

COACHES & STAFF

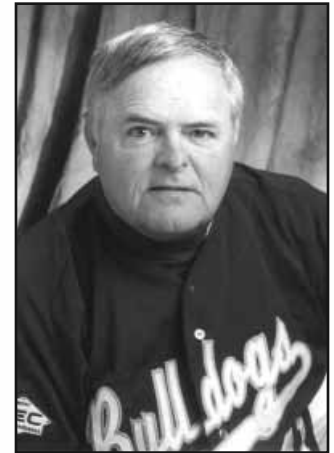
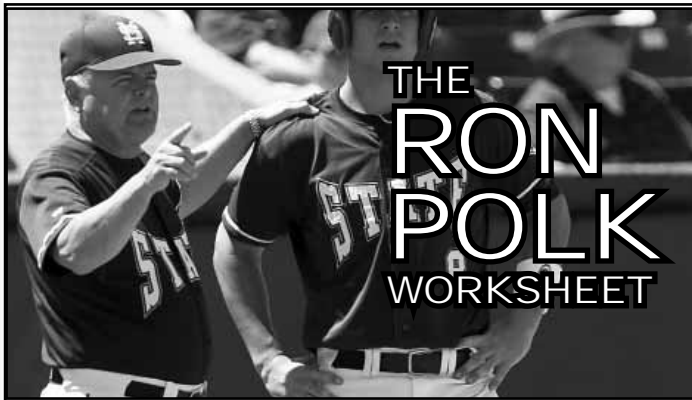
NCAA
WORLD SERIES
1971 1979
1981 1985
1990 1997
1996 2007



More than 80 years of coaching experience are represented on Mississippi State University's baseball coaching staff.



THE COACHING STAFF



PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Birthdate: January 12, 1944
Birthplace: Boston, Mass.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

College: Grand Canyon (Ariz.) University (1965),
Arizona (M.A., 1966), New Mexico (doctoral studies, 1967)

HEAD COACHING CAREER

Year	School	OVERALL		CONF	SECT	NCAA	CWS
		W-L	Pct.	W-L	W-L	W-L	W-L
1972	Georgia Southern	31-19	.620	—	—	—	—
1973	Georgia Southern	43-12	.782	—	—	3-1	1-2
1974	Georgia Southern	47-14	.770	—	—	2-2	—
1975	Georgia Southern	34-19	.642	—	—	—	—
GEORGIA SOUTHERN (4 years)		155-64	.708	—	—	5-3	1-2
1976	Mississippi State	28-17	.622	11-12	—	—	—
1977	Mississippi State	33-15	.688	11-9	1-2	—	—
1978	Mississippi State	38-18	.679	13-8	3-2	2-2	—
1979	Mississippi State	48-12	.800	*17-2	+3-0	4-1	1-2
1980	Mississippi State	31-19	.620	10-11	—	—	—
1981	Mississippi State	46-17	.730	17-6	1-2	3-0	1-2
1982	Mississippi State	28-23	.549	11-13	—	—	—
1983	Mississippi State	42-15	.737	17-5	2-2	3-2	—
1984	Mississippi State	45-16	.738	18-5	1-2	3-2	—
1985	Mississippi State	50-15	.769	*16-8	+3-0	3-1	2-2
1986	Mississippi State	34-21	.618	12-15	—	—	—
1987	Mississippi State	39-22	.639	*13-13	+4-0	1-2	—
1988	Mississippi State	44-20	.688	17-10	3-2	2-2	—
1989	Mississippi State	54-14	.794	*20-5	1-2	4-2	—
1990	Mississippi State	50-21	.704	17-9	+4-1	4-1	1-2
1991	Mississippi State	42-21	.667	12-9	2-2	2-2	—
1992	Mississippi State	40-22	.645	15-9	1-2	2-2	—
1993	Mississippi State	41-21	.661	17-12	3-2	0-2	—
1994	Mississippi State	36-23	.610	15-12	2-2	—	—
1995	Mississippi State	34-25	.576	11-16	1-2	—	—
1996	Mississippi State	38-24	.613	17-13	1-2	1-2	—
1997	Mississippi State	47-21	.691	19-11	1-2	5-1	1-2
MISSISSIPPI STATE (22 years)		888-422	.678	326-213	37-29	39-24	6-10
2000	Georgia	32-26	.564	14-15	1-2	—	—
2001	Georgia	47-22	.681	*20-10	1-2	4-1/2-1	0-2
GEORGIA (2 years)		79-48	.622	34-25	2-4	4-1/2-1	0-2
2002	Mississippi State	34-24-1	.585	14-15	1-2	—	—
2003	Mississippi State	42-20-1	.675	17-12	2-2	2-2	—
2004	Mississippi State	35-24	.593	13-17	—	1-2	—
2005	Mississippi State	42-22	.656	13-16	+4-0	2-2	—
2006	Mississippi State	37-23	.617	12-17	—	2-2	—
2007	Mississippi State	38-20	.655	15-13	0-2	3-0/2-0	0-2
MISSISSIPPI STATE (6 years)		228-133-2	.631	84-90	7-6	10-8/2-0	0-2
MSU career (28 years)		1,116-555-2	.668	410-303	44-35	51-32/2-0	6-12
SEC career (30 years)		1,195-603-2	.666	444-328	46-39	57-34/4-1	6-12
Overall career (34 years)		1,350-667-2	.669	444-328	46-39	62-37/4-1	7-14

* Southeastern Conference Champions • + SEC Tournament Champions

SEC Championships: 5 (1979, 1985, 1987, 1989, 2001)

SEC Tournament Championships: 5 (1979, 1985, 1987, 1990, 2005)

NCAA Regional/Playoff Appearances: 23 (1973, 1974, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007)

College World Series Appearances: 8 (1973, 1979, 1981, 1985, 1990, 1997, 2001, 2007)

Seasons while head baseball coach at Mississippi State shown underlined.

Ron Polk, who has helped solidify Mississippi State University's position of prominence on college baseball's national map, is in his 29th season as skipper of Mississippi State's Diamond Dogs, his 35th as a collegiate head coach and his 40th in all levels of coaching college baseball.

A native of Boston, Mass., Polk is in his second tour as head baseball coach at Mississippi State. He initially served as head coach at MSU from 1976 until his retirement from coaching following Mississippi State's run to the 1997 College World Series. After a four-year absence, Polk returned to the post for the 2002 season. In the two seasons prior to his return to State, Polk served as head coach at the University of Georgia, guiding the 2001 UG Bulldogs to an SEC championship and an appearance in the College World Series.

Polk concluded his 28th season at State in 2007 like he has most of his 34 seasons as a collegiate head coach — in postseason competition. He guided the 2007 Mississippi State edition to a 38-22 record and to State's 30th appearance in NCAA postseason play, its 24th regional tournament berth and the school's eighth trip to Omaha, Neb., and the prestigious NCAA College World Series.

Polk's 34-year overall coaching record stands at 1,350-667-2, fifth-most wins among active NCAA Division I baseball coaches. Even more impressive is his career top 10 standing among NCAA Division I Baseball's all-time coaching ranks. Polk, whose teams have averaged just under 40 wins per season, became college baseball's seventh winningest coach of all-time during the 2007 season.

In 28 seasons in Starkville he has skippered the Bulldogs to a 1,116-555-2 record (.667). He has coached better than 47 percent of Mississippi State's 3,556 all-time games and has directed MSU to nearly half of its 2,257 all-time wins. With his 27th season at State in 2006, Polk moved past former longtime State baseball skipper C.R. "Dudy" Noble as the longest-tenured baseball coach in Mississippi State history.

Perhaps no figure in all of college baseball is more widely recognized and respected than Polk, who became the winningest coach in SEC history during a remarkable 22-year run as Mississippi State head baseball coach from 1976 to 1997. During that span he compiled an 888-422 record (.678), leading the Bulldogs to SEC regular season or tournament championships five times (1979, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1990) and securing MSU baseball's place in college baseball's national picture with 15 NCAA regional tournament berths and five appearances in the prestigious NCAA College World Series (1979, 1981, 1985, 1990 and 1997).

