

HEAD COACH DEREK MASON



Receiver C.J. Duncan and other Commodore players celebrate with the head coach after a victory during Mason's first year on the Vanderbilt campus.

Named Vanderbilt's 28th head coach in January 2014, Derek Mason heads into his second season in charge of the Commodores on the heels of attracting some very accomplished coaches to his staff and bringing another outstanding signing class to campus.

Regarded as one of the nation's top defensive minds, Mason will take on the added responsibilities of being his own defensive coordinator entering the 2015 season.

Additionally, Mason turned the keys to the offense over to veteran offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig, who joins the Commodores after two record-breaking seasons at Wisconsin and nearly 20 years of experience calling plays.

Mason also lured James Dobson from Nebraska to oversee Vanderbilt's strength and conditioning program. At Nebraska, Dobson guided a strength program that helped the Cornhuskers join Alabama and Oregon as the nation's only teams to post at least nine wins each of the last seven years.

Mason's ability to attract Ludwig and Dobson, both coming to Nashville from highly successful tenures at Power 5 conference schools, is virtually unprecedented in Commodore gridiron history. The hirings speak volumes to their belief in Mason's plan for the Vanderbilt program.

Mason capped a staff rebuild by adding two of college football's top young coaches, Cortez Hankton and Marc Mattioli, to mentor wide receivers and safeties, respectively.

The staff changes, coming in the wake of a 3-9 season, helped Mason and the Commodores attract rising prospects to campus. In February, Mason welcomed 19 signees to the program, while securing the highest-ranked signee in school history for the second year in a row.

Away from the field, Mason has aimed to keep Vanderbilt student-

MASON: FACTS & NOTES

AMONG NATION'S ELITE DEFENSIVE COACHES

After the 2014 season, Mason announced that he was returning to his roots and would add the role of defensive coordinator to his Vanderbilt duties. From 2011-13, Mason changed the perception of Stanford defense. The 3-4 scheme Mason helped install at Stanford is viewed among the most aggressive and innovative in college football.

OFF THE FIELD SUCCESSES

Away from the field, Mason's Vanderbilt program paced the SEC in academic honor roll selections and NCAA APR scores, witnessed individual recognitions for community service, allowed players to enjoy foreign study opportunities, and developed one of the nation's most thorough summer internship efforts.

FOUR STRAIGHT BCS BOWLS – 2010-13

Mason was a key figure in arguably the greatest era of Cardinal football since being hired by then-head coach Jim Harbaugh prior to 2010 season. Between 2010-13, Stanford played in four straight BCS bowl games: the 2011 Orange Bowl, 2012 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, 2013 Rose Bowl and 2014 Rose Bowl. Stanford owned an overall record of 45-8, and captured back-to-back Pac-12 titles.

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athletes focused on strong academics and individual development.

Last May, 27 Commodore upperclassmen and a school-record 11 true freshmen earned Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll recognition as the NCAA released its annual report showing the Vanderbilt football team as the SEC and national leader in its Academic Progress Rate (APR) graduation scores.

Other off-the-field highlights under Mason included admittance to the Vanderbilt School of Medicine for quarterback Patton Robinette, cornerback Alex Hysong and former receiver Steve Monk; national community service honors by senior snapper Andrew East; mission work in Costa Rica for punter Taylor Hudson; and study in Australia for current Commodore teammates Ralph Webb and Chris Martin.

Mason has also worked to create a summer internship program for Commodore student-athletes that is one of the most innovative in the nation.

Mason also continues to be actively involved in the Middle Tennessee community, contributing to several local and university causes, while making appearances at various social and sporting events.

Before being hired at Vanderbilt, Mason served as associate head coach and Willie Shaw Director of Defense for 2013 Pacific-12 champion Stanford after initially being lured to the program by former Cardinal and San Francisco 49er head coach Jim Harbaugh.

"I am so excited to be at Vanderbilt," Mason said at the time he was hired. "This university combines the best of what's good about college athletics and academics. We expect to be competitive and look forward to competing for an SEC East crown."

Mason's plan since arriving in Nashville is to develop the Com-



DISCUSSING THE 2015 SIGNING CLASS

Joined by event emcee and 'Voice of the Commodores' Joe Fisher, Coach Mason provides a thorough review of the newest Commodores at the program's annual National Signing Day Celebration held on campus.

modore defense into a top-tier unit, much as he did at Stanford where he served as coordinator from 2011-13. Mason's defense was a critical ingredient in helping the Cardinal to Rose Bowl appearances in 2013 and 2014, and consecutive Pac-12 titles with one of the nation's top defensive units. Under Mason, the Cardinal ranked among the NCAA national Top 15 in defensive efficiency for three consecutive years.

In 2013 while facing seven ranked opponents and one of the nation's toughest schedules, the Stanford defense ranked third in the NCAA in rushing defense (89.4 yards), 10th in scoring defense (19.0 points) and 16th in total offense (343.1 yards).



ON SET WITH SEC NETWORK CAST

Coach Mason joins the on-air personalities of SEC Network's popular "SEC Nation" gameday show. From left, the cast includes host Joe Tessitore, analysts Tim Tebow and Marcus Spears, and commentator/daily show host Paul Finebaum.

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In 2013, the Cardinal was one of only five teams to allow less than 100 rushing yards per game. The team was also among the best nationally in producing stops for negative yardage, ranking fifth with 44 sacks and seventh with 109 tackles for loss. The defense was also superb on third downs, holding opponents to a 32 percent conversion rate.

In 2012, Mason was a finalist for the Broyles Award, given annually to the nation's top assistant coach, after directing a defense that ranks among the best in the nation and finest in Stanford history. The 2012 unit broke Stanford's single season record for quarterback sacks and topped the Pac-12 in numerous categories, including scoring defense and total defense, helping the Cardinal to a 11-2 season capped off with a Rose Bowl crown.

Mason's leadership paved the way to a historic defensive output in 2012, breaking Stanford's single-season sacks record (57) and pacing the Pac-12 in scoring defense (17.2 points), total defense (336.2 yards) and rushing defense (97.0 yards). In 11 of 14 games in 2012, Stanford held its opponent to 20 or fewer points, including a 14-point effort in the overtime win at top-ranked Oregon, who led the FBS with a 54.8 scoring average.

The 2012 Stanford defense held eight of 13 opponents under 100 yards rushing, and in a string of three consecutive games, the Cardinal recorded three of its top-10, single-game rushing defense performances in school history. In 2011, Mason's first year as co-defensive coordinator, he teamed with Jason Tarver to mold Stanford into one of the Pac-12's top defensive units. That season, the unit ranked either first or second in the Pac-12 in six defensive categories, including rushing defense, third-down conversion defense, scoring defense, total defense, sacks and opponent first downs. Stanford finished third nationally in rushing defense. Mason joined the Cardinal staff in 2010, serving as secondary coach under then-Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh. Mason's 2010 secondary, which featured three current NFL players, registered 18 total interceptions.

At Stanford, Mason also helped develop an array of Cardinal defensive standouts, including All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman of the world champion Seattle Seahawks, All-America defensive end Trent Murphy, All-America linebacker Shayne Skov, All-Pacific 12



Mason salutes the Vanderbilt student body for its support after a home win.

safety Ed Reynolds.

Prior to his arrival in Palo Alto, Mason served as an assistant defensive backs coach for the Minnesota Vikings from 2007 to 2009, playing a vital role in the team ranking sixth in total defense in 2008 and 2009 as the Vikings won NFC North titles each season. Mason was



An animated Coach Mason points assignments to the Commodore defensive secondary.

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introduced to the NFL coaching circles through the Minority Fellowship program in 1996 with the St. Louis Rams and also spent time with the coaching staffs of the New York Giants and Oakland Raiders. He joined the Vikings staff in 2007, where he worked with defensive backs coach Joe Woods.

Before joining the Vikings, Mason tutored wide receivers at Ohio University under head coach Frank Solich, helping the Bobcats improve from 4-7 in 2005 to a 9-5 campaign the following year that ended with an appearance in the GMAC Bowl. Mason spent the 2004 season as the wide receivers coach at New Mexico State, where he helped the Aggies lead the conference in passing.

During the 2002 campaign, Mason mentored the receivers and assisted with the special teams at Utah. The Utes also featured the NFL Draft's No. 1 overall pick in quarterback Alex Smith and eventual 7th round pick receiver Paris Warren.

Mason's move to Utah came after a three-year stint at Bucknell (1999-2001) in which he gained his first experience as a defensive assistant coach. At Bucknell, Mason served as defensive backs mentor for three straight winning Bison squads.

Mason's first three collegiate positions came as an offensive assistant at Mesa Community College (in 1994), Weber State (1995-96) and Idaho State (1997-98).

As a player, Mason was a two-year starter and four-year letterwinner at Northern Arizona. He was recruited to the university by Head Coach Larry Kentera, the grandfather of current Vanderbilt senior wide receiver Kris Kentera.

