



DECEMBER 14-15, 2023

PRESENTED BY

**PEAK**  
EVENTS

HOSTED BY

**LMU**



# WELCOME AND SPONSORS

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Welcome to the fifth Surefire Baseball Forum. Thank you for sharing your valuable time to promote college baseball.

This program would not be possible without the support provided by Loyola Marymount University Athletics and Peak Events LLC, which operates five NCAA Division I college baseball tournaments: the Frisco College Baseball Classic, Karbach Round Rock Classic, Jax Classic, Las Vegas Classic, and Battle at the Ballpark.

Other supporters include D1.relocation, Basepath: NIL Operations Software, the DLR Group, the University of Florida's Institute for Coaching Excellence, and D1Baseball.com. Please pass along your gratitude to these supporters.

To learn, grow, and improve the forum, after the event we request your valued feedback.

With gratitude,



Jason Penry

**PEAK** EVENTS **UF** Institute for Coaching Excellence  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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# BACKGROUND

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Since 2018, the Surefire Baseball Forum has matched NCAA Division I administrators with top assistant baseball coaches from across the country.

The purpose of Surefire is two-fold: prepare assistant coaches for D1 head coaching roles and create more interest in college baseball among athletic administrators.

After attending Surefire, 25 of the 100 alumni secured their first NCAA Division I head coach positions:

Blake Beemer (Butler)  
Chris Bertrand (Northwestern State)  
Will Bolt (Nebraska)  
Nathan Choate (Loyola Marymount and Washington State)  
Eddie Cornejo (Cal State Northridge)  
Donegal Fergus (Loyola Marymount)  
Dan Fitzgerald (Kansas)  
Ben Greenspan (Northwestern)  
Randy Hood (UNC Wilmington)  
Jason Kelly (Washington)  
Karl Kuhn (Radford)  
Bradley LeCroy (VCU)  
Skylar Meade (Troy)  
Joe Mercadante (North Florida)  
Bill Mosiello (Ohio State)  
Chris Prothro (Eastern Kentucky)  
Kirk Saarloos (TCU)  
Brian Smiley (Miami Ohio)  
Eddie Smith (Utah Valley)  
Fuller Smith (Tarleton State)  
Jay Uhlman (Tulane)  
Brock Ungricht (San Diego)  
Clay Van Hook (UT Arlington)  
Rich Wallace (Central Florida)  
Gregg Wallis (Grand Canyon)

The next Surefire will be held at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on January 9-10, 2025.

Previous Surefire hosts:

2018 – Texas A&M University  
2019 – University of San Diego  
2020 – University of South Carolina  
2022 – University of Houston

# AGENDA

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## Thursday, December 14

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Opening Reception

## Friday, December 15

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – Speed Networking

9:15 a.m. – Break

9:30 a.m. – Breakout Sessions – Panel Discussions

### Coaches: "The Search"

**Herb Courtney II**, Founder, Renaissance Search

**Donegal Fergus**, Head Coach, Loyola Marymount University

**Bill McGillis**, Member, NCAA Division I Baseball Committee

### Administrators: "Building a Sustainable Program Without Unlimited Resources"

**Andrew Checketts**, Head Coach, UC Santa Barbara

**Matt Duce**, Director of Athletics, Dallas Baptist University

**Mike Rooney**, College Baseball Analyst, ESPN and D1 Baseball

10:30 a.m. – Speed Networking

11:30 a.m. – Administrators Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – Breakout Session – Panel Discussion

### Coaches: "You're Hired: The First 90 Days"

**Mike Matoso**, VP of Intercollegiate Athletics, Saint Mary's College

**Eddie Smith**, Head Coach, Utah Valley University

**Bobby Smitheran**, Executive Director of Athletics, Long Beach State University

12:30 p.m. – Coaches Adjourn

All events to be held in, and adjacent to, the Lions Athletic Center on the campus of Loyola Marymount University, which is consistently recognized as one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation.

# ATTENDEE ROSTER

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## Administrators

Erin Adkins, UCLA  
Phil Brown, Vanderbilt  
Shawn Chin-Farrell, CSUN  
Rob Clark, Utah  
Matt Duce, Dallas Baptist  
Daniel Feig  
Dan Gaston, LSU  
Greg Glaus, Kent State  
Lindsay Jaffe, USC  
Markus Jennings, Akron  
Tim Lanski, San Diego State  
Wesley Mallette, UC Riverside  
Mike Matoso, Saint Mary's

Bill McGillis  
Jon Michalik, Cal State Bakersfield  
Ron Moses, Old Dominion  
Don Oberhelman, Cal Poly  
Micah Parker, California Baptist  
Paul Perrier, USC  
Craig Pintens, Loyola Marymount  
Steve Potts, Pepperdine  
Graham Rossini, Arizona State  
Thad Satre, Loyola Marymount  
Bobby Smitheran, Long Beach State  
Darin Spease, Charlotte  
Dan Young, San Diego

## Coaches

Ben Breazeale, UT Arlington  
Travis Buck, Loyola Marymount  
Millard Dawson, Seattle  
Justin Dedman, Loyola Marymount  
Matt Fonteno, UCSB  
Ryan Forrest, Boston College  
Anthony Gilich, Arizona State  
Brandon Harmon, Gonzaga  
Noah Jackson, Cal  
Andy Jenkins, USC  
Bryson LeBlanc, Missouri

Julius McDougal, SDSU  
Jack Meggs, Saint Mary's  
Nate Rasmussen, Utah Valley  
Josh Simpson, Georgia  
Jake Valentine, Michigan  
Kevin Vance, Arizona  
Cory Vanderhook, UNLV  
Thomas Walker, San Jose State  
Austin Wates, Kansas State  
Jon Wente, Sacramento State  
Reggie Willits, Oklahoma

# ADMINISTRATORS

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## ERIN ADKINS

UCLA



Adkins serves as the senior associate athletic director, sport administration and governance at UCLA, having joined the staff in July 2018.

In her current role, Adkins oversees the areas of compliance and student-athlete services and serves as the sport administrator for women's soccer and baseball.

In addition to NCAA compliance and governance Adkins oversees UCLA Athletics name, image, and likeness programming, Bruin academic and achievement awards program (Alston) and student-athlete development.

From 2015-2018 Adkins worked at Vanderbilt University as the assistant athletic director of compliance. In that role, she was responsible for handling oversight of all compliance related to NCAA and SEC regulations. Adkins also served as sport administrator for the women's swimming and diving team. She began her career at the University of San Diego, where she served as compliance and academic administrator from 2009-2015.

Adkins graduated from the University of Arizona in 2006 with a major in political science and a minor in business administration. She earned her juris doctorate degree from California Western School of Law. A native of Los Angeles, Adkins grew up spending a great amount of time at the Rose Bowl and Pauley Pavilion.

## PHIL BROWN

VANDERBILT



Brown joined Vanderbilt in 2015 as the assistant business manager for athletics and currently serves as senior associate athletic director and chief business officer. He also provides oversight of Vanderbilt's facilities and event management, capital projects and equipment staff.

In addition to his administrative operations duties in finance, facilities, event management and equipment, Brown serves as the baseball sport administrator and previously oversaw ticket operations. Brown's first season as baseball sport administrator ended with the program raising the 2019 national championship trophy in Omaha and a return visit to Omaha in 2021 as the national runner-up.



Prior to arriving at Vanderbilt, Brown worked at Texas A&M-Kingsville as the assistant athletic director for financial operations for athletics and campus recreation.

A native of Louisiana, Brown earned his degree in accounting from Houston and a master's in business administration from Texas A&M-Commerce. He earned a master's degree in sports management from Georgia Southern and is also a graduate of the Sport Management Institute Executive Programs.

Brown is married to Alison Fontenot Brown. They are the parents of three children — Charlotte, Owen and Emmett.

## **SHAWN CHIN-FARRELL**

### **CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE**



Chin-Farrell was named the CSUN director of athletics in September of 2022 after serving as director of athletics at Cal State San Bernardino (CSUSB) since 2017.

