

Assistant football coaches appointed

8/07/14



Alfred University (AU) head football coach Bob Rankl announces the appointment of two assistants, which fills out the Saxons' full-time coaching staff.

Brent Barnes has been named defensive coordinator, and a Lazarus Morgan has been appointed defensive backs coach and head junior varsity coach. Barnes and Morgan join offensive coordinator Scott Linn as Rankl's full-time assistants.

Barnes, who will also serve as linebackers coach, comes to AU from Rhodes College, a Division III program in Memphis, TN. He served as passing game coordinator and defensive secondary coach at Rhodes from 2012-14 before being named co-offensive coordinator/running backs and tight ends coach this year.

As secondary coach at Rhodes, he helped guide a defense that saw significant improvements in scoring defense, yards per play allowed, third down defense and pass efficiency defense, which helped lead the Lynx to an 8-2 record and Southern Athletic Association title in 2013.

Barnes comes to AU with 13 years of previous coaching experience. Prior to his two-season tenure at Rhodes, he served two seasons (2010-11) as offensive coordinator at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC, Canada, coaching wide receivers in 2010 and quarterbacks in 2011. He was an assistant at Middlebury (VT) College in 2008 and 2009, serving as passing game coordinator and wide receiver coach, recruiting coordinator and special teams coach.

He was running backs coach two seasons (2006 and 2007) at the University of Chicago; graduate assistant/defensive backs coach, at Utica College in 2005; defensive backs coach at the University of Redlands (CA) in 2003 and 2004. Barnes served two seasons (2001 and 2002) as an assistant at Montclair (NJ) State, coaching running backs in 2001 and tight ends in 2002.

Barnes graduated from Rice University (Houston, TX) with bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering, economics and history. While at Montclair State, he earned his master's degree in physical education.

Morgan comes to AU from his alma mater, Utica College, where he coached five seasons after concluding a stellar collegiate playing career. He served as an assistant in charge of special teams and was wide receivers coach for the 2009 season. He was an assistant coach in charge of safeties from 2010-13, during which time he was also junior varsity defensive coordinator (2010-11 seasons) and junior varsity head coach (2012-13 seasons).

During Morgan's tenure as assistant coach in charge of safeties, the Utica pass defense ranked first in the Empire 8 Conference in 2011 and was second in the conference in 2013. In his one season as wide receivers coach (2009), the Pioneers ranked second in the league in passing yards per game.

Morgan was a four-year starting defensive back at Utica (2004-08) and was an Empire 8 All-Conference selection as a junior, in 2007. He ranks second in the school's record book for interceptions and interception return yardage.

He earned a bachelor's degree in communication arts from Utica in 2008 and earned a master's degree in educational leadership and administration, also from Utica, this year.