

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Georgia Southern Football Team Archives

Athletics

2017

2017 Georgia Southern University Football Coaches and Staff

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gasouthern-football-team>

This media guide is brought to you for free and open access by the Athletics at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Southern Football Team Archives by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.



2017 COACHES AND STAFF



SUMMERS BEGINS YEAR TWO AS LEADER OF THE EAGLES GEORGIA NATIVE LOOKS TO BUILD OFF STRONG FINISH IN 2016

Tyson Summers is in his second season as the head coach of the Georgia Southern Eagles. Summers, who has ties to Statesboro from his time with the Eagles in 2006, has a coaching career that has spanned almost 16 years and seven schools and has been a part of seven bowl teams.

In his first season as the head coach of the Eagles, GS won five games and had seven players named all-conference. Younghoe Koo was named a third-team All-American and the kicker was also named a finalist for the Lou Groza Award. The season was capped by a last-second win over Troy at home and the Eagles also beat South Alabama, ULM and New Mexico State in conference action.

Following the season, Ukeme Eligwe was taken in the fifth round of the 2017 NFL Draft and five other players signed free agent deals with NFL squads.

A native of Tifton, Georgia, Summers returned home from Colorado State, where he served as the Rams' defensive coordinator and safeties coach in 2015. Under his tutelage, the

“What we get in Tyson is someone who knows Georgia, someone who was born and raised in Georgia, someone who has recruited Georgia his entire career, and someone who has been a part of a Group of 5 school that has played on New Year’s Day, which is the level we’re aspiring to reach.”

— **TOM KLEINLEIN** —
 Georgia Southern University
 Athletics Director

Rams defense ranked 20th in the country in passing defense, giving up just 186.3 yards per game under his watch. After dropping two overtime games early in the season, the Rams closed the regular season on a four-game win streak, with three of those victories coming on the road.

Prior to his work at CSU, he spent three seasons at UCF, where he served as defensive coordinator in 2014 for a unit that ranked among the best in the nation.

In his first full season as a defensive coordinator in 2014, Summers, 36, guided the top defense in the American Athletic Conference, and one that ranked in the top 10 among FBS schools in total defense (5th, 298.5 ypg), rushing defense (6th, 104.3 ypg), scoring defense (9th, 19.2 ppg) and red zone defense (6th, 71.4%). Summers' defense helped UCF to a 9-4 record, a second consecutive American Athletic Conference title and a berth in the Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl. The Knights held six opponents under 100 rushing yards and nine under 200 passing yards.

Three of Summers' defensive players earned first-team all-conference honors, while three more garnered second-team honors. That included cornerback Jacoby Glenn, who was The American's Co-Defensive Player of the Year and UCF's first Associated Press All-American (second team) since it joined the FBS level in 1996. Glenn signed as an undrafted free agent with the Chicago Bears in 2015.

Under Summers' leadership, linebacker Terrance Plummer earned back-to-back first-team all-conference honors, who was on the All-American Athletic Conference First Team in 2013 and 2014. He also was a two-time national defensive player of the week his final two years at UCF.

Summers was hired at UCF as a defensive assistant coach in 2012 and earned the title of linebackers coach one month later. For the 2014 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and that spring season, he was named interim defensive coordinator before being promoted to full-time defensive coordinator in April when spring camp concluded.

Summers helped call the plays in UCF's upset victory over high-powered Baylor in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, capping an unforgettable season for the Knights. The win enabled UCF to set a school record with 12 victories overall and achieve a program-high by being ranked No. 10 in the final AP Top 25 Poll.

Leading the UCF linebackers in 2012, Summers tutored three Knights into consistent starters en route to a Conference USA East Division crown, a Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl win and a 10-4 record.

Summers' tenure at UCF came after a five-year stint at UAB that began in December 2006. He served as the Blazers' linebackers coach and added the roles of safeties coach and co-special teams coordinator in the final season of his tenure.

In his first year working with the UAB safeties in 2011, Summers helped mentor Jamie Bender in his senior season as he led the Blazers with 119 tackles. Bender also posted 7.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions, six break-ups and four forced fumbles. He was voted on to the All-C-USA Second Team for that performance. On special

teams, UAB ranked 17th in the nation by allowing just 4.71 yards per punt return, while freshman kicker Ty Long was named a 2011 Freshman All-American by Phil Steele's College Football Preview.

In Summers' first year at UAB, linebacker Joe Henderson was named to the All-C-USA Second Team. In 2008, Henderson climbed up to the first team thanks to a team-high 87 tackles as well as 12.5 tackles for loss and went on to play for the BC Lions of the CFL from 2010-11.

With a new wave of linebackers under Summers' control in 2010, Marvin Burdette paced the Blazers with 114 tackles en route to All-C-USA Honorable Mention accolades. While Summers was with UAB, kicker Swayze Waters was an All-C-USA First Team pick in 2007 and 2008 and appeared in NFL preseason games highlighted by a stint with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2011.

Summers coached the safeties at Georgia Southern in 2006, a year after serving as a graduate assistant for Georgia in 2005. That season the Bulldogs won the SEC title and earned a berth in the Sugar Bowl. Summers worked with the secondary and witnessed three UGA defensive backs being selected in the NFL Draft: Tim Jennings (second round, first-team All-SEC), DeMario Minter (fifth round, first-team All-SEC) and Greg Blue (fifth round, first-team All-American).

During the 2004 season, Summers was a graduate assistant at Troy, which reached the postseason and the Silicon Valley Classic, and in 2003, he helped guide the defensive backs at Presbyterian College. Summers earned his first coaching position at Tift County (Ga.) High School, where coached the defensive backs in 2002.

A four-year letter winner at Presbyterian College, Summers earned preseason All-South Atlantic honors as a linebacker in 1999 and was selected as team captain as a senior. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from PC in 2002.

Summers is married to the former Beth King, and the couple has three sons, Jake, Walker and Anderson.



THE SUMMERS FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Tifton, Ga.
 Born: April 11, 1980 in Tifton, Ga.
 Alma Mater: Presbyterian College (2002)
 Education: Bachelor's (political science)
 Family: wife, Beth; sons, Jake, Walker, Anderson

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Presbyterian College (1998-01)

COACHING RESULTS

2016 Georgia Southern (5-7, 4-4 Sun Belt)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2016- Georgia Southern (head coach)
 2015 Colorado State (DC/safeties)
 2014 UCF (DC/linebackers)
 2012-13 UCF (linebackers)
 2011 UAB (safeties/co-special teams coord.)
 2007-10 UAB (linebackers)
 2006 Georgia Southern (safeties)
 2005 Georgia (G.A.)
 2004 Troy (G.A.)
 2003 Presbyterian College (defensive backs)
 2002 Tift County (Ga.) HS (defensive backs)

POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2015 Arizona (Colorado State vs. Nevada) - DNC
 2014 St. Petersburg (UCF vs. NC State)
 2013 Fiesta (UCF vs. Baylor)
 2012 Beef 'O' Brady's (UCF vs. Ball State)
 2005 Sugar (Georgia vs. West Virginia)
 2004 Silicon Valley (Troy vs. Northern Illinois)



The Summers Family: Head coach Tyson Summers and his wife, Beth, along with (l-r) Jake, Walker and Anderson.



