

Head Coach Derek Mason



The Mason File

Career Record • 24-38 (6th season)

Alma Mater • Northern Arizona '93

Family • Wife, LeighAnne;
daughters, Makenzie and Sydney

Age • 48

Twitter • @CoachDerekMason

Now in his sixth season at the helm of the Vanderbilt football program, head coach Derek Mason has the Commodores trending upward both on and off the field.

The always energetic, fiery and fearless leader is only the second head coach on West End to lead the Commodores to multiple bowl games, while more importantly, continuing to graduate his student-athletes at a conference- and national-leading rate. Since arriving on campus in 2014, Mason's focus on developing men of character and integrity not only has been highly successful, but exemplary of the program's three pillars: Relentless, Tough, Intelligent.

The 2018 season was another banner campaign for Vanderbilt under Mason's direction, with the Commodores capped a six-win regular season with their third straight victory over rival Tennessee -- fifth in seven years. That victory propelled the Dores to bowl eligibility for the second time in three seasons as the program faced off against Baylor in the Texas Bowl.

The Commodores averaged 411.2 yards of total offense per game in 2018, the program's second-highest average since World War II. They also averaged 28.5 points per game, fourth most since the 1940s, and quarterback Kyle Shurmur graduated as a 45-game starter and sole possessor of several program records, including career passing yards (8,865) and career touchdown passes (64). Running back Ke'Shawn Vaughn produced one of the finest seasons ever by a Vanderbilt ball carrier, as the Nashville native rang up 1,243 rushing yards, second most in a single season at Vanderbilt and third in the SEC. Vaughn's 7.9 yards per carry average ranked first among all SEC players, with his 12 rushing scores ranking third.

Vanderbilt's defense flew to the ball under first-year coordinator Jason Tarver. The Dores produced 22 takeaways in 2018, the most for the program since 2013. The unit also hauled in 13 interceptions, tops during the Mason era.

Two Commodores were tabbed in the record-breaking 2019 NFL Draft held in Nashville. Cornerback Joejuan Williams was selected 45th overall by the New England Patriots, the highest-picked Commodore since Jordan Matthews went 42nd overall in 2014. Offensive lineman Justin Skule was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the sixth round. Williams and Skule were the fifth and sixth Commodores, respectively, selected in the NFL Draft since Mason's arrival. Additionally, five more Vanderbilt seniors from the 2018 squad signed rookie free agent contracts with NFL teams.

Off the field, 59 student-athletes earned a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, including 18 on the dean's list (3.5 or higher) and four with a perfect 4.0. Forty Commodores landed on the SEC Academic Honor roll, and Vanderbilt scored a 991 in the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate scores, the highest of any SEC program and fourth-best among Power Five schools. Moreover, three players -- Kenny Hebert, Braden Kopp and Andre Mintze -- studied abroad in France, another example of the full student-athlete experience at Vanderbilt. Standout running back Khari Blasingame was the male recipient of the Arthur Ashe Award.

Mason's administration of the Vanderbilt program also includes innovation. He has been instrumental in creating a summer internship program for Commodore student-athletes that is one of the most unique in the nation. Started in 2014 within the football team, the program has been expanded to multiple Vanderbilt varsity squads with Mason's staff teaming with Nashville-area businesses to provide unparalleled work experience opportunities for student-athletes. Several Commodores have participated in study abroad programs in the summer, with six players venturing to Australia in 2018.

Five of Mason's Commodores have been accepted into the prestigious Vanderbilt Medical School, in addition to more than 200 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipients and over 90 dean's list honorees.

Mason continues to upgrade the Commodore coaching staff, most recently attracting acclaimed veteran SEC running backs coach Tim Horton from Auburn and Devin Fitzsimmons in from the NFL's Detroit Lions to direct the Commodore special teams and tight end corps. Mason also rewarded stellar service prior to the 2019 season by promoting quarterbacks coach Gerry Gdowski to offensive coordinator and the talented young coach and former Commodore Jovan Haye to oversee the defensive line.

In addition to Vaughn's superb 2018 rushing campaign, fellow running back Ralph Webb concluded his career in 2017 as the leading rusher in school history and seventh-leading rusher in SEC history. Webb set a bushel of school single and career records, including 4,173 rushing yards, 931 rushing attempts and 32 rushing touchdowns.

Mason guided Vanderbilt to its eighth postseason appearance in 2016 with a trip to the Independence Bowl. The Commodores finished the regular season 6-6, including four wins over the final six games. The season featured marquee SEC victories over Georgia, Ole Miss and No. 24 Tennessee. The Commodores closed the regular season by scoring a combined 83 points in wins over the Rebels and Volunteers.

In 2016, inside linebacker Zach Cunningham became Vanderbilt's first consensus All-American in more than three decades, sweeping first-team honors from every prominent national outlet.