Though he stepped away from coaching following Mississippi State's successful drive to the 1997 NCAA College World Series, Polk's success story continued. He remained on staff as MSU's Assistant Athletic Director for Special Projects, spearheading the successful campaign to expand the stadium and add premium skyboxes at Dudy Noble Field, Polk-DeMent Stadium. And, after his return to coaching at the University of Georgia, he directed the UGA Bulldogs' drive to their first SEC baseball crown in 47

THE COACHING STAFF



years and a berth in the 2001 NCAA College World Series. Georgia became the third Polk-led team to advance to the CWS and Polk joined current Texas head coach Augie Garrido and former Oklahoma skipper Larry Cochell as the only coaches to guide teams from three different schools to the NCAA College World Series.

Twice honored as the National Coach of the Year (1973 and 1985) and honored by his peers as the recipient of the ABCA's **Lefty Gomez Award**, Polk has earned his place in the **American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame** (1995), both the state of Mississippi and the Mississippi State University Sports Hall of Fame (1998), and the Georgia Southern University Hall of Fame (1990).

In 34 years as a collegiate head coach, he has piled up numbers more than worthy of his hall of fame recognition: a **1,350-667-2 (.669)** overall career record and a **444-329 (.574)** mark in SEC games; **23 NCAA district playoff** and **NCAA regional tournament** appearances; **eight NCAA College World Series berths**; **35 All-Americans** and **76 All-SEC players** coached; and **171 that have signed professional baseball contracts**, 21 of them advancing to the major leagues. In 1997 he became only the 16th coach in the history of college baseball to reach the 1,000-win milestone and currently ranks as college baseball's seventh all-time winningest coach.

Not surprisingly, the influence of Ron Polk can be found on baseball diamonds across the nation. Heading into the 2008 season, 30 players and coaches associated with Polk were coaching on the collegiate or high school level and 19 others were affiliated with professional baseball.

Ron Polk's Milestone Wins

No. 1	Ga. Sou. 7, West Chester St. 2 (3/11/72)
No. 100	Ga. Sou. 10, Georgia Tech 5 (4/7/74)
No. 156	1-MSU 4, Louisiana Tech (3/8/76)
No. 500	MSU 3, Southeastern La. 2 (3/2/85)
No. 655	2-MSU 7, Alabama 6 (Game 1-5/7/88)
No. 1000	MSU 11, Delta State 4 (2/27/97)
No. 1,155	3-MSU 10, Ole Miss 5 (5/19/02)
No. 1,234	4-MSU 3, Eastern Illinois 1 (2/25/05)

1-First win at Mississippi State
2-500th win at Mississippi State
3-1,000th career SEC coaching win
4-1,000th win at Mississippi State

Polk also rates as one of only three head coaches in the history of college baseball to guide three different schools to the NCAA College World Series. In the second year of a successful four-year stint at Georgia Southern University, Polk launched his Omaha connection by guiding his GSC club to the championship of the NCAA District III playoffs held at MSU's Dudy Noble Field and on to a berth in the College World Series. Including his coaching stint as a graduate assistant at Arizona, Polk has accompanied teams to Omaha in each of the last five decades.

He was hired as head baseball coach at Mississippi State University in the fall of 1975, directed MSU to its first NCAA Regional Tournament berth in 1978 and a year later to its second NCAA College World Series berth. In that 1979 season, State hosted and won the Southeastern Conference baseball championship, the first of five SEC titles during his initial term at State. The Bulldogs also hosted and captured the 1979 NCAA South Regional, the first of 12 NCAA regional or super regional tournaments hosted by the Baseball Bulldogs.

Polk is a 1965 graduate of **Grand Canyon (Ariz.) University**. He launched his coaching career and earned his master's degree from the **University of Arizona** in 1966, where he served on the staff of the legendary **Frank Sancet**. He later accepted a graduate assistantship at the **University of New Mexico**, serving there one season before accepting his first full-time coaching position in Florida as an assistant coach under coach **Charlie Greene** at **Miami Dade-South Community College**.

Polk authored "The Baseball Playbook", the nation's leading college text-

RON POLK VS. ALL OPPONENTS: 1972-2007 (2008 opponents shown in bold)

Opponent	W-L	Opponent	W-L	Opponent	W-L	Opponent	W-L	Opponent	W-L
Air Force..... <i>First meeting</i>		Duquesne	2-0	Lehigh	13-2	New Orleans	27-19	Stanford	0-2
Alabama	73-50	East Tennessee State	10-0	Lewis University	8-4	NYU-Stony Brook	2-0	Stetson	8-3
Alcorn State	4-0	Eastern Illinois	2-0	Lincoln Memorial	1-0	Nicholls State	3-0	Tennessee	28-14
Appalachian State	3-0	Eastern Kentucky	4-0	Lipscomb	3-0	North Alabama	6-2	Tennessee-Martin	4-0
Arizona	8-3	Elon	1-1	Long Beach State	0-1	North Carolina	1-5	Tennessee Tech	3-0
Arizona State	0-1	Fairleigh Dickinson	7-1	Louisiana-Lafayette	1-1	North Carolina-Asheville	1-1	Texas	1-5
Arkansas	33-20	Florida	24-40	Louisiana-Monroe	16-1	North Carolina State	2-0	Texas A&M	4-2
Arkansas-Little Rock <i>First meeting</i>		Florida Atlantic	2-0	Louisiana State	70-56	North Florida	<i>First meeting</i>	Texas Tech	0-2
Arkansas State	20-2	Florida International	2-0	Louisiana Tech	32-13-1	Northern Illinois	1-0	Towson State	1-0
Armstrong State	3-0	Florida State	12-17	Louisville	1-1	Northwestern (La.) State	2-0	Troy	2-0
Auburn	75-57	George Mason	4-1	Loyola Marymount	2-1	Notre Dame	0-2	Tulane	7-2
Auburn-Montgomery	2-0	George Washington	1-0	Maine	1-1	Oglethorpe	6-0	UAB	21-7
Austin Peay	3-2	Georgia	33-27	Marist College.....	3-0	Ohio State	3-1-1	UCLA	1-1
Baylor	1-2	Georgia College	2-0	Marshall	2-0	Oklahoma	1-1	Union	3-1
Belhaven College	7-1	Georgia Southern	4-1	Memphis	24-10	Oklahoma State	1-1	Valdosta State	4-3
Belmont College	1-1	Georgia State	2-2	Mercer (Macon)	5-2	Pan American	2-0	Vanderbilt	36-19
Birmingham-Southern	34-8	Georgia Tech	10-5	Mercer (Atlanta).....	4-0	Pembroke State	1-0	Virginia Tech	13-1
Brigham Young	1-0	Grand Canyon	2-0	Miami (Fla.)	2-4	Pepperdine	0-1	Wake Forest	1-2
Cal-State Santa Barbara	1-0	Harvard	1-0	Michigan	2-2	Quincy College	2-0	Washington	2-1
Cal-State Fullerton	1-2	Hawaii	5-6	Middle Tennessee State ...	2-0	St. Francis	0-1	West Alabama	27-3
Cal-State Northridge	0-1	Hawaii-Hilo	4-1	Millsaps College	1-0	St. Leo	4-0	West Chester State	2-0
Carson-Newman	2-0	Howard	2-1	Minnesota	3-2	St. Olaf	7-0	West Florida	2-1
Central Michigan	1-1	Illinois	3-1	Mississippi	89-57	Samford	14-2	West Virginia	1-0
Charleston-Southern	3-0	Illinois State	2-0	Mississippi College	41-6	San Francisco	1-0	West Virginia Tech	3-0
Citadel	1-0	Indiana State	4-1	Mississippi State	1-1	South Alabama	29-20	Western Carolina	11-2
Clemson	8-8	Jackson State	42-7	Mississippi Valley State ..	11-0	South Carolina	23-33	Western Kentucky	1-0
Coastal Carolina	2-0	Jackson Mets (exhibition) ...	3-0	Missouri	1-0	South Carolina-Aiken	2-0	Wichita State	1-0
Columbus State	4-1	Jacksonville University	13-7	Missouri Baptist	5-0	Southeastern Louisiana	4-0	William & Mary	1-0
Connecticut	4-0	Jacksonville State	9-0	Morehead State	2-0	Southeast Missouri	2-0	William Carey College	32-7
Cumberland College	2-0	Kansas	2-0	Morris Harvey	1-0	Southern California	1-3	Winthrop	3-3
Dallas Baptist	0-1	Kansas State	1-0	Murray State	5-0	Southern Miss	50-20	Wofford	2-0
Delta State	28-7	Kentucky	36-24	Nevada-Las Vegas	2-0	Southwest Missouri	1-0	156 opponents	1,350-667-2