BRYAN COOK

@COACHBRYANCOOK

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR // QUARTERBACKS // FIRST SEASON

Bryan Cook is in his first year as Georgia Southern's offensive coordinator and comes to Statesboro after a successful stint as Georgia Tech's quarterbacks and B-backs coach.

Cook is coming off four seasons on The Flats where he helped game plan one of the most dangerous offenses in college football. Prior to his time in Atlanta, he spent four seasons (2009-12) as co-offensive coordinator at Cal Poly.

In 2016, the Yellow Jackets rushed for over 3,000 yards and 32 touchdowns and passed for 1,574 and nine scores en route to an eight-win season, one that included wins over Virginia Tech and Georgia en route to a TaxSlayer Bowl bid. Tech featured a top-10 rushing attack nationally and also led the country in yards per completion under Cook's tutelage.

During Georgia Tech's 2014 Orange Bowl championship season, Cook tutored All-ACC signal caller Justin Thomas, who set the school's single-season quarterback record with 1,086 rushing yards. Thomas also led the Jackets with an impressive pass efficiency rating of 153.90. Tech's 2014 backfield consisted of three career 1,000-yard rushers – Thomas, Zach Laskey and Synjyn Days.

Georgia Tech led the nation in rushing offense in 2014 with 4,789 rushing yards, averaging 342.1 yards per game. Both marks shattered the previous school records. B-backs Laskey (851) and Days (924) accounted for 1,775 of Tech's 4,789 total rushing yards as well as 18 total rushing touchdowns (nine each).

The Jackets also led the nation in third-down conversion percentage and passing yards per completion. Georgia Tech led the ACC in 11 offensive categories in 2014.

In 2013, Cook saw the Georgia Tech offense put up huge numbers en route to a 17th consecutive bowl game appearance. The Yellow Jackets ranked sixth nationally in rushing, tied for fourth in third-down percentage and led the nation in yards per pass completion. Tech produced 48 rushing touchdowns, tying Oregon for the most nationally. The Jackets had 41 rushing plays of 20 yards or more, second only to Oregon (43).

Cook tutored a pair of young quarterbacks – sophomore Vad Lee and redshirt freshman Thomas – who combined for 747 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns. Senior B-back David Sims, who finished his career ranked 11th in Georgia Tech history for rushing

yards, earned honorable mention All-ACC honors. Junior Zach Laskey eclipsed 1,000 career rushing yards in 2013.

Cook is an ideal fit for the GS coaching staff after working with similar style offenses at Georgia Tech and Cal Poly.

Cal Poly finished 9-3 in 2012 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA FCS playoffs. The Mustangs, who were 7-1 in their first year in the Big Sky Conference, compiled a record of 26-19 in Cook's four seasons.

Under Cook, who also coached the Cal Poly quarterbacks and fullbacks, the Mustangs ranked third nationally in 2012 in FCS rushing offense (324.2 yards per game), seventh in scoring offense (36.7 ppg) and first in pass efficiency (175.7).

Prior to joining the Cal Poly staff in 2009, Cook served four years as head coach at West Point Prep in Monmouth, New Jersey, where he compiled a 28-22-1 record. His 2008 team finished 7-3 and the 2006 squad went 8-2. He was the defensive coordinator at West Point Prep in 2004 before being promoted to head coach.

Cook was a graduate assistant coach three seasons at Georgia Tech under two different head coaches. In 2001, when Tech went 8-5 and played in the Seattle Bowl, Cook helped coach the Yellow Jacket defensive backs and special teams under head coach George O'Leary. In 2002, Cook coached tight ends under head coach Chan Gailey and helped Tech produce a 7-6 record and a Silicon Valley Classic appearance. In 2003, Cook worked with the safeties for a team that advanced to the Humanitarian Bowl.

A 1998 graduate of Ithaca College, Cook coached the Bombers wide receivers in 1999 before working as a defensive assistant at Lafayette in 2000. Cook was a four-year Dean's List student at Ithaca, earning a bachelor's degree in health and physical education in December 1998, graduating magna cum laude, and completing his master's degree in exercise science in September 2000.

At Ithaca, Cook lettered in both football and lacrosse, earning all-conference honors in lacrosse as a defenseman. Cook was a starting strong safety on the gridiron when Ithaca captured ECAC championships in 1996 and 1998.

Originally from upstate New York, Cook, and wife, Julia, have two children, Jackson and Reagan.



THE COOK FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Baldwinsville, N.Y.
 Born: December 29, 1976 in Syracuse, N.Y.
 Alma Mater: Ithaca (1998, 2000)
 Education: Bachelor's (health and physical education); Master's (exercise science)
 Family: wife, Julia; children, Jackson, Reagan

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Ithaca (1995-98); football and lacrosse

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2017- Georgia Southern (OC/quarterbacks)
 2013-16 Georgia Tech (QBs/B-backs)
 2009-12 Cal Poly (co-offensive coordinator)
 2005-08 West Point (NJ) Prep (head coach)
 2004 West Point (NJ) Prep (DC)
 2001-03 Georgia Tech (G.A.)
 1999 Ithaca (receivers)

BOWL/POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2016: TaxSlayer (GT vs. Kentucky)
 2014: Orange (GT vs. Mississippi State)
 2013: Music City (GT vs. Ole Miss)
 2012: NCAA FCS Second Round (Cal Poly)
 2003: Humanitarian (GT vs. Tulsa)
 2002: Silicon Valley (GT vs. Fresno State)
 2001: Seattle (GT vs. Stanford)



LORENZO COSTANTINI

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR // DEFENSIVE LINE // SECOND SEASON

@CoachZo1

Lorenzo "Zo" Costantini is in his second year at Georgia Southern and serves as the defensive coordinator for the Eagles. Costantini came to Statesboro after serving as the defensive line coach for UCF, the same position group he coaches at Georgia Southern.

In his second stint at UCF, Costantini coached three seasons with the Knights, working as their defensive line coach. Relentless on the recruiting trail, Costantini was responsible at UCF for recruiting the Florida Panhandle (from Escambia County to Franklin and Liberty County), southern Alabama, Houston, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan and Mississippi.

In 2016, his first season in Statesboro, a pair of linebackers both tallied over 100 tackles to lead the way. Ironhead Gallon (102 tackles) was named first-team all-conference and Ukeme Eligwe (104 stops) was named to the Sun Belt's All-Newcomer Team.

A native of Houston, Texas, Costantini has been a defensive line coach at five schools in his career. He spent 2012 with Southern Miss after serving on the UAB staff from 2007-11.

UCF's sacks total increased from 29 in 2013 to 36 in 2014, in large part to Costantini's guidance up front. Both of those numbers led the American Athletic Conference. The Knights also led the conference those two seasons in tackles for loss. Eight players had multiple sacks, highlighted by Thomas Niles with 7.5 and Jaryl Mamea with 7.0. Both of those Knights went on to be named to the All-American Athletic Conference Second Team.

