

Walsh University Football Assistant Football Coaches



John Fankhauser returns for his 14th year as an assistant football coach. John will coach the offensive backs and coordinate special teams. He will also handle the place kickers and punters.

Fankhauser served as a student assistant at Youngstown State University, where he lettered three times (1992-94). John coached the special teams (1994-96) and graduated with a B.A. in history and a minor in psychology. John also begins his tenth year as Walsh's Head Athletics groundskeeper. He has his master's degree in education and resides in North Canton with his wife, Chris, and daughter Emilia and son Anderson.



Fred Thomas returns for his 13th season as Walsh's defensive coordinator. He is also in charge of equipment. Thomas is the former defensive coordinator at Youngstown State University (1984-86) and head coach at GlenOak High School (1991-98).

Thomas coached at his alma mater, Youngstown State, from 1978-86. Fred served as defensive line coach from 1978-83. In 1979, the Penguins were the NCAA division two national runner-up.

Thomas left Youngstown after the 1985 season and became head coach at Girard High School and was named Mahoning Valley Coach of the Year in 1987. He remained at Girard until 1989, when he accepted the head coaching position at Alliance High School. While with the Aviators, Thomas was named Stark County Division One Coach of the Year in 1991. Thomas left Alliance in 1991 and became head coach at GlenOak High School and again was honored by his peers. In 1994, he was selected as the Federal League Coach of the Year. In 1993, he was elected to the Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. In 1999, he was awarded the Professional Service Award at the Career Center at GlenOak. Thomas received his bachelor of science in education from Youngstown State in 1979 and his master's degree from Ashland in 1994.

Fred and his wife, Mia, a member of the Walsh University Athletic Wall of Fame, reside in North Canton with their son Ben and daughter Mollie.

Did You Know.... Jim Dennison (1976) is one of 158 men who have been honored by the American Football Coaches Association as National Coach of the Year since the program was established in 1935. The AFCA has named a Coach of the Year since 1935, making the award the oldest and most prestigious of all Coach of the Year awards. It is the only one chosen exclusively by the coaches themselves.



Canton native Mark Johnston begins his 11th season as an assistant coach. Johnston will serve as defensive secondary coach and the strength and conditioning coordinator. Mark also oversees Walsh's athletic weight facility.

Johnston coached the defensive backs at Heidelberg College prior to coming to Walsh.

Before Heidelberg, he spent two years as a graduate assistant at Ohio University and one year as a graduate assistant at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Johnston started and lettered twice as a wide receiver at Ohio University. He played his high school football at Canton McKinley. He obtained his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Ohio in 1997 and his masters of science in physical education from Ohio in 2000. Mark and his wife, Alice and son Luke, reside in North Canton.



Warren Miller begins his fifth season as Walsh's linebackers coach and as athletic academic coordinator. Miller is in his second stint at Walsh, having served on Dennison's staff from 2003-2005 as a graduate assistant coach.

Miller has experience on the NAIA and NCAA Division I levels, and was part of a winning high school and college football program as a graduate of Canton McKinley High School and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Miller is a 2003 graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College, where he received B.A. in business administration and sport management. He played for the Yellow Jackets and then served as a student assistant coach under Bob Packard and John Snell from 2001-2003. Miller then spent the next two years (2003-05) at Walsh, as a graduate assistant in charge of the tight ends. He served under Glen Mason and Tim Brewster, at the University of Minnesota, where he was the Defensive Administrative Assistant. Miller worked with the linebackers and the defensive line. Warren is married and resides in North Canton with his wife, Bryn and their newborn son, Warren Miller V.



Chris Albrecht (Youngstown Cardinal Mooney HS) is in his fourth year as the Cavs' Offensive Coordinator. He will also serve as quarterback coach.

Chris taught at Marlinton High School, serving as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach before coming to Walsh, and at Massillon High School from 2001-2005, serving as defensive coordinator.

He has also coached at Gulf Coast HS and Barron Collier HS, both in Naples, Florida and at Spring Local HS, Poland Seminary HS and Cardinal Mooney HS. On the collegiate level, he served at Waynesburg College as assistant head coach from

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Albrecht continued... 2005-06. Albrecht played at Cardinal Mooney and Westminster College. Chris, and his wife Jennifer, and two children, Nathan and Maggie reside in Massillon.



Tom Flaherty continues his association with Jim Dennison as the Cavs' offensive line coach. The Sharon, PA native spent 14 years (1970-1983) at Akron coaching the offensive line, twelve with Dennison. He is in his 17th season at Walsh.

