



WILLIE TAGGART

**Head Coach
First Season
WKU, 1998**

Willie Taggart was named head football coach at Western Kentucky University on November 23. Taggart spent the last three seasons as running backs coach at Stanford. He previously spent eight seasons as an assistant coach at WKU from 1999-2006 and served as co-offensive coordinator for WKU's 2002 I-AA National Championship team. A standout player at quarterback who set 11 school records for the Hilltoppers from 1995-98, Taggart is one of only four players in WKU's 91-year football history to have his jersey retired. He becomes WKU's 17th head football coach, but only the seventh since 1948.

Taggart, who joined the Stanford coaching staff following a 1-11 season in 2006, was instrumental in the development of the Cardinal offense and running game. Stanford, ranked as high as 14th in the nation by the Associated Press in 2009, posted an 8-4 overall record with wins over nationally ranked Southern Cal and Oregon. Stanford leads the Pac 10 in total offense (441.4 ypg.) while ranking second in the conference and 11th in the nation in rushing offense (224.3 ypg.). Stanford's 2,692 rushing yards in 2009 broke the school's single-season rushing yardage mark that has stood since 1949 (2,481). The Cardinal were led by senior running back Toby Gerhart, who under Taggart's tutelage ranked second in the nation in rushing (144.7 ypg.). One of 10 semifinalists for the Doak Walker Award, Gerhart carried a cumulative 3.25 grade point average as a management, science and technology major. He also rushed for a Stanford single-season record 1,736 yards and 26 touchdowns in 12 games in 2009, breaking his own single-season rushing record of 1,136 yards set in 2008, and was one of only five players invited to New York City for the 2009 Heisman Trophy Award presentation. The Cardinal's Sun Bowl appearance this season marks the school's first since 2001.

Taggart was at the helm of the Cardinal running game that finished second in the Pac-10 Conference in rushing offense in 2008, averaging 199.6 yards a game on the ground. Stanford's season rushing total of 2,395 yards was the third-highest mark in school history. In addition, Taggart's work with Gerhart helped the junior rush for a then single-season school record of 1,136 yards, as Gerhart became just the fifth running back in school history to go over the 1,000-yard mark. Gerhart had one career start prior to the 2008 season. A tireless recruiter, Taggart was responsible for recruiting Florida, Georgia and Kentucky for the Cardinal along with Riverside County, California.

Prior to his arrival at Stanford, Taggart spent the previous eight seasons on the WKU coaching staff (1999-2006) and helped guide the Hilltoppers to eight consecutive winning campaigns during the stretch. He worked with current Stanford head coach Jim Harbaugh in his first three seasons of coaching from 1999-2001. Taggart started his coaching career as WKU's wide receivers coach in 1999 before working with the quarterbacks from 2000-06. He was also the co-offensive coordinator in 2001 and 2002, helping lead the Hilltoppers to the Division I-AA national championship in 2002, and was promoted to assistant head coach in 2003.

Under Taggart's guidance from 2003-06, quarterback Justin Haddix set school career records with 8,890 yards of total offense, a 57.1 completion percentage, 50 touchdowns and a 137.28 pass efficiency rating. Haddix also finished his career ranked second all-time on the Hill with 541 completions and 7,929 yards passing.

Taggart helped coach an offensive unit that set school records for points (432), total yards (5,479) and first downs (263) en route to the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA national championship. The Hilltoppers ranked second in the nation in pass efficiency and sixth in rushing, and averaged 38.8 points per contest in four playoff victories.

In Taggart's first year calling plays in 2000, WKU ran for 293.4 yards per contest, leading the Gateway Football Conference and ranking second in the country in the category as WKU claimed the league title and advanced to the quarterfinals of the I-AA playoffs. In his first season in 1999, WKU ranked eighth in the nation and first in the conference in rushing.

Taggart's efforts helped WKU quarterbacks earn all-conference mention in three consecutive seasons - Jason Johnson (2000), Donte Pimpleton (2001) and Jason Michael (2002).

Taggart also spent his collegiate playing days at WKU (1995-98) and was only the third WKU athlete in the past half-century to hold down the quarterback slot for the Hilltoppers for four straight years. Taggart - who set 11 WKU school records - had his jersey retired on October 23, 1999. He currently is WKU's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns (47), ranks second in scoring (286 points), pass efficiency rating (127.71) and rushing yards (3,997), is tied for third in most 100-yard rushing games (17), and is tied for fourth in touchdown passes (30). His rushing yards were the most in NCAA Division I history at the time for a quarterback.

