



THE ASSISTANT COACHES



D.J. ELIOT

Defensive Coordinator/Outside Linebackers



D.J. Eliot is in his second season as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Colorado, as he joined the Buffalo staff on January 19, 2017. He now overall has 19 years of coaching experience in the collegiate ranks.

Eliot, 41, joined the Colorado staff from the University of Kentucky, where he was the Wildcats' defensive coordinator and linebackers coach for four seasons (2013-16). He helped coach UK to the 2016 TaxSlayer Bowl, the first postseason appearance for Kentucky since 2010.

In his first game as CU's D-coordinator, his scheme helped the Buffs defeat Colorado State, 17-3; the Rams

had scored 58 points a week earlier against Oregon State. Since the defensive coordinator role evolved in the late 1960s, that tied for the fewest points that CU allowed in the first game of a new DC. And with a 37-3 win over Texas State in week two, the six points were the fourth-fewest the Buffs have allowed in the first two games of a season in the post-World War II Era.

At his previous two coaching stops, Kentucky and Florida State, he coached eight players who were drafted in the National Football League, including two first round picks. Linebacker Bud Dupree was a 2015 first round selection of the Pittsburgh Steelers, the first Kentucky first-rounder in 12 years, and defensive end Bjoern Werner from Florida State, who was selected by Indianapolis in 2013.

(He has coached two conference defensive players of the year and first-team All-Americans, Werner (the 2012 Atlantic Coast winner) and linebacker Nick Bunting at Tulsa, the 2006 Conference USA defensive POY.)

Overall at Kentucky, he coached 11 Wildcats who earned All-SEC recognition and in three of his four years with the school one of his linebackers recorded over 100 tackles in a season. Avery Williams, currently on the Tennessee Titans roster, recorded 102 stops in 2013, Josh Forrest, now with the Los Angeles Rams, posted 110 in 2014, a figure that ranked No. 3 in the SEC that season, while Jordan Jones had 109 in Eliot's final year with UK (Jones earned second-team All-SEC honors, also logging 14 tackles for loss that included four sacks).

At Kentucky, the Wildcats set a new school record for defensive touchdowns scored in a season with six in 2014; UK recorded 23 takeaways that year. UK jumped 45 places in the total defense rankings from 2013 to 2014 under Eliot, finishing in the top half of the nation in that statistic. In 2015, UK ranked 28th in the FBS in passing defense by giving up only 198.1 yards per game, and in 2016, sophomore safety Mike Edwards finished the regular season leading all SEC defensive backs in tackles (93) while tying for the team lead in interceptions with three, two coming against No. 11 Louisville and Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson in the Cats' 41-38 victory.

His presence at Florida State helped lead a revival of FSU's defense. The year prior to his arrival, the Seminoles ranked 108th in total defense and rushing defense. However, by 2012, FSU ranked second nationally in

total defense (254.1 yards per game) and sixth in scoring defense (14.7 points per game).

In his three seasons at Florida State (2010-12), the 'Noles went 31-10 and he helped FSU tie for the national lead in sacks with 48 his first year there. In his second season FSU limited opponents to just 2.35 yards per carry, which led the nation in that category. His defensive ends on the 2012 team, Werner and Cornelius Carradine, combined for and 31 tackles for losses, including 24 sacks, when FSU finished 12-2.

In his second of three seasons at Rice (2007-09), he helped the Owls go 10-3 and win the 2008 Texas Bowl, the programs first bowl win since 1950 and first 10-win season since 1949.

Eliot got his start in coaching along the Rocky Mountain Front Range at his alma mater, Wyoming, as a graduate assistant in 1999. From there he went to the University of Houston as a graduate assistant for two years before landing in a similar position at Miami for the 2002 season; the Hurricanes went 12-0 and were ranked No. 1 at the end of the regular season before falling 31-24 in double overtime to Ohio State in the BCS National Championship Game.

He spent two years in Division I-AA (FCS), coaching the linebackers at Texas State University (San Marcos). He helped lead a defensive turnaround (34.8 to 20.3 points per game, as well as 395 to 314 yards allowed). In 2005, the Bobcats went 11-3, reaching the semifinals of the I-AA playoffs.

Eliot lettered at linebacker at the University of Wyoming for coach Dana Dimel and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Natural Science in 1999. He earned his Master's degree in Education from the University of Houston in 2002.

He was born August 14, 1976 in Stillwater, Okla., and grew up in nearby Edmond, graduating from Edmond Memorial High School, where he lettered in football and basketball. He and his wife, the former Mikel Marsh, have one son, Dawson, and three daughters, Drue, Page and Reace. His favorite hobby outside of football is spending time and playing with his children. His first name is Darin.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 139 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, including six bowl games (2006 Armed Forces, 2008 Texas, 2010 Chick-fil-A, 2011 Champ Sports, 2013 Orange, 2016 TaxSlayer). At Texas State, he coached in 25 Division I-AA (FCS) games, including three playoff contests. As a graduate assistant at three FBS schools, he was involved in 46 additional games and coached in the 2002 Fiesta/BCS National Championship game for Miami against Ohio State.



COACHING EXPERIENCE

1999	Wyoming	Graduate Assistant
2000-01	Houston	Graduate Assistant
2002	Miami (Fla.)	Graduate Assistant
2003	Texas State	Defensive Backs
2004-05	Texas State	Linebackers
2006	Tulsa	Linebackers
2007-09	Rice	Defensive Line/Recruiting Coordinator
2010-12	Florida State	Defensive Ends
2013-16	Kentucky	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
2017-	Colorado	Defensive Coordinator/Outside Linebackers



KLAYTON ADAMS

Co-Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line



Klayton Adams is in his sixth year on the Colorado staff, his third as the offensive line coach and his first as a co-offensive coordinator. He coached the running backs and tight ends in his first three seasons in Boulder after joining new head coach Mike MacIntyre's staff on January 1, 2013.

Adams, 35, came to CU from San Jose State, where he coached the tight ends under MacIntyre for two seasons. Though he never directly coached the running backs before coming to Colorado, at San Jose he effectively integrated the tight ends into several hybrid roles

and had run game coordination experience in his background. At SJSU, he coached two-time John Mackey Award watch list member Ryan Otten to honorable mention All-American honors.

