

# THE ASSISTANT COACHES



## JAY JOHNSON

#### Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks



Jay Johnson is in his first year on the Colorado staff as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, as he was one of the first two coaches hired by new CU head coach Mel Tucker, joining the Buffalo staff on Dec. 11, 2018.

Johnson, 49, is a veteran coach and administrator of 24 seasons, including nine as an offensive coordinator at three previous Football Bowl Subdivision institutions in addition to coaching quarterbacks, running backs and tight ends as a position coach. He came to Colorado from the University of Georgia, where he spent the 2017 and 2018 seasons as the offensive analyst for quality control.

At Georgia, he assisted in all off-field phases of game planning and recruiting,

helping the Bulldogs to an overall record of 24-4 in his two years on Kirby Smart's staff. UGA won the 2018 Rose Bowl/CFP semifinal over Oklahoma in a wild 54-48 double overtime thriller, advancing to the College Football Playoff Championship game, where Alabama had to rally to defeat Georgia in overtime, 26-23.

He joined the Georgia staff from the University of Minnesota, where he spent the 2016 season as the Gophers' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, calling the plays for head coach Tracy Claeys. UM posted a 9-4 record which included a 17-12 win over Washington State in the Holiday Bowl as the Gophers averaged their third highest point total – 29.3 – on offense in 70 seasons.

As the University of Louisiana's (former UL-Lafayette) offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for five seasons (2011-15), the Ragin' Cajuns were one of the most electrifying offenses annually in the nation. Louisiana constantly ranked in the top 30 in most major offensive categories, often higher in red zone efficiency, as in 2012 ULL led the nation with a 94.8 percentage (55 scores in 58 tries; 44 touchdowns and no turnovers). He coached quarterbacks Blaine Gautier and Terrance Broadway to top 20 finishes in passing efficiency and was part of 40 victories, which included four straight 9-4 campaigns.

In one season as Central Michigan's quarterbacks coach, he tutored Ryan Radcliff to top 15 rankings in passing yards and the Chippewas to the No. 17 passing offense in the nation. He had gone to CMU from the University of Louisville, where he was one of the first in the nation to work in quality control in the collegiate ranks in 2008 (the role first developed years earlier in the National Football League). He returned to the field in 2009 as the Cardinals' tight ends coach, also assisting in all facets of special teams.

He was a three-time All-Gateway Conference performer at quarterback for Northern Iowa, leading the Panthers to a 31-8 record, three conference titles

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

COACIII	O LM LINE	
1993	Hickman H.S. (Columbia)	Assistant Coach (quarterbacks receivers, secondary)
1994	Missouri	Graduate Assistant (offense; spring only)
1994	Augsburg (Minn.) College	Offensive Coordinator/ Recruiting Coordinator
1995-96	Truman State	Offensive Coordinator
1997-98	Kansas	Graduate Assistant (offense)
1999-2000	Kansas	Quarterbacks
2001	Kansas	Running Backs
2003	Southern Mississippi	Running Backs
2004	Southern Mississippi	Tight Ends
2005-07	Southern Mississippi	Offensive Coordinator/
		Quarterbacks
2008	Louisville	Quality Control/Offense
2009	Louisville	Tight Ends
2010	Central Michigan	Quarterbacks
2011-15	Louisiana	Offensive Coordinator/
		Quarterbacks
2016	Minnesota	Offensive Coordinator/
		Quarterbacks
2017-18	Georgia	Quality Control/Offense
2019-	Colorado	Offensive Coordinator/

**Quarterbacks** 

and three Division I-AA playoff appearances (3-3 record) his sophomore through senior seasons (1990-92). Playing for coach Terry Allen, Johnson set numerous school records at the time in completing 504 of 970 passes for 8,341 yards, with 60 touchdowns against 35 interceptions (a 137.4 NCAA rating). UNI was 12-2 his senior year, reached the I-AA semifinals and was ranked No. 3 in the final coaches poll of the season. A captain for the Panthers as both a junior and senior, a teammate was future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner, who took over for him for the 1993 season.

After his collegiate playing days, he moved to Columbia, Mo., to attend graduate school at the University of Missouri and simultaneously began his coaching career in 1993 as an assistant coach at the city's largest high school, Hickman. The following spring, he was a graduate assistant for the Tigers while finishing his degree.

His first full-time position soon followed, as he was the offensive and recruiting coordinator at Division III Augsburg (Minn.) College in the fall of 1994. He would spend the next two seasons (1995-96) back in the state of Missouri as the offensive coordinator at Truman State, where the Bulldogs were prolific on offense, averaging over 400 yards and 30 points on offense his two years in Kirksville

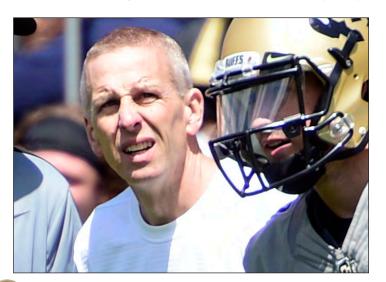
He then "crossed state lines" and became a graduate assistant at the University of Kansas for the 1997 and 1998 seasons, where he was reunited with his college head coach at UNI, Terry Allen; he had the responsibility of developing the quarterbacks and helping KU enter the computer age in the area of breakdowns and analysis. Allen promoted him to a full-time coach in charge of the quarterbacks in 1999, and in 2001 switched him to running backs coach, with Johnson also working heavily with the special teams all three seasons in Lawrence.