Ron Polk

AMONG NCAA COACHING WINS LEADERS
WINNINGEST ALL-TIME NCAA DIVISION I COACHES
*By victories * — Indicates active coach*

Name	Yrs.	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. * Augie Garrido, Texas	39	1,629	753	8	.683
2. * Gene Stephenson, Wichita State	30	1,6-5	533	3	.750
3. * Mike Martin, Florida State	28	1,484	506	4	.745
4. * Larry Hayes, Texas Tech	37	1,483	830	4	.641
5. Chuck Hartman, Virginia Tech	47	1,444	816	8	.638
6. Cliff Gustafson, Texas	29	1,427	373	2	.792
7. * Ron Polk, Mississippi State	34	1,350	667	2	.669
8. Rod Dedeaux, Southern California	44	1,342	597	16	.691
9. Larry Cochell, Oklahoma	39	1,331	813	3	.621
10. Bob Bennett, Fresno State	34	1,300	757	8	.631

WINNINGEST ACTIVE NCAA DIVISION I COACHES
By victories

Name	Yrs.	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Augie Garrido, Texas	39	1,629	753	8	.683
2. Gene Stephenson, Wichita State	30	1,6-5	533	3	.750
3. Mike Martin, Florida State	28	1,484	506	4	.745
4. Larry Hayes, Texas Tech	37	1,483	830	4	.641
5. Ron Polk, Mississippi State	34	1,350	667	2	.669
6. Mark Marquess, Stanford	31	1,285	645	5	.665
7. Jay Bergman, Central Florida	31	1,183	688	3	.632
8. Jim Morris, Miami	26	1,146	489	4	.700
9. Jim Gilligan, Lamar	31	1,068	672	7	.613
10. Pete Dunn, Stetson	28	1,044	624	3	.626

WINNINGEST ACTIVE NCAA DIVISION I COACHES
By percentage (min. five years as a Division I head coach)

Name	Yrs.	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Gene Stephenson, Wichita State	30	1,6-5	533	3	.750
2. Mike Fox, North Carolina	24	937	317	5	.746
3. Mike Martin, Florida State	28	1,484	506	4	.745
4. Wayne Graham, Rice	16	740	284	0	.723
5. Jim Morris, Miami	26	1,146	489	4	.700
6. Ray Tanner, South Carolina	20	895	393	3	.694
7. Rick Jones, Tulane	19	774	346	1	.691
8. Steve Owens, Le Moyne	16	502	228	1	.687
9. Augie Garrido, Texas	39	1,629	753	8	.683
10. Mike Anderson, Nebraska	5	214	100	0	.682
14. Jim Wells, Alabama	18	745	361	0	.674
15. Dave Van Horn, Arkansas	14	572	278	0	.673
17. Ron Polk, Mississippi State	34	1,350	667	2	.669
18. Mark Johnson, Sam Houston St.	22	916	455	3	.668

RON POLK'S COACHING HONORS

- 1973 National Coach of the Year (ABCA, The Sporting News)
- 1979 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year
- 1985 National Coach of the Year (Baseball America)
- 1985 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year
- 1985 National Coach of the Year (*Collegiate Baseball)
- 1985 ABCA South Region Coach of the Year
- 1985 President, American Baseball Coaches Association
- 1987 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year
- 1988 Recipient of ABCA's Lefty Gomez Award
- 1989 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year
- 1990 Inducted into Georgia Southern Sports Hall of Fame
- 1995 Inducted into ABCA Sports Hall of Fame
- 1997 Mississippi Sportsman Of the Year (Jackson Clarion-Ledger)
- 1998 Inducted into MSU Sports Hall of Fame
- 1998 Inducted into Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame
- 1998 National Coach of the Year (U.S. Olympic Committee)
- 1999 * Named 6th Greatest College Baseball Coach (Baseball America)
- 2001 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year

— poll of professional baseball scouting directors

book for baseball, and is featured in a recently published book, "6 Psychological Factors for Success: America's Most Successful Coaches Reveal the Path to Competitive Excellence".

In addition to his coaching on the NCAA level, Polk has also been actively involved with coaching in international baseball.

He has completed seven tours as a member of the coaching staff for the USA National Baseball Team, twice serving as the head coach (1991 and 1998) and five times as an assistant coach (1977, 1987, 1988, 1995, 1996). Two of the teams that he coached represented the United States in the Olympic Games. He was an assistant coach on the gold medal-winning U.S. team in the 1988 Olympics (Seoul, South Korea) and on the bronze medal-winning U.S. team in the 1996 Olympics (Atlanta, Georgia).

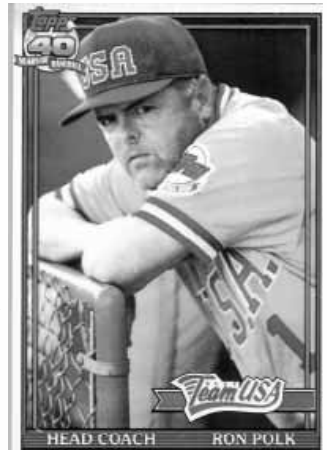
Polk has also skippered Mississippi State teams in international competition. He guided his first MSU team on a goodwill summer tour of West Germany in 1976 and in 1982 directed the MSU team in competition at the World Amateur Tournament in the Netherlands.

Polk's influence on college baseball, particularly in the highly-competitive Southeastern Conference, is reflected at the baseball facilities throughout the league. In 1987 Mississippi State completed a \$3.5 million, 6,700-seat grandstand and baseball facility at Dudy Noble Field. In subsequent years new grandstands and significant stadium improvements have followed at the baseball facilities at each of the other schools in the SEC.

The MSU baseball facility was officially renamed **Dudy Noble Field, Polk-DeMent Stadium** in April, 1998 in honor of Polk and the late **Gordon DeMent**, a successful businessman and longtime MSU baseball fan from Indianola, Miss.

Under Polk's direction, it has continued to grow in recent years. After stepping away from coaching in 1997, Polk coordinated the pre-construction sale of luxury skysuites and additional grandstand seating at Dudy Noble Field in a project that was completed during the 2000 season. And in late 2005 work was completed on two other major baseball projects: a 68,000-square foot climate-controlled indoor training facility, the **Palmeiro Center**, named after former Mississippi State and Major League Baseball great **Rafael Palmeiro**, and the baseball coaches office complex, both adjacent to Dudy Noble Field.

The office building, which also houses a heritage room, was made possible by gifts from past Polk pupils who went on to Major League careers — **Jeff Brantley, Will Clark, Eric DuBose, Paul Maholm, Jay Powell** and **Booby Thigpen**, and former State manager **Bo McKinnis**.



