

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

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TECH FOOTBALL ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGES FOR 2006 SEASON

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas – Arkansas Tech Head Football Coach and Athletic Director **Steve Mullins** announced the addition of two new coaches and the restructuring of his coaching staff for the 2006 season on Monday.

Mullins announced that **Benyard Jones** and **Greg Williams** were hired as assistants to replace former coaches **Kurt Corbin** (receivers) and **Derrick LeBlanc** (defensive line), who left recently for assistant coaching jobs at NCAA Division I-AA schools.

In addition, he also announced that **Clint Reed**, who served as the linebackers coach last season, will be the offensive line coach next season, while **David Wheeler**, Tech's defensive coordinator, will move from coaching the defensive backs to coaching the linebackers and offensive coordinator **Gregg Ricono** will coach not only the quarterbacks, but the receivers this upcoming season.

"We're excited about the addition of Greg Williams and the return of Benyard [Jones] to the Tech Football program," Mullins said.

Mullins said that the number of coaches that have moved on to others jobs reflects well on Tech's program.

"We've had a history of coaches moving on to other jobs, so that reflects well on our program and how others on the outside perceive our program," the ninth-year coach said.

Jones, who is in his second tour of duty with Tech after serving last season as the defensive coordinator at Butler University, an NCAA Division I-AA school in Indianapolis, Ind. Prior to going to Butler, Jones spent seven seasons at Tech, including spending four of those years as a full-time assistant.

"We're excited to have Benyard back here in Russellville," Mullins said. "He is great coach and on top of that, he is a quality person."

Jones will coach the defensive line at Tech and will also serve as the school's NCAA Compliance Coordinator. Jones takes the place of Corbin, who resigned to take an assistant coaching position at Northwestern [LA] State, on the staff. Corbin served as a receivers coach and the NCAA Compliance Coordinator last season.

Williams comes to Tech after serving the past two seasons as an assistant coach at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill. Prior to the College of DuPage, Williams spent one season playing professional football with the San Francisco Demons of the now-defunct XFL, spent four seasons playing in the Arena Football League and spent two seasons playing with the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europe

and was in NFL training camps with both the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants.

"Greg brings the distinction of being in four different professional football leagues, the NFL, AFL, XFL and NFL Europe," Mullins said. "He has a wealth of practical knowledge in the secondary and a tremendous attitude and eagerness."

Williams, who was a four-year letterwinner (1993-97) for current Texas Longhorn Head Coach Mack Brown at the University of North Carolina, will coach the defensive backs at Tech and replaces LeBlanc on the staff. LeBlanc, who coached the defensive line last season, recently took an assistant coaching position at Missouri State.

Other Tech Football News:

- Mullins also announced that Tech will begin its run of 15 days of spring football workouts on March 30. Spring practice will conclude with the annual "Senior Bowl" intrasquad scrimmage on April 25 at 7 p.m.
- The annual Arkansas Tech Link-It-Up Golf Tournament has been scheduled for April 21 at the Chamberlyne Country Club in Danville. The annual benefit for the football program will begin with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. and will be followed by 1 p.m. tee-off.
- Mullins also announced that the annual Green and Gold Game will be held on April 22 at 9:30 a.m. at Buerkle Field.
- Mullins said that the 2006 football schedule is still in the process of being finalized, but that next season's homecoming game is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7 against Delta State. Kick-off is set for 3 p.m. at Russellville High School's Cyclone Stadium.

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