



# HEAD COACH MASON



Mason and his squad celebrate bowl eligibility last November after registering an impressive home victory over Tennessee in the regular season finale.

Entering his fourth season in charge of the Vanderbilt football program, head coach Derek Mason has the Commodores trending upward, on and off the field.

In 2016, Mason's Vanderbilt program improved its overall record and Southeastern Conference record for the third consecutive season. The Commodores finished the regular season 6-6 and 3-5 in SEC play, earning a trip to the Camping World Independence Bowl and the program's first postseason appearance under Mason.

Vanderbilt's 6-6 record in the 2016 regular season featured four wins in its final six games, including marquee SEC victories over Georgia, Ole Miss and Tennessee. The Commodores topped Georgia, 17-16, on Oct. 15 for Vanderbilt's first road win over an SEC opponent in Mason's tenure. The Commodores closed the regular season by scoring a combined 83 points in wins over the Rebels and Volunteers. Their 45 points against Tennessee marked the program's most in SEC play since 1971.

Under Mason, Commodore student-athletes are performing well on and off the football field.

In 2016, inside linebacker Zach Cunningham became Vanderbilt's first consensus All-American in more than three decades. The redshirt junior swept first-team honors from every prominent outlet in the nation. Cunningham's final accolade came when the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) selected him to its First Team All-America Defense. In April, the Houston Texans selected Cunningham with the No. 57 overall pick in the NFL Draft.

## MASON: FACTS & NOTES

### YEARLY IMPROVEMENT ON THE GRIDIRON

Each of Mason's three Commodore squads have registered more victories than the year before, becoming the first Vanderbilt head coach to accomplish the feat since George MacIntyre (1979-81).

### OFF THE FIELD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Student-athletes in Mason's Vanderbilt program have performed superbly in the classroom. After capturing the 2015 AFCA Academic Achievement Award for graduation success, the team came back last year to top the SEC and rank among national leaders in NCAA APR scores. Mason also created an innovative summer internship program that benefits players entering the workforce after graduation.

### STAFF STABILITY HAVING POSITIVE IMPACT

Mason's coaching staff this fall will virtually mirror the 2016 version. The stability includes two key staffers - head strength coach James Dobson and offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig - each returning for a third year on West End.

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Running back Ralph Webb continued his surge to the top of the Commodore record books during Mason's third season. As a redshirt junior, Webb earned second team All-SEC honors after rushing for 1,283 yards and 13 touchdowns on 250 carries, passing Zac Stacy to set a new program single-season rushing record. He enters the 2017 season as Vanderbilt's all-time leader with 3,342 yards and 739 rush attempts.

In 2016, Mason's Commodores showed continued improvement in several key statistics. Vanderbilt was vastly improved inside the 20-yard line, leading the nation in red-zone defense (65.3 percent) and ranking sixth nationally in red-zone offense (93.5 percent). After struggling with turnovers two years ago, the 2016 squad was much improved, finishing the year forcing four more miscues than they committed.

Mason's steady improvement at Vanderbilt became evident after the 2014 season when he decided to add the role of defensive coordinator to his head coaching duties. The decision paid off immediately: Vanderbilt's 2015 defense ranked among the nation's most improved, finishing among the NCAA Top 30 in scoring defense, total defense, first downs allowed, red-zone defense and third-down efficiency.

In 2016, Mason's defense continued to impress, ranking high in the SEC in scoring defense, total defense, rushing defense and red-zone defense.

Mason enters the 2017 preseason with an excellent coaching staff that returns nearly intact from a year ago. The only change - former staffer Warren Belin replacing Osia Lewis at outside linebackers coach - was made after Lewis sought reduced duties to battle a medical diagnosis.

Mason has made impressive coaching hires since his first year on campus. Prior to the 2015 season, he lured highly regarded offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig and head strength coach James Dobson from the Big Ten, along with a pair of impressive young staffers in secondary coach Marc Mattioli and wide receivers coach Cortez Hankton. Mason continued to enhance the staff before the 2016 campaign, hiring Lewis, Jeff Genyk as special teams coordinator/running backs coach and Cameron Norcross as offensive line coach. He capped off the staff changes by adding two rising stars in the profession in C.J. Ah You and Chris Marve, to mentor the defensive line and inside linebackers, respectively.

Those changes helped Mason guide back-to-back improvement in the



## SUCCESS IN THE VEST

During the team's November stretch that included home wins over Ole Miss and Tennessee, Mason's vest became a popular item on campus.

Commodores in 2015-16, with keen observers of college football seeing more progress ahead.

Mason's recruiting at Vanderbilt also continues to rise. Mason's 2017 signing class of 21 prospects ranks as the highest in his Vanderbilt tenure and effectively targets positions of need for future Commodore squads.

Since arriving on campus, Mason has focused on developing men of character and integrity with the football team. Five former football players, including former starters in Patton Robinette and Jacob Schultz, have been accepted into the Vanderbilt Medical School in the last two years. In the last three calendar years, the team has nearly 120 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipients and more than 60 Dean's List honorees.

Mason's Commodores continued to serve as the SEC leader in the classroom. After guiding the Commodores to a share of the AFCA-Memphis Touchdown Club Academic Achievement Trophy in 2015, Vanderbilt topped the conference in four-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) last year, marking the third straight season the Commodores have led the SEC in that category. Vanderbilt football finished fourth nationally with a 992 APR score, far ahead of the national average (962).

Mason's administration of the Vanderbilt program also includes innovation. He has been instrumental in creating a summer internship



## ADDRESSING THE TEAM

Mason talks to his Commodore squad after the team's featured practice last spring.

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program for Commodore student-athletes that is one of the most unique in the nation. Started in 2014 within the football team, the internship program has been expanded to other Vanderbilt squads, providing excellent work experience opportunities for student-athletes.

Mason has also supported foreign study by members of the team. Since 2014, eight Commodore players have studied abroad, including linebacker Oren Burks and offensive guard Ean Pfeifer this year.

The personable Mason has become actively involved in the Middle Tennessee community, contributing to several local and university causes, while making appearances at various social and sporting events.

Mason became Vanderbilt's 28th head coach in January 2014, coming to Nashville after serving as associate head coach and Willie Shaw Director of Defense for the 2013 Pacific-12 champion Stanford Cardinal.

Mason became defensive coordinator at Stanford in 2011, after helping the Cardinal to a pair of Rose Bowl appearances and consecutive Pac-12 titles in 2012-13. Mason's defensive units at Stanford were considering among the nation's elite. Under Mason, the Cardinal ranked among the NCAA 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).

The Cardinal were also one of only five teams to allow less than 100 rushing yards per game in 2013. 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.

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

Mason's leadership paved the way to a historic defensive output in 2012, breaking Stanford's single-season record with 57 sacks and pacing the Pac-12 in scoring defense, total defense and rushing defense. In 11 of 14 games in 2012, Stanford held its opponent to 20 or fewer points,



## STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Mason, who prides himself in developing men of character, shares a moment with Ralph Webb as the junior breaks Vanderbilt's career rushing record against Tennessee.

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.

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-Pacific 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



## ENJOYING NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Mason and Voice of the Commodores' Joe Fisher share a laugh with offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig during ceremony on campus.

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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 University 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.

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 7th 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 University. He was recruited to the university by Head Coach Larry Kentera, the grandfather of recent Vanderbilt football alum Kris Kentera.

During his NAU career, Mason was influenced by several outstanding coaches, including Kentera, 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 at Camelback High



## THE MASON FAMILY

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

School in the city.

Derek and his wife, LeighAnne, have two daughters, Makenzie, 18, and Sydney, 16.