He transitioned smoothly into coaching the offensive line, as the 2016 group allowed the team to post its highest average per rush in 10 seasons (4.12), blocked for its first 1,000-yard runner in seven years (Phillip Lindsay, 1,189 yards) and cut down the overall sacks allowed by 13 from the previous season (41 to 28, with just 14½ of those allowed by the O-line). The linemen were flagged for just 23 penalties in 13 games. Lindsay again rushed for over 1,000 yards (1,474) in 2017, becoming the first player in CU history to accomplish that feat in back-to-back seasons.

As running back coach, in his first year in Boulder the Buffs enjoyed modest increases in yards per attempt and per game, but of the team's 14 total fumbles, itself a school record, his players at both positions just had one of those (down from eight in 2012). Then in 2014, the running backs had all of four fumbles of CU's 12 (another school low), and for the first time in its history, the Buffaloes had four different players rush for over 300 yards (actually 390). In the same time, the tight ends have proved to be solid blockers and have improved as the season progressed.

In 2015, six different players rushed for at least 200 yards, just the fourth time that occurred in school history and for the first time since 1989, when the Buffs ran an option offense. And once again, the backs held on to ball, suffering just six fumbles for the 13-game season.

He joined the San Jose State staff in April 2011 after two seasons at Sacramento State, his first full-time Division I (FCS) coaching experience. He was the Hornets' offensive tackles and tight ends coach his first year there in 2009, and then was promoted to the offensive line coach in 2010. Continuing his rapid rise, he was set to serve as Sacramento State's offensive coordinator and offensive line coach before he was hired by MacIntyre at SJSU.

While at Sacramento State, he coached three players to All-Big Sky Conference honors. His 2010 offensive linemen paved the way for the school's best ground attack over a five-season span averaging 170.4 yards per game.

He graduated from Boise State in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication with an emphasis in Journalism. He lettered twice at center for Coach Dan Hawkins on the 2003 and 2004 Bronco Western Athletic Conference championship teams that had a combined 24-2 record and won the 2003 Fort Worth Bowl and played in the 2004 Liberty Bowl. BSU finished 13-1 his junior year, ranked No. 16 in the final *Associated Press* poll, and was 11-1 his senior year (No. 12) when he was a second-team All-WAC selection.

He began his coaching career at Boise State in 2005 as a student assistant under Hawkins, who would become CU's head coach the following year. In 2006, Adams was the Broncos' offensive graduate assistant working primarily with the offensive line. He moved on to Western Washington University for the 2007 and 2008 seasons as the offensive line coach and run game coordinator.

He was born February 13, 1983 in Sacramento, Calif., he graduated from Sheldon High School (Elk Grove, Calif.), where he lettered in football, wrestling and track and field. He is married to the former Stefani Panenka, and the couple has three young daughters, Mya (8), Emmy (6) and Harper (3).

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 88 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in four bowl games (2005 MPC Computer, 2007 Fiesta, 2012 Military, 2016 Alamo).



COACHING EXPERIENCE

2006	Boise State	Offensive Graduate Assistant
2007-08	Western Washington	Run Game Coordinator / Offensive Line
2009	Sacramento State	Offensive Tackles/Tight Ends
2010	Sacramento State	Offensive Line
2011-12	San Jose State	Tight Ends
2013-15	Colorado	Running Backs & Tight Ends
2016-	Colorado	Offensive Line



DARRIN CHIAVERINI *Co-Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator*



Darrin Chiaverini is in his third year as the co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach at Colorado, joining the Buffalo staff on January 1, 2016 from Texas Tech University, where he spent the previous two seasons on the Red Raiders' staff.

Chiaverini, 40, also assumed the role of recruiting coordinator in returning to his alma mater where he lettered four times under coach Rick Neuheisel from 1995-98. He accepted his new roles on December 15, 2015, but remained with Tech for its bowl game.

In 2016, his first season on the CU staff, he helped guide the Buffalo

offense to one of its best years overall in recent memory. Colorado averaged 446.3 yards per game, its best figure in 20 seasons, with the school's fourth-best conversion rate in the red zone in school history dating back to 1957 at 89.5 percent (51-of-57, with 37 touchdowns). His receiving corps hauled in 199 catches for 2,724 yards (13.7 per) with 19 touchdowns that season, and over the course of his two years, have 408 receptions for 5,454 yards and 33 scores.

Chiaverini spent the 2014-15 seasons as the Red Raiders' special teams coordinator and outside receivers coach. At Tech, he recruited the Dallas, Houston and the Southern California areas, and one of his players, Jakeem Grant, earned second-team All-America honors at kick returner for the 2015 season.

One of new head coach Rick Neuheisel's first commitments in Colorado's 1995 recruiting class, Chiaverini earned four letters from 1995-98 and served as one of the team captains his senior season. He caught 97 passes for 1,199 yards and six touchdowns, averaging 12.4 yards per reception in his career, exiting at the time as CU's seventh all-time receiver (he remains in the top 15 in both catches and yards). He led the team as a senior with 52 catches for 630 yards and five scores.

He was a member of three CU bowl champion teams (Cotton, Holiday and Aloha), making an additional 10 catches for 190 yards and two touchdowns, one a 72-yard bomb from his best friend, quarterback Mike Moschetti against Oregon in the '98 Aloha Bowl.

He was a fifth-round selection by the Cleveland Browns in the 1999 National Football League Draft, and went on to set the club's rookie receiving record with 44 catches for 487 yards and four touchdowns. He spent four years in the NFL, also playing for Dallas and Atlanta; he would conclude his NFL career with 62 catches for 662 yards and seven scores. He then finished his professional playing days with the Austin Wranglers in the Arena Football League.

Chiaverini then turned his attention to coaching, tutoring the receivers at Mt. San Antonio College in 2007 and was promoted to co-offensive coordinator in 2008. In 2009, he rejoined his college coach, Neuheisel, as the assistant special teams coach at UCLA. He helped pilot

one of the top units in the Pac-10 and the Bruins captured the Eagle Bank Bowl with a 30-21 win over Temple.

