Assistant Coaches

**Duane Wilson**
Assistant Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
(Western Michigan, 1983)

Duane Wilson has become an integral part of Ferris State’s success ever since his arrival in August 1990. Wilson was promoted to defensive coordinator in the fall of 1995 and assumed responsibilities of assistant head coach seven seasons ago. This campaign will mark his sixth as FSU’s linebackers coach.

Wilson, who also serves as the program’s strength and conditioning coordinator, spent his first nine years coaching the defensive line. Under his guidance, the Bulldogs have ranked annually among the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference’s top defensive units while also being recognized on the national level. Last season, FSU ranked high among the national leaders in both turnover margin and pass efficiency defense.

Wilson has coached a number of standout defensive linemen at FSU, including seven All-Americans. Perhaps the most notable of them is tackle Ed Phyllion (1993), who’s currently playing in the Canadian Football League (CFL) with the Montreal Alouettes following a four-year NFL career. Under Wilson’s tutelage, the Bulldogs’ four-man front has averaged around 35 sacks a year since 1992.

Wilson played three years as a lineman in the U.S. Football League with the Oklahoma and then Arizona Outlaws after concluding an outstanding playing and coaching career at Western Michigan University. He was the Broncos’ “Most Improved Player,” a team captain and a first-team Mid-American Conference lineman during his gridiron career. Afterwards, Wilson remained at WMU, serving as a graduate assistant coach for two years and coaching the offensive tackles for WMU’s MAC championship team and 1988 California Bowl participant.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in physical education/coaching and a master’s in athletic administration from Western.

Wilson, 44, coached varsity football at his alma mater, Burton (Mich.) Bentley High School, for three years and guided the Bulldogs to a 9-1 season in 1987. He was an all-league performer in football, basketball, and baseball at Bentley High.

Wilson, an American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) member, has a daughter, Rachael (11).

**Matt McCarthy**
Offensive Coordinator/OB’s/WR’s
(Ferris State, 1999)

Matt McCarthy returns for his fifth year at Ferris State and fourth as offensive coordinator following his promotion in February 2001. He previously instructed the wide receiving corps in the 2000 season.

McCarthy, who also works with the quarterbacks and wide receivers, concluded a stellar playing career at Ferris five seasons ago (1999). The 1999 All-American finished his career as the school’s all-time passing leader with 8,669 career yards to go along with 68 career touchowns on a 57.3 completion percentage (659-1,151). McCarthy, who holds or shares 12 Bulldog passing marks, threw for over 2,700 yards in a single season three times, including a school-record 3,143 yards in 1998.

During his tenure as FSU’s starting signal-caller, McCarthy helped lead the Bulldogs to two GLIAC Championship titles and a NCAA Division II Playoff appearance in 1996. As a senior in 1999, he was a Northeast Region candidate for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which is presented annually to the nation’s top NCAA II football player. The 1999 GLIAC Player of the Year, McCarthy earned second-team All-America honors by Don Hansen’s National Weekly Football Gazette and Daktronic, Inc. while attaining first-team all-conference accolades.

A three-time GLIAC All-Academic pick, McCarthy received all-league honorable mention kudos in 1998 and was a second-team all-conference honoree in 1996. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English education from FSU in 1999.

A 1993 honorable mention all-stater at Alma (Mich.) High School, McCarthy holds all of the school’s career passing records with 4,000 yards and 42 TD’s. A three-year team captain, McCarthy was a three-time all-conference selection.

McCarthy, 28, and his wife, Lesley, reside in Big Rapids. He’s an American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) member.

**Ken Conlin**
Offensive Line
(South Dakota, 1997)

Ken Conlin begins his fifth season as a part of the Bulldog staff and will continue to oversee the offensive line.

Prior to FSU, Conlin spent three seasons (1997-99) as a graduate assistant coach at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, S.D.

The 30-year old Conlin spent three years coaching USD’s offensive linemen. In the 1999 season, the Coyotes registered a 4-7 overall record, including a 3-6 mark in the highly-competitive North Central Conference (NCC).

Conlin began his coaching career at his alma mater in 1997 upon conclusion of his playing career at USD. A four-year letterwinner (1992-96) under former head coach Dennis Creenah, Conlin was a two-year (1995-96) starting offensive center. In 1995, the Coyotes posted an 8-3 overall record (6-3 NCC) which represented their best season performance in more than a decade. A native of Robinsdale, Minn., Conlin attained conference accolades as a senior in 1992. He was a three-year starter in football, basketball, and baseball at Bentley High School for three years and guided the Bulldogs to a 9-1 California Bowl participant.

The son of Bernie and Kathy Conlin of Brooklyn Park, Minn., Conlin is a member of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

Conlin is married to the former Shawn Williams, daughter of FSU assistant coach Rick Williams. They have a daughter, Riley, who was born in January 2003, and are expecting another child in December 2004.

Muscular strength, power and endurance are important to the success of any athletics team. The FSU varsity weight room plays a key role in the acquisition of these important qualities.

Located in the Ewigleben Sports Complex’s lower level, the weight room is approximately 2,200 square feet in size and is open for use to all 15 varsity athletics teams. The weight room houses over 20 pieces of weight lifting benches, racks and machines.

The FSU athletics department is committed to providing a safe and modern environment for its student-athletes to weight train in. The varsity weight room is organized to meet the standards of the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Over the last four years, nine pieces of equipment have been purchased along with a new set of quality dumbbells which top out at 140 pounds.