

John Baxter

559-213-2000 (cell) · CoachJohnBaxter@gmail.com

Wife: Jill Children: Kelly, McKenzie

Profile Summary

A well-rounded individual, family man, and unique coach with nearly three decades of coaching experience between seven different programs; has established a proven track record as a position coach, coordinator, and associate head coach; has significantly affected the academic success of several programs; honored as the 2011 national special teams coordinator of the year and the Clovis Citizen of the Year in 2006; has played an integral role in 170+ wins since 1997; a dynamic teacher, a tireless worker, an effective communicator and a leader; determined to continue inspiring competitive excellence in every situation

Academic coordinator for the football program

Served an additional role as the academic coordinator for the football program at USC, Fresno State, Tulane, Maryland, Arizona, and the University of Maine. While at Fresno State, authored copyrighted and instituted the "Academic Gameplan ©1999," a system that has seen not only a major attitudinal and behavioral changes in student-athletes but measurable results that have broken GPA records each and every semester.

2015, 2016, 2017, 2022 Years to remember

- 2022 MWC Champions, Winner Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl 2 Punt Returns for TD, Blocked 2 Punts, One PAT
- 2017 Pac 12 Championship Cotton Bowl 11-3 Record
- Blocked 3 FG and One Punt, 2 Punt returns for TD
- 2016 FG Kicker Wins Rose Bowl, Blocked 2 FG, 2 Punt Returns for TD, 2 KO Returned for Touchdown 10-3 Record
- 2015 Served an integral role in leading Michigan to a 10-3 record in Jim Harbaugh's first season as head coach
- Instrumental in a dominating 41-7 win over the Florida Gators in the Citrus Bowl
- In just one season, improved the team's special teams efficiency ranking from 96th to 12th nationally
- Each of the four main special teams phases performed very well and greatly aided the team's success
- Implemented Academic Gameplan which led to fifty 3.0 or higher GPAs in spring semester, the most on record in Michigan history; sixty-one 3.0 or higher GPAs during the fall semester, the most on record in Michigan history; 75.5% of graded courses were B- or above in the fall semester

Since 1997, served an integral role in...

52 blocked punts (18 returned for touchdowns)

75 blocked kicks (6 returned for touchdowns)

14 kick-off returns for touchdowns and 28 punt returns for touchdowns



Education

Iowa State University, Ames, IA

- Master of Science in Higher Education Administration (1989)

Loras College, Dubuque, IA

- Bachelor of Science in Physical Education (1985)
- Emphasis: Physical Education Teaching Certificate K-12

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Family

Married to Jill McBride Baxter. Jill is a lawyer and the daughter of former Utah and Weber State head football coach Ron McBride. She is the owner and CEO of Academic Gameplan and a sole law practitioner negotiating employment contracts for clients in the areas of athletics and media. She holds a B.S. in speech communication from the University of Utah and juris doctorate from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Daughter Kelly is a graduate from the University of Southern of California and currently fourth grade teacher. McKenzie was Animal Science/Equine Science student and member of the rodeo team at Fresno State and now a Realtor in Fresno, CA.

Professional employment history

Fresno State University, Fresno, CA

Special Team Coordinator/associate head coach (2024, 2025)

Tight ends/special teams coordinator/associate head coach (2022, 2023)

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Special Teams Coordinator (2018,2019)

Tight ends / special teams coordinator (2016 - 2017, 2019)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Special teams coordinator (2015)

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Tight ends / special teams coordinator / associate head coach (2013)

Special teams coordinator / associate head coach (2010 - 2012)

Fresno State University, Fresno, CA

Tight ends / special teams coordinator / associate head coach (2009)

Wide receivers / special teams coordinator / associate head coach (2004 - 2008)

Tight ends / special teams coordinator / associate head coach (2003)

Wide receivers / special teams coordinator / associate head coach (2002)

Tight ends / special teams coordinator / associate head coach (1997 - 2001)

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Tight ends / special teams coordinator (1994 - 1996)

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Running backs / special teams coordinator (1992 - 1993)

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Tight ends / special teams coordinator (1990 - 1991)

University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Outside linebackers / special teams coordinator / recruiting coordinator (1989)

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Graduate assistant (1988)

Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Graduate assistant (1986 - 1987)

Administrators

Dr. Kevin White

Former Director of Athletics
Duke University
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Sandy Barbour

Former Director of Athletics
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Lynn Swann

Former Director of Athletics
University of Southern California

Dr. C.L. Max Nikias

Former President
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Dr. Cedric Dempsey

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Former
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Dr. Michael Ortiz

President
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John McKay

Former Sr. Assoc. Director of
Athletics University of
Southern California
213.379.4376 (cell)

Steve Lopes

Former Sr. Assoc. Director of
Athletics University of
Southern California
213.725.3522

Dr. Al Bohl

Former Director of Athletics
Fresno State University
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Coaches

Clay Helton

Head coach Georgia
Southern
213.280.9641 (cell)

Jim Harbaugh

Head coach San Diego
Chargers
650.391.8265 (cell)

Pat Hill

Former Head Football
Coach Fresno State
University Fresno, CA 93740
559.430-5153 (cell)

Ron McBride

Former Head Football
Coach University of Utah
and Weber State
801.389.2778 (cell)

Lane Kiffin

Head Coach Ole
Miss 205.861.9220 (cell)

Versatile: summary of positions coached

Special teams coordinator: 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Tight Ends: 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023

Wide Receivers: 1984, 1985, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Running backs: 1981, 1982, 1983, 1992, 1993

Quarterbacks: 1984, 1985

Outside Linebackers: 1989

Defensive Backs: 1988

Defensive Line: 1986, 1987

Specialists: 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013-2019, 2022-2025