He returned to the junior college ranks for the next four seasons (2010-13) at Riverside (Calif.) City College, where he was the associated head coach, co-offensive and special teams coordinator in addition to being in charge of recruiting. Riverside was 40-5 in the four years there and produced 15 Division I players, three of whom would head to his next stop, Texas Tech.

His special teams units at Riverside from 2010-13 were some of the best in all of the junior college ranks with an impressive 22 blocked kicks in four seasons. Chiaverini coached the top punt returner in the state of California in 2011 and 2012, while Riverside's offense led California in scoring in 2011 and in total offense in 2013.

He was one of 30 coaches across the country selected to participate in the 2015 NFL and NCAA Coaches Academy. Initiated in 2011, it is a collaborative effort between NCAA Leadership Development and NFL Player Engagement to positively influence diversity numbers in the college game and as a way for talented young football coaches to get exposure.

Chiaverini earned his bachelor's degree in Communications from CU in 1999, and earned his master's degree in Human Performance and Sports Sciences from New Mexico Highlands University in 2007.

He was born on October 12, 1977 in Orange, Calif., and graduated from Corona (Calif.) High School where he was a *USA Today* honorable mention All-American in football and an All-County performer in baseball. He is married to the former Shannon Burchfield, and the couple has two children, Curtis (19), a redshirt freshman wide receiver for the Buffaloes, and Kaylie (16).

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 64 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in three bowl games (2009 Eagle Bank, 2015 Texas, 2016 Alamo).



COACHING EXPERIENCE

2007	Mt. San Antonio College	Wide Receivers
2008	Mt. San Antonio College	Offensive Coordinator/Receivers
2009	UCLA	Assistant Special Teams Coach
2010-13	Riverside City College	Associate Head Coach/ Co-Offensive & Special Teams Coordinator
2014-15	Texas Tech	Special Teams Coordinator/ Outside Receivers
2016-	Colorado	Co-Offensive Coordinator/ Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator



ShaDON BROWN

Defensive Passing Game Coordinator / Safeties



ShaDon Brown is in his second season as an assistant coach on Mike MacIntyre's staff, as he was hired on January 30, 2017 to coach the entire secondary. In January 2018, he was promoted to defensive passing game coordinator while exclusively coaching the safeties.

In his first season in Boulder, the Buffaloes only allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete 55.8 percent of their passes, which ranked in a tie for the fourth lowest opposing completion percentage in the Pac-12. Junior Isaiah Oliver was one of the top corners in the nation, earning first-team All-Pac-12 honors

and was a second round selection by the Atlanta Falcons in the 2018 National Football League draft.

Brown, 38, came to CU after spending the 2016 season coaching the cornerbacks at Army, where the Black Knights' secondary was one of the top units in the nation. Army ranked sixth in the nation in passing defense allowing just 170.2 yards per game, as well as being 11th in interceptions (17) and 17th in a pass efficiency defense (115.12 rating).

Army, which ran a 3-4 defensive scheme (like CU), ranked fourth in the nation in total defense by allowing just 291.5 yards per game during an 8-5 season that saw the Black Knights win the 2016 Heart of Dallas Bowl in overtime over North Texas, 38-31. That was Army's first bowl appearance and winning season since 2010, and perhaps even bigger, his corners help limit Navy to 89 passing yards and 201 overall in a 21-17 win over the Midshipmen, Army's first win over its archrival since 2001.

Brown had a large impact on Army's turnaround (2-10 in '15) to winning a bowl game, aiding improvements from 47th in the NCAA in total defense to fourth (and from 48th in passing defense to sixth). And the success Army's secondary found came with Brown working with true freshman for most of the season, after the Knights lost four veteran cornerbacks either before or early in the season and thus made a go of it with true freshman starting most of the year.

In his five seasons (2011-15) at Wofford (S.C.) College, he spent the first four as cornerbacks coach before switching to the safeties in his final year there. Brown was also the special teams coordinator during the 2013-14 seasons and was promoted to recruiting coordinator in the spring of 2015. He coached three all-conference corners at Wofford, including Blake Wylie who in 2012 was earned third-team All-American honors.

In the summer of 2015, he participated in the NFL's program for minority coaches by interning with the Super Bowl 50 runner-up Carolina Panthers, where he worked with the defensive backs.

Before joining the Wofford staff, Brown was a coach in the Kentucky high school ranks. From 2008-10 he was head coach at Rowan County High School, where he led the Vikings to the 2010 Class 4A District 8 Championship, the school's first title since 1982. He was named the

Kentucky Class 4A District 8 Coach of the Year for that season, and 10 of his players all went on to play college football. He was an assistant coach at Boyle County High for the 2007 season.

As a player himself, Brown started at linebacker for Campbellsville (Ky.) University, an NAIA school that in 2001 won a school record 10 games, reached the NAIA quarterfinals for the first time and finished the season ranked No. 10. He served as a team captain as a senior in 2002.

After graduating in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, he started his coaching career in 2003 as a graduate assistant helping tutor the linebackers at the University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, Ky.). After one year, he was promoted to the full-time assistant coach for the inside linebackers for the 2004-05 seasons, helping lead the Patriot football team to a ranking as high as No. 5 in the nation. In 2006 he returned to his alma mater (Campbellsville) as the inside linebackers coach for one season.

A native of Danville, Ky., he graduated from Danville High School where he lettered in football under a legendary area coach, Sam Harp (276 wins and seven state titles in a 25-year career; Brown credits Harp with developing the drive in him to pursue a career in coaching). He and his wife, Rhonda, have a daughter, Shaelyn, and two sons, Braylon and Keenan.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 25 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in one bowl game (2016 Heart of Dallas). He also coached in 58 I-AA (FCS) games at Wofford, including three FCS playoff games, for a total of 83 collegiate games.



COACHING EXPERIENCE

2003	U. of the Cumberlands	Graduate Assistant
2004-05	U. of the Cumberlands	Inside Linebackers
2006	Campbellsville	Inside Linebackers
2007	Boyle County (Ky.) HS	Assistant Coach
2008-10	Rowan County (Ky.) HS	Head Coach
2011-14	Wofford	Cornerbacks
2015	Carolina Panthers	Summer Intern/Secondary
2015	Wofford	Safeties
2016	Army	Cornerbacks
2017-	Colorado	Defensive Backs



ASHLEY AMBROSE

Cornerbacks



Ashley Ambrose is in his first season of his second stint as cornerbacks coach at Colorado, hired on January 18, 2018 in returning to where he had worked three seasons under then-head coach Dan Hawkins from 2008-10.