After taking a year off from coaching in 2002, he was named tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator at Southern Mississippi under its longtime head coach, Jeff Bower for the 2003 season. Johnson then coached the running backs in 2004, and in 2005, he took the reins as offensive coordinator for the next three seasons, the final three years of Bower's 18-year run as the Golden Eagles head coach. In his final season there, USM established a school record for total offense, eclipsing the 5,000-yard mark for the first time in finishing with 5,066 yards.

Johnson graduated from Northern Iowa in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Science (minor in Coaching), earning his way on the Dean's List. While in Columbia, he received his Master's Exercise Sciences from the Missouri, with an emphasis in exercise physiology, earning the Superior Graduate Achievement Award with a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average.

He was born September 18, 1969 in Austin, Minn., and graduated from Lakeville (Minn.) High School, where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He is married to the former Lori Johnson, and the couple has a son, Cole (17).

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached and/or worked as a quality control specialist in 239 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-timer (139-103 record), including 12 bowl games (2003 Liberty, 2004 New Orleans, 2005 New Orleans, 2006 GMAC, 2007 PapaJohns.com, 2011 New Orleans, 2012 New Orleans, 2013 New Orleans, 2014 New Orleans, 2016 Holiday, 2017 Rose/CFP Semifinal, 2017 CFP Championship).





## TYSON SUMMERS

### **Defensive Coordinator/Safeties**



Tyson Summers is in his first year on the Colorado staff as the defensive coordinator and safeties coach, as he was one of the first two coaches hired by new CU head coach Mel Tucker, joining the Buffalo staff on Dec. 11, 2018.

He came to Colorado from the University of Georgia, where he spent the last year and a half as a defensive analyst for quality control. While in Athens, the Bulldogs won two Southeastern Conference East Division titles, the 2017 SEC championship and the College Football Playoff semifinal to earn the opportunity to play for the national championship.

Summers, 39, is returning to the Centennial State where he spent the 2015 season in Fort Collins at Colorado State, also as the Rams defensive coordinator and safeties

coach under its first-year coach and former Bulldog, Mike Bobo. The CSU defense made remarkable strides defensively that season under his tutelage, improving 30 spots or more in several categories from the previous year, including 85th to 55th in total defense, 32nd to ninth in passing defense and 114th to 21st in tackles for loss.

He left CSU after just that one season to become the head coach at Georgia Southern, a program entering its third year in the Football Bowl Subdivision and the Sun Belt Conference. Summers would spend almost two years in the role, guiding GSU to five victories, but oversee the program show significant improvement in the classroom with a program-high NCAA APR score. Seven of his players in his first season earned All-Sun Belt honors, and placekicker Younghoe Koo was a finalist for the Lou Groza Award. He also showed his prowess on the recruiting trail as the Eagles boasted one of highest-ranked classes in the Sun Belt as ranked by 247Sports.

Prior to be hired at Colorado State, Summers spent three years on the Central Florida staff under coach legendary coach George O'Leary, with the Knights posting a 31-9 record during his time there. He coached the UCF linebackers his first two seasons (2012-13), and for the Fiesta Bowl and the spring of 2014 he was made the interim defensive coordinator; he would be named to the full-time role ahead of the season. In his first year coordinating a defense, Summers saw his Knights emerge as the top defense in the American Athletic Conference and one that ranked in the top 10 among FBS schools in total defense (fifth, 298.5 yards per game), rushing defense (sixth, 104.3), scoring defense (ninth, 19.2) and red zone defense (sixth, 71.4 percent); in addition, UCF was 11th in pass efficiency defense (107.8 rating).

That season, UCF opened the season with a 26-24 loss to Penn State ... in Dublin, Ireland ... and rebounded from an 0-2 start to finish 9-4. The Knights would hold nine opponents under 200 passing yards and six under 100 yards rushing, as well as under 300 yards total offense on six occasions (twice under 200). Three of his players earned first-team All-AAC honors, including cornerback Jacoby Glenn, the conference's co-defensive

Defensive Backs

**Defensive Backs** 

player of the year and first AP All-American (second-team) since it joined the AAC in 1996. One of his linebackers, Terrance Plummer, earned back-to-back All-AAC honors; safety Clayton Geathers was a fourth-round pick by Indianapolis in the 2015 NFL Draft, and another defensive back, Brandon Alexander is playing for Winnipeg in the Canadian Football League.

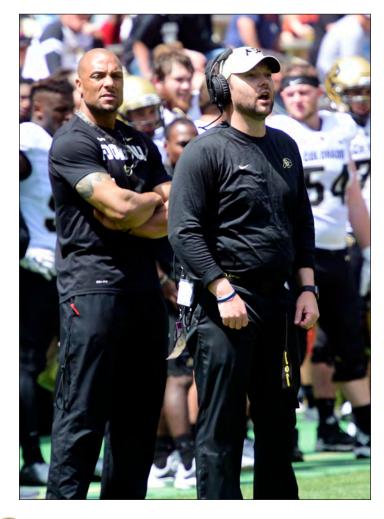
He moved to UCF from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, where he worked for five seasons (2007-11). He coached the linebackers his first four years there, switching over to tutor the safeties in his final year there, when he also took on additional duties as the co-special teams coordinator.