Flaherty also played for the Zips, earning four letters, and graduated from Akron in 1969 with a B.S. in education. He obtained his master's degree in education from Akron in 1974. Flaherty's coaching career began at Barberton High School in 1969. He is employed and is a partner at Consolidated Benefits Agency. In 2010, Tom was inducted into the Mercer County (Sharon, PA) Sports Hall of Fame. Tom and his wife Chris have five children, three boys, Michael, Sean and Brian and two girls, Mrs. Patty Yaceczko and Mrs. Theresa Trego and six grandchildren. Michael was the Cavs first recruit and Sean, after finishing a highly successful career for the Cavs, is now coaching at Wadsworth High School under Greg Dennison. The Flaherty's reside in Stow.



Gary Green (CSCS), another UA graduate (1975), returns for his 17th season on Dennison's staff. Green will work with the offensive tackles and help in the weight room.

Green was the head coach at Wooster High School from 1990-1994. He earned four letters at Akron under Dennison, and graduated with a B.S. in health and physical education in 1975. He has a master's degree in education. Gary's first coaching job was as the defensive coordinator at Steubenville Central Catholic in 1975. Green spent the next 18 years at Wooster High School coaching football, boys and girls basketball and track, before being named head coach in 1990. Gary and his wife Cheryl have a daughter, Beth, and reside in Wooster.



J.D. Lumley is in his first year as a graduate assistant coach. He will work with the outside linebackers. Lumley is a graduate of Carrollton High School and Kent State University.



Dennis Stroud is in his first year as a Walsh assistant, as he reunites with his former head coach at Akron. Stroud started on Akron's NCAA national runner-up team in 1976. He will work with Walsh's defensive backs.

Stroud has worked as a professional sales representative for 20 years and currently teaches in the Canton City School District., where he has coached track and football on the high school level. He resides in Akron, with his wife, Debbie. He is the father of two daughters, Danielle and Denise.



Chris Meyer comes to Walsh from the University of Charleston and will coach the defensive interior and defensive ends. At Charleston, he served as the special teams coordinator and defensive interior coach.

Chris is a graduate of Ashland University. He is the son of Jim Meyer, who played for Dennison at Akron. He resides in North Canton with his wife, Kristen.



Former four-year letter winner Mark Sexton returns for his second season as an assistant coach. He will work with the defensive interior. Sexton played for the Cavs from 2005-2009. He redshirted in 2006. He started his junior and senior years. He will also assist Coach Thomas in the equipment room.



Ben Lolli returns for his second season as a graduate assistant coach. He will work with the wide receivers. Lolli is a graduate of Stow High School (2005) and Kent State University (2009). He graduated from Kent with a degree in history. He is seeking his master's in education at Walsh. Lolli played baseball and football at Stow and earned four letters in each sport. At

Kent, he served four years as student assistant for the Flashes football program.



Justin Jajczyk is in his first season as a student assistant coach. He will coach the wide receivers. A graduate of Eaglecrest High School in Aurora, Colorado, Justin will complete his requirements for a degree in Humanities at Walsh in 2013.

Jajczyk coached as a varsity assistant at Eaglecrest in 2003 and 2004 and at Chaparral High School in Parker, Colorado from 2007-2010 as the offensive coordinator.

He resides in Canton and has a daughter, Leanne Kathryn.

2011 Walsh University Football Team



2011 Walsh University Football Staff



Front, L to R: Justin Jajczyk, Warren Miller, Mark Johnston, Head Coach Jim Dennison, Mark Sexton, Tom Flaherty, Michael Paul Jenkins, Ryan Hardie

Back: John Fankhauser, Gary Green, Ben Lolli, J.D. Lumley, Dennis Stroud, Chris Albrecht, Fred Thomas



Ryan Hardie begins his first year as a student assistant coach. Ryan, one of the Cavs' long snappers, suffered a season ending knee injury last season, after redshirting his freshman season. He is an Education major.



Michael Paul Jenkins is also in his first year as a student assistant coach. Jenkins earned three letters at center, before suffering concussion, which ended his season last fall. He is a government-foreign affairs major.

2011 Walsh Football Managers



Front: Kasey Gerber, Emily Simon, Jasmine Johnstone, Danielle Metzger, Kelsey Reed

Back: Shelbie Henderson, Katie Laubert, Ashley Virgin, Kyler Henderson, Max Brum, Kat Cannell, Amy Brown

Not pictured: Fred Thomas, Courtney Long, Denise Cunningham, Amy Roberts

