

2008 NCAC Football Coach Bios

ALLEGHENY - MARK MATLAK

Allegheny College head football coach Mark Matlak heads into his seventh season at the helm of the Gators' program. With a 5-5 record in last year's campaign, Matlak took over sole possession of fourth place on Allegheny's career win list with an overall record of 31-30.

A new chapter in Allegheny College football began when Matlak was introduced as the Gators' 33rd head football coach in 2002. Matlak guided Allegheny to a 5-5 record in his first season before guiding the Gators to a 7-4 mark and the North Coast Athletic Conference Championship in 2003.

In 2003, Matlak turned around an 0-3 start with a perfect 7-0 conference record and an appearance in the NCAA Playoffs. Matlak was named the NCAC Coach of the Year for his work in leading the Gators to their ninth conference title.

The Gators continued their success with a 5-5 record in 2004, including a 4-3 mark in the NCAC, giving them 19 consecutive winning seasons in the conference, a streak that was snapped in 2005, as the team went 3-4, despite out-scoring its opponents by an average score of 29-18. In 2006, the squad rebounded for a 6-4 record, falling to two eventual NCAA Tournament teams. In 2007, the Gators continued their winnings ways as the team finished .500 or better for the 22nd time in the 25 seasons that Allegheny has been an NCAC member.

Matlak made his coaching debut at Allegheny as an assistant under former head coach Sam Timer. He served for five seasons, from 1978-82, before accepting a position at the University of New Hampshire.

Matlak's career with the Wildcats began as defensive ends coach, mentoring such players as Ilia Jarostchuk who played with the New England Patriots. Following his promotion to defensive coordinator, the Wildcats posted a 13-year record of 82-59-1, winning Yankee Conference Championships in 1991, 1994 and 1996. Matlak has coached four All-Americans and also landed two athletes on the Yankee Conference 50th anniversary all-time team in 1996. In 2000, Matlak was named the Assistant Coach of the Year by the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston.

While at New Hampshire, Matlak coached five players and recruited four others who were drafted by an NFL team or were signed as rookie free agents, including Jerry Azumah, who won the 1998 Walter Payton Award, given annually to the best player in Division I-AA football.

Prior to the start of his coaching career, Matlak became acquainted with college sports as an athlete. The 1978 Allegheny graduate was a four-year letterwinner at fullback, earning first-team All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) honors for three years and he earned the conference's Offensive Most Valuable Player award in 1977. He graduated having been mentioned several times in the College's record books, including as the second-leading career rusher in school history with 2,382 yards, a mark that currently ranks eighth. He was later recognized on the gridiron by being named to the All-Time PAC team as a fullback.

At the close of his career, Matlak also ranked second in career scoring (186 points) and third in rushing touchdowns (28). In the off-season, Matlak shouldered four years of starting responsibilities for Allegheny's baseball team.

Matlak's athletic prowess was fully recognized in 1989, when he was inducted into the Allegheny College Athletic Hall of Fame.

DENISON - NICK FLETCHER

In 2008 head coach Nick Fletcher enters his ninth season at the helm of the Big Red football program and will look to continue to build a program which has won 18 games over the last four seasons.

Last season the Denison rushing attack averaged 191.3 yards rushing per game which was the most by a Big Red team since 1992. They posted a 3-2 record at home and won three of their last four games to close out the 2007 campaign at 4-6.

In 2006 the DU ground game averaged 185.6 yards rushing per game and against Kenyon College, two Denison backs rushed for over 200 yards rushing for the first time in school history. The accomplishment were noted by ESPN's Behind the Polls show and

the Big Red offensive line was named to the D3football.com National Team of the Week for opening holes which led to the 455 yard rushing day.

In 2004 Fletcher guided the Big Red to their first winning season since 1991 and a tie for fourth place in the North Coast Athletic Conference standings. The offense averaged 334.3 yards per game and the senior-laden defense allowed only 14.5 points in Denison's six victories.

Before coming to Denison, Fletcher directed the Eureka College football program for five years. In 1995, he led the Red Devils to a 9-1 record, earning an Illini-Badger Conference championship in his first season at the helm. He is a two-time Illini-Badger Conference Coach of the Year (1995, 1997) and had collected a career collegiate coaching record of 27-22 prior to arriving in Granville.

Fletcher's football coaching career also includes a two-year stint with Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., and ten years with Carmel (N.Y.) High School where he served as an assistant between 1978 and 1987, and as head coach from 1988 through 1991.

