

Mike Reed

Asst Head Coach & DB's Coach / Special Teams Coordinator at Clemson Univ. Preparing Young Men To Be Successful In Life Through Athletics

Football • Clemson University • Clemson, SC

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Biography

Mike Reed is the Assistant Head Coach, Cornerbacks for Clemson Football. Since joining Clemson in 2013, Reed has helped the Tigers win eight ACC titles, reach four national championship games, and capture national championships in 2016 and 2018. His defensive backs and cornerbacks have been central to Clemson's defensive identity, contributing to nationally ranked units in scoring defense, total defense, pass defense, pass efficiency defense, takeaways, and turnovers forced.

Reed's Clemson tenure includes major player-development milestones. He coached Nate Wiggins to first-team All-ACC honors in 2023 and a first-round selection in the 2024 NFL Draft. He guided Andrew Booth Jr. and Mario Goodrich to first-team All-ACC honors in 2021, making them the first cornerback pair from one school to sweep first-team All-ACC honors since North Carolina's Dre Bly and Robert Williams in 1997. He has also helped develop players such as Avieon Terrell, Ashton Hampton, A.J. Terrell, Trayvon Mullen, Derion Kendrick, Mackensie Alexander, Cordrea Tankersley, Jayron Kearse, Bashaud Breeland, and others.

Before Clemson, Reed coached defensive backs at NC State, where he helped develop unanimous All-American David Amerson, whose 13 interceptions in 2011 led the nation and tied for one of the top single-season interception totals in NCAA history. Reed also coached with the Philadelphia Eagles, working with Brian Dawkins during a stretch in which the Eagles reached three NFC Championship Games and the Super Bowl following the 2004 season. As a player, Reed was a Boston College defensive back, a 1994 team captain, a Carolina Panthers draft pick, and captain of the 1999 Frankfurt Galaxy team that won the World Bowl.

Statement

I develop defensive backs who can win one-on-one, understand the full defense, and make game-changing plays on the ball. At Clemson, my position groups have contributed to championship defenses, eight ACC titles, four national championship game appearances, and national titles in 2016 and 2018. My coaching approach blends technical detail, daily accountability, player relationships, and big-game preparation — from freshmen learning the standard to All-ACC performers and NFL draft picks. I bring a player's perspective, NFL coaching experience, and Clemson's championship expectations to every meeting, practice, and game day.

Achievement

2023 All-American Staff

Matrix Analytical's

Named

2019 Defensive Backs Coach of the Year

FootballScoop

Clemson ranked third nationally in scoring defense, fourth in total defense, second in opponent passer rating, and fourth in passing yards allowed per game that season.

2015 Defensive Backs Coach of the Year

FootballScoop

Coached Mackensie Alexander, Jayron Kearse, and Cordrea Tankersley to All-ACC honors.

Education

Communications; Minor in Secondary Education

Bachelor of Science at Boston College

Feature

Clemson Staff Profile

Official Bio

The Last Word - Mike Reed

When head coach Dabo Swinney gave me Mike Reed's resumé to help me author a release about hiring Clemson's new defensive backs coach in the winter of 2013, I rolled my eyes and then chuckled.

PRINCIPLES

- Player-first development: Coach the person, not just the position.
 - Technique travels: Eyes, feet, leverage, tackling, and ball skills show up in every environment.
 - Turnovers are trained: Takeaways, PBU's, and game-changing plays come from daily habits.
 - Big-stage standards: Prepare defensive backs for ACC title pressure, CFP expectations, and NFL evaluation.
 - Relationship-driven accountability: Build trust, demand detail, and coach with consistency.
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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Avieon Terrell

Clemson University | Football

Cornerback

Nate Wggins

Clemson University | Football

Cornerback

Ashton Hampton

Clemson University | Football

Defensive Back

David Amerson

North Carolina State University | Football

Cornerback

ATHLETIC CAREER

Team Captain — Frankfurt Galaxy

NFL Europe | Football | 1998 - 1999

Defensive Back — Carolina Panthers

NFL | Football | 1995 - 1997

Defensive Back — Boston College

NCAA Division 1 | Football | 1991 - 1995

COACHING CAREER

Assistant Head Coach, Cornerbacks / Special Teams Coordinator — Clemson University

NCAA Division 1 | Football | 2013

Responsibilities: cornerback development, defensive back technique, defensive game preparation, player leadership, recruiting, and staff leadership.

Outcomes: eight ACC titles, four national championship game appearances, national titles in 2016 and 2018, multiple All-ACC defensive backs, All-Americans, and NFL draft selections. Current official title is Assistant Head Coach, Cornerbacks.

Defensive Backs Coach — North Carolina State University

NCAA Division 1 | Football | 2007 - 2013

Responsibilities: secondary development, defensive back technique, game preparation, and recruiting.

Outcomes: helped the Wolfpack reach four bowl games in six seasons; coached David Amerson to a 13-interception, unanimous All-American season in 2011; helped NC State record 27 interceptions in 2011, the most by an FBS school since 2003.

Assistant Coach / Defensive Backs / Special Teams — Philadelphia Eagles

NFL | Football | 2002 - 0007

Responsibilities: defensive backs, special teams, defensive quality control, opponent preparation, and NFL player development.

Outcomes: worked with Brian Dawkins; Eagles reached the NFC Championship Game three times and reached the Super Bowl following the 2004 season.

Wide Receivers / Tight Ends / Defensive Backs Coach — University of Richmond

NCAA Division I | Football | 2000 - 2002

Responsibilities: coached multiple position groups across offense and defense.

Outcomes: coached future NFL player Stacy Tutt while at Richmond.