## MASON: HEAD COACH AND DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

After his first season, Mason returned to his coaching roots by becoming the team's defensive coordinator. The unit has been much improved since Mason's decision.

# DEREK MASON



## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT MASON...

"Derek Mason is building the Vanderbilt football program the right way. After what we witnessed last year with his squad, I expect the Commodores to keep growing and improving under Coach Mason for years to come."

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

"What's most impressive about the job Derek Mason has done at Vanderbilt is the way he's stuck to his plan, adjusted when he's needed to and turned Vanderbilt into a bowl team in his third season. The Commodores are very much a reflection of their head coach -- disciplined, resilient, smart, and most of all, hungry for more."

Chris Low, ESPN.com national college writer

"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."

Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt WR (2010-13); Philadelphia Eagles (2014-17)

"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... 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

"Derek Mason isn't satisfied with just being good enough at Vanderbilt. He won't back down in Nashville. He embraces the challenges and tackles them as hard and as vigorously as anyone ever has with the program."

Edward Aschoff, ESPN.com SEC writer

## VANDERBILT HEAD COACH DEREK MASON

**AGE:** 47

**CAREER RECORD:** 13-24 (4th season)

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

**DEGREE:** 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

### 2014-17 VANDERBILT (Head Coach)

Introduced Jan. 17, 2014 as the 28th head coach in team history... 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 Vanderbilt defensive coordinator responsibilities... Earned first road win at MTSU in October 2015... Earned first SEC victory Oct. 24, 2015 with 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... Defense led the nation in the red zone.

### 2013 STANFORD (Willie Shaw Director of Defense)

Promoted to position of Willie Shaw Director of Defense, Mason guided 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 finished year ranked No. 10 on strength of four victories over ranked foes... The defense ranked third in NCAA in rushing defense and 10th in scoring defense... Unit again ranks among Pac-12's best in numerous defensive categories... For second straight year, Mason's defense limited powerful Oregon spread offense, holding Ducks scoreless for first three quarters in eventual Stanford win... Three Mason standouts – LB Trent Murphy, LB Shayne Shov and DB Ed Reynolds – earn 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 is 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 and rushing defense... The 2012 defense also held eight opponents under 100 rushing yards and limited high-powered Oregon to just 14 points in an overtime win.

### 2010 STANFORD (defensive backs)

Hired by 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.

### 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 U. 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 SAINT 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... Bison defensive staff was directed by current Vanderbilt coordinator David Kotulski.

### 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.

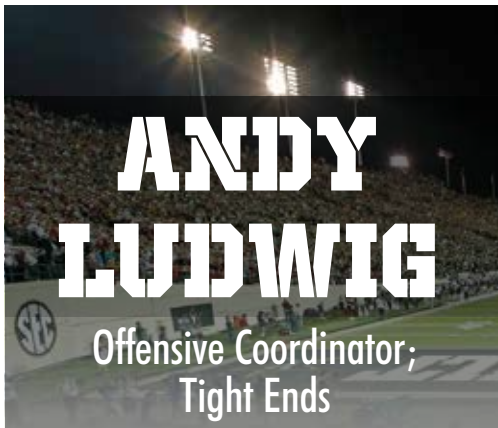
### 1994 MESA (ARIZONA) COMMUNITY COLLEGE (wide receivers)

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, regarded among the leading college offensive coordinators in America, enters his third year on the staff. In addition to his coordinator role, Ludwig serves as tight ends coach.

In 2016, Ludwig's Commodore offense was a balanced attack, averaging 164.5 rushing yards and 191.2 passing yards. The unit was paced by quarterback Kyle Shurmur and running back Ralph Webb. In his first year as a starter, Shurmur set a team sophomore record with 2,409 passing yards. Webb broke the team's single-season rushing record with 1,283 yards en route to eclipsing the Commodore career mark with 3,342 rushing yards. Twenty-six rushing touchdowns helped the unit rank sixth nationally in conversions inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Webb highlighted Ludwig's 2015 offense, established a new team sophomore record with 1,152 rushing yards. Wideout Trent Sherfield also produced 51 catches for 659 yards.

Ludwig joined Vanderbilt after two seasons as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Wisconsin, where the Badgers set numerous offensive records. A coaching veteran with 30 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).



establishing the second highest single-season rushing total in NCAA FBS history. 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 win over Nebraska. Behind Gordon, the 2014 Badgers amassed a school-record 4,482 rushing yards. In 2013, Wisconsin was one of only four FBS teams to amass 3,500 rushing yards and 2,500 passing yards.

Prior to joining Wisconsin, Ludwig spent the 2011-12 seasons at San Diego State. In 2012, the Aztecs enjoyed success, going 9-4. In 2011, the SDSU offense averaged 427.4 yards.

Ludwig has been an offensive coordinator at the NCAA level for 21 years. His teams have been to 15 bowl games. Prior to his years at Vanderbilt and San Diego, Ludwig served as offensive coordinator at California (2009-10), Utah (2005-08), Oregon (2002-04), Fresno State (1998-01), Cal Poly (1997) and Augustana (1993-94). Ludwig helped Utah go to four 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 two more letters at Portland State (1985-86).

Ludwig and his wife Jill are the parents of a son, Joe, and daughter, Delaney. Their son is a member of the University of Iowa football team.

## More on Coach Ludwig...

**HOMETOWN:** Ogden, Utah

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

**COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:**

2016-17	Vanderbilt - Offensive Coordinator/TE Coach
2015	Vanderbilt - Offensive Coordinator/QB Coach
2013-14	Wisconsin - Offensive Coordinator/QB 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

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. The 2014 squad nearly matched those totals,

averaging 34.6 points and 468.9 total yards.

Ludwig's Wisconsin offenses were led by Heisman Trophy finalist Melvin Gordon. The consensus first team All-American rushed for 2,587 yards in 2014,



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

# COACHING STAFF

## JEFF GENYK

Special Teams Coordinator;  
Running Backs

Jeff Genyk, one of the nation's top special teams instructors and a former collegiate head coach, enters his second year as special teams coordinator and running backs coach.

In 2016, Genyk mentored Ralph Webb to the best season ever by a Commodore running back. Webb's single-season record of 1,283 yards enabled him to eclipse the team's all-time rushing mark with 3,382 yards. Webb also scored 13 rushing touchdowns and remarkably did not have a fumble all season. A second running back, Khari Blasingame, contributed 10 rushing touchdowns.

Genyk also helped placekicker Tommy Openshaw produce one of the finest seasons ever by a Commodore. Openshaw's 15 field goal conversions in 2016 ties for the fourth highest season total. Punter Sam Loy averaged 41.6 yards as a first-year contributor.

In 2015, Genyk worked at Northwestern University as a consultant to Head Coach Pat Fitzgerald on special teams, offense and game management. The Wildcats went 10-3 and advanced to the Outback Bowl.

In 2013-14, Genyk coordinated special teams and worked with tight ends at the University of Wisconsin. During the two years at Wisconsin, he worked with current Vanderbilt offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig.

The Badgers had plenty of success: winning the 2014 Big Ten West title



and beating Auburn in the 2014 Outback Bowl.

Before joining Wisconsin, Genyk held similar positions at University of California under Head Coach Jeff Tedford. While in Berkeley, Genyk led dramatic improvement with the Cal special teams units, including back-to-

back first team All-Pac 12 selections in kicker Giorgio Tavecchio and punter Bryan Anger, who is now a four-year veteran with Jacksonville after being a third-round draft pick by the Jaguars.

Genyk served as the head coach at Eastern Michigan from 2004-08. He coached the Eagles to their best conference finish in seven years in 2004 with a third-place showing in the MAC West Division.