Fletcher holds a bachelor of science degree in natural sciences from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (1976) and a master of science degree in education from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury (1985). He has also completed course work in a master of science program in biochemistry at New York Medical College.

As an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins, Fletcher was a member of the Blue Jay football program for three seasons and was a standout in the classroom, earning the distinction of "Top Physics Student" in 1976.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Fletcher is an assistant professor in Denison's department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

EARLHAM - GERRY KEESLING

Seeking to rebuild a winning tradition at Earlham College, Gerry Keesling was appointed the school's 32nd head football coach in January of 2004.

Prior to taking the reins of the Quakers program, he served as offensive coordinator for his alma mater from the 1992 through 2002 seasons. In the 2002 campaign, Gerry was the interim head coach where the Quakers finished 4th in the North Coast Athletic Conference.

When Keesling took over the program, he sought to raise the confidence and conditioning levels of his new team right away. The Quakers' new attitude in Keesling's program involves: (1) Players achieving an exemplary foundation of leadership and academic success (2) Players relentlessly pursuing a NCAC Championship (3) and Players embracing cultural diversity.

His other coaching experiences include serving as Head Football Coach at Wes-Del high school from 1982 to 1990. In 1982 Gerry was the youngest football coach in the state of Indiana. In 1990 he was the Head Football Coach at Centerville high school. He has served on the board of directors for the Indiana Football Coaches Association, and a 25 year member of that Association. Keesling received his bachelor's degree from Earlham in 1982 and his master's degree from Ball State University in 1988. He also serves as assistant professor in the Athletic and Wellness program.

As an athlete at Earlham, he received six letters. In 1980 he set the all time rushing record at EC, he has since coached three other players, which surpassed that record. Keesling was a team captain and mental attitude award winner in his senior season of 1981. Gerry also participated for two seasons on the Quaker track program where he set the indoor pole vault record and was voted freshman of the year. He has also coached two other pole-vaulters, which broke his records.

He is a member of the American Football Coaches Association and is a board member on the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. He is the organizer of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame Football Clinic, which is held on campus annually and is used as a fundraiser for the Hall.

HIRAM – BOB WOLFE

Bob Wolfe brings over 35 years of experience to the position of head football coach. He built and led successful football programs as head coach at Tiffin University, Elyria Catholic High School, Warren Harding High School, Trinity High School, and Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School.

At Tiffin University, Wolfe's teams twice qualified for the NAIA playoffs and were routinely ranked among the top 10 programs nationally. Wolfe was recognized as the NAIA District 22 Coach of the Year twice. He is a member of the Tiffin University Hall of Fame. He also was the head football coach at Allegheny College when the institution moved from the Presidents' Athletic Conference to the North Coast Athletic Conference.

At the high school level, Wolfe led Trinity and Notre Dame Cathedral Latin to league championships. He also posted winning records at Warren Harding and Elyria Catholic. His collegiate coaching experience includes serving as the defensive coordinator at Bowling Green State University when the Falcons were perennial contenders for the Mid-American Conference Championship, at Austin Peay State University, and at Mesabi Range Community College in Virginia, Minn. Wolfe also has had successful stops at Youngstown State University and the University of Cincinnati. He joined the Hiram staff three years ago as defensive coordinator and was instrumental in bringing in the largest group of football recruits in the institution's history.

A native of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Wolfe comes from a family heavily associated with the game of football. His father, Fenton, was the longtime head football coach at Bellevue High School and Upper Sandusky High School.

Wolfe earned his bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green and completed his master's degree in athletic administration at Ball State University.

KENYON – TED STANLEY

The 2008 season will be Ted Stanley's sixth as the Lords head football coach. In his five seasons at Kenyon, Stanley authored a remarkable turn-around in the program. Upon his arrival, improvements quickly became apparent as his 2003 team amassed 3,188 yards of offense and 147 points, outputs that were 1,166 more yards and 51 more points than the 2002 team produced. The following year, the Lords broke multiple records including the College single-season mark for total offense (3,920 yards).

While the statistics were eye-catching, the Lords toiled through back-to-back 2-8 seasons as they continued to build a deeper, more talented roster. All the hard work began to pay off in 2005, when Stanley and the Lords posted a 6-4 overall mark and a second-place 6-1 mark in the North Coast Athletic Conference. The following season, his 2006 team continued to build on past numbers and shattered even more College records, including single-season team marks for total offensive yards (4,514), rushing yards (2,678), rushing touchdowns (31) and points scored (354).