In each of his last two collegiate seasons, he was a finalist for the prestigious Walter Payton Award which is an honor given annually to the top offensive player in I-AA football. Taggart finished fourth in the balloting in 1997 and seventh as a senior the following year. An All-American as a senior, he was also the 1998 I-AA Independents' Offensive Player of the Year. Taggart was recruited to WKU by Jim Harbaugh to play for his father, Jack.

Taggart graduated from WKU with a bachelor's degree in social sciences in 1998.

As a prep standout at Manatee (Fla.) High School, he was a first team all-state and all-conference selection as a senior after guiding the Hurricanes to the state 5A Championship game. He led MHS to the state title his junior season and helped the school post a 26-4 record during that two-year span while recording more than 3,000 yards passing and 975 yards on the ground.

Taggart and his wife Taneshia have two children, Willie Jr. and Jackson.

The Taggart File

Born: August 27, 1976

Hometown: Palmetto, Florida

High School: Manatee HS, 1994

College: WKU, 1998 (B.A., Social Science)

Wife: Taneshia

Children: Willie, Jr.; Jackson

Coaching Career

1999: WKU (Wide Receivers)

2000: WKU (Quarterbacks)

2001-02: WKU (Co-Offensive Coordinator / Quarterbacks)

2003-06: WKU (Assistant Head Coach / Quarterbacks)

2007-09: Stanford (Running Backs)

2010-present: WKU (Head Coach)

Playing Experience

1994-98: WKU (Quarterback)



CLINT BOWEN

**Defensive Coordinator
First Season
Kansas, 1995**

Clint Bowen, an assistant on the University of Kansas staff the last 12 seasons including the last four as defensive coordinator, has been named WKU's defensive coordinator. Bowen also previously served as the Kansas special teams coordinator for five seasons in addition to various stints coaching the Jayhawks safeties, running backs and tight ends. He helped Kansas post a 3-1 bowl record during his tenure, including a 24-21 win over Virginia Tech in the 2008 Orange Bowl. Kansas finished the 2007 season with a 12-1 record and No. 7 national ranking in both the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today coaches polls.

Bowen served as the Kansas defensive coordinator the last two seasons after spending the 2006 and 2007 seasons as co-defensive coordinator. He also coached the Jayhawks' safeties from 2003-09. A former Kansas standout player, Bowen was promoted to co-defensive coordinator in February 2006 and to defensive coordinator in January of 2008. Prior to his promotion, Bowen spent five years as KU's special teams coordinator.

The 2008 Jayhawk defense forced 25 turnovers and recorded 29 sacks as nine different players recorded interceptions and 14 different Jayhawks registered sacks. Five players on the defensive side of the ball earned All-Big 12 recognition at the end of the year, including first-team selection Darrell Stuckey, one of Bowen's safeties. Kansas also ranked third in the Big 12 in pass efficiency defense and fourth in rushing defense. The Jayhawks ranked 28th nationally against the run, allowing just 123 yards per game on the ground. Kansas closed the season with a 56-21 win over Minnesota in the Insight Bowl.

Under Bowen's direction KU has had a safety earn All-Big 12 Honorable Mention honors or better every year since 2003. Stuckey, a national honors candidate in 2009 and an All-Big 12 First Team selection in 2008, recorded 98 tackles, five interceptions and seven passes broken up in 2008. Justin Thornton, who started the first half of the season at free safety and the last half of the year at cornerback, was fifth on the team in tackles. Stuckey also led the Jayhawks in total tackles (93) and solo tackles (63) in 2009.

As co-defensive coordinator in 2007 the KU defense produced one of its best seasons in recent history. Kansas held its opponents to just 94.8 rushing yards per game, the second-fewest allowed in KU history (83.2 in 2005). The defense held six opponents (all Big 12 foes) to less than 80 yards rushing and fewer than 200 yards passing. The 317.3 total yards per game were the second fewest allowed in the last 26 years (303.2 in 2005) by the Jayhawks.

During the 2005 season, Bowen guided KU's kickoff coverage unit which ended the season as the top coverage team in the Big 12. In addition, KU's kick return (5th Big 12, 20.3 yards per return) and punt return (4th Big 12, 12.1 yards per return) units both ranked near the top of the conference. Kansas capped the season with a 42-13 win over Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl.

In 2004, Bowen directed the team's kickoff return unit, which ranked third in the Big 12, averaging 21.8 yards per return. KU's kickoff coverage unit also ranked third in the league after allowing just 17.2 yards per return. Bowen worked with the running backs during 2002 and tight ends in 2001.