With the Knights ranking in the top 20 in several defensive categories that year, they produced a 9-4 overall record, received a trip to the Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl and won back-to-back league titles. Costantini was part of the memorable 2013 season in which UCF won a school-record 12 games, the American Athletic Conference title, and the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. The Knights finished ranked No. 10 in the country as they defeated two top-10 teams (No. 6/5 Baylor and No. 8/6 Louisville) along the way.

The UCF defense held 10 of its 13 opponents to under their scoring averages during 2013 even though it used several freshmen throughout the season.

At Southern Miss, Costantini helped Jamie Collins earn a spot on the All-C-USA First Team as he led the team with 92 tackles, 20 tackles for loss and 10 sacks. He also forced four fumbles and broke up five passes. Costantini also guided Elliott Henigan to all-conference status at UAB following a three-year stint at Tulane.

UCF's defensive lines produced solid seasons under Costantini. The 2002 squad ranked third in the Mid-American Conference with 31 sacks, while both the 2000 and 2001 defenses placed in the top 30 in the country.

In 2002, Costantini played a vital role in coaching Elton Patterson to a spot on the All-MAC First Team. Patterson, who finished his career in the top five in school history in sacks, was a seventh-round draft pick by the Cincinnati Bengals in 2003. Costantini also coached Josh McKibben, who was named the team's defensive MVP and signed with the Baltimore Ravens.

Prior to his first stint at UCF, Costantini was the defensive line coach at UTEP from 1996-00 while serving as the strength and conditioning coach from 1995-00. In the 2000 NFL Draft, WAC Defensive Player of the Year Brian Young (St. Louis Rams) and Leif Larsen (Buffalo Bills) were drafted while Costantini was at UTEP.

Graduating from UTEP with a degree in education in 1990, Costantini was a four-year letter winner and a member of the 1988 team that won 10 games and made an appearance in the Independence Bowl. He began his playing career for the Miners as an offensive lineman, but moved to defensive end and finally nose guard for his senior season. As a senior, he recorded 33 tackles, two tackles for loss, caused one fumble and recovered a fumble.

He began his collegiate coaching career at UTEP in 1995 as the team's strength & conditioning coach and was promoted to defensive line coach a year later. At UTEP, Costantini coached four players who earned All-WAC honors eight times during their careers. He coached at Jefferson High School in El Paso from 1992-94 where he was the defensive coordinator and strength & conditioning coach.

Born in Rome, Italy, Costantini and his wife Merritt have two children, Rocco and Sofia.



THE COSTANTINI FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Houston, Texas
 Born: August 19, 1968 in Rome, Italy
 Alma Mater: UTEP (1990)
 Education: Bachelor's (education)
 Family: wife, Merritt; son, Rocco; daughter, Sofia

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

UTEP (1986-89)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2017- Georgia Southern (DC/defensive line)
 2016 Georgia Southern (defensive coordinator)
 2013-15 UCF (defensive line)
 2012 Southern Miss (defensive line)
 2007-11 UAB (defensive line)
 2004-06 Tulane (defensive line)
 2000-03 UCF (defensive line)
 1996-00 UTEP (DL/strength & conditioning)
 1995 UTEP (strength & conditioning)
 1992-94 Jefferson (Texas) HS (DC/S&C)
 1991 UTEP (G.A., defensive line)

BOWL EXPERIENCE

Coach

2014: St. Petersburg (UCF vs. NC State)
 2013: Fiesta (UCF vs. Baylor)
 2000: Humanitarian (UTEP vs. Boise State)

Player

1988: Independence (UTEP vs. Southern Miss)



PAT BASTIEN

LINEBACKERS // SECOND SEASON

@COACHBASTIEN

Former college standout Pat Bastien is in his second season as the linebackers coach for head coach Tyson Summers at Georgia Southern.

Bastien came to Statesboro from UCF, where he was a defensive graduate assistant the previous two seasons. In 2014, the Knights tied for the American Athletic Association title with a 7-1 league mark and played NC State in the Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl.

Bastien made an immediate impact on the Eagles in his first year as an assistant coach as two linebackers topped the 100-tackle mark. Senior linebacker Ironhead Gallon was named a first-team All-Sun Belt selection with 102 tackles and Ukeme Eligwe led the squad with 104 stops, earning a spot on the league's all-newcomer team. Eligwe was drafted in the fifth round of the 2017 NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs and Gallon signed a free agent deal with the Arizona Cardinals.

A native of Immokalee, Florida, Bastien had a stellar career at UAB from 2009-2013. He appeared in 44 games, starting his final two years and was captain as a senior.

In 2012, Bastien racked up 33 tackles in 10 starts and 12 games overall, highlighted by 6.0 tackles for loss and a pair of sacks. Prior to that, he had 24 tackles in 2011, redshirted 2010 and played in eight games with two starts as a freshman in 2009.

Bastien graduated from the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) in May 2013 with a degree in sports leadership. He played tight end and defensive end under head coach Israel Gallegos at Immokalee High School and was selected to the Collier County High School All-Star team.

He and his wife, Deborah, welcomed twins in April 2017, a son, Princeton, and a daughter, Payton.



THE BASTIEN FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Immokalee, Fla.
Born: June 5, 1991 in Naples, Fla.
Alma Mater: UAB (2013)
Education: Bachelor's (sports leadership)
Family: wife, Deborah; son, Princeton; daughter, Payton

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

UAB (2009-13)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2016- Georgia Southern (linebackers)
2014-15 UCF (G.A.)

BOWL EXPERIENCE

2014 St. Petersburg (UCF vs. NC State)



BOB BODINE

OFFENSIVE LINE // FIRST SEASON // SEVENTH OVERALL AT GS

@CoBODINE

A veteran of the college ranks in the coaching profession, Bob Bodine begins his second stint at Georgia Southern, this time as the offensive line coach of the Eagles.

Bodine comes back to Statesboro after three successful seasons as the offensive line coach of Army West Point under former GS head coach Jeff Monken.

In 2016, his offensive line helped pave the way for one of the top rushing attacks in the FBS as the Black Knights averaged 327.8 yards per game, second-best in the country, and allowed the fourth-fewest sacks in the country as well. The season was capped with a historic win over Navy to break a 14-year drought and a berth in the Heart of Dallas Bowl against North Texas.

In his second season with Army (2015), Bodine continued to guide an offensive line focused on helping create strong and powerful linemen. Anchored by center Matt Hugenberg, the offensive line experienced seven different starting lineup combinations in 2016 but was still considered among the top rushing teams in the country.

In his first year at Army West Point (2014), Bodine helped build an offensive line that ranked fifth in the country in rushing yards, garnering 296.5 yards per game. This fifth place ranking was impressive considering there were 10 different starting lineups, and 13 players saw action among the front five.

Prior to his arrival at Army, Bodine spent four seasons at The Citadel, three of them as the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach. Under his direction, the Bulldogs were among the most successful rushing teams in the country, ranking as high as fourth in the Football Championship Subdivision level in 2013. Center

Mike Sellers to a consensus All-America selection in 2012 and was given the Jacobs Blocking Award as the top offensive lineman in the Southern Conference. As offensive coordinator, The Citadel led the FCS in fewest sacks allowed (2) in 2012 and ranked fourth with 300.6 rushing yards per game.