Mason became Vanderbilt's 28th head coach in January 2014, coming to Nashville after serving as Stanford's associate head coach and Willie Shaw Director of Defense.

The architect of Stanford's vaunted 3-4 defense, Mason was elevated to the Cardinal's defensive coordinator in 2011 after leading the program to a pair of Rose Bowl appearances and consecutive Pac-12 titles. Mason's elite defensive units at Stanford ranked among the NCAA's best in defensive efficiency for three consecutive seasons. While facing seven ranked opponents and one of the nation's toughest schedules in 2013, Stanford ranked third nationally in rushing defense (89.4 yards), 10th in scoring defense (19.0 points) and 16th in total offense (343.1 yards). The Cardinal was also one of only five teams to allow less than 100 rushing yards per game in 2013 and ranked fifth nationally with 44 sacks and seventh with 109 tackles for loss.

In 2012, Mason was a finalist for the Broyles Award, given annually to the nation's top assistant coach, after directing a Stanford defense widely considered the program's finest unit ever.

Mason's leadership paved the way to a historic defensive output, breaking Stanford's single-season record with 57 sacks and pacing the Pac-12 in scoring defense, total defense and rushing defense, and helped the Cardinal to an 11-2 season capped off with a Rose Bowl title. In 11 of 14 games in 2012, Stanford held its opponent to 20 or fewer points, including a 14-point effort in 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 team history.

In 2011, Mason's first year as co-defensive coordinator, he teamed with now-Vanderbilt defensive coordinator Jason Tarver to mold Stanford into one of the Pac-12's top defensive units. 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.

Mason also helped develop an array of Stanford defensive standouts, including All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman, All-America defensive end Trent Murphy, All-America linebacker Shayne Skov and All-Pac-12 safety Ed Reynolds.

Prior to his arrival in Palo Alto, Mason served as an assistant defensive back coach for the Minnesota Vikings from 2007 to 2009. He played 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 introduced to the NFL coaching circles through the Minority Fellowship program. 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 under Frank Solich, helping the Bobcats improve from 4-7 in 2005 to a 9-5 campaign and GMAC Bowl appearance the following year. Mason spent the 2004 season as wide receivers coach at New Mexico State, where the Aggies led the conference in passing.

Head Coach Derek Mason

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

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 (Ariz.) Community College in 1994, Weber State in 1995-96 and Idaho State in 1997-98.

As a player, Mason was a two-year starter and four-year letter winner at Northern Arizona. During his undergraduate career, Mason was influenced by several outstanding coaches, including Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid, former Minnesota Vikings head coach Brad Childress, and former NFL head coach-offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg.

Mason earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northern Arizona in 1993. A native of Phoenix, Mason was a standout football player at Camelback High School.

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

Vanderbilt – 2014-present (Head Coach) • Just second coach in Vanderbilt history to lead two teams to postseason bowls ... First Commodore coach to register three consecutive wins over Tennessee since Dan McGugin (1923, 25-26) ... First Vanderbilt coach to top Tennessee in three straight years since McGugin accomplished feat between 1921-23) ... Introduced as the 28th head coach in team history on Jan. 17, 2014 ... Notched first career victory as head coach in dramatic style, guiding team to 34-31 win over UMass on Sept. 13, 2014 ... After 2014 season, took over defensive coordinator responsibilities ... Earned first SEC victory Oct. 24, 2015, with a 10-3 win over Missouri ... Mason's 2016 team improved win total for second straight year, winning the final two games of the regular season against Ole Miss and Tennessee to get to six wins and earn an invitation to the Camping World Independence Bowl ... Also earned first win over ranked foe on the road vs. Georgia ... Offense improved in nearly every category in 2016, finishing sixth nationally in red zone efficiency ... The 2016 defense was led by consensus All-American Zach Cunningham, who became just the third Commodore to ever earn first-team All-American status from the Walter Camp Foundation.

Stanford – 2013 (Willie Shaw Director of Defense) • Promoted to position of Willie Shaw Director of Defense, Mason guides one of the nation's top defenses as the 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 Skov and DB Ed Reynolds – garner All-America recognition.

Stanford – 2011-12 (Associate Head Coach • Defensive Coordinator) • Finalist for 2012 Broyles Award as nation's most 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 and opponent first downs.

Stanford – 2010 (Defensive Backs) • Hired by Cardinal head coach Jim Harbaugh ... Helped change Stanford into a tough-minded, attacking defense ... Unit 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 Super Bowl champion Seahawks.

Minnesota Vikings – 2007-09 (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.

Ohio – 2005-06 (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.

New Mexico State – 2004 (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.

Saint Mary's – 2003 (Co-Defensive Coordinator • Assistant Head Coach) • First coordinator responsibilities came in only season at St. Mary's, member of NCAA I-AA Independent League.

