnesota Vikings quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who he coached for three seasons at Louisville (2011-13). Under Watson's guidance, Bridgewater became one of the nation's most dazzling players while the resurgent Cardinals went a combined 30-9 during that three-year span and claimed two Big East championships.

In 2013, Louisville went 12-1 as Bridgewater threw for 3,970 yards and 31 touchdowns with only four interceptions. He led the nation in completion percentage (71%) and was a finalist for the prestigious Manning Award. The Vikings' first-round selection in the 2014 draft, Bridgewater went on to be named the Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Year.

Prior to Louisville, Watson spent five seasons (2006-10) at Nebraska. His work helped the Cornhuskers annually rank among the nation's most productive offenses.

In 2010, Nebraska ranked ninth nationally in rushing (247.6 avg.), while averaging more than 30 points per game. Nebraska's 2008 offense ranked 12th nationally in total yards (450.8 avg.), 15th in passing yards (281.0), 15th in pass efficiency (154.5 rating) and 17th in scoring (35.4 avg.). In 2007, Watson's initial season as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Nebraska threw for a school-record 3,886 yards, ranking seventh in the nation in passing yards (323.8 avg.) and ninth in total offense (468.2 avg.).

Cornhuskers quarterback Joe Ganz set 23 school records under Watson's guidance, including single-season marks for total offense (3,826), passing yards (3,568), completions (285) and completion percentage (67.9%).

Watson coached at Colorado from 1999-2005, helping the Buffaloes claim four Big 12 North Division titles and a conference championship in 2001.

That 2001 Colorado team will forever be remembered for its 62-36 demolition of No. 2 Nebraska in the regular-season finale, followed by a thrilling 39-37 win over No. 3 Texas in the Big 12 title game to earn a Fiesta Bowl berth. Watson's offense ranked eighth nationally in rushing (228.5 avg.) and 20th in total yards (434.4 avg.).

Watson coached quarterbacks at Northwestern during the 1997 and 1998 seasons. His appointment in Evanston came after serving three years as head coach at Southern Illinois, where he coached 20 all-conference players. Watson himself was a safety at SIU (1979-80) and began his coaching career as a Saluki graduate assistant in 1982.

His additional coaching stops include Miami of Ohio (1987-93) and Illinois (1983-1986).

Watson and his wife, Anita, have three children: daughter Amber and sons Aaron and Adam.



# JOSH CONKLIN

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** June 19, 1979

**HOMETOWN:** Gillette, Wyo.

**ALMA MATER:** Dakota State, 2003

**FAMILY:** Conklin and his wife, Molly, have two children: son Clark and daughter Millie.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE,** 2003-04, graduate assistant; 2005-06, defensive backs and special teams.

**WOFFORD,** 2007-09, defensive backs; 2009, special teams.

**THE CITADEL,** 2010-11, defensive coordinator and safeties.

**TENNESSEE,** 2012, safeties.

**FIU,** 2013-14, defensive coordinator.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2015-present, defensive coordinator.

Josh Conklin enters his third season as Pitt's defensive coordinator. Under Conklin's watch, Pitt has featured one of the most productive pass rushes in the country. The Panthers ranked sixth nationally in sacks last season, averaging 3.31 per contest. Pitt compiled 80 sacks the past two seasons, its highest two-year total since 2009-10 (81).

Conklin's 2016 unit also boasted lofty national rankings in rush defense (16th, 119.6 yards per game) and defensive touchdowns (eighth, four TDs).

Defensive end Ejuan Price enjoyed the finest two years of his career playing in Conklin's defense. Considered an undersized down lineman, Price racked up 24.5 sacks over the 2015-16 seasons and was twice selected first team All-ACC. As a senior, he led the conference and ranked second in the country in tackles for loss (1.8 per game) en route to second-team All-America honors. Price was selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the 2017 NFL Draft.

In the secondary, safety Jordan Whitehead has been an All-ACC selection each of his first two seasons and was the league's 2015 Rookie of the Year. Whitehead enters his junior season holding status as one of college football's most dynamic defensive playmakers.

Conklin joined Pitt after building an impressive résumé as FIU's defensive coordinator for two years (2013-14). In his final season, he was nominated for the prestigious Broyles Award after overseeing a unit that ranked first nationally in fumble recoveries (19), second in defensive touchdowns (six), fourth in turnovers gained (33), eighth in turnover margin (plus-11 overall; 0.92 margin per game) and 35th in total defense (363.8 yards per game).

Prior to FIU, Conklin was the safeties coach at the University of Tennessee (2012) and defensive coordinator and safeties coach at The Citadel (2010-11). While at The Citadel, Conklin coached cornerback Cortez Allen, a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers from 2011-15.

Conklin's Citadel defenses annually ranked among the best in the Southern Conference. The Bulldogs were especially stingy in scoring defense in 2011, holding their opponents under 20 points in seven of 11 contests (64%).

From 2007-09, Conklin coached the defensive backs at Wofford. He added special teams to his responsibilities in his final season working with the Terriers.

In Conklin's initial two years, Wofford had 33 interceptions. The Terriers led the Southern Conference in 2007 with 20 interceptions and ranked second in 2008 with 13. Wofford advanced to the FCS Playoffs in each of those seasons.

Conklin's coaching career was launched at South Dakota State, where he served as a graduate assistant in 2003 and 2004. He was then promoted to a full-time post with the Jackrabbits, coaching their secondary and special teams in 2005 and 2006.

Conklin is a 2003 graduate of Dakota State University. He was a starting linebacker and Academic All-American for the Trojans.

In addition to his bachelor's in physical education from DSU, Conklin also owns a master's in sport administration from South Dakota State. He and his wife, Molly, have two children: son Clark and daughter Millie.



# ANDRE POWELL

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR/RUNNING BACKS

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** September 29, 1966

**HOMETOWN:** Lockhart, S.C.

**ALMA MATER:** Indiana, 1989

**FAMILY:** Powell and his wife, Joann, have two daughters, Alayna and Mikala, and a son, Andre II.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**INDIANA,** 1988, student assistant; 1989, graduate assistant.

**SOUTH CAROLINA,** 1990, graduate assistant.

**ARMY,** 1991, inside linebackers; 1995, running backs.

**VMI,** 1992, running backs.

**RHODE ISLAND,** 1993-94, running backs.

**VIRGINIA,** 1996, running backs; 1997-99, wide receivers; 2000, running backs.

**NORTH CAROLINA,** 2001-06, running backs; 2004-06, special teams coordinator.

**CLEMSON,** 2007-10, running backs; 2008-10, special teams coordinator.

**MARYLAND,** 2011-14, running backs; 2012-14 special teams coordinator.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2015-present, special teams coordinator and running backs.

As Pitt's special teams coordinator and running backs coach the past two seasons, Andre Powell's impact on the Panthers has been both immediate and impressive.

Under Powell's direction, Quadree Henderson last season led the country in kickoff return touchdowns (a school-record three) and combined kick return yards (1,166). Henderson was a consensus All-American, becoming the first player in Pitt history to earn that stature as a return specialist. As a team, the Panthers ranked fourth nationally in kickoff returns (26.59 avg.) and seventh in punt returns (14.88 avg.).

The kicking game was responsible for some of Pitt's biggest wins the past two years. Chris Blewitt, who concluded his career as Pitt's all-time kick scoring leader (363 points), had four game-winning field goals during the 2015-16 seasons. His biggest came at Clemson last year, a 48-yarder with six seconds left that lifted Pitt past the eventual national champion Tigers, 43-42.

In the offensive backfield, Powell has coached a 1,000-yard rusher in each of his two years at Pitt. In 2016, James Conner—who was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers this spring—rumbled for 1,092 yards and 16 touchdowns in earning first team All-ACC. The season prior, Qadree Ollison was the ACC Offensive Rookie of the Year after rushing for 1,121 yards and 11 touchdowns. Ollison became just the fifth freshman in Pitt history to achieve a 1,000-yard rushing season.

Prior to Pitt, Powell spent four seasons at Maryland (2011-14), where he coached the running backs and, in his final three seasons, served as special teams coordinator. In ESPN's 2014 team efficiency rankings, the Terrapins' special teams were rated No. 11 in the country. Maryland's Brad Craddock was selected the 2014 winner of the prestigious Lou Groza Award, annually presented to college football's top placekicker, after converting 95% of his field goals (18 of 19 with a long of 57 yards). The Terps led the Big Ten and ranked sixth nationally with a 25.6-yard kick return average.

In 2012, Maryland boasted a dynamic return game that featured freshman Stefan Diggs, who totaled 1,896 all-purpose yards, the second-highest season total in school history. Diggs earned All-ACC as a specialist after finishing second in the league with a 28.5-yard kickoff return average.

Powell coached at Clemson from 2007-10, overseeing the running backs each of his four seasons and coordinating the special teams his last three. The Tigers went to a bowl game each year of his tenure, earning two Top 25 finishes. Powell mentored all-time Clemson great C.J. Spiller, a 2009 unanimous All-American and ACC Player of the Year. During his decorated campaign, Spiller became the first running back in ACC history to compile 1,000 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards in the same season.