As the leader at CSUSB, the Coyotes enjoyed success on the field of play in the form of an undefeated national championship in women's volleyball in 2019 but most important, under his leadership, CSUSB student-athletes achieved a school record collective 3.35-grade point average.

Cal State San Bernardino athletics enjoyed a dramatic increase in athletics annual revenue from fundraising and corporate sponsorships under Chin-Farrell's watch. The program also saw numerous facility milestone achievements including a locker room renovation for baseball.

Prior to his arrival in San Bernardino, Chin-Farrell spent nearly nine years in athletics administration at Seattle University. He served in a senior leadership role from 2008-2017 as the school made the transition to NCAA Division I. He was ultimately named interim athletics director in 2016.

Chin-Farrell practiced law in Seattle for several years before he transitioned from law into intercollegiate athletics in 2004, where he began working at his law school alma mater, the University of Washington, then serving as the Huskies' associate compliance director.

A native of Seattle, Chin-Farrell is a former first generation multi-racial student-athlete at Sonoma State University in California. He received his degree in political science with a minor in marketing from the University of Arkansas in 1995. Chin-Farrell and his wife, Yoomi, have two children.



# ROB CLARK

## UTAH



Dr. Clark joined Utah Athletics as associate athletic director for development in September of 2022, after spending the previous two years at San Jose State as senior deputy athletics director. In his current role, he oversees major gifts, annual fund, and tickets teams.

At San Jose State, Clark assisted in day-to-day operations, led the revenue generation team (major gifts, annual fund, corporate sales, and tickets) and external relations team (media relations, marketing, and creative/digital). Clark led the successful launch of One Spartan Nation that nearly doubled donor membership. Clark led the major gift efforts for a \$65 million football facility, baseball practice facility, and soccer stadium seating. Clark also was integral in securing the largest sponsorship/multimedia rights partnership for SJSU athletics. He also served as the sport administrator for football, women's gymnastics, baseball, women's tennis and men's golf.

Prior to San Jose State, Clark served for five years as Long Beach State University's executive senior associate athletics director. In that role, he oversaw the development and external relations teams and was the sport administrator for Dirtbags Baseball. Clark and his team secured naming rights for LBSU's baseball stadium, collected a record fundraising year, several record sponsorships deals, and collected the highest ticket sales revenue in LBSU's history. These fundraising efforts helped LBSU renovate and construct multiple facilities.

Clark had previously served at Georgia State, New Mexico, Angelo State, and Texas A&M. He also worked as a financial consultant for athletics departments around the nation moving up to the Football Bowl Subdivision level.

Clark played football in college, first at Utah State before finishing his career at Occidental College in Los Angeles, where he was named a team captain. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Occidental and earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Clark and his wife Emily have three children: Annie, Kate and McCoy.

# MATT DUCE

## DALLAS BAPTIST



Duce, who was a four-year standout on the DBU baseball team from 2015-2018, was named director of athletics in June of 2023. Duce took over the reins of a DBU athletic program that features 25 sports programs. DBU's baseball program is one of only five teams in the nation to reach the NCAA Division I postseason each of the last nine years.

Previously, Duce served in a variety of roles for DBU, including director of alumni affairs, assistant to the chancellor, project manager for the graduate school, and was the director of graduate recruitment.

During his playing days at DBU, Duce was a three-time All-Missouri Valley Conference selection and an integral part of a Patriots team that reached the NCAA postseason all four years of his collegiate career. As one of the all-time greats to put on the Patriot uniform, Duce stands as the winningest Patriot in the history of DBU Baseball, having been a part of 174 wins over his four-year career. In four seasons, Duce finished his career with 23 home runs and his 49 doubles are the ninth-most in program history. He went on to spend two seasons in the Cardinals' minor league system.

Duce earned his degree from DBU in 2019 and completed his MBA in 2021. He is married to Jaycee.

## DANIEL FEIG



Feig served as vice chancellor for athletics at USC Upstate from 2018 – 2023. During his tenure he oversaw the athletic department's conference membership transition from the ASUN (2007-2018) to the Big South Conference and multiple sport programs crafted their best seasons at the Division I level. Baseball claimed a program-record 38 wins in 2023—the program's third consecutive season with 35-plus wins; one of 23 Division I programs to do so, advancing to the program's first conference championship.

During his tenure at USC Upstate, Feig also served on the NCAA Legislative Committee and as one of eight members of the NCAA Subcommittee for Modernization—a unit charged by the NCAA Transformation Committee.

Feig came to USC Upstate from Southern Miss, where he served as executive associate athletic director. Among his broad responsibilities, Feig directly supervised several teams and administrative units within the department, including football, men's basketball, the athletic compliance office, and academic services. As a former practicing attorney, he also served as the athletic department's contract administrator and liaison to the university's general counsel.

Feig joined Southern Miss following two years as director of compliance at the University of Alabama. Prior to Alabama, Feig served as the assistant athletic director for compliance at Arkansas State University.

Feig earned his degree from Birmingham-Southern College in 2000, where he was a member of the men's soccer team that earned Final Four spots in three of his playing years. He earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2003. Feig resides in Spartanburg with his wife, Claudine, and their three sons, Noah, David and Mark.

# DAN GASTON

## LSU



Gaston is in his fifth year at LSU as senior associate athletics director, after working at Villanova in 2018-19 as the Senior Associate AD for Facilities and Game Operations. He oversees the operation of all LSU Athletics facilities, capital projects, event operations and equipment operations. He is the sport administrator for baseball, soccer, and golf. During his tenure at Villanova he served as the sport administrator for baseball and for women's rowing.

Gaston worked from 2015-18 at the University of South Dakota, where he was a senior associate athletic director. He provided in that role oversight of athletic facilities and event operations for the Coyotes' 17 programs. In addition, he served as sport administrator for women's soccer, men's and women's golf, and swimming and diving.

Prior to South Dakota, Gaston served more than three years as an assistant athletic director at the University of Washington. He served an internship as an assistant event manager at UW in 2004 and was hired full-time in 2006. Gaston managed an \$8 million budget at Washington, which included a facilities operating budget of \$2 million, a gameday budget for 21 sports of \$3.5 million, and a facility enhancement budget of \$2.5 million. He served as project manager for four capital improvement projects totaling \$37.5 million.

He is a 2003 graduate of the University of Washington, where he earned his degree in social sciences. Gaston was also a student-athlete at Washington, where he was a member of the swimming team, earning two varsity letters. He went on to obtain a master's degree in sports administration and leadership from Seattle University in 2009. Gaston and his wife Machiko have two children, Ryuu and Raeden.

# GREG GLAUS

## KENT STATE



Glaus was promoted to serve as the executive deputy athletics director in June of 2023. In this role, he oversees department operations and provides division leadership in the absence of the vice president. He also provides leadership for business & finance, facilities & operations, NCAA compliance, and the comprehensive sport supervision program. In his role, Glaus also leads the implementation of the strategic plan initiative, department level contracts, capital projects, strategic revenue generation development and serves as the sport administrator with the football and gymnastics programs.

Glaus rejoined the Golden Flashes, where he served from 2006-2017, when he was named senior deputy athletics director in May of 2021. Prior to returning to Kent State, Glaus served as the senior associate athletics director at Texas Tech University (2017-2021). With the Red Raiders, Glaus served as the chief academic officer for the department and had oversight over academic eligibility, led the strategic planning process and implementation, and oversaw special projects such as the name, image, likeness task force and the COVID-19 task force.

A native of Barberton, Ohio, Glaus graduated as a honors scholar from Wright State University in 2005 and was a member of the Raiders' baseball program. He earned his master's degree in higher education administration from Kent State in 2009. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in the same field with his dissertation focusing on Strategic Planning in Division I FBS Athletic Departments. He and his wife, Amie, have four daughters: Grace, Claire, Scarlet & Victoria.

## **LINDSAY JAFFE**

### **USC**



Jaffe currently serves as senior associate athletic director – sport administration for USC, having joined the USC Athletic Department in November 2020. Prior to coming to USC, she spent eight years at Cincinnati. Jaffe oversees 10 USC teams: soccer, baseball, lacrosse, cross country, men's and women's swim and dive, men's and women's water polo and men's and women's track and field.