In 2006, he had his first stint at Georgia Southern, coaching the safeties. That had followed two years as a graduate assistant, in 2004 at Troy University and in 2005 at the University of Georgia, where he was a member of the Bulldog staff that won the Southeastern Conference championship.

Summers lettered four years (1998-2001) at linebacker at Presbyterian College, where he earned All-South Atlantic Conference honors as a sophomore and was a team captain as a senior. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2002; after coaching the defensive backs at his high school alma mater that fall, his first full-time position was at Presbyterian in 2003, also working with the secondary.

He was born April 11, 1980 in Tifton, Ga., and graduated from Tift County High School where he lettered in football and baseball. His father (Andy) was a running back at the University of Florida in the early 1970s. He is married to the former Beth King, and the couple has three sons, Jake (10), Walker (8) and Anderson (5).

AT-A-GLANCE— He has coached and/or worked as a quality control specialist in 146 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-timer, including three bowl games (2012 Beef O'Brady's, 2014 Fiesta, 2014 St. Petersburg, 2017 Rose/CFP Semifinal, 2017 CFP Championship; he also worked three Southeastern Conference championship games and two additional bowls as a grad assistant: 2004 Silicon Valley, 2006 Sugar).



#### 2004 Troy Graduate Assistant Graduate Assistant 2005 Georgia 2006 Georgia Southern Safeties 2007-10 Alabama-Birmingham Linebackers 2011 Alabama-Birmingham Safeties/Co-Special Teams Coordinator 2012-13 UCF Linebackers 2014 UCF Defensive Coordinator/

Linebackers

2015 Colorado State Defensive Coordinator/Safeties

2016-17 Georgia Southern Head Coach

**COACHING EXPERIENCE** 

Presbyterian

Tift County (Ga,) H.S.

2002

2003

2017-18GeorgiaQuality Control/Defense2019-ColoradoDefensive Coordinator/Safeties



## DARRIN CHIAVERINI

#### Assistant Head Coach/Wide Receivers



Darrin Chiaverini is in his fourth year as the wide receivers coach at Colorado, joining the Buffalo staff on January 1, 2016 from Texas Tech University, after spending the previous two seasons on the Red Raiders' staff.

Chiaverini, 41, was one of three coaches retained from the 2018 staff by new CU head coach Mel Tucker; on July 24 ahead of the 2019 season, Tucker announced that he was given the additional title and responsibilities of assistant head coach.

He is also nationally recognized as a top recruiter; Rivals.com named him one of the top 25 recruiters in the country for 2018.

He also served as co-offensive coor-

dinator and recruiting coordinator for his first three seasons (2016-18) after returning to his alma mater where he lettered four times under head 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 three years, have 653 receptions for 8,208 yards and 49 scores.

In his third year co-coordinating the offense in 2018, the Buffaloes had a surprising historical first, as CU boasted in the same season for the first time a 1,000-yard rusher (1,009 by Travon McMillian) and receiver (1,011 by Laviska Shenault, though he missed three-plus games with a foot injury and still earned first-team All-Pac 12 Conference honors from the league coaches as he led the nation in receptions per game). And for second straight year, quarterback Steven Montez just missed becoming the second player at Colorado to throw for 3,000 yards in a season (2,975 in 2017; 2,849 in 2018).

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 Neuheisel's first commitments as head coach 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

#### **COACHING EXPERIENCE**

2007 Mt. San Antonio College Wide Receivers

2008Mt. San Antonio CollegeOffensive Coordinator/Receivers2009UCLAAssistant 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

**2016-18** Colorado Co-Offensive Coordinator/

Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator

2019 Colorado Wide Receivers

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.

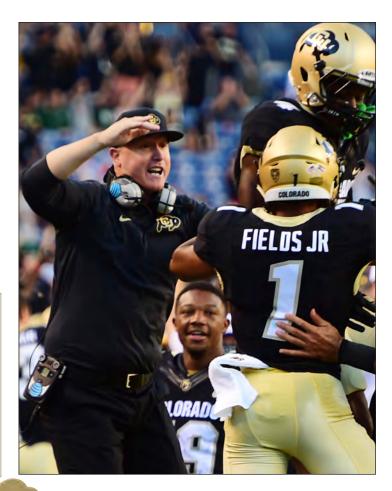
He returned to the junior college ranks for the next four seasons (2010-13) at Riverside (Calif.) City College, where he was the associated head coach, co-offensive and special teams coordinator in addition to being in charge of recruiting. Riverside was 40-5 in the four years there and produced 15 Division 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 sophomore wide receiver for the Buffaloes, and Kaylie (16).





## JIMMY BRUMBAUGH

#### **Defensive Line**



Jimmy Brumbaugh is in first year on the Colorado staff as the defensive line coach, as he was the fourth coach hired by new CU head coach Mel Tucker, joining the Buffalo staff on Dec. 19, 2018.