Ambrose, 48, brings a wealth of experience to the Buffalo staff, as he is now a veteran collegiate coach which has followed a long and distinguished career in pro football, including being honored as the 1996 AFC Defensive Back of the Year.

He returned to CU from Boise State, where he had served as its defensive backs coach for the 2016

and 2017 seasons. In his nine years coaching in college has mentored 10 defensive backs that have earned some level of all-conference honors. Among the DBs that he has guided to all-conference honors came in 2010, CU's Jimmy Smith, a first-team All-Big 12 selection and Jalil Brown, an honorable mention All-Big 12 performer. Smith was taken 27th overall in the first round by the Baltimore Ravens in the 2011 NFL Draft while Brown was selected in the fourth round by the Kansas City Chiefs.

In his two seasons at Boise State, cornerback Tyler Horton drew first-team All-Mountain West honors in 2017 while safety Kekoa Nawahine (2017), safety Chancellor James (2016) and corner Jonathan Moxey (2016) all garnered second-team honors playing under Ambrose.

In 2015 he coached the cornerbacks at Texas State, held the same position at Idaho in 2014 and from 2011-12, was the secondary coach at California. Ambrose spent the 2013 season as an intern with the New Orleans Saints in the NFL, where he began his coaching career in 2006 as an intern with the Atlanta Falcons.

In March 2008, he initially joined the CU staff as its defensive technical intern; he actually was being groomed to become the receivers coach by Hawkins until the defensive backs position opened up when Greg Brown left for a coordinator's job at Arizona. Ambrose was thus promoted to cornerback coach on February 12, 2010.

Ambrose starred collegiately at Mississippi Valley State and was selected by Indianapolis in the second round (29th pick overall) of the 1992 NFL draft. He would go on to become a 13-year veteran in the league, playing four seasons with the Colts (1992-95), three with Cincinnati (1996-98), three with New Orleans (1999, 2003-04) and three with Atlanta (2000-02). He earned All-Pro honors with the Bengals in 1996, when he was also the AFC Defensive Back of the Year. During his career, he had 42 interceptions, returning three for touchdowns, and also had 178 pass deflections to go with 514 tackles (464 solo).

In 1996, he was named All-Pro and the American Football Conference's Defensive Back of the Year after recording a career-best eight interceptions (second-most in the league) with the Bengals.

The NFL started tracking career pass deflections in 1994; he had 173 of his overall total in the final 168 games of his career, with that average of 1.03 per game ranking him fourth overall in the NFL between 1994 and

2009, and just one of eight players to average one or more per game. After 192 games (which included 141 starts), he retired from professional football after the 2004 season, and started to enjoy his retirement. But he would get right back into football a year later, spending the 2006 season as an intern coach with the Atlanta Falcons.

Ambrose earned his degree in Industrial Technology in 1992 from MVSU, where he lettered four years at cornerback. He had 17 interceptions, 40 pass deflections and 110 tackles during his college career, when he also had seven kick returns for touchdowns (four punt, three kickoff).

He has long been active in community service, as he developed the "Ashley Ambrose All-A's Club" that rewarded high school football players who excelled academically. He participated in VH-1's Save the Music program and in the NFL United Way Hometown Huddles Campaign among many things he did as a professional, which included donating hundreds of tickets to scholar-athletes.

A native of New Orleans, he graduated from Alcee Fortier High School in 1988, where he lettered in football, basketball and track. He is the father of two children, Aisha (18) and A.J. (16).

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 87 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in three bowl games (2011 Holiday, 2016 Cactus, 2017 Las Vegas).



COACHING EXPERIENCE

2008-09	Colorado	Defensive Technical Intern
2010	Colorado	Cornerbacks
2011-12	California	Defensive Backs
2014	Idaho	Cornerbacks
2015	Texas State	Cornerbacks
2016-17	Boise State	Defensive Backs
2018-	Colorado	Cornerbacks



GARY BERNARDI

Tight Ends & H-Backs



Gary Bernardi is in his sixth season at Colorado, as he came with head coach Mike MacIntyre from San Jose State and officially joined the staff on January 1, 2013. He is in his third year as the coach of the tight ends and the H-backs after tutoring the offensive line for his first three seasons in Boulder.

Bernardi, 63, is a veteran of 37 seasons in the Division I-A (FBS) ranks (38 including one year in I-AA/FCS), and is no stranger to the Pac-12, as he previously spent a combined 24 years at Arizona, Southern California and UCLA. He's coached in 429 games on college football's top level, a number that includes 14 bowl

games, five of which were the granddaddy of them all, the Rose.

In his first two years at Colorado, the offensive line improved over the course of both seasons, with the five linemen in the game credited with allowing only 28 quarterbacks sacks in 999 passing plays (or one every 36 plays; and that number was just 11 in 545 for the 2014 season, or one every 49.5 plays). In 2014, CU's running backs averaged over four yards per carry (4.11) for the first time since 2006. His 2015 group suffered an inordinate amount of injuries, as only two players started every game, Alex Kelley at center and Stephane Nembot at tackle.

Throughout his professional career, he has been involved with winning programs and successful head coaches, establishing a reputation as a sharp recruiter and developer of all-star offensive linemen, tight ends and wide receivers. Several of his players have been afforded All-American honors and over 20 of his players have gone on to play professional football. He worked on the staffs of several notable coaches, including Larry Smith, Terry Donahue, Bob Toledo and Mike Sanford.

One of the veteran offensive line coaches in the nation, with the exception of just three seasons in his career, he's always coached the entire offensive line or at least the offensive tackles. He coached the line in his three seasons at San Jose State, where he landed after coaching five years at UNLV, where he coached the entire line and the tight ends, in addition to serving as the Rebels' recruiting coordinator.