Before joining the staff at The Citadel, Bodine spent four seasons as the offensive line coach at Virginia Military Institute, where he once again coached the Keydets into leading the nation in rushing.

Bodine began his coaching career at his alma mater, Tulane University, as a graduate assistant. While at Tulane, Bodine worked with the offensive line and long snappers.

He then accepted a position at Georgia Southern where he first had the opportunity to work with Coach Monken. During his six seasons with the Eagles, Bodine coached the outside linebackers, wide receivers, and slot backs, both as a full-time coach and as a graduate assistant.

In his six seasons at Georgia Southern, the Eagles made the FCS Playoffs all six times, won six Southern Conference titles and won the national championship under head coach Paul Johnson in 1999 and 2000.

Following Georgia Southern, Bodine then moved to Jackson State as the offensive line coach and then on to Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach as the slotbacks coach and recruiting coordinator.

Bodine earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Tulane University in 1993, where he was a three-year letter winner and two-year starter as an offensive guard for the Green Wave.

Bodine and his wife, Joy, are the parents of twins Gabriel (Jake) and Gracie.



THE BODINE FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Hazleton, Pa.
 Birthday: September 17, 1971 in Philadelphia
 Alma Mater: Tulane (1993)
 Education: Bachelor's (psychology)
 Family: wife, Joy; son, Jake; daughter, Gracie

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Tulane (1991-93)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2017- Georgia Southern (offensive line)
 2014-16 Army West Point (offensive line)
 2010-13 The Citadel (offensive coordinator/OL)
 2006-09 Virginia Military Institute (offensive line)
 2005 Bethune-Cookman (slot backs/recruiting coordinator)
 2003-04 Jackson State (offensive line)
 2002 Georgia Southern (slot backs)
 2000-01 Georgia Southern (receivers)
 1999 Georgia Southern (outside linebackers)
 1997-98 Georgia Southern (graduate assistant)

BOWL/POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2016 Heart of Dallas (Army vs. North Texas)
 2002 NCAA FCS Semifinals (GS)
 2001 NCAA FCS Semifinals (GS)
 2000 NCAA FCS National Champions (GS)
 1999 NCAA FCS National Champions (GS)
 1998 NCAA FCS Finals (GS)
 1997 NCAA FCS Quarterfinals (GS)



OLTEN DOWNS

SAFETIES // FIRST SEASON

@ODOWNS

Oltén Downs, a native of Columbus, Georgia, and graduate of Shaw High School, was named an assistant coach on Tyson Summers' staff in January 2017. Downs, who came to Georgia Southern from the University of Georgia, serves as the safeties coach for the Eagles' defense.

Downs was the assistant director of player development for the Bulldogs in 2016 and served as a quality control coordinator with the UGA offense in 2015. Downs was given on-the-field responsibilities with Georgia's receivers for the TaxSlayer Bowl bowl win over Penn State after a coaching staff change following the 2015 regular season. Terry Godwin was named the game's MVP after catching four passes for 34 yards and a touchdown, throwing a 44-yard touchdown pass to Malcolm Mitchell in the second quarter and returning a kickoff for 27 yards. Georgia won the Liberty Bowl in 2016, defeating TCU in Memphis.

Prior to joining Georgia's staff, Downs was the head coach at Creekside High School from 2013 to 2014, where he led his team to a Class AAAAA state title in 2013 and two region championships. Eleven of his players at

Creekside signed with collegiate teams during his tenure.

In his two years as head coach at Riverdale High School from 2010 to 2012, Downs led the team to its first winning season in five years and first playoff appearance in eight years.

From 2006 to 2010, Downs served as the defensive coordinator at Carver High School. While there, earned appearances to the state semifinals every year and a state title in 2007.

Throughout his coaching career, Downs has coached several athletes who have had successful college, and in some cases professional, careers. The players include Jarvis Jones, Gabriel Wright, Corey Crawford, DeQuan Menzie, Elliot and Evan Berry as well as Isaiah Crowell.

Downs, who lettered in football three times at Tennessee State, graduated in 2006 with a degree in political science. In addition, he holds a Master's of Arts in special education. He is married to Sharee Downs, and the couple has a son, Cameron Bergeron, and a daughter, Sage Downs.



THE DOWNS FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Columbus, Ga.
Born: May 11, 1984 in Heidelberg, Germany
Alma Mater: Tennessee State (2006, 2009)
Education: Bachelor's (political science);
Master's (special education)
Family: wife, Sharee Downs; children, Cameron Bergeron, Sage Downs

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Tennessee State (2002-05)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-: Georgia Southern (safeties)
2016: Georgia (asst. director, player development)
2015: Georgia (quality control, offense)
2013-14: Creekside (GA) High (head coach)
2010-12: Riverdale (GA) High (head coach)
2006-06: Carver (GA) High (defensive coordinator)

BOWL EXPERIENCE

2016: Liberty (UGA vs. TCU)
2015: TaxSlayer (UGA vs. Penn State)



CHRIS FOSTER

RUNNING BACKS // SECOND SEASON

@COACH_C_FOSTER

Chris Foster is in his second season as Georgia Southern's running backs coach under head coach Tyson Summers. Foster has plenty of experience coaching the position as he brings 12 years of coaching involvement at three previous stops to Statesboro.

In his first season at GS, the Eagle running backs combined to rush for 1,639 yards and 15 touchdowns while catching five touchdown passes. Matt Breida signed a free agent contract with the San Francisco 49ers following the 2017 NFL Draft.

Foster came to Georgia Southern from Maryville (TN) College, where he spent the 2015 season as a running backs coach. In his lone season there, he coached a rushing attack that averaged 257.4 yards per game and had 29 rushing touchdowns. Deshjon Whitlock averaged 5.9 yards per carry on his 154 attempts, accumulating 906 total rushing yards while scoring 13 touchdowns en route to first-team all-conference honors.

Prior to Maryville, Foster spent three seasons at Appalachian State, coaching a pair of his pupils to two of the best campaigns by running backs in school history. His efforts produced seven all-conference players and a pair of FCS All-Americans.

In 2013, Marcus Cox set App State freshman records with 1,250 rushing yards and 21 total touchdowns, en route to being named the Southern Conference Freshman of the Year, placing second in voting for the Jerry Rice Award (NCAA Division I FCS Freshman of the Year) and being the only FCS representative on 247Sports' True Freshman All-America team. Cox also set a new SoCon record by being named the league's Freshman of the Week six times in just 10 starts.

In Foster's first season with the Mountaineers (2012), Steven Miller rushed for 1,368 yards, good for 16th nationally in NCAA

Division I FCS. Miller also caught 34 passes for 377 yards and scored 15 touchdowns (11 rushing, four receiving) in Foster's only season as his mentor. Miller went on to sign with the NFL's Detroit Lions on their practice squad.