During his NAU career, Mason was influenced by several outstanding coaches, including Kentera, Kansas City head coach Andy Reid, former Minnesota head coach Brad Childress, former NFL head coach and offensive coordinator Marty Mornhingweg, former Louisville head coach Steve Kragthorpe and former Vanderbilt offensive coordinator Karl Dorrell.

Mason earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from



THE MASON FAMILY

Derek and LeighAnne Mason with their daughters, Makenzie and Sydney.

Northern Arizona in 1993.

A native of Phoenix, Mason attended Camelback High School.

Derek and his wife, LeighAnne, have two daughters, Makenzie, 16, and Sydney, 14.



Mason chats with SEC Network analysts following the team's Black & Gold Spring Game.



Mason greets a young Commodore fan at the team's Star Walk.

DEREK MASON



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT MASON...

"Derek Mason's a great coach. He'll get it going at Vanderbilt."

Kirk Herbstreit, ESPN CollegeGameDay Host,
Play-by-Play Announcer

"Coach Mason is the guy for the job. I fully endorse him. I know he's going to have an impact there for a long time. The guys just have to stick with him and keep working to get better."

Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt WR (2010-13);
Current WR Philadelphia Eagles

"Coach (Mason) was essential to my development and my understanding of the game. He taught me how to play the game, how to study the game, how to really go in-depth with your film study and also understanding your weaknesses -- studying your weaknesses and what you do well and what you don't do well and being able to self-scout a lot more. ... He's really helped me, and he still helps me to this day."

Richard Sherman, All-Pro CB, Seattle Seahawks

"Derek is a great teacher and motivator, but more importantly he is a man of high character."

David Shaw, Head Coach, Stanford University

"Derek is a tremendous person, outstanding teacher, strong communicator, hard worker and consummate winner."

Jim Harbaugh, Head Coach, University of Michigan

"He's very conscientious, very down to earth. Derek really studies the game in an old-time, throwback fashion and he's always looking for a better way to do things. Old school means we weren't blackboard coaches. We were teaching. He is a great teacher."

Willie Shaw, Former Defensive Coordinator in
NFL and at Stanford

VANDERBILT HEAD COACH DEREK MASON

AGE: 45

CAREER RECORD: 3-9 (2nd season)

ALMA MATER: Northern Arizona University; Playing career – 1989-92

DEGREES: Bachelor's, Criminal Justice, Northern Arizona, 1993

FAMILY: Wife, LeighAnne; two daughters: Makenzie and Sydney

MASON ON TWITTER: @CoachDerekMason

Mason's Career at a glance

2014 VANDERBILT (Head Coach)

Introduced Jan. 17, 2014 as the 28th head coach in Commodore history... Notched first career victory as head coach in dramatic style, guiding team to 34-31 win over UMass on Sept. 13... Directed one of nation's youngest teams, with 31 true or redshirt freshmen seeing action.

2013 STANFORD (Willie Shaw Director of Defense)

Promoted to position of Willie Shaw Director of Defense, Mason guides one of the nation's top defenses as Cardinal goes 10-3 overall, wins Pac-12 crown and plays in second straight Rose Bowl... Stanford finishes year ranked No. 10 on strength of four victories over ranked opponents... The defense ranks third in NCAA in rushing defense, 10th in scoring defense and 16th in total defense... Unit again ranks among Pac-12's best in numerous defensive categories... For second straight year, Mason's defense limits powerful Oregon spread offense, holding Ducks scoreless for first three quarters in eventual 26-20 Stanford victory... Three of Mason's standouts – LB Trent Murphy, LB Shayne Shov and DB Ed Reynolds – garner postseason All-America recognition.

2011-12 STANFORD (associate head coach/defensive coordinator)

Finalist for 2012 Broyles Award as nation's outstanding assistant coach... Stanford goes 23-4 overall in Mason's first two years as coordinator, wins 2012 Pac-12 title, captures 2012 Rose Bowl over Wisconsin, and plays in the 2011 BCS Fiesta Bowl... Mason's 3-4 attacking defense ranked among the NCAA leaders in both seasons... In 2012, the Cardinal defense topped the nation with 57 quarterback sacks, ranked second in tackles for loss, fifth in rushing defense and 11th in scoring defense... Stanford also paced the Pac-12 in scoring defense, total defense, rushing defense and sacks... The 2012 defense also held eight opponents under 100 rushing yards and limited high-powered Oregon to just 14 points in an overtime win... In 2011 the Cardinal was third in the NCAA in rushing defense, sixth in 3rd-down efficiency and 11th in quarterback sacks, and finished among the Pac-12 leaders in scoring defense, total defense, rushing defense, sacks and opponent first downs.

2010 STANFORD (defensive backs coach)

Hired by Cardinal Head Coach Jim Harbaugh... Helped change Stanford into a tough-minded, attacking defense... Defense was key to arguably Stanford's best year of modern era – a 12-1 overall record capped by 40-12 victory over Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl... The 2010 Cardinal secondary was one of the great turnaround stories in college football as Stanford ranked high nationally in interceptions and pass defense... That unit included three eventual NFL players, including All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman from the World Champion Seahawks.

2007-09 MINNESOTA VIKINGS - NFL (assistant defensive backs coach)

Served as an assistant defensive backs coach for the Minnesota Vikings from 2007 to 2009, playing a vital role in the team ranking sixth in total defense in 2008 and 2009 as the Vikings won NFC North titles each season.

2005-06 OHIO UNIVERSITY (wide receivers)

Hired by former Nebraska Head Coach Frank Solich, Mason coached Ohio receivers for two years, helping the Bobcats improve from 4-7 in 2005 to a 9-5 campaign in 2006 that ended with a GMAC Bowl appearance.

2004 NEW MEXICO STATE (wide receivers)

In lone season at New Mexico State, the Aggie offense with Mason mentoring wide receivers corps topped the Sun Belt Conference in numerous passing categories.

2003 ST. MARY'S (co-defensive coordinator/assistant head coach)

First coordinator responsibilities came in only season at St. Mary's, member of NCAA I-AA Independent League.

2002 UTAH (wide receivers/special teams assistant coach)

Hired by Ron McBride, Mason tutored WR Paris Warren, an eventual 7th round draft pick, in his only year at Utah. The 2002 Utes offense featured young QB Alex Smith, the eventual 2005 No. 1 NFL draft pick.

1999-2001 BUCKNELL (defensive backs)

Secondary coach for three straight winning Bison squads... Coached two Bucknell defensive backs to All-Patriot League recognition.

1997-98 IDAHO STATE (running backs)

Mason coached Idaho State running backs for two years under Head Coach Tom Walsh.

1995-96 WEBER STATE (wide receivers)

Mason worked with Weber State receivers, including Pokey Eckford, who earned All-America honors in 1995 after catching 77 passes for 1,074 yards and six TDs.

1994 MESA (ARIZONA) COMMUNITY COLLEGE (wide receivers)

Mason entered collegiate coaching as a receivers coach with community college located in San Diego.

NFL MINORITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mason spent time with the St. Louis Rams in 1996, New York Giants and Oakland Raiders through the Minority Coaching Fellowship Program. Philadelphia in 1999 and Minnesota in 2008.

COACHING STAFF

ANDY LUDWIG

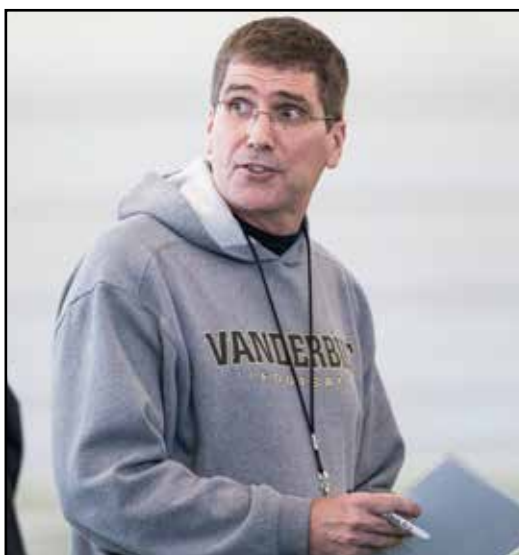
Offensive Coordinator;
Quarterbacks

Former Wisconsin coordinator Andy Ludwig enters his first year as Vanderbilt's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Ludwig joins Vanderbilt after two seasons as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Wisconsin, where the Badgers set numerous offensive records. A coaching veteran with 28 years of experience, Ludwig's coaching career also includes stops as coordinator at San Diego State (2011-12), Cal (2009-10), Utah (2005-08), Oregon (2002-04) and Fresno State (1998-2001).

Ludwig helped rewrite the Wisconsin record book as the Badgers tallied two of the three highest offensive outputs in school history en route to a 20-7 overall record and consecutive Jan. 1 postseason bowl appearances. The 2013 Wisconsin offense averaged a school-record 480.8 yards per game (6,251 yards in 13 games), while averaging the third-most points in school history (34.8 points per game). The 2014 squad nearly matched those totals, averaging 34.6 points and 468.9 total yards.