It was Larry Smith who gave him his start in the collegiate ranks, hiring him at Arizona as the Wildcats' tackles and tight ends coach in 1980, a position he would hold the next five seasons. He then coached the wide receivers for the 1985 season before returning to tutor the tackles and tight ends in 1986. When Smith was hired as Southern California's head coach ahead of the 1987 season, he accompanied him to Los Angeles. For the next six seasons, he coached the Trojan tackles and tight ends, including Boulder's Tony Boselli, in addition to handling the special teams coordinator duties.

Bernardi then moved crosstown to UCLA in 1994, where he would spend the next 10 seasons under three different head coaches, responsible for the offensive line and tight ends in addition to being

the Bruins recruiting coordinator. In-between his positions at USC and UCLA, he was the head coach at Burroughs High (Burbank) in 1993.

Bernardi was offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator at Northern Arizona for the 2004 season, his lone season in the FCS ranks before Sanford hired him at UNLV.

He graduated from Cal State Northridge with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education in 1976, and earned his teaching credential from Southern California College. He started coaching in 1973 before his 19th birthday at Bell-Jeff High (Burbank, Calif.). After two seasons there, he moved on to his alma mater, Monroe High (North Hills, Calif.), as an assistant for one season (1975), before heading to Fountain Valley (Calif.) High for four seasons (1976-79).

Bernardi has been active in community service outside of coaching. He was a member of the ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Association Los Angeles chapter when he was coaching at UCLA, assisting in its fundraising efforts. On two occasions, he represented the ALS Association in Washington, D.C., meeting with United States senators and congressmen.

He was born September 24, 1954 in Burbank, Calif., and graduated from Monroe High School where he lettered in football and was an All-League receiver. He is married to the former Leigh Nasby, who worked as a Stanford Hospital registered nurse the three years they were in the Bay Area. They are the parents of three grown children, Marina and twins Briana and Joe. Marina works for a medical equipment company (BD) in San Antonio. Briana lettered in softball (catcher) at UNLV, where she earned her undergraduate and master's degrees, while Joe lettered in football (center) at Fresno State and is now the offensive line coach at San Jose State. His brother, Rob, was the long-time athletic director at Nicholls State University (2000-2016) and is not a senior associate AD at Tulane.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 429 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in 14 bowl games (1985 Sun, 1986 Aloha, 1988 Rose, 1989 Rose, 1990 Sun, 1992 Freedom, 1995 Aloha, 1997 Cotton, 1998 Rose, 2000 Sun, 2002 Las Vegas, 2003 Silicon Valley, 2012 Military, 2016 Alamo). He has also coached in 11 FCS games for a total of 439 collegiate games.



COACHING EXPERIENCE

1980-84	Arizona	Offensive Tackles/Tight Ends
1985	Arizona	Wide Receivers
1986	Arizona	Offensive Tackles/Tight Ends
1987-92	Southern California	Offensive Tackles/Tight Ends, Special Teams Coordinator
1994-03	UCLA	Offensive Line/Tight Ends, Recruiting Coordinator
2004	Northern Arizona	Offensive Line/Recruiting Coordinator
2005-09	UNLV	Offensive Line/Tight Ends, Recruiting Coordinator
2010-12	San Jose State	Offensive Line
2013-15	Colorado	Offensive Line
2016-	Colorado	Tight Ends & H-backs



KWAHN DRAKE

Defensive Line



Kwahn Drake is in his first season as the defensive line coach, working with both the ends and the tackles, as he joined Mike MacIntyre's University of Colorado staff on January 24, 2018.

He came to Colorado after serving as the defensive line coach for the 2017 season at Eastern Illinois University. On the fast track as a rising star in the profession, EIU head coach Kim Dameron had promoted Drake to co-defensive coordinator following the season. The Panthers finished 6-5, with a 5-3 record in Ohio

Valley Conference play for third place and including a win over a ranked Tennessee State team.

At EIU, under Drake's tutelage, David Johnson earned second-team All-OVC honors for a second consecutive season. Under Drake's tutelage, he finished his senior season with 51 tackles, 9.5 tackles for a loss which included three-and-a-half quarterback sacks. He ranked 11th in the OVC in sacks and 12th in tackles for a loss.

Prior to his one-year stint at EIU, Drake spent the 2016 season as an offensive analyst for the University of Memphis under head coach Mike Norvell. The Tigers finished 8-5 and earned an invitation to the Boca Raton Bowl. The offense was the second most-prolific in program history, amassing 6,028 yards of offense and scoring 57 touchdowns and 505 points, all the second-highest numbers in school annals. The Tigers' 3,957 passing yards and 303 completions both were the third-most for a season in school history, with 34 touchdown passes a school best.

He got his start in coaching in 2008 as a student assistant at his alma mater, Nicholls State, where he assisted with the defensive line and scouting reports. In 2009, he served as the defensive line and special teams coach for St. James (La.) High school, where it finished as the District 8-3A co-champions.

He then moved on New Orleans' St. Augustine High School as defensive line coach for two years (2011-12). The Purple Knights claimed the District 10-4A championship in 2011 and finished as District 10-5A co-Champions in 2012. He was also the recruiting coordinator and academic advisor, and saw 25 of his players receiving football scholarships at NCAA Division I colleges during his time at St. Augustine.

His first taste in the collegiate coaching ranks came as graduate assistant at Tulane in 2012; he was named the full-time defensive line

coach for the 2014-15 seasons, the latter of which saw his players help Tulane rank 12th in the FBS in tackles for a loss per game. In 2012, Drake assisted the Green Wave defensive unit that ranked 22nd in the nation in total defense (352.1), 17th against the rush (123.7) and 18th in scoring (21.4).

He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in computer information systems from Nicholls State in 2009. He earned his master's degree in Liberal Arts from Tulane in 2013.

A New Orleans native, he graduated from Destrehan (La.) High School where he lettered in football, basketball and track. Drake had spent most of his life in the Central Time Zone and noted that the farthest west he had ever been in the United States was when he interviewed for the CU position.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 24 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and with 11 more on the FCS level, he's coached in a total of 35 collegiate games.