During her time at Cincinnati, Jaffe was the assistant athletic director of sport services for four years while also serving as an adjunct professor for the sport administration program. In 2017, she was honored by Women Leaders in College Sports as a Commitment Award winner.

Jaffe also served as a director of compliance at Cincinnati for two years after serving as an assistant director from 2012-2014. Prior to her arrival at Cincinnati, Jaffe worked in compliance at Florida Atlantic and at UNC Greensboro while completing her master's degree in sports administration from Nova Southeastern University.

A former student-athlete, Jaffe played soccer at Appalachian State, where she earned a degree in psychology. A native of Westin, Florida, Jaffe and her husband, Nick, currently reside in Marina del Rey.

# MARKUS JENNINGS

## AKRON



Jennings has served as the deputy athletic director and chief operating officer since August of 2021. In his role, Jennings provides strategic leadership and is responsible for broad supervision of the athletic department's external units, which include Z-Fund, communications, ticket sales, marketing, branding, multimedia rights, licensing, merchandising and sports oversight in football, baseball, cross country, and track and field.

Jennings returns to his hometown Akron after eight years in his role as associate athletic director for external affairs at Sacramento State University where he provided leadership, strategic planning, and oversight for the Hornets' 21-sport athletic program. He oversaw Sacramento State's external operations and served as the sport administrator for football, women's basketball, and track and field/cross country.

A former baseball player at New Mexico State, Jennings worked in the private sector for 14 years before returning to athletics as a special assistant to the athletics director at NMSU in 2007. The following year, he became the development director for athletics at Valparaiso University.

He is currently the President on the Executive Committee for the National Association of Athletic Development Directors (NAADD). NAADD is an organization which provides educational and networking opportunities for Intercollegiate Athletic fundraisers across the United States and Canada.

Jennings earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from New Mexico State in 1994 and added an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from Clark Atlanta University in 2001. He and his wife, Brenda, have two children, Masud and Basiana.

## TIM LANSKI

### SAN DIEGO STATE



Lanski joined San Diego State in June of 2018 as the associate athletics director and has been promoted to Deputy Athletics Director. In his current role Lanski supervises the athletic department's compliance, NIL, and information technology operations. Lanski serves on the executive staff within SDSU's Athletics Department and is the sport administrator for the baseball, men's soccer, and women's swimming and diving programs.

Lanski joined San Diego State after previous stints at UC Riverside, Ole Miss and most recently, CSUN. As an associate athletic director for the Matadors, Lanski oversaw CSUN's compliance department, served on the athletics department's senior staff, and was the sport supervisor for women's soccer, men's golf and women's golf.

Prior to his time in Northridge, Lanski was at the University of Mississippi for three and a half years in compliance roles. Lanski began his athletics administration career at UCR in September 2011 as a compliance assistant.

Lanski served on the board of directors for the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) from 2018-2022. During his time as chair of the advancement committee, NAAC saw unprecedented growth in both sponsor engagement and sponsorship dollars culminating with record setting numbers in 2022.

Lanski, who has been involved in college athletics since he stepped onto the Cal State San Bernardino campus in the fall of 2003, was a four-year student-athlete on the Coyotes men's soccer team. He later became an athletics marketing intern in the department before earning his degree in business & administration. Lanski went on to receive his master's degree in kinesiology, sport management from California Baptist University after several years of working as a business professional in various marketing and sales roles. He resides in San Diego with his wife Jenell and two children, Brooke and Bennett.

## **WESLEY MALLETTÉ** **UC RIVERSIDE**



Since January of 2021, Mallette has served as the director of intercollegiate athletics for the University of California, Riverside, a 17-sport, NCAA Division I Athletics program competing in the Big West. He has been a member of the UCR Athletics staff since March of 2018.

Mallette is responsible for every aspect of the program and sport supervision for men's basketball, baseball, women's volleyball, and softball. In his time as athletics director, UCR had its best fundraising year in nearly a decade; and the fourth best overall in the history of its program.

Before joining UC Riverside, Mallette served as an associate athletics director with Cal Athletics (UC Berkeley). Following three successful years with the Golden Bears, he went on to serve as vice president of communications for Pac-12 Networks.

Mallette earned his degree from James Madison University, where he was a two-sport Division I student-athlete in football and track & field. He earned his master's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. He currently resides in Southern California with his family. Mallette's son, Houston, is a standout combo guard at Pepperdine University.

## MIKE MATOSO

### SAINT MARY'S



Matoso is in his seventh season leading Saint Mary's College and was elevated to vice president of intercollegiate athletics in September of 2019. Matoso had served the previous two plus years as director of athletics and recreation after being hired in 2017. In 2022, Matoso was named one of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) winners of the Cushman & Wakefield Athletic Director of the Year Award.

Under Matoso, Saint Mary's has completed several major facility enhancements, including the completion of Gallagher Stadium for baseball. Other facility improvements during Matoso's term include a \$725,000 indoor hitting facility at the baseball complex in January of 2020.

Matoso joined Saint Mary's after serving as the director of athletics at Stanislaus State for five years. Prior to Stanislaus, Matoso was the senior associate director of athletics at the University of San Diego for 13 years. He played a key role in developing and planning Fowler Park, a \$14 million baseball facility, which was ranked by Baseball America as one of the top five collegiate facilities in the country. Matoso was pivotal to USD's success in capturing the prestigious WCC Commissioner's Cup trophy for five consecutive years.

Before serving USD's athletic department, Matoso spent four years at the University of Southern California. Prior to USC, he served as the academic advisor to all 18 teams at Cal Poly.

Matoso is a California native. He earned his degree in 1993 from Cal Poly and earned his master's degree from Cal Poly. He was a pitcher for Cal Poly and participated in the Division II College World Series. Mike and his wife Kelly have three children, Abby (a Saint Mary's Alum), Cole, and Brody.

## BILL MCGILLIS



McGillis served as the University of San Diego's associate vice president and executive director of athletics from January of 2017 until November of 2023. He oversaw 17 Division I programs and is a current member of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee. He previously served on the FCS Football Committee. Previously, McGillis served as director of athletics at the University of Southern Mississippi from 2013 to 2016. Prior to his arrival at Southern Miss, McGillis served as the executive associate athletic director at the University of South Florida for six years.

Before USF, McGillis served as the director of athletics at the University of Evansville from April of 2002 to May of 2007. The Evansville baseball program won a program-record 43 games in 2006 enroute to a Missouri Valley Conference Championship, an NCAA Regional and within three wins of the College World Series.

McGillis also spent four years at the University of New Mexico and 13 years at the University of Houston. He earned his degree in sports administration from St. Thomas University (Florida) in 1984. He and his wife Margie, both natives of Seattle, have five children--sons Jordan, Taylor and Will, and daughters Marissa and Gabrielle.

## **JON MICHALIK** **CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD**



Michalik currently serves the Roadrunners as an associate athletics director. He has been a member of the senior staff at California State University, Bakersfield since April of 2019.

In his role, Michalik holds the title of chief compliance officer, overseeing the department's athletics compliance unit. In addition to compliance, Michalik provides direct oversight of the sports medicine and sports performance units, leads the department's name, image, and likeness initiatives (NIL), organizes all staff professional development efforts, and provides direct oversight of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Michalik also leads the department's review and implementation of the NCAA Transformation Committee recommendation and initiatives.

Michalik is the current sport administrator for the baseball and women's volleyball teams and has previously served as the sport administrator for several other sports programs including men's soccer, men's and women's swimming & diving, men's and women's track & field, and women's cross country.

Prior to CSUB, Michalik served in various intercollegiate athletics and academic affairs roles supporting NCAA Division I Athletics at Robert Morris University (2014-2019) and the University of Memphis (2010-2014).

A native of Milan, New Hampshire, Michalik earned his degree from the University of Memphis in 2012 and an MBA from Memphis in 2014.