Statistics and records aside, Stanley also recruited five of the biggest football classes in the program's recent history and nearly doubled the size of the team he inherited after the 2002 season. A 1993 graduate of Grinnell College, Stanley arrived in Gambier after serving as a co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at the University of Chicago for two seasons. Prior to his work at Chicago, he spent three seasons at his alma mater, coaching the defensive line and special teams.

Originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, Stanley played four seasons of football at Grinnell and graduated with a bachelor's degree in history. He later moved back to Salt Lake City to earn a master's degree in exercise and sports science from the University of Utah. While at Utah, he served as a graduate assistant coach for three seasons, before being hired as the university's director of football operations for two seasons.

Overall, in his 14 years of coaching, Stanley has been associated with ten winning seasons, three bowl games, two conference championships, and two teams that were ranked within the nation's top twenty-five.

OBERLIN – JEFF RAMSEY

Jeff Ramsey enters his 10th season as the head football coach for Oberlin College after taking the reins in 1999. He is the 31st football coach since the Yeomen began play in 1891 and has rejuvenated the storied tradition of a program that has spanned three centuries.

Ramsey has worked wonders at Oberlin, guiding the team from the bottom of the North Coast Athletic Conference standings to contention for top honors in the league.

During his tenure with the Yeomen, Ramsey has continually raised the level of success while moving into fifth place on the all-time wins list. With Ramsey controlling the sidelines, Oberlin has also broken 127 school records and claimed the best NCAC record in school history finishing as high as second place in 2003.

He has mentored 12 first-team All-NCAC athletes, 21 second-team selections and 26 honorable mention players. Last year, he guided R.V. Carroll to the NCAC Player of the Year honors. While at Oberlin, Ramsey has also coached four All-Americans and 12 all-district players.

Ramsey, who played and coached for College Football Hall of Fame inductees Jim Sochor and Chris Ault, has been an assistant on both sides of the ball and has experience at the Division I, I-AA, II, and III levels.

Ramsey arrived at Oberlin on the heels of a successful stint as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Sonoma State University in Northern California.

Prior to his time at Sonoma State, he coached the tight ends and wide receivers at the University of Nevada. The Wolfpack led Division I-AA in scoring and passing offense during Ramsey's tenure and reached the national championship game in 1990. Coach Ramsey has also assisted with the defensive backfield at Marietta College; completed a graduate assistantship at the University of Illinois, where he coached running backs and tight ends; and assisted at the University of California at Davis, where he coordinated the offense and coached the tight ends and freshmen. UC-Davis completed one of its greatest playoff runs with Ramsey as a player and assistant coach, landing in the Division II championship in 1982, making the semifinals in 1983, and competing in the quarterfinals in 1984 and 1985. He has tutored seven All-Americans and coached 13 players who have gone on to the National Football League.

As a player, Ramsey started at wide receiver and played backup quarterback for two seasons at UC-Davis, where he won the conference championship twice. He earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1983 and a master of science degree in kinesiology and athletic administration from Illinois in 1988.

OHIO WESLEYAN – MIKE HOLLWAY

Veteran head coach Mike Hollway will seek to take the next step in returning Battling Bishop football to national prominence by reclaiming the North Coast Athletic Conference championship and advancing to the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Hollway, who has guided the Bishops to a 117-72-1 record over the past 19 seasons, is the winningest football coach in Ohio Wesleyan history. Last year's squad finished with a 4-6 record. In 2005, the Bishops went 7-3, with 2 of those losses coming to teams that went 10-0 in the regular season and advanced to the NCAA Division III playoffs. The 2004 Bishop squad bounced back from an 0-4 start to win 5 straight games and put itself in position to play for the NCAC championship and an NCAA Division III playoff bid in the season finale.

In 2001, the Bishops compiled a 9-1 record, ranked second in the nation in rushing offense and fourth in total offense and tied for second place in the NCAC. The 1999 Bishops finished with an 8-2 record and tied for second place in the NCAC. In 1994, the team was 7-3 and in the hunt for the NCAC title until the last 2 weeks of the season. The 1992 squad was the highest-scoring team in school history and finished with an 8-2 record. In 1991, Ohio Wesleyan finished 8-2 and ranked third in the nation in rushing defense. The 1990 Bishops went 9-1, led the nation in rushing defense and were ranked among the top 20 in Division III for the second straight season. The Bishops were 8-1-1 in 1989 and shared the NCAC crown, Ohio Wesleyan's first league title since 1971.