He came to Colorado from the University of Maryland, where he had served as the co-defensive coordinator and defensive line coach for the previous two seasons.

Brumbaugh, 42, had spent the prior four seasons at the University of Kentucky, establishing himself as one of the top defensive line coaches in the country. He has also served as an assistant coach at Louisiana State, Louisiana Tech and Syracuse.

While serving as defensive line

coach at Kentucky (2013-16), he developed a pair of 2015 NFL draft picks. Bud Dupree was a first round selection by the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Za'Darius Smith, who Brumbaugh coached in junior college, was chosen in the fourth round by the Baltimore Ravens. Overall, four defensive linemen earned All-SEC honors during his tenure with the Wildcats.

He had moved on to Kentucky from Syracuse, where he coached defensive tackles in 2011 and the defensive line in 2010. The Orange defense showed drastic improvements under Brumbaugh in 2010, moving from 81st to 17th nationally in scoring defense, and from 37th to seventh in total defense. Under Brumbaugh's tutelage, defensive end Chandler Jones garnered All-Big East recognition twice and was drafted 21st overall by the New England Patriots in the 2012 NFL Draft.

Prior to Syracuse, Brumbaugh coached the defensive line at Louisiana Tech in 2008 and 2009. He took over a defensive front that ranked 46th nationally against the rush in 2007 and moved that ranking to 13th at the conclusion of 2008

In 2012, Brumbaugh was at East Mississippi Community College, where he was in charge of the defensive line and also was the strength and conditioning coordinator. He helped lead the Lions to a top 10 national ranking, an 8-2 record and the Mississippi North Division championship. Brumbaugh's defensive line combined for 224 tackles, including 44½ tackles for loss, 21½ quarterback and seven forced fumbles. For the season, the EMCC defense allowed just 75 rushing yards and only 15.3 points per game. In just his one season there, Brumbaugh developed six defensive linemen who signed Division I scholarships, including Kentucky's Smith, the nation's No. 1-rated junior college defensive end prospect by JCGridiron.com.

Brumbaugh also has extensive experience in strength and conditioning, working two seasons (2006-07) as an assistant strength and conditioning coordinator at Louisiana State. Under Coach Les Miles, LSU was the 2007 national champion, defeating Ohio State, 38-24, in the BCS title game in New Orleans. While with LSU, Brumbaugh helped produce 12 NFL draft selections, including five first round picks.

Brumbaugh lettered four years as a defensive lineman at Auburn, playing both the nose and outside tackle positions, from 1995-99. He started 44 of his 48

COACHING EXPERIENCE 2004 Jacksonville State Student Assistant 2005 UT-Chattanooga Defensive Line 2006-07 Louisiana State Assistant Strength & Conditionin Coordinator 2008-09 Louisiana Tech Defensive Line 2010 Syracuse Defensive Line 2011 **Defensive Tackles** Syracuse 2012 East Mississippi CC Defensive Line/ Strength & Conditioning Coordinator

2013-16 Kentucky Defensive Line

2017-18 Maryland Co-Defensive Coordinator/

Defensive Line

**2019-** Colorado Defensive Line

career games, recording 291 tackles and 15 quarterback sacks. Brumbaugh was named to the SEC All-Freshman team in 1995, earned Auburn's Most Improved Defensive Lineman honor for spring ball and then garnered second-team All-SEC honors as a sophomore in 1996 and first-team All-SEC accolades in 1997. He was a member of the Tigers' 1997 SEC Western Division champion team, and played in the 1995 Outback, 1996 Independence and 1997 Peach bowls, with Auburn winning the last two. He missed what would have been his original senior season in 1998 with an injury and redshirted.

He played in the Blue-Gray Classic following his senior season, and signed as free agent and was in preseason camp with the San Francisco 49ers in 2000. He went on to play in the XFL with the Birmingham Bolts and then in arena football with the Georgia Force and Birmingham Steel Dogs.

He returned to Auburn after his pro career to finish up his degree, graduating in 2004 with a bachelor's in Health and Human Performance. He then decided to get into coaching, starting out as a student assistant for Jacksonville (Ala.) State, which won the 2004 Ohio Valley Conference championship with a 7-1 league record and 9-2 overall mark. His first full-time position followed the next year, as he was the defensive line coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga, which posted a 6-5 record in 2005.

Born James Brent Brumbaugh on Dec. 9, 1976 in Gainesville, Fla., he graduated from Keystone Heights (Fla.) High School, where he lettered in football and basketball. He is married to the former Kelly Jones, and the couple has two sons, Legend, who will be a sophomore tight end at Colorado this fall (after transferring to CU from Maryland), and Nash.

AT-A-GLANCE— He has coached in 98 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time position coach, including two bowl games (2010 Pinstripe, 2016 TaxSlayer).





## **ROSS ELS**

## Inside Linebackers/Special Teams Coordinator



Ross Els is in his third season coaching Colorado's inside linebackers, as he joined the Buffalo staff on February 24, teams coaching experience to the proteams coordinator officially to his duties.

Els, 53, is a 29-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.

2017, also bringing extensive special gram. When Mel Tucker was hired as head coach, he added the title of special

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 vears 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.