Ludwig's Wisconsin offenses were led by running back Melvin Gordon, a 2014 Heisman Trophy finalist and consensus first-team All-America. Gordon rushed for 2,587 yards in 2014, establishing the second highest single-season rushing total in NCAA FBS history. Gordon capped the season with a 251-yard performance in Wisconsin's 34-31 overtime victory over Auburn in the Outback Bowl. Gordon also paced all NCAA FBS backs with 29 rushing touchdowns and briefly held the NCAA single-game rushing record after a 408-yard effort in a November win over Nebraska.



Ludwig helped Utah go to four straight bowls, including a 2009 Sugar Bowl win over Alabama, as the Utes finished 13-0 and No. 2 in the nation.

Ludwig's mentoring of quarterbacks includes two other signal callers that eventually played in the NFL, Kellen Clemens of Oregon and 2002 NFL Draft No. 1 pick David Carr of Fresno State.

Ludwig played two seasons as a wide receiver at Snow College in Utah (1982-83) before earning a pair of letters at Portland State (1985-86).

Ludwig and his wife, Jill, are the parents of a son, Joe, and a daughter, Delaney.

home-run plays.

Prior to joining Wisconsin, Ludwig spent the 2011-12 seasons at San Diego State. In 2012, the Aztecs went 9-4, including 7-1 in the Mountain West Conference. In 2011, San Diego State averaged 427.4 yards per game. Ronnie Hillman ranked fourth nationally in rushing (1,711 yards) and was selected in the third round of the NFL draft. QB Ryan Lindley, was a sixth-round draft choice of the Arizona Cardinals.

Ludwig completed his 20th year as an offensive coordinator at the NCAA level in 2014. His teams have been to 15 bowl games with nine bids in the past decade. Prior to his years at San Diego State, Ludwig served as the offensive coordinator at California (2009-10), Utah (2005-08), Oregon (2002-04), Fresno State (1998-01), Cal Poly (1997) and Augustana (1993-94).

More on Coach Ludwig...

HOMETOWN: Ogden, Utah

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Exercise Science, Portland State, 1988

COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:

2015	Vanderbilt - Offensive Coordinator/QB Coach
2013-14	Wisconsin - Offensive Coordinator/QBs Coach
2011-12	San Diego State - Offensive Coordinator
2009-10	California - Offensive Coordinator
2005-08	Utah - Offensive Coordinator
2002-04	Oregon - Offensive Coordinator
1998-2001	Fresno State - Offensive Coordinator
1997	Cal Poly - Offensive Coordinator
1995-96	Boise State - Quarterbacks Coach
1993-94	Augustana (S.D.) - Offensive Coordinator

with 29 rushing touchdowns and briefly held the NCAA single-game rushing record after a 408-yard effort in a November win over Nebraska. Behind Gordon, the 2014 Badgers amassed a school-record 4,482 rushing

yards in 14 games, breaking a record established in 2013.

Wisconsin was one of just four FBS teams to amass 3,500 rushing yards and 2,500 passing yards during the 2013 season, joining Oregon, Northern Illinois and Ohio State. Overall, UW's explosive offense ranked second in the country with 15 plays of 50-plus yards, with the Badgers scoring on 10 of those



Coach Ludwig and his wife, Jill, with their children, Joe and Delaney.

COACHING STAFF



Charles Banks enters his fifth season at Vanderbilt as special teams coordinator. He will also coach running backs for the second year under Mason.

Banks' young running back pupil Ralph Webb became the team's top offensive performer in 2014, breaking a freshman record with 912 rushing yards.

Since 2011, Banks has brought solid special teams to Vanderbilt. Working with first-time specialists in 2014, Banks mentored punter Colby Cooke to a 42.5-yard average and placekicker Tommy Openshaw to a field goal success rate of 72.7 percent. Kick returner Darrius Sims averaged 24.5 yards, earning second team All-SEC honors.

In 2013, senior captain Carey Spear converted 15-of-19 field goals and going 2-for-2 in field goals of 50+ yards, including a career-long of 54 yards at South Carolina. Punter Taylor Hudson averaged 42.9 yards, landing 11 of 48 punts inside the 20-yard line. Darrius Sims emerged as the go-to-guy for the Doves on kickoff returns with an average of 22.8 yards per return.

In 2012, Banks continued his remarkable job with Vanderbilt special teams, helping Spear and punter Richard Kent both earn All-SEC recognition as the 'Dores put together arguably the finest combined special teams effort in school history. Spear was sensational, setting school records with 20 field goals and 87 points scored by a kicker. Kent averaged 44.9 yards,



the fourth highest average ever by a Commodore.

Banks coached tight ends and special teams at Maryland from 2009-10. In 2010, Maryland punt returner Tony Logan earned first team All-ACC honors after leading the ACC with a 18.8-yard punt return average. In 2009, another Banks' standout at Maryland, Torrey Smith, earned All-ACC honors by breaking the conference single-season record for kickoff return yards. Banks also groomed kicker Nick Ferrara to freshman All-America honors in 2009.

Prior to working at Maryland, Banks enjoyed success as an assistant at the University of

Richmond from 2007-08. In Banks' final game as a Richmond coach, the Spiders claimed the 2008 NCAA FCS national title with a victory over Montana.

Banks had two stints at Hampton University (2000-04, 2006) and spent 2005 with the St. Louis Rams. He also coached a year at Indiana (Pa.) University and James Madison.

Banks played running back for James Madison, where he earned a bachelor's degree in speech communications in 1994. He earned a master's from Eastern Kentucky in 1998.

Banks and his wife, Katrina, are the parents of a daughter, Ashley, and son, William.

Charles and Katrina Banks with their daughter, Ashley, and son, William.



More on Coach Banks...

HOMETOWN: Hollywood, Md.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Speech Communications, James Madison, 1994

Master's: Sports Administration, Eastern Kentucky, 1998

COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:

2014 -15 Vanderbilt - Special Teams Coordinator/Running Backs Coach

2011-13 Vanderbilt - Special Teams Coordinator/Tight Ends Coach

2009-10 Maryland - Special Teams Coordinator/Tight Ends Coach

2007-08 Richmond - Special Teams Coordinator/Running Backs Coach

2006 Hampton - Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks/Running Backs Coach

2005 St. Louis Rams (NFL) - Assistant Special Teams

2000-04 Hampton - Running Backs/Recruiting Coordinator

Earlier Roles: Indiana, Pa. (WRs/TEs, 1999), James Madison (WRs/TEs, 1998), Eastern Kentucky (WRs, 1996-97)

COACHING STAFF



KENWICK THOMPSON

Associate Head Coach;
Linebackers

Kenwick Thompson enters his second year at Vanderbilt with added duties. Thompson will mentor all Commodore linebackers this season after coaching outside linebackers last year.

In 2014, Thompson was responsible for developing sophomore Stephen Weatherly into one of the team's most productive defenders. Moving from defensive end to outside linebacker, Weatherly finished the season by racking up a team-leading 12.5 tackles for loss. He also established a new single-game team record with five tackles for loss vs. Tennessee.

Prior to joining the Vanderbilt staff, Thompson worked in the Bay Area for seven years, serving one year at San Jose State and six years as a key defensive assistant coach at California under Head Coach Jeff Tedford.

At San Jose State, Thompson's responsibilities included mentoring Spartan linebackers. One of his top players was linebacker Keith Smith, who became just the second San Jose State player to become a four-year All-Mountain West recipient. As a senior captain under Thompson, Smith earned First Team All-MVC honors after leading the NCAA with 159 total tackles. His performances included back-to-back, 20-tackle efforts against Minnesota and Utah State. In addition to Smith, Thompson also mentored First Team All-MVC defensive back Bene Benwikere at San Jose State. Benwikere matched the Spartan career record with 14 interceptions, including five picks as a senior.

From 2007-12, Thompson worked as linebackers coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of California, helping the Golden Bears to four bowl games. In 2012, he was also named Cal's associate head coach.

In 2011, Thompson's linebacker corps helped the Golden Bears top the Pac-12 in total defense and pass defense during a regular season that concluded with a Holiday Bowl appearance. In 2010, the Golden Bears also led the conference in total defense.

Several of Thompson's linebackers at Cal earned all-conference recognition, including 2011 All-America and Pac-12 Defensive Player of

the Year Mychal Kendricks.

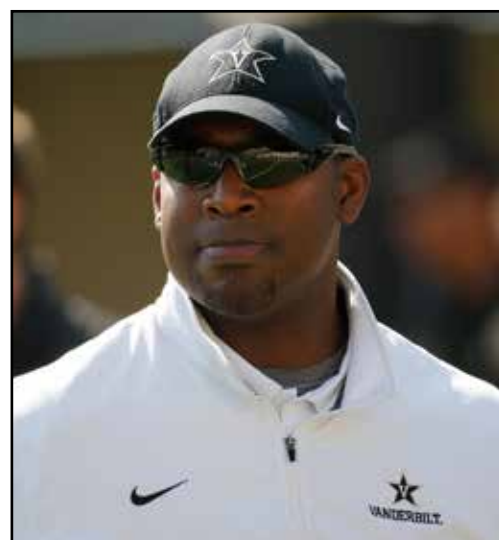
Thompson spent the 2001-06 seasons at San Jose State in a variety of coaching roles under head coaches Fitz Hill and Dick Tomey. His positions included linebackers coach in 2001-03, recruiting coordinator in 2002-03, defensive line coach in 2004 and defensive tackles coach in 2006.

