

St. Ambrose University Football – Coaching Staff

Mike Magistrelli, Head Coach

Mike Magistrelli took the reigns of the St. Ambrose Fighting Bees football program in 2007 and won the Mid-States Football Association Midwest League championship in his first year. In 2007, the Bees were 8-3 overall and 7-0 in MSFA Midwest League play. The season ended with a 33-27 loss to Saint Xavier in the NAIA playoffs. St. Ambrose led the MSFA in scoring defense (allowing only 12.8 points per game) and pass defense (allowing only 134.7 passing yards per game). The team was second in the conference in total defense, surrendering just over 288 yards per contest.

A two-time all-conference quarterback at Coe College, Magistrelli began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at St. Ambrose from 1997-99.

He returned to Coe in 1999 and served as the quarterback coach and recruiting coordinator for three seasons. In 2000, his quarterback set the single-season Iowa Conference record by throwing for 2,275 yards. Magistrelli was promoted to defensive coordinator at Coe in 2001, and the following year, the Kohawks won their first conference championship in school history.

After five seasons at Coe, Magistrelli came back to St. Ambrose in 2004 as the defensive coordinator under head coach Todd Sturdy. He remained the defensive coordinator through the 2006 season before taking the helm in 2007.

“My goal is to prepare the student-athletes for success on the field, but more importantly for the world that is ahead of them when they leave,” Magistrelli said. “It’s a tremendous honor for me and an awesome responsibility that I enjoy.”

Magistrelli received his bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Coe in 1997 and his master's in Post-Secondary Disability Services from St. Ambrose in 1999.

He currently resides in Bettendorf, Iowa, with his wife Lisa and their three children, Paige (5), Brooke (3) and Matthew (1).

Contact Information

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Timeline

1997-99: Graduate Assistant at St. Ambrose (secondary and linebackers)

1999-00: Assistant Coach at Coe College (offensive coordinator)

2001-04: Assistant Coach at Coe College (defensive coordinator)

2004-07: Assistant Coach at St. Ambrose (defensive coordinator)

2007-present: Head coach at St. Ambrose

Awards

Mid-States Football Association Midwest League Coach of the Year, 2007

Mid-States Football Association Midwest League Assistant Coach of the Year, 2006

Jeff Girsch, Defensive Coordinator

After a one-year hiatus in 2007, Jeff Girsch returned to the Fighting Bees coaching staff in 2008. During his tenure at St. Ambrose, Girsch has coached defensive backs and wide receivers, and now serves as the defensive coordinator.

Girsch is a graduate of SAU, where he excelled as a four-year starting wide receiver. He currently ranks second in career receiving yards (1,617), fifth in career touchdown receptions (11), and seventh in career pass receptions (94) at St. Ambrose.

After graduating from St. Ambrose in 1994, Girsch joined the Fighting Bees football coaching staff in the fall of that year. He coached the wide receivers from 1994-98. Girsch returned to the staff and coached the defensive backs from 2000-03 before again coaching the defensive backs from 2004-06.

In 2007, Girsch coached receivers and tight ends at Bettendorf High School, where the Bulldogs won the Iowa state championship. He returned to SAU in March of 2008 for the start of spring practice.

Girsch currently resides in Davenport, Iowa, with his wife Erin, an admissions counselor at St. Ambrose, and their daughters, Jamee Kay and Jill.

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St. Ambrose University Football – Coaching Staff (cont.)

Tom Freeman, Running Backs, Kickers/Punters

Tom Freeman joined the St. Ambrose Fighting Bees coaching staff prior to the 2001 season. After coaching wide receivers for several years, Freeman now coaches the running backs, kickers and punters.

As the offensive coordinator at Bettendorf High School for 27 years, Freeman helped guide the Bulldogs to five Iowa state championships. His 40 years of coaching experience also includes stops at Lake Central High School and at River Forest High School, both in Indiana.

Freeman and his wife Sandy are the parents of Tom and Rob. They also have two granddaughters and one grandson.

Steve Bakeris, Offensive Line

Steve Bakeris has been with the Bees football coaching staff since the 1996 season. He works as the offensive line coach.

Bakeris graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, where he was an offensive guard for the Panthers football team. Bakeris was the assistant varsity football coach at Sherrard for 11 years. He is a physical education instructor at Sherrard High School.

Bakeris lives in Bettendorf, Iowa, with his wife Martha and their daughters Andrea and Amanda.

Ed Morrissey, Outside Linebackers

Ed Morrissey joined the Fighting Bees football coaching staff in 2007. He coaches the outside linebackers. Morrissey was the head coach at Pleasant Valley High School for 28 seasons and currently teaches physical education there.

Morrissey received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and went on to earn his master's from Syracuse University. While at Syracuse, he served as a football graduate assistant for two seasons. Morrissey also served as an assistant coach at Davenport Assumption High School for three years.

Morrissey currently resides in LeClaire, Iowa, with his wife Carol. They have five children - Mike, Erin, Joe, Katie and Jim.

Nathan Fisher, Defensive Line

A 2005 graduate of St. Ambrose, Nathan Fisher returned to his alma mater as an assistant coach in 2007. He coaches the defensive line.

After playing for St. Ambrose from 2000-01, Fisher coached for the Fighting Bees from 2002-04. He spent two years in Nashville, Tenn., working as the Health Teacher and Assistant Varsity Boys Track Coach at Hillwood High School in West Nashville.

Before returning to Iowa, Fisher was working as a Physical Education Teacher/Recreation Specialist and the Career Development Teacher at the Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center in downtown Nashville. He currently serves as the Physical Education Teacher at Truman Elementary School in Davenport, Iowa.