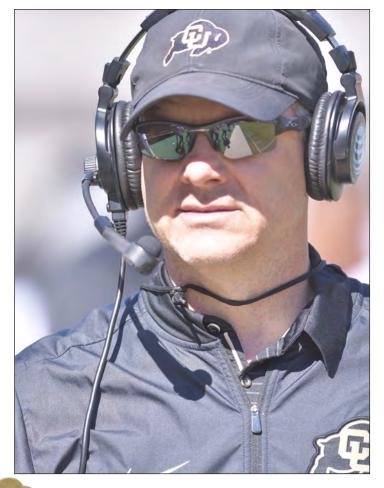
A 1988 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he majored in Management Information Systems and lettered four years as a safety. He got his start in coaching as a graduate assistant at Northern Iowa, where he earned his Master's degree in Physical Education in 1999; that's where he began 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 212 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).







## **DARIAN HAGAN**

## Running Backs



Darian Hagan, one of the names synonymous with Colorado's rise to glory in the late 1980s, is in his 15th season overall on the CU football staff, now in the fourth season of his second stint as the school's running back coach, a position he held for five years last decade. He experienced his 250th game as a Buffalo against UCLA in 2018, when counting his time on the staff and as the director of the Alumni C Club.

Hagan, 49, 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

sons (2006-10) as running backs coach for head coach Dan Hawkins, as he was one of two 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 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

#### **COACHING EXPERIENCE**

2005ColoradoOffensive Assistant2006-10ColoradoRunning Backs2016-ColoradoRunning Backs

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 three sons, Darian, Jr., who played defensive back at California, the late DeVaughn (who passed away on December 6, 2010 at the age of 19) and Demari Lamon (born last Sept. 19), along with one daughter, Danielle.

AT-A-GLANCE—He has coached in 112 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time coach, and has coached in three bowl games (2005 Champs Sports, 2007 Independence, 2016 Alamo).





## CHRIS KAPILOVIC

### Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator



Chris Kapilovic is in first year on the Colorado staff as the offensive line coach and run game coordinator, as he was the third coach hired by new CU head coach Mel Tucker, joining the Buffalo staff on Dec. 13, 2018.

Kapilovic (pronounced kuh-pil-oh-vick) came to Colorado from the University of North Carolina, where he spent the previous seven seasons (2012-18) coaching the offensive line under head coach Larry Fedora. He was also the run game coordinator his first two seasons there, and then was the co-offensive coordinator for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. For his last three seasons on the Tar Heel staff, he was the associate head coach and offensive

coordinator along with his offensive line coaching duties.

Kapilovic, 50, was previously hired by Fedora in 2008 when he took the head coaching job at Southern Mississippi. He was at USM for four seasons (2008-11), all four as the offensive line coach with additional duties as the run game coordinator his last two years there before moving on to North Carolina and joining Fedora's staff in Chapel Hill.

In his seven seasons at UNC, he was part of an offensive unit that established over 60 school records, including points per game (2012, 2014), total offense (2012, 2014), passing yards (2012-13-14-15-16) and first downs (2014-15). North Carolina averaged more than 170 rushing yards per game from 2012 through 2016, the highest five-year average for the Tar Heels since Mack Brown was their head coach some two decades earlier. The 2018 squad allowed just 10 sacks all season, the .91 per game figure seventh best in the nation while the team also averaged 193 rushing yards per game (5.3 per carry) and a healthy 442.1 yards per game, 35th best nationally.

In 2016, Kapilovic's offense, led by quarterback Mitch Trubisky, set the school passing yards mark for the fifth season in a row, as UNC won eight games and earned a berth opposite Stanford in the Sun Bowl. Trubisky was the No. 2 overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft and is currently starring for the Chicago Bears; he was one of 10 Tar Heels to either be drafted or signed by an NFL team.

That came on the heels of an 11-win season in 2015, winning the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coastal Division with a perfect 8-0 record and finishing the year with a No. 15 ranking in the national polls; the Tar Heels led the nation in yards per play and was ninth in scoring offense, averaging 40.7 points per game. UNC ascended all the way to No. 8 in the nation before bowing to No. 1 and eventual national runner-up Clemson, 45-37, in the ACC title game. The Tar Heels were a semifinalist for the 2015 Joe Moore Award, a new trophy which was created to recognize the entire offensive line. Tailback Elijah Hood rushed for 1,453 yards, Carolina averaged a school record 6.0 yards per carry and ranked first in the ACC in the least number of sacks allowed with just 15 in 13 games.

COACHING EXPERIENCE		
Missouri State	Student Assistant	
7 Deer Valley H.S.		
(Glendale, Ariz.)	Offensive Coordinator	
Phoenix College	Offensive Line/Strength Coach	
Kansas	Graduate Assistant (offense)	
Alabama State	Offensive Line	
Alabama State	Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line	
Missouri State	Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line	
Southern Mississippi	Offensive Line	
Southern Mississippi	Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line	
North Carolina	Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line	
North Carolina	Co-Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line	
North Carolina	Associate Head Coach/Offensive	
	Coordinator/Offensive Line	
Colorado	Offensive Line	
	Missouri State Deer Valley H.S. (Glendale, Ariz.) Phoenix College Kansas Alabama State Alabama State Missouri State Southern Mississippi Southern Mississippi North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina	

In his first season at UNC (2012), the Tar Heels had one of, if not the best offensive line in the country, as all three senior starters were drafted, led by guard Jonathan Cooper (No. 7 overall by Arizona), along with tackle Brennan Williams (third round by Houston) and guard Travis Bond (seventh round by Minnesota).