THE COACHING STAFF



COLLEGE HEAD COACHES

Jim Case (*Jacksonville State*)
 John Cohen (*Kentucky*)
 Pete Dunn (*Stetson*)
 Mark Hogan (*Southeast Missouri State*)
 Joe Hudak (*Winthrop University*)
 Mike Hutcheon (*Air Force*)
 Mark Johnson (*Sam Houston State*)
 Rob McDonald (*Murray State*)
 Allen Osborne (*Wingate*)
 Paul Page (*Ohio Dominican*)
 Dave Perno (*Georgia*)
 Daron Schoenrock (*Memphis*)
 Brian Shoop (*UAB*)
 Steve Smith (*Baylor*)

COLLEGE ASSISTANT COACHES

Steve Johnigan (*Baylor*)
 Pete Pasquarosa (*Babson College*)
 Bob Smith (*George Washington*)
 Mitch Thompson (*Baylor*)
 Paul Wyczawski (*Murray State*)

RON POLK'S PUPILS IN THE BASEBALL COACHING RANKS

HIGH SCHOOL HEAD COACHES

Travis Chapman (*Pease HS • Jacksonville, Fla.*)
 Tommy Edwards (*Bishop Kenny HS • Jacksonville, Fla.*)
 Mike Gavin (*Wayne County HS • Waynesboro, Miss.*)
 Wes Johnson (*East Webster HS • Maben, Miss.*)
 Mike Moore (*Hampton Christian HS • Hampton, Va.*)
 Ray Mullino (*Wetumpka HS • Wetumpka, Ala.*)
 Pat Olmi (*Harrison Central HS • Gulfport, Miss.*)
 Tim Parenton (*Jesuit HS • New Orleans, La.*)
 Jay Powell (*Jackson Academy • Jackson, Miss.*)
 Josh Reagan (*Canton HS • Canton, Miss.*)
 Randy Schlosser (*Conneaut Lake HS • Conneaut Lake, Pa.*)
 Jeff Walker (*Winona HS • Winona, Miss.*)
 Tommy Walker (*Spanish Fort HS • Spanish Fort, Ala.*)
 Brett Wheeler (*Bethel HS • Hampton, Va.*)

PROFESSIONAL COACHES

Rolando Dearmas (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Tom Kolchman (*Anaheim Angels*)
 Chris Maloney (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 Pat McMahon (*Florida*)
 Jim Morrison (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 John Tamargo (*Milwaukee Brewers*)
 Bobby Thigpen (*Chicago White Sox*)
 Steve Webber (*San Diego Padres*)

PROFESSIONAL SCOUTS

Chuck Bartlett (*Cleveland Indians*)
 Hugh Buchanan (*Atlanta Braves*)
 John Cedarburg (*Colorado Rockies*)
 Dave Klipstein (*Boston Red Sox*)
 Marty Lamb (*Los Angeles Dodgers*)
 Joel Matthews (*Florida Marlins*)
 Allen Morlock (*Seattle Mariners*)
 Gary Murphy (*Arizona Diamondbacks*)
 Jim Robinson (*Boston Red Sox*)
 Steve Smith (*New York Mets*)
 Jeff Stewart (*San Diego Padres*)

RON POLK PROTEGES IN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

1973
 Tom Bigwood (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Rolando Dearmas (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Richard Johnson (*Atlanta Braves*)
 John Tamargo (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 Ernie Venet (*Philadelphia Phillies*)

1974
 John Butler (*New York Yankees*)
 Mike Cash (*San Francisco Giants*)
 Keathel Chauncey (*Texas Rangers*)
 John Gibson (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Ken Kruppa (*New York Yankees*)
 Jim Morrison (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Carl Person (*California Angels*)

1975
 Bob Gerdes (*Montreal Expos*)
 Pete Manos (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Bobby Salter (*Philadelphia Phillies*)

1976
 Ray Boyer (*Atlanta Braves*)
 Curtis Fisher (*New York Mets*)
 Richard Hudson (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)
 Rich Toth (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)
 John Tudor (*Boston Red Sox*)

1977
 Carl Gardner (*New York Yankees*)
 Tom Kolchman (*Cincinnati Reds*)
 Nat Showalter (*New York Yankees*)

1978
 Russ Aldrich (*Cincinnati Reds*)
 Del Bender (*Boston Red Sox*)
 Jack Lazorko (*Houston Astros*)
 Howie McCann (*N.Y.-Penn League*)
 Buddy Maher (*Chicago Cubs*)
 Don Robinson (*Houston Astros*)

1979
 Mike Kelley (*Chicago Cubs*)
 Kenny Kurtz (*Kansas City Royals*)

1980
 Perry Cliburn (*Texas Rangers*)
 Randy Schlosser (*Houston Astros*)

1981
 Rick Bairley (*Boston Red Sox*)
 Steve D'Ercole (*New York Mets*)
 Mark Gillaspie (*San Diego Padres*)
 Don Mundie (*Houston Astros*)
 Lou Sottile (*Detroit Tigers*)
 Steve Susce (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)

1982
 Bruce Castoria (*Houston Astros*)
 Dave Klipstein (*Milwaukee Brewers*)
 Allen Morlock (*St. Louis Cardinals*)

1983
 Chuck Bartlett (*Los Angeles Dodgers*)
 Hans Herzog (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 Chris Maloney (*New York Mets*)
 Jay Porter (*San Diego Padres*)
 Walt Shirley (*Atlanta Braves*)
 Brad Winkler (*New York Yankees*)

1984
 Bobby Parker (*Houston Astros*)

1985
 Jeff Brantley (*San Francisco Giants*)
 Will Clark (*San Francisco Giants*)
 Gene Morgan (*Kansas City Royals*)
 Rafael Palmeiro (*Chicago Cubs*)
 Gator Thiesen (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 Bobby Thigpen (*Chicago White Sox*)
 Dan Van Cleave (*Texas Rangers*)

1987
 Trent Intorcchia (*Seattle Mariners*)
 Steve King (*Montreal Expos*)
 Ray Mullino (*Chicago Cubs*)

1988
 Mark North (*Chicago Cubs*)
 Jack Malone (*Pioneer League*)
 John Mitchell (*Atlanta Braves*)
 Dan Paradoa (*Minnesota Twins*)
 Ben Webb (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)

1989
 Richie Grayum (*Chicago Cubs*)
 Brad Hildreth (*Baltimore Orioles*)
 Jody Hurst (*Detroit Tigers*)
 Trent Weaver (*Oakland Athletics*)
 Barry Winford (*Texas Rangers*)
 Pete Young (*Montreal Expos*)

1990
 John Cohen (*Minnesota Twins*)
 Tracy Echols (*Erie Sailors*)
 Tracy Jobs (*Salt Lake Trappers*)
 Tommy Raffo (*Miami Miracle*)
 Bobby Reed (*Texas Rangers*)
 Jim Robinson (*Chicago Cubs*)
 Jon Shave (*Texas Rangers*)
 Allen Tyson (*Toronto Blue Jays*)

1991
 Chris George (*New York Mets*)
 Todd Nace (*New York Mets*)

1992
 Charlie Anderson (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 Chuck Daniel (*Chicago Cubs*)
 B.J. Wallace (*Montreal Expos*)

1993
 Ron Brown (*Florida Marlins*)
 Jon Harden (*Salt Lake Trappers*)
 Paul Petrulis (*New York Mets*)
 Jay Powell (*Baltimore Orioles*)

1994
 Brad Burckel (*Milwaukee Brewers*)
 Matt Carpenter (*Colorado Rockies*)
 Carlton Loewer (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Gary Rath (*Los Angeles Dodgers*)
 Drew Williams (*Milwaukee Brewers*)

1995
 Scott Tanksley (*Minnesota Twins*)
 Scott Tribolet (*Houston Astros*)

1996
 Blake Anderson (*Colorado Rockies*)
 Brian Clark (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 David Hayman (*Arizona Diamondbacks*)
 David Hooten (*Minnesota Twins*)
 Ben Jenkins (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Todd Stanley (*Chicago White Sox*)

1997
 Eric DuBose (*Oakland Athletics*)
 Brian Harris (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Jeff Mackin (*Tupelo Tornado*)
 Tommy Parks (*Tupelo Tornado*)
 Adam Piatt (*Oakland Athletics*)
 Damian Scioneaux (*Tampa Bay Rays*)

1998
 Brooks Bryan (*Evansville Otters*)
 Brad Freeman (*St. Louis Cardinals*)
 Jeremy Jackson (*Kansas City Royals*)
 Richard Lee (*Toronto Blue Jays*)
 Barry Patton (*Cleveland Indians*)
 Chris Reinike (*Cleveland Indians*)