A native of Lawrence and a prep star at Lawrence High School, Bowen worked as a defensive graduate assistant coach at KU in 1998 and 1999. He served as assistant director of football operations during the 2000 season. In addition to his experience at KU, Bowen served one season (1997) as a graduate assistant at Minnesota with his college coach, Glen Mason.

Bowen was a hard-hitting defensive back for the Jayhawks in 1992-93 following one season at Butler County Community College. He led the KU defense in total tackles in 1993 with 114 total stops. That figure ranks as the third-most single-season tackles by a Jayhawk defensive back in school history.

Bowen was instrumental in helping the Jayhawks to an 8-4 final record, a No. 22 national ranking and a win over Brigham Young in the 1992 Aloha Bowl. He was the recipient of the school's Willie Pless Tackler of the Year Award following his senior season in 1993.

He is the product of a football family. His father (Charley Bowen) was a two-time high school All-American at Lawrence High School and his older brother (Charley, Jr.) was a four-year letter winner as a defensive back for the Jayhawks and played in the Arena Football League.

Bowen and his wife Kristie have two sons, Baylor and Banks.

The Bowen File

Hometown: Lawrence, Kan.

High School: Lawrence High School, 1990

College: Kansas, 1995 (B.A., Physical Education)

Wife: Kristie

Children: Baylor (6), Banks (3)

Coaching Career

1997: Minnesota (Defensive Graduate Assistant)

1998: Kansas (Graduate Assistant)

1999: Kansas (Defensive Graduate Assistant)

2000: Kansas (Assistant Director of Football Operations)

2001: Kansas (Tight Ends / Special Teams Coordinator)

2002: Kansas (Running Backs / Special Teams Coordinator)

2003-05: Kansas (Safeties / Special Teams Coordinator)

2006-07: Kansas (Co-Defensive Coordinator / Safeties)

2008-09: Kansas (Defensive Coordinator / Safeties)

2010-present: WKU (Defensive Coordinator)

Playing Experience

1990, 1992-93: Kansas (Defensive Back)

1991: Butler County Community College (Defensive Back)



KARL MASLOWSKI

**Linebackers / Special Teams
Coordinator
First Season
WKU, 2003**

Karl Maslowski, a former WKU standout linebacker who coached the last two seasons at Miami (Ohio), has been named WKU's linebackers coach and special teams coordinator.

Maslowski was a four-year letterman for the Hilltoppers (2000-03) who started the final nine games for the 2002 I-AA National Championship team and ranked third on the team in both total tackles (95) and solo tackles (60) while tying for team-high honors with five forced fumbles. In the national title game, he had an interception on McNeese State's first drive that led to WKU's first touchdown and a lead they would never relinquish.

He was named team Most Valuable Player as a senior in 2003 after starting all 13 games and leading the team in sacks (9) while ranking second in total tackles (127) and solo tackles (82). Maslowski also was named first-team All-American by the Sports Network and Football Gazette and third-team All-Gateway Conference in addition to earning honorable mention conference all-academic honors.

Maslowski worked the previous two seasons with Miami University's football program as a graduate assistant. He worked primarily with the defensive backs in 2009 and helped the RedHawks rank second in the Mid-American Conference and 27th nationally in passing defense (190.4 ypg.).

Prior to coming to Oxford, Maslowski coached outside linebackers and defensive ends from 2006-07 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 2007, the Holy Cross defense ranked first in the Patriot League in four statistical categories. In 2005, Maslowski spent time in Australia coaching a semi-pro team and a high-school-aged squad in Melbourne and also assisted with the Junior National Team in Brisbane.

Maslowski was a student assistant coach at WKU in 2004. As a prep, his Lincoln-Way High School team in New Lenox, Illinois won the Illinois High School Association's 6-A state championship.

The Maslowski File

Hometown: New Lenox, Illinois

High School: Lincoln-Way HS, 2000

College: WKU, 2003

Wife: Brittney

Coaching Career

2004: WKU (Graduate Assistant)

2005: Melbourne (Australia) (Assistant Coach)

2006-07: Holy Cross (Outside Linebackers / Defensive Ends)

2008-09: Miami (Ohio) (Graduate Assistant)

2010-present: WKU (Linebackers / Special Teams Coordinator)

Playing Experience

2000-03: WKU (Linebacker)



ERIC MATHIES

**Defensive Ends / Recruiting
Coordinator
Sixth Season
Murray State, 1998**

Eric Mathies, who has served as WKU's defensive line coach each of the last five seasons, will serve as the Hilltoppers defensive tackles coach and recruiting coordinator in 2010. Under his tutelage in 2009, sophomore Jared Clendenin had 40 total tackles while tying for third on the team in tackles for loss (3.5). In 2008 under Mathies' direction, Dan Cline posted 33 total tackles while ranking second on the team with eight tackles for loss, while Robert Dark had 32 total tackles and 5.5 tackles for loss. Mathies (pronounced MATH-is) is now in his sixth season on the Topper staff.