At Southern Mississippi (2008-11), his offensive lines paved the way for school records for total offense three times, with a high of 6,459 in his final season there (the Golden Eagles gained over 5,000 in all four seasons, including over 2,000 rushing yards each year). After run game coordinator was added to his O-line duties in 2010, the next year, USM won the Conference USA championship by defeating Houston, 49-28 in the league title game and, and a 24-17 win over Nevada in the Hawai'i Bowl gave USM a 12-2 final record and a No. 20 national ranking for the 2011 season.

After working as a student assistant coach at his alma mater, Missouri State, in 1991, Kapilovic started his professional coaching career at Deer Valley High School in Glendale, Ariz., a suburb northwest of Phoenix. He spent six seasons there as the school's offensive line coach, and then moved over to Phoenix College where he worked with the offensive line and also served as the school's strength coach.

He worked as a graduate assistant at Kansas under coach Terry Allen for the 1999 and 2000 seasons, where he worked with CU's new offensive coordinator, Jay Johnson. His first full-time job in the collegiate ranks soon followed, as he was the offensive line coach for Alabama State the next two years (2001-02), with offensive coordinator duties added to his role for the Hornets for his final three seasons there (2003-05). He returned to Missouri State for a second stint, this time as its run game coordinator and the O-line coach for the 2006-07 seasons.

Kapilovic lettered two years (1989-90) as an offensive tackle at Missouri State University, earning first-team All-Gateway Conference honors as a senior. The Bears were 19-6 his two seasons on the squad, winning the Gateway Conference title both seasons and qualifying for the Division I-AA playoffs. MSU finished ninth in the final I-AA poll in 1989, and sixth in the 1990 final balloting. He graduated from MSU with a degree in Education in 1990.

He played two seasons at Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College prior to transferring to Missouri State.

Kapilovic was born Nov. 11, 1968 in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from Gerard Catholic High School in Phoenix, Ariz., where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He is married to the former Fiona Yount, and the couple has two sons, Carsen (15) and Colin (11).

AT-A-GLANCE— He has coached in 141 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-timer (79-62 record), including eight bowl games (2008 New Orleans, 2009 New Orleans, 2010 Beef O'Brady's, 2011 Hawai'i, 2013 Belk, 2014 Quick Lane, 2015 Russell Athletic, 2016 Sun)





## **BRIAN MICHALOWSKI**

#### Outside Linebackers



Brian Michalowski is in his first year as outside linebackers coach at Colorado, promoted into the position in mid-February after he originally joined the staff as the director of quality control for the defense on January 7, 2019.

Michalowski, 30, came to Boulder after spending one season in a similar capacity at the University of Georgia, where he worked alongside Tucker and CU's new defensive coordinator, Tyson Summers. At UGA, he worked with outside linebackers and helped the Bulldogs post an 11-3 record, claim the Southeastern Con-

ference East Division title and earn an invitation to the AllState Sugar Bowl. Georgia was ranked No. 8 in the final polls and was 13th in the nation in total defense.

He was a graduate assistant for the defense at the University of Memphis for two years (2016-17), where he coached the "Kat" outside line-backer position. During those two seasons, Memphis won 18 games and ranked in the top 10 nationally in defensive takeaways each year.

Prior to his time at Memphis, Michalowski spent the 2015 season as the defensive coordinator for Garden City Community College, a member of the Kansas Jayhawk Conference, one of the nation's premier junior college conferences. That season, he coached Jeremy Faulk, the NJCAA Defensive Player of the Year. Garden City led the league in passing defense, holding opponents to 169 yards per game while making 14 interceptions; the Broncbusters also recorded 31 sacks in 11 games.

In 2014, Michalowski spent the season overseas coaching in the 16-team German Football League (GFL) as the defensive coordinator for the Cologne Falcons. He assisted in the club's dramatic six-game improvement from a 2-12 record the to an 8-6 mark, the latter including the team's first-ever playoff victory before falling in the semifinals to the eventual league champion. Cologne improved in every defensive statistical category from the previous year, ranking third in the GFL in pass defense and turnover margin, fourth in interceptions, and sixth in total defense and scoring defense.

Michalowski was a defensive graduate assistant at University of Wyoming under head coach Dave Christensen, coaching the Cowboys' "Buck" outside linebacker position and also had coaching responsibilities in all phases of special teams.

From 2007 to 2012, Michalowski climbed up the coaching ladder at his alma mater, Arizona State University. In 2012, he was a defen-

sive graduate assistant for a Sun Devil team that had an 8-4 record and finished the season with a victory over Navy in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl. He worked with the defensive line and held responsibilities coaching on special teams as the Sun Devil defense was second in the Pac-12 in total defense (first in pass defense) and second in the nation in both quarterback sacks and in tackles for loss.