While at Eastern Michigan he coached three All-Americans including defensive end Jason Jones and placekicker Andrew Wellock. Jones was a second-round selection of Tennessee in the 2008 NFL Draft. He just completed his eighth NFL season. Wellock was a finalist for the 2004 Lou Groza Award.

From 1994-2003, Genyk worked at Northwestern, with responsibility for the special teams unit during each of his final five campaigns with the Wildcats. He was also the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator for five seasons (1999-2003) after having worked with the safeties in 1998 and the outside linebackers in 1997.

Genyk was on the Northwestern football staff for three Big Ten championship teams and four bowl appearances. The 1995, 1996 and 2000 teams all won Big Ten titles. At Northwestern, Genyk mentored Fitzgerald as an All-America linebacker and defensive player of the year.

Genyk was a quarterback and punter at Bowling Green State from 1978-81. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bowling Green in 1982. He later earned a master's of business administration and marketing from Western Michigan in 1989 and a master's of education and social policy from Northwestern in 1994.

Genyk and his wife Lisa are the parents of a son, Jake, and daughter, McKenna.



Coach Genyk and his wife, Lisa, with their son Jake and daughter McKenna.

## More on Coach Genyk...

**HOMETOWN:** Ann Arbor, Mich.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's: Business Administration, Bowling Green (Ohio) State, 1982

**COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:**

2016-17	Vanderbilt - Special Teams Coordinator/RB Coach
2015	Northwestern - Special Teams/Off. consultant
2013-14	Wisconsin - Special Teams Coordinator/TE Coach
2010-12	California - Special Teams Coordinator/TE Coach
2004-08	Eastern Michigan - Head Coach
1999-2003	Northwestern - RB Coach/Special Teams Coach
1997-98	Northwestern - LB Coach
1992-94	Northwestern - Def. Graduate Assistant

back first team All-Pac 12 selections in kicker Giorgio Tavecchio and punter Bryan Anger, who is now a four-year veteran with Jacksonville after being a third-round draft pick by the Jaguars.

Genyk served as the head coach at Eastern Michigan from 2004-08. He coached the Eagles to their best conference finish in seven years in 2004

# COACHING STAFF



**C.J.  
AH YOU**

Defensive Line

C.J. Ah You, a former University of Oklahoma defensive standout and assistant, enters his second year as Vanderbilt's defensive line coach.

In his first year at Vanderbilt, Ah You helped senior Adam Butler and junior Nifae Lealao enjoy their best seasons in a Commodore uniform. Butler contributed a team-high four quarterback sacks among 31 tackles while Lealao added 2.5 sacks as the starting nose tackle. After the season, Butler signed a rookie deal with the reigning Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

Ah You also developed Jonathan Wynn and Dare Odeyingbo into solid first-year starters at end last year.

Ah You came to Derek Mason's defense after serving two years at Oklahoma under former head coach Bob Stoops. In 2015, Ah You worked as a defensive line quality control assistant for a Sooner squad that finished 11-2, captured the Big 12 Conference championship and played in the College Football Playoff national semifinals. The 2015 Oklahoma defense played an important role in the Sooners' team success. The Sooner pass rush ranked sixth nationally with 40 quarterback sacks and helped produce 20 interceptions, eighth most in the NCAA. The unit was dominant against Big 12 competition, ranking among the conference leaders in scoring defense, total defense, defensive pass efficiency, sacks, interceptions and first downs allowed.



Anchoring the 2015 Sooner defense was senior defensive lineman Charles Tapper, who was named first team All-Big 12 after registering seven quarterback sacks and four

Bowl. He also served as the Sooners' defensive captain in 2006.

Ah You started 25 games for the Sooners at defensive end. As a senior in 2006, he earned first team All-Big 12 honors after registering eight tackles for loss, four quarterback sacks and three forced fumbles. Ah You was named Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year as a junior when he contributed 45 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks. He was also named Defensive MVP of the Holiday Bowl.

Selected by Buffalo in the seventh round of the 2007 NFL Draft, Ah You eventually played for the St. Louis Rams from 2007-12, contributing six quarterback sacks and 41 total tackles during his career.

Ah You worked closely with several charities as an NFL player, including United Way, Red Cross and the National Breast Cancer Foundation among others.

Ah You completed a bachelor's in sociology from the University of Oklahoma in 2006.

Ah You and his wife Chynea are the parents of three daughters: Makiah, 14; Atiana, 9; and Alei'a, 3.

## More on Coach Ah You...

**HOMETOWN:** La Habra, Calif.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's: Sociology, Oklahoma, 2006

**COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:**

2016-17 Vanderbilt - DL Coach

2014-15 Oklahoma - Quality Control Assistant (Defense, Special Teams)

forced fumbles.

A native of Orange County in Southern California, Ah You was a two-year standout on the defensive front for the University of Oklahoma from 2005-06, helping the Sooners to a 19-7 overall record, the 2006 Big 12 title, and an appearance in the 2006 Fiesta



Coach Ah You and his wife, Chynea, with their three daughters: Makiah, Atiana and Alei'a.

# COACHING STAFF



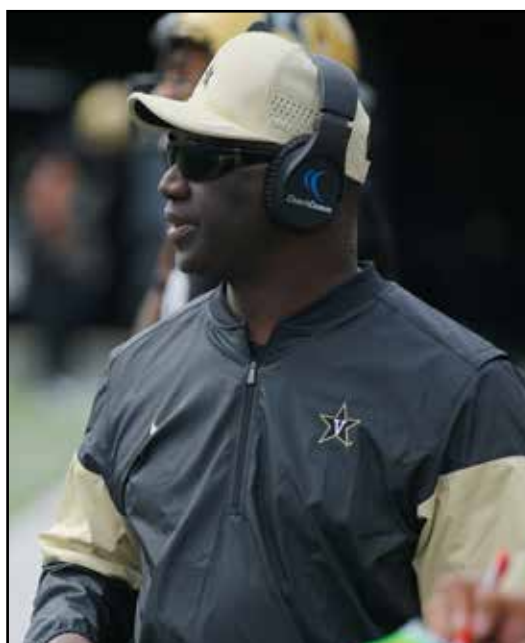
Warren Belin has returned to Vanderbilt after an eight-year absence. He will guide Commodore outside linebackers in 2017.

Belin brings 25 years of coaching experience, both at the collegiate and NFL levels, to Derek Mason's defensive staff.

Belin spent the last four seasons at his alma mater, Wake Forest University. He coached Deacon linebackers from 2013-15, and served as Director of Recruiting and High School Relations in 2016.

In his previous stint at Vanderbilt, Belin coached linebackers from 2002-09 under Bobby Johnson. Belin produced several All-SEC recipients and future NFL performers while serving on the Commodore staff. In 2002, Belin mentored senior Hunter Hillenmeyer, who topped the nation with 168 total tackles and became a National Scholar Athlete recipient from the National Football Foundation while playing his first year at inside linebacker. In 2006-07, inside linebacker Jonathan Goff was an All-SEC recipient and one of the league's most productive linebackers.

Marcus Buggs, a third Commodore linebacker also mentored by Belin,



followed Hillenmeyer and Goff into the NFL after finishing his college career.

Belin also worked two years with current Vanderbilt inside linebacker coach Chris Marve, who earned Freshman All-America recognition in 2008 and All-SEC honors in 2009.

Belin departed Vanderbilt in 2010 to join Mark Richt's defensive staff at Georgia. That season, he mentored Bulldog linebacker Akeem Dent, who earned All-SEC honors and finished second in the league with 126 tackles.

