

# MEET THE COACHING STAFF . . .



**Luke Butkus** - Luke Butkus is in his first season at Illinois as the offensive line coach. Butkus spent the past five seasons in the NFL, the last two with the Seattle Seahawks as a quality control assistant working with the offensive line. Prior to that, he worked as an assistant offensive line coach for three seasons with the Chicago Bears from 2007-09. Butkus began his coaching career as a graduate assistant with the University of Oregon from 2005-06, helping the Ducks to an appearance in the 2005 Holiday Bowl and the 2006 Las Vegas Bowl. A three-year starting center at Illinois from 1999-2001, Butkus was a third-team All-American by the Associated Press in 2001. As a team captain, Butkus helped lead the 2001 Illini to an outright Big Ten title and an appearance in the Sugar Bowl. He also helped lead the Fighting Illini to a win in the 1999 MicronPC.com Bowl. He is the nephew of the greatest linebacker in football history, Dick Butkus, who played at Illinois from 1962-64 and enjoyed an eight-year Hall of Fame career with the Chicago Bears from 1965-73.



**Steve Clinkscale** - Steve Clinkscale will coach the cornerbacks in his first season at Illinois. Prior to coming to Champaign, Clinkscale helped Toledo's defense become a national leader in takeaways as the Rockets ranked fifth in turnovers gained in 2010 and 16th in 2011. UT also ranked third in the nation in turnover margin and 29th in the Football Bowl Subdivision in third-down defense in 2011. In 2010, Toledo grabbed 20 interceptions, the eighth-most in the country. On special teams, Clinkscale guided the Rockets to a No. 17 national ranking in punt return average in 2011 and a No. 11 ranking in kickoff return average. He also mentored All-American return man Eric Page, who returned three kickoffs for touchdowns in 2010 and added a kickoff return and a punt return for touchdowns in 2011. Before his three-year stint along side Tim Beckman at Toledo, Clinkscale coached defensive backs (2008) at Western Carolina and linebackers (2007) and secondary (2001-06) at Ashland University in Ohio.



**Keith Gilmore** - Keith Gilmore, a 21-year coaching veteran, recently completed his third season as Illinois' defensive line coach. Led by first-team All-American Whitney Mercilus, Gilmore's 2011 defensive line terrorized opponents, ranking fourth in the nation in tackles for loss (7.9 per game) and sixth nationally in sacks (3.2 per game), leading the Big Ten in both. Mercilus had a monster season, leading the nation and tying Simeon Rice's school record with 16 sacks, and breaking the Big Ten record with nine forced fumbles. In 2010, Gilmore helped mentor All-Big Ten defensive tackle and NFL first round pick Corey Liuget while helping Illinois make drastic improvements in every defensive category. Gilmore came to Illinois after serving as assistant head coach and defensive line coach for two seasons at Cincinnati. In his two years at UC, he coached All-American Terrill Byrd, the school's single-season sacks leader, Anthony Hoke, and NFL draft choice Angelo Craig. Gilmore coached at Central Michigan in 2006 after four seasons as the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Howard University. Prior to his time at Howard, Gilmore spent the 1998-2001 seasons at Norfolk State and served stints at Michigan State (1988), Northern Michigan (1989-90), Grand Valley State (1991-93), Wayne State (1994), and Eastern Michigan (1995-97).



**Alex Golesh** - Alex Golesh is in his first season as Illinois' tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator. Golesh spent the last three years on Tim Beckman's staff at Toledo, serving as both the tight ends coach and the recruiting coordinator. Golesh aided the UT program in securing the No. 1 recruiting class in the Mid-American Conference for two-straight years. Golesh's tight ends served as key blockers in a Rocket rushing attack that ranked No. 3 in the MAC in both 2010 and 2011. Prior to Toledo, Golesh spent three seasons as a graduate assistant, two at Northern Illinois (2006-07) and one at Oklahoma State. Golesh worked with the outside linebackers at Oklahoma State in 2008. At NIU, Golesh worked for one season assisting with the secondary and one season with the offensive line. Golesh got his start in the coaching business as a student assistant coach while attending Ohio State as an undergraduate. He also spent one year as a defensive line coach in a first-year football program at newly opened Westerville Central High School.



**Tim Salem** - Tim Salem will coach running backs and serve as special teams coordinator for the Illini. He comes to Illinois after eight years at Central Florida, including the last three as special teams coordinator and tight ends coach. Prior to that, he was UCF's offensive coordinator for five years. Under Salem's guidance, the Knights ranked in the top five nationally in kickoff return average, standing third in 2011 and first in 2010. UCF also ranked in the top 10 nationally in kickoff return defense the past three seasons, finishing ninth in 2011, third in 2010 and 10th in 2009. Salem also oversaw some of the most prolific offenses in Knight history as offensive coordinator from 2004-08, guiding UCF to a 10-win season, a C-USA championship and a berth in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl in 2007. That year, he helped running back Kevin Smith earn consensus All-America honors by rushing for 2,567 yards - the second-most yards in a season in FBS history - and a national-best 29 rushing touchdowns. In 2005, receivers Brandon Marshall and Mike Sims-Walker combined for 2,050 yards and 20 touchdowns. Prior to his time at UCF, Salem also served as offensive coordinator at Eastern Michigan (2003), Purdue (1991-96) and Phoenix College (1987-88). He was quarterbacks coach at Ohio State from 1997-2000.



**Mike Ward** - Mike Ward is in his first season as the linebackers coach at Illinois. He spent the last three years as assistant head coach and co-defensive coordinator on Tim Beckman's staff at Toledo. Ward was instrumental in the rapid development of the Rockets' defense that ranked among the national leaders in turnovers forced and turnover margin the last two seasons. In 2010, the Rockets forced 34 turnovers, the fifth-highest takeaway total in the nation and 13 more than the previous season. In 2011, Toledo forced 28 turnovers and had the third-best turnover margin in the nation (1.33). The defensive turnaround helped propel Toledo to an 8-5 season and its first bowl appearance in five years in 2010, and an 8-4 season, a share of the MAC West Division title and a berth in the Military Bowl in 2011. Prior to going to Toledo, Ward spent 17 years as an assistant at Bowling Green, including five years working with Beckman (2000-04). He began as the program's strength coach from 1992-99 before coaching the defensive linemen from 2000-06 and serving as the defensive coordinator in 2007-08.



**John Hauser** - John Hauser is in his first year as Illinois' director of player personnel. Before coming to Champaign, Hauser helped lead Wayne State (Mich.) to an NCAA Division II runner-up finish as defensive coordinator and secondary coach in 2011, guiding WSU to top-50 finishes in sacks (No. 14), turnover margin (No. 26), rushing defense (No. 32) and total defense (No. 42). He served four years with the Warriors, guiding safety Jeremy Jones to All-America honors in 2010 and 2011, the first defensive player in school history to be named a first-team All-American. Prior to his time at WSU, Hauser spent five seasons at Northern Illinois, including the last two as defensive backs coach. His first three years in DeKalb were as a graduate assistant.



**Aaron Hillman** - Aaron Hillman brings over 20 years of strength and conditioning experience to Illinois after spending the 2011 season as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Michigan. Prior to his time in Ann Arbor, Hillman served 10 years as head strength and conditioning coach at Bowling Green, where he oversaw all 18 sports. He also spent time as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Notre Dame from 1998-2001, Connecticut from 1996-98, Cincinnati from 1995-96 and Ball State from 1992-95. In addition, Hillman assisted in the supervision of the preseason strength and conditioning program for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the summer of 1994.