He had spent the 2011 season as a defensive quality control assistant for head coach Dennis Erickson. In that role, Michalowski assisted with defensive backs and special teams, including a kickoff return unit that finished 10th in the nation and had six returns for touchdowns over the course of two seasons. He was a student assistant at ASU for four seasons, initially working with recruiting and special teams, and eventually began working on the defensive side of the football in 2009, assisting with the secondary for the next two seasons. During this time, he also completed a training camp internship with the Buffalo Bills in the summer of 2010, where he had responsibilities with pro personnel and camp operations.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Marketing with a minor in Psychology in 2011 from Arizona State University.

He was born June 10, 1989 in Morristown, N.J., and graduated from Notre Dame Prep (Scottsdale, Ariz.), where he lettered in football; that's where he got his first taste of the coaching profession in the fall of 2007. His hobbies include hiking, skiing and golf. He is engaged to be married to Kristin Ruffin in the summer of 2020 *(last name is pronounced michael-ow-ski)*.

COACH	COACHING EXPERIENCE			
2011	Arizona State	Quality Control/Defense (Secondary)		
2012	Arizona State	Graduate Assistant/Defense (Secondary)		
2013	Wyoming	Graduate Assistant/Defense		
		(Outside Linebackers)		
2014	Cologne (Germany)	Defensive Coordinator		
2015	Garden City CC	Defensive Coordinator		
2016-17	Memphis	Graduate Assistant/Defense		
		(Outside Linebackers)		
2018	Georgia	Quality Control/Defense		
		(Outside Linebackers)		
2019-	Colorado	Quality Control/Defense (Secondary)		





## AL PUPUNU Tight Ends



Al Pupunu is in first year on the Colorado staff as the tight end coach, as he was hired by new CU head coach Mel Tucker, officially joining the Buffalo staff on Jan. 7, 2019.

Pupunu, 49, came to Colorado after spending the previous two seasons (2017-18) at Weber State, where he starred as a collegian. WSU was 10-3 and reached the FCS quarterfinals in 2018, winning one playoff game after earning a first round bye. During his first season there, he helped lead the Wildcats to a historic season: in addition to winning a school record 11 games, they captured the Big Sky title, won two games to reach the quarterfinals of the FCS Playoffs and finished the season ranked fifth in the na-

tion, the highest in school history.

He was the tight ends coach at the University of Idaho for seven seasons (2010-16). In his last season in Moscow, Pupunu helped lead the Vandals to a 9-4 record in 2016, including a 61-50 win over Colorado State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. The nine wins tied the most in school history and it was also the second-best ever for UI. In his seven seasons at Idaho working under head coaches Robb Akey and then Paul Petrillo, he coached several talented tight ends, including All-American and All-Big Sky Conference performer Andrew Vollert.

Pupunu played two seasons at Dixie State College before transferring to Weber State to play for Coach Dave Arslanian. As a senior in 1991, Pupunu had one of the best years in Big Sky Conference history. Playing alongside Walter Payton Trophy winner, quarterback Jamie Martin, Pupunu set a Division I-AA (now FCS) record with 93 receptions for 1,204 yards and 12 touchdowns, helping Weber State to an 8-4 record and a trip to the NCAA playoffs. The 93 catches still rank as the most receptions in a season in Weber State history, and the second most ever in a season by an FCS tight end.

For his efforts that season, Pupunu earned All-Big Sky Conference honors and was named an All-American by the Associated Press, the Sports Network and the Walter Camp Football Foundation.

He signed as a free agent with San Diego in the National Football League in 1992, the start of a nine-year professional career that he would spend with the Chargers (1992-97, 1999), Kansas City (1997), New York Giants (1998) and Detroit (2000).

Pupunu helped the Chargers reach Super Bowl XXIX (1994 season), as he caught a 43-yard touchdown pass from Stan Humphries that narrowed the deficit against Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship game to 13-10 in the third quarter; San Diego went on to win the game, 17-13, and he was named the offensive player of the game with four receptions for 76 yards and the score. San Diego faced San Francisco in the Super Bowl but lost 49-26 to the 49ers; Pupunu caught four passes for 48 yards. Two of his teammates on that Chargers' team were former Buffaloes: running back Eric Bieniemy and right tackle Stan Brock.

Though Pupunu only scored five career touchdowns (three regular season, two postseason), he created a unique celebration that he performed after each: he mimicked twisting off the top of a coconut and drinking the juice, a very popular celebration among Charger fans. Pupunu he had 102 receptions for exactly 1,000 yards in 103 regular season games (42 starts), and added 13 catches for 163 yards in seven playoff games, four of which he started.

After his professional career, his first taste of coaching was at Alta High

School in Sandy, Utah, where he spent four years (2002-05). He then became an intern at the University of Utah under Kyle Whittingham for two seasons (2006-07). Unable to earn his degree at Weber State because he went into the NFL, while interning at Utah he earned his bachelor's in Sociology and Criminology in 2006.

He attained his first full-time coaching position in 2008, when he was named the running backs and tight ends coach at Southern Utah University. He was there for two seasons and coached in 22 games (SUU was 9-13) before moving on to Idaho ahead of the 2010 season.

Pupunu was inducted into the Utah Sports Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Weber State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. He has also been presented with the Distinguished Utahn Award by former Prime Minister of England, Margaret Thatcher.