In 2007, seven of his players contributed at least an assisted sack towards the team total of 24 with two more recording tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Chris Walker tied for third on the team with 50 tackles, surpassing his previous career best, and Cline added 29, while Cline (five-and-a-half), Walker (four) and Jon Belcher (three-and-a-half) all accounted for multiple stops for loss. Thanks to the efforts of the line, the Hilltoppers surrendered 135 yards per game on the ground while allowing less than four yards per carry.

One season after having two-thirds of his starting front honored by the Gateway Football Conference - Daniel Williams was a second-team all-league selection and Charlie Phillips earned honorable mention all-conference accolades - he helped Dusty Bear earn recognition for the first time in his career as he was a second-team all-GFC choice in 2006 following his junior season.

In his first year with WKU, Mathies worked with a group that ended the season accounting for 17 of the Toppers' 30 sacks as well as 35½ stops behind the line of scrimmage. In the fall of 2006, not only did Bear lead the team in sacks, Walker tied for second on the squad in the category.

Mathies' efforts helped the Hilltoppers rank 11th in the nation in 2005 allowing 113.1 yards per game on the ground, a figure that led the conference as well, while they paced the league in pass, pass efficiency and total defense a year later.

Mathies coached at two schools on the collegiate level over the six seasons prior to coming to the Hill, the last two at Tennessee State where he worked with defensive tackles in addition to handling recruiting responsibilities. He helped the Tigers to a 7-5 finish in 2003 as the defense recorded 28 sacks.

Prior to working at TSU, he was the defensive line coach at Midwestern (Texas) State, where he was also the strength and conditioning coach in addition to handling recruiting duties. The Indians finished 7-4 in each of his final three years on the staff, posting a cumulative 11-5 mark in the Lone Star Conference - they won the league's North Division title in 2001 after going 4-1 in league action.

He got his start in coaching at Murray High School in 1998, helping the Tigers to a 7-4 mark as they advanced to the second round of the Kentucky state playoffs.

Mathies was a four-year letter winner in football, beginning his career at Kansas - the Jayhawks were 6-5 in his only season of action in 1994 - before transferring to Murray State. A defensive lineman, he helped the Racers to a pair of Ohio Valley Conference championships as MSU qualified for the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in both 1995 and '96, advancing to the second round in their second appearance. The Racers went 29-7 in his three years with a 21-2 league record during that span.

Mathies, who earned his bachelor's degree from Murray State in 1998, also served an internship with the Dallas Cowboys.

The Mathies File

Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

High School: St. Joseph (Ill.), 1993

College: Murray State, 1998

Coaching Career

1998: Murray (Ky.) HS (Assistant Coach)

1999-2002: Midwestern (Texas) State (Assistant Coach)

2003-04: Tennessee State (Assistant Coach)

2005-09: WKU (Defensive Line)

2010-present: WKU (Defensive Ends / Recruiting Coordinator)

Playing Experience

1994: Kansas (Defensive Line)

1995-97: Murray State (Defensive Line)



TERRY OBEE

**Wide Receiver
First Season
Oregon, 1990**

Terry Obee, who worked last season on the Stanford staff as an offensive and strength and conditioning assistant, has been named WKU's wide receivers coach. With the Cardinal staff, he was also responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive off-season program for Stanford's wide receivers, running backs, and tight ends.

Following an eight year career in the National Football League, Obee went into private business from 1998-2008. He owned and operated Go Pro Fitness, a training center for athletes and non-athletes.

Obee spent eight years in the National Football League as a wide receiver with the Seattle Seahawks (1990-91), Minnesota Vikings (1991-93) and Chicago Bears (1993-97). While with the Seahawks, he played under Chuck Knox and played alongside Hall of Fame receiver Steve Largent. As a member of the Vikings, he played under Dennis Green and played with standout receiver Cris Carter. As a Chicago Bear, he started under head coach Dave Wannstedt on a receiving unit that also included Wendell Davis and Tom Waddle. He saw action in all 16 games for the Bears in 1993, totaling 26-351, three TDs receiving while also returning 35 punts for 289 yards and nine kickoffs for 159 yards. A dislocated ankle limited his playing time and shortened his career.