Utah – 2002 (Wide Receivers • Special Teams Assistant Coach) • Tutored WR Paris Warren, an eventual seventh-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.

Bucknell – 1999-2001 (Defensive Backs) • Secondary coach for three straight winning Bison squads ... Coached two Bucknell defensive backs to All-Patriot League recognition.

Idaho State – 1997-98 (Running Backs) • Mason coached Idaho State running backs for two years under head coach Tom Walsh.

Weber State – 1995-96 (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 touchdowns.

Mesa (Ariz.) Community College – 1994 (Wide Receivers) • Mason entered collegiate coaching as a receivers coach with community college.

NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Program • Mason spent time with the St. Louis Rams, New York Giants and Oakland Raiders through the Minority Coaching Fellowship Program.



Gerry Gdowski
Offensive Coordinator
Quarterbacks
6th season at Vanderbilt
29th season overall
Nebraska '90

Gerry Gdowski is in his sixth season on Derek Mason's staff, and his first as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the Commodores.

Gdowski was on Mason's initial Vanderbilt staff in 2014, serving as tight ends coach. For the last three years, he has mentored Commodore quarterbacks.

In 2018, Gdowski served as quarterbacks coach for a Vanderbilt offense that averaged 28.5 points/game, the third highest scoring average by the Commodores since 1950. The unit also averaged 411.2 total yards/game, the most since 1974.

Gdowski's top pupil on West End, four-year starter Kyle Shurmur, left campus as the most productive quarterback in Vanderbilt history. Leading the Commodores to the 2018 Texas Bowl, Shurmur completed 62% of his passes (254-406) for 3,130 yards and 24 touchdowns. Shurmur's passing yardage and touchdown passing totals in 2018 rank as the second highest in team history.

Shurmur also blossomed under Gdowski's direction. In three years working under Gdowski's tutelage, Shurmur threw for 8,362 yards and 59 touchdowns. He completed 58.4% of his pass attempts, and threw just 26 interceptions. Shurmur ended his career as the owner of nearly every significant Vanderbilt career passing mark, including 8,865 passing yards, 64 touchdown passes, 722 completions and 1,264 attempts.

In his role as tight ends coach, Gdowski mentored Steven Scheu to second team All-SEC recognition in 2014 after Scheu posted 39 catches and 525 receiving 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 Tyler Tettleton, Boo Jackson, Brad Bower and Austen Everson place their names among the most productive quarterbacks in Bobcat history. 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.

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.

Gdowski began his coaching career at Nebraska, working with 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.

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 from the school in 1996.

A Fremont, Nebraska, native, Gdowski and his wife, Sam, have three sons -- Isaac, Luke, and Tommy.



Jason Tarver
Defensive Coordinator
Inside Linebackers
2nd season at Vanderbilt
24th season overall
Santa Clara '97

Jason Tarver, one of the brightest defensive coaches in the nation with experience in both collegiate and professional football, joined the Commodores in 2018. The 2019 season is his second as defensive coordinator while mentoring Vanderbilt's inside linebackers.

Tarver, who worked with Vanderbilt head coach Derek Mason at Stanford in 2011, brings 16 years of NFL experience to Nashville after working with the San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders.

During his career, Tarver has worked with many outstanding coaches, including Mason and David Shaw at Stanford, Bill Walsh, Steve Mariucci, John McVay, Mike Singletary, Chip Kelly and Kyle Shanahan at San Francisco, Dennis Allen at Oakland, and Bob Toledo at UCLA.

In 2018, Tarver coordinated a young defense that helped the Commodores to the Texas Bowl. The unit was led by cornerback Joejuan Williams, linebackers Jordan Griffin and Dimitri Moore, and safety LaDarius Wiley. Williams led the SEC with 18 passes defended and became a second-round pick of the New England Patriots. Griffin paced the defense with 119 stops while Moore earned SEC All-Freshman honors after leading all first-year defenders in the league with 84 tackles. Wiley ranked third on the team with 83 tackles.

Tarver comes from the 49ers where he served as a senior defensive assistant (outside linebackers) in 2017. He also worked with outside linebackers in 2016 and linebackers in 2015 during his three-year San Francisco stint.

From 2012-14, Tarver served as defensive coordinator for the Oakland Raiders under head coach Dennis Allen. Tarver's innovations helped the Raider defense to overall improvement in his first two years with the team.

In 2011, Tarver joined the Stanford staff, working as a co-coordinator with Mason under Shaw. That year, he and Mason molded the Cardinal defense into one of the Pac-12's top units, ranking either first or second in the conference in total defense, scoring defense, rushing defense and quarterback sacks among other categories.

From 2001-10, Tarver worked with the San Francisco staff. He joined the 49ers as an offensive quality control from 2001-03, moved to an assistant running backs position in 2004, then served as outside linebacker coach from 2005-10.