Spiller concluded his Clemson career with 7,588 all-purpose yards, the second most in FBS history. His seven kickoff return touchdowns set an NCAA record, while his eight total kick return TDs (including one punt) tied the national mark. Spiller was a first-round NFL Draft pick of the Buffalo Bills in 2010. Powell also tutored All-ACC running back James Davis, the second all-time leading rusher in Clemson history with 3,881 yards.

Powell coached running backs at North Carolina from 2001-06. He was the Tar Heels' special teams coordinator his final three seasons. UNC ranked seventh nationally in kickoff returns in 2005 (24.93 avg.) and 29th in 2006 (22.12 avg.). The '06 Tar Heels also ranked 14th in kickoff return yardage defense (17.46 avg.).

At Virginia from 1996-2000, Powell coached the running backs (1996 and 2000) and receivers (1997-99). Among his pupils were future NFL players Tiki Barber, Germaine Crowell, Thomas Jones, Charles Kirby, Pat Washington and Terrence Wilkins.

Powell first worked with Pat Narduzzi on the football staff at Rhode Island during the 1993 and 1994 seasons. Powell's additional coaching stops include Indiana (1989), South Carolina (1990), Army (1991 and 1995) and Virginia Military Institute (1992).

Powell is a 1989 graduate of Indiana, where he lettered twice as a fullback and helped pave the way for 1,000-yard rusher Anthony Thompson. He played on a pair of bowl teams for the Hoosiers (1986 All-American Bowl and 1988 Peach Bowl). Powell and his wife, Joann, have two daughters, Alayna and Mikala, and a son, Andre II.





## ROB HARLEY

LINEBACKERS/RECRUITING COORDINATOR

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** October 16, 1982

**HOMETOWN:** Elmhurst, Ill.

**ALMA MATER:** Ohio State, 2006

**FAMILY:** Harley and his wife, Danielle, have two sons, Paxton and Nash.

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

#### COLLEGE

**OHIO DOMINICAN**, 2010-11, defensive backs, linebackers and assistant special teams coordinator.

**MICHIGAN STATE**, 2012, graduate assistant/offense and special teams; 2013, graduate assistant/linebackers and special teams.

**FIU**, 2014, linebackers.

**PITTSBURGH**, 2015-present, linebackers.

Rob Harley enters his third season as linebackers coach at Pitt. Harley assumed the additional responsibilities of recruiting coordinator for the 2017 season.

Last year, the Panthers' linebackers helped key a rush defense that finished 16th nationally, yielding just 119.6 yards per game. Middle linebacker Matt Galambos enjoyed the best production of his career over the 2015-16 seasons, achieving personal bests in every category under Harley's watch. Galambos signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers this spring.

In his initial season at Pitt, Harley was instrumental in the development of outside linebacker Nicholas Grigsby, a 2015 All-ACC performer. Grigsby was a rookie linebacker with the Los Angeles Rams in 2016.

Harley joined Pitt after spending the 2014 season as the linebackers coach at FIU, where he helped the Golden Panthers rank among the most disruptive defenses in college football.

FIU ranked first nationally in fumble recoveries (19), second in defensive touchdowns (six), fourth in turnovers gained (33), eighth in turnover margin (plus-11 overall; 0.92 margin per game) and 35th in total defense (363.8 yards per game).

Harley's Pitt appointment served as a reunion with Pat Narduzzi. Harley was a graduate assistant at Michigan State for two seasons (2012-13) when Narduzzi was the Spartans' defensive coordinator.

At Michigan State, Harley gained experience on both sides of the ball. In 2013, he worked with the linebackers and special teams, helping the Spartans to a 13-1 record, the Big Ten title and a 24-20 victory over Stanford in the Rose Bowl. Michigan State's defense yielded just 252.2 yards per game to rank second nationally.

In 2012, Harley worked with the Spartans' offense and special teams. Behind 1,793-yard rusher Le'Veon Bell, Michigan State earned a berth in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, where it defeated TCU, 17-16.

During the 2010 and 2011 seasons, Harley served as the defensive backs/linebackers coach and assistant special teams coordinator at Ohio Dominican University, an NCAA Division II program.

A former safety at Ohio State (2001-05), Harley earned three letters with the Buckeyes and was a member of their 2002 national championship team. In Harley's final three seasons, Ohio State posted a 29-8 record, including two victories in the Fiesta Bowl (2003 and 2005 seasons).

A 2006 graduate of Ohio State, Harley has deep roots with the Buckeyes. His uncle is the legendary Chic Harley, the first three-time All-American in Ohio State history.

Harley earned his bachelor's in business administration from Ohio State. He additionally owns a master's degree in kinesiology from Michigan State.

Harley and his wife, Danielle, have two sons, Paxton and Nash.



# RENALDO HILL

SECONDARY

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** November 12, 1978

**HOMETOWN:** Detroit, Mich.

**ALMA MATER:** Michigan State, 2012

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**WYOMING,** 2012, graduate assistant; 2013, cornerbacks.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2015-present, secondary.

In Renaldo Hill, Pitt boasts a secondary coach who spent a decade in the National Football League as a versatile and reliable defensive back.

A former Michigan State captain and All-Big Ten cornerback, Hill played in the NFL (2001-11) before embarking on his coaching career. The 2017 season marks his third with the Panthers.

Under Hill's tutelage, Avonte Maddox has established himself among the ACC's most productive corners. Despite an injury-hindered junior season, Maddox finished in the league's top five in passes defended (fourth, 1.10 per game) and interceptions (fifth, 0.30 per game). His six career interceptions are tied for the second most among active ACC players entering the 2017 season.

Another beneficiary of Hill's guidance has been safety Jordan Whitehead, an All-ACC selection each of his first two seasons and the league's 2015 Rookie of the Year. Whitehead enters his junior campaign holding status as one of college football's most dynamic defensive playmakers.

Hill's impact was also evident on 2015 starting corner Lafayette Pitts, who parlayed a successful senior year into a roster spot with the Miami Dolphins.

Hill was a three-year starting cornerback at Michigan State, earning first-team All-Big Ten honors as a senior in 2000. A force in defending both the pass and run, Hill compiled 71 tackles, five TFLs, three interceptions and 12 pass breakups during his All-Big Ten campaign.

One of Hill's most memorable collegiate plays occurred during his sophomore season in 1998 when he intercepted a pass at the goal line with 1:12 left to seal Michigan State's 28-24 upset of No. 1 Ohio State in Columbus.

A seventh-round selection in the 2001 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals, he would play professionally as both a corner and safety.

Hill played four years with the Cardinals (2001-04), one year with the Oakland Raiders (2005), three years with the Miami Dolphins (2006-08) and his final two seasons with the Denver Broncos (2009-10). He retired prior to the 2011 season and totaled 141 games, 114 starts and 19 interceptions during his NFL career.

Hill began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Wyoming in 2012. He was elevated to a full-time post in 2013, coaching the Cowboys' cornerbacks. While at Wyoming, Hill mentored All-Mountain West performer Marqueston Huff, a fourth-round draft pick of the Tennessee Titans in 2014. Huff now plays for the Baltimore Ravens.

Hill earned his bachelor's degree in retail management from Michigan State in 2012.



# CHARLIE PARTRIDGE

DEFENSIVE LINE

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** December 7, 1973

**HOMETOWN:** Plantation, Fla.

**ALMA MATER:** Drake, 1995

**FAMILY:** Partridge and his wife, Julie, have two daughters, Alexa and Kylee.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**DRAKE,** 1996-97, graduate assistant.

**IOWA STATE,** 1998-99, graduate assistant; 2000-01, director of football operations.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS,** 2002, defensive line and recruiting coordinator.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2003-05, defensive ends; 2005, special teams; 2006-07, special teams coordinator; 2006, defensive line; 2007, linebackers.

**WISCONSIN,** 2008-10, defensive line and specialists; 2011-12, associate head coach, co-defensive coordinator and defensive line.

**ARKANSAS,** 2013, assistant head coach and defensive line.

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC,** 2014-16, head coach.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2017, defensive line.

Charlie Partridge, a renowned Florida recruiter who previously served as a Pitt assistant from 2003-07, returned to the Panthers' staff as defensive line coach in February. Partridge rejoins Pitt after serving the past three seasons as head coach at Florida Atlantic University. Prior to FAU, he was an accomplished assistant at Arkansas and Wisconsin.

At FAU, Partridge inherited a program in need of a complete rebuild, on and off the field. He responded by signing three of the finest recruiting classes in school history, including a 2015 group that earned praise as the best in Conference USA. In the classroom, the Owls set new program standards for individual academic achievement and the highest team grade point average.

Partridge spent the 2013 season at Arkansas, where he served as assistant head coach and oversaw the defensive line. Under his watch, defensive ends Trey Flowers and Chris Smith were All-SEC performers. Partridge also contributed to the Razorbacks' special teams that featured All-SEC kicker Zach Hocker and punter Sam Irwin-Hill, who ranked 15th nationally with a 44.3-yard average.