Hollway's commitment to the game has extended beyond the field as well. He is chair of the NCAC football coaches committee and has served as a member of the prestigious NCAA rules committee.

Hollway came to Ohio Wesleyan from Marietta College, where in 4 years as head coach, he took a team in the midst of a 34-game losing streak into league championship contention. Prior to coaching at Marietta, Hollway was defensive coordinator at perennial power Augustana (Ill.) College for 7 seasons, helping the Vikings earn 3 playoff bids and reach the Division III title game once.

A native of Bangor, Maine, Hollway is a 1970 graduate of Edina (Minn.) High School, where he was a member of the state championship football squad and captain of the swimming team. After making his coaching debut in 1973 as junior varsity line coach at Ann Arbor (Mich.) Huron High School, Hollway was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1974, earning a B.S. in physical education. He received his M.A. in education from Michigan in 1975 while serving as a graduate assistant under Bo Schembechler. In 2003, Hollway received a Ph.D. in higher education policy and leadership, with an emphasis on humanitarian student value development, from The Ohio State University. Hollway also is a recipient of Ohio Wesleyan's Bishop Francis Emner Kearns Award, recognizing the faculty member who best exemplifies the ethical, moral and missional values of the University.

Hollway is a third-generation football coach. His father, Bob, was head coach of the National Football League's St. Louis Cardinals. The high school football field in Ann Arbor is named after his grandfather, Lou, longtime football coach and athletic director.

Hollway perceives his role as coach as a dual one. "As a coach, my first objective is to win: guide the team and give the players the opportunity to be successful. But we also have a responsibility to each individual that goes beyond the football field," says Hollway. "Our greatest measure of success is the outcome of 4 years at Ohio Wesleyan and the quality of life — both personal and professional — our players enjoy after they leave us."

WABASH – ERIK RAEBURN

Erik Raeburn comes to Wabash after eight years as head football coach at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he posted a 57-26 record. Prior to arriving at Coe, Raeburn was an assistant coach at his alma mater, Mount Union College, where he served as offensive line coach and offensive coordinator.

At Coe, Raeburn coached 65 All-Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference players, 40 All-Americans, and two Academic All-Americans. He guided Coe to its first IAC title in school history in 2002, and followed with conference championships in 2004 and 2005. He was the 2002 IAC Coach of the Year and Regional Coach of the Year. He led the Kohawks to their first-ever playoff appearance in 2002, advancing to the second round, and also led Coe to the playoffs in 2005.

Raeburn earned his bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Mount Union College and is currently pursuing his master's degree. As an assistant coach under Larry Kehres at Mount Union, he helped the Purple Raiders six Ohio Athletic Conference Championships and three NCAA Division III National Championships (1996, 1997, 1998).

WITTENBERG – JOE FINCHAM

Joe Fincham's tenure as Wittenberg's head football coach can be characterized as nothing short of a tremendous success. He has led his team to an 108-25 record with North Coast Athletic Conference titles in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2006 and six NCAA Division III playoff berths. Fincham has also earned several coaching honors as he was selected NCAC Coach of the Year in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2006, and American Football Coaches Association/Kodak District IV Coach of the Year in 1998.

He was considered an ideal choice to take over Wittenberg's coaching reins when hired in March 1996 after serving as an assistant for six years at Wittenberg. Fincham tutored the offensive line and served as Head Coach Doug Neibuh's chief aide on offense.

As an assistant, Fincham was an integral part of teams that posted a combined record of 47-12-1 (.797), won two North Coast Athletic Conference championships and made an appearance in the 1995 NCAA Division III playoffs. Known as a hard-nosed perfectionist, Fincham gets credit from his players as one who relates exceptionally well with them off the field. He also receives praise as a top-flight recruiter.

During his tenure as offensive line coach (a job he continues to hold), he has tutored 10 All-America offensive linemen: Doug Cochran (1990), Mark Chubb (1994), Ron Cunningham (1995), Xan Smith (1996), Jonathan Farley (1997), Aaron Shaffer (1998), Mark Sunderman (2000), Chad Thompson (2002 and 2003), Brad Kassner (2003) and Tim Funke (2006). Dozens of his players have earned first-team all-conference honors since he joined the Wittenberg staff in 1990, including 10 in 2006.