Tarver served as a graduate assistant at UCLA from 1998-2000. He started his career as a defensive and special teams coach at West Valley (Calif.) College from 1996-97.

Tarver, a native of Northern California, entered Santa Clara in 1993 on scholarship but the football program was cut by university officials just months later. He later played the 1994-95 seasons as a defensive back at West Valley (Calif.) College before returning to Santa Clara to complete his undergraduate degree.

Tarver earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry at Santa Clara in 1997, and a master's degree from UCLA in 2000.

Tarver and his wife, Katie, are the parents of two boys -- Merrick and Keegan.



Devin Fitzsimmons
Special Teams Coordinator
Tight Ends
1st season at Vanderbilt
15th season overall
Bucknell '05

The 2019 season is Devin Fitzsimmons' first on the Vanderbilt coaching staff. He serves as special teams coordinator and tight ends coach for Derek Mason's Commodores.

Fitzsimmons spent the previous five years before his arrival on West End in the National Football League, serving as assistant special teams coach for Detroit.

Fitzsimmons helped the Lions establish one of the most consistent and efficient special teams units in the NFL. He mentored one of the NFL's top kickers in Matt Prater, who converted on 132 of 153 field goal attempts (86.3 percent) during Fitzsimmons' five-year tenure. Lions' punter Sam Martin also averaged at least 43 yards each year during Fitzsimmons' service, topped by an average of 48.5 yards in 2016.

In 2018, the Lions' kickoff coverage units ranked among the NFL's best. The unit tied for second in the league, holding opponents to an average drive start at the 22.4-yard line. Detroit long snapper Don Muhlbach also participated in the 2019 Pro Bowl.

Lions rookie Jamal Agnew earned 2017 All-Pro recognition as a punt returner with a 15.4-yard average. He also returned two punts for touchdowns that year.

Fitzsimmons served as the Lions' tight end coach in 2015 for the final eight games of the regular season. In that span, Detroit tight ends Eric Ebron, Brandon Pettigrew and Tim Wright combined for 32 catches, 316 yards and four touchdowns. That season, Lions' defender Don Carey topped the NFL with 14 solo tackles on special teams.

Before joining the Lions, Fitzsimmons spent the 2013 season coaching special teams and tight ends at Delaware. As a unit, the Blue Hens special teams group ranked second in the nation in net punting average (41.47) and ninth in blocked kicks (six). Doubling as the team's tight ends coach, he helped PR/WR Rob Jones and tight end Nick Boyle earn all-conference honors and punter Eric Enderson claim freshman all-America recognition by The Sporting News.

Prior to his time at Delaware, Fitzsimmons was an offensive assistant at Rutgers in 2012 and got his first taste of the NFL as an offensive quality control coach with the Indianapolis Colts in 2011. He also had previous coaching stints at Richmond (2010), Virginia (2009), Kansas State (2007-08), Bucknell (2006) and Shaw (2005).

Fitzsimmons played quarterback and wide receiver at Bucknell, earning a bachelor's degree in history in 2005.

Fitzsimmons and his wife, Katie, are the parents of a son, Liam, and a daughter, Nora.



Terrence Brown
Cornerbacks
2nd season at Vanderbilt
5th season overall
Stanford '13

Terrence Brown joined Derek Mason's defensive staff in 2018. The 2019 season is his second as Vanderbilt's cornerbacks coach.

In 2018, Brown helped develop junior Joejuan Williams into one of the nation's top cornerbacks. Williams, a Nashville product, topped the Commodores with four interceptions and 18 passes defensed during the season. He also led all cornerbacks in the Southeastern Conference cornerbacks in both categories.

Williams, who earned 2018 All-SEC recognition from coaches and the Associated Press, was selected by the New England Patriots in the second round of the 2019 NFL Draft as the 45th overall pick.

Brown also helped Donovan Sheffield to his best seasons as a senior. Sheffield tied for second among Commodores with five pass breakups while posting 38 tackles as a 12-game starter.

Brown came to West End from Seattle after spending three seasons as a defensive graduate assistant for the Washington Huskies under head coach Chris Peterson.

In 2017, Brown's efforts helped Washington to a 10-3 campaign and appearance in the Fiesta Bowl against Penn State. The Huskies defense limited opponents to just 16.1 points and 298 total yards per game. The Washington defense also produced 15 interceptions and recovered nine fumbles during the season.

Brown helped transform the 2016 Washington defense into one of the Pac-12's and nation's best units. That season, Washington ranked first in the Pac-12 in scoring and total defense while ranking fifth nationally in scoring defense and eighth in total defense. Brown worked with consensus All-American safety Budda Baker, second-team All-American cornerback Sidney Jones and Pac-12 Defensive Freshman of the Year Taylor Rapp. That Huskies defense led the Pac-12 and ranked eighth in FBS in scoring defense while also leading the Pac-12 in total defense en route to an appearance in the College Football Playoff semifinals.