Partridge was instrumental in one of the best five-year runs in Wisconsin history from 2008-12. Initially serving as defensive line and specialist coach, he was elevated to associate head coach and co-defensive coordinator for his final two seasons. The Badgers won three consecutive Big Ten titles from 2010-12, earning Rose Bowl berths each season. The 2010-11 squads each won 11 games and ranked in the nation's Top 10 at season's end.

Partridge oversaw a physical, game-changing defensive front at Wisconsin. His most accomplished pupil was defensive end J.J. Watt, who was a 2010 All-American and winner of the Lott IMPACT Trophy as the national defensive player of the year. A first-round draft choice of the Houston Texans in 2011, Watt has gone on to earn status as one of the NFL's elite defensive players.

Partridge's initial Pitt tenure was from 2003-07. He had a positional focus on the defensive line for four seasons and the linebackers in his final campaign. Partridge also served as the Panthers' special teams coordinator in 2006-07.

In 2007, Pitt ranked fifth in the nation in total defense, yielding just 297.7 yards per game. The Panthers closed that season with one of the most celebrated victories—and defensive performances—in school history: a 13-9 upset of West Virginia that shattered the Mountaineers' national title hopes.

Under the guidance of Partridge and defensive coordinator Paul Rhoads in 2007, first-year starting middle linebacker Scott McKillop led the nation in tackles (12.6 per game), earning All-America status and unanimous first-team All-Big East honors. Another Partridge protégé, defensive end Joe Clermond, led the Big East in tackles for loss (16.5) in 2006.

Pitt's special teams were highly productive under Partridge's guidance. In 2006, the Panthers led the Big East in net punting (37.5 avg.) and kickoff returns (24.1 yards avg.). During the 2007 campaign, Pitt topped the conference in field goal percentage (81.8%, 18-22) and PAT kicking (100%, 28-28), while ranking second in kickoff returns (22.9 avg.).

ESPN's 2006 College Football "Play of the Year" was actually a Pitt special teams gem—Darrelle Revis' 73-yard punt return for a touchdown against West Virginia.

Prior to Pitt, Partridge served four seasons (1998-2001) at Iowa State. He was a defensive graduate assistant in 1998-99, working with the outside linebackers. Following the 1999 season he earned a full-time appointment as the program's director of football operations.

In 2002, Partridge was hired by Eastern Illinois University as defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator. The Panthers advanced to the NCAA I-AA playoffs that year and shared the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) championship.

Partridge was an NSCA All-America defensive lineman for Drake University. Partridge's collegiate coaching career began at his alma mater as a Drake graduate assistant during the 1996 and 1997 seasons.

Partridge and his wife, Julie, have two daughters, Alexa and Kylee.





# JOHN PETERSON

OFFENSIVE LINE

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** March 20, 1968  
**HOMETOWN:** Middletown, Ohio  
**ALMA MATER:** Ohio State, 1991  
**FAMILY:** Peterson and his wife, Michelle, have two sons, Austin and Cole.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**CINCINNATI**, 1991-92, graduate assistant.

**OHIO STATE**, 1993-94, graduate assistant.

**AKRON**, 1995-98, offensive line.

**MIAMI (OHIO)**, 1999-2003, offensive line; 2001-03, run game coordinator.

**OHIO STATE**, 2004-11, tight ends and recruiting coordinator.

**UAB**, 2012-13, offensive line.

**AKRON**, 2014, assistant head coach and offensive line.

**PITTSBURGH**, 2015-present, offensive line.

Owning more than 25 years of collegiate coaching experience, John Peterson enters his third season overseeing the offensive line at Pitt.

Peterson's 2016 offensive front earned praise as one of the finest in school history. The acclaim was well earned. The Panthers' offensive line keyed an attack that produced a school-record 40.9 points per game, the 10th highest scoring average in the nation. The unit also provided air-tight pass protection, surrendering only 0.77 sacks per contest (10 total) to lead the ACC and rank third nationally.

Three members of Pitt's offensive front were named All-ACC at season's end: guard Dorian Johnson and tackles Adam Bisnowaty and Brian O'Neill. Moreover, Johnson became the first Pitt offensive lineman in 22 years to earn first-team All-America status.

Both Johnson (Arizona Cardinals) and Bisnowaty (New York Giants) were selected in this year's NFL Draft.

Under Peterson's influence, the Panthers have been a semifinalist each of the past two seasons for the Joe Moore Award, which is presented to college football's top offensive line and named after the legendary Pitt offensive line coach.

Peterson owns significant ties to the neighboring state of Ohio, where he spent time as a college player and coach. He joined Pitt after serving as the assistant head coach and offensive line coach at Akron under Terry Bowden in 2014.

Peterson had a highly successful eight-year tenure under Jim Tressel at Ohio State (2004-11), when the Buckeyes won or shared six consecutive Big Ten titles. Peterson was an offensive lineman for the Buckeyes from 1987-90.

Peterson played under a pair of College Hall of Famers at Ohio State in Earle Bruce and John Cooper. As a senior starting guard, he helped pave the way for 1,000-yard rusher Robert Smith.

Following his 1991 graduation, Peterson served in a pair of graduate assistantships at Cincinnati (1991-92) and Ohio State (1993-94). In returning to the Buckeyes, he had the opportunity to work with offensive tackle Orlando Pace, a two-time winner of the prestigious Lombardi Award who went on to a decorated 13-year career in the NFL. Pace was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.

Peterson earned his first full-time coaching post at Akron as offensive line coach from 1995-98. His 1997 unit fueled the country's No. 11 rushing attack and surrendered just 10 sacks.

From 1999-2003, Peterson oversaw the offensive line at Miami of Ohio and was appointed the RedHawks' run game coordinator in 2001. In 2003, led by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, the RedHawks stormed to a 13-1 record, capturing the Mid-American Conference (MAC) championship and defeating nationally ranked Louisville in the GMAC Bowl to finish No. 10 in the Associated Press poll. Peterson's offensive line was a vital part of an offense that averaged 501 yards and 43 points per contest.

That championship campaign also marked Peterson's first collaboration with Pat Narduzzi, who was Miami's defensive coordinator.

Peterson returned to Ohio State in 2004 to work under another College Hall of Famer, Jim Tressel, as tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator. Peterson would help the Buckeyes compile an eight-year record of 80-22 (.784) and make two appearances in the BCS Championship Game (2006 and 2007).

With Peterson overseeing the program's recruiting efforts, Ohio State had seven classes rated among the nation's top 15, including top 5 classes in 2008 and 2009.

Peterson's other coaching stop was at UAB for two seasons (2012-13). Under his watch, offensive tackle Chris Hubbard was a first-team All-Conference USA performer. Hubbard spent the past four seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Peterson and his wife, Michelle, have two sons, Austin and Cole.



# TIM SALEM

## TIGHT ENDS

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** October 1, 1961

**HOMETOWN:** Minneapolis, Minn.

**ALMA MATER:** Arizona State, 1985

**FAMILY:** Salem and his wife, Wendy, have two sons, Taylor and Landan, and a daughter, Kylan.

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

#### COLLEGE

**ARIZONA STATE,** 1985-86, graduate assistant/wide receivers.

**PHOENIX COLLEGE,** 1987-88, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks.

**COLORADO STATE,** 1989-90, running backs and special teams.

**PURDUE,** 1991-93, quarterbacks; 1994-96, offensive coordinator.

**OHIO STATE,** 1997-99, quarterbacks; 2000, quarterbacks and wide receivers.

**EASTERN MICHIGAN,** 2003, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks.

**UCF,** 2004-08, offensive coordinator; 2004, quarterbacks; 2005, tight ends; 2006, wide receivers; 2007-08, running backs; 2009-11, special teams coordinator and tight ends.

**ILLINOIS,** 2012-14, special teams coordinator; 2012-13, running backs.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2015-present, tight ends.

Having spent more than three decades in collegiate coaching, Tim Salem boasts experience that is not only extensive but also diverse. Salem has served as offensive coordinator at four different schools and coached four different positions on that side of the ball.

Entering his third season as Pitt's tight ends coach, Salem's broad perspective is a great asset for the Panthers on the field and in recruiting.

Under Salem's direction in 2016, Scott Orndoff enjoyed one of the most productive seasons ever by a Pitt tight end, compiling 35 catches for 579 yards (16.5 avg.) and five touchdowns. Orndoff played in the historic East-West Shrine Game and went on to sign with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In his initial season at Pitt, Salem tutored tight end J.P. Holtz, who posted career production as a senior en route to All-ACC honors. Holtz is now a member of the Cleveland Browns.

Prior to Pitt, Salem spent three seasons at Illinois (2012-14) as special teams coordinator. He also coached the running backs in 2012 and 2013. Salem's units helped Illinois earn an invitation to the 2014 Heart of Dallas Bowl. Punter Justin DuVernois earned All-Big Ten honors after averaging 44.0 yards per punt to rank second in the Big Ten and 18th nationally.

In 2013, V'Angelo Bentley led the Big Ten and ranked seventh nationally in punt returns with a 15.8-yard average. Bentley also became the first player in Illinois history to score touchdowns on both punt and kickoff returns in the same season.