Belin joined the NFL ranks in 2011, coaching linebackers for two seasons with the Carolina Panthers. Two of Belin's Carolina pupils were standouts: James Anderson

set a team-record for tackles in 2011 and Luke Kuechly eventually earned Associated Press NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors.

In 2013, Belin returned to Wake Forest as inside linebacker coach. The following year, he mentored Brandon Chubb to All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors.

From 1997-2001, Belin coached linebackers at Southern Methodist. In each of Belin's five seasons with the Mustangs, at least one member of his linebacking corps captured All-Western Athletic Conference recognition.

He tutored linebackers at Cornell in 1991 and 1993-94 and at East Tennessee State in 1992. He also directed the defensive line and linebackers at William & Mary in 1995-96.

Belin was a four-year letterwinner at Wake Forest from 1987-90. He accumulated 236 tackles and earned 30 starts in his collegiate career. Belin was a prep standout at Forest Hills High School in Marshville, N.C., helping the school to a 2A state championship in 1984.

Belin and his wife Yolanda have three daughters, Camryn and twins Morgan and MacKenzi.

## More on Coach Belin...

**HOMETOWN:** Marshville, N.C.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's: Health & Sports Sciences, Wake Forest, 1990

### COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:

2017	Vanderbilt - OLBs Coach
2016	Wake Forest - Director of Recruiting
2013-15	Wake Forest - LBs Coach
2011-12	Carolina (NFL) - LBs Coach
2010	Georgia - ILBs Coach
2002-09	Vanderbilt - LBs Coach
1997-2001	SMU - LBs Coach
1996	William & Mary - LBs Coach
1995	William & Mary - DL Coach
1993-94	Cornell - LBs Coach
1992	East Tennessee State - LBs Coach



Coach Belin and his wife, Yolanda, with their daughters: Camryn, Morgan and MacKenzi.

# COACHING STAFF



**GERRY  
GDOWSKI**  
Quarterbacks

Gerry Gdowski enters his fourth season on Derek Mason's staff. He begins his second year as quarterbacks coach after mentoring the tight ends in 2014-15.

In 2016, Gdowski helped Kyle Shurmur enjoy a solid season in his first year as a starting quarterback. Shurmur finished the year setting a new sophomore team record with 2,409 passing yards. He also concluded the regular season on a high note, leading the Commodores to impressive SEC wins over Ole Miss and Tennessee. Shurmur threw for 416 yards against the Vols, the fifth highest single-game ever by a Commodore.

As the team's tight ends coach, Gdowski mentored Steven Scheu, who combined for 65 receptions, 756 receiving yards and five touchdowns in the 2014-15 seasons. Scheu is now with the Denver Broncos.

Gdowski came to Vanderbilt after spending nine years at Ohio where he mentored quarterbacks. Gdowski also had titles of assistant head coach and co-offensive coordinator.

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 surpass 2,500 passing yards in three consecutive seasons.

In 2011, Gdowski's offense was the most productive unit in modern



Ohio University history, totaling 427 points and 6,241 total yards.

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 1989 team captain for the Cornhuskers and was named to the first team All-Big Eight. He was an eighth round choice of the New Orleans Saints in the 1990 NFL Draft.

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, are the parents of 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:**

2016-17 Vanderbilt - QB Coach

2014-15 Vanderbilt - Recruiting Coordinator/TE Coach

2008-13 Ohio - Assistant Head Coach/co-Off. Coordinator/QB Coach

2005-07 Ohio - QB Coach

2003-04 New Mexico State - Assistant Head Coach/Off. Coordinator

1998-2002 New Mexico State - QB Coach/Recruiting Coordinator

1996-97 South Dakota State - Off. Coordinator

1994-95 South Dakota State - QB/WR Coach

1991-93 Nebraska - Graduate Assistant (Offense)

# COACHING STAFF



## CORTEZ HANKTON

Wide Receivers

Cortez Hankton enters his third year as an offensive assistant coach. He guides the Commodore wide receiving corps.

Hankton, a former National Football League wide receiver who enjoyed success mentoring receivers in the Ivy League, joined Derek's Mason staff prior to the 2015 season.

In 2016, Vanderbilt's youthful receiving corps blossomed under Hankton. Junior wideouts C.J. Duncan, Trent Sherfield and Caleb Scott and freshman receiver Kalija Lipscomb combined for 129 catches and 1,751 yards. Duncan paced the corps with 44 catches and 494 yards. Sherfield and Scott came on strong at the end of the season, finishing with 34 and 24 receptions, respectively. Lipscomb's 27-reception total also ranks No. 8 all-time among Commodore freshmen receivers.

Sherfield was a standout in 2015, posting 51 receptions in Hankton's first season on campus.

Before joining Mason's staff, Hankton spent three years mentoring wide receivers at Dartmouth University, helping the Big Green to a 20-10 overall record, including an 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.



nomination for the league's Offensive Player of the Year. The Tuskers then moved to Virginia for the 2011 season. There, 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, 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 letterwinner 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 is married to the former Shon Holder. They are the parents of a young son, Cortez III.

### More on Coach Hankton...

**HOMETOWN:** New Orleans, La.

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

**COLLEGIATE COACHING CAREER:**

2015-17 Vanderbilt - WRs Coach

2012-14 Dartmouth - WRs Coach

Hankton produced All-Ivy League caliber receivers all three years at Dartmouth.

Hankton was a standout receiver at Texas Southern University before being signed as an undrafted rookie free agent by Jacksonville. As a rookie in 2003, he

played in all 16 games, catching 17 passes for 166 yards. In 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 Minnesota in 2007 and spent the entire 2008 season on the injured reserve with Tampa Bay.

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



Coach Hankton and his wife, Shon, with their young son, Cortez III.

# COACHING STAFF



Chris Marve, a former two-time Commodore defensive captain who ranks among the program's all-time leading tacklers, enters his second year as the team's inside linebackers coach.

In 2016, Marve's top understudy Zach Cunningham enjoyed one of the greatest seasons ever by a Commodore. He earned consensus first team All-America recognition en route to arguably becoming the most decorated defender in program history.

Cunningham, who topped the SEC with 125 total tackles and made one highlight play after another last year, eventually was taken No. 57 overall by Houston in the 2017 NFL Draft.

Marve joined the Commodore defensive staff in 2014, working as a quality control assistant. After focusing on linebackers as a graduate assistant in 2015, Marve was promoted to the inside linebacker position prior to the 2016 campaign.

Mason has described Marve, a former four-year Vanderbilt starting linebacker, as "one of the top young defensive minds" in college football.

Marve's value has been evident since joining the Vanderbilt staff. In the last two years, the unit has enjoyed vast improvement in several key statistical categories, including scoring defense, total defense, first downs



allowed, third-down efficiency and red-zone defense. He capped the freshman season with a 10-tackle performance in the Commodores' Music City Bowl victory over Boston College.

As a sophomore, Marve earned second team All-SEC recognition from league coaches after posting career highs with 121 total tackles and 57 solo stops. He also averaged 10.1 tackles in conference play.

In 2010, Marve again earned coaches' All-SEC honors as a junior defensive co-captain. That year, he finished with 80 tackles and eight tackles for loss.

As a senior captain, Marve contributed 91 tackles, earned All-SEC recognition from coaches and the Associated Press, and was instrumental in leading the 'Dores back to postseason play. Marve's final game came in the Liberty Bowl, played in his hometown.

Marve ranks eighth on Vanderbilt's career defensive charts with 397 total tackles.

Marve completed bachelor's degrees in sociology and human & organizational development in December 2011. He earned a

master's of education in higher education administration from Vanderbilt in 2015.

