

# WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT JIMBO FISHER



"We worked together for five years. He did a fabulous job for us at LSU as the offensive coordinator. I think he's got all the right stuff to be a great head coach. I know he's turned down other opportunities to stay at Florida State and we're happy he's getting the opportunity as a head coach."

**-- ALABAMA HEAD COACH NICK SABAN**

"First of all, I'm really happy for Jimbo. He's an outstanding person, a great family man, an outstanding husband and father, and just a phenomenal football coach. The future is very bright at Florida State because of who is running the program, the staff he's going to hire and the players he's going to be able to recruit. He's a large part of Coach (Nick) Saban hiring me at LSU, and we had time together when I was graduate assistant at Auburn. He's a guy that is great to work with. As an offensive coordinator when I was the defensive coordinator, he sees the big picture. He understands what you have to do to be successful on both sides of the ball and in special teams.

Again, I'm very happy for him and his wife, Candi, and his two children, for the opportunity that's been presented to him. Florida State will be very pleased with the results they'll get."

**-- TEXAS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR  
WILL MUSCHAMP**

"Florida State is fortunate to have Jimbo Fisher as its head coach. He is an outstanding football coach and a tremendous family man. I had the opportunity to work with him for a short time and learned a great deal working alongside him. He was ready to be a head coach at that time, and I know he is even more prepared today. He has a big job in following one of the true legends of our sport in Coach Bowden, but I know Jimbo is prepared for the challenge."

**-- NEBRASKA HEAD COACH  
BO PELINI**

"I really have a lot of confidence in Jimbo. He is one of the sharpest coaches, young coaches I have seen. He will hire well and he will recruit well.

I think he will do good."

**-- BOBBY BOWDEN**



# FLORIDA STATE HEAD COACH

# JIMBO FISHER

## FISHER KNOWS WINNING

Florida State football coach Jimbo Fisher is succeeding the second-winningest coach in major college football, but knows a little something about the left side of the win-loss ledger as well. From his playing days in high school and college through

### PLAYER

#### Clarksburg (W.Va.)

#### Liberty High

Year	W-L-T
1980	5-5
1981	6-3-1
1982	6-4

#### Salem (W.Va.) College

1984	8-3
1985	8-3
1986	5-5

#### Samford

1987	9-1
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Total: 47-24-1 (.659)

### ASSISTANT COACH

#### Samford

1991	12-2
1992	9-3

#### Auburn

1993	11-0
1994	9-1-1
1995	8-4
1996	8-4
1997	10-3
1998	3-8

#### Cincinnati

1999	8-3
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#### LSU

2000	8-4
2001	10-3
2002	8-5
2003	13-1
2004	9-3
2005	11-2
2006	11-2

#### Florida State

2007	7-6
2008	9-4
2009	7-6

Total: 166-69-1 (.705)

his 19 seasons as a full-time, college assistant, Fisher has endured just two losing seasons. In fact, beginning with his first season as a quarterback at Salem (W.Va.) College in 1984 through FSU's recently-completed 2009 campaign, Fisher has been a postseason participant in 17 of 20 seasons. That does not include the 1987 Samford team he quarterbacked to a 9-1 finish in a transition season to a higher level of NCAA play, or the 1993-94 seasons as an Auburn assistant, when the Tigers were a combined 20-1-1 but ineligible for the postseason.

## BUILDING HIS STAFF

Florida State's five new football assistants clearly reflect Fisher's image - young and energetic with proven track records for recruiting and a history of winning. The average age of the new staff is just under 40, while all five are married with children. Collectively they bring 81 years of coaching experience to Tallahassee from a wide range of backgrounds. They have coached in four of the six BCS conferences - SEC, Pac-10, Big Ten and Big East - as well as CUSA, WAC and Notre Dame. As collegiate

players, they endured a total of three losing seasons.

A brief introduction to the newcomers, who join returning assistants Rick Trickett, Odell Haggins, Lawrence Dawsey and James Coley:

### EDDIE GRAN

Comes to FSU from Tennessee where he coached running backs and special teams. At 44, Gran is the most veteran of the newcomers, with 23 years of experience, including 16 in the SEC with stops at Auburn and Ole Miss. A native of Escondido, Cal., Gran played collegiately at Cal Lutheran University.

### MARK STOOPS

Joins the Seminoles after spending the past five seasons as the defensive coordinator/secondary coach at Arizona for his brother Mike. Stoops, 42, has 20 years of experience including a three-year stop at Miami, where he directed a star-studded secondary. The Youngstown, Ohio native played in the secondary at Iowa and is also the brother of Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops

### GREG HUDSON

Hudson, 42, has spent the past five seasons as the defensive coordinator/linebackers coach at East Carolina. He too has 20 years of experience, including stops at Minnesota, Cincinnati and Connecticut, among others. A graduate of legendary prep powerhouse Cincinnati Moeller, he played linebacker for two seasons at Notre Dame.