From 1994-2000, Thompson served on the coaching staff at Texas Southern, including the last five seasons as defensive coordinator.

As a collegiate player, he was a defensive standout and team captain at Harding (Ark.) University, earning all-conference honors as a senior. Thompson earned his undergraduate degree from Harding in 1992.

Thompson's first coaching position came in a player-coach capacity in the Italian-American Professional Football League in 1990. The following season, Thompson was named as a graduate assistant at his alma mater.

Thompson and his wife, Monica, have two sons, Jaxson and Jacob.



Thompson and his wife, Monica, with their sons, Jaxson and Jacob.

More on Coach Thompson...

HOMETOWN: Houston, Texas

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Business Administration, Harding University, 1992

COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:

2014	Vanderbilt - Associate Head Coach/Outside Linebackers Coach
2013	San Jose State - Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers Coach
2012	California - Assoc. Head Coach/Linebackers Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2007-11	California - Linebackers Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2006	San Jose State - Defensive Tackles Coach
2005	San Jose State - Football Strength & Conditioning Coach
2004	San Jose State - Defensive Line Coach/co-Recruiting Coordinator
2002-03	San Jose State - Linebackers Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
2001	San Jose State - Linebackers Coach
1996-2000	Texas Southern - Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator
1995	Texas Southern - Defensive Line Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
1994	Texas Southern - Running Backs Coach

COACHING STAFF



GERRY GDOWSKI

Recruiting Coordinator;
Tight Ends

Gerry Gdowski enters his second year as Vanderbilt's tight end coach.

In 2014, Gdowski's pupil Steven Scheu put together one of the best years in recent memory by a Commodore tight end, posting team highs with 39 catches and 525 receiving yards en route to All-SEC recognition. Another tight end under Gdowski's watch, fifth-year senior Davis Dudchok, posted 17 catches for 261 yards.

Gdowski came to Vanderbilt after spending nine years at Ohio. He mentored quarterbacks at Ohio, and also had titles of Assistant Head Coach and co-Offensive Coordinator.

During his tenure at Ohio, Gdowski helped mold Tyler Tettleton into one of the greatest quarterbacks in Bobcats' history. Under Gdowski's tutelage, Tettleton set Ohio career records in passing yards and touchdowns, and became the only quarterback in school history to post three straight seasons of at least 2,500 yards passing. In 2013, the Bobcats averaged nearly 27.4 points and 380 yards of total offense, including 245.4 passing yards.

Gdowski's 2011 offense was the most productive unit in modern Ohio University history, totaling 427 points and 6,241 total yards. In all, the Bobcats' offensive unit set eight program records during the year.

Other standout quarterbacks mentored by Gdowski at Ohio were Boo Jackson, (38 career touchdown passes), Theo Scott (20 touchdown passes in 2009), Brad Bower and Austen Everson (ranks among team's all-time Top Ten passers in numerous categories).

Gdowski went to Ohio after eight seasons at New Mexico State. He was the Aggies' recruiting coordinator and quarterbacks coach until 2003 when he took over as offensive coordinator. The Aggies ranked second in the Sun Belt Conference in 2004 in scoring offense and passing offense.

Gdowski began his coaching career at Nebraska, working with the quarterbacks, tight ends and receivers as a graduate assistant from 1991 to 1993. He then moved to South Dakota State, where he coached for



three seasons. After two years as quarterbacks and wide receivers coach, Gdowski was promoted to offensive coordinator.

As a player, he earned three letters at Nebraska under legendary coach Tom Osborne. Gdowski was the starting quarterback and team captain for the Cornhuskers in 1989 and was named to the All-Big Eight First Team. He was an eighth round draft choice of the New Orleans Saints that spring.

Gdowski excelled off the field at Nebraska as well. He earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors in 1989 and was awarded the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Postgraduate Scholarship as well as the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. A 1990 graduate of Nebraska with a bachelor's in business administration, Gdowski also went on to earn his master's in education administration from Nebraska in 1996.

A native of Fremont, Neb., Gdowski and his wife, Sam, have three sons: Isaac, Luke, and Tommy.



Coach Gdowski and his wife, Sam, with their three sons: Issac, Luke and Tommy.

More on Coach Gdowski...

HOMETOWN: Fremont, Neb.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Business Administration, Nebraska, 1990

Master's: Education Administration, Nebraska, 1996

COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:

2014-15	Vanderbilt - Recruiting Coordinator/Tight Ends Coach
2008-13	Ohio - Assistant Head Coach/co-Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach
2005-07	Ohio - Quarterbacks Coach
2003-04	New Mexico State - Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator
1998-2002	New Mexico State - Quarterbacks Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
1996-97	South Dakota State - Offensive Coordinator
1994-95	South Dakota State - Quarterbacks and Wide Receivers Coach
1991-93	Nebraska - Graduate Assistant (Offense)

COACHING STAFF



Former National Football League receiver and Ivy League coach Cortez Hankton is in his first year on the Vanderbilt staff. He coaches wide receivers.

Hankton, a six-year NFL veteran out of Texas Southern University, spent the last three years mentoring wide receivers at Dartmouth University, helping the Big Green to a 20-10 overall record, including a 8-2 mark in 2014.

In 2014, Hankton's receivers helped the Dartmouth offense average 31.3 points and 248.1 passing yards. His top receiver, Ryan McManus, earned All-Ivy League honors after catching 68 passes for 879 yards and eight touchdowns.

Hankton's produced an All-Ivy caliber receiver all three years at Dartmouth. In 2012, senior Michael Reilly earned first-team recognition with McManus receiving honorable mention. In 2013, Big Green receiver Bo Patterson was an Ivy League honorable mention recipient.

Signed as an undrafted rookie free agent in April of 2003 by the Jacksonville Jaguars, Hankton proceeded to play in all 16 games as a rookie, catching 17 passes for 166 yards. In his four years with the Jaguars, he caught 34 passes for 310 yards and a pair of touchdowns, both of which came in his sophomore campaign in 2004. Hankton signed with the Minnesota Vikings in 2007 and spent the entire 2008 season on the injured reserve with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

After being released at the conclusion of training camp in 2009,



Hankton signed with the New York Sentinels of the UFL. The following year he played for the Florida Tuskers and head coach Jay Gruden, earning a nomination for the league's Offensive Player of the Year. The Tuskers then moved to Virginia for the 2011 season, and Hankton was a part of a squad that won the league championship.

Hankton joined Dartmouth in 2012 by way of University of Central Florida, where he spent three months working as a volunteer assistant of player personnel. In that role, he helped formulate recruiting priorities and travel plans, plus evaluated prospective student-athletes and broke down film of recruits. From 2008-10, Hankton also has spent time training draft-eligible athletes for the NFL combines with Tom Shaw

Performance Training Camps. In early 2010, he also served as non-paid receiver coach at Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando.

Hankton received his bachelor's in business administration from Texas Southern in 2002, where he set school season and career records for receiving yards. A four-year starter and two-year starter, Hankton culminated his collegiate career by being named as a Division I-AA third-team All-America by the Associated Press.

A native of New Orleans, Hankton is the son of Cortez Sr. and Sherome Hankton, both officers in the New Orleans Police Department. Hankton was a standout athlete and multi-year starter at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans.

Hankton and his wife, the former Shon Holder, were married last July.

Coach Hankton and his wife, Shon.



More on Coach Hankton...

HOMETOWN: New Orleans, La.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Business Administration,
Texas Southern, 2002

COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:

2015 Vanderbilt - Wide Receivers Coach

2012-14 Dartmouth - Wide Receivers Coach

COACHING STAFF



Keven Lightner enters his second season at Vanderbilt as offensive line coach.

In 2014, Lightner mentored a front that included offensive captain Joe Townsend at center, guards Spencer Pulley and Jake Bernstein, and tackles Andrew Jelks and Will Holden.

Lightner and Derek Mason have known each other for more than a decade, working together previously at Ohio University and New Mexico State.

Before joining Vanderbilt, Lightner spent nine seasons coaching the offensive line at Ohio where 13 linemen earned All-Mid-American Conference accolades. In 2013, the New York Giants took guard Eric Herman in the seventh round of the NFL Draft. He was the first Ohio offensive lineman to be drafted since 1972.

In 2012, Lightner's line paved holes for running back Beau Blankenship, who rushed for a school record 1,604 yards and 15 touchdowns. During his time at Ohio, Lightner saw the Bobcats set single-season records for total offense, scoring, yards per game, passing, touchdowns, completions, first downs and plays. The Bobcats also won the MAC East title three times and played in six bowls.