At UCF from 2004-11, Salem coached some of the most productive and decorated players in school history. In 2007, running back Kevin Smith was a consensus All-American after leading the nation in rushing yards (2,567) and rushing touchdowns (29). Smith's rushing total that season remains the third highest in Bowl Subdivision history, trailing only Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders (2,628 in 1988) and Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon (2,587 in 2014).

UCF won its first Conference USA championship in 2007 with Salem at the controls of the offense. The Knights won 10 games, setting school records for points (502), touchdowns (62) and rushing yards (3,287) in the process.

Overseeing UCF's special teams, Salem mentored three of the country's most explosive kick returners. Rannell Hall (2011), Quincy McDuffie (2010) and Joe Burnett (2008) were all first-team All-Conference USA return men and ranked in the nation's top 10 in kickoff return average. McDuffie, in fact, was second nationally with a 32.2-yard average in 2010.

In 2003, Salem was the offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach and kicking coach at Eastern Michigan. While at EMU, he worked with placekicker Andrew Wellock, who would go on to be a Lou Groza Award finalist.

From 1997-2000, Salem was the quarterbacks coach at Ohio State. He added the Buckeyes' wide receivers to his positional responsibilities in 2000. In 1998, Joe Germaine was the Big Ten Player of the Year, throwing for 3,330 yards and 25 touchdowns with only seven interceptions in leading the Buckeyes to an 11-1 record and No. 2 ranking in the final polls.

From 1991-96, Salem worked at Purdue where he initially served as quarterbacks coach and then, in his final three years, offensive coordinator. The Boilermakers led the Big Ten in rushing in 1995.

Salem's other coaching stops include Colorado State (1989-90) and Phoenix College (1987-88). A 1985 graduate of Arizona State, he began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater for two seasons. Salem began his collegiate playing career at Minnesota, where he broke the Big Ten record for consecutive pass completions in 1980, before transferring to Arizona State for the 1983-84 seasons.

Salem comes from a family of coaches. His father, Joe, served as head coach at South Dakota (1966-74), Northern Arizona (1975-78) and Minnesota (1979-83). Tim's brother, Brad Salem, is the quarterbacks coach at Michigan State.

Salem and his wife, Wendy, have two sons, Taylor and Landan, and a daughter, Kylan.



# KEVIN SHERMAN

WIDE RECEIVERS

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** November 2, 1968

**HOMETOWN:** Radford, Va.

**ALMA MATER:** Ferrum College, 1992

**FAMILY:** Sherman and his wife, Jennifer, have two children: son James and daughter Nioka.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**FERRUM**, 1991, student assistant.

**METHODIST**, 1992, wide receivers.

**VMI**, 1993, running backs; 1994, wide receivers; 1995, quarterbacks and passing game coordinator; 1996, wide receivers.

**OHIO**, 1997-2000, wide receivers.

**WAKE FOREST**, 2001-05, wide receivers.

**VIRGINIA TECH**, 2006-12, wide receivers.

**PURDUE**, 2013-14, wide receivers.

**PITTSBURGH**, 2015-present, wide receivers.

### PROFESSIONAL

**DENVER BRONCOS**, summer 2004, NFL internship.

Kevin Sherman enters his third year as wide receivers coach at Pitt. A veteran teacher of the position, Sherman's lengthy list of pupils includes some of the most productive pass catchers in recent ACC history.

Sherman's receiver duo of Quadree Henderson and Jester Weah has drawn preseason praise as one of the best in the ACC. Both players are coming off exceptional 2016 campaigns.

Henderson was one of the nation's most exciting players last year, joining the legendary Tony Dorsett as the only Panthers to eclipse 2,000 all-purpose yards in a season. He was a consensus All-American as a return man.

Weah, who entered last season with zero career catches, emerged as a big-play receiver and dangerous deep threat. He averaged an incredible 24.2 yards per catch, which led the ACC and ranked second nationally. Weah's 10 TD catches ranked third in the ACC and 28th in the nation.

Former Pitt star Tyler Boyd was a beneficiary of Sherman's mentorship in 2015, a season in which Boyd led the ACC and ranked seventh nationally in receptions per game (7.6 avg.). A second-round pick of Cincinnati, Boyd immediately impacted the Bengals' lineup and was one of the NFL's top rookie receivers.

Sherman joined Pat Narduzzi's Pitt staff after serving the prior two seasons as wide receivers coach at Purdue (2013-14). He arrived in Pittsburgh very familiar with the ACC, having also coached receivers at Virginia Tech (2006-12) and Wake Forest (2001-05).

At Virginia Tech, Sherman mentored two of the school's most prolific pass catchers in Jarrett Boykin and Danny Coale. The pair starred for the Hokies from 2008-11 before embarking on NFL careers. Boykin concluded his career as Virginia Tech's all-time leader in receptions (184) and receiving yards (2,884), while Coale finished second in each category (165 catches for 2,658 yards).

Sherman also coached 2008 NFL Draft picks Eddie Royal and Josh Morgan at Virginia Tech. A first-team All-ACC performer, Royal was a second-round pick of the Denver Broncos and was an NFL All-Rookie Team honoree. Morgan was a sixth-round pick of the San Francisco 49ers and also played with the Washington Redskins and Bears.

During Sherman's seven-year tenure in Blacksburg, Virginia Tech went bowling each season (including four BCS bids), captured three ACC titles and compiled a 70-25 record (.737).

Working at Wake Forest under Jim Grobe, Sherman coached All-ACC performers John Stone and Fabian Davis. Both went on to play in the NFL. Additionally, Jason Anderson set Wake Forest's career record by averaging 18.0 yards per reception from 2001-04.

Sherman also served as receivers coach under Grobe at Ohio University from 1997-2000. During that four-year period, the Bobcats shed years of losing and emerged as a Mid-American Conference title contender, going 21-11 in MAC play and 25-19 overall. Ohio's 8-3 record in 1997 marked the program's winningest campaign in 29 years.

Prior to Ohio, Sherman worked at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) from 1993-96. He served in multiple coaching capacities with the Keydets, including running backs, quarterbacks and receivers. Sherman coached one of the greatest players in VMI history, All-America running back Thomas Haskins, who became the all-time NCAA I-AA rushing leader with 5,349 yards. He additionally coached quarterback Al Lester, who threw for nearly 4,000 career yards.

A 1992 graduate of Ferrum (Va.) College, Sherman was named a football team captain and the Panthers' Most Valuable Player as a senior in 1990. After serving Ferrum as a student assistant in 1991, he moved to Methodist (N.C.) College, where he coached the receivers in 1992.

In addition to his wealth of collegiate experience, Sherman also worked with the Denver Broncos as an NFL coaching intern during the summer of 2004.

Sherman and his wife, Jennifer, have two children: son James and daughter Nioka.



# DAVE ANDREWS

HEAD STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** December 3, 1981

**HOMETOWN:** Washington Court House, Ohio

**ALMA MATER:** Ohio State, 2004

**FAMILY:** Andrews and his wife, Hallie, have three children: daughter Ella and sons Emerson and Eli.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**CINCINNATI,** 2004, graduate assistant football coach; 2005-11, strength and conditioning coach.

**ILLINOIS,** 2012-13, associate head strength and conditioning coach.

**NOTRE DAME,** 2014, assistant director of strength and conditioning.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2015-present, head strength and conditioning coach.

One of Pat Narduzzi's first moves at Pitt was hiring Dave Andrews as head strength and conditioning coach.

That move has continuously paid dividends as Pitt has displayed a renewed toughness and tenacity. The Panthers achieved 16 victories over the past two regular seasons, their most since 2009-10. Instrumental in that success has been the strength and conditioning regimens orchestrated by Andrews and his staff.

Described by Narduzzi as "a highly disciplined coach who instills toughness in our entire program," Andrews arrived at Pitt with strong credentials in both physical development and as a former player. He was a tight end on Ohio State's 2002 national championship team and has spent the past decade as a major college strength coach.

He is a certified strength and conditioning coach by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (CSCCa) and USA Weightlifting (USAW) as a level one sports performance coach.

In 2014, Andrews was an assistant director of strength and conditioning at Notre Dame, which defeated LSU, 31-28, in the Music City Bowl.

Prior to Notre Dame, he spent two seasons as the associate head strength and conditioning coach at Illinois (2012-13). From 2005-11, Andrews served in various strength and conditioning capacities at the University of Cincinnati, including his final four years when he was the Bearcats' head Olympic strength and conditioning coach. Andrews was a graduate assistant football coach at Cincinnati in 2004.

Andrews is a 2004 graduate of Ohio State with a bachelor's degree in education. In addition to his undergraduate studies in education, Andrews also owns a master's degree in that subject from the University of Cincinnati.

Andrews and his wife, Hallie, have three children: daughter Ella and sons Emerson and Eli.