In Brown's first year assisting on the Washington staff, the Huskies defense played a key role in the team's 7-6 season and a postseason bowl victory. The unit ranked 13th nationally in scoring defense in 2015.

Brown played for Mason at Stanford, where he was a two-year starter at cornerback. In his final season at Stanford, he started all 14 games at cornerback, finishing fifth on the team with 65 tackles as the Cardinal (12-2) won the Pac-12 title and defeated Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl. In 2011, he started nine games and appeared in all 13 contests as the Cardinal went 11-2 and earned a berth in the Fiesta Bowl. Brown also played in six games as a sophomore in 2010 for a Stanford squad that went 12-1 and beat Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

Brown is a native of Compton, California, having graduated from Orange Lutheran High School where he earned first-team All-Trinity League and second-team All-CIF Southern Section honors. He also ran track as a prep standout.

Brown is married to Courtney Flores.



Jovan Haye
Defensive Line
2nd season at Vanderbilt
2nd season overall
Vanderbilt '07

The 2019 season is the first for Jovan Haye, a former Vanderbilt defensive standout and a veteran of the NFL, as the Commodores' defensive line coach.

In 2018, Haye served as a Vanderbilt quality control, assisting defensive coordinator Jason Tarver and other Commodore position coaches.

Haye was a two-time captain and All-Southeastern Conference performer for the Commodores while starting 34 games on the defensive line from 2002-04.

As an All-SEC defensive end in 2003, Haye was a Nagurski Award and Hendricks Trophy candidate, registering 76 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 quarterback sacks. That year, he set a modern team record with 4.5 tackles for loss at TCU, a performance that included three sacks, two forced fumbles and an interception.

As a senior, Haye finished with 48 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack.

He ended his Vanderbilt career with 11.5 sacks and 17 tackles for loss among 149 tackles.

Haye was selected in the sixth round of the 2005 NFL Draft by Carolina. He played for one season with the Panthers before moving on to the Cleveland Browns for the 2006 season.

Later in 2006, he joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where he played three seasons. In Tampa Bay, Haye started 30 games at defensive tackle, earning 118 tackles and six quarterback sacks.

After the 2009 season, Haye signed with Tennessee, playing the 2009-10 seasons with the Titans.

During his NFL career, Haye registered 6.5 quarterback sacks among 185 tackles.

A native of Mandeville, Jamaica, who moved to the United States in the first grade, Haye eventually would start as a prep lineman at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale before signing a scholarship with the Commodores.

He earned a bachelor's degree in human and organizational development from Vanderbilt in 2007.

Haye and his wife Jennifer live in Brentwood. They are the parents of three girls -- Jorielle, Jaiana and Janiyah.



Tim Horton
Running Backs
1st season at Vanderbilt
29th season overall
Arkansas '90

Longtime Southeastern Conference coach Tim Horton is in his first year on the Vanderbilt staff as the Commodores' running backs coach.

Prior to his arrival on West End, Horton coached in the SEC for the previous 12 years, serving as the offensive assistant coach at Auburn and Arkansas. During that time, he coached five SEC Player of the Year performers and nine all-conference running backs.

From 2013-18, Horton served as Auburn's running backs coach. He also served as the Tigers' recruiting coordinator in 2015-16. In 2018, the Tiger offense averaged 30.9 points/game, 389.9 total yards and 167.5 rushing yards. Horton's top pupil in 2018, Ja'Tarvious Whitlow, earned All-SEC freshman recognition after rushing for 787 yards and six touchdowns.

From 2013-17, Horton coached four running backs that paced the SEC in rushing: Heisman Trophy finalist Tre Mason (2013), Cameron Artis-Payne (2014), Kamryn Pettway (2016) and Kerryon Johnson (2017). Mason and Johnson both earned SEC Offensive Player of the Year honors during Horton's tenure.

In 2017, Horton coordinated special teams for the Tigers and coached kicker Daniel Carlson, the SEC Special Teams Player of the Year. Horton became the only assistant in league history to coach the SEC Offensive and Special Teams Player of the Year in the same season.

From 2007-12, Horton served a similar capacity at the Arkansas where he starred as an undergraduate in the 1980's. At Arkansas, where he was also recruiting coordinator, Horton was one of just two coaches in the nation to coach four different 1,000-yard rushers from 2007-10, including 2007 Doak Walker Award winner Darren McFadden and All-American Felix Jones.

Horton has coached in 13 bowl games, including the 2013 national championship game.

Horton has also succeeded in preparing running backs for the NFL. Thirteen different running backs coached by Horton have become NFL starters, including McFadden, Jones, Peyton Hillis, Mason, Artis-Payne, Payton Barber and Johnson.