Marve is married to the former Lauren Dillard, a fellow Vanderbilt graduate.

## More on Coach Marve...

**HOMETOWN:** Memphis, Tenn.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's: Sociology, Human & Organizational Development, Vanderbilt, 2011

**COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:**

2016-17 Vanderbilt - ILBs Coach

2015 Vanderbilt - Defensive Graduate Assistant

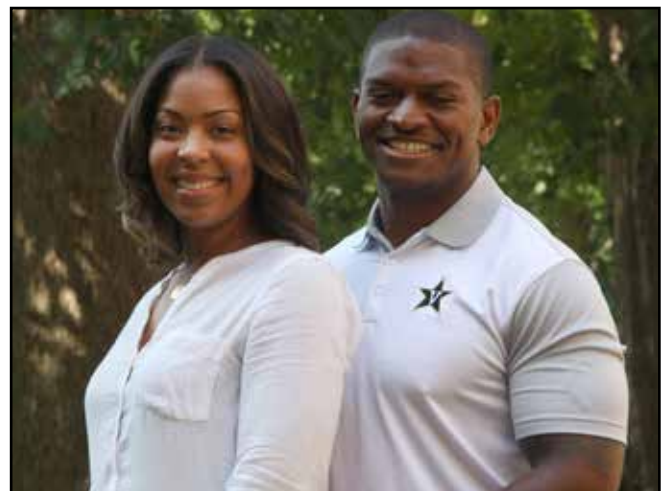
2014 Vanderbilt - Defensive Quality Control

Marve also helped Cunningham and fellow linebacker Nigel Bowden to banner campaigns in 2014-15. Cunningham earned first team All-SEC by posting 16.5 tackles for loss among 103 total stops. Bowden was a

Freshman All-SEC selection in 2014 after registering 78 tackles.

Marve became one of the most decorated players in Vanderbilt modern history by garnering All-SEC accolades in each of his four years. He topped the defense for tackles three different seasons and was an instrumental leader in the Commodores' push toward the 2008 Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl and the 2011 AutoZone Liberty Bowl.

The Memphis product quickly established himself as a Vanderbilt student-athlete, earning Freshman All-America and Freshman All-SEC



Coach Marve and his wife Lauren.



# COACHING STAFF



**MARC  
MATTIOLI**  
Defensive Secondary

Marc Mattioli enters his third year on the Commodore defensive staff. A former Stanford defensive assistant, Mattioli will serve as Vanderbilt's defensive secondary coach for the second straight year.

Mattioli, a former four-year letterwinner at Rhodes College in Memphis, developed Ryan White, Arnold Tarpley III and LaDarius Wiley into productive starting safeties in 2016. All three safeties ranked among the team's leading tacklers.

Vanderbilt's starting cornerbacks Torren McGaster, Tre Herndon and Taurean Ferguson also combined for four interceptions and 24 defended passes last year.

In 2015, Mattioli's safety pupils Andrew Williamson and Oren Burks garnered All-SEC consideration, with Williamson eventually earning a roster spot with the Indianapolis Colts in 2016 after a stellar senior campaign.

Mattioli joined Vanderbilt 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 in



in scoring defense and total defense in the 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 Football 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.

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:**  
2016-17 Vanderbilt - Defensive Secondary Coach  
2015 Vanderbilt - Safeties Coach  
2014 Stanford - Quality Control (Defense)  
2012-13 Stanford - Graduate Assistant (Defense)  
2010-11 LaGrange (Ga.) College - DL Coach

2014, focusing his efforts on the Stanford secondary. In 2012-13, he served as a defensive graduate assistant, 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 secondary was led by 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 Scholar-Athlete Award.

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



# COACHING STAFF



## CAMERON NORCROSS

Offensive Line

Cameron Norcross enters his second year as offensive line coach for the Commodores.

Norcross, who joined Vanderbilt after a stint at Fresno State, molded an offensive front lacking experience in 2016 into an improved unit that opened holes for Ralph Webb. The running back went on to set season and career rushing marks and help the offense rank sixth nationally in red-zone scoring success.

Last year, Norcross developed senior Barrett Gouger (center), redshirt freshman Ean Pfeifer (right guard) and sophomore Bruno Reagan (left guard) into solid first-year starters. His top pupil, senior tackle Will Holden, became a fifth round pick in the 2017 NFL Draft.

Norcross came to Nashville after serving four years at Fresno State and a 11-year stint at his alma mater, the University of Nevada.

As a Fresno State staffer, Norcross helped the Bulldogs to three bowl appearances. In 2013, the Bulldogs went 11-2 overall, and capped the year with a Las Vegas Bowl appearance.

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. In 2013, the Fresno State line was considered one of the best in program history as the Bulldogs

and co-offensive line coach. Wolf Pack Hall of Fame head coach Ault returned to the program as head coach in 2004, keeping Norcross on his staff in the same role all the way up 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. In nine seasons coaching offensive linemen at Nevada, Norcross mentored eight players to first team all-conference honors and another eight to second-team accolades.

Prior to joining Tim DeRuyter's staff at Fresno State in 2012, the two had previously worked together at Nevada in 2005 and 2006 when DeRuyter was the co-defensive coordinator for the Wolf Pack. Over those two seasons, DeRuyter and Norcross helped lead Nevada to a 17-8 record, a share of the

2005 WAC Championship and two bowl appearances.

A native of Ely, Nev., Norcross earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada in management.

He and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of a son, Jacob, and two daughters, Kylie and Madison.

### More on Coach Norcross...

**HOMETOWN:** Ely, Nevada

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's: Management, Univ. of Nevada, 1999

**COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER:**

2016-17 Vanderbilt - OL Coach

2012-15 Fresno State - OL Coach

2010-11 Nevada - Run Game Coordinator/OL Coach

2003-09 Nevada - TE's/Co-OL Coach

2001-02 Nevada - Offensive Graduate Assistant

tied the school record for wins and captured the Mountain West Conference championship.

Norcross mentored second team All-Mountain West recipient Alex Fifita and Academic All-America honoree Justin Northern at Fresno State.

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



Coach Norcross and his wife, Jennifer, with their three children: Kylie, Madison and Jacob.

# COACHING STAFF



## OSIA LEWIS

Senior Defensive Assistant;  
Consultant to Coach Mason

Veteran collegiate coach Osia Lewis will step away from his on-field coaching chores this season for health reasons.

A 27-year veteran of the collegiate coaching ranks, Lewis will serve as senior defensive assistant and special consultant to Coach Mason in 2017.

Mason announced the change in responsibilities last February shortly after Lewis learned of a cancer diagnosis days after the team's Camping World Independence Bowl appearance. Lewis is aggressively combating the illness and plans to return to full-time coaching.

In 2016, Lewis joined Mason's staff as senior defensive assistant and outside linebackers coach.

Lewis brought extensive experience to Vanderbilt, having served as a defensive coordinator at the collegiate and professional levels. He has coached in 10 bowl games with teams from the Pac-12, Big Ten, Conference USA and Mountain West.

Prior to joining Mason at Vanderbilt, Lewis worked five years as defensive line coach at San Diego State under head coach Rocky Long.

In 2015, San Diego State enjoyed a banner year on the strength of a top-ranked defense. The Aztecs finished 11-3 overall, captured the MWC championship and earned a 42-7 win over Cincinnati in the Hawaii Bowl.



league recognition during Lewis' tenure.

In 2014, the SDSU defense finished among the NCAA Top 20 in scoring defense and total defense.