Prior to working at Ohio, he spent two seasons at New Mexico State, where Mason was the wide receivers coach in 2004.

Together, Lightner and Mason helped New Mexico State lead the Sun Belt Conference in passing and total offense, and ranked second in scoring



offense. In 2003, the Aggies ranked 12th nationally in rushing offense and led the Sun Belt. Lightner's top pupils with the Aggies was Outland Trophy candidate Steve Subia and six-year NFL veteran Nick Cole.

Lightner coached the offensive line and served as co-offensive coordinator at Western Kentucky for the 2001 and 2002 seasons. In two years, the Hilltoppers were 20-7 overall, made the I-AA playoffs twice and won the 2002 national championship. Lightner coached three All-Americans and five all-league players at WKU.

Lightner served as an assistant coach at Division II Nebraska-Omaha for three seasons (1998-2000). The Mavericks won their conference and made the playoffs twice. Lightner also coached two-time All-American guard Chris Bober, who played seven seasons in the NFL.

Prior to UNO, he also served as an assistant coach for two years at Division II Northern (S.D.) State, where he helped the Wolves produce their first 1,000-yard rusher in 25 years.

Before coaching at the college ranks, Lightner spent five years at two Nebraska high schools (Lincoln Northeast and Hastings) coaching the offensive and defensive lines.

Lightner played collegiately at Nebraska, where he earned first team All-Big Eight honors as an offensive tackle in 1987 and participated in the 1988 Hula Bowl. He briefly played professionally in three leagues - the NFL (Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 1988), the CFL (Hamilton Tiger Cats, 1990) and World League of American Football (Montreal Machine, 1991-92).

A native of Hastings, Neb., Lightner earned a bachelor's in secondary education from Nebraska in 1996.

He and wife, Erin, are the parents of a daughter, Alexis, and son, Kade.

Coach Lightner with his daughter, Alexis, and son, Kade.



More on Coach Lightner...

HOMETOWN: Hastings, Neb.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Secondary Education, Nebraska, 1996

COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:

2014-15 Vanderbilt - Offensive Line Coach

2006-13 Ohio - Offensive Line Coach

2003-05 New Mexico State - Offensive Line Coach

2001-02 Western Kentucky - Co-Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach

1998-2000 Nebraska-Omaha - Offensive Assistant

1996-97 Northern State - Offensive Line Coach/Tight Ends Coach

COACHING STAFF



FRANK MAILE

Defensive Line

Frank Maile enters his second year on the Commodore staff, contributing his efforts as defensive line coach.

In 2014, Maile directed the Commodore defensive line from a 4-3 formation to 3-4 scheme. Vince Taylor, who moved to nose tackle in the 3-4 alignment, and versatile tackle-end Adam Butler put together their finest years under Maile.

Before joining Derek Mason's staff, Maile served six seasons at his alma mater, Utah State. In Maile's last three years, the Aggies enjoyed virtually unparalleled success, playing in third straight postseason games for the first time in school history and compiling a 28-13 record over the span.

In 2013, Maile's defensive line helped Utah State to a 9-5 overall record, capped by a 21-14 victory over No. 24 Northern Illinois and Heisman Trophy candidate Jordan Lynch in the Poinsettia Bowl. The USU unit held NIU's high-powered offense in check, and limited Lynch to just 39 rushing yards.

Utah State's 2013 defense ranked seventh in the nation in scoring defense (17.1 pts.), 8th in rushing defense and 12th in total defense.

During the 2012 season, Maile helped Utah State's defense rank first in the Western Athletic Conference and seventh in the nation in scoring defense and sixth nationally in sacks. The unit also paced the WAC in total defense, passing defense and pass efficiency defense, and ranked second in the conference in rushing defense.

Utah State's 2012 defense also led the WAC and ranked second in the nation in red zone efficiency after allowing just 13 touchdowns and 15 field goals on 44 trips inside the 20-yard line.

In 2012, Maile coached three linemen to All-WAC honors: senior Al Lapuaho, redshirt freshman Jordan Nielsen and junior Connor Williams.

As a senior in 2012, Lapuaho finished with 35 tackles, 4.5 tackles for loss and 3.0 sacks. Nielsen finished with 5.0 sacks and 6.5 tackles for loss. Nielsen had 4.5 sacks and blocked two kicks during the year. Williams ended the 2012 campaign with a team-high six sacks.



During the 2011 season, Maile helped Utah State's defense end the year ranking first in the WAC in total defense, second in the conference in rushing defense and tackles for loss, and third in the league in pass efficiency defense and quarterback sacks.

In 2011, Maile coached senior defensive end Levi Koskan who earned second-team All-WAC honors after finishing the year with 27 tackles, 10.0 tackles for loss and a team-best 5.5 sacks, as well as six quarterback hurries. Overall, Koskan ranked eighth in the WAC in sacks and 12th in tackles for loss. Maile also coached Quinn Garner and Lapuaho that season, with both contributing 31 total tackles.

Prior to joining the Aggies as a full-time position coach, Maile spent two years as a strength and conditioning graduate assistant at Utah State.

Maile was a standout defensive lineman for the Aggies from 2004-07, enjoying 21 career games. He was a senior co-captain, finishing his career with 19 tackles for loss among 71 total stops. He also earned his bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies and his master's in education from Utah State.

A native of West Valley City, Utah, Maile was a first-team all-state defensive lineman at Alta (Utah) High School. He went on an LDS Church Mission to the Dominican Republic from 2001-03.

Maile, and his wife, Heather, are the parents of three sons, Maximus, Samson and Titan, and a daughter, Cecilia.



Coach Maile and his wife, Heather, with their daughter, Cecilia, and three sons, Maximus, Samson and Titan.

More on Coach Maile...

HOMETOWN: West Valley City, Utah

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Interdisciplinary Studies, Utah State, 2008

Master's: Education, Utah State, 2010

COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:

2014-15 Vanderbilt - Defensive Line Coach

2011-13 Utah State - Defensive Line Coach

2009-10 Utah State - Defensive Graduate Assistant

COACHING STAFF



MARC MATTIOLI

Safeties

Former Stanford assistant Marc Mattioli enters his first year on the Commodore staff as safeties coach.

Mattioli, a former four-year letterwinner at Rhodes (Tenn.) College, joins the Vanderbilt staff after serving three years at Stanford, including two seasons with Mason as a defensive graduate assistant.

Mattioli was a defensive quality control assistant for the Cardinal secondary in 2014, focusing his efforts on the Stanford secondary. In 2012-13, he served as a defensive graduate assistant at Stanford, helping Mason as a defensive backs and safeties mentor.

In 2014, Stanford finished second nationally in scoring defense, third in total defense, and eighth in passing defense. The Cardinal did not allow a touchdown pass in five games, and permitted just one score via the pass in four other games. The Stanford also produced as many interceptions (12) as touchdown passes.

The 2014 Cardinal secondary was led senior strong safety Jordan Richards with three interceptions and three forced fumbles. A first team All-Pac 12 selection as a senior, Richards also was awarded the 2014 National Football Foundation's Scholar-Athlete Award. Richards finished with nine career interceptions.

Mattioli also worked with highly ranked Stanford defenses as a graduate



assistant in 2012 and 2013. The Cardinal ranked 10th nationally in scoring defense during a run to the Rose Bowl in 2013, and led the Pac-12 in scoring defense and total defense 2012 campaign that included another Rose Bowl appearance and conference title.

Mattioli has strong ties to the South. Prior to joining the Stanford staff, Mattioli served two seasons as the defensive line coach for LaGrange (Ga.) College.

Mattioli played tight end as a freshman at Rhodes College before transitioning to the defensive line for his final three campaigns. He served as team captain as a senior in 2008, and was part of the 2006 Rhodes defense that ranked fifth nationally.

He earned Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic honors four times. Mattioli was the National Foundation and College Hall of Fame Outstanding Student-Athlete Award recipient for Rhodes and was

an all-SCAC choice in 2006 and 2008.

Mattioli was a standout athlete at Roswell (Ga.) H.S., starting at tight end and linebacker.

Mattioli graduated from Rhodes with a bachelor's in political science. He earned a master's from LaGrange College and worked toward a postgraduate degree in liberal arts from Stanford.

More on Coach Mattioli...

HOMETOWN: Roswell, Ga.
EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Political Science, Rhodes College, 2009
COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:
 2015 Vanderbilt - Safeties
 2014 Stanford - Quality Control (Defense)
 2012-13 Stanford - Graduate Assistant (Defense)
 2010-11 LaGrange (Ga.) College - Defensive Line



COACHING STAFF



Brett Maxie enters his second year on Vanderbilt's defensive staff. He will coach cornerbacks in 2015 after serving as secondary coach during his first year.

In 2014, Maxie guided a youthful Commodore secondary that lacked any returning starters. The unit improved and developed chemistry with each game under Maxie's direction.