Obee was a standout receiver and punt returner at Oregon from 1986-89 while playing under head coach Rich Brooks and still ranks among the Ducks all-time leaders in numerous categories. His career totals rank second all-time in punt return yardage (1,182), seventh in receiving yards (2,233), eighth in receiving touchdowns (16), ninth in receptions (122) and ninth in all-purpose yards (3,530). He helped the Ducks to an 8-4 record and Independence Bowl win over Tulsa as a senior and earned a bachelor of arts degree in marketing/management in 1990.

The Obee File

Hometown: Richmond, Calif.

High School: John F. Kennedy High School, 1986

College: Oregon, 1990 (B.A. Marketing/Management)

Wife: Christine

Children: Jasmine, Tyler, Devin, Sydney, Cameron

Coaching Career

2009: Stanford (Offensive / Strength and Conditioning Assistant)

2010-present: WKU (Wide Receivers)

Playing Experience

1993-97: Chicago Bears (Wide Receiver)

1991-93: Minnesota Vikings (Wide Receiver)

1990-91: Seattle Seahawks (Wide Receiver)

1986-89: Oregon, (Wide Receiver)



A.J. PRATT

**Offensive Tackles / Tight Ends
First Season
Capital, 1998**

A. J. Pratt, who worked the previous 11 seasons on the Kent State coaching staff including the last two as the Golden Flashes offensive coordinator, has been named WKU's tackles/tight ends coach. He also worked as KSU's recruiting coordinator for seven seasons, and has a total of 14 seasons of coaching experience.

In addition to serving as Kent State's offensive coordinator in 2009, Pratt also mentored the Golden Flashes wide receivers. Freshman quarterback Spencer Keith ranked sixth in the Mid-American conference in passing efficiency (126.72) and seventh in total offense (223.1 ypg.). In 2008, Pratt's first season as the offensive coordinator, he also coached the team's tight ends and KSU's national offensive ranking improved more than 50 spots. KSU saw its offensive production increase by more than 30 yards and four points a game from the previous season, while the KSU rushing game ranked 11th in the nation.

In 2007, Pratt worked with the offensive tackles and tight ends, while concluding his tenure as recruiting coordinator. He also handled some of the play-calling duties during the year.

Pratt was named the Mid-American Conference's 2009 recruiter of the year by Rivals.com. As the recruiting coordinator, Pratt helped assemble some of the top classes in Kent State history, including seven players currently on NFL rosters (Shawn Bayes/Oakland Raiders, All-Pro Joshua Cribbs/Cleveland Browns, Julian Edelman/New England Patriots, Daniel Muir/Indianapolis Colts, Rico Murray/Cincinnati Bengals, Jack Williams/Denver Broncos and Usama Young/New Orleans Saints). Pratt has also signed over 30 players out of Hargrove Military Academy (Va.) in the past 10 years.

Under Pratt's tutelage, former Flash tight end Brian Bell went on to sign a free agent contract with the Washington Redskins in 2007. Prior to becoming a full-time assistant at Kent State, Pratt was the program's offensive graduate assistant during the 1999 season. Offensive tackle Gus Parrish was signed to a free agent contract by the Cincinnati Bengals in 2009 after being recruited by Pratt and playing three years under his tutelage.

Pratt spent the 1998 season as the offensive coordinator at Kenton (Ohio) High School. He helped lead Kenton to the school's first state play-off appearance and first league championship in 50 years, while the team's quarterback led the state in passing under his guidance. He was also an assistant coach at Reynoldsburg (Ohio) High School for two years from 1996-97.

Pratt graduated from Capital University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science with an education certification. He then went on to earn his master's degree in sports management from Kent State in May of 2007.

A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, Pratt and his wife, Keriann, have a son, Alexander, and daughter, Olivia.

The Pratt File

Hometown: Portsmouth, Ohio

High School: Portsmouth HS, 1994

College: Capital University, 1998

(B.A., History and Political Science/Secondary Education)

Kent State University, 2007 (M.S., Sports Management)

Wife: Keriann

Children: Alexander and Olivia.

Coaching Career

1996-97: Reynoldsburg High School (Assistant Coach)

1998: Kenton High School (Offensive Coordinator)

1999: Kent State (Graduate Assistant)

2000: Kent State (Assistant Coach)

2001-09: Kent State (Offensive Coordinator / Recruiting Coordinator)

2010-present: WKU (Offensive Tackles / Tight Ends)



MIKE SANFORD

**Quarterbacks / Passing Game
Coordinator
First Season
Boise State, 2005**

Mike Sanford, who worked as tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator at Yale in 2009, has been named WKU's quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator. He helped the Bulldogs rank second in the Ivy League and 33rd in the 118 member Football Championship Subdivision in passing offense (220.0 ypg.).