Born Alfred Pupunu on Oct. 17, 1969 in Tonga, he graduated from South High School in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he lettered in football and basketball, soccer and track. He is married to the former Mindi Forbes, and the couple has five children, Miley, Kade, Brynnli, Kenna and Noah (Kade signed to play football at Weber State but went on his two-year Mormon Mission and will be a freshman this fall). He moved to the United States when he was a toddler and was raised in Utah. (Last name is pronounced puh-pooh-new.)

AT-A-GLANCE— He has coached in 81 Division I-A (FBS) games as a full-time position coach, including one bowl game (2016 Famous Idaho Potato), as well as in 22 FCS games for a total of 103 as a full-time collegiate coach.



#### **COACHING EXPERIENCE**

2005-07UtahVolunteer Assistant2008-09Southern UtahRunning Backs/Tight Ends

2010-16IdahoTight Ends2017-18Weber StateTight Ends2019-ColoradoTight Ends



## TRAVARES TILLMAN

#### **Defensive Backs**



Travares Tillman is in first year on the Colorado staff as the defensive backs coach, as he was hired by new CU head coach Mel Tucker, officially joining the Buffalo staff on Jan. 2, 2019.

Tillman, 41, came to CU after spending the previous three seasons (2016-18) at the University of Georgia. He was a graduate assistant working with the defensive backs the first two years before transitioning into a quality control role with the defense for the 2018 season. After Tucker accepted the CU job, he helped the Bulldogs defensive backs prepare for their

Sugar Bowl matchup against Texas.

At Georgia, he helped tutor Deandre Baker, an All-American and the 2018 Thorpe Award winner given to the nation's top defensive back. He worked directly with Tucker in coaching the safeties and assisted with recruiting along with coaching the offensive scout team, while his quality control duties included breaking down opponents and writing weekly scouting reports. GA was 32-9 when he was on staff, including 13-2 in a magical 2017 season. The Bulldogs were the SEC champions as well as the Rose Bowl champions in what was also College Football Playoff semifinal; Georgia was the third-ranked pass defense in the nation that season.

Prior to joining Kirby Smart's staff at Georgia, he served as the defensive backs and head track coach for four years (2012-15) at Calvary Day School in Savannah, Ga.; he was also the school's assistant athletic director his last two years there. He helped coach the team to a 41-8 record over those four seasons, advancing to the state quarterfinals all four years, the state semifinals twice and in the state championship game in 2013. Eight players earned collegiate football scholarships during his time there.

In 2013, Tillman was a recipient of the NFL's Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship. He spent that summer working with the defensive backs at training camp with the Philadelphia Eagles under its first-year head coach Chip Kelly.

Tillman was a four-year letterman and two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference performer at Georgia Tech playing defensive back, starting three years at safety and cornerback from 1996-99. He recorded 236 tackles in his Yellow Jacket career, fourth at the time of his graduation among defensive backs at the school and still eighth on GT's all time chart. He also made seven interceptions, tying for the team lead with four his sophomore season. As a senior, he was named a permanent team captain and also earned Academic All-ACC honors.

The Buffalo Bills selected him in the second round of the 2000 National Football League Draft (the 58th player selected overall). He played two seasons with the Bills, primarily at free safety. After missing the 2002 season with an injury, he was in the Houston Tex-

**COACHING EXPERIENCE** 

2012-15 Calvary Day School Defensive Backs/Head Track Coach
 2016-17 Georgia Graduate Assistant/Defense Backs

2018 Georgia Quality Control/Defense

2019- Colorado Defensive Backs

ans' camp and made the final 53-man roster but was waived early in the season. However, the Carolina Panthers picked him up the very next day and he would spend the next two years (2003-04) in Charlotte, helping the team to the 2003 NFC championship by defeating Philadelphia and gain a berth opposite New England in Super Bowl XXXVIII. To this day, it was one of the wildest fourth quarters in Super Bowl history, with New England winning, 32-29, on a field goal with four seconds remaining; the Panthers had rallied from 11 down to tie the game and outscored the Patriots, 19-18 in the quarter.

He then signed as an unrestricted free agent with the Miami Dolphins (2005-07), where he would finish as a pro after a second knee injury ultimately ended his career. He started 18 of his 33 games in Miami, recording 115 tackles with three interceptions. In seven seasons in the professional ranks (74 games), he was in 180 tackles, with four interceptions and 15 pass deflections.

He then returned to Georgia Tech to finish up his degree, graduating in 2010 with a bachelor's in Business Management.

He was born Oct. 8, 1977 in Lyons, Ga., and graduated from Toombs County High School in Lyons, where he lettered four years in both football and basketball and twice in golf. In football, he earned Class 3A All-State honors and was the 3A Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. He is married to the former Kiki Kirchner, and couple has three children, Atticus, Harper and Saint. *(First name in pronounced truh-var-es.)* 

**AT-A-GLANCE**— He has been a part of 41 FBS games (all at Georgia with a record of 32-9), including three bowl games (2016 Liberty, 2018 Rose, 2019 Sugar) along with the 2018 CFP Championship game.





## **DREW WILSON**

## Director of Football Strength & Conditioning



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

Wilson, 41, coordinates all aspects of training and development of the football team and manages a staff of four 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