# CHRIS LaSALA

ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** January 7, 1966

**HOMETOWN:** Aliquippa, Pa.

**ALMA MATER:** West Virginia, 1988

**FAMILY:** LaSala and his wife, Dana, have a son, Anthony.

## EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**TEMPLE**, 1988, graduate assistant.

**PITTSBURGH**, 1989, athletic department intern.

**TEMPLE**, 1990, football administrative assistant; 1991-93, department recruiting coordinator; 1993, assistant athletic director.

**BOSTON COLLEGE**, 1994-96, director of football operations.

**PITTSBURGH**, 1997-2015, director of football operations; 2000-15, assistant athletic director; 2016-present, associate athletic director/football administration.

Chris LaSala enters his 21st season as a member of the University of Pittsburgh's football staff. In 2016, LaSala was promoted to associate athletic director for football administration.

LaSala has a well-earned reputation as one of the nation's finest football operations professionals. His responsibilities have expanded in recent years, both within the football program and overall athletic department.

In addition to his invaluable contributions to football, LaSala is an important member of Pitt's sport administration team and he played a key role in the development of *The Strategic Plan for Pitt Athletics* unveiled last year.

LaSala is one of the athletic department's longest tenured staff members, joining the Panthers in 1997 as director of football operations. He was named an assistant athletic director in 2000, serving in that capacity until his recent promotion.

LaSala has handled a wide variety of responsibilities with the Pitt football program over the years, including team travel accommodations, youth summer camps, coaching clinics and preseason training camp arrangements as well as daily administration. He also serves as the football program's liaison to numerous campus offices and within the athletic department.

One of LaSala's most impactful contributions at Pitt is his daily work with student-athletes in preparing them for life after college. His efforts have made the football program one of Pitt's most active and enthusiastic teams when it comes to community service. In fact, the football team was recently lauded for logging the most community service hours in the Pitt Athletic Department.

LaSala has been an instrumental figure in the dramatic upgrades within Pitt's practice facility during the past year. Those enhancements include a new team meeting room, locker room, players lounge and staff conference room. He has also been a creative influence in the newly installed graphic displays that showcase the Panthers' rich football history.

LaSala has been a primary planner for Pitt's trips to 15 bowl games, including the Pinstripe Bowl (2016), Military Bowl (2015), Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl (2014), Little Caesars Pizza Bowl (2013), BBVA Compass Bowl (2010-12), Meineke Car Care Bowl (2009), Sun Bowl (2008), Fiesta Bowl (2004), Continental Tire Bowl (2003), Insight Bowl (2000 and 2002), Tangerine Bowl (2001) and Liberty Bowl (1997).

LaSala was a member of the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame 2014 induction class. He is a past recipient of the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in service to the University of Pittsburgh. LaSala has also been recognized as an Outstanding Graduate of Temple University's sport and recreation management program.

LaSala's career in athletics began at Temple, where he served as a graduate assistant. He then came to the University of Pittsburgh as an athletic department intern in 1989.

Prior to his 1997 Pitt appointment, he served three years as the director of football operations at Boston College (1994-96), where he handled all the administrative duties for the football program, including overseeing the travel arrangements and organizing BC's youth camps. During his tenure, the Eagles captured the 1994 Aloha Bowl and participated in the 1995 Kickoff Classic.

Before Boston College, LaSala spent four years at Temple in administration (1990-93) and ultimately was elevated to assistant athletic director. He initially joined Temple as a graduate assistant in 1988 and then returned to the Owls' football staff in 1990 as the administrative assistant.

LaSala graduated from West Virginia in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He earned his master's degree in sports administration from Temple in 1991. LaSala and his wife, Dana, have a son, Anthony.





## BOB JUNKO

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT/HIGH SCHOOL RELATIONS

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** July 4, 1946

**HOMETOWN:** Washington, Pa.

**ALMA MATER:** Tulsa, 1968

**FAMILY:** Junko's wife's name is Judy. Their family includes sons Jay and his wife Kim, Jeff and his wife Meredith, and Mike and his wife Mistydae. Bob and Judy have eight grandchildren: Ryan, Joshua, Caleb, Bryn, Ethan, Lila Rose, Owen and Derek.

### COACHING EXPERIENCE

#### COLLEGE

**TULSA,** 1968, graduate assistant; 1969, freshman coach; 1970-74, linebackers; 1975, defensive coordinator.

**TEXAS CHRISTIAN,** 1976-81, defensive coordinator; 1979-81, assistant head coach.

**PITTSBURGH,** 1982-85, defensive coordinator and linebackers.

**NORTHWESTERN,** 1986-87, defensive coordinator.

**AKRON,** 1988-94, associate head coach and defensive coordinator.

**KENT STATE,** 1995-96, defensive coordinator and linebackers.

**PITTSBURGH,** 1997-2005, defensive tackles; 2000-06, assistant head coach; 2006, recruiting coordinator; 2007-12, director of football relations and program enhancement; 2013-present, director of player development and high school relations.

After spending nearly four decades in the coaching ranks, Bob Junko moved to the administrative side of college football in 2007. Serving as Pitt's director of player development and high school relations since 2013, Junko's tremendous football acumen and contacts are invaluable assets for the Panthers.

Junko is especially instrumental with Pitt's annual recruiting efforts and alumni outreach programs. A past honoree on the Rivals Top 25 Recruiters list, he is widely known and respected throughout the tri-state area.

The 2017 season marks the 21st year of Junko's second tour with the Panthers. He initially coached at Pitt from 1982-85, serving as defensive coordinator under head coach Foge Fazio. He returned in 1997 as defensive tackles coach under Walt Harris and was elevated to assistant head coach in 2000.

In his first stint with the Panthers, the 1982 team received a Cotton Bowl bid and finished ninth in the country. The 1983 Panthers earned a Fiesta Bowl berth and ranked 19th in the final polls.

Among the standouts on those defenses were tackle Bill Maas, defensive end Chris Doleman and defensive backs Tim Lewis and Tom Flynn, all of whom went on to careers in the NFL. Doleman was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2012.

Junko's Pitt tenure has been accomplished as well as lengthy. In total, he has been part of 17 bowl teams and worked with 13 first team All-Americans.

Prior to returning to Pittsburgh, Junko was the defensive coordinator at Kent State from 1995-96. Junko also served as the associate head coach and defensive coordinator for seven years at Akron (1988-94). He additionally held similar positions at Northwestern, TCU and Tulsa, his alma mater.

As a collegian, Junko starred at Tulsa as an inside linebacker and was an Honorable Mention All-American in 1967. He also was named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference team twice and served as Tulsa's captain.

Junko earned a bachelor's degree in history education in 1968 and his master's in educational administration in 1970 at Tulsa. He has been inducted into the University of Tulsa Sports Hall of Fame, Trinity High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Washington-Greene County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

In 2015, Junko was named an Honorary Letterwinner by the Pitt Varsity Letter Club.

Junko's wife's name is Judy. Their family includes sons Jay and his wife Kim, Jeff and his wife Meredith, and Mike and his wife Mistydae. Bob and Judy have eight grandchildren: Ryan, Joshua, Caleb, Bryn, Ethan, Lila Rose, Owen and Derek.



# MARK DIETHORN

DIRECTOR OF RECRUITING

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** February 25, 1986

**HOMETOWN:** Belle Vernon, Pa.

**ALMA MATER:** Virginia Tech, 2007

## EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**FLORIDA,** 2009-10, recruiting assistant.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2012-13, recruiting assistant; 2014, assistant director of player personnel; 2015-present, director of recruiting.

Entering his sixth season with the Pitt football program, Mark Diethorn is a vital contributor to the Panthers' year-round recruiting regimen.

Diethorn joined the Panthers in 2012 as a recruiting assistant. He served as assistant director of player personnel in 2014 before being promoted by Pat Narduzzi in 2015 to director of recruiting.

This past February, the Panthers signed a recruiting class ranked among the nation's top 35 by ESPN and 247Sports.

A native of Belle Vernon, Pa., and graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School, Diethorn joined the Panthers in 2012 after working in various business sectors, including time spent as a business analyst at PNC Financial Group.

He was not without impressive football credentials upon arriving at Pitt. Diethorn worked at the University of Florida from 2009-10, serving on the Gators football staff as a recruiting assistant. He contributed to the signing of two top 12 recruiting classes, including the Gators' 2010 class that was ranked No. 1 nationally by Scout and ESPN.

Diethorn is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in business information technology and operations management. He earned his master's in sport management from Florida and his MBA from Pitt's Katz Graduate School of Business.



# GRAHAM WILBERT

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** June 11, 1990

**HOMETOWN:** Valencia, Calif.

**ALMA MATER:** Florida Atlantic, 2012

**FAMILY:** Wilbert's wife's name is Michala.

## EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC,** 2013-14, offensive graduate assistant; 2015-17, director of player personnel and external relations.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2017, director of player personnel.

Graham Wilbert joined the Pitt football staff in March as director of player personnel. Wilbert arrives in Pittsburgh from Florida Atlantic University, where he played quarterback and, for the past four seasons, was a member of the Owls' football staff.

From 2014-16, he served under FAU head coach Charlie Partridge, who returned to Pitt in February as defensive line coach.