Maxie joined Vanderbilt after serving two years in a similar role with the crosstown Tennessee Titans and 16 seasons in the NFL.

In 2013, Maxie coached an improved Titans' defensive backfield paced by cornerback Alterraun Verner, who earned All-Pro recognition for the first time after recording a career-high five interceptions. In 2012, another young Titan cornerback, Jason McCourty, posted four interceptions as the Tennessee defense ranked seventh in the NFL with 19 interceptions.

Maxie joined Tennessee after four seasons as secondary coach for the Dallas Cowboys, working for noted defensive coordinators Wade Phillips and Rob Ryan. In 2008, Maxie's secondary helped the Cowboys rank fifth in the NFL in passing defense. One of Maxie's leading players in Dallas, cornerback Terence Newman, totaled 16 interceptions during the four-year tenure in Dallas. Another cornerback, Mike Jenkins, earned Pro Bowl honors in 2009.



In 2007, Maxie mentored the Miami Dolphins secondary under coordinator noted Dom Capers. The Dolphins produced the NFL's fourth-best passing defense that year, limiting opponents to 188.7 passing yards per game.

During his tenure in Atlanta, Maxie helped cornerback DeAngelo Hall develop into a two-time Pro Bowler. The 2004 season saw the Falcons secondary register a club-record five touchdowns, including four via interception returns.

Prior to working in Atlanta, Maxie worked with the San Francisco 49ers from 1999 to 2003, including three seasons as the assistant secondary coach and the final two years as secondary coach. From 2001-03, Maxie's 49er secondary totaled 66 interceptions - the third highest number in the NFL during that time.

His first NFL coaching job came in 1998 as a quality control coach with the Carolina Panthers.

Maxie started a distinguished 13-year NFL playing career as an undrafted safety from Texas Southern, signing with the New Orleans Saints. He played in 153 NFL games, earning 104 starts, and recording 23 interceptions and three touchdowns. Maxie played nine seasons (1985-93) with the Saints, one year in Atlanta (1994), two years in Carolina (1995-96) and finished his career with one year in San Francisco (1997).

At Texas Southern, he earned his degree in biology and was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Maxie and his wife, Angela, have two sons, Brett and Adam, and two daughters, Maya and Olivia.



The four children of Brett and Angela Maxie: sons Brett and Adam, and daughters Maya and Olivia.

More on Coach Maxie...

HOMETOWN: Dallas, Texas

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Biology, Texas Southern, 1985

COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:

2014-15	Vanderbilt - Defensive Secondary
2012-13	Tennessee Titans (NFL) - Defensive Backs Coach
2008-11	Dallas Cowboys (NFL) - Defensive Backs Coach
2007	Miami Dolphins (NFL) - Secondary/Safeties Coach
2004-06	Atlanta Falcons (NFL) - Defensive Backs Coach
2002-03	San Francisco 49ers (NFL) - Defensive Backs Coach
1999-01	San Francisco (NFL) - Assistant, Defensive Secondary
1998	Carolina Panthers (NFL) - Quality Control/Defensive Backs

STRENGTH STAFF



Former University of Nebraska conditioning coordinator James Dobson is the head strength coach of the Vanderbilt football team.

Hired Dec. 22, 2014, Dobson oversees all aspects of the Vanderbilt strength and conditioning program for football, which includes winter conditioning, summer workouts and in-season training.

Dobson, a native of Mt. Horeb, Wis., spent the last seven years guiding Nebraska's conditioning programs under former Cornhusker football head coach Bo Pelini. In Dobson's tenure, Nebraska was one of three teams nationally, joining Alabama and Oregon, to post at least nine wins every year.

The 2014 Nebraska squad, ranked No. 22 by the coaches and No. 25 by the Associated Press, faced Southern California in the Holiday Bowl. The Huskers made a post-season bowl appearance every year in Dobson's tenure. Utilizing Dobson's strength program, the Huskers were regarded among the nation's most outstanding fourth quarter teams. In 2014, the Huskers outscored opponents by a remarkable 119-62 margin. Nebraska also scored more fourth-quarter points by its foes in 2008 (155-52), 2009 (96-32), 2010 (64-53) and 2012 (101-82).

In 2014, Dobson's conditioning program helped the Nebraska offense average 37.4 points, 248.2 rushing yards and 446.2 total yards. Dobson's



efforts also produced a tenacious Nebraska squad. The Huskers were known for producing remarkable comeback victories in recent years, including four such wins during the 2012 season and a thrilling 37-34 overtime victory over Iowa in the 2014 regular season finale.

Prior to Nebraska, Dobson spent nine years with the Iowa Hawkeye football program. He was in Iowa City during one of the most successful periods in school history. Iowa appeared in bowl games in six seasons and won 38 games from 2002 to 2005.

Dobson has had a history of working with some of the top college football players in the country over the past decade. Top pupils Dobson has worked with include running back Ameer Abdullah, defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, cornerback Prince Amukamara and linebacker Lavonte David at Nebraska along with safety Bob Sanders, tight end Dallas Clark, offensive tackle Robert Gallery and linebacker Chad Greenway at Iowa.

In addition to his experience at Iowa, Dobson worked for two years as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Southern Methodist.

Dobson attended the University of Wisconsin, where he earned a bachelor's in kinesiology in 1996. He earned a master's of science and administration degree from Central Michigan in 2004.

In 2012, Dobson was one of 15 strength and conditioning coaches certified as a Master Strength and Conditioning Coach by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association.

Dobson and his wife, Rebecca, have a son, Colton, and a daughter, Elise.

Coach Dobson and his wife, Rebecca, with their daughter, Elise, and son, Colton.



More on Coach Dobson...

HOMETOWN: Mt. Horeb, Wisc.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's: Kinesiology, Wisconsin, 1996

Master's: Science & Administration, Central Michigan, 2004

COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:

2015 Vanderbilt - Head Strength Coach

2008-14 Nebraska - Head Strength Coach

1999-2007 Iowa - Assistant Strength Coach

1997-98 SMU - Assistant Strength Coach

STRENGTH STAFF



Tyler Clarke

Role: Assistant Director, Strength Staff

Year on Staff: 1st

Alma Mater: Iowa, 2005

Tyler Clarke enters his first year with the Vanderbilt strength staff. He serves as assistant director of the strength staff, assisting Head Strength Coach James Dobson with all aspects of Commodore football conditioning, including winter and summer workouts, and in-season preparation.

Clarke comes to Vanderbilt after serving seven seasons as an assistant strength coach for the University of Nebraska football program in 2014. Prior to joining Nebraska, Clarke spent three seasons as an assistant strength and coach at the University of Iowa. Previously, Clarke served as a student assistant with the Hawkeye strength and conditioning staff while working toward his degree.

He earned his bachelor's in health and sports studies from Iowa in 2005 and his master's in administration from Central Michigan in 2008. He is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association.

Clarke and his wife, Oxana, are the parents of a 1-year-old boy, Aleksandr.



Ben Schumacher

Role: Assistant, Strength Staff

Year on Staff: 1st

Alma Mater: Concordia Univ., 2008

Ben Schumacher is in his first year at Vanderbilt, serving as an assistant to Head Strength Coach James Dobson. Schumacher assists Dobson with all aspects of the Vanderbilt football program, including winter conditioning, summer workouts and in-season training.

Schumacher joins Vanderbilt after spending 2014 season with Dobson working with the University of Nebraska football program as an assistant strength coach. Schumacher came to Lincoln after working with the University of Minnesota football team in 2013.

Previously, Schumacher spent two seasons at Harvard where he aided the Crimson to an Ivy League football title as well as an Ivy League Player of the Year in women's lacrosse. Schumacher also served as the head strength coach for nine Division I sports in Cambridge.

Schumacher earned his bachelor's in kinesiology at Concordia-St. Paul in 2008 and completed his master's in applied health science from Northwest Missouri State.

Schumacher and his wife, Kayla, live in Nashville.



Cedric Calhoun

Role: Assistant, Strength Staff

Year on Staff: 2nd

Alma Mater: Morehouse College, 1995

Cedric Calhoun enters his second year in the Commodore strength and conditioning program.

Calhoun served as defensive line coach at Florida International from 2010-12, helping the Panthers to the 2010 Sun Belt Conference title and two postseason bowls.

Prior to joining FIU, Calhoun coached the Dartmouth defensive line for four seasons (2006-09) and Alabama A&M defensive line from 2002-05.

Among Calhoun's top players were Robert Mathis of Alabama, the 2002 SWAC Defensive the Player of the Year and veteran defensive end who just finished his 10th season with the Colts, and FIU end Tourek Williams, selected in the sixth round of the 2013 draft by San Diego.

Calhoun began his coaching career at Idaho State in 1997, serving as head conditioning coach and defensive assistant. He later served as a defensive line coach at alma mater, Morehouse, from 1998-2001. Calhoun earned a bachelor's from Morehouse. He is the father of two daughters, Olusade and Adejola.