1999
 Matt Ginter (*Chicago White Sox*)
 Scott Polk (*New York Mets*)
 Hank Thoms (*St. Paul Saints*)
 Brian Wiese (*Boston Red Sox*)

2000
 Travis Chapman (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Chris Clark (*Atlanta Braves*)
 Kevin Donovan (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Josh Hudson (*Adirondack Lumberjacks*)
 Ryan McGrath (*Houston Astros*)
 Matt Steele (*Arizona Diamondbacks*)

2001
 Doc Brooks (*San Diego Padres*)
 Jeremy Brown (*Minnesota Twins*)
 Jody Friedman (*St. Paul Saints*)
 Jon Knott (*San Diego Padres*)
 Jeff Keppinger (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)
 Rob Moravek (*Texas Rangers*)
 Andy Neufeld (*Oakland Athletics*)

2002
 Tanner Brock (*Cincinnati Reds*)
 Ryan Carroll (*Jackson Senators*)
 Jeffery Carswell (*Cincinnati Reds*)
 Chad Henry (*Joliet Jackhammers*)
 Chris Young (*Colorado Rockies*)

2003
 Jon Armitage (*San Francisco Giants*)
 Jacob Blakeney (*Atlanta Braves*)
 Matthew Brinson (*Colorado Rockies*)
 Allen Buckley (*California Angels*)
 David Coffey (*Boston Red Sox*)
 Paul Maholm (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)
 Matthew Maniscalco (*Tampa Bay Rays*)
 Lee Mitchell (*Florida Marlins*)
 Brandon Moorhead (*Seattle Mariners*)
 Jonathan Papelbon (*Boston Red Sox*)

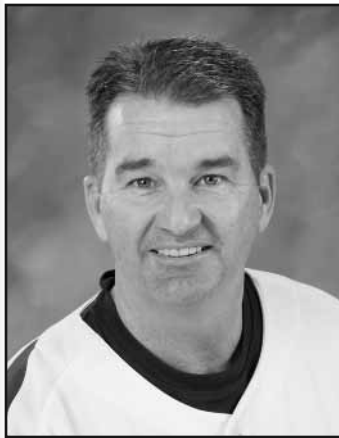
2004
 Michael Brown (*Northern League*)
 Brett Campbell (*Montreal Expos*)
 Steve Gendron (*Florida Marlins*)
 Robby Goodson (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Jeff Lacher (*Florida Marlins*)
 Craig Tatum (*Cincinnati Reds*)

2005
 Brad Corley (*Pittsburgh Pirates*)
 Todd Doolittle (*Florida Marlins*)
 Eric Ebers (*Frontier League*)
 Jamie Gant (*Houston Astros*)
 Alan Johnson (*Colorado Rockies*)
 Todd Nicholas (*Colorado Rockies*)
 J.B. Tucker (*Seattle Mariners*)
 Ned Yost (*Milwaukee Brewers*)

2006
 Thomas Berkery (*Texas Rangers*)
 Jeff Butts (*Northern League*)
 Doc Cleveland (*Cleveland Indians*)
 Brooks Dunn (*San Diego Padres*)
 Joseph Hunter (*Chicago White Sox*)
 Tyler Jones (*Atlanta Braves*)
 Jon Mungle (*Northern League*)

2007
 Wyn Diggs (*United League Baseball*)
 Edward Easley (*Arizona Diamondbacks*)
 Josh Johnson (*Tampa Bay Rays*)
 Mitch Moreland (*Texas Rangers*)
 Jacob Ocies (*Philadelphia Phillies*)
 Jeffrey Rea (*Chicago Cubs*)

NOTE: Players who have played in the Major Leagues are shown in bold. Active players who have played in the Major Leagues are also shown underlined.



Russ McNickle

• *Assistant coach (South Alabama, 1988)*

Pitching coach **Russ McNickle**, who launched his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at Mississippi State in 1989, is in his seventh year on the Baseball Bulldogs' staff and his fourth in charge of MSU pitchers.

McNickle, 43, has coached successfully on a variety of levels of collegiate baseball over the past 18 seasons. He assumed his current role as Bulldog pitching coach

in 2004-05 after having served his first three seasons on the MSU staff as coordinator of Mississippi State's highly-successful summer and winter youth baseball camps.

In three seasons under McNickle's direction MSU pitchers have compiled a 4.18 earned average, helping lead the Bulldogs to an SEC Tournament championship, three NCAA regional tournament appearances and last season's Super Regional title and advancement to the College World Series.

The Mobile, Ala., native began his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach on **Ron Polk's** staff at **Mississippi State University** in 1989 and 1990. The Bulldogs advanced to NCAA tournament competition both seasons, winning a share of the 1990 SEC Tournament championship in Hoover, Ala., before advancing to the prestigious NCAA College World Series in Omaha.

McNickle coached the next 10 seasons in the Sunshine State. He coached pitchers and catchers during a two-year stint (1991-92) as an assistant to **Dr. Roger Martinsen** at **Central Florida Community College** in Ocala, Fla. In 1993 he joined the staff of ABCA Hall of Famer **Chuck Anderson** as an assistant coach at **Florida Southern College**. During a six-year term (1993-1998) at the NCAA Division II school in Lakeland, Fla., McNickle helped direct the Moccasins to a 265-84 mark, five NCAA postseason appearances, three Sunshine State Conference titles and a pair of berths in the NCAA Division II College World Series. Florida Southern won the national title at the 1995 CWS in Montgomery, Ala., after claiming runner-up honors in 1994. Fifteen FSC players earned All-American status, two earned ABCA National Player of the Year honors, and 28 players were selected in the Major League Baseball draft.

His coaching career continued at the **University of South Florida** in Tampa, Fla., the next two seasons (1999-2000), where he served as pitching coach and top assistant under coach **Eddie Cardieri**. McNickle and the Bulls visited Dudy Noble Field for a three-game series in 1999, his first season in a two-year stint at South Florida, now in the Big East Conference.

Following the 2000 campaign, McNickle returned to Mississippi, this time as head coach at **Meridian Community College**. His 2001 MCC Eagles club posted a 38-16 record and claimed the Miss-Lou Conference championship.

McNickle tutored Bulldog catchers his first three seasons at State, including **Craig Tatum**. Tatum became the highest-drafted Bulldog catcher when he was selected in the third-round of the 2004 MLB draft by the Cincinnati Reds. Among McNickle's other former pupils who continued their careers in professional baseball are former Philadelphia Phillies pitcher **Bronson Heflin** and pitcher **Brett Tomko**, currently pitching for the Kansas City Royals.

In his first season as MSU pitching coach, McNickle directed an impressive turnaround among MSU hurlers. The 2005 state pitching staff posted a 3.51 ERA, climbing from 10th to second in the highly-competitive SEC.

The Bulldog pitching staff set a school record in 2006 when MSU issued but 162 walks in 60 games.

In helping guide the Bulldogs to the 2007 College World Series, the MSU moundsmen registered a six-year high of 496 strikeouts and averaged 8.3 strikeouts per nine inning game, the NCAA's 11th-highest strikeouts per game

average.

McNickle's resume also includes past summer collegiate baseball league coaching stints in both the **Cape Cod League** and the **Valley Baseball League**. He's also made numerous appearances at clinics and summer baseball camps.

A catcher by trade, McNickle earned all-state honors during his prep baseball career at **Mobile Christian High School**. He continued his playing career at **Patrick Henry State Junior College** in Monroeville, Ala., in 1984 and 1985 before earning his bachelor's degree at the **University of South Alabama** in 1988.

McNickle, who directs the Baseball Bulldogs' weekly devotional, was honored prior to the 2005 SEC Baseball Tournament in Hoover, Ala., as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Coach of the Year.

He is married to the former **Robin Elliott** of Houma, La., a teacher in the Starkville public school system, and they have a son, **Trey**, 15, and a daughter **Jordan**, 11.

The McNickle Worksheet

Personal Background

Birth date: October 1, 1964

Birth place: Mobile, Ala.