As FAU's director of player personnel and external relations, Wilbert had oversight of the Owls' recruiting operations. He was a vital figure in helping FAU sign three of the best classes in school history, including two that were rated No. 1 in Conference USA (2015 and 2017).

Wilbert was an offensive graduate assistant for the Owls during the 2013 and 2014 seasons. He had a positional focus on the quarterbacks and worked with Jaquez Johnson, the 2013 C-USA Newcomer of the Year.

Wilbert was a natural mentor for the FAU quarterbacks having played the position himself for the Owls from 2008-12. A two-year starter, he ranks among the most productive passers in school history.

An offensive captain as a senior, Wilbert was the inaugural recipient of FAU's Endurance Award for his achievements in the classroom, on the playing field, in the weight room and as a citizen. He received the Owls' Student Athlete Award following his junior season.

A native of Valencia, Calif., Wilbert was a starting quarterback at Valencia High School. He threw for nearly 3,000 yards as a senior in leading the Vikings to the state playoffs.

Wilbert graduated from FAU with a bachelor's degree in exercise science and health promotion. He also owns a master's degree in health promotion from FAU.

Wilbert's wife's name is Michala.



# BEN MATHERS

DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** September 14, 1988

**HOMETOWN:** Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**ALMA MATER:** Michigan State, 2011

## EXPERIENCE

### COLLEGE

**MICHIGAN STATE,** 2012-13, operations graduate assistant; 2014, operations assistant.

**PITTSBURGH,** 2015-present, director of football operations.

Ben Mathers enters his third year as Pitt's director of football operations. In this capacity, Mathers plays an integral role in ensuring the program's numerous activities and itineraries run smoothly and efficiently.

His chief focuses include player and coach daily regimens, coordination of road game transportation and the team's expanded training table. Mathers has also been instrumental in the Panthers' trips to the 2015 Military Bowl and 2016 Pinstripe Bowl.

Prior to his arrival in Pittsburgh, Mathers spent seven total seasons with the Michigan State football program.

As an operations assistant during the 2014 season, he was instrumental in the Spartans' recruiting efforts, especially from a social media and special events standpoint. Mathers spent two years as an operations graduate assistant (2012-13) and four years as a student assistant in the video department (2008-11).

The Spartans advanced to a bowl game in each of Mathers' seven seasons with the program, finishing among the nation's Top 5 his final two years.

In 2014, Michigan State went 11-2 and earned a No. 5 national ranking following a 42-41 win over Baylor in the AT&T Cotton Bowl. In 2013, the Spartans finished No. 3 in the country following a Big Ten title and 24-20 victory over Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

A 2011 communications graduate from Michigan State, he is completing his master's degree in kinesiology with a concentration in sports administration from MSU.



# ROB BLANC

HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**BORN:** February 28, 1960

**HOMETOWN:** Bethel Park, Pa.

**ALMA MATER:** Slippery Rock, 1982

**FAMILY:** Blanc's wife's name is Peggy. He has three children: son Jason and daughters Jordan and Shannon.

Rob Blanc enters his 30th year as head football athletic trainer and clinical instructor at Pitt. With his exceptional sports medicine knowledge and experience, Blanc is a tremendous resource for the entire Pitt Athletic Department.

Widely respected by his peers, Blanc is a past recipient of the NCAA Division I Head Athletic Trainer of the Year Award presented by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). He has also been honored with the Distinguished Merit Award from the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society in recognition of his dedicated service, past achievements and outstanding professional contributions that have furthered the advancement of the athletic training profession in the Commonwealth.

In addition to his responsibilities with the Panthers' football program, Blanc has a lead role with the Pitt Performance Team, a unique blending of the university's numerous resources that focuses on the development and welfare of the total student-athlete. He also helps coordinate sports coverage, budget, inventory, drug testing and counseling.

Blanc is an adjunct clinical instructor for Pitt's NATA-approved undergraduate athletic training curriculum. He has co-authored two textbooks, *Emergency Care in Athletic Training* and *Athletic Training Case Scenarios: Domain-Based Situations and Solutions*, with three graduates of the University of Pittsburgh athletic training program.

Blanc will have a third book published in 2017, *True Stories From The Athletic Training Room*.

Blanc graduated from Slippery Rock University in 1982 and earned his master's in athletic training in 1984 from Ohio University. He was also a certified paramedic and was involved in an emergency medical service for 17 years in nearby Bethel Park, Pa.

A native of Pittsburgh, Blanc served as head athletic trainer at neighboring Duquesne University for two years before joining the Panthers' staff.

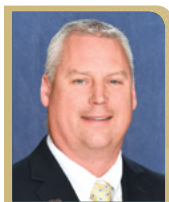
Blanc began his career as the head athletic trainer at New Lexington (Ohio) High School in 1983. A year later, he began working for the Pittsburgh Steelers on a part-time basis, serving at training camp and at all home games.

Blanc's wife's name is Peggy. He has three children: son Jason and daughters Jordan and Shannon.



# JAMES PATTON

## OFFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL



James Patton begins his first year as an offensive quality control assistant at Pitt. Patton joins the Panthers after being part of powerful offenses at Indiana (2013-16) and Oklahoma (2006-12) over the past decade.

Patton was the Hoosiers' tight ends and fullbacks coach his final three years in Bloomington. He initially served as

special teams coordinator and assistant defensive line coach. Patton also had recruiting coordinator responsibilities at IU.

In 2015, Indiana became just the fourth team in FBS history to feature a 3,500-yard passer, two 1,000-yard rushers and one 1,000-yard receiver in a season. Oklahoma also accomplished this feat in 2008, when Patton was the Sooners' offensive line coach.

During his seven-season tenure at Oklahoma, Patton was part of five Big 12 championship teams. The Sooners compiled a 74-21 record (.779) from 2006-12, earning three Fiesta Bowl berths, a Cotton Bowl invitation and playing in the 2009 BCS title game.

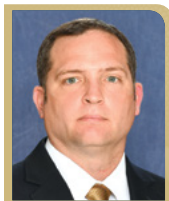
Patton's additional coaching stops include Northwestern (1999-2005), Miami University (1998, 1993-94) and Rhode Island (1995-97). His URI tenure marked his first coaching collaboration with Narduzzi, who was then the Rams' linebackers coach.

Patton was a four-year letterman at tight end for the Miami RedHawks from 1989-92, earning first team All-Mid-American Conference as a senior. Patton's playing career overlapped with Narduzzi's first coaching appointment as a Miami graduate assistant and later receivers coach.

Patton and his wife, Nichole, have four children: son Brayden and daughters Katie, Madie and Abbie. Brayden is a redshirt freshman offensive lineman at Northern Illinois.

# TIM COOPER

## DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL



Tim Cooper begins his first year as a Pitt defensive quality control assistant.

Cooper spent the past seven years as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Butler University. His defenses annually ranked among the stingiest at the FCS level and keyed a highly successful period for the Bulldogs' program.

Butler won two Pioneer Football League (PFL) titles during Cooper's tenure. The 2013 team ranks as one of the finest in school history. Behind an opportunistic defensive unit that ranked among the nation's top 10 in forced turnovers and fumble recoveries, the Bulldogs earned their first-ever berth in the NCAA Division I Playoffs.

In 2009, Cooper was a defensive quality control assistant at Indiana. His IU appointment came after he had coached the secondary at Miami University from 2004-08, helping the RedHawks claim three MAC East Division championships.

Cooper began his Miami tenure in 2003 as a graduate assistant

working under Pat Narduzzi, who was defensive coordinator.

That 2003 squad went 13-1, won the MAC championship and defeated nationally ranked Louisville in the GMAC Bowl to finish No. 10 in the Associated Press poll.

The RedHawks that season topped the MAC in rushing defense (19th nationally), scoring defense (22nd nationally) and pass efficiency defense (34th nationally).

Cooper was the defensive coordinator at Carroll (Wis.) University in 2001 and 2002. He had positional oversight of the Pioneers' secondary and linebackers.

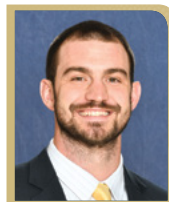
Cooper was a defensive graduate assistant at Connecticut in 2000, the Huskies' first year competing at the FBS (formerly I-A) level. He additionally was a defensive coaching assistant at Rhode Island in 1999 (when Narduzzi was the Rams' defensive coordinator) and served as an offensive graduate assistant working with the running backs at his alma mater, DePauw University, in 1997 and 1998.

A standout linebacker and team captain for DePauw, Cooper helped the Tigers to the 1996 Indiana Collegiate Athletic Conference (ICAC) championship.

Cooper and his wife, Jamie, have one son, Joshua.

# BEN COTTON

## OFFENSIVE GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Ben Cotton enters his first year as an offensive graduate assistant at Pitt. Cotton spent the past two seasons as a graduate assistant at UNLV, working with the Rebels' offense.

Cotton was a standout tight end as a collegian at Nebraska. He was a four-year letterman and three-year starter for the Cornhuskers from 2009-12. Cotton

twice earned Honorable Mention All-Big Ten as a player and also was a four-time conference all-academic honoree.