## RON MOSES OLD DOMINION



Dr. Moses is currently the executive senior associate athletic director at Old Dominion University. He joined ODU in 2019. Moses provides leadership, oversight, and supervision related to internal operations of the athletics department, including the athletic, academic advising centers, the compliance program, alumni relations, sport supervision of the baseball program, and all facets of student-athlete welfare, including mental health and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Additional primary duties include providing direction and leadership to establish, implement, and accomplish program objectives, managing and coordinating services with various departmental and university offices, overseeing the delivery of services to targeted program participants, and compiling and maintaining appropriate files and records. Administrative functions include supervising the hiring and training of internal and student facing staff members; long-range planning and scheduling; program evaluation and content design; policy development and implementation; public relations; budget development and management; and upholding NCAA, Conference, and University rules and regulations. Moses additionally serves as the department research and evaluator, provides education and professional development for students and staff, and serves as the diversity and inclusion designee.

Moses earned his degree from the University of Georgia, a master's degree from Western Kentucky University, and Ph.D. from Kansas State University. Moses is a proud veteran of the United States Army and Army National Guard, having served for the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd Infantry Division based out of Winder and Fort Stewart, Georgia.

## DON OBERHELMAN CAL POLY



Oberhelman was named Cal Poly's director of athletics in March of 2011. He came to Cal Poly after serving as the chief operating officer and senior associate athletic director at San Diego State University. In that capacity, he was responsible for the daily operations of San Diego State's intercollegiate athletics program.

Oberhelman has served in several NCAA and conference leadership roles, including The NCAA Division I Council. The 40-member Council is charged with managing the new governance structure, the many changes taking place in college athletics, and the day-to-day decision making for all of Division I. He has served on many working groups for the NCAA, currently serving in a review of the future of amateurism within the collegiate model.

With Oberhelman at the helm, Cal Poly has recently seen many NCAA Division I "firsts" since its move from Division II in 1994, including a number one national ranking for baseball in 2014, first hosting of the NCAA Baseball Regionals the same year, and the best finish in the Big West Commissioner's Cup in its history with six championships in one season.

Prior to his tenure at San Diego State, Oberhelman served at Southern Mississippi as the senior associate athletic director (2002-07), education coordinator for athletics at Texas A&M (1998-2002) and as a compliance assistant at Florida State (1995-1998).

The native of rural Kansas earned his bachelor's in business administration at Kansas State and his master's in athletic administration at Florida State. Don resides with his wife D.D. in Pismo Beach.

## **MICAH PARKER**

### **CAL BAPTIST**



Dr. Parker was named as vice president for athletics in May of 2023. He previously served as CBU's athletic director from 2009 to 2020. Parker oversees the program that has 415 student athletes.

Parker, who has been a part of 57 conference titles and numerous national championships as a coach and director of athletics, rejoins the CBU Lancers after having spent three years as the vice president for athletics at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. During his tenure, the football team won the 2022 NAIA National Championship.

CBU saw many advancements in Lancer athletics during his initial 11-year term as athletic director. Parker oversaw the institution's transitions from the NAIA to NCAA Division II as well as the initial years to NCAA Division I and the invitation to the Western Athletic Conference. He created a corporate sponsorship program and athletic development board, and increased annual revenue of donations, ticket and corporate sales above the \$1.5 million mark. Under his leadership, CBU opened the 5,050-seat Dale E. and Sarah Ann Fowler Events Center in 2017 and won the NCAA Division II Learfield Cup in 2018.

Prior to taking the athletic director role at CBU in 2009, Parker served as the top assistant women's basketball coach at Drake University, director of operations for women's basketball at the University of Nebraska, head women's basketball coach at Concordia University, and assistant men's basketball coach at Concordia for eight years.

Parker earned his degree from Concordia in 1991 before earning a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. He is married to his wife Amy, and they have three children – Emma, Jonah, and Gracie Joy.

# PAUL PERRIER

USC



Perrier returned to USC Athletics in September of 2019 after spending four years at Rutgers University. As a member of the executive team, Paul oversees the sport administration function for the department by leading a group of administrators in managing the internal and external areas, that support sport programs, and partnering with head coaches to live the vision and mission of USC Athletics. Perrier also provides leadership to areas including sport science, sports performance, athletic medicine, and nutrition.

Prior to Perrier's return to USC, he joined the Rutgers Athletics staff as senior associate athletic director and chief compliance officer in October of 2015. He was a member of the department's executive staff and served as the sport administrator for the baseball, field hockey, and men's lacrosse programs.

Perrier first joined USC in 2009 and spent six years with the Office of Athletic Compliance, most recently as the associate vice president.

Perrier earned his juris doctorate degree from the University at Buffalo Law School and a bachelor's degree from Oswego State University, where he was a Presidential Scholar and recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. He competed in the Frozen Four NCAA Championship game as a member of the men's ice hockey team and was a four-year conference all-academic team and Commissioner's List honoree. Perrier and his wife, Lindsey, reside in the South Bay with their two sons, Cole and Henry.

# CRAIG PINTENS

LMU



numbers.

Pintens was formally introduced as LMU's athletic director in June of 2018, bringing leadership experience from national championship-winning programs. Since being named athletic director, Pintens has revitalized LMU Athletics through one of the most successful periods competitively in its history by hiring more than half of the current head coaches while restructuring the senior management team, renovating facilities, and establishing record-breaking fundraising

With a concentration on national success, the Lions have finished in the top twenty in the Learfield Directors' Cup Final Standings among Division I-AAA schools, highlighted by a ninth-place finish in Division I-AAA in 2021-2022, the best in school history.

Pintens came to LMU from the University of Oregon, where he served as senior associate athletic director for seven years. Prior to his tenure at Oregon, Pintens worked in the athletic departments at Louisiana State University, Marquette University, and the University of Texas-Pan American.

The National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators has honored Pintens with over 40 awards in season ticket campaigns, advertising, ticket sales, new media, video, and corporate sponsorship.

Pintens earned his juris doctorate degree from Marquette University School of Law and his bachelor's degree in marketing cum laude from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. Pintens is married to Jill, and they have four children: Kaitlin (LMU '26), Jackson, Tate, and Avery.

## STEVE POTTS PEPPERDINE



Dr. Potts oversees one of the nation's most successful Division I-AAA programs as Pepperdine's director of athletics. He took over the role in January of 2011 and is in his 14th year in the position in 2023-24. A long-time administrator and professor at Pepperdine, Potts returned to Malibu in July 2008 as the senior associate director of athletics after serving as the director of athletics at Lipscomb University for over eight years. Before his time at Lipscomb, Potts spent 17 years at Pepperdine.

Under Potts' leadership, Pepperdine has earned the I-AAA Athletic Director's Association All-Sports Award (given to the top-performing non-football school in Division I) three times (2011-12, 2021-22 and 2022-23), while finishing second three times (2016-17, 2018-19 and 2020-21) and in third place twice (2014-15 and 2017-18). Since becoming Director of Athletics, the Waves have won 61 conference regular-season or tournament titles.

In March 2020, an AthleticDirectorU study that identified the top Division I athletic director hires ranked Potts 14th out of 229 schools that had changed ADs over the past decade.

Potts is a native of Nashville and earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee-Martin in 1979. He then went on to earn his juris doctorate degree from Pepperdine in 1982. He and his wife Jaimie have two sons, Tyler and Tanner.

# GRAHAM ROSSINI

## ARIZONA STATE



Rossini joined Sun Devil Athletics in March of 2021 as senior associate athletics director and was promoted in August 2023 to executive senior associate athletic director and chief business officer. An ASU alum and veteran of over 20 years in sports business at the MLB and Power 5 level, Rossini provides executive leadership to the athletic department's revenue-generating, fan experience, alumni engagement, sustainability, and brand affinity

departments. He also serves as a sport administrator for baseball, men's ice hockey, and women's volleyball. Since returning to Tempe, Rossini led the athletic department's efforts to secure a 15-year naming rights partnership of Mountain America Stadium and a 10-year extension to the naming rights of Desert Financial Arena.

His return to ASU followed 13 years with the Arizona Diamondbacks as vice president of special projects & fan experience. He was responsible for several departments and revenue from ticketing, corporate partnerships, special events, food & beverage, and merchandise. Before joining the Diamondbacks, the Mobile, Ala., native spent five years as ASU's director of baseball operations. He was involved in two College World Series teams, two Pac-10 championships, and recruiting five Top-5 signing classes.