COACHING EXPERIENCE

2009	St. James (La.) HS	Defensive Lines / Special Teams
2010-11	St. Augustine (La.) HS	Defensive Line
2012-13	Tulane	Graduate Assistant
2014-15	Tulane	Defensive Line
2016	Memphis	Offensive Analyst
2017	Eastern Illinois	Defensive Line



ROSS ELS

Inside Linebackers



Ross Els is in his second season coaching Colorado's inside linebackers, as he joined the Buffalo staff on February 24, 2017, also bringing extensive special teams coaching experience to the program.

Els, 52, is a 28-year veteran in the collegiate coaching ranks (he coached his 200th game on the FBS level in 2017), and arrived on campus in time for the team's second spring practice. He came to Colorado from Purdue University, where he served as the Boilermakers' defensive coordinator in 2016 under head coach Darrell Hazell.

Els has the bulk of his experience as an assistant coach working with

the linebackers, and all but one of his 28 years devoted on the defensive side of the ball. He spent four years at the University of Nebraska from 2011-14 under coach Bo Pellini, his first season as linebackers coach with the responsibilities of coordinating both special teams and recruiting added to his duties for the last three years. One of his top players while he was with the Huskers was Lavonte David, a finalist for the Butkus Award and the 2011 Big Ten Linebacker of the Year, as well as a semifinalist for the Chuck Bednarik Award and the Lott Trophy. He was a second round selection by Tampa Bay in the 2012 National Football League Draft.

In 2017, he coached CU's top two tacklers, Drew Lewis (119 tackles) and Rick Gamboa (117), the school's first pair to make 100-plus stops since 2006 and just the second linebacker due to accomplish the feat since 1994.

In 2012, he coached Nebraska's leading tackler, Will Compton, who record 110 total stops, six of which were for losses including three quarterback sacks. That aided a 10-win season and a berth in the Big Ten's championship game.

Nebraska was 37-16 in his four years on its staff, including four bowl appearances: Capital One (2012 and 2013), TaxSlayer Gator (2014) and Holiday (2014). In-between his Nebraska and Purdue appointments, he spent the 2015 season as an assistant coach at his son's high school, Lincoln (Neb.) Southwest.

Prior to Nebraska, he was the linebackers coach for six seasons, working under a former NU graduate in Frank Solich. In his third season there, he was named the Bobcats' special teams coordinator, and in his final year there (2010), Solich promoted him to assistant head coach. He coached four All-Mid-American Conference linebackers, in addition helping OU to two MAC East Division titles and three bowl appearances:

In 2010, Ohio's defense ranked 20th nationally and second in the MAC in rushing defense. Els' special teams were also a key part of Ohio's

8-5 season that culminated with a trip to the New Orleans Bowl. The Bobcats ranked first in the 14-team MAC in net punting, third in punt returns and fifth in kickoff returns. In 2009, he tutored linebacker Noah Keller, who led the MAC with 155 tackles en route to earning honorable mention All-America honors. He also coached punt returner LaVon Brazil to second-team All-America honors that season, while placekicker Matt Weller was named a Freshman All-American after kicking a school record 21 field goals.

He coached in Division I (now the FBS) for the first time when he spent four years at New Mexico State University, first tutoring the safeties and special teams for the 2001 and 2002 seasons, and then the linebackers along with a promotion to defensive coordinator in 2003 and 2004. He worked under Tony Samuel, another former Nebraska player and assistant coach, during his time in Las Cruces.

Els was the head coach at Hastings (Neb.) College from 1997-2000, where he was the quarterbacks coach in 1995 and the defensive coordinator and secondary coach in 1996. As Hastings' head coach, Els compiled a 32-9 record, including NAIA playoff appearances in 1998 and 1999.

A 1988 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he majored in Management Information Systems and lettered four years as a safety. He got his start in coaching as a graduate assistant at Northern Iowa, where he earned his Master's degree in Physical Education in 1999; that's where he began his coaching career a decade earlier as a graduate assistant (in 1989), working with the linebackers and secondary.

He then returned to his alma mater, UNO, for his first full-time position in the ranks, coaching the secondary for four seasons (1990-93).

He was born August 14, 1965 in Lincoln, Neb., and graduated from Lincoln Northeast High where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He is married to the former Jane Ketterer, and the couple has two daughters, Julie and Taylor (a junior on the volleyball team at Northern Colorado), and a son, Bo (a junior wide receiver at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa).

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 200 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in seven bowl games (2006 GMAC, 2009 Little Caesars, 2010 New Orleans, 2012 Capital One, 2013 Capital One, 2014 Gator/TaxSlayer, 2014 Holiday).



COACHING EXPERIENCE

1989	Northern Iowa	Graduate Assistant (Defense)
1990-93	Nebraska-Omaha	Secondary
1994	Northern Iowa	Secondary
1995	Hastings College	Quarterbacks
1996	Hastings College	Defensive Coordinator/Secondary
1997-00	Hastings College	Head Coach
2001-02	New Mexico State	Safeties/Special Teams
2003-04	New Mexico State	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
2005-06	Ohio University	Linebackers
2007-09	Ohio University	Linebackers/Special Teams Coordinator
2010	Ohio University	Asst. Head Coach/Linebackers/ Special Teams Coordinator
2011	Nebraska	Linebackers
2012-14	Nebraska	Linebackers/Special Teams Coordinator/Recruiting Coordinator
2015	Lincoln Southwest (H.S.)	Assistant/Defense, Linebackers
2016	Purdue	Defensive Coordinator/Safeties
2017-	Colorado	Inside Linebackers



DARIAN HAGAN

Running Backs



Darian Hagan, one of the names synonymous with Colorado's rise to glory in the late 1980s, is in his 14th season overall on the CU football staff, now in the third season of his second stint as the school's running back coach, a position he held for five years last decade.

Hagan, 48, spent the first three seasons on Mike MacIntyre's staff as the director of player development for the Buffaloes (2013-15), as he shifted into that role from one as the director of player personnel (2011-12) under head coach Jon Embree. He worked five seasons (2006-10) as running backs coach for head coach Dan Hawkins, as he was one of two

the Irish in an Orange Bowl rematch to give CU its first national title in football. CU was 28-5-2 with him as the starting quarterback for three seasons, including a 20-0-1 mark in Big Eight Conference games as he led the Buffs to three straight league titles in 1989, 1990 and 1991. His 28-5-2 record as a starter (82.9 winning percentage) is the 37th best in college football history.