Wife: Robin (Elliott) of Houma, La.

Children: Trey 15, and Jordan 11

Educational Background

High School: Mobile (Ala) Christian High School (1982)

Junior College: Patrick Henry (Ala.) Junior College (1985)

College: South Alabama (1988), Mississippi State (1990)

Coaching Background

Graduate Assistant Coach: Mississippi State (1989-90)

Assistant Coach: Central Florida Community College (1991-92)

Assistant Coach: Florida Southern College (1993-98)

Assistant Coach: University of South Florida (1999-2000)

Head Coach: Meridian (Miss.) Comm. College (2001)

Coordinator of Camps: Mississippi State University (2002-03)

Assistant Coach: Mississippi State University (2004—)



Jordan, Robin, Trey and Russ McNickle



Tommy Raffo

• Assistant coach (Mississippi State, 1990)

Tommy Raffo, who earned All-America status in both athletics and academics during his stellar four-year career at Mississippi State, is in his 15th season on the Bulldog coaching staff and his 19th season of affiliation with Bulldog Baseball.

The former All-Southeastern Conference first baseman coaches the Bulldog outfielders and serves as Mississippi State's hitting coach.

Under Raffo's direction, Bulldog hitters have hit .300 or better in 10 of the last 12 years, including a school-record .335 in 1999.

A native of Orange Park, Fla., Raffo was a four-year letter-winner playing for **Ron Polk** at **Mississippi State University** from 1987-90, earning All-America and All-Southeastern Conference honors after his junior and senior seasons.

In 1989 Raffo helped lead the Bulldogs to a school-record 54 wins and a conference championship after posting an MSU-record 102 hits, driving in 80 runs and ranking first in the SEC with 22 home runs. One year later as a senior co-captain, he hit .358 with 13 home runs and 69 RBI as Mississippi State advanced to the **1990 NCAA College World Series**.

Raffo finished his MSU playing career ranked in the top 10 of nearly every offensive category in the Mississippi State and SEC record books. Raffo's .366 career batting average still stands as the sixth-best career mark in school history while his 278 career hits rates a No. 5 ranking among MSU's career leaders. During his four-year collegiate career he hit 45 home runs and collected 207 RBI, ranking seventh and fourth in those respective MSU career categories.

Raffo's success at Mississippi State carried over into the classroom, earning GTE-CoSIDA Academic All-America team honors twice during his career. He was also a three-time selection to the Academic All-SEC team.

After graduating from MSU in 1990 with a degree in general business, Raffo was selected by the **Miami Miracle** in the eighth round of the 1990 Major League draft and continued his baseball career on the professional level. His four-year career included seasons with Miami, in the Cincinnati Reds organization (1991-92) and with the St. Paul Saints of the Northern League (1993).

The Bulldog assistant is long on NCAA postseason tournament experience. Raffo competed in NCAA regional tournaments all four years during his MSU career while 11 of the 14 Mississippi State teams that he has coached have continued their seasons in regional tournament play. That postseason experience also includes four trips to Omaha for the NCAA College World Series, first as a player in 1990, later as an assistant coach in both 1997 and 1998, MSU's first back-to-back trips to college baseball's "final eight", and State's advancement to Rosenblatt Stadium in 2007.

As Bulldog hitting coach, Raffo helped develop the offensive talents of the likes of MSU alums **Thomas Berkery** and MSU career hits record-holder **Jeffrey Rea**, who in 2006 finished 1-2 in batting average in the Southeastern Conference, and the runner up for the 2007 batting title, **Brandon Turner**.

Raffo was a four-year standout as a first baseman and pitcher for coaches **Bob West** and **Damon Olinto** at **Bishop Kenny High School** in Jackson-

ville, Fla., the same prep program that produced the likes of former MSU head coach **Pat McMahon**, former Bulldog assistant and player **Charlie Anderson**, former players **Drew Williams**, **Brian Terry**, **Travis Chapman** and **Jonathan Papelbon** and current Bulldog **Jeff Flagg**.

During his prep career, he hit 20 home runs with 132 RBI, and posted a 21-4 record with a 1.71 ERA on the mound. He was named the Jacksonville Journal City Player of the Year in both 1985 and 1986 and was selected Most Valuable Player of the Florida High School All-Star Game in 1986.

In 2007 Raffo was selected as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes SEC Coach of the Year. He is a frequent speaker at baseball clinics and meetings of civic organizations. Most recently Raffo was a featured speaker at the American Baseball Coaches Association national convention in Philadelphia, Pa.

Raffo, 40, is married to the former **Paula Hawkins** of Calhoun City, Miss., and they are the parents of two daughters, **Claudia Elizabeth**, 11, and **Anna Winifred**, 9 and a son, **Thomas Hanniford**, born in July 2007.

The Raffo Worksheet

Personal Background

Birth date: December 22, 1967

Birth place: Jacksonville, Fla.

Wife: Paula (Hawkins) of Calhoun City, Miss.

Children: Claudia Elizabeth, 11, Anna Winifred, 9 and Thomas Hanniford, born July 2007

Educational Background

High School: Jacksonville [Fla.] Bishop Kenny High School (1986)

College: Mississippi State (1990)

Coaching Background

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Mississippi State (1994-97)

Assistant Coach: Mississippi State University (1998 —)



Claudia, Tommy, Paula, Ford and Anna Raffo



Wade Hedges

• *Coordinator of Camps (Florida Southern, 1996)*

Wade Hedges is in his fourth season as a full-time member of the Mississippi State baseball staff, serving as coordinator of MSU's winter and summer baseball camps.

Hedges, a native of Athens, Ga., previously served as MSU baseball's administrative assistant in 2003-04 while teaching in the kinesiology department at Mississippi State University.

In addition to his role as coordinator of Mississippi State's baseball camps, Hedges also oversees the Bulldog catching corps, serves as director for the Mississippi State Dugout Club and coordinates the program's equipment needs. Numbered among his baseball pupils is All-American catcher **Edward Easley**, the **2007 Johnny Bench Award** and **Cellular South Ferriss Trophy** winner and a supplemental first-round draft pick of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Hedges is a veteran of more than a decade of baseball coaching on a variety of levels, with coaching stops at the high school, junior college and both the NCAA Division I and Division II levels.

He launched his coaching career in 1995-96 as an undergraduate assistant at **Florida Southern College**, where he served on the staff of ABCA Hall of Fame inductee **Chuck Anderson** and current MSU assistant **Russ McNickle**. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminology at FSC in 1996, and for the next two seasons served as a graduate assistant at his alma mater. During his three seasons on staff at the Lakeland, Fla., school the Moccasins posted a 125-47 record, claiming two Sunshine State Conference titles and advancing to the NCAA Division II Tournament each year. Florida Southern was chosen by *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper in 1998 as the nation's top NCAA Division II baseball program.

In August 1998 Hedges was named head coach at **Sebring (Fla.) High School**. He guided the SHS Blue Streak squad to a district title in 1999 and a school-best runner-up finish in the 2000 regional finals, for which he was honored as the coach of the year in the district, the county and the area. A full-time instructor during his two-year stay at Sebring, Hedges was honored as the school's ninth grade Teacher of the Year in 1999 and 2000 and was selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among Teachers".

He continued his baseball coaching career on the junior college level as an assistant coach at **Polk Community College** in Winter Haven, Fla., in 2000-01. Hedges served as the chief assistant to PCC head coach **Johnny Wiggs**, directing the team's offensive and defense efforts. The Vikings established team records for hits, doubles, hit-batsmen, and double plays during Hedges' tenure there, while five PCC players advanced their careers in professional baseball and 18 others earned scholarships to four-year colleges and universities in that three-year span.

While an administrative assistant at MSU in 2003-04, Hedges served as a hitting and pitching coordinator for Mississippi State's winter and summer baseball camps and assisted with the compilation of the team's SEC scouting reports.