A native of Ames, Iowa, Cotton starred at Ames High School and was the team's only two-way starter as a tight end and defensive end.

Cotton earned his bachelor's degree from Nebraska in business administration.

# ROB GREENE

## OFFENSIVE GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Rob Greene enters his second season as a Pitt graduate assistant. After working on the defensive side of the ball in 2016, Greene will have a focus on the offense and quarterbacks this season.

A native of Spartanburg, S.C., Greene joined the Panthers after serving as a graduate assistant wide receivers coach in 2015 at North Greenville

University, an NCAA Division II program.

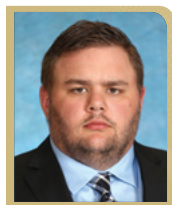
Greene was a college wide receiver himself. From 2010-13, he played for Wofford College, which made three NCAA Division I playoff appearances and won two Southern Conference titles during his career.

Greene played as a graduate transfer at North Greenville in 2014, helping the Crusaders defeat Shorter University, 42-16, in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Victory Bowl.

A magna cum laude graduate of Wofford, Greene earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics. He was a perennial Dean's List student and was named to the Southern Conference Academic Roll three times.

## PHIL DeCAPITO

DEFENSIVE GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Phil DeCapito enters his third year as a defensive graduate assistant at Pitt.

DeCapito worked at Youngstown State as a defensive line assistant from 2012-14. Moreover, DeCapito's father, Philip, played on a pair of NCAA playoff teams at YSU under the late Bill Narduzzi (father of Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi) in 1978 and 1979.

A native of Warren, Ohio, DeCapito was a standout football player and wrestler at Warren John F. Kennedy Catholic School, earning first-team All-Trumbull County honors as a senior lineman. DeCapito went on to play four seasons at Emory & Henry (Va.) College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in education and physical education.

DeCapito got his start in coaching working with the offensive and defensive lines at Emory & Henry (2010-11) before joining Youngstown State.

## JOSHUA LOTT

DEFENSIVE GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Joshua Lott enters his first year as a defensive graduate assistant at Pitt. Lott joins the Panthers after serving as a defensive quality control assistant at Delaware the past two seasons. He additionally coached the Blue Hens' defensive line in 2016.

Lott actually owns college football ties to the city of Pittsburgh. He was a four-year letterman at Duquesne University from 2008-12. A defensive end, Lott helped the Dukes capture the Northeast Conference championship in 2011.

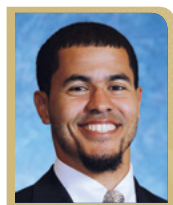
Lott's first coaching assignment was at Thiel College, an NCAA Division III program in Greenville, Pa. During the 2013 and 2014 seasons, he served as Thiel's defensive line coach, video coordinator and assistant strength coach.

A native of Warren, Ohio, Lott was an all-state player at Howland High School and was selected the 2007 Ohio Division II Co-Defensive Player of the Year by Associated Press.

Lott earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Duquesne.

## FREDDIE WALKER

ASSOCIATE STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH



Freddie Walker is in his third season on the Pitt strength and conditioning staff. Walker, who was elevated to associate strength and conditioning coach in 2016, plays a lead role in the physical development of the Panthers.

Prior to Pitt, Walker was on the strength staff at Illinois (2012-14), working with the Fighting Illini football team. He was promoted to an associate coach role for his final season in Champaign.

Walker additionally served as a graduate assistant strength coach at Michigan State, working with the Spartans' Big Ten title team in 2010 and Legends Division champion squad in 2011.

A native of Lansing, Mich., and graduate of Grand Ledge High School, Walker played defensive back at Bowling Green. He graduated from BGSU in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology while specializing in exercise science. In 2012 he earned his master's degree from Michigan State in kinesiology-exercise physiology.

Walker and the former Susie Jean were married in July.

## AUSTIN ADDINGTON-STRAPP

ASSISTANT STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH



Austin Addington-Strapp, a former collegiate football and baseball player, is in his third season on the Pitt strength and conditioning staff.

From 2012-14, Addington-Strapp was on the football strength staff at Illinois. He joined the Illini from Ohio Dominican University, his alma mater, where he built a strength and conditioning program for the athletic department from scratch.

Addington-Strapp was a two-sport athlete at Ohio Dominican. A tough and tenacious linebacker, he posted a career-high 77 tackles as a senior in 2008 to help ODU to a 7-3 record. Additionally, he was a pitcher for Ohio Dominican's baseball team.

He also was a graduate assistant on Bowling Green's strength staff during the 2010 and 2011 seasons.

A native of Gahanna, Ohio, Addington-Strapp is a product of St. Francis DeSales High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in sport management from Ohio Dominican in 2009 and completed his master's degree in kinesiology and sport management at Bowling Green in 2011.

## JUSTIN HASER

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING GRADUATE ASSISTANT



A former lineman at Ohio University, Justin Haser enters his second year as a Pitt graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach.

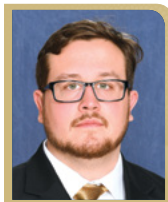
Prior to joining the Panthers, Haser assisted the strength staff at his alma mater, working with Ohio's football and wrestling programs.

Haser was an offensive lineman for the Bobcats from 2011-13 before his career ended prematurely due to injury. Spending his final season working with the strength and conditioning staff, he earned his bachelor's degree in exercise physiology from Ohio in 2015.

Haser is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of North Allegheny High School. An outstanding two-way lineman for the Tigers, he was named the Class AAAA Co-Player of the Year and first team all-state by the Pennsylvania Sports Writers his senior year.

## ZACH LANTZ

DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE MEDIA



Zach Lantz joined the Pitt football staff in April as director of creative media. In this capacity, Lantz is significantly involved in the Panthers' social media, graphics and recruiting campaign initiatives.

A 2014 graduate of James Madison University, Lantz served in similar capacities for the JMU athletic department. Over the 2015-16 seasons,

he was video coordinator and graphic designer for the football program. From 2014-15, he was a football recruiting assistant, specializing in graphics creation and communications.

As a JMU undergraduate Lantz worked as a student equipment manager. He earned his bachelor's degree in sport and recreation management and recently completed his master's degree in sports leadership at JMU.

## DA'VELL WINTERS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL



Da'Vell Winters joined the Pitt football staff this spring as assistant director of player personnel. Winters arrived in Pittsburgh after spending 2016 in a personnel assistant role at Oregon.

While with the Pac-12 school, Winters was involved in all aspects of the Ducks' recruiting operations. His responsibilities included official and unofficial visits,

prospect evaluations and recruit communications.

Prior to Oregon, Winters was a defensive quality control assistant at Wofford College during the 2015 season. He additionally had a stint as the Terriers' safeties coach.

Before his collegiate appointments, Winters was an assistant high school football coach in his native Ohio at Dublin Coffman (2014) and Marion Harding (2013). A 2007 graduate of Marion Harding, he was a three-sport standout for the Presidents, earning a combined nine varsity letters in football, baseball and wrestling.

Winters matriculated to Ashland University, where he played wide receiver and defensive back. He earned his bachelor's degree from Ashland in 2011.

## KARLO ZOVKO

RECRUITING ASSISTANT



Pittsburgh native Karlo Zovko enters his first year as a recruiting graduate assistant with the Pitt football program.

Zovko is a 2012 graduate of Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in business with a concentration in sports marketing from Duquesne

University in 2016.

As an undergraduate at Duquesne, Zovko worked with the Dukes' football program. He served as a video coordinator for four seasons and also contributed as an operations and coaching assistant. His senior year, Duquesne won the 2015 Northeast Conference (NEC) title and made its first trip to the NCAA Division I playoffs.

During the 2016-17 academic year, Zovko was a football recruiting graduate assistant at the University of Toledo. The Rockets went 9-4 in 2016, earning a berth in the Camellia Bowl. Toledo's 2017 recruiting class was rated the best in the Mid-American Conference (MAC) by 247Sports, Rivals and Scout.

Zovko has additionally worked as a recruiting reporter for such outlets as 247Sports and Preps.com, and served as a color analyst for high school football broadcasts on the Champs Sports Network.

## DALE THORNTON

ATHLETIC TRAINER



Dale Thornton returned to the Pitt football program in 2016 as an athletic trainer. Owing two degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, Thornton got his start in the athletic training profession as a Pitt undergraduate working with the Panthers' football, baseball and swimming and diving teams.

Prior to returning to his alma mater, Thornton served as the head football athletic trainer at Slippery Rock University. He additionally oversaw coverage for the women's lacrosse team while assisting with the field hockey and track and field programs.

Thornton is a 2010 graduate of Pitt with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. He was a graduate assistant athletic trainer for Pitt football for two seasons (2010-11) before earning his master's degree in sports medicine and nutrition in 2012.

Thornton also has athletic training experience in the professional ranks. He was an intern with the Pittsburgh Pirates during the 2009 Major League Baseball season. Thornton additionally served a year-long internship in the NFL with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2012-13.

He is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA).

## KATE ZIRPOLI

ATHLETIC TRAINER



A 2014 honors graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Kate Zirpoli enters her second year as an athletic trainer with the Pitt football team.