FOOTBALL STAFF



Jason GROOMS

**Role: Assistant Athletics Director/
Director of Football Operations**

Year on Staff: 2nd

Alma Mater: Ohio, 2001

Jason Grooms enters his second season as director of football operations, and was recently named Assistant Athletic Director for Football.

Grooms continues a working relationship with Head Coach Derek Mason that dates back a decade. When Grooms became Ohio University's first director of football operations in 2005, Mason was the Bobcats' receivers coach. Grooms and Mason worked together in Athens for two years.

Grooms oversees all facets of the Vanderbilt Football operations program, from the day-to-day operations to responsibilities including budget control, team travel, future scheduling, player development/unity council, office organization including staff and personnel coordination and the Gridiron Club.

Grooms has been active with numerous projects at Vanderbilt. He oversaw a complete remodel of the football facilities with the additions of all new graphics in every area of the football complex, developed the player lounge and recruiting display room, helped produce a stadium facelift consisting of graphics and bowl recognitions, assisted Mason to create a player development department and summer internship program that now includes student-athletes from all Vanderbilt sports, introduced several new technologies such as iPad playbooks, Catapult testing and Teamworks communication programs, contributed on a weight room redesign, created the Vanderbilt Alumni Golf Outing held at the end of spring drills, and started the Rising Star Youth Football camp for Nashville area youth.

Grooms has been an active member of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) since 2001. He serves on the College Football Playoff National Championship Advisory Group and is currently the 2nd Vice President of AFCA National Committee for Directors of Football Operations.

In 2013, Grooms was named FootballScoop.com's 2013 Director of Football Operations of the Year for his contributions at Ohio University.

Grooms was promoted to Ohio's assistant athletic director for football operations prior to the 2011 season after serving six years as the Bobcats' director of operations. During his time at Ohio, Grooms oversaw six major facility renovation projects. He also established a fundraising plan and designed an extensive locker room renovation completed in 2015.

During Grooms' tenure, Ohio played in six bowl games and three Mid-American Conference championship games under Frank Solich.

Prior to joining Ohio, Grooms spent the 2004 season at Elon, serving as linebacker coach/recruiting coordinator. Grooms spent the 2003 season as outside linebackers coach and video coordinator at East Tennessee State.

Grooms began his career at Ohio as a student assistant from 1997-2001. After earning his degree, Grooms joined Ohio coach Jim Grobe at Wake Forest as a graduate assistant, working with WFU safeties in 2001 and linebackers in 2002.

Grooms graduated from Ohio in 2001 with a bachelor's in sports sciences. He earned his master's in recreation and sports sciences from Ohio in 2011.

A native of Frankfort, Ohio, Grooms and his wife, Emily, are the parents of two sons, Jackson and Hayden, and a daughter, Scarlett Josephine.

Grooms and his wife, Emily, with sons, Jackson and Hayden, and daughter, Scarlett Josephine.



Tyler BARNES

Role: Director, Player Personnel

Year on Staff: 3rd

Alma Mater: Iowa, 2009

Tyler Barnes is in his third season at Vanderbilt and second as director of player personnel. He joined the program in 2013 as co-recruiting coordinator.

Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Barnes spent more than six years as a student assistant, graduate assistant and administrative assistant at Iowa. In his last position with the Hawkeyes, Barnes served in an administrative assistant role, focusing on football recruiting and operations.

Barnes started with the Iowa program in 2008, and became the Hawkeye student assistant the following year, helping Iowa coaches in various ways, including compiling statistical and recruiting information, and operating on-campus football clinics and camps. He became an Iowa graduate assistant in 2010, serving in that role until being promoted in 2012.

During Barnes' tenure at Iowa, the Hawkeyes won the 2010 BCS Orange Bowl over Georgia Tech, beat Missouri in the 2010 Insight Bowl, and made a return engagement to the 2011 Insight Bowl. The Hawkeyes produced 19 NFL draft picks during Barnes's tenure, the most of any Big Ten school. The recent list of Hawkeye draftees includes three first-rounders: offensive tackle Bryan Bulaga in 2010, defensive end Adrian Clayborn in 2011, and offensive tackle Riley Reiff in 2012.

Barnes earned his bachelor's from Iowa in 2009 with a double major in finance and sports studies. He earned a master's from Iowa in recreation and sports management in 2011.

Barnes is married to the former Joanne Ferentz.



Al SMITH

Role: Director of Player Development

Year on Staff: 1st

Alma Mater: Utah State, 1987

Former NFL All-Pro linebacker and front office executive Al Smith is in his first year as the program's Director of Player Development.

Smith played linebacker for the Houston-Tennessee NFL franchise from 1987 to 1996, then advanced into several administrative roles with the Titans after retirement before joining Vanderbilt in March 2015.

Smith provides mentorship to Commodore football student-athletes, serves as a liaison between the players for academic/campus support, oversees the program's summer internship program, and assists newly signed recruits with transitioning to campus. He is the team's liaison to NFL personnel and active player parents.

Smith joined Vanderbilt after serving five years as Tennessee chapter president of the NFL Alumni Association. He also served as director of Special Markets for Nashville-based School of the Legends from 2009-12.

Smith played and later worked for the Oilers and Titans over a 20-year span, starting in 1987 as a linebacker selected by the Oilers in the sixth round out of Utah State. He played 10 years with the franchise, then moved into several key front office capacities, including 1998-2007.

Smith earned a bachelor's in sociology from Utah State in 1987, and completed a master's from Tennessee State in 2003.

Smith and his wife, Katrina, are the parents of two daughters, Courtney and Coryn, and a son, Christian.

FOOTBALL STAFF



Rayna STEWART

Role: Director of High School Relations

Year on Staff: 1st

Alma Mater: Northern Ariz., 1996

Rayna Stewart, a former National Football League player and high school coach and teacher, enters his first year as Vanderbilt's Director of High School Relations.

Stewart serves as a liaison between Vanderbilt coaches and high school coaches, assist Director of Player Personnel Tyler Barnes, organize official and unofficial recruiting visits, and coordinate all Vanderbilt-affiliated coaches' clinics and camps.

Stewart joined Vanderbilt after two years as a teacher and head coach at Nashville's Whites Creek H.S. in Nashville. He also served as a teacher-coach at Battle Ground Academy in nearly Franklin two years previously.

Stewart enjoyed a five-year NFL career. He contributed as a defensive back and on special teams for Houston-Tennessee (1996-97), Miami (1998) and Jacksonville (1999-2000).

Stewart has coached in the collegiate and professional ranks. He served as a graduate assistant at Northwestern University under Pat Fitzgerald from 2007-09, and as a defensive quality control coach with the Tennessee Titans under Jeff Fisher from 2009-11. He also has football-related experience as an athletic director-head coach at Chicago (Ill.) Hope Academy (2005-06) and as assistant coach at Centennial (Tenn.) H.S. (2001-04).

Stewart was a two-time All-America cornerback at Northern Arizona University. He was selected by Houston in the fifth round of the 1996 NFL draft.

Stewart earned a bachelor's in advertising from Northern Arizona, and master's in education administration from Tennessee State.

Stewart and his wife, Sonia, have four children: ShaRae, Tre, Mycah and Jadyn. His wife is an executive principal in the Nashville school system, and earned her doctorate of education from Vanderbilt's Peabody College.



Matt BRITAIN

Role: Assistant Director of Football Operations

Year on Staff: 2nd

Alma Mater: Ohio, 2012

Matt Britain enters his second year on the Vanderbilt staff, serving as assistant director of football operations.

A native of Kennesaw, Ga., Britain assists Director of Football Operations Jason Grooms with the daily management of the Vanderbilt football program, including team travel, scheduling and special activities.

Britain was a student-athlete on the Ohio University football squad, playing offensive line for the Bobcats from 2008-10.

After injuries shortened his playing career, Britain continued with the Ohio program, serving as a student manager, facility and event operations assistant and football operations assistant from 2010 to June 2013.

At Ohio, he worked with Grooms directly, assisting in the planning, coordination and project development of all day-to-day operations. During his association with the Bobcats, Ohio enjoyed plenty of success, playing in four consecutive bowl games and earning back-to-back postseason wins in 2011-12.

Britain earned a bachelor's in sports management from Ohio in 2012.



Larry LEATHERS

Position: Sports Information Director

Year on Staff: 15th

Larry Leathers enters his 15th year as the primary sports information director for the football program.

In 2012, the Vanderbilt Athletic Communications staff under Leathers' coordination was honored with "Super 11" status by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) for outstanding service. It marked the first time Vanderbilt was recognized for the national award.

Leathers oversees all media opportunities with Commodore coaches and student-athletes, serves as lead writer for annual guides and weekly game notes, and directs the program's gameday media relations responsibilities.



Chris SINGLETON

Position: Equipment Manager

Year on Staff: 15th

Chris Singleton enters his third year as equipment manager and 15th year overall with the Commodore football team. Singleton served as assistant equipment manager under Luke Wyatt for 12 years prior to being promoted in 2013.