Foster came to Appalachian State from Gardner-Webb, where he served as the Runnin' Bulldogs' running backs coach for eight seasons (2004-11). He coached an All-Big South performer in four of his eight seasons at G-W, including each of his final three campaigns in Boiling Springs. In Foster's final season at G-W, running back Kenny Little became the Bulldogs' first 1,000-yard rusher in 11 years.

In his eight seasons at Gardner-Webb, Foster also served as the staff's primary academic advisor and a top recruiter. Additionally, he oversaw the program's strength and conditioning activities on an interim basis in 2006.

Foster began his coaching career immediately upon his graduation from Gardner-Webb, where he was one of the program's all-time best rushers from 2000-03. A two-time all-Big South running back, Foster ranked sixth in GWU history at the time of his graduation (and seventh currently) with 1,883 career rushing yards.

He was also a two-time first-team academic all-district honoree, making him one of only two student-athletes in Gardner-Webb football history to earn the prestigious recognition multiple times.

A Chesnee, South Carolina, native, Foster was a South Carolina Mr. Football award finalist and the Appalachian 2A Conference Player of the Year at Chesnee High in 2000. He graduated from GWU in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

Foster has two daughters, Journei and Bella, and is engaged to Jennifer Foster.



THE FOSTER FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Chesnee, S.C.
 Born: August 25, 1982 in Spartanburg, S.C.
 Alma Mater: Gardner-Webb (2003)
 Education: Bachelor's (physical education)
 Family: fiancé: Jennifer; daughters, Journei, Bella

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Gardner-Webb (2000-03)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2016- Georgia Southern (running backs)
 2015 Maryville (running backs)
 2012-14 Appalachian State (running backs)
 2004-11 Gardner-Webb (running backs)

POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2012 NCAA FCS Second Round (ASU)



CHAD LUNSFORD

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH // SLOTS // H-BACKS // SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR
FIFTH SEASON // NINTH OVERALL AT GS

@CHADLUNSFORD



THE LUNSFORD FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Elberton, Ga.
 Birthday: February 24, 1977 in Anderson, S.C.
 Alma Mater: Georgia College (2000);
 U.S. Sports Academy (2002)
 Education: Bachelor's (biology);
 Master's (sport science)
 Family: wife, Tippy; daughters, Sophie, Josie;
 son, Rhett

EXPERIENCE

2016	Georgia Southern (Asst. HC/H-backs/Slots/ST coordinator)
2016	Georgia Southern (TEs/special teams coordinator)
2014-15	Georgia Southern (TEs/recruiting coord.)
2013	Georgia Southern (wide receivers)
2013	Auburn (director of player personnel)
2009-12	Auburn (director of scouting)
2007-09	Georgia Military (LBs/special teams coord.)
2006-07	Griffin (GA) HS (linebackers)
2003-06	Georgia Southern (slotbacks)
2001-03	Appalachian State (tight ends)
2000	Georgia Military (linebackers)
1997-00	Georgia Military (running backs)
1996	Georgia Military (student assistant)

COLLEGE BOWL/POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2015	GoDaddy (vs. Bowling Green)
2011	Chick-fil-A (Auburn vs. Virginia)
2010	Fiesta (Auburn vs. Oregon)
	BCS National Champions
2009	Outback (Auburn vs. Northwestern)
2005	NCAA FCS Round of 16 (GS)
2004	NCAA FCS Round of 16 (GS)
2002	NCAA FCS First Round (ASU)
2001	NCAA FCS Quarterfinals (ASU)
1999	Golden Isles (GMC vs. Middle Georgia)
1998	Golden Isles (GMC)
1997	Golden Isles (GMC)

The 2017 campaign marks the ninth season overall, and fifth in his current stint at Georgia Southern for assistant head coach Chad Lunsford, who has worn many hats in his time in Statesboro.

After working with the wide receivers in 2013, Lunsford worked two seasons with the tight ends and served as recruiting coordinator in 2014 and 2015. In 2017, Lunsford will coach the Eagle slot receivers and H-backs and will once again serve in the role of special teams coordinator, a title he added in 2016. He was also named the program's assistant head coach in 2017.

Over the past three seasons, his tight ends contributed to the option ground game which led the FBS in rushing yards per game in both 2014 and 2015 and also led the FBS in rushing touchdowns in 2015. In 2016, Lunsford was named a Broyles Award nominee, given to the nation's top assistant coach, as the Eagles blocked seven kicks and featured a Lou Groza Award finalist in Younghoe Koo, who went on to sign a free agent contract with the Los Angeles Chargers.

On the recruiting side, Lunsford helped engineer signing classes which featured 22 players and ranked in the top half of the Sun Belt in 2015, also ranked near the top of the Sun Belt in 2014 and in 2016. He was named the Sun Belt's Best Recruiter in 2016 by Scout.

Georgia Southern's wide receivers in 2013 led NCAA Division I with most yards per completion, averaging 19.3 yards per catch. Fourteen catches ranked among Georgia Southern's big plays as the Eagle receiving corps contributed to one of the nation's top offenses.

Lunsford returned to Statesboro as wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator in June 2013 after four years in an administrative position with the Auburn football program. He served in consecutive roles as the Tigers' Director of Scouting and Director of Player Personnel, assisting with the day-to-day operations of Auburn football, with an emphasis on recruiting, organizing and prospect evaluation.

Credited with making advancements in technology and introducing new concepts to help the Tigers win recruiting wars, Lunsford assisted with and organized numerous other aspects of Auburn's recruiting process. The Tigers boasted three of the nation's top recruiting classes in 2010, 2011 and 2012, and that success translated to the field where Auburn claimed the 2010 BCS national championship, 2010 Southeastern Conference Championship and made appearances in two other bowl games.

Lunsford coached the slotbacks in his previous three seasons (2003-05) on the Georgia Southern staff, including the Eagles'

eventual all-time receptions leader Raja Andrews, who finished his career with 127 catches and as the record holder for receiving yards in a single season with 873. Armed with the ability to run and deliver blocks as well as catch passes in the option offense, his slotbacks provided physical and statistical support to three-straight NCAA Division I rushing titles to go along with a Southern Conference championship in 2004.

After departing Georgia Southern in 2006, Lunsford spent a year at Griffin High School as a special education teacher and served as the outside linebackers coach. The Bears posted an overall record of 11-2 that season for a winning percentage of .917, highest in the program history to that point, and advanced to the second round of the state playoffs.

Two years back at Georgia Military College followed his time at Griffin with Lunsford taking a familiar place as linebackers coach and adding responsibilities as special teams coordinator.

Lunsford played at Elbert County High School for legendary coach T. McFerrin. During his high school career, Elbert County made four-straight appearances in the state playoffs and posted a 20-3 record in his junior and senior years.

Lunsford graduated from Georgia College in May 2000 with a degree in biology and minor in mathematics, and earned a master's of sport science degree from the United States Sports Academy in 2002.

While at Georgia College as an undergraduate, he served as a student assistant with Georgia Military College, beginning his career coaching the tight ends. In February 1997, he was hired as the running backs coach and handled several of the program's administrative areas. The Bulldogs would play in three straight Golden Isles bowl games, capture the 1998 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) rushing title with an average of more than 300 yards per game, and bring home the 1999 Golden Isles bowl championship.