Zirpoli is very familiar with the Panthers' sports medicine program. As an undergraduate, she worked with the Pitt football, wrestling and women's soccer teams before earning

her bachelor's degree in athletic training.

In 2014 and 2015, Zirpoli was a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Florida State, where she worked with the football and sand volleyball programs. She earned her master's degree in sport management from FSU.

Zirpoli's additional experience includes time as a student athletic trainer at neighboring Chatham University and an athletic training internship with the Arena Football League's Pittsburgh Power.

She is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA).

## KATHERINE HOPKINS

SPORTS DIETITIAN



Katherine Hopkins enters her first year at the University of Pittsburgh. She joined the Panthers this May as a sports dietitian working with the Panthers' football program.

During the 2016-17 academic year, Hopkins served as assistant director of sports nutrition at LSU. Prior to LSU, she was a sports nutrition intern at the

University of Tennessee. Hopkins' additional experience includes child and community nutrition education. She is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

Hopkins is a graduate of Northeastern University, where she was a field hockey student-athlete. She earned her Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) certificate from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts.

## MACKENZIE DAILEY

GRADUATE ASSISTANT ATHLETIC TRAINER



Mackenzie Dailey enters her first season as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for Pitt football. Dailey previously worked with the Panthers' football program during the summers of 2015 and 2016.

A 2016 honors graduate of Slippery Rock University, Dailey is a past recipient of the prestigious Cecilia Yost Scholarship

Award from the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society.

As a Slippery Rock undergraduate, she worked with the football and women's basketball teams. Dailey gained additional athletic training experience working at Thiel College, Wilmington Area and Grove City high schools as well as Butler Memorial Hospital.

Dailey is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA).

## OLIVIA WISHMAN

GRADUATE ASSISTANT ATHLETIC TRAINER



Olivia Wishman enters her second season as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for Pitt football.

Wishman arrived in Pittsburgh following her 2016 graduation from Louisiana State, where she earned her bachelor's degree in athletic training. She was a student athletic trainer for LSU, working with the Tigers' football, swimming and

diving and women's basketball programs.

In addition to her LSU experience, Wishman was an athletic training intern with the Buffalo Bills for 2015 training camp and preseason games. She also worked the Alabama-Mississippi High School Football All-Star Game.

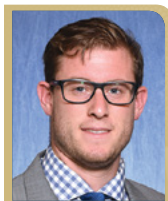
Wishman was a recipient of the Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society Undergraduate Scholarship. Boasting a 3.98 undergraduate grade point average, she was named the 2015 Doctor Martin J. Broussard Athletic Training Student of the Year for exemplary performance in the classroom and training room.

Wishman is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA).



## STEPHEN STEIN

ASSISTANT VIDEO COORDINATOR



Stephen Stein enters his second season as assistant video coordinator for Pitt football. Stein brings to Pitt an experienced background in both video and team operations.

A 2012 graduate of Bowling Green in sport management, Stein served his alma mater as a football operations intern and later was a graduate assistant video coordinator.

During his tenure, the Falcons captured the 2013 Mid-American Conference (MAC) championship, finishing with a 10-4 record.

After earning his master's degree in sport administration from Bowling Green in 2014, Stein went on to serve two years as video coordinator for all sports at Towson University (2014-16).

Stein's additional professional experience includes a football operations internship at Tiffin University in 2012.

Stein is a member of the Collegiate Sports Video Association (CSVA).

## TIM ENRIGHT

EQUIPMENT MANAGER



Tim Enright is in his 21st year as the head equipment manager for the Pitt football team. Enright supervises the equipment operation for more than 100 team members, including organizing travel and transportation of equipment for away games and managing the day-to-day equipment needs for the players and coaching staff.

Enright has a long association with Pitt football and the University of Pittsburgh. As an undergraduate at Pitt, he was a student football manager (1987-91) and served as the team's head manager his senior year.

A 1991 graduate of Pitt, he returned to his alma mater in 1993 as an assistant equipment manager in charge of the men's basketball team. Enright was promoted to his current post with the football team in 1997. He has handled the equipment travel for 17 bowl games in total at Pitt.

Enright and his wife, Tara, have a daughter, Stella.

## DANNY KOZUSKO

ASSISTANT EQUIPMENT MANAGER



Danny Kozusko is in his 14th season with the Pitt football program. His duties include assisting in the daily equipment operations for the football team and coaching staff.

Kozusko initially joined the Panthers as a student manager from 2004-07. He was the recipient of the athletic department's prestigious George I. Carson Graduate

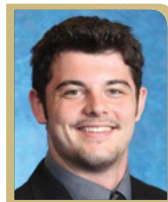
Fellowship Award.

Kozusko's professional background includes experience with other sports teams in the city. From 2000-03 he worked with the Pittsburgh Steelers, assisting the team at all home games and during training camp in his hometown of Latrobe. He also interned with the Pittsburgh Pirates during the 2006 season, working in ticketing, marketing and customer relations.

Kozusko is a 2007 graduate of Pitt with a bachelor's degree in communication and rhetoric. He and his wife, Lauren, who earned her pharmacy doctorate from Pitt, have two children, son Paxton and daughter Riley.

## MIKE CAPRARA

ACADEMIC GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Mike Caprara, a Pitt linebacker from 2012-16, continues his association with the program as a graduate assistant working with Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes.

Caprara graduated from Pitt in 2015 with a degree in communication and is currently enrolled in the Katz Graduate School of Business. On the field, he was

a four-year letterman who distinguished himself with a tenacious, yet cerebral, style of play.

As a starting outside linebacker his final two seasons, Caprara collected nearly 90 tackles with 15.5 TFLs and 7.5 sacks. In the Panthers' 42-39 win over rival Penn State last fall, he had two fumble recoveries that proved critical to the victory.

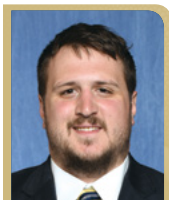
Off the field, Caprara was recognized for his passionate commitment to community service, which included numerous mission trips to Haiti, by being named to the 2016 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. He was honored as a Senior of Distinction at the 2017 Pitt Athletics Senior Awards Dinner. Caprara additionally received the Service Award from Bishop David Zubik at the Catholic Charities 35th Annual Bishop's Dinner.

A native of Turtle Creek, Caprara is a graduate of Woodland Hills High School. Starring under famed Wolverines head football coach George Novak, Caprara finished his prep career as the school's all-time tackling leader with more than 350 stops.



## SCOTT COVERT

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT



Scott Covert is in his third season as a volunteer assistant with the Pitt football program.

A former collegiate player himself, Covert spent two seasons at the University of Iowa before transferring to California University of Pennsylvania, where he was a letterman at fullback and on the defensive line. He graduated

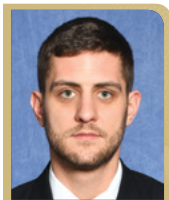
from Cal with a degree in liberal studies.

An Illinois native, Covert starred at Lake Forest High School and was a decorated lineman, earning all-conference, all-county, all-area and special mention all-state.

Covert owns strong family ties to Pitt and Pittsburgh. His father, Jimbo, was a two-time All-America offensive tackle for the Panthers (1981-82) before playing eight NFL seasons with Chicago, including the Bears' famed 1985 Super Bowl championship year. Jimbo's No. 75 jersey was retired by Pitt in 2015.

## AARON WATSON

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT



Aaron Watson enters his first season as a volunteer assistant for Pitt football.

Watson spent the 2016 season as wide receivers coach at Colorado School of Mines, where his pass catchers helped fuel the No. 2 air attack at the NCAA Division II level (359.9 passing yards per game). Under Watson's watch, Brody Oliver earned All-America status

after catching 85 passes for 1,627 yards (19.1 avg.) and a national-best 26 touchdowns.

In total, three of Watson's receivers were named All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC). Mines went 10-3 in 2016, advancing to the NCAA Division II playoffs and finishing with a No. 15 national ranking.

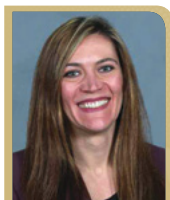
Watson previously spent two seasons as a quality control assistant at Louisville (2012-13). During his tenure, the Cardinals won the 2012 Big East title and defeated Florida, 33-23, in the Sugar Bowl to finish 11-2. In 2013, Louisville went 12-1, including a 36-9 victory over Miami in the Russell Athletic Bowl.

He additionally has prep coaching experience, working with the quarterbacks at Gross Catholic (Neb.) High School during the 2010 season.

Watson played wide receiver at Southern Illinois University. He is a 2011 graduate of Bellevue University with a bachelor's degree in business management. Watson is the son of Pitt offensive coordinator Shawn Watson.

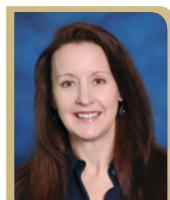
## VICKI KLINE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO COACH NARDUZZI



## LYNNIE KOONTZ

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR RECRUITING



## WALTER "MOUSE" McCULLOUGH

VOLUNTEER EQUIPMENT ASSISTANT