Fisher is engaged to Betsy Griffith, also a St. Ambrose alum. They plan to get married in the fall of 2008.

JD Wilson, Wide Receivers

JD Wilson joined the St. Ambrose football coaching staff prior to the 2008 season. He coaches the wide receivers.

Originally from Pasadena, Calif., Wilson played at John Muir High School before redshirting at Brigham Young University for head coach Lavell Edwards in 1997-98. Wilson transferred to Northern Arizona University, where he played in every game as a defensive back/wide receiver/kick returner for four years.

Wilson got his coaching start as an assistant coach at a Las Vegas, Nev., high school. He coached receivers and defensive backs, and his 2005 team was the top-ranked team in the state in a preseason poll.

In 2007, Wilson moved to Moline High School, where he coached the wide receivers. That year, Moline won its first conference championship in more than a decade and advanced past the first round of the playoffs for the first time in more than 20 years.

With a degree in Elementary Education, Wilson currently works as an eighth grade science teacher at JB Young Intermediate School in Davenport, Iowa. Wilson and his wife LaDrina McCorkle-Wilson, who is originally from Moline, Illinois, have two daughters, Aniya and Brooklyn.

Max Duvall, Defensive Backs

Max Duvall joined the Fighting Bees football coaching staff in 2008. He coaches the defensive backs.

Before arriving at St. Ambrose, Duvall spent two seasons as the head coach at Davenport Central High School. He previously spent five seasons as an assistant coach at Drake University. Duvall has also coached at Des Moines Hoover and Bishop Heelan in Sioux City, Iowa.

Duvall graduated from Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa, before earning his Master's degree from Drake University. He is a certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

Duvall resides in Davenport, Iowa, with his wife Lauri and his daughter Michaela.

St. Ambrose University Football – Coaching Staff (cont.)

Matt Drinkall, Inside Linebackers, Special Teams Coordinator

Matt Drinkall joined the St. Ambrose coaching staff in 2008. He coaches the inside linebackers and serves as the special teams coordinator.

Before arriving at SAU, Drinkall coached tight ends at Western Illinois University for two years. During that time, the Leathernecks were one of the nation's top rushing offenses. In 2007, starting tight end Matt Warner finished second on the team in receptions, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns. In 2006, Drinkall guided former Penn State linebacker J.R. Zwierzynski to 2006 Gateway Conference All-Newcomer honors.

Drinkall came to Western Illinois from Bettendorf High School, where he served as the strength and conditioning coordinator and coached defensive backs and wide receivers from 2003-06. He was a member of a coaching staff that helped Bettendorf to a No. 13 national ranking by USA Today and an undefeated Class 4A Iowa state championship in 2004. Bettendorf compiled a 30-4 overall record during his tenure.

Drinkall was a wide receiver for the Iowa Hawkeyes before an injury ended his playing career prematurely. He played his prep football at Bettendorf High School where he was one of only two players in program history to have both 1,000 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving. Drinkall earned his Master's degree in 2007 and his undergraduate degree in 2006.

Drinkall resides in Davenport and his engaged to be married to Erin Morrissey.

Adam Jordison, Defensive Line

Adam Jordison joined the St. Ambrose football coaching staff in 2007. He coaches the defensive line. Jordison was a four-year starter at defensive end at Coe College from 2003-07. He graduated from Coe with a Bachelor's degree in Strength and Conditioning/Health and Wellness in 2007. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership at St. Ambrose.

Jordison was a member of two Iowa Conference championship teams while playing for the Kohawks. A Don Hansen's Football Gazette All-American, Jordison was named to Don Hansen's All-West Region First Team and d3football.com's All-West Region First Team.

His football career was highlighted by a six-sack game, which is still an Iowa Conference record. Jordison ended his career as Coe's all-time leader in career sacks and tackles for loss. He also broke the school's single-season and single-game records for sacks and tackles for loss. Jordison continued his pursuit in football after college by signing a contract with the AFL2.

Brad Cook, Offensive Line

Brad Cook joined the St. Ambrose coaching staff for the 2007 season. He coaches the offensive line after coaching the offensive line and tight ends in 2007.

Cook played for the Fighting Bees from 2003-06 and graduated from St. Ambrose with a bachelor's degree in Finance and Economics in 2007. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration at St. Ambrose.

Cook was a four-year starting center for the Fighting Bees and a member of two Mid-States Football Association Midwest League conference championships (2003, 2006). The Fighting Bees were a perfect 10-0 through the 2006 regular season. Cook helped St. Ambrose qualify for the playoffs in 2003, 2005 and 2006.

Cook was a Victory Sports Network First Team All-American in 2006, and was an All-MSFA selection in 2005 and 2006. He was a two-time Academic All-American and a three-time All-MSFA Academic Team pick. In 2006, Cook was one of 17 football players from all collegiate levels selected to the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's National Scholar-Athlete Class. That year, he also became the first athlete at St. Ambrose to be a finalist for the Draddy Award, given to the nation's top football scholar-athlete.

Russ Monk, Student Assistant

After a standout career, Russ Monk remains with the St. Ambrose football team as a student assistant coach in 2008. He will work with the tight ends.

Originally from Monticello, Iowa, and Monticello High School, Monk was a two-year starter at right tackle for the Fighting Bees. He earned first team All-Mid-States Football Association Midwest League honors in 2007. Monk played professionally as the starting fullback for the Quad City Steamwheelers of the AF2 during the 2008 season.

Monk is majoring in Physical Education at St. Ambrose.