Rossini earned his bachelor's and MBA degrees from ASU. Rossini is married to Alison Lund, a Sun Devil Volleyball Letterwinner. The couple resides in Phoenix with their son, Rhett, and daughter, Sofia.

# THAD SATRE

## LOYOLA MARYMOUNT



Satre joined LMU in September of 2018 as an assistant athletics director of compliance and was promoted to senior associate athletic director of compliance in July of 2021. He is responsible for day-to-day compliance operations and leads the department in education, monitoring, and enforcement of NCAA rules and regulations. Satre also serves as the administrator for the baseball, men's soccer, men's rowing, and women's rowing programs.

Prior to arriving at LMU, Satre served as an Assistant Director of Compliance at Pepperdine University where his responsibilities included assisting in day-to-day compliance operations. He also assisted with the direction of the Waves Leadership Council (student-athlete advisory committee).

He started his career as an intern with the Butler University Athletics department before moving on to serve as a graduate assistant in the compliance office with the Auburn University Athletics department.

A native of Ogden, Iowa, Satre attended Iowa State University before transferring to Butler University and earning his degree. He was a member of the football team at both Iowa State and Butler. He went on to receive a master's degree from Auburn University.

## **BOBBY SMITHERAN**

### **LONG BEACH STATE**



Smitheran was named the executive director of athletics at Long Beach State in August of 2023. He enters the role with more than 20 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics, most recently serving as the executive associate athletics director at San Diego State University.

At SDSU, Smitheran was responsible for managing the comprehensive academic support program that served over 450 Aztec student-athletes, was the sports supervisor for the Aztec football program for seven years, and the softball program for five years. He also worked a two-year stint in 2011 and 2012 as the director of operations for the SDSU football team, overseeing all administrative aspects of the program.

Smitheran began his career in intercollegiate athletics as compliance coordinator at the University of North Texas in 1999-2000, before spending the next seven years at UC Irvine, including the final three as assistant athletic director of compliance and student support. Two of the sports he worked directly with at UCI included men's volleyball (2007 NCAA champion) and baseball (2007 College World Series appearance).

A native of Riverside, California, Smitheran played four years of collegiate baseball at the University of New Mexico, earning academic all-conference honors with the Lobos as a senior in 1996. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he remained in Albuquerque, completing his master's degree in physical education at UNM in 1999. Smitheran and his wife Karen have two children, Tyler and Cooper.

## **DARIN SPEASE**

### **CHARLOTTE**



Spease was named deputy athletic director in August of 2016, after serving in the role of senior associate athletic director for business affairs since 2004. Previously he held the positions of assistant and associate athletic director from 1998-2004.

In his role, Spease is responsible for the overall administration of financial affairs within the 49ers 18-sport athletic program and oversees the annual budget. In addition, he oversees the department's business and insurance office functions, facility and equipment operations, as well as serving as the principal sport administrator for baseball, volleyball, and men's and women's golf.

From 2004-2009, Spease served on the Executive Board of the College Athletic Business Management Association (CABMA), a 500+ member organization devoted to the business operations of intercollegiate athletic programs and was the association's President in 2007-2008. He was named CABMA's Manager of the Year in 2009. Spease also served on the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee from 2007-2011, including a three-year stint as the chair from 2008-2011.

Prior to coming to Charlotte, Spease served as an assistant athletic director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) from 1993-98. While in Birmingham, he was heavily involved in the Blazers move to Division I-A football in 1996.

A 1989 graduate of UNC Charlotte, Spease also earned a master's degree (1993) from UAB. Spease and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Mason, Morgan, and Kasey.

## DAN YOURG SAN DIEGO



Yourg serves as the senior associate director of athletics for administration at the University of San Diego. He oversees USD Athletics' budget and business operations, human resource services, academic support, compliance, equipment, facilities and operations, sports medicine, and strength and conditioning units.

Yourg's current sport oversight responsibilities include football, baseball, men's and women's rowing, men's and women's soccer, and women's tennis. He has previously supervised women's swimming and diving, men's tennis, men's and women's cross country/women's track, men's golf, and softball.

In addition, he has administrative oversight of athletics scholarships and is the liaison to admissions, budget and treasury, financial aid, student accounts, campus card, housing, dining services, Office of Ethical Development and Restorative Practices, and student wellness. Yourg is a national member of the College Athletic Business Management Association. He has volunteered in the San Diego community serving on The Board of Directors for Tecolote Youth Baseball and The Wayback.

Yourg received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin. He played nose guard for four years and was a letterwinner on the Badgers Football team. Yourg and his wife Virginia (Stehly), a USD alumnus, are the parents of three sons, John, Thomas and Michael.

# COACHES

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## BEND BREAZEALE UT ARLINGTON



Breazeale is in his second year as an assistant coach with UT Arlington. A former player in the Baltimore Orioles organization, he brings a wealth of experience to the Mavericks following coaching stops at Baylor and Arkansas and a decorated playing career at Wake Forest.

Breazeale spent the 2022 season at Baylor. In 2021, Breazeale served as the graduate assistant at Arkansas under head coach Dave Van Horn. He helped develop the Razorbacks' hitters and catchers, helping the team to a 50-win season and a No. 1 national ranking. Prior to his time in Fayetteville, Breazeale spent four years with Baltimore.

A four-year starter at Wake Forest, Breazeale was named a Johnny Bench Award Semifinalist (top collegiate catcher in the nation), a First Team All-American (Collegiate Baseball), a Second Team All-American (NCBWA, Perfect Game/Rawlings) and a First Team All-ACC selection. Breazeale graduated from Wake Forest in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and completed his master's degree in operations management from Arkansas in 2021.

## TRAVIS BUCK LOYOLA MARYMOUNT



Buck was announced as assistant coach for 2024 baseball season. He previously served as an assistant recruiting coordinator at Arizona State University, where he played a vital role in developing future talent, coordinating outreach, and assisting in day-to-day operations.

Prior to his college coaching career, his professional baseball career saw him excel as an outfielder with several major league teams, including the San Diego Padres, Houston Astros, Cleveland Indians, and the Oakland Athletics. As a first-round draft selection (35th Overall) in the 2005 MLB Draft, Buck's dedication and talent allowed him to thrive at the highest level of the sport.

# **MILLARD DAWSON**

## **SEATTLE**



Dawson enters his eighth season with Seattle U, where he oversees the hitters, coaching the outfielders, and the running game. He is also entering his third year serving as the recruiting coordinator, a role he has seen success in during his career. During his seven years in Seattle, the program has seen ten players sign professional baseball contracts.

He was previously on the staff at Emory University prior to the start of the 2017 season, helping the Eagles to a berth into the NCAA Tournament.

Dawson played college football and baseball for the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB). He played centerfield for UAB before transferring to play baseball at the University of Montevallo. Dawson helped lead the Falcons to a 43-18 record in his senior season, ending the season ranked third nationally by USA Today in the final season polls.

Dawson received his bachelor's degree from the University of Montevallo in 2006 and completed his master's degree from Troy University. Dawson resides in Seattle with his fiancé, Luz, and their two sons, EJ and Esaias.

# **JUSTIN DEDMAN**

## **LOYOLA MARYMOUNT**



Dedman was named an assistant coach in July of 2023 ahead of 2024 baseball season. His baseball experience has taken him across the country, most recently a member of the Missouri Tigers as director of player development.

Prior to his time with Mizzou, Dedman was the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator at Miami University (Ohio). He has also made stops at Ole Miss and at Division II and NAIA powerhouse Lee University in Tennessee. Dedman's coaching career began in 2006 at his alma mater, Denison University, serving as an assistant for a pair of seasons before assuming the head coaching title in 2009.

Dedman was an all-conference outfielder at Denison University. He and his wife Brittany have a pair of children, Norah and Maddux, and he enjoys spending time with them, grilling, lifting weights and reading in his spare time.