Prior to coaching at Arkansas, Horton spent the 2006 season as running backs coach at Kansas State, and wide receivers and running backs coach at Air Force from 1999-2005. He began his coaching career at Appalachian State in 1990, helping the program to a 67-32 record during eight seasons, including Southern Conference championships in 1991 and 1995 and five NCAA Division I-AA playoff appearances.

Horton was a four-year letter winner at Arkansas, starting as a split end and punt returner from 1987-89. As a senior captain, Horton earned second-team All-SWC honors after hauling in 23 catches for 453 yards and serving as the team's top punt returner. During Horton's Arkansas playing career, the Razorbacks compiled a 38-11 record, won back-to-back SWC titles (1988-89) and appeared in four straight bowl games.

Horton and his wife, Lauren, are the parents of a daughter, Caroline, and a son, Jackson.



Marc Mattioli
Defensive Secondary
5th season at Vanderbilt
10th season overall
Rhodes '09

Marc Mattioli joined Derek Mason's defensive staff in 2015 and the 2019 season is his fourth on West End.

In 2018, Mattioli developed LaDarius Wiley, Frank Coppet and Tae Daley into productive starting safeties. The trio ranked among Vanderbilt's top-10 tackles during the season.

Wiley, a two-year starter, ranked third on the team with 83 tackles. After the season, he signed an NFL undrafted free agent deal with the Tennessee Titans.

Daley and Coppet, both seeing significant collegiate action for the first time, registered 45 and 30 tackles, respectively. Coppet also ranked second on the team with three interceptions.

Wiley was Mattioli's second understudy to move to the next level. Mattioli also coached two-year starting cornerback Tre Herndon, who made the Jacksonville Jaguars' 2018-19 active roster after signing as a rookie free agent.

Mattioli started with the Commodores in 2014 as safeties coach, coming from Stanford where he served as a defensive graduate assistant under Mason.

Mattioli was a defensive quality control assistant for the Cardinal secondary in 2014, focusing his efforts on the Stanford secondary. From 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 defense also posted as many interceptions (12) as touchdown passes allowed.

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 College southwest of Atlanta.

A native of Rochester, New York, Mattioli played tight end as a freshman at Rhodes 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 graduated from Rhodes in 2009 with a degree in political science. He also earned a master's degree from LaGrange.



Aaron Moorehead
Wide Receivers
2nd season at Vanderbilt
11th season overall
Illinois '03

Aaron Moorehead joined Derek Mason's staff in 2018, and serves as the Commodores' wide receiver coach for his second season in 2019.

In Moorehead's first year at Vanderbilt, he mentored Kalija Lipscomb to one of the finest seasons ever by a Commodore. Lipscomb posted 87 receptions and 916 receiving yards, both among the top totals in team history. Entering his senior season, Lipscomb ranked among Vanderbilt's all-time top-10 with 151 catches, 1,845 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns.

Another of Moorehead's pupils, CJ Bolar, posted 34 receptions for 440 yards and two scores in his first year with the program.

Moorehead came to West End after serving as wide receivers coach at Texas A&M for three seasons.

At Texas A&M, Moorehead helped develop one of the SEC's most exciting players in recent years in Christian Kirk. In his three years at College Station, Kirk amassed 234 receptions, good for 2,856 yards and 26 touchdowns. In addition to Kirk, Moorehead developed Josh Reynolds into a standout receiver at Texas A&M. As a junior and senior in 2015-16, Reynolds posted 112 catches, 1,946 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns.

Both Kirk and Reynolds went on to kickstart NFL careers -- Kirk was a second-round pick of the Arizona Cardinals, and Reynolds was a fourth-round selection of the Los Angeles Rams.

Two more Texas A&M receivers mentored by Moorehead, Ricky Seals-Jones and Damion Ratley, also played in the NFL -- Seals-Jones with Arizona and Ratley with the Cleveland Browns.

During his time at Virginia Tech, Moorehead had three wide receivers post 40-plus catches in the same season for the first time in program history. In 2013, Willie Byrn, Demetri Knowles and Joshua Stanford combined for 146 receptions and 1,941 receiving yards for the Hokies. The next year, Byrn, Isaiah Ford and Cam Phillips amassed 143 catches and 1,595 receiving yards. Ford went on to play wide receiver with the Miami Dolphins.

From 2010-12, Moorehead worked on the Stanford staff with Mason. He served as an offensive graduate assistant for Cardinal teams that played in the Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl and Fiesta Bowl.

Moorehead started his collegiate coaching career as an offensive graduate assistant at New Mexico in 2009.

Moorehead spent five years in the NFL as a wide receiver with the Indianapolis Colts. He played on the Colts' squad that captured Super Bowl XLI by defeating the Chicago Bears. The world championship allowed Moorehead and his father, Emery, to become the first father-son combo to both win a Super Bowl.