Lunsford moved to the defensive side of the ball for the 2000 season and his coaching efforts helped GMC rank second nationally in total defense that year.

An opportunity to coach on the offense again prompted him to accept an assistant coaching position at Appalachian State where he would coach the tight ends for the 2001 and 2002 seasons.

Married to the former Tiffany "Tippy" Hyde of Macon in 2002, the Lunsfords have three children, Sophie, Rhett and Josie.



JEREMY ROWELL

DEFENSIVE BACKS // SECOND SEASON

@COACH_ROWELL

Jeremy Rowell is in his second season on the Georgia Southern football staff as the defensive backs coach. The veteran coach has 16 seasons of college experience, including six as a defensive coordinator.

Prior to coming to GS, Rowell spent the previous three seasons coaching at the high school level, helping lead Colquitt County (GA) High to a pair of GHSA Class 1-AAAAAA state championships. In his final season at CCHS, the Packers went 15-0 and finished as national champions by High School Football America and were ranked No. 2 in the country by USA Today.

A native of Crestview, Florida, Rowell spent 15 seasons at Troy University, the final six as the Trojans' defensive coordinator. He was promoted to defensive coordinator in 2005 after six seasons overseeing the defensive backs.

From 2006-2010, the Trojans won the Sun Belt Conference title outright or shared the title each of those five seasons.

In 2011, the Trojans had two players honored for the defensive work by being selected by the coaches and media for the All-Sun Belt Conference team. The 2010 defense was a young squad as they had to replace several starters from a year before who departed for the NFL and CFL; however, the team came together and helped lead the team to the 2010 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. They were able to hold opponents to 14 points or less three different times.

In 2008, Rowell coached Sherrod Martin, a 2009 NFL Draft selection and All-Sun Belt Conference selection Terence Moore along with 2010 Arizona Cardinals draftee Jorrick Calvin. Three seasons ago, Rowell coached the 11th overall pick in the NFL Draft in Leodis McKelvin, along with the nation's leader in interceptions, Elbert Mack, in the defensive backfield.

The defense in 2008 ranked in the top 35 in several categories, including pass defense (23rd), total defense (30th) and scoring defense (31st). They also ranked 17th in the nation in pass efficiency defense (104.03).

Under Rowell, the Trojans flourished in the defensive backfield, becoming one of the mainstays of a stingy Troy defense. In 2004, the Trojans ranked sixth in the country in pass efficiency defense (100.56) and 16th in total defense (311.00 yards). Their 32 turnovers gained were tied for second in the country, while the turnover margin (+0.92) was tied for 10th. In 2003, despite returning just four starters, the defense ranked sixth nationally in turnovers gained (35), 26th in rushing defense (125.5 yards) and 39th in total defense (349.67 yards).

Defensive back Derrick Ansley finished third in the nation in interceptions in 2003, behind Miami (FL) safety Sean Taylor and Nebraska's Josh Bullocks. Ansley tallied nine interceptions, earning College Football News All-Independent honors, as well as an honorable mention selection on the ESPN.com All-Independent team. Rayshun Reed joined Ansley on both All-Independent teams, and earned an invitation to participate in the Blue-Gray All-Star Football Classic on Christmas Day.

The 2002 defense ranked fourth nationally in total defense. The Trojans allowed just 276.83 yards per game to opponents in 12 games, ranking behind only Texas Christian, Kansas State and Alabama. Troy was ranked 11th in pass defense, 13th in rushing defense and 30th in scoring defense.

A solid field general during his playing career, Rowell is considered one of the top quarterbacks in school history. He led Troy to a 19-3 regular season record as a starter in 1994 and 1995. With Rowell under center, the Trojans finished with the only perfect (11-0) regular season record in school history. Rowell accounted for 3,300 passing yards in his career with 22 touchdowns. He also scored 15 rushing touchdowns in a season (1994) and finished with 20 for his career.

A graduate of Troy University, Rowell received his bachelor's degree in mathematics & science in 1997 and his master's degree in foundations of education in 1999. He is married to former Jessica Owens, and the couple has two children, Jacob and Jaxon.



THE ROWELL FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Crestview, Fla.
 Birthday: Nov. 21, 1973 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
 Alma Mater: Troy (1997, 1999)
 Education: Bachelor's (mathematics & science);
 Master's (foundations of education)
 Family: wife, Jessica; sons, Jacob, Jaxon

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Troy (1991-95)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2016- Georgia Southern (defensive backs)
 2015 Colquitt County (Ga.) HS (DC/safeties)
 2013-14 Colquitt County (Ga.) HS (special teams coordinator/safeties)
 2007-12 Troy (defensive coordinator/secondary)
 2005-06 Troy (co-defensive coordinator/secondary)
 2001-04 Troy (secondary/recruiting coordinator)
 1998-00 Troy (G.A.)

BOWL/POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

Coach

2010 New Orleans (Troy vs. Ohio)
 2009 GMAC (Troy vs. Central Michigan)
 2008 New Orleans (Troy vs. Southern Miss)
 2006 New Orleans (Troy vs. Rice)
 2004 Silicon Valley (Troy vs. Northern Illinois)

Player

1995 NCAA Division I-AA First Round (Troy)
 1994 NCAA Division I-AA First Round (Troy)
 1993 NCAA Division I-AA Semifinals (Troy)



JUSTON WOOD

WIDE RECEIVERS // FIRST SEASON

@CoachJWood2

Juston Wood is in his first season as the wide receivers coach at Georgia Southern after eight successful seasons at Cal Poly.

Wood, who played in the Arena Football League for three seasons, started as the wide receivers coach at Cal Poly in January 2009, switched to coaching the quarterbacks in 2013 and he was promoted to offensive coordinator in July 2016.

In 2016, his first season calling the plays for the Mustangs, Cal Poly finished second in the FBS in rushing yards per game with an average of 343.5 yards. Fullback Joe Protheroe, offensive tackle Matt Fisher and center Joey Kuperman were named to the all-conference first team while senior quarterback Dano Graves made the second team.

Protheroe became Cal Poly's 20th 1,000-yard rusher for a single season, accumulating 1,334 yards and scoring 13 touchdowns. He also caught seven passes for 139 yards and two more scores. Graves completed 63 percent of his passes (97 of 153) for 1,485 yards and 17 touchdowns. He was intercepted just four times and finished the regular season No. 1 in the Big Sky in passing efficiency. Graves also rushed for 686 yards and nine touchdowns, averaging 4.4 yards per carry with three games of 100 or more yards.

Wood coached Dominique Johnson, who caught 90 passes in the 2009 and 2010 seasons combined and signed an undrafted free agent contract with the Minnesota Vikings in July 2010.

In 2014 and 2015, Wood coached quarterback Chris Brown, who set a school record for rushing yards in a season by a quarterback (1,265) in 2014, twice scored touchdowns by rushing, passing and receiving in a game and finished with over 3,000 career yards both rushing and passing.