## MATT FONTENO UC SANTA BARBARA



Fonteno was hired in July 2023 to serve as UC Santa Barbara's associate head coach, marking a return to Santa Barbara for the man who spent three years on the Gauchos' staff from 2019 to 2021. With Fonteno in charge of the offense in 2020, UC Santa Barbara climbed as high as No. 13 in the national rankings.

Fonteno has also been a prolific recruiter for UC Santa Barbara, perhaps unsurprisingly considering his father was a Major League Baseball scout for many years. After his first stint at UC Santa Barbara, Fonteno spent the 2022 season as an assistant coach at USC, then spent the 2023 campaign at Cal Poly as the Mustangs' associate head coach and recruiting coordinator.

Prior to his first tour in Santa Barbara, Fonteno was an assistant coach at Saint Mary's, from 2014 to 2018. In 2016, Fonteno helped Saint Mary's win their first ever WCC regular season title and first ever WCC Tournament Championship. Before Saint Mary's, Fonteno spent a season at Nevada and four seasons at Chico State. At Chico State in 2012, Fonteno helped the Wildcats advance to the D-II College World Series. Fonteno's coaching resume also includes experience on the staffs of UNLV and Cal Lutheran.

Fonteno graduated in 2002 from York College in Nebraska, where he was an all-conference centerfielder and led the Panthers to their first ever national ranking. He and his wife Lindsey have four children, Eva, Ty, Mia and Ali.

## RYAN FORREST BOSTON COLLEGE



Forrest enters his first season at Boston College after six seasons as the pitching coach at Air Force. He began at Air Force in 2018, after one season on the Mississippi State staff, when he improved the program's earned run average by 1.34 points in his first season.

In 2019, Air Force set a program record with a 4.83 ERA during Mountain West play. Under Forrest's tutelage, the Falcons boasted two All-Conference pitchers in 2021 in Paul Skenes, the eventual first overall pick in the 2023 MLB draft, and John Byrnes. Air Force clinched their first Mountain West title and played in their first NCAA Regional in 2022. Forrest's staff set the single season record for most strikeouts by an Air Force pitching staff, with 455, and boasted Mountain West Co-Pitcher of the Year in Skenes.

Forrest pitched for Maine from 2007-09 as a reliever. He started his collegiate career at Creighton University in 2006.

## ANTHONY GILICH

### ARIZONA STATE



In July of 2023, Gilich was named an assistant coach for Arizona State. Previously, Gilich reached unprecedented heights as the head coach of Central Arizona College after being elevated to the role in 2015. He led his team to two NJCAA National Championships (2019, 2022) after serving as associate head coach with the program from 2008-14.

Gilich was the ABCA National Coach of the Year in 2019 and 2022, collecting a 395-132 all-time head coaching record at CAC – a .749 winning percentage that is the best all-time with the program. At CAC, he saw 47 of his players drafted during his tenure, with 223 players going on to commit to four-year colleges.

Gilich has built extensive recruiting relationships throughout Texas, California, Arizona, and Washington during his coaching tenure and experience working with USA Baseball as a scout from 2015-17. He was responsible for leading the charge in several capital fundraising projects, including the construction of a new baseball stadium and state-of-the-art batting cages and bullpens.

Prior to his time with Central Arizona, Gilich was the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Puget Sound. He is a graduate of Central Washington University.

## BRANDON HARMON

### GONZAGA



Harmon will begin his second season as associate head coach, and 12th season overall, on the Gonzaga baseball staff in 2024. He was elevated from volunteer assistant in September 2015, and elevated from pitching coach to associate head coach in July 2022.

Harmon has helped guide the Zags to five West Coast Conference titles in his seven years coaching GU's pitchers – 2013, 2016, 2017, 2021 and 2022 – his pitching staff played a large role in the Zags' first-ever at-large bid to an NCAA Regional in 2016 as well as their highest-ever seeding in a Regional in 2021 and 2022.

From 2011-2012 Harmon served as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash. In 2012, the program won the Northwest Conference and Western Regional Championship earning a bid to the Division III World Series.

Harmon is a former player and graduate of Gonzaga. He completed his undergraduate work in 2007 and followed that up with a master's degree from Gonzaga in 2009. During his days as a pitcher for the Bulldogs (2005-08), he etched himself into the program's record book. He is among the top two in all-time career appearances category with 88 and owns the most innings in a season, pitching 123.1 frames in 2007. Harmon and his wife Lindsey have three children: sons Charlie and Cooper and daughter Collins.

## NOAH JACKSON CALIFORNIA



A proven leader and recruiter, Jackson is in his seventh overall season on the baseball staff at California and his second as the program's associate head coach in 2024. He serves as the Golden Bears' recruiting coordinator while overseeing the team's hitters and outfielders.

It is Jackson's second stint on staff for his alma mater, having spent the 2015 season as a volunteer assistant coach for the Golden Bears. Prior to joining the Cal staff in 2015, Jackson was a professional scout for the San Diego Padres.

Between his two stints at Cal, Jackson spent two seasons (2016, 2017) in Stockton as an assistant coach at the University of the Pacific. Off the field, Jackson turned his love of baseball into a force for positive change. In 2003, he co-founded the First Base Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to making travel baseball more affordable and transforming lives through mentorship, development of leadership skills and building self-esteem.

Jackson earned his undergraduate degree from Cal in 2003. He is the godson of Dusty Baker, who spent over 40 years in Major League Baseball as a player and manager. Jackson's father, Sylvester, served as a radio broadcaster for the Oakland Athletics from 1987-92.

## ANDY JENKINS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Jenkins begins his second season on the USC staff in 2024. He brings with him seven years of professional playing experience and ten years of collegiate coaching experience. He has been to Omaha four times as a player and coach, winning a College World Series title while on staff at Oregon State in 2018.

Jenkins comes to USC after spending a season as an assistant at Washington and the two previous years with Cal State Fullerton. Prior to that, Jenkins spent seven years on staff at Oregon State, which included a 2018 College World Series title, and CWS appearances in 2013 and 2017 as well. He was also a standout collegiate player for the Beavers in 2004 and 2005.

Jenkins has an elite track record of developing catchers, having worked with Adley Rutschman and Logan Ice while with Oregon State. Rutschman was the 2019 College World Series Most Outstanding Player and the 2019 Golden Spikes Award winner as the top amateur player in the country. He was the No. 1 Overall Pick in the 2019 MLB Draft by the Baltimore Orioles. Ice was the 2016 Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year.

A standout player in the Pac-10 for Oregon State, Jenkins was a first-team all-conference selection in 2005, leading OSU to its first College World Series in over 50 years at the time. After his seven-year professional career, Jenkins returned to OSU and graduated with a degree in psychology in 2012. A Salem, Oregon native, Jenkins is married to the former Jessica McGee. They have two daughters, Blakely and Presley.

## **BRYSON LEBLANC**

### **MISSOURI**



A former Mizzou outfielder, LeBlanc returned to Columbia in June of 2023. The New Orleans native previously spent five seasons as an assistant coach at UC San Diego, where he served as third base coach, working primarily with the Tritons' hitters.

LeBlanc helped guide UC San Diego through its transition to the NCAA Division I level, including a 34-18 campaign this spring that culminated in the program's first Big West Conference title. That success came on the heels of two of the most successful seasons in program history to begin his tenure. In 2019, the Tritons captured a conference title and advanced to the Division II College World Series, before ascending to the top of the national polls to begin the abbreviated 2020 campaign.

Prior to his time in San Diego, LeBlanc coached for seven seasons at UC Riverside (2012-18), where he mentored 31 all-conference performers. He also spent four seasons in administrative and coaching roles at Oregon (2008-11).

LeBlanc is a 2006 Mizzou graduate, having completed his bachelor's degree in biological sciences. He and his wife, Andria, are the parents of two boys, Christian and Camden.

## JULIUS MCDOUGAL SAN DIEGO STATE



McDougal was named as an assistant coach at San Diego State in August of 2023. He previously spent the past three seasons as associate head coach at Georgetown University, where he served as the Hoyas' hitting coach and recruiting coordinator. Among his numerous responsibilities, McDougal will also continue those duties with the Aztecs, along with overseeing the team's infield defense.