Moorehead played collegiately at Illinois from 1999-2002. He finished his Illinois career with 85 receptions, good for 1,293 yards and nine touchdowns.

A native of Deerfield, Illinois, Moorehead earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from Illinois in 2003.

He and his wife, Rosalyn, have three children -- Avari, Mason and Aliah.



Cameron Norcross
Offensive Line
4th season at Vanderbilt
19th season overall
Nevada '99

Cameron Norcross joined the Commodores in 2016 as the team's offensive line coach. The 2019 season is his fourth with the program.

In 2018, Norcross' offensive front -- led by seniors Justin Skule and Bruno Reagan and sophomore Devin Cochran -- opened holes for record-breaking running back Ke'Shawn Vaughn, who rushed for 1,244 yards and 12 touchdowns. Vaughn's rushing total was the second highest in team history. The unit also ranked among the most productive in modern Vanderbilt history, averaging 411.2 total yards, the most by a Commodore offense since 1974.

Norcross' offensive line also blocked effectively in 2016-17, helping running back Ralph Webb set multiple team records, including 4,173 career rushing yards and 33 rushing touchdowns.

Norcross has helped two Vanderbilt graduates move on to the next level in Skule and 2016 graduate Will Holden. Skule, a three-year starter under Norcross, was tabbed by the San Francisco 49ers in the sixth round of the 2019 NFL Draft. Holden was a fifth-round pick in the 2017 NFL Draft and has started with the Arizona Cardinals.

Norcross came to Nashville after serving four years at Fresno State and an 11-year stint at Nevada, his alma mater. As a Fresno State staffer, Norcross helped the Bulldogs to a 29-23 overall record and three bowl appearances. Norcross' tenure at Fresno State featured an 11-2 campaign in 2013 that ended with the No. 21 Bulldogs facing Southern California in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Norcross' lines were the backbone of a potent offensive attack at Fresno State. From 2012-14, the unit helped Fresno to put up 500 or more yards of offense 18 times. The offense also tallied at least 40 points in 18 games.

The line led Fresno State in 2013 to one of its best seasons in program history, as the Bulldogs tied the school record for wins and captured the Mountain West title. With Norcross' aid, the Bulldog offense established nearly 20 school records during the season, including new marks for total offense and points.

Before joining the Fresno State staff, Norcross served at Nevada, helping his alma mater to seven consecutive bowl appearances from 2005-11. A three-year letterman on the Wolf Pack offensive line (1997-99), Norcross was an All-Big West selection in 1998.

Norcross started at Nevada as a graduate assistant under coach Chris Tormey in 2001-02. In 2003, he was hired on full-time as the tight ends and co-offensive line coach. Wolf Pack Hall of Fame Head Coach Chris Ault returned to the program as head coach in 2004, keeping Norcross on his staff in the same role until 2010 when he was promoted to the run-game coordinator and offensive line coach. Norcross played an important role in the development of Ault's innovative Pistol offense since its inception in 2005.

Nevada led the nation in rushing in 2009, a year in which the Wolf Pack became the first team in NCAA history to have three 1,000-yard rushers in the same season.

At Fresno State and Nevada, Norcross coached nearly 20 players to garner either All-America or all-conference honors.

A native of Ely, Nevada, Norcross holds a bachelor's degree from Nevada in management. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters, Kylie and Madison, and one son, Jacob.



Matt Weikert
Outside Linebackers
1st season at Vanderbilt
15th season overall
Ohio '02

Matt Weikert joined the Commodores in 2019 as the program's outside linebackers coach.

Prior to arriving on West End, Weikert spent 12 seasons at Air Force, including nine as outside linebackers coach. Weikert previously coached the Falcons' outside linebackers from 2007-11 before coaching the defensive line in 2013 and inside linebackers in 2012.

Weikert helped transform the Air Force defense into one of the top units in the Mountain West Conference, ranking among the league's leaders in defensive scoring, rushing, passing and total defense.

He also oversaw the development of John Rabold as one of the top defensive players in the conference in 2007. Rabold was an all-conference first team honoree, recorded 74 tackles and a team-best 17.5 tackles for loss. Rabold also had 5.5 quarterback sacks and led the conference with four fumble recoveries in addition to three forced fumbles.

In 2009, Air Force had one of its best defenses in school history. The defense led the conference and ranked fifth nationally in pass defense with 154.3 yards/game. The unit was second in the conference and 11th nationally in total defense, allowing just 288.3 yards/game. The team was second in the league and 10th nationally in scoring defense (15.7), Air Force's best mark since 1998. The defense also scored five touchdowns in 2009.

