

Kent state assistant coaching staff

OFFENSE

Offensive Coor/TE's: AJ Pratt, 11th year

Pratt, who added Offensive Coordinator to his list of responsibilities LY, is in his 10th year as a full-time member of the KSU staff and 11th year here overall. In his only other stop, he helped Kenton HS to its first playoff appearance and first league championship in 50 years. Under Pratt's guidance, the QB there led the state of Ohio in passing that year.

Assistant HC/RB's: Jerry McManus, 5th year

McManus has more than 30 years of coaching experience. He came to Kent St after spending 9 years at East Carolina as the RB's coach and Punt Tm Coord. Prior to his stop at EC, McManus spent 9 years at Wake Forest. He also spent time at Conn, Tulane, Pitt and Virginia Tech. During his playing days he threw for more than 1,000 yds at Wake Forest.

ST's Coor/Rec Coor/TE's: Zane Vance, 6th year

After working with the ILB's last year, Vance will now be the ST's Coor while also working with TE's. Vance began his career as the DL coach at E Tennessee St from '87-'91. He enjoyed several successful years in the HS ranks before arriving at KSU in '04.

Offensive Line: Terry Tilghman, 4th year

Tilghman was the OL coach and Recruiting Coordinator at N Alabama from '03-'05 prior to arriving in Kent. In '05, his unit paved the way for one of the top offenses in the conference and broke 26 North Alabama records. Prior to NA, he spent 8 seasons at his alma mater, EC.

DEFENSE

Def Coor/Safeties: Pete Rekstis, 6th year

In Rekstis' first season here, he helped produce a record-setting D that went from #12 in the MAC in total D in '03 to #1 in the MAC and #15 in the NCAA the next year. Prior to Kent St, Rekstis coached the secondary at his alma mater, Youngstown St, from '99-'03, and was DC there during his L/3 yrs. During his playing days at Youngstown St, he was coached by Ohio St's Jim Tressle.

Defensive Ends: Matt Edwards, 5th year

Edwards enters his 5th year overall with the Flashes and 4th year as a full-time asst. This year his role changes slightly as he's shifting from the entire DL to just the DE's. He was a 4 yr letterman at Miami, OH as a DL.

Interior DL: Larry McDaniel, 7th year

McDaniel is entering his 7th year at Kent. He was in charge of OLB's and ST's LY but this year will concentrate on interior DL. Before arriving here he held a similar position at Ball St, where he coached the DT's during his first 2 years, then took over the responsibilities for the entire DL for his last 2 seasons.

Linebackers: Craig Aukerman, 1st year

Aukerman began his coaching career at his alma mater, Findlay in '00. He spent '01-'02 as a Grad Asst with Miami, OH then was the Asst HC/ST's Coor at W Kentucky in '03-'04. He went back to Miami, OH in '05 to work with LB's and was promoted to Co-ST's Coor in '07. Under his tutelage, MU had 3 LB's named to the Butkus Watch in '08, the 1st time in the history of the Awd that one school had 3 nominees.

Cornerbacks: Richard McNutt, 1st year

McNutt, a former Ohio St LB, began his career as a student coach at his alma mater. He spent 2Y at Washington & Jefferson College, then one year at Virg Military Institute. In '07 he was an asst coach at Toledo, then he spent '08 with the Cleveland Browns.