Wood was a quarterback for the New York Dragons in 2006, Philadelphia Soul in 2007 and back with the Dragons in 2008 before the Arena Football League suspended operations prior to the 2009

campaign. In those three years, he completed 140 of 230 passes (61 percent) for 1,531 yards and 25 touchdowns.

He played for the Central Valley Coyotes of af2 in 2005, earned second-team All-National Conference honors, led af2 in total offense averaging 282.4 yards per game and passed for 4,361 yards and 89 touchdowns. He also played for the Coyotes in 2004, completing 60 of 105 passes for 651 yards and 15 scores. Wood signed as a free agent with the Minnesota Vikings on April 28, 2003.

Wood has had some experience in Hollywood as well, serving as a stunt double on "The Longest Yard" movie remake starring Adam Sandler and also shot a commercial for the "Madden NFL 2005" video game.

Wood was a standout student-athlete under the tutelage of Tim Walsh at Portland State, twice earning ADA Academic All-American honors. He was a first-team All-Big Sky Conference selection at quarterback in 2001 and honorable mention in 2002, serving as team captain both seasons.

He ended his collegiate career ranked sixth in school history with 5,681 yards of total offense and finished his career with 5,653 passing yards, 37 touchdown passes, 414 completions and six 300-yard passing games. He led the Big Sky in passing as a junior.

Wood, was a three-year varsity letter winner in football at David Douglas High School in Portland and served as an assistant coach at David Douglas High School for three seasons. Twice he earned all-conference honors in basketball. As a senior in high school, he played in the Oregon State All-Star Games in football, basketball and baseball.

Wood earned his bachelor's degree in public health education at Portland State in April 2003 and married his wife Lindsay in 2014. The couple has a daughter, Avila.



THE WOOD FILE

PERSONAL

Hometown: Portland, Ore.
 Born: December 27, 1979 in Roseburg, Ore.
 Alma Mater: Portland State (2003)
 Education: Bachelor's (public health administration)
 Family: wife, Lindsay; daughter, Avila

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Portland State (1999-2002)

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2017- Georgia Southern (wide receivers)
 2016 Cal Poly (OC/quarterbacks)
 2013-15 Cal Poly (QBs/passing game coordinator)
 2012 Cal Poly (WRs/special teams coordinator)
 2009-11 Cal Poly (wide receivers)
 2005-08 David Douglas (OR) HS (asst. coach)

COLLEGE POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

2016 NCAA FCS First Round (Cal Poly)
 2012 NCAA FCS Second Round (Cal Poly)

Player

2000 NCAA FCS First Round (PSU)





DWAYNE CHANDLER // STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COORDINATOR, FOOTBALL // FIRST SEASON

Dwayne Chandler joined the Georgia Southern staff in January 2017 as the coordinator of strength & conditioning for football, bringing to Statesboro extensive experience from both collegiate and professional levels. Prior to GS he was at Memphis, where he was the Associate Director of Athletic Performance. In his first season working with the Memphis program, Chandler was part of the Tigers' American Athletic Conference title run. In 2015, Memphis equaled a school record for victories, posting a 10-3 record culminated with a 55-48 double-overtime win over BYU in the inaugural Miami Beach Bowl. Quarterback Paxton Lynch broke numerous school records and was drafted in the first round by the Denver Broncos. In 2016, the Tigers won eight games and played in the Boca Raton Bowl.

Prior to joining the Memphis staff, Chandler was the Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Enhancement at UAB where he oversaw the Blazers' strength and conditioning programs with direct oversight of UAB's football performance programs through the 2012 and 2013 seasons. Chandler joined the UAB staff from his alma mater, the University of Oklahoma, where he was on staff from 2009-2011. While at OU, Chandler coached four eventual NFL first-round draft picks in Sam Bradford, Gerald McCoy, Trent Williams and Jermaine Gresham. He also coached future NFL Pro Bowler DeMarco Murray while in Norman.

He was an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Denver Broncos during the 2007 and 2008 seasons. While with the Broncos, Chandler worked with players such as Jay Cutler, Brandon Marshall and Champ Bailey. Prior to joining the staff at Denver, Chandler was promoted twice during a six-year span at the University of Minnesota (2001-2006). He joined the Golden Gophers' staff as a strength & conditioning assistant and speed coach in 2001 before being named co-head strength and conditioning coach in 2003. In 2004, Chandler was named the head strength and conditioning coach where he served until 2006. During his time with the Gophers, Chandler instructed 12 players who were selected in the NFL Draft, including 2006 first-round draft choice Laurence Maroney and 2005 fourth-round selection Marion Barber III. His strength and conditioning efforts also helped the Golden Gophers advance to play in bowl games each of his last five years in the Twin Cities. Before being named to the Minnesota staff, Chandler spent a season with the Dallas Cowboys, serving as a strength and conditioning intern.

Chandler is Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified (SCCC) by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association. He is also USA Weightlifting Certified. He was a four-year letterwinner as a fullback from 1992-96 and led the Sooners in touchdowns (12) in 1993. He earned his bachelor's degree in communication/sociology from Oklahoma in 2000.



CYMON GEORGE // DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS // SECOND SEASON

Cymone George is in her second year as the director of football operations for head coach Tyson Summers. She oversees the daily administrative and operational duties within Georgia Southern's football program, the handling of team travel, and other assorted responsibilities to ensure that the program functions smoothly and efficiently.

George was one of just eight females among all Football Bowl Subdivision schools to have the role of a DFO in 2016.

The Columbia, South Carolina, native worked with Learfield during the spring of 2016 as the coordinator for business development with Georgia Southern Sports Properties.

After working for two years as a graduate assistant working with football recruiting (2013-14), George moved into a new position for the 2015 football season as the director of on-campus recruiting for the Eagles. She organized the on-campus phase of the recruiting process as well as oversaw the daily operation of the football offices.

As an undergraduate at GS, she worked in the Athletics Marketing Office. She is a 2012 graduate of Georgia Southern.



STEVE DENNIS // DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION // SECOND SEASON

Former Troy Director of Athletics Steve Dennis is in his second season as the director of football administration at Georgia Southern. Dennis spent seven full years running the Troy athletics department and saw his student-athletes flourish both on the field and in the classroom. The Trojan student-athletes regularly posted grade point averages of 3.0 or better, allowing Troy to enjoy the highest level of success possible under the NCAA's Academic Progress Report for the 2008-09 and the 2009-10 school years as all 16 NCAA sports registered above the mandated 92.5 percent.

Under his tutelage, Troy's baseball program had 17 players drafted or signed to professional contracts while the football program sent 27 players into professional football, including first-round draft picks DeMarcus Ware and Leodis McKelvin. The Troy football program was especially successful under his watchful eye. The Trojans won five consecutive Sun Belt Conference titles and appeared in four bowl games during his tenure as director of athletics and Troy led the Sun Belt Conference in football attendance in five of his final six seasons.

His tenure as athletics director was marked by construction and growth of Troy University's athletics facilities. The soccer and track teams moved into a brand-new facility. Riddle-Pace Field underwent \$5 million in renovations that included the construction of the Lott Baseball Complex. Veterans Memorial Stadium saw the addition of two new luxury boxes and prior to the 2012 season a brand new playing surface. The crowning achievement of the facility improvements under Dennis was the new Trojan Arena that opened for the 2012-13 basketball season.