Before San Diego State, Lewis worked as a coordinator in the United Football League in 2010, and as defensive coordinator at UTEP in 2008-09.

From 2003-07, Lewis served as defensive coordinator at the University of New Mexico. He also had stints coaching the Lobos' defensive line and linebackers.

In his tenure at New Mexico, the Lobos went to four bowl games and its defensive unit ranked fifth nationally in rushing defense in 2003.

In 2008-09, Lewis served as defensive coordinator at Texas-El Paso, then spent 2010 coaching in the United Football League.

From 1997-2002, Lewis guided linebackers and the defensive line at the University of Illinois. In his final year, the Illini played in the 2002 Nokia Sugar Bowl.

Lewis' first full-time coaching position at the NCAA FBS level came at his alma mater, Oregon State. He served as a linebackers coach and special teams coach with the Beavers from 1991-96.

A native of Tucson, Ariz., Lewis was a team captain and honorable mention All-America at Oregon State. Lewis was All-Pac 10 and named the Beavers' most inspirational player. He continued his playing career professionally in the Canadian Football League and in the Arena Football League.

Lewis earned a bachelor's in social science education from Oregon State in 1986. He also completed a master's in education from Oregon State in 1989.

Lewis and his wife, Darlene, are the parents of a son, Marvin, and a daughter, Kiana.

### More on Lewis...

**HOMETOWN:** Tucson, Ariz.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's: Social Science Education, Oregon State, 1988

**COLLEGIATE/NFL COACHING CAREER SINCE 1991:**

2017	Vanderbilt - Senior Def. Assistant/Consultant to HC
2016	Vanderbilt - Senior Def. Assistant/DLB Coach
2011-15	San Diego State - DL Coach
2008-09	UTEP - Defensive Coordinator
2006-07	New Mexico - Defensive Coordinator/LB Coach
2003-05	New Mexico - Defensive Coordinator/DL Coach
1997-2002	Illinois - Linebackers/DL Coach
1991-96	Oregon State - Special Teams/LB Coach

The Aztecs were sparked by an outstanding defense that ranked among the NCAA Top 10 in several defensive categories. The team finished the year fifth nationally in total defense (287.3 ypg), seventh in scoring defense (16.4 ppg), seventh in rush defense (108.7 ypg), and 10th in pass efficiency.

The defense also helped SDSU lead the nation in turnover margin. The Aztecs' interior pressure forced opponents into 34 turnovers, en route to a remarkable plus-19 turnover margin by season's end.

One of Lewis' top pupils in 2015 was junior Alex Barrett, who produced 13 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks while earning first team All-Mountain West honors. Barrett also was the fourth Aztec lineman to receive all-



Coach Lewis and his wife, Darlene, with their son Marvin and daughter Kiana.

# COACHING STAFF



James Dobson enters his third year as Vanderbilt's head strength coach.

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

Dobson has placed his stamp on the Commodore program, molding an enthusiastic roster that plays every snap with intensity, focus and energy. The Commodores' overall fitness has been on display in the fourth quarter when they outscored opponents 130-113 over the last two years. In 2016, the 'Dores ended the regular season on a 4-2 run, including key wins over Georgia, Ole Miss and Tennessee.

Prior to joining Vanderbilt, Dobson, a native of Mt. Horeb, Wisc., spent 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 conditioned by Dobson played 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 than 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. Dobson's top pupils at Vanderbilt include All-America linebacker Zach Cunningham and offensive lineman Will Holden, both selected in the 2017 NFL Draft, and Commodore all-time leading rusher Ralph Webb. At Nebraska, he worked with defensive tackle Ndamukong

Suh, cornerback Prince Amukamara and linebacker Lavonte David along others. His top Iowa pupils included safety Bob Sanders, tight end Dallas Clark, offensive tackle Robert Gallery and linebacker Chad Greenway.

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:**

2015-17 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: 3rd**  
**Alma Mater: Iowa, 2005**

Tyler Clarke enters his third 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 football conditioning, including winter and summer workouts, and in-season preparation.

Clarke came to Vanderbilt after serving seven seasons as an assistant strength coach with Dobson for the University of Nebraska football program.

Before moving to Nebraska, Clarke spent three seasons as a full-time assistant strength and coach at the University of Iowa. He also served as a student assistant with the Iowa 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 3-year-old son, Aleksandr, and 1-year-old daughter, Vera.



**Ben  
SCHUMACHER**

**Role: Assistant Coach,  
Strength Staff**  
**Year on Staff: 3rd**  
**Alma Mater: Concordia, 2008**

Ben Schumacher is in his third 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 workouts throughout the year. He also oversees the program's uses of hi-tech training aides.

Schumacher joined Vanderbilt after spending the 2014 season with Dobson working as an assistant strength coach with the Nebraska football program. 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. 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 is married to the former Kayla Reding. They are the parents of an infant son, Cooper.



**Aaron  
HILL**

**Role: Assistant Coach,  
Strength Staff**  
**Year on Staff: 3rd**  
**Alma Mater: Minnesota, 2013**

Aaron Hill enters his third year as an assistant under head strength coach James Dobson.

A native of St. Charles, Mo., Hill assists Dobson and his staff with all aspects of the Vanderbilt football program, including in-season and off-season training.

Hill joins Vanderbilt after serving a three-month strength and conditioning internship with the Carolina Panthers of the National Football League. Previously, he worked in a similar internship for the University of Minnesota football program during the 2014 regular season.

Hill was a linebacker and team captain at Minnesota, contributing 192 career tackles, five forced fumbles and four interceptions during a 47-game career. He was a two-time recipient of Minnesota's Butch Nash Award for competitiveness on and off the field.

Hill completed a bachelor's in kinesiology-sports science from Minnesota in 2013. He earned a master's of education in applied kinesiology-sport and exercise science from Minnesota the following year.

Professionally, Hill is certified through the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association.



**Matt  
MANNINGER**

**Role: Assistant Coach,  
Strength Staff**  
**Year on Staff: 3rd**  
**Alma Mater: Nebraska, 2013**

Matt Manninger enters his third season as a member of the Vanderbilt coaching staff, serving as an assistant to head strength coach James Dobson.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, Manninger has worked at Vanderbilt with Dobson's staff since June 2015.

Before joining the Commodore program, Manninger worked as a strength intern at the University of Maryland during the 2014 football season. He also served as a strength intern with University of Idaho student-athletes during the summer of 2014.

As an undergraduate student in Lincoln, Manninger earned a letter in 2012 as a linebacker with the Cornhusker football team.

He earned a bachelor's in dietetics and nutrition/exercise and health sciences from Nebraska. He later completed a master's in human nutrition from Eastern Michigan University.

Professionally, Manninger is certified through the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association.

# FOOTBALL STAFF



## Corey GUYMON

**Role: Graduate Assistant - Offense**

**Year on Staff: 2nd**

**Alma Mater: Mississippi, 2015**

Guymon enters his second year on the Vanderbilt staff, accepting a new role as graduate assistant in Andy Ludwig's offense.

In 2016, Guymon worked with Derek Mason's defense as an analytics quality control assistant.

Guymon joined the Commodores after serving as a student assistant at the University of Mississippi.

Guymon assisted the wide receiver staff at Ole Miss, aiding an offense that ranked among the SEC's highest scoring units in 2015.

Guymon earned a bachelor's in history from Ole Miss in 2015.

A native of Searcy, Ark., Guymon was a prep standout at Harding (Ark.) Academy.

Guymon is currently working on a postgraduate degree at Vanderbilt.



## Tate BENTON

**Role: Quality Control - Defense**

**Year on Staff: 3rd**

**Alma Mater: Mississippi State, 2014**

Benton enters his third year with the Vanderbilt program. Benton has moved into a defensive quality control role this year after serving two years as a graduate assistant.