Singleton handles the purchase and care of all football equipment used by the Commodores. He also supervises three assistants and a corps of student workers that contribute to the team's in-season equipment staff. He is certified by the Athletic Equipment Manager's Association.



Steven PARKS

Position: Assistant AD-Video Services

Year on Staff: 15th

Parks enters his 10th year with the Vanderbilt Video Production Department. He was promoted to assistant AD-Video Services in 2015, responsible for the array of day-to-day video needs for the team, and the department's Anchor Down Productions entity.

Parks joined the Vanderbilt Athletics' video production department in 2001, and was promoted as the department director in 2006. He earned a degree in mass communications from MTSU in 2004.



Ed HIGGINS

Position: Facilities & Game Operations Director

Year on Staff: 2nd

Higgins enters his second year as Director of Facilities and Game Operations.

Higgins is responsible for all grounds and facility operations during game-days on the Vanderbilt campus, and holds a variety of ongoing facility duties with the Commodore program.

Higgins comes to Vanderbilt Athletics after a decade as Vanderbilt Medical Center's Assistant Director of Outreach & Promotions. He also served as tournament director of the 2006 Franklin American Mortgage PGA Tour event in nearby Franklin.

He earned two business degrees from Kentucky in 1994, and also holds a master's in sports administration from Ohio University in 2010.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



**Kevin
ABRAMS**

Role: Graduate Assistant - Offense

Year on Staff: 1st

Alma Mater: Illinois, 2013

Kevin Abrams enters his first year at Vanderbilt. He will contribute as an offensive graduate assistant, and also help with special teams.

A native of St. Louis, Abrams joins the Commodores after working the 2014 season in quality control at the University of Buffalo.

Abrams participated as a student assistant for the University of Illinois football program all four years as an undergraduate. He assisted Illini special team coaches from 2009-12, then worked in special teams quality control at Illinois during the 2013 season.

As a prep athlete, Abrams earned varsity letters in football and track at John Burroughs School in St. Louis.

Abrams earned a bachelor's in finance from Illinois in 2013 and is working toward a master's in higher education administration.



**Tate
BENTON**

Role: Graduate Assistant - Offense

Year on Staff: 1st

Alma Mater: Mississippi State, 2014

Tate Benton enters his first year with the Vanderbilt program, serving as an offensive graduate assistant.

Benton joins the Commodores after serving two seasons as an undergraduate assistant at Mississippi State under head coach Dan Mullen. Working as a secondary aide with coordinator Geoff Collins, helping the Bulldogs to a 17-9 overall record and 10-3 campaign in 2014.

A native of Searcy, Ark., Benton played wide receiver at Harding Academy before moving to Jackson, Tenn., where he graduated from Jackson Christian School.

Benton attended Union University in Jackson for two years before transferring to Mississippi State. He completed a bachelor's degree in history from MSU in 2014. He is enrolled in graduate studies on campus.



**Ryan
ANDERSON**

Role: Graduate Assistant - Defense

Year on Staff: 3rd

Alma Mater: Presbyterian, 2009

Ryan Anderson begins his third year as a defensive graduate assistant.

In Anderson's first year with the program, the Commodore defense ranked among the NCAA top 25 units in several categories, including total defense and pass defense.

A former Presbyterian College linebacker, Anderson came to Vanderbilt in 2013 after serving as a defensive line coach at Reinhardt (Ga.) University. During the 2010-11 campaigns, he worked at Cumberland (Tenn.) University as linebacker coach and recruiting coordinator.

Anderson's first coaching role came at E.C. Glass H.S. in Lynchburg, Va., where he mentored linebackers and tight ends in 2009.

Anderson earned a bachelor's in psychology from Presbyterian in 2009. He is working toward a master's at the Peabody College.

Anderson is married to the former Ashley Cook.



**Chris
MARVE**

Role: Graduate Assistant - Defense

Year on Staff: 2nd

Alma Mater: Vanderbilt, 2011

Chris Marve, a former standout linebacker at Vanderbilt, enters his second year on the staff. After serving as a quality control assistant in 2014, Marve moves into a defensive graduate assistant role this year.

From 2008-11, the Memphis native became one of the all-time leaders in several Vanderbilt defensive statistics, including No. 8 in total tackles (397) and No. 6 in tackles for loss (29.5).

Marve also has the distinction of earning all-conference honors after all four seasons. He was a three-time coaches' All-Southeastern Conference linebacker after earning SEC All-Freshman recognition in 2008.

Marve completed undergraduate degrees in sociology and human & organizational development from Vanderbilt in 2011. He is working toward a master's from Peabody College.

Marve is married to the former Lauren Dillard. His wife has earned undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Vanderbilt.



FOOTBALL STAFF



Ryan BLAKNEY

Role: Quality Control - Offense
Year on Staff: 1st
Alma Mater: San Diego State, 2013

Ryan Blakney enters his first season on the Vanderbilt staff. He will assist the Commodore offense in a quality control position.

A native of San Diego, Blakney comes to Nashville from the University of Wisconsin where he worked under Andy Ludwig, who was named offensive coordinator at Vanderbilt after the 2014 season.

At Wisconsin, Blakney contributed to one of the nation's most productive offenses. Paced by record-breaking running back Melvin Gordon, the Badgers averaged 34.6 points and 320.1 rushing yards in 2014.

In 2013, Blakney worked in offensive quality control at San Diego State. He also served as a student assistant at the school from 2011-12.

From 2008-10, Blakney was a coach at Union Mine (Calif.) H.S.

Blakney graduated from SDSU in 2013 with a bachelor's in kinesiology with an emphasis on physical education.



Rod CHANCE

Role: Quality Control - Defense
Year on Staff: 4th
Alma Mater: Rhode Island, 2005

Rod Chance is in his fourth season with Vanderbilt. He has served as a defensive quality control during his Commodore tenure.

During Chance's tenure, the Commodores have experienced appearances in two postseason bowl games.

Prior to joining the Commodores, Chance spent several months as cornerbacks coach at the University of Rhode Island.

Chance also coached four seasons at Alpharetta (Ga.) H.S., serving as special teams coordinator and coach for defensive backs and receivers.

Chance was a four-year starter for the Rhode Island Rams from 2002-05. He finished his career with more than 100 tackles and 11 interceptions.



Mike MORITA

Role: Quality Control - Offense
Year on Staff: 2nd
Alma Mater: Idaho State, 1998

Mike Morita, former assistant at University of Albany (N.Y.), enters his second year with Vanderbilt, serving as an offensive quality control.

Morita, who played running back at Idaho State, worked eight years at Albany: seven at offensive line coach and one as tight ends/tackle coach.

Morita also has college experience as an offensive coordinator at Shaw University (2004-05), tight ends coach at Bucknell University (2000-03), and offensive line coach at Santa Barbara (Calif.) City College (2003).

Morita earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Idaho State and master's in education from Bucknell.

Athletic Training/Medical Staff



Tom BOSSUNG

Role: Head Athletic Trainer
Year on Staff: 17th
Alma Mater: Indiana State, 1990

Tom Bossung enters his 17th year as head athletic trainer for the team and director of the department's athletic training program.

Bossung enters his 20th year assisting Vanderbilt athletes. He came to campus as a graduate assistant in 1990, earning a master's in health promotion and exercise science in 1992.

After working a year at the Lipscomb Sports Therapy Center and serving two years as head athletic trainer at Tennessee State, he returned to Vanderbilt in 1995 to work with the men's basketball team. He moved to the football post in 1999.

Bossung, who received his bachelor's from Indiana State, is certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association, and licensed by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.

Bossung served as president of the SEC Sports Medicine Committee from 2006-08.

Tom and his wife, Dee Dee, have two children: Ryan, 22; and Sarah, 18.



DR. WARNE FITCH
Head Team Physician



DR. HARRISON SHULL
Team Physician



ADAM CLEMENS
Assistant Athletic Trainer



MIYA SULLIVAN
Assistant Athletic Trainer



JUSTIN WENZEL
Assistant Athletic Trainer



KERRY WILBAR
Assistant Athletic Trainer



JOE WISNIEWSKI
Assistant Athletic Trainer

FOOTBALL STAFF



ANDREA CAIN
Assistant
Recruiting Coordinator



CHARLOTTE SIEGEL
Coach Mason's
Administrative Assistant



BEVERLY BROTHERS
Administrative Assistant,
Football Staff



JARREN HORTON
Football Analytics
Assistant



KYLE PARKINSON
Assistant
Sports Information Director



STEPHEN CURITORE
Assistant Director,
Marketing



JOSH POHL
Football Video
Coordinator



LACEY BALLARD
Assistant Director,
Video Production



WES WHALEY
Assistant Director,
Video Production



ELIZABETH WRIGHT
Director,
Academic Support



EUGENE HENDERSON
Academic Advisor



MAX MARTIN
Academic Advisor



GARY VEACH
Assistant Equipment Manager



KEVIN KONSTABEL
Equipment Assistant



KEVIN FUHRER
Equipment Staff