In 1989, he became just the sixth player in NCAA history at the time to run and pass for over 1,000 yards in the same season, finishing, as just a sophomore, fifth in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy. He established the school record for total offense with 5,808 yards (broken three years later by Kordell Stewart), and is one of two players ever at CU to amass over 2,000 yards both rushing and passing along with Bobby Anderson. He was a two-time all-Big Eight performer, and the league's offensive player of the year for 1989 when he also was afforded various All-America honors. He still holds several CU records and was the school's male athlete-of-the-year for the 1991-92 academic year.

In 2002, he was a member of the fourth class to be inducted into CU's Athletic Hall of Fame, and his jersey (No. 3) is one of several to have been honored. The Colorado Sports Hall of Fame finally recognized his achievements as well, inducting him into its prestigious group in the Class of 2014.

Hagan played for Toronto, Las Vegas and Edmonton over the course of five seasons in the Canadian Football League, mostly as a defensive back and special teams performer. He returned to CU to earn his diploma just prior to his last professional season, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology in May 1996. He was hired later that year (December 1) as the Alumni C Club Director, a position he held for 16 months until leaving for an incredible opportunity in private business.

In the summer of 2015, he served as an assistant under former CU head coach Dan Hawkins for the champion Team USA in the Federation of American Football (IFAF) World Championship in Canton, Ohio.

He was born February 1, 1970 in Lynwood, Calif., and graduated from Los Angeles' Locke High School in 1988, where he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was drafted in two sports, football (by San Francisco in the fourth round in the 1992 NFL Draft) and baseball (selected as a shortstop by both Seattle and Toronto). He is married (Donna), and is the father of two sons, Darian, Jr., who played defensive back at California, and the late DeV Vaughn (who passed away on December 6, 2010 at the age of 19), and a daughter, Danielle.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 100 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in three bowl games (2005 Champs Sports, 2007 Independence, 2016 Alamo).



assistant coaches retained by Hawkins when he was named to the position in December 2005.

He was named an offensive assistant coach on Gary Barnett's staff on February 9, 2005, and worked with the skill position players on offense in the spring and fall in his first year as a full-time collegiate assistant.

A popular coach with his players yet with a stern touch, he was coaching true freshman Rodney Stewart on the way to a 1,000-yard season in 2008 until a season-ending injury at Texas A&M sidelined him in the ninth game of the year. Stewart's 622 yards were the third most by a CU freshman in school history. In 2010, Stewart hit the plateau and then some, rushing for 1,318 yards and in position to threaten many of the school's all-time rushing marks. In 2007, Hagan tutored Hugh Charles to a 1,000-yard year including the Independence Bowl; he went on to have a successful career in the Canadian Football League.

He coached his third thousand-yard rusher for the Buffaloes in 2016, when Phillip Lindsay recorded 1,189 yards in the regular season, the first to reach the mark since Stewart did so six years earlier. When Lindsay rushed for 1,474 yards in 2017, he became the first player in CU history to run for 1,000 or more yards in consecutive seasons.

Hagan made a difference in his first season (2006) mentoring the running backs, as CU had three 500-plus yard rushers for just the 10th time in its history. He also played a role in the development of quarterback Bernard Jackson, as Hagan's own skills of blending the run and the pass rubbed off on the Buff junior in his first year as a starter.

He had a brief taste of coaching in the spring of 2004 as he subbed as secondary coach when the staff was minus a full-time assistant. Otherwise, he was the defensive technical intern for the '04 season, assuming that role in February of that year. It marked the third time he has made the University of Colorado his destination of choice.

He starred at quarterback for the Buffaloes between 1988 and 1991, leading the school to its first national championship, and following his professional playing career, returned to CU in the mid-1990s to work as the Alumni C Club Director.

Hagan left CU in the spring of 1998 to work as an area sales manager for the Transit Marketing Group. Three months into his new position, he was promoted to Southeast Regional Sales Manager. He remained in that position for over five years until deciding to pursue his dream as a coach and return to his alma mater for the third time. By working as a technical intern, he learned the intricacies of the profession in a hands-on role in his desire to coach; when a temporary vacancy opened on the staff, he was "activated" as a coach to work with the defensive backs and it added to his penchant for the profession.

Arguably the best all-around athlete in the history of the CU football program, he was an integral part of CU's run at two national championships in 1989 and 1990. The Buffs were 11-1 in 1989, losing to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl, but went 11-1-1 in 1990 with a win over

COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005	Colorado	Offensive Assistant
2006-10	Colorado	Running Backs
2016-	Colorado	Running Backs



KURT ROPER

Quarterbacks



Kurt Roper is in his first season as the quarterbacks coach at the University of Colorado, as he was hired for the position on January 3, 2018 by his long-time associate, Mike MacIntyre. He brings 19 years of coaching experience with him to CU, including 16 tutoring the signal callers, who many say is the game's most important position.

Roper, 46, also has nine years of experience as an offensive coordinator, coming at two Southeastern and one Atlantic Coast conference programs. In the two seasons prior to his hiring to Colorado, he was the co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach

at South Carolina (2015-16). Earlier in his career, he worked with MacIntyre for six years when the two were coaching together at Mississippi (1999 through the 2002 seasons) and at Duke (2008-09).

Including three years as a graduate assistant at Tennessee, when the Volunteers appeared in three bowl games (1996-98), he spent 15 of his first 22 years of coaching in the Southeastern Conference; he's coached as a full-timer in 11 bowls and 14 overall including his time as a GA.

Roper's most famous pupil was during his six-years as the quarterbacks coach at Ole Miss (1999-2004), All-America quarterback Eli Manning, the 2003 SEC Player of the Year and first overall pick by the New York Giants in the 2004 NFL Draft. After winning the Maxwell and Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Awards in 2003 while setting 47 school records at Ole Miss, Manning has gone on to win two Super Bowls, was twice named the Super Bowl MVP and is a four-time Pro Bowl selection.