Yale quarterback Patrick Witt, a transfer from Nebraska, ranked fourth in the conference in passing efficiency (110.1 rating) and total offense (175.4 ypg.). H-Back John Sheffield earned consensus first-team All-Ivy League honors after ranking third in the conference in receptions per game (6.1) and fourth in receiving yards per game (61.2). At Yale, Sanford recruited northern California (San Francisco to Monterey), Idaho, Indiana, Nevada, Ohio, Utah, and Virginia.

A quarterback at Boise State, Sanford was an offensive assistant at Stanford in 2007-08. Sanford worked alongside Cardinal head coach Jim Harbaugh in tutoring the Stanford signal-callers. He was instrumental in the development of Tavita Pritchard, who made his first career start against USC in 2007, a 24-23 upset for the Cardinal.

Sanford is a former Boise State quarterback who played on four bowl teams during his five-year career at Boise State. With Sanford, the Broncos compiled a 54-9 record. He was a two-year letterman at quarterback, helping the Broncos to a 13-1 record in 2003, an 11-1 mark in 2004 and the WAC championship each season. After his playing career, Sanford was a student assistant for the Broncos the following spring, assisting his former position coach and current head coach, Chris Petersen, with the quarterbacks.

Before coaching in the Pac-10, Sanford served as an offensive graduate assistant at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) for two seasons (2005-06). While at UNLV, Sanford worked with his father, Mike, the Rebels' head coach and a longtime veteran of the collegiate and professional coaching ranks who currently is the Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator at Louisville. The younger Sanford worked primarily with the Rebel quarterbacks and served as the specialists coach.

Sanford received his bachelor's degree in political science from Boise State in 2005. He married the former Anne-Marie Mitchell in May of 2005. Their daughter, Peyton, was born December 22, 2009.

The Sanford File

Hometown: Seal Beach, Calif.

High School: Los Alamitos (Calif.)

College: Boise State, 2005 (B.A., Political Science)

Wife: Anne-Marie

Children: Peyton (born December 22, 2009)

Coaching Career

2009: Yale (Tight Ends / Recruiting Coordinator)

2007-08: Stanford (Offensive Assistant)

2005-06: UNLV (Offensive Assistant)

Playing Experience

2000-2004: Boise State (Quarterback)



WALT WELLS

**Offensive Centers / Guards
Eighth Season
Belmont, 1993**

Walt Wells, who served as WKU's offensive coordinator/offensive line coach in 2009 after working as the Hilltoppers' offensive line coach from 2003-08, will coach the Hilltoppers offensive guards and centers in 2010. Wells also served as running game coordinator during the 2007 and 2008 seasons. Four Hilltopper offensive linemen have earned All-America honors under Wells' direction, and the 2009 Hilltoppers' ranked 4th in the Sun Belt Conference, 40th in the nation, in rushing yards per game (172.8 ypg.). This will be his eighth season on the WKU staff.

Under the guidance of Wells, WKU offensive lineman Greg Ryan earned a free agent contract with the Baltimore Ravens in 2009. Ryan started all 12 games on the WKU offensive line in 2008, seeing time at multiple positions in an effort to help younger players develop. The 2007 WKU offense set a school record for first downs in a season (266) and pass completion percentage (62.8), posted the fifth-highest totals in school history in total yards (4,906), total touchdowns (51) and points (398) and ranked in the top 10 in several other categories. That included posting 49 points in the opening quarter of an 87-0 victory over West Virginia Tech, which tied an NCAA I-A (Football Bowl Subdivision) record for points in a period as well as setting new WKU standards for points and scoring margin in a game.

Not only did he have two players, Ryan and Chris Sullivan, earn All-America honors in 2006, but those two, Joe Dolchan and Zach Thuney combined to claim Offensive Lineman-of-the-Week accolades from Hansen's Football Gazette on seven occasions. His line helped the Topper offense collect more than 4,000 yards as WKU ranked in the top 25 nationally in a pair of statistical categories.

In 2005, Wells' unit helped pave the way as the Hilltoppers averaged 30.82 points and 405.73 yards of total offense per contest, both figures that ranked among the top 30 in the nation. That included a Gateway Football Conference-best 228.55 yards per game on the ground, which was 14th in the country.

Erik Losey earned first-team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association under Wells' direction in 2005, while Ryan was an honorable mention all-conference selection. Two of his linemen - Andrew Campbell and Chris McConnell - were named to the league's All-Newcomer Team.