During McDougal's tenure at Georgetown, the Hoyas fashioned a dramatic turnaround with back-to-back seasons of 30 victories or more for the first time in program history, highlighted by a pair of Big East tournament appearances, after posting a 6-25 record in 2021. With McDougal on board, Georgetown was collectively named the Big East Conference Coaching Staff of the Year for the first time in school history following the 2022 campaign.

Prior to his stint with the Hoyas, McDougal spent three years at Eastern Kentucky from 2018-20, serving as the program's recruiting coordinator, infield coach and assistant hitting coach.

Previously, McDougal spent the 2016 and 2017 campaigns as head coach at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he guided the Tigers to the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) regular-season championship in his first year at the helm. Prior to his elevation to head coach, McDougal worked as an assistant at Stillman after serving the same role at Kentucky State for one season in 2014.

McDougal played collegiately at Claflin University in South Carolina, earning all-conference honors in 2010. McDougal earned a bachelor's degree from Claflin in 2012 before completing his master's degree at Alabama in 2016.

## JACK MEGGS SAINT MARY'S



Meggs oversees the Gael hitters, outfielders, base running, and recruiting. He arrived at Saint Mary's from the University of Kansas, where he served as the hitting coach. In his first year with the Jayhawk hitters, he guided a potent offense that more than doubled home run output from the previous season, from 27 to 55.

Before starting his coaching career, Meggs played professionally. As a student-athlete he played for four years at the University of Washington where he finished his career ranked fourth all time in both games started and games played. In 2016, Meggs was an All-Pac 12 First Team selection as a center fielder and was also named to the All-Pac 12 Defensive Team. A two-year captain for the Huskies, Meggs was selected All-Pac 12 again in 2017 on his way to being a 10th round pick by the Oakland A's. Meggs father, Lindsay, was the Head Baseball Coach at the University of Washington from 2010-2022.

# NATE RASMUSSEN

## UTAH VALLEY



The 2024 season will mark the third year at UVU for Rasmussen. During the 2023 season, Utah Valley reached unmatched success on the field by winning 34 games, making the biggest winning percentage turnaround in the country from 2021 to 2023.

Rasmussen is a Utah native as he grew up in Sandy and played his high school ball at Bingham High School. He then went on to play collegiately at Pacific University in Oregon where he was a three-time all-conference performer for the Boxers.

He began his coaching career as the hitting coach at the University of Puget Sound from 2012-14 and then moved back to his alma mater as he served as Pacific University's associate head coach from 2014-16. Rasmussen then moved into the Division I ranks at fellow WAC foe Northern Colorado where he served as the program's recruiting coordinator from 2017-19. He then most recently worked as a hitting coach in the Minnesota Twins organization from 2019-21.

As a player, Rasmussen was a three-time all-conference selection at Pacific University and the team captain of the 2012 conference championship team. He graduated from Pacific in 2012. He and his wife, Alissa, welcomed their first child in August.

# JOSH SIMPSON

## GEORGIA



Simpson, who has nearly two decades of experience in college and professional baseball, enters his first season as an assistant coach at the University of Georgia. During the 2023 season, he served as the director of baseball operations for the LSU baseball program and coach Jay Johnson. The Tigers captured the national title. Before joining LSU, Simpson was an area supervisor for the Texas Rangers scouting department. He was a Major League Baseball (MLB) scout with the Rangers for seven years until returning to the collegiate ranks at LSU. During his time with the Rangers, five players he signed reached the Major Leagues.

Prior to his MLB experience, Simpson served as the head coach at New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) from 2008-15. He became the second winningest coach in program history, tallying a 283-163 record. A total of 18 players were drafted by MLB. His teams qualified for the regional tournament in eight consecutive seasons. In 2014, he was named the WJAC Coach of the Year.

Simpson's collegiate experience includes stops at Central Arizona College, the University of New Mexico, and at Lamar (Colo.) Community College. During his coaching career, 10 of his players have reached the Major Leagues.

Simpson, a native of New Mexico, received a bachelor's degree in 2003 from Northwestern Oklahoma State, and he earned a master's degree in 2010 from East Central University in Oklahoma. Simpson and his wife Amanda have two children, twins Cooper and Koen.

## **JAKE VALENTINE**

### **MICHIGAN**



Valentine joined Michigan as the team's assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator in September of 2023. He joined the program after one season at Washington State, where he served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Cougars. In the 2023 season, Valentine helped the Cougars to their best record since 2015 and first ranking since 2010. Five Cougars received All-Pac-12 honors following the season.

Prior to his time in Pullman Valentine spent seven seasons at the University of Portland. Valentine started as an assistant coach before moving up to hitting coach and recruiting coordinator and spent the 2022 season as associate head coach. Before his seven seasons in Portland, he spent time as an assistant coach at Santa Clara and two seasons at UC Riverside in the same position. Valentine started his coaching career at Stephen F. Austin State, where he helped develop Hunter Dozier, the eighth overall selection of the 2013 MLB Draft.

Valentine earned his degree in communications from Hawai'i Pacific University, playing two seasons for the Warriors. He served as a team captain and set the single-season marks in runs scored and walks. He began his college career at Tacoma Community College in Washington. He and his wife, Andree, have a son, Brooks, and a daughter, Colbie.

## **KEVIN VANCE**

### **ARIZONA**



Vance was hired to oversee the Arizona pitching staff in June of 2023. He joined the program after serving two seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Boston College where he helped lead the Eagles to an NCAA Regional berth in 2023, their first since 2016.

Prior to his time in Boston, Vance spent five years at the University of Rhode Island, the last four of which he served as the Rams pitching coach and recruiting coordinator. He was promoted into the role after one year as the program's volunteer assistant coach. In 2017, Rhode Island benefited from Vance's coaching, highlighted by a 3.65 staff earned run average that paced the Atlantic 10 Conference and ranked 31st nationally.

Before entering the coaching ranks, Vance enjoyed a successful collegiate and professional playing career. As a two-way star at UConn from 2009-11, he picked up two All-Big East selections and an All-America nod as a junior. Following his collegiate career, the Chicago White Sox selected him in the 2011 MLB Draft. Vance went on to pitch five seasons in organized baseball, reaching as high as Triple-A.

Vance earned his undergraduate degree from UConn in 2012 and returned to school to earn a master's degree from Northeastern in 2016.

## **CORY VANDERHOOK** **UNLV**



Vanderhook enters his fifth year as an assistant baseball coach and the recruiting coordinator at UNLV after being hired in August of 2019. He also serves as the team's pitching coach. In 2022, the Rebels were the Mountain West regular-season champions.

Most recently, Vanderhook was a volunteer assistant coach at UC Irvine in 2019, and helped the Anteaters post a 37-17 overall record, and finish second in the Big West behind a 17-7 mark. UCI concluded the 2019 campaign ranked No. 20 by Perfect Game and were ranked in the top-20 by the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper and Baseball America rankings during the season, respectively.

Prior to his stint at UCI, Vanderhook served as the pitching coach at Abilene Christian for the 2018 season after a three-year run as Cal State Fullerton's director of operations from 2015-17 and four years (2009-12) as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Golden West College.

Vanderhook played catcher collegiately at Golden West (2003-04) before transferring to South Carolina (2005) and later Cal State Fullerton (2006). Following his collegiate career, he played in the Chicago Cubs and Baltimore Orioles farm systems. Vanderhook earned his undergraduate degree in communication studies from Cal State Fullerton in 2014.

# THOMAS WALKER

## SAN JOSE STATE



Walker joined the Spartans' coaching staff prior to the 2020 season as an assistant coach. He rose through the ranks to his position of associate head coach. Walker helped guide the Spartans to back-to-back appearances in the Mountain West Championship Game in 2022 and 2023, and in 2023, helped lead the Spartans to their first-ever Mountain West regular-season title and the Mountain West tournament title. The Spartans also earned a berth in an NCAA Regional for the first time since 2002.

Under Walker's guidance as the team's hitting coach, the Spartans have consistently been one of the top hitting teams in the Mountain West, particularly from a power perspective.

Prior to his tenure with the Spartans, Walker spent two seasons as an assistant coach for Golden West College. As part of the Rustlers' staff, he worked with players on and off the field, instructing them in both fielding and hitting.