As a Vanderbilt graduate assistant, Benton has worked with both sides of the ball: contributing to the offense in 2015 and aiding the defense in 2016.

Benton joined the Commodores after serving two seasons as an undergraduate assistant at Mississippi State.

Benton played wide receiver at Harding Academy before moving to Jackson, Tenn., where he graduated from Jackson Christian School. He attended Union (Tenn.) University for two years before transferring to Mississippi State.

Benton earned a bachelor's in history from Mississippi State in 2014 and a master's in liberal arts and sciences from Vanderbilt in 2016.



## Ryan BLAKNEY

**Role: Quality Control - Offense**

**Year on Staff: 3rd**

**Alma Mater: San Diego State, 2013**

Blakney enters his third season on staff, assisting offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig as a quality control assistant.

The native of San Diego came to Vanderbilt from the University of Wisconsin where he also worked with Ludwig. At Wisconsin, Blakney contributed to one of the NCAA's top offenses. In 2014, the Badgers, paced by first team All-America running back Melvin Gordon, averaged 34.6 points and 320.1 rushing yards.

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.

Blakney graduated from SDSU in 2013 with a bachelor's in kinesiology.



## Quinshon ODOM

**Role: Graduate Assistant - Offense**

**Year on Staff: 2nd**

**Alma Mater: Shaw (NC) Univ., 2014**

Odom enters his second year as an offensive graduate assistant.

Odom joined Vanderbilt after serving as an intern with the Eastern Kentucky football team during the 2015 season. He assisted the ECU offensive staff with an array of responsibilities, including preparing game plans, and generating weekly opponent scouting reports.

A native of Lakeland, Fla., Odom played quarterback at Shaw (N.C.) University, helping the Bears to a Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association title during a four-year career from 2010-13. A team captain, Odom also earned academic honors off the field, and served as president of Shaw's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) as a senior.

Odom earned a bachelor's in communications and journalism from Shaw in 2014 and a master's in sports management from Florida State in 2015. He is working toward a second postgraduate degree at Vanderbilt.



## Cedric CALHOUN

**Role: Quality Control - Defense**

**Year on Staff: 4th**

**Alma Mater: Morehouse College, 1995**

Calhoun enters his fourth year on the Vanderbilt staff, and his second year as a defensive quality control for Derek Mason.

In 2014-15, Calhoun worked as a Vanderbilt strength assistant.

Calhoun is a former defensive coach at Florida International (2010-12), Dartmouth (2006-09), Alabama A&M (2002-05) and Morehouse (Ga.) College (1998-2001). He began his coaching career at Idaho State in 1997.

Calhoun played collegiately at Grossmont (Calif.) C.C. He earned a bachelor's in health and physical education from Morehouse (Ga.) College in 1995.

Calhoun is the father of two daughters, Olusade and Adejola.



## Javon MARSHALL

**Role: Quality Control - Defense**

**Year on Staff: 2nd**

**Alma Mater: Vanderbilt, 2013**

Former Vanderbilt standout Javon Marshall enters his second year on the Commodores, serving as a defensive quality control. He was a defensive graduate assistant during the 2016 season.

Marshall, from Huber Heights, Ohio, earned four letters as a Commodore safety from 2010-13, and served as a defensive co-captain during the 2013 season. Marshall helped Vanderbilt to three consecutive postseason bowl appearances, including wins in the Franklin-American Mortgage Music City Bowl and BBVA Compass Bowl. With Marshall in the starting lineup, the Commodores registered a 24-15 overall record, including back-to-back nine win campaigns in 2012-13.

Marshall contributed 144 solo stops, 209 total tackles, eight tackles for loss and three interceptions during his Commodore career.

Marshall earned a bachelor's in human & organizational development from Vanderbilt in 2013. He completed a master's in education from Vanderbilt in 2016.



# FOOTBALL STAFF



## Jason GROOMS

**Role: Assistant Athletics Director/  
Football**

**Year on Staff: 4th  
Alma Mater: Ohio, 2001**

Jason Grooms enters his fourth season as a Vanderbilt football administrator. Grooms is serving his third season as Assistant Athletics Director for Football after being hired by Head Coach Derek Mason in 2014 as director of football operations.

Grooms continues a working relationship with 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 oversees all facets of the football operations program, from the day-to-day operations to responsibilities including budget control, team travel, player development, office organization including staff and personnel coordination and the Gridiron Club.

Grooms has managed Vanderbilt's future scheduling under Mason. During the last three years, the Commodores have announced games or series with Notre Dame, Stanford, Kansas State, Purdue, Wake Forest, N.C. State, Hawaii and Colorado State. Agreements with several Football Championship Series (FCS) teams also have been finalized.

Grooms has been active with several football 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, helped with the redesign of the John Rich Practice Complex synthetic turf and weight room, developed the players' lounge and recruiting display room, and helped produce a stadium facelift consisting of graphics and bowl recognitions. He has also helped create a player development department, aided with a summer internship program that now includes student-athletes from other Vanderbilt sports, and introduced several new technologies such as iPad playbooks, Catapult testing and the Teamworks communication network.

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 the current President of the AFCA National Committee for Directors of Football Operations. In 2013, Grooms was named FootballScoop.com's Director of Football Operations of the Year for his contributions at Ohio.

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

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.



## Matt BRITAIN

**Role: Director of  
Football Operations**

**Year on Staff: 4th  
Alma Mater: Ohio, 2012**

Matt Britain enters his fourth year on the Vanderbilt staff. Britain was promoted to Director of Operations in September 2016 after serving two years as Assistant Director of Football Operations.

Britain helps oversee and direct the daily management of the Vanderbilt Football program, working to ensure unity among student-athletes, coaches, strength and conditioning, sports medicine, personnel and recruiting, video, equipment, player development, academics, compliance, marketing, facilities, sponsorship and athletics administration.

Britain also directs program travel and logistics, and related contract negotiations, and coordinates the Commodores' game-day operations.

Britain's responsibilities also include budget and calendar planning/scheduling, vendor and partner contract negotiation, food and beverage, facility maintenance and new project development, special events, and management of annual camps, clinics and meetings.

Additionally, Britain serves as a liaison to the university, the university athletic department, local partners and vendors, alumni, player and staff families, and law enforcement. He helps ensure full compliance by the program with all NCAA and university rules and regulations.

Britain was a student-athlete for Ohio University, playing offensive line from 2008-10. While at Ohio, Britain also served as a student manager, a facility and event operations assistant and a football operations assistant from 2010-13.

After leaving Ohio and returning to the Atlanta area, Britain was in private business until accepting the Vanderbilt role.

A native of Marietta, Ga., and a graduate of North Cobb H.S., Britain earned a bachelor's from Ohio University in sport administration in 2012.

Britain and his wife Stefanye were married in July. The newlyweds reside in Nashville with their German shepherd Zeus.



# FOOTBALL STAFF



## Austen EVERSON

**Role: Director of Player Personnel**  
**Year on Staff: 2nd**  
**Alma Mater: Ohio, 2007**

Austen Everson, a Middle Tennessee native who brings collegiate and National Football League experience to the Commodore staff, enters his second year on Derek Mason's Vanderbilt staff. Everson serves as Director of Player Personnel, directing a staff that includes Director of Recruiting Eric Lammers, Assistant Recruiting Coordinator Corey Phillips, Assistant Recruiting Coordinator Donielle White, and Director of Recruiting Relations Andrea Cain.