The previous year his efforts helped Buster Ashley become the first two-time consensus All-American on the Hill, as he also earned the distinction of being one of the first linemen in Gateway Conference history to be selected first-team all-league on three occasions. Both Losey (second-team all-GFC, Gateway All-Newcomer Team) and Ryan Thomas (honorable mention all-conference) were both honored under his direction. Wells' line allowed just nine sacks on 222 pass attempts as the Toppers ranked 14th nationally with 226.17 yards per game on the ground while piling up just under 400 yards of total offense per outing.

In his first season on the Hill, Wells helped Ashley become the second consecutive WKU offensive lineman to earn consensus All-America honors, while Anthony Oakley and Daniel Withrow were voted second-team all-conference. His line helped pave the way for a unit that gained 5,129 total yards and scored 427 points, both figures that rank in the top five in the school record books. The Toppers allowed only 13 sacks in 13 games.

He came to WKU after working with the line and tight ends at Eastern Kentucky the previous six years, where he was a part of three teams that won eight games and earned an Ohio Valley Conference championship, coaching seven all-league players and an All-American. Wells was also responsible for recruiting in the Southeast and was the strength and conditioning coach for two-and-a-half seasons. ECU ranked in the top 10 in the nation in rushing the last two years.

He was the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Cumberland (Tenn.) from 1994-96, leading an offense that topped the NAIA in rushing two years while helping the Bulldogs to a top-15 ranking and eight wins in their best season. Five CU players were selected to the all-conference team, with one collecting All-America honors. He also has two years experience as an assistant at Smyrna (Tenn.) High School.

Wells earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Belmont in 1993 after transferring from Austin Peay, where he was on the football team for four years - he started and lettered twice. He added a master's degree in human relations management in 1995 at Cumberland.

The Wells File

Born - Oct. 26, 1967, Nashville, Tenn.

High School - McGavock (Tenn.) '85

High School Athletics - Football, OL/DL, 2 letters

College - Belmont '93 (BA), Cumberland (Tenn.) '95 (MS)

College Athletics - Football, OL, 2 letters (Austin Peay, 1988-89)

Coaching Experience -

Smyrna (Tenn.) High, assistant (1992-93)

Cumberland (Tenn.), assistant (1994-96)

Eastern Kentucky, assistant (1997-02)

WKU, assistant (2003-)

Family - Wife Jennifer; one daughter, Madison (9) and one son, K.J. (4)



CLAYTON WHITE

**Defensive Backs
First Season
North Carolina State, 2001**

Clayton White, who worked as defensive backs coach the last three seasons at Stanford, has been named WKU's defensive backs coach. Along with Hilltopper head coach Willie Taggart, White joined the Stanford staff following the Cardinal's 1-11 season in 2006. Stanford, ranked as high as 14th in the nation by the Associated Press in 2009, posted an 8-4 regular season record with wins over nationally ranked Southern Cal and Oregon. The Cardinal's Sun Bowl appearance in 2009 marked the school's first bowl game since 2001.

Under White's guidance in 2009, strong safety Delano Howell led Stanford and ranked 8th in the Pac 10 in tackles (84) in his first season playing defense. Defensive back Bo McNally ranked second on the team with 83 total tackles in 2009 (55 solo), after leading the team in total tackles the two previous seasons and ranking 39th nationally in 2007 with 114 total tackles. His 10 career interceptions also rank 10th in Stanford history. White was responsible for recruiting California (Los Angeles County), northeast Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, west Tennessee, Florida's east coast, and south Georgia.

Prior to his arrival at Stanford, White served as the defensive backs coach at Western Michigan (2006) and Western Carolina (2004-05). He also served as Western Carolina's special teams' assistant and recruiting coordinator.

While at Western Michigan, he coached two defensive backs that were selected in the 2009 NFL Draft: Louis Delmas (2nd round, 33rd overall pick by Detroit Lions) and E.J. Biggers (7th round, Tampa Bay Buccaneers). White was part of a Broncos staff that led the 2006 team to an 8-5 record and an appearance in the 2007 International Bowl played in Toronto. He coached a defense that led the nation with 24 interceptions and 3.54 sacks per game, while ranking tied for second with 37 turnovers gained, tied for sixth in rushing yards allowed per game (76.1) and seventh in turnover margin (+0.92). White was part of the WMU defense that set a MAC record for fewest rushing yards allowed per game.

He spent the previous two seasons (2004-05) at Western Carolina where he coached defensive backs and was a special teams assistant while also serving as recruiting coordinator each year. The Catamounts led the nation in pass defense, ranked fifth in passing efficiency defense and 18th in overall defense in 2005. He also coached a pair of defensive backs (Francis Brown and Primus Glover) to First Team All-Southern Conference honors. Brown signed as a free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals in 2006.