Walker played collegiately for the University of California Riverside from 2012-16 and was a three-time captain. In 2014, he was selected as a first team All-Big West outfielder.

# AUSTIN WATES

## KANSAS STATE



Wates was hired by Kansas State as assistant baseball coach in June of 2018. In his role, his primary focus is on the Wildcat hitters, outfielders, and baserunners in addition to recruiting responsibilities.

Wates previously spent two seasons working for the Seattle Mariners as an area scout in South Texas. Wates has built strong relationships in the region that will have an instant impact on recruiting. With the Mariners, Wates was responsible for identifying and evaluating prospective players at both the collegiate and high school levels in the South Texas region.

As a student-athlete for three seasons for Virginia Tech, Wates had a career average of .367 while leading the team in steals all three seasons, totaling 49 career steals. He was a preseason all-America selection in 2010 by both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball, helping the Hokies to an NCAA Regional berth in 2010 – their first since 2000. Wates was the No. 90 overall selection by the Houston Astros in the 2010 MLB draft following his junior year at Virginia Tech.

A native of Richmond, Wates completed his bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech in December of 2017. He and his wife, Christine, have one daughter, Grace, and two sons, Carter and Walker.

## **JON WENTE** **SACRAMENTO STATE**



A veteran coach with a quarter century of experience mentoring student-athletes at all levels, Wente joined the Sacramento State coaching staff in August of 2022.

Wente spent the last eight seasons as the pitching coach at a pair of Western Athletic Conference rivals, the last two at Grand Canyon following six years as the associate head coach, recruiting coordinator, and pitching coach at UT Arlington.

Wente also has experience as a head coach at Hutchison Community College in Kansas, Odessa College in Texas, and a nine-year run at Central Arizona College (2006-14), while also serving as an assistant for the Vaqueros following his collegiate playing career. He led the Vaqueros to a JUCO runner-up finish at the 2011 World Series and a third-place World Series finish in 2008. In nine seasons with the Vaqueros, Wente posted a 402-165 record.

As a player, Wente began at Central Arizona before finishing his career at Arizona State and McNeese State, setting the Cowboys' single-season record for innings pitched. Wente graduated from Arizona State in 1998. His wife, Sandra, is an assistant softball coach at Grand Canyon and they have a son, Tyler.

## **REGGIE WILLITS** **OKLAHOMA**



Former New York Yankees assistant coach and University of Oklahoma alumnus Willits joined the program as volunteer assistant coach in January of 2022. He coaches the outfielders and serves as offensive coordinator, developing the team's offensive game plan.

Willits was a member of the Yankees organization from 2015-21, including the 2018-21 seasons as the major league first base coach and outfield instructor. He also served as the club's baserunning coordinator. During his stint with the Yankees, the team averaged 98 wins per season and reached the MLB postseason in all four years.

A former major league outfielder, Willits played six seasons with the Angels, batting .258 in 414 major league games. He finished fifth in American League Rookie of the Year voting in 2007 after batting .293 and registering 20 doubles, 27 steals and 74 runs scored.

Following his major league playing career, Willits served as head baseball coach at Binger-Oney High School in Oklahoma. During his four-year stint, he led the Bobcats to two state championships.

In his two-year playing career at Oklahoma, Willits led the conference with 37 stolen bases, a figure that still ranks sixth in program history. His 54 steals over the 2002 and '03 seasons are tied for tenth in program history while his .472 on-base percentage in 2003 is the fifth-highest average of the last 25 years.

An Oklahoma native, Willits transferred to Oklahoma after spending his first two collegiate years at Seminole State College. He received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma in 2014.

# PEAK EVENTS



ROUND ROCK, TX | FEB 23-25, 2024  
@KARBACHRRC



JACKSONVILLE, FL | FEB 23-25, 2024  
@JAXCBC



FRISCO, TX | MAR 1-3, 2024  
@FRISCOCLASSIC

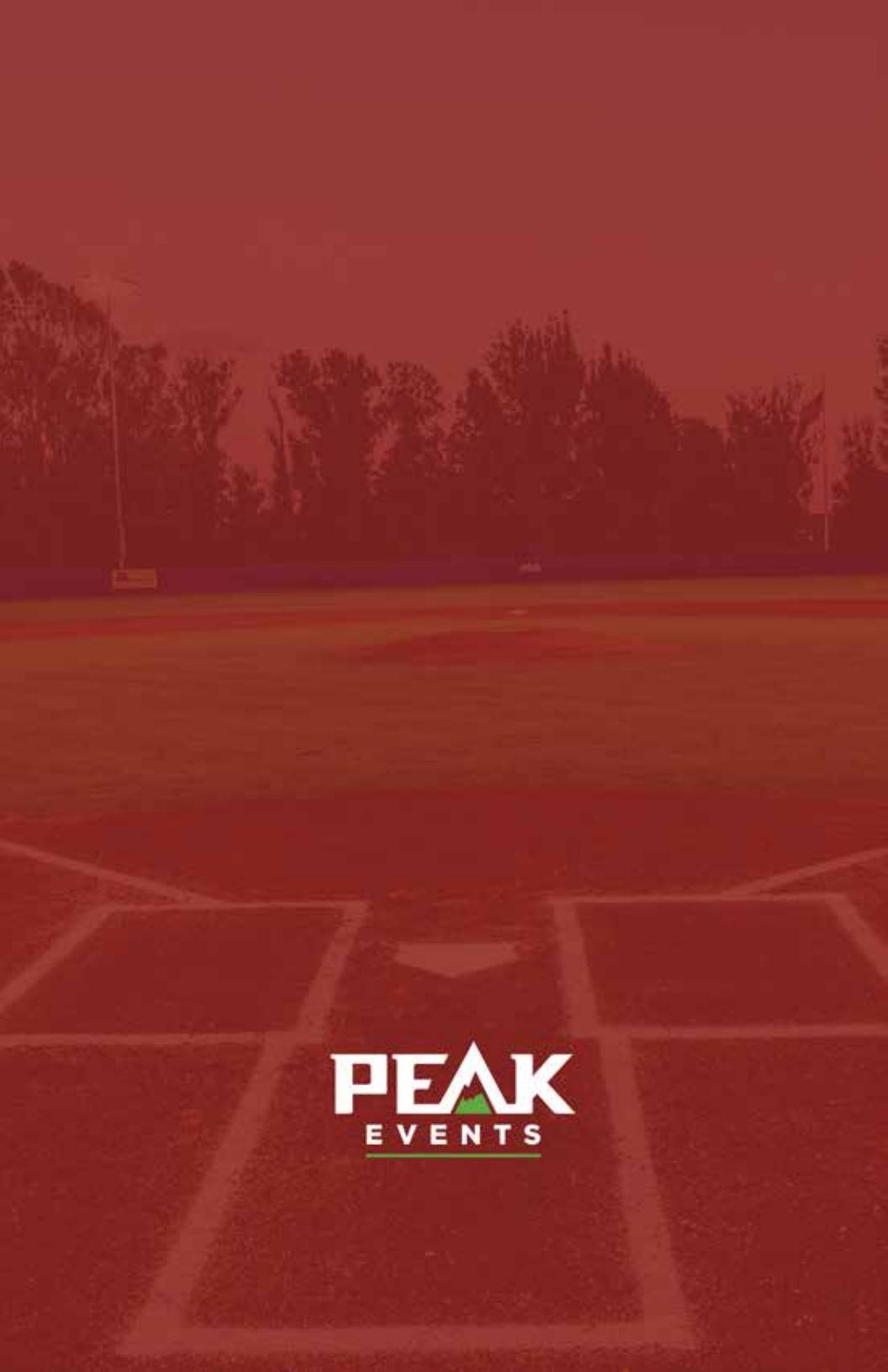


LAS VEGAS, NV | MAR 1-3, 2024  
@LASVEGASCBC



SUGAR LAND, TX | MAR 1-3, 2024  
@PEAKDOEVENTS

#BESTOUTSIDEOFOMAHA



**PEAK**  
EVENTS