A graduate of **Miamisburg (Ohio) High School**, Hedges attended **Florida Southern College**, where he was a national finalist for the 1996 NCAA

Division II Sear's Director's Cup Postgraduate Scholarship. In January 1998 he earned a master's degree in sport science at the U.S. Sports Academy.

Hedges has also accumulated extensive coaching experience in summer baseball, serving as an assistant coach for the Wausau (Wisc.) Woodchucks of the Northwoods Collegiate League in 1996 and in subsequent summer baseball camp instructor positions at Florida, LSU, Tennessee, Central Florida and Mississippi State.

Hedges, 33, is married to the former **Jennifer Coppage** of Merritt Island, Fla., a two-time NCAA College World Series participant as a softball player at Florida Southern College. They have two sons, **Ty Gilbert**, 4, and **Wyatt Michael**, 2.

The Hedges Worksheet

Personal Background

Birth date: December 23, 1974

Birth place: Athens, Ga.

Family: Wife Jennifer (Coppage) of Merritt Island, Fla., and children Ty, 4, and Wyatt, 2

Educational Background

High School: Miamisburg (Ohio) High School

College: Florida Southern (1996), U.S. Sports Academy (1998)

Coaching Background

Student Assistant: Florida Southern (1997-98)

Graduate Assistant: Florida Southern (1997-98)

Assistant Coach: Florida Southern (1993-98)

Head Coach: Sebring (Fla.) High School (1999-2000)

Assistant Coach: Polk (Fla.) C.C. (2001-03)

Administrative Assistant: Mississippi State University (2004)

Coordinator of Camps: Mississippi State University (2005--)



Wyatt, Wade, Jennifer and Ty Hedges



Greg Drye

Administrative Assistant

- MSU physical education department instructor
- From Long Beach, Miss.
- Born August 4, 1974 in Gulfport, Miss.
- Undergraduate degree: Southern Miss, 1996 (coaching/sports administration)
- Masters degree: Delta State, 1999 (physical education, health & recreation)
- Third year with MSU baseball staff



Tyler Bratton

Student Assistant Coach

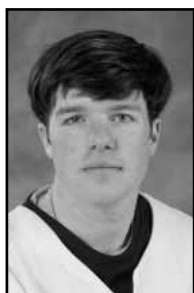
- Senior from West Point, Miss.
- Born August 3, 1983 in Columbus, Miss.
- Son of Marion and Emily Bratton
- Graduate of Oak Hill Academy
- Majoring in secondary education
- First year as student assistant



April Edwards
*Administrative secretary
MSU Baseball Office*



Diane Keith
*Administrative secretary
Bulldog Sports Network/
Athletic Media Relations*



Ben Stewart

Student Trainer

- Junior from Olive Branch, Miss.
- Born January 16, 1987 in Memphis, Tenn.
- Son of Dan and Billie Stewart
- Graduate of Olive Branch High School
- Majoring in physical education
- Second year as baseball student trainer



Clark Bradley

Student Manager

- Sophomore from Leakesville, Miss.
- Born November 24, 1987 in Mobile, Ala.
- Nephew of Thomas and Emma Wilkerson
- Graduate of Greene County High School
- Majoring in marketing
- First year as student manager



J.P. Davis

Student Manager

- Senior from Okolona, Miss.
- Born March 22, 1984 in Amory, Miss.
- Son of Kebo and Debbie Davis
- Graduate of South Pontotoc High School
- Majoring in interdisciplinary studies
- Third year as student manager



Baron Jones

Student Manager

- Junior from Meadville, Miss.
- Born March 28, 1987 in McComb, Miss.
- Son of Bart and Bobette Jones
- Graduate of Franklin High School
- Majoring in banking and finance
- First year as student manager



Thomas Marino

Student Manager

- Senior from Memphis, Tenn.
- Born February 24, 1986 in Memphis, Tenn.
- Son of Tom and Jana Marino
- Graduate of White Station High School
- Majoring in general business administration
- Fourth year as student manager



Oliver Preus

Student Manager

- Sophomore from Boyle, Miss.
- Born June 27, 1987 in Indianola, Miss.
- Son of Richard and Anne Preus
- Graduate of Cleveland High School
- Majoring in landscape architecture
- Second year as student manager

Ray Berryhill

Assistant AD/Academic Advising
(Mississippi State, 1980)

Administering the day-to-day academic needs of the Baseball Bulldogs is **Ray Berryhill**, in his 19th year overall with the Mississippi State University Athletic Department.

A native of Gloster, Miss., Berryhill is in his second tour of duty in the department. A 1980 graduate of **Mississippi State University**, he served first as a graduate assistant coach with the MSU track program. In 1984 he was named supervisor of athletic academics at the University of Alabama, overseeing the academic progress of all Crimson Tide student-athletes.

He returned to Mississippi State University in a similar position as director of athletic academics in January 1989, and in August 2000 was promoted to assistant athletic director for academic advising.

Under his supervision, MSU's student-athletes have enjoyed unprecedented success in the classroom, frequently establishing school records for combined grade point average. Berryhill also serves State's student-athletes as M-Club advisor and through MSU's student housing office supervises on-campus housing for all student-athletes.

An avid turkey hunter, Berryhill, 49, is a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation. He and his wife, the former **Amy Huff** of Ferriday, La., are the parents of a son, **Cody**, and a daughter, **Caroline**.



Allen Thompson

Assistant Athletic Trainer
(West Alabama, 2000)

Allen Thompson is in his first year as the athletic trainer for the Baseball Bulldogs. Thompson joined the Mississippi State University Athletic Department in October 2007.

A native of Butler, Ala., Thompson served as an athletic trainer the past five years in the St. Louis Cardinals organization. He was the head trainer the past three seasons for the Palm Beach (Fla.) Cardinals of the Class A Florida State League, where he also served as the club's supervisor of strength and conditioning. He was honored as the 2006 Florida State League Athletic Trainer of the Year and selected to serve as the athletic trainer for the FSL's All-Star Game in 2006.

He also served as trainer with the Johnson City (Tenn.) Cardinals and in the New York Mets organization with the Capital City Bombers in Columbia, S.C., and the Kingsport Mets in Kingsport, Tenn.

Thompson began his career in athletic training as a student assistant trainer from 1995 to 2000 at the **University of West Alabama** and later was a graduate assistant trainer at **Troy University**, where he earned a graduate degree in Sports Fitness management.

He is married to the former **Mandy Kjeldahl** of Troy, Ala., and they are the parents of two children, **Ally**, 4 and **McKenzie**, six months.



Joe Dier

Asst. Media Relations Director
(Mississippi State, 1975)

Overseeing the publicity needs of the Baseball Bulldogs is **Joe Dier**, in his 21st year on the Mississippi State staff and his 10th as the primary media relations contact for MSU baseball and volleyball.

Dier, 54, has been affiliated with Mississippi State athletics and MSU baseball since 1978 — eight years as editor of *Dawgs' Bite* and since 1986 as a member of the MSU Athletics Department staff. He also previously served as the sports editor at the *Yazoo City (Miss.) Daily Herald* and the *Starkville (Miss.) Daily News*.

A 1975 graduate of **Mississippi State University**, Dier followed the late **Bob Hartley** and **Bo Carter** as MSU's third full-time sports information director in November 1986, initially serving as the primary media contact for all 15 Mississippi State sports. He served as media coordinator for MSU-hosted NCAA regional baseball tournaments in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1992 and for MSU's 1991 Liberty Bowl football team. He was named to the board of directors of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) in 2005 and serves as the organization's first-vice president. He is also charter member of the MSU Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame.

In 1992 he began a four-year term as editor of the weekly athletic department publication *Dawgs' Bite*, returning to sports information work in July 1996.

A native of Baton Rouge, La., and the son of a career Air Force chaplain, Dier traveled extensively as a youth, following military moves to Washington, British Columbia, Oregon, Alabama, Florida, Okinawa, Mississippi and Alaska. He is married to the former **Kim Monroe** of Starkville, a teacher in the Starkville public schools, and they are the parents of a son, **Reed Burton**, age 17.



