



Wagner College Names Jason Houghtaling Head Football Coach



Staten Island, NY – Associate head coach/offensive coordinator **Jason Houghtaling** (hO - Tail- Ling), who has spent seven seasons on the Wagner sidelines, serving as offensive coordinator during Wagner's 2012 and 2014 Northeast Conference (NEC) title runs, while in-between, spending the 2013 season as offensive coordinator at Cornell, has been elevated to head football coach.

Houghtaling takes over for Walt Hameline, who served in the dual role as Seahawk athletic director and head football coach for 34 years, before announcing yesterday that he is stepping down from his role as head coach. Hameline will remain as Wagner's athletic director.

In his last three seasons as Wagner's offensive coordinator, the Seahawks have amassed a 16-6 NEC record with league titles in two of the last three seasons. Last Saturday, the Green & White staged a dramatic 23-20 come-from-behind victory at Bryant, marching 65 yards in the waning minutes for the game-winning touchdown that gave the Seahawks a 7-4 record, a 5-1 NEC mark, and a share of the 2014 NEC title.

The 2014 Seahawk offense followed a similar formula to the 2012 Seahawks, finishing the regular season ranked No. 4 nationally in time of possession (33:02), while not committing a single turnover in the last three games of the season.

When he returned to Grymes Hill in the capacity of associate head coach/offensive coordinator in January, 2014, this marked Houghtaling's third stint at Wagner. Known as 'Hoss' to his players and fellow coaches, Houghtaling was a Seahawk assistant coach from 2006-2009, before becoming head coach at Hudson Valley Community College in 2010. Following one season as head coach of the Vikings, he returned to Wagner as offensive coordinator in 2011, where he spent two seasons, including the 2012 NEC Championship campaign.

"Jason has a sharp football mind and he is an excellent teacher and leader of young men," said Wagner College President Richard Guarasci. "He has prepared himself carefully to be a head coach of a Division I program. He completed his Masters degree in education from Wagner where he learned how to teach students with different and unique skills and personalities.

"I am delighted that he will lead Wagner's football program and continue his partnership with Walt Hamline as they take Wagner into the next generation of athletic and academic success."

During Wagner's 9-4 NEC Championship season of 2012, that saw the Seahawks become the first team in NEC history to win an NCAA FCS Playoff game and rank in the Top 25 of both final national polls, Houghtaling tutored the Seahawks' record-setting quarterback, Nick Doscher, as he evolved into one of the all-time great quarterbacks to ever compete at Wagner and in the NEC.

Doscher operated Houghtaling's offensive system with precision, finishing his career ranked No. 1 in Seahawk history, and No. 2 in NEC history, with 8,404 yards of total offense. His 6,100 passing yards are also No. 1 on the Wagner all-time list and No. 9 on the all-time NEC list. As a senior in 2012, Doscher fashioned a passer rating of 133.9, with 13 touchdown passes and just one interception, ending his career with a remarkable 221 consecutive pass attempts without an interception.

Led by Doscher, and star running back Dominique Williams, who is now a member of the NFL's Minnesota Vikings' practice squad, the 2012 Seahawks were one of the nation's most balanced units, ranking No. 1 nationally with the fewest turnovers (6) in all of FCS football.

"I am thrilled that Jason Houghtaling will take over as Wagner head coach and I have full confidence that he will continue to keep the Seahawks on the path to success for years to come," said Hameline. "His work ethic, passion, football knowledge, recruiting contacts, and familiarity with Wagner College are all major assets that will pay huge dividends for our program. In Hoss, we have an individual who has the respect of everyone that he comes into contact with, and is highly-regarded by high school coaches both within our region, and on a national scale."

During the 2013 season as offensive coordinator at Cornell, Houghtaling coached quarterback Jeff Matthews, who led the Ivy League in attempts, completions and passing yards, before signing a free agent contract with the NFL's Atlanta Falcons. Following the 2013 season, Mathews, who is currently a member of the practice squad of the Indianapolis Colts, was named to the College Sports Journal FCS All-America Team and received the additional honor of participating in the East-West Shrine Game, serving as captain of the East squad.

During his first season as a collegiate offensive coordinator (2011), Houghtaling directed the talented Williams to impressive numbers. Williams ranked among the national leaders by rushing for 121.6 yards per game and 14 total touchdowns, while posting eight 100-yard games in 11 contests. The following season, Williams was a 2012 College Sports Journal All-American, in addition to earning First-Team All-NEC honors.

"Wagner is a special place for both my family and I, so it's truly an honor to be selected to continue to build this program," said Houghtaling. "I thank Coach Hameline and Wagner College President] Dr. Guarasci for entrusting me with this position and can't wait to lead this program, coach our current players, and attract even more elite student-athletes in the coming years."

When he first arrived at Wagner in 2006, Houghtaling served as running backs coach, before heading the Seahawk offensive lines from 2007-2009.

With an emphasis on New York State and Florida, Houghtaling has been the lead recruiter for a host of student-athletes who have gone on to enjoy outstanding careers on Grymes Hill. The list of top Wagner student-athletes that Houghtaling has recruited include New Jerseyan Dominique Williams, New York State natives Quintin Anderson, Tyrone Collins, Chazz Legette, Stefan Gage, Patrick Gibbons, and Sidiq Soulemana, as well as Floridians Keith Hernandez, Frantz Placide and Otis Wright. In 2010, his one season as head coach at Troy, NY-based Hudson Valley, he tutored two All-Conference performers.