Externally, Dennis was instrumental in the formation of the Trojan Warriors, the athletic department's booster club, as well as "The Legion," a student support group. Both groups grew to more than 1,000 members in a short time and continued to grow annually. The athletics department also entered into a marketing agreement with IMG College, an agreement that was renewed in 2009.

Dennis went to Troy from Auburn University, where he served in a variety of capacities beginning in 1985. His final assignment was as the Associate Director of Tigers Unlimited, the Athletics Department's Development office. In that position, he was responsible for identifying, cultivating and soliciting support from individuals, private industry and corporations for the Athletics Department.

A native of Macon, Georgia, Dennis graduated from the University of Georgia, cum laude, in 1978. While at Georgia, he was the Bulldogs' defensive captain in 1978 and was an Academic All-Southeastern Conference selection that same season. During his playing career, he played in three bowl games for the Bulldogs.

Dennis started his professional career as a high school teacher, football coach and baseball coach in Windsor, Georgia. He started his collegiate coaching career at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in 1981. In four-plus seasons, he coached outside linebackers, the defensive line and special teams for the Moccasins. Dennis went to work as the defensive backs and special teams coach at Auburn in 1985, and he remained on the Tigers' staff for eight seasons. He was named the SEC Working Coach of the Year in 1986 by The Birmingham Touchdown Club. Dennis returned to his alma mater in December of 1993, and worked as the defensive backs and special teams coach for the Bulldogs for two seasons.

From 1997 until 2002, Dennis was out of college athletics. Dennis returned to Auburn to coach tight ends in 2002, before moving to fund-raising within the Auburn Athletics Department in 2003. During his college coaching career, he was part of seven bowl teams and one Division I-AA playoff team.

Dennis and his wife, Lisa, have four children - Chris, Cale, Corey and Allison.



CHRIS BALL // VIDEO COORDINATOR // FIFTH SEASON

Chris Ball, a veteran video coordinator who has served multiple athletics programs, joined the Georgia Southern Football staff in 2013. The native of St. Marys, West Virginia, directs all coaches film from practices and games as well as film exchange with Eagle opponents. He manages and troubleshoots technology for the program utilizing the XOS software system.

With the assistance of a number of students and a graduate assistant, Ball uses up to six cameras at practice and games to provide footage for daily review and highlight videos. He maintains the program's recent film archives and a 50 terabytes of storage to make clips available to the staff on demand.

Ball spent three years at Georgia State, starting as the first football video coordinator for the Panther program. He organized all video efforts for Georgia State in its inaugural competition year and handled equipment purchases and maintenance while hiring and overseeing a student staff of four.

Prior to his time in Atlanta, Ball was the football video coordinator at Yale, Furman and Eastern Michigan. He started his career in video at West Virginia University as a student assistant for two years and was hired as a video assistant for the Mountaineers in 2007.

Ball and his wife, Linnea, reside in Statesboro.



BRANDY CLOUSE // ASSOCIATE AD FOR SPORTS MEDICINE/S.W.A. // 15TH YEAR

Brandy Clouse organizes and runs the Athletic Sports Medicine department at Georgia Southern since being promoted to the Associate Athletics Director for Sports Medicine in 2014. She added the title of Senior Woman's Administrator in 2016. Clouse oversees seven full-time assistants and a number of graduate and student assistants, who work with all 17 of the Eagles' Division I sports programs. In her current role, she oversees all sports, all aspects of student-athlete healthcare and supervises 14 athletic trainers. She primarily works with the football team and assists with ADD/ADHD testing and drug testing.

Prior to her appointment at GS, Clouse served as a graduate assistant at Marshall University, where she worked primarily with women's soccer, women's swimming, women's golf, baseball and football. During her time with the Herd, she obtained her Master of Science in cardiac rehabilitation/exercise physiology.

Clouse earned her bachelor of science degree in kinesiology/athletic training from Georgia Southern in December 2000. As a student trainer, Clouse assisted with the Eagle women's soccer, women's basketball and football programs, as well as the GS football camp.

A native of Conyers, Georgia, Clouse graduated from Heritage High School in 1995. She and Rob Clouse were married in May 2009 and are the parents of two sons, Brayden and Landon, and a daughter, Addison Elise, who was born in 2016.



ADAM BROOKS

DIRECTOR OF EQUIPMENT SERVICES // THIRD SEASON

Adam Brooks joined the staff at Georgia Southern in 2015 following five seasons at Army. At GS, Brooks runs the equipment room at the Ted Smith Family Football Center and is the direct supervisor for the team's staff of student managers. He came to Statesboro after five seasons working with Army's football team. Brooks attended Marshall University, where he graduated with a bachelor's in business management and began his graduate studies in sports administration. While attending Marshall, Brooks was promoted from a student manager for Marshall's football program to a graduate assistant during his senior year and went on to hold that position for two years.

Brooks is a certified member of the Athletic Equipment Manager's Association (AEMA).

Brooks is a native of Parkersburg, West Virginia. He resides in Statesboro with his wife, Jade, and their children, Hudson and Elin.



ANDREW DODGE

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT // FIRST SEASON

Andrew Dodge is in his first full season at Georgia Southern in the role of director of student-athlete development. He came to Statesboro in January 2017 after spending two seasons with the Colorado State football program. In his first semester at GS, the team posted record numbers in the classroom as over 40 players made the honor roll, including 17 on the Dean's or President's List.

In 2016, he served as the Rams' defensive quality control assistant, helping the Rams to a Famous Idaho Potato Bowl berth. In 2015 as a defensive graduate assistant under Tyson Summers, he worked with an improved defensive unit that included NFL Draft pick Cory James. His primary focus, however, was the secondary, a group which he led during the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl after Summers was hired at GS before the bowl game. Dodge went to Fort Collins to join Mike Bobo's staff from UCF, where he served for two years as a graduate assistant.

He and his wife, Nicole, were married in July 2016.



ZACH BELL

DIRECTOR OF RECRUITING OPERATIONS // FIRST SEASON

Zach Bell serves as the director of recruiting operations for Eagle football and is responsible for the direct production and distribution of written and visual content on all social media platforms, as well as maximizing brand exposure, through channels such as GATA Lifestyle.

Bell returned to Statesboro after a one-year stint with the Fresno State football program, where he served as the director of creative media/personnel assistant for the Bulldogs. During the season, he served as the assistant director of player personnel and football operations.

A native of Dalton, Georgia, Bell began working with GS in 2014 as a student assistant and worked his way up to recruiting/player personnel intern and finally assistant director of player personnel in January 2016. He graduated from Georgia Southern in 2015 with a degree in exercise science. He and his wife, Kayla Marie Bell, have a daughter, Ramsey Kate.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF



MIKE ADAMS
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



BRITTANY BRANNEN
ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING



MATT BRANNAN
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL



JAMAL GOLDEN
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



PHILL GUARD
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



THOMAS NILES
GRADUATE ASSISTANT