White's special teams unit ranked third in the Southern Conference in yards per punt return (9.84 ypr) in 2004, while Western Carolina recorded two blocked kicks that were returned for touchdowns in 2005. White also served as the football program's recruiting coordinator during his two seasons.

A native of Dunn, North Carolina, White was a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from March to August of 2003 as a linebacker and special teams player. He spent two seasons (2001-02) with the New York Giants, also as a linebacker and a member of the special teams unit. White played every special teams snap during the 2001 season and made seven tackles for the Giants.

White was a three-year starter at linebacker from 1999-2001 and a member of the special teams unit during his collegiate playing days with North Carolina State. He ended his career with his name in the record book in several categories, including career tackles for loss (33), single-season tackles for loss and tackles in a single game. He was named North Carolina State's special teams MVP in 1997.

White received his Bachelor of Science degree from the school in parks, recreation and tourism with a concentration in sports management in 2001.

He enjoyed an outstanding prep career at Triton High School in Dunn, North Carolina, where he was a first team all-state selection as a defensive back and all-region quarterback. He was named the most valuable player of the 1996 North Carolina East-West All-Star Game and participated in the North Carolina-South Carolina Shrine Bowl.

The White File

Full Name: Clayton White

Hometown: Dunn, North Carolina

High School: Triton

College: North Carolina State, 2001 (B.S., Parks, Recreation and Tourism)

Wife: Kelly

Coaching Career

2007-09: Stanford (Defensive Backs)

2006: Western Michigan (Defensive Backs)

2004-05: Western Carolina (Defensive Backs/Special Teams Assistant/Recruiting Coordinator)

2003: Sanderson High School (Defensive Backs)

Playing Experience

2003: Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Linebacker)

2001-02: New York Giants (Linebacker)

1997-01: North Carolina State (Linebacker)



RAYMOND WOODIE

**Defensive Ends
First Season**

Bethune Cookman, 1996

Raymond Woodie, who has served as the head football coach at two Tampa area high schools the last 13 years, has been named WKU's defensive ends coach. Woodie has been head coach at Palmetto High School since 2006, also serving as the school's Director of Athletics since 2008. He also served as head coach at Bayshore High School from 1997-2006.

Woodie helped Palmetto High School capture a district championship in 2008 after leading Bayshore High School to the district playoffs seven times in his 10 seasons as head coach. He also served as the defensive coordinator at Palmetto in 1996. Woodie was the youngest high school head coach in the state of Florida when he was named Bayshore's head coach in 1997 at the age of 23. Woodie also served as linebacker coach at collegiate football camps at Florida (2004-06), Michigan State (2004-06), Nebraska (2002) and Auburn (2001).

As a high school coach and athletic director, Woodie developed 43 student athletes who signed full athletic scholarships, 10 of whom went to Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) programs. Notable among these is Bayshore's Fabian Washington, who started at cornerback for three seasons at Nebraska (2002-04) before being selected as the 23rd overall player in the first round of the 2005 NFL Draft.

Woodie was also named Defensive Coordinator for Florida's 2009 North-South High School Football All Star Classic. At Palmetto, Woodie directed a Division 3A sports program and designed a multi-million dollar field house for the football team which is scheduled to open in 2010. He also developed a Character Athletics Handbook for all sports and was the winner of the State Farm/Fred E. Rozelle Sportsmanship Award in 2007.

Woodie lettered as an outside linebacker and strong safety at Bethune Cookman from 1992-95. A National Football top Scholar Athlete who received a \$25,000 Scholar Athlete Award from Burger King, Woodie also was named a GTE Academic All-American and earned I-AA All-American and first-team MEAC Conference honors at outside linebacker as a junior and at defensive end as a senior. His 14.5 sacks as a junior set a school record. He also played for the Canadian Football League's British Columbia Lions in 1996.

A native of Palmetto, Fla., and a graduate of Palmetto High School, Woodie holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bethune Cookman (1996) and a master's degree in education from National St. Louis University.

The Woodie File

Full Name: Raymond Woodie

Born: November 2, 1973

Hometown: Palmetto, Florida

High School: Palmetto (Florida)

College: Bethune Cookman, 1996 (B.S., Criminal Justice, Magna Cum Laude)

National Louis University, Tampa, Fla., 2003, (M.S. Education)

Wife: Stephanie

Children: Raymond (9), Alanah (5), Kaden (9 months)

Coaching Career

2006-09, Head Football Coach, Palmetto High School

1997-2006, Head Football Coach, Bayshore High School

1996, Defensive Coordinator, Palmetto High School

Playing Experience

1996: British Columbia Lions, Canadian Football League

1992-95: Outside Linebacker/Defensive End, Bethune Cookman