In addition, Fincham helped coach an offense which has put up record numbers since 1990. In 1995, the Tiger offense averaged a school-record 484.1 yards per game (third in Division III) and 304.0 ypg rushing (fourth). In 1990, Tiger tailback Jon Warga led Division III in rushing with 1,836 yards and he combined with teammate Jeff Stockdale to set a Division III record for yards rushing by two running backs, 2,563 yards. In 2000, tailback Casey Donaldson set school and conference records for rushing, scoring and touchdowns under Fincham's guidance. In recent years, the Tigers ranked among the nation's best in total offense and scoring offense several times, and in 2006 Tristan Murray shattered school records for consecutive 100-yard rushing games and 100-yard rushing games in a season.

American Football Quarterly Magazine named former head coach Doug Neibuhr and Fincham as Division III "Co-Offensive Coordinators of the Year" in 1995.

A native of Williamstown, W.Va., Fincham was a four-year letterwinner and three-year starter at Ohio University. He served as team captain in 1986. A 1988 graduate of OU, Fincham received a scholar-athlete award from the university and earned a master's degree from the school as well.

Fincham's previous coaching experience includes two years as a graduate assistant at OU and one season as offensive coordinator at Urbana University.

Fincham inherited a winning tradition unmatched among small colleges. He is the fifth head coach of the "modern era" of Tiger football, following Bill Edwards, Dave Maurer, Ron Murphy and Neibuhr.

Through the 2006 season, Fincham has led the Tigers to stunning overall and NCAC records of 100-23 and 68-10. He ranks among the top active coaches in college football (based on winning percentage), he led the program to its 600th all-time victory in 1999 and he has a playoff record of 7-6.

WOOSTER – MIKE SCHMITZ

Now in his 14th year with The College of Wooster football program and ninth as head coach, Mike Schmitz has been a key figure in transforming the Fighting Scots into a consistent winner. During his overall tenure, Wooster has gone 91-41 (.689), marking the school's winningest stretch of the last 80 years.

Over his first eight seasons at the helm, Schmitz, who also serves as the offensive coordinator, has directed the Scots to a 54-28 record (.659), highlighted by 2004 when Wooster put together a perfect regular season (10-0), won the North Coast Athletic Conference (7-0) - its first outright conference championship since 1934 - and earned the school's first-ever berth into the NCAA Div. III Football Championship. He was awarded with Ohio College Coach-of-the-Year honors from the National Football Foundation as well as being tabbed the 2004 North Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

The Scots nearly made the playoffs two other times during Schmitz's tenure, finishing 8-2 in 2002 and 2006, and in 2000, he overcame the graduation of 10 all-conference players from the previous era, guiding Wooster to its fifth-straight winning season (6-4) at the time.

Before being named head coach in February of 2000, Schmitz had been the offensive coordinator for five years. Joining a program in 1995 that had won a meager 27.2 percent (33-89-1) of its games the prior 13 seasons, including a 1-9 mark in 1994, Schmitz contributed to an immediate turnaround. In fact, with Schmitz directing the offense, the Scots went 37-13 from 1995-99, including a three-way tie for the NCAC championship in 1997.

More specifically, Schmitz took over a unit that had finished ninth in the NCAC in total offense (208.5 ypg) and scoring offense (7.9 ppg) in 1994. Under his guidance, Wooster jumped to fifth in total offense (244.4 ypg) and sixth in scoring offense (11.0 ppg) the very next season. Then, from 1996-99, the Scots rated among the top-three teams in the league in both categories every season, averaging 407.2 yards and 32.3 points. Also noteworthy, in 1999, the Scots led the NCAC in total offense (432.3 ypg) for the first time.

The offense has continued to thrive with Schmitz at head coach. Wooster has finished top-three in the league in both scoring and total offense three of the last six years, and was one of the highest-scoring teams in the nation, ranking No. 6 in Div. III in 2004 (42.5 ppg) and No. 7 in 2003 (40.5 ppg).

Prior to arriving on Wooster's campus, Schmitz was the head football coach at four high schools, compiling an overall record of 93-57-1 (.619). Highlighting his high school coaching days, Schmitz led nearby Rittman to a mark of 43-27-1 (.613) from 1981-87, which included the school's first undefeated regular season and trip to the state playoffs in 1986.

In 1988, he became the head coach at Archbishop Hoban and led it to a 33-7 record (.825), which still stands as the highest winning percentage over a four-year period in school history. Schmitz also has spent time as the head coach at Medina and Lexington High Schools.

A native of Delta, Ohio, Schmitz earned a bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 1974 and has done graduate work at Ashland University. While at Bowling Green, he was a three-year member of the Falcon wrestling team. Active in the Wooster community, Schmitz has volunteered his time with the Salvation Army and Every Woman's House.