Everson and the player personnel office oversee evaluation of current and future prospects, organize unofficial and official recruiting visits, plan recruiting-related travel for position coaches, direct gameday recruiting events, coordinate summer prospect camps, and act as staff liaison between other Vanderbilt University departments, high school coaching staffs and NFL personnel.

A native of Brentwood, Tenn., Everson spent one year as team operations coordinator for the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

From 2009-2015, Everson served at Nebraska under Head Coach Bo Pelini. He started with the Cornhuskers serving four years as director of high school relations before being promoted to assistant director of football operations.

Everson was a two-time team captain at Ohio University for Frank Solich. He earned four letters playing quarterback, starting 27 career games for the Bobcats. As a senior in 2006, Everson guided Ohio to a 9-5 regular and postseason appearance in the GMAC Bowl. That year, working under current Vanderbilt quarterback coach Gerry Gdowski, Everson threw for 1,356 yards and seven touchdowns.

During his undergraduate career at Ohio, Everson was a two-time academic All-Mid-America Conference (MAC) selection, a National Football Foundation National Honor Society inductee and a Draddy Trophy semifinalist while also earning accolades in the weight room as the All-American Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year.

Everson completed multiple degrees from Ohio University. He earned a bachelor's in 2007 in management, and later completed master's in business administration in 2008 and sports administration in 2009.

Everson was a prep standout at Brentwood H.S. just south of Nashville. As a senior, he was named All-Midstate Player of the Year by the Tennessean and was a finalist for Tennessee's Mr. Football Award.

Everson is married to the former Leah Luther.



## Eric LAMMERS

**Role: Director of Recruiting**  
**Year on Staff: 5th**  
**Alma Mater: Bowling Green State, 2009**

Eric Lammers enters his second year as Vanderbilt's Director of Recruiting.

This marks Lammers' fifth year with the program. From 2012-14, he assisted in the team's player personnel office, then took off a year before returning to Mason's staff in his current role.

Lammers' responsibilities include organizing unofficial and official recruiting visits, directing gameday recruiting events, coordinating summer camps for high school prospects, and acting as a liaison with NFL personnel.

Prior to joining the Vanderbilt program in 2012, Lammers coached varsity football and taught in the Urbana (Ohio) School District.

A native of Ottawa, Ohio, Lammers earned a bachelor's in business education from Bowling Green (Ohio) State in 2009.

Lammers and his wife, the former Stacy Young, are the parents of an infant daughter, Ella.



## Rayna STEWART

**Role: Director of  
Player Development**  
**Year on Staff: 3rd**  
**Alma Mater: Northern Ariz., 1996**

Former National Football League player and high school coach Rayna Stewart enters his third year as Vanderbilt's Director of Player Development.

Stewart serves as a liaison between student-athletes, the Commodore coaching staff and other departments in Vanderbilt Athletics.

In addition to mentoring football players during their time at Vanderbilt, Stewart also coordinates student-athlete involvement in community service projects, manages the team's innovative summer internship program, and serves as a liaison between the coaching staff and high school coaches.

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

Stewart enjoyed a five-year career in the National Football League. He was a defensive back and on special teams for Houston-Tennessee (1996-97), Miami (1998) and Jacksonville (1999-2000). He finished his pro career with two interceptions, 84 total tackles and three fumble recoveries.

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. 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 Jady. His wife is an executive principal in the Nashville school system, and earned her doctorate of education at Vanderbilt.



## Mike KROEGER

**Role: Graduate Assistant,  
Player Development**  
**Year on Staff: 2nd**  
**Alma Mater: Illinois State, 2014**

Mike Kroeger is in his second year assisting the Vanderbilt football program. He serves as a graduate assistant in the player development office.

A native of Wheaton, Ill., Kroeger graduated from Illinois State University where he competed as a thrower in track & field.

Kroeger earned a bachelor's in integrated marketing communications from Illinois State.

Kroeger is currently enrolled in postgraduate studies at Vanderbilt.

# FOOTBALL STAFF



**Tom  
BOSSUNG**

**Role: Assistant A.D./Sports Medicine;  
Head Athletic Trainer**

**Year on Staff: 18th**

**Alma Mater: Indiana State, 1990**

Tom Bossung enters his 18th year as head athletic trainer for the team and director of the department's athletic training program. In 2014, he was promoted to Assistant A.D.-Sports Medicine.

Bossung enters his 22nd year assisting Vanderbilt athletes. He came to campus as a graduate assistant in 1990, earning a master's degree 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 men's basketball. 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 and Sarah.

## Athletic Training/Medical Staff



**WARNE FITCH, MD**  
Head Team Physician



**CHARLIE COX, MD**  
Team Orthopaedic Surgeon



**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



**Ed  
HIGGINS**

**Role: Assistant A.D./Facilities &  
Game Operations**

**Year on Staff: 4th**

Ed Higgins serves as Assistant Athletic Director of Facilities and Game Operations.

In his fourth year, Higgins is responsible for all grounds and facility operations during gamedays on the Vanderbilt campus, and holds a variety of ongoing facility duties with the Commodore program.

Higgins came 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 has earned two business degrees from the University of Kentucky and a master's in sports administration from Ohio University.



**Jordan  
HUNT**

**Role: Equipment Manager**

**Year on Staff: 1st**

Jordan Hunt enters his first season with Derek Mason's program, serving as Head Equipment Manager.

Hunt comes to Vanderbilt after serving two years as equipment manager at Connecticut where he coordinated and oversaw all phases of the football team's equipment operations.

Prior to joining UConn, Hunt served three years at South Dakota State University, including a two-year stint as equipment manager.

Hunt is a 2011 graduate of the University of Alabama where he was a member of the football equipment staff there for four seasons and the lead manager in his senior year. The Crimson Tide won two national championships during his time at the school.



**Chas  
PETRONE**

**Role: Director of Football  
Video Production**

**Year on Staff: 1st**

Chas Petrone enters his first season with Derek Mason's program, serving as Director of Football Video Production. He is responsible for organizing the team's video production staff, managing game and practice film, preparing video for uses by position coaches, and creating highlight videos and graphics for team use.

Petrone came to the Commodores in January after serving as football video coordinator at Florida Atlantic University during the 2016 season.

Prior to joining the FAU staff, Petrone worked for two years at Middle Tennessee State University, serving as both a football graduate assistant and intern in the Blue Raider video department.

Petrone earned a bachelor's in physical education from Auburn University in 2013. He completed a master's in 2016 from MTSU.

# FOOTBALL STAFF



**CHARLOTTE SIEGEL**  
Internal Operations Coordinator/  
Assistant to Coach Mason



**ANDREA POOLE CAIN**  
Director of Recruiting  
Relations



**COREY PHILLIPS**  
Assistant  
Recruiting Coordinator



**DONIELLE WHITE**  
Assistant  
Recruiting Coordinator



**BEVERLY BROTHERS**  
Administrative Assistant,  
Football Staff



**KYLE PARKINSON**  
Assistant Athletic Director  
Communications



**LARRY LEATHERS**  
Football Contact  
Communications



**BRYNNE KELLY**  
Marketing and  
Promotions



**ELIZABETH WRIGHT**  
Director of  
Academic Support



**NATE BELL**  
Associate Director of  
Academic Support



**EUGENE HENDERSON**  
Assistant Director of  
Academic Support



**SARA SANDERS**  
Academic  
Advisor



**LACEY BALLARD**  
Assistant Director,  
Video Production



**WES WHALEY**  
Assistant Director,  
Video Production



**TYLER BRYANT**  
Football  
Equipment



**KEVIN KONSTABEL**  
Football  
Equipment



**MARCUS SESSON**  
Football  
Equipment