### DARIN ELIOT

The youngest member of the staff, Eliot, 33, comes to FSU from Rice after three seasons as defensive ends coach and recruiting coordinator. Despite his youth he has been involved in coaching at the collegiate level for 12 seasons. Prior to Rice he spent one season at Tulsa, three at Texas State and was a graduate assistant at Miami while Mark Stoops was on the staff. The Edmond, Okla., native played linebacker at Wyoming.

### DAMEYUNE CRAIG

Craig, 35, is no stranger to Fisher, who was his quarterbacks coach for four seasons at Auburn. The two were reunited in 2004 when Craig turned to coaching following his professional career as a graduate assistant at LSU. He comes to FSU from South Alabama, where he spent two seasons coaching receivers after two years as the quarterbacks coach at Tuskegee. He also spent one season as a Miami Dolphins assistant under Nick Saban. Craig is a native of Prichard, Ala.

# JIMBO FISHER FLORIDA STATE'S HEAD COACH

"We are going to win games with talent. We will win championships with character." - Jimbo Fisher

Nearly 25 months have passed since Florida State University designated Jimbo Fisher as Bobby Bowden's successor. On Jan. 5, 2010, the 44-year-old Fisher officially became the ninth head coach in 63 years of FSU football, ascending to the seat that Bowden has occupied for the past 34 seasons while leading the Seminoles to their greatest heights.

Fisher has prepared for this moment over the course of a 22-year coaching career, including the last three in a virtual apprenticeship under major college football's second-winningest coach.

In the weeks that have passed since Bowden's Dec. 1, 2009 announcement that the Gator Bowl would be his final game, Fisher has been diligently preparing to make the transition.

"Do it your way. That's the best piece of advice he (Bowden) has given me."

There is little doubt that Bowden's influence will be sprinkled throughout the Fisher era at Florida State. When you've spent 14 seasons working alongside a Bowden - 11 of those with son Terry Bowden - you can't help but acquire some common characteristics. Without question Fisher's offensive acumen has a distinct Bowden flavor, initially honed during his days as a gun-slinging quarterback at Salem and Samford. Though he has his own distinct style, Fisher's skills as a communicator are exceptional.

Beyond the Bowdens, current Alabama coach Nick Saban provided Fisher with a template for success during their five-year run at LSU.

"A lot of my principles and values and the way I do things came from coach Bowden. ... There will be some similarities and there will be some things that won't. I've been fortunate to be under another guy that was pretty good in Nick Saban. He is a guy that has great structure and organization over a

program and builds a support system around his players as well as anyone in college football at this day in time."

A tireless worker and an accomplished multi-tasker, Fisher's boundless energy is one of his greatest resources. He embraces all aspects of coaching, whether it's lengthy hours in film study and game-plan-



## FISHER FILE

- FSU's offensive coordinator for the past three seasons, where the Seminoles have made dramatic strides through the air and on the ground to rank among the ACC leaders in total offense
- Directly responsible for developing FSU junior quarterback Christian Ponder who, as a second-year starter, led the ACC in total offense and passing yards
- Despite the presence of just one senior starter, FSU's 2009 offense ranks second in the ACC in total offense and is the sixth most-productive in total yards over the past 15 seasons
- Offensive coordinator for the 2003 National Champion LSU Tigers
- Coached three players selected in the first round of the 2007 NFL draft including No. 1 overall pick JaMarcus Russell
- Coached five quarterbacks in seven years at LSU that were NFL draft picks (Josh Booty, Rohan Davey, Craig Nall, Matt Mauck and JaMarcus Russell)
- Tigers posted a 70-20 record and went to seven bowl games with Fisher as offensive coordinator. The 70 wins were the most over any seven-year stretch in LSU history as were the seven consecutive bowl appearances
- While at LSU the Tigers won two SEC titles and played in three BCS Bowl games including winning the national title in the 2004 Nokia Sugar Bowl
- Named a finalist for the Frank Broyles Award in 2001 as the nation's top assistant coach
- Coached the only two 3,000-yard passers in LSU history (Russell and Davey)
- Coached the only 3,000 yard passer in the history of Auburn football (Dameyune Craig)
- In 1999, his offense at Cincinnati was ranked 16th in the NCAA
- Played quarterback at Salem College (1984-86) and at Samford in 1987 under Terry Bowden
- Set the school record at Samford with 34 passing touchdowns and was named the Division III National Player of the Year in 1987
- Played for the Chicago Bruisers of the Arena Football League in 1988

ning, working the phones or hopping a plane in pursuit of recruits, or dropping in for a speaking engagement. At the same time he values those precious moments with his family - wife Candi and sons Trey and Ethan - whether it's attending a school function, athletic event or gathering together for the Wednesday ritual, post-practice meal. Sound familiar?

"He (coach Bowden) always say, 'You know, you are like one of my kids.' He says that every time I am in there. I've bounced ideas off him on how I want to do it and things. He's been very good. We talk about old stories and our history together. We have a great relationship. I have such a great respect for him. What I have been telling people is that my hero is moving on, too."