Houghtaling began his collegiate coaching career at prep powerhouse Milford Academy in Berlin, NY, where he helped lead the Falcons to a 20-3 mark as defensive coordinator, while also serving as defensive line and strength and conditioning coach. A 2004 graduate of the University of Binghamton with a degree in History, Houghtaling earned a Masters in Education from Wagner in 2009. He originally attended Lafayette, where he was a defensive lineman for the Leopards, before injuries cut short his playing career and he transferred to Binghamton.

A native of Windsor, NY, Houghtaling got his start in coaching at his high school alma mater, Windsor Central High School, where he spent two seasons working with the Black Knights' offensive line and linebackers under the head coach he played for, Dan Hodack.

Houghtaling and his wife Mary are the proud parents of two daughters, Abbie and Emma.

What They're Saying About Jason Houghtaling



Dave Archer, Head Coach – Cornell University

"Jason Houghtaling is not only an incredibly knowledgeable football coach but he does a great job relating to student-athletes from all over – all over the country, from all different backgrounds. He does a great job of being able to get them to work together, as proven by his offensive lines, and his offenses, and I'm excited to see him on larger scale, with a full team, as a head coach."

Keith Carter, Offensive Line Coach - San Jose State University, Former Quality Control Coach - 2014 Super Bowl Champion Seattle Seahawks, Former Wagner College Assistant Coach

"He's tenacious, he's a go-getter, and he's somebody who, as a colleague and working with him, he's someone I was constantly trying to keep up with. He's the type of guy who just pushes you. As a consequence, iron sharpens iron, and he made me better just trying to keep up with him. I'm just really excited for him honestly. He's going to do a great job, he's really organized, with a really good ability to see the big picture, make a plan and adjust when you have to, and see it through in the right way. He's just a balanced, humble person and is about as blue collar and as tough as they come and I think it's a really good fit."

Tom Masella, Defensive Coordinator – UMass, Former Wagner College Associate Head Coach, Former Head Coach – Boston University, Fairfield, Central Connecticut, Fordham, and a former Seahawk standout and 1981 Wagner College graduate

"I'm really happy for Hoss. If you could pick a guy to replace Walt Hameline, Jason Houghtaling is the guy you'd pick. He's very determined, knowledgeable, hard-working, and he really loves Wagner, has a genuine passion for the school and the community. That's his school now. I think it's a great fit and, like I said, I couldn't be happier for him and for the Wagner football program."

Bill Chaplick, Head Coach – Milford Academy

"He came to me as a position coach and halfway through his first year with me I made him our defensive coordinator and we ended up going 11-1 and he had a chance to coach Antonio Dixon, who went to the University of Miami, and the NFL (Redskins, Eagles, Colts). And he coached Terrance Knighton, who's now with the Denver Broncos, the guy they call 'Pot Roast'. Hoss was totally loyal to the sport of football and totally loyal to me as a head coach, and that's why I gave him his promotion. We went 9-2 his second year and then he told me he wanted to do this the rest of his life. So, I hooked him up with Coach Hameline, I put my word on Hoss, and he's done a great job, obviously, and I wish him and Coach Hameline the best."

Dan Hodack, Former Head Coach - Windsor Central High School (NY)

"I remember, as a freshman, Jason was a big, bruising fullback/linebacker but we needed help on the offensive line. I figured we could probably find another fullback but we can't find another person to play center and anchor our line for three years. He controlled the whole offensive line from that point forward and made all the defensive calls as our middle linebacker on three championship teams. His leadership skills were evident early."

Gary Vail, Former Athletic Director, Football, Basketball, Baseball Coach- Windsor Central High School (NY)

"I was no longer coaching football when Jason came through but I coached him in basketball and baseball and he was really an outstanding athlete. He was incredibly coachable and extremely team-oriented and a young man who's always pretty much known what he wanted to do which is to be a coach. He understands the work ethic that he needs and he also understands having a first-class attitude about things, knowing how deal with all the different people that he has to. He's done very well with each of his opportunities and I know he'll do a great job as Wagner's head coach."



The "Hoss" File

Hometown:	Windsor, NY
High School:	Windsor Central High School
Age:	33
Alma Mater:	Binghamton, 2004
Master's Degree:	Wagner, 2009
Wife:	Mary
Children:	Abbie and Emma

COLLEGIATE COACHING EXPERIENCE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>School</u>
2014	Associate Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator/RBs	Wagner
2013	Offensive Coordinator	Cornell
2011-12	Offensive Coordinator/RBs	Wagner
2010	Head Coach	Hudson Valley CC
2007-09	Offensive Line	Wagner
2006	Running Backs	Wagner
2004-05	Defensive Coordinator, DL, Strength & Conditioning	Milford Academy

All-NEC Student-Athletes Coached by Hoss

2012 QB Nick Doscher
RB Dominique Williams
OL Steve Ciocci
2009 OL Matt Martin,
OL Joe Ferriozzi
OL Cleveland Green
2006 RB Jason Butler