John McCallister

Assistant Strength Coach
(West Virginia University, 2000)

Overseeing the strength and conditioning program for Mississippi State's Baseball Bulldogs is **John McCallister**, who is completing his fourth year as assistant strength coach at MSU.

In addition to baseball, McCallister also assists in the strength program for Mississippi State's football Bulldogs.

McCallister, 31, hails from Ona, West Virginia. He joined the MSU strength staff in January 2004 after serving for more than five years in the strength department at **West Virginia University**. A 2000 graduate of WVU, McCallister first served as an undergraduate assistant strength coach at the Morgantown, W.V. school in 1999 and 2000. He then continued his affiliation with West Virginia's strength program as a graduate assistant until 2002 before joining the Mountaineer's athletic staff full-time in July 2002.

During his term at WVU he worked with a variety of sports teams and assisted in the strength training of 28 football athletes and seven baseball athletes who continued their athletic careers on the professional level. He also served on the staff of West Virginia's 2002 Continental Tire Bowl and 2000 Toyota Gator Bowl teams.

He served as an instructor in the physical education department at West Virginia in 2000-2001 and staffed the Mountain State Speed/Strength Camp from 1999 to 2003.

McCallister, a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS), earned both a bachelor's degree (2000) and masters degree in physical education (2004) at West Virginia University.

He is married to the former **Jennifer Yon** of Beckley, W.V., and they are the parents of a daughter, **Emma Lynn**, 1.



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STRENGTH/ATHLETICS EQUIPMENT FAX 325-5145

BEN POLLARD, Head Strength Coach (325-8627)
RICHARD AKINS, Assistant Strength Coach (325-5750)
ERIK KOREM, Assistant Strength Coach (325-8582)
JOHN MCCALLISTER, Assistant Strength Coach (325-4007)
PHIL SILVA, Athletic Equipment Manager (325-3206)

BASEBALL (662) 325-3597 • FAX 325-3600

RON POLK, Head Coach
WADE HEDGES, Coordinator of Baseball Camps
TOMMY RAFFO, Assistant Coach
RUSS MCNICKLE, Assistant Coach
APRIL EDWARDS, Administrative Secretary

MEN'S BASKETBALL (662) 325-3800 • FAX 325-3648

RICK STANSBURY, Head Coach
PHIL CUNNINGHAM, Assistant Coach
ROBERT KIRBY, Assistant Coach
MARCUS GRANT, Assistant Coach
TALVIS FRANKLIN, Coordinator of Men's Basketball Operations
SUZANNE COOK, Administrative Secretary

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (662) 325-0198 • FAX 325-9051

SHARON FANNING, Head Coach
GREG FRANKLIN, Assistant Coach
STACEY FRANKLIN, Assistant Coach
NITRA PERRY, Assistant Coach
JOEY BURTON, Coordinator/Women's Basketball Operations

FOOTBALL (662) 325-2539 • FAX 325-8833

SYLVESTER CROOM, Head Coach
WOODY MCCORVEY, Assistant Head Coach (325-8560)
LOUIS CAMPBELL, Assistant Coach (325-2534)
ROCKEY FELKER, Assistant Coach (325-2536)
J.B. GRIMES, Assistant Coach (325-8560)
CHARLIE HARBISON, Assistant Coach (325-2534)
MELVIN SMITH, Assistant Coach (325-2534)
REED STRINGER, Assistant Coach (325-8560)
DAVID TURNER, Assistant Coach (325-2534)
PAT WASHINGTON, Assistant Coach
RYAN HOLLERN, Coordinator of Football Operations (325-2534)
BRAD PENDERGRASS, Assistant to the Head Football Coach (325-2534)
NANCY COVINGTON, Executive Secretary/Head Football Coach (325-2539)
JANE BALLARD, Executive Secretary (325-2534)
LINDA CRISWELL, Executive Secretary (325-8560)
SUSAN SIMMONS, Executive Secretary (325-2536)

GOLE (662) 325-2722 • FAX 325-9051

CLAY HOMAN, Head Men's Coach
CHRISTI SANDERS, Head Women's Coach

SOCCER (662) FAX 325-9051

NEIL MACDONALD, Head Coach (325-0718)
ANDY MANNERS, Assistant Coach (325-9190)
SARAH STRICKLAND, Assistant Coach (325-0204)

SOFTBALL (662) FAX 325-9051

JAY MILLER, Head Coach (325-0573)
BO REID, Assistant Coach (325-0571)
ANNIE SMITH, Associate Head Coach (325-0572)

TENNIS (662) FAX 325-9051

PER NILSSON, Head Men's Tennis Coach (325-8506)
MATT HILL, Assistant Men's Coach (325-0801)
TRACY LANE, Head Women's Tennis Coach (325-3510)
MAX FOMINE, Assistant Women's Coach (325-9163)
MICHELLE SCRIVENER, Administrative Secretary (325-0560)

TRACK & FIELD (662) FAX 325-9051

AL SCHMIDT, Head Coach (325-2892)
STEVE DUDLEY, Associate Head Coach (325-8333)
BRYAN FETZER, Assistant Coach (325-2892)
HOUSTON FRANKS, Assistant Coach (325-7042)
APRIL THOMAS, Assistant Coach (325-2892)

VOLLEYBALL (662) 325-2722 • FAX 325-9051

TINA SEALS, Head Coach
DON PERKINS, Assistant Coach
LINDSAY SHONDELL, Assistant Coach
MIDGE DAVIS, Administrative Secretary (also soccer/golf)

TURF MANAGEMENT

BART PRATHER, Sports Turf Manager (325-2773)
BRANDON HARDIN, Assistant Sports Turf Manager
BRIAN MCNEILL, Assistant Sports Turf Manager

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

JOSH GILREATH, FCA Area Director (418-2557)
WHITNEY MATHIS, FCA Administrative Assistant/Women's Athletics (418-2552)

MEDIA RELATIONS

See complete athletic media relations staff listing on page 3



THE DIAMOND GIRLS



Haley Haynes
Tri-captain
2nd year • Sophomore
Starkville, Miss.



Sara Herrington
Tri-captain
4th year • Senior
Brandon, Miss.



Mary Jo Williams
Tri-captain
2nd year • Sophomore
Pontotoc, Miss.



Lindsay Aldrich
1st year • Sophomore
Madison, Miss.



Parker Black
4th year • Senior
Madison, Miss.



Lindsey Brown
1st year • Sophomore
McComb, Miss.



Anna Crain
2nd year • Junior
Byram, Miss.



Kathryn Dambrino
2nd year • Junior
Grenada, Miss.



Kelsie Fennell
1st year • Sophomore
Phillipp, Miss.



Lindsay Goodson
2nd year • Junior
Tupelo, Miss.



Meagan Holaday
1st year • Sophomore
Madison, Miss.



Lillie McDow
1st year • Sophomore
Covington, Tenn.



Mary Beth McGough
4th year • Senior
Jackson, Tenn.



Blakeney McRaney
1st year • Freshman
Winter Garden, Fla.



Julie Nelson
3rd year • Junior
Southaven, Miss.



Anne Elise Parks
1st year • Freshman
New Albany, Miss.



Jessica Reed
1st year • Freshman
Brandon, Miss.



Elyse Rieder
1st year • Junior
Hattiesburg, Miss.



Avery Robinson
1st year • Freshman
Ridgeland, Miss.



Haley Smith
1st year • Sophomore
Starkville, Miss.



Holly Thurmond
2nd year • Junior
Ripley, Miss.

The Mississippi State University Diamond Girls

The 2008 season marks the 33rd year for a vital member of the Baseball Bulldog family at Mississippi State University, the Diamond Girls. The organization was formed in 1976, and the group handles a wide array of tasks in support of the Mississippi State baseball operation throughout the school year. They are most visible on game days at Dudy Noble Field, serving as hosts and distributing programs to fans as they enter the stadium, operating the stadium's souvenir and gift stand, and serving on the field during games as bat handlers. This year's 21-member team is headed by senior captain Sara Herrington and sophomore captains Hayley Haynes and Mary Jo Williams and includes 11 newcomers.