Another one of his quarterbacks, Thaddeus Lewis at Duke, spent six years in the NFL after a record-breaking career in Roper's offense at Duke where he was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach from 2008-13. Lewis finished his career as Duke's all-time leader in pass attempts, pass completions, passing yards and passing touchdowns. He joined Phillip Rivers as just the second player in ACC history to throw for over 10,000 yards.

In 2013, Roper's last of his six seasons at Duke, the Blue Devils enjoyed a record-setting campaign as they won a program-best 10 games en route to capturing the ACC's Coastal Division championship. His offense set the school record for total touchdowns (60), while becoming the first squad in Blue Devil history to score over 20 rushing and passing touchdowns in the same season.

Under Roper's guidance, Anthony Boone finished his career as the Duke's winningest quarterback with 19 victories, Brandon Connette became Duke's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns, while wide receiver Jamison Crowder established school single-season records for receptions (108) and receiving yards (1,301). Quarterback Sean Renfree was selected to the prestigious AFCA Good Works Team before going on to be a seventh round draft pick of the Atlanta Falcons in 2013.

After leaving Duke, he was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at the University of Florida for the 2014 season before moving on to the NFL for one season. He had a year-long stint with the Cleveland Browns as a senior offensive assistant coach, but soon would return

to the collegiate ranks with South Carolina. There, he helped lead the Gamecocks to a pair of bowl appearances.

After working one year in the sports video department at Mississippi State, Roper began his coaching trek in 1996 as a graduate assistant at Tennessee under head coach Phillip Fulmer, working with the defensive and special teams' units. He then was hired by David Cutcliffe as the quarterbacks coach at Mississippi, the first of two six-year stints he would work under Cutcliffe's direction, the other being Duke.

After his six years in Oxford with the Rebels, he went to Kentucky for the 2005 season as quarterbacks coach, where his senior, Andre' Woodson, went on to be a sixth round draft pick of the New York Giants.

He returned to Tennessee for two seasons (2006-07), where he coached the running backs. During that span, the Vols won 19 games, earned a pair of Outback Bowl berths and captured the SEC Eastern Division championship. In 2007, Tennessee's rushing attack was led by Arian Foster, who gained 1,193 yards on 245 carries, while scoring 12 touchdowns on the ground. Foster went on to lead the NFL in rushing yards in 2010 and rushing touchdowns in 2010 and 2012. Another one of his running backs at UT, Montario Hardesty, went on to be a second round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns.

A native of Ames, Iowa, Roper was a three-year letterman as a quarterback and defensive back from 1992-94 at Rice University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1995 and a master's degree (in sports administration) from Tennessee in 1998.

Roper and his wife, Britt, have one daughter, Reese, and one son, Luke. His brother, Zac, is the associate head coach, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Duke. He is the son of Bobby Roper, who was an All-South-west Conference (SWC) football player for Arkansas in 1965.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 223 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in 11 bowl games (1999 Independence, 2000 Music City, 2002 Independence, 2004 Cotton, 2007 Outback, 2008 Outback, 2012 Belk, 2013 Chick-fil-A, 2015 Birmingham, 2016 Birmingham, 2017 Outback). In his one year in the NFL (2015), Cleveland was 3-13.



COACHING EXPERIENCE

1996-98	Tennessee	Graduate Assistant
1999-2004	Mississippi	Quarterbacks
2005	Kentucky	Quarterbacks
2006-07	Tennessee	Running Backs
2008-13	Duke	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
2014	Florida	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
2015	Cleveland Browns	Senior Offensive Assistant
2016-17	South Carolina	CO-Offensive Coordinator/ Quarterbacks



DREW WILSON

Director of Football Strength & Conditioning



Drew Wilson is in his third year as the director of football strength and conditioning at the University of Colorado, officially joining the Buffalo staff on January 4, 2016.

Wilson, 40, coordinates all aspects of training and development of the football team and manages a staff of three full-time assistants dedicated solely to the football program.

He is a veteran who brought with him to CU over a decade of experience working with Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) programs in strength and conditioning. Wilson

joined the CU staff from the University of Maryland, where he spent the previous five years (2011-15) as the Terrapins' director of strength and conditioning.

Wilson had the same responsibilities at Maryland under its then-head coach Randy Edsall, where his duties also included working with the training staff in the design of both prehabilitation and rehabilitation programs for the student-athletes in injury prevention and healing. During his time there, Maryland transitioned from the Atlantic Coast Conference into the Big Ten, and he was credited with improving the Terps interior lines on both sides of the ball. He was also the liaison for the program to the National Football League.

He has attained several certifications with the respected national organizations in his profession. Wilson is a registered strength and conditioning coach (RSCC) through the National Strength and Conditioning Association; a strength and conditioning coach certified (SCCC) through the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association; he is certified as a Level 1 coach by the United States Weightlifting Association; and is also certified in the Functional Movement Screen (FMS).

Prior to his time at Maryland, he had been at the University of Connecticut for five years (2006-10) with Edsall, working primarily with the Huskies' football program as the assistant strength and conditioning coach. UConn was invited to a bowl each of his last four seasons there. He also worked one year with the women's lacrosse team.

He has a little familiarity with the Buffaloes, as he was an assistant strength and conditioning coach at the University of Kansas from January 2005 to May 2006 when both schools were members of the Big 12 Conference. Prior to his stint at KU, he spent five months at Florida State University assisting with football, baseball and the track and field programs.

A 2000 graduate of King's College, earning his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice & Sociology, he lettered in football. He was a preseason All-American and earned first-team All-Mid-Atlantic Conference honors at inside linebacker as a senior in 1999, when he was a team co-captain.

He was on the Dean's List for five semesters at King's, which is located in Wilkes Barre, Pa.

He earned his master's degree in Exercise & Applied Science, with emphasis in Strength and Conditioning, from Springfield (Mass.) College in 2004. He had his first experience coaching while at Springfield, serving as an intern for the 2001-02 academic year. He was then named a graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach at the school, a position he would hold until he received his master's. During that time, he also fulfilled two summer internships, at Maryland (2003) and at Auburn University (2004).

He was born July 11, 1978 in Levittown, Pa., but grew up in nearby Yardley, both in suburbs of Trenton, N.J. He is married to the former Marguerite Widdoes and the couple has a daughter, Makaela, and two sons, Andrew Jr., and Isaac.