Weikert served as Wake Forest's operations and video assistant in 2006 in his second stint at the school. He spent the 2005 season as the outside linebackers coach at Chattanooga. Prior to his work in Chattanooga, Weikert worked at Wake Forest for two years as a graduate assistant. The first year he was the defensive graduate assistant, working primarily with defensive coordinator Dean Hood and linebackers coach Brad Lambert. He was also heavily involved with the scout offense in preparing the defensive unit each week, as well as weekly opponent game planning. He was also an offensive graduate assistant, working closely with offensive coordinator Steed Lobotzke.

Weikert originally joined the Wake Forest staff in 2002 as a recruiting intern.

A 2002 graduate of Ohio, Weikert received a bachelor's degree in communications.

While at Ohio, Weikert was a member of the football team for five seasons, four of which came under the direction of head coach Jim Grobe. He earned all-Mid-American Conference second team honors in 2000 after leading the Bobcats in tackles for loss (16) and sacks (6). Weikert had two interceptions and broke up four passes. His 16 tackles for loss ranked third in the conference.

Weikert, a native of Covington, Ohio, and his wife, Kelly (Graher), have four sons -- Laken, Knox, Finley and Major.

Staff



Bret Ingalls

Senior Offensive Analyst
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Idaho '84



Darrius Darden-Box

Quality Control • Offense
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Southeast Missouri State '16



Quinshon Odom

Quality Control • Offense
3rd season at Vanderbilt
Shaw '14



Patrick Ashford

Graduate Assistant • Offense
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Tennessee '15



Keith Jones

Graduate Assistant • Offense
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Kenyon '14



Darryl Tapp

Quality Control • Special Teams
1st season at Vanderbilt
Virginia Tech '05



Joel Parker

Graduate Assistant • Special Teams
1st season at Vanderbilt
Auburn '17



Osia Lewis

Special Assistant to the Head Coach
Senior Defensive Analyst
4th season at Vanderbilt
Oregon State '86



Jeff Imamura

Senior Defensive Analyst
1st season at Vanderbilt
TCU '97



Tate Benton

Quality Control • Defense
5th season at Vanderbilt
Mississippi State '15



Jeremy Garrett

Quality Control • Defense
1st season at Vanderbilt
Mississippi '07



Bryce Lewis

Quality Control • Defense
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Vanderbilt '17



TJ Weyl

Graduate Assistant • Defense
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Cornell '12

Staff



Jason Grooms

Assistant Athletic Director • Football
6th season at Vanderbilt
Ohio '01



Jake Kirkendall

Director • Football Operations
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Ohio '07



Charlotte Seigel

Internal Operations Coordinator
Assistant to the Head Coach
6th season at Vanderbilt
Appalachian State '02



Austen Everson

Director • Player Personnel
4th season at Vanderbilt
Ohio '07



Eric Lammers

Director • Recruiting
7th season at Vanderbilt
Bowling Green State '09



Corey Phillips

Assistant Recruiting Coordinator
4th season at Vanderbilt
Austin Peay '04



Andrea Cain

Director • Recruiting Relations
24th season at Vanderbilt
Auburn '89



Taylor Searels

On-Campus Recruiting Coordinator
1st season at Vanderbilt
Auburn '19



Erica Duane

Graphic Designer
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Clemson '17



Dr. Christiana Russell

Director • Player Development
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Ohio State '95



Corey Guymon

Assistant Director • Player Development
4th season at Vanderbilt
Mississippi '15



Chas Petrone

Director • Football Video Production
3rd season at Vanderbilt
Auburn '14



Jordan Hunt

Equipment Manager
3rd season at Vanderbilt
Alabama '11



Beverly Brothers

Administrative Assistant
36th season at Vanderbilt

Staff



James Dobson
Head Strength Coach
5th season at Vanderbilt
Wisconsin '96



Tyler Clarke
Assistant Director • Strength Coach
5th season at Vanderbilt
Iowa '05



Fahd Jindani
Assistant Strength Coach
3rd season at Vanderbilt
Christopher Newport '14



Matt Manninger
Assistant Strength Coach
5th season at Vanderbilt
Nebraska '12



Ervin Young
Assistant Strength Coach
1st season at Vanderbilt
Cumberland (Tenn.) '11



Marcus Sesson
Assistant Equipment Manager
3rd season at Vanderbilt



Tyler Bryant
Equipment Assistant
3rd season at Vanderbilt



Tom Bossung
Assistant Athletic Director • Sports Medicine
20th season at Vanderbilt
Indiana State '89



Justin Wenzel
Assistant Athletic Trainer
15th season at Vanderbilt
Grand Valley State '01



Adam Clemens
Assistant Athletic Trainer
6th season at Vanderbilt
Delaware '97



Kerry Wilbar
Assistant Athletic Trainer
13th season at Vanderbilt
Miami (Fla.) '05



Jordan Pierce
Assistant Athletic Trainer
2nd season at Vanderbilt
Iowa State '15



Miya Sullivan
Assistant Athletic Trainer
6th season at Vanderbilt
Tennessee State '96