

Chris Hampton

DC @ University of Oregon #GoDucks

football • Eugene, Oregon

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CAREER RECORDS

Defensive Coordinator — University of Oregon

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 3 seasons | 37W-5L (88.1%)

Defensive Backs Coach — Tulane University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 4 seasons | 23W-27L (46.0%)

Defensive Coordinator — Tulane University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 2 seasons | 14W-12L (53.8%)

Defensive Backs Coach — McNeese State University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 4 seasons | 33W-13L (71.7%)

Graduate Assistant — Georgia Tech University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 2 seasons | 17W-10L (63.0%)

Biography

Oregon football head coach Dan Lanning added to his 2023 coaching staff on Jan. 25 with the hiring of Chris Hampton as the Ducks' new co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach.

Hampton comes to Eugene after spending the last two seasons as the defensive coordinator at Tulane, helping guide the Green Wave to a 12-2 overall record in 2022 and a win over USC in the Cotton Bowl.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chris to the Oregon family," Lanning said. "Chris brings a wealth of experience as a former player, defensive backs coach and defensive coordinator, and he has an excellent track record of teaching and developing defensive players. He has a terrific work ethic, and his ability to build relationships will help our student-athletes thrive both on the football field and as men. We are looking forward to seeing Chris pour into our program and help us reach new heights."

Hampton spent four seasons (2016-19) as Tulane's defensive backs coach before leaving to be the cornerbacks coach at Duke in 2020, after which he returned to Tulane to take over as defensive coordinator.

He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Arkansas State in 2008, and followed that up with two seasons (2009-10) in the same role at Georgia Tech. Hampton went to Central Arkansas as the safeties coach in 2011, and then spent four seasons (2012-15) as the defensive backs coach at McNeese State before joining Tulane.

"I am excited to work for and represent the University of Oregon," Hampton said. "I am extremely thankful for the opportunity provided by Coach Lanning and the Oregon administration. I believe in what Coach Lanning and the rest of the staff are building in Eugene. I can't wait to get to work with the student-athletes and help Oregon compete for championships."

Hampton engineered a remarkable defensive turnaround during his two-year stint as Tulane's defensive coordinator. The Green Wave jumped up 82 spots to No. 32 in the scoring defense (22.2 PPG) in 2022, and 55

spots up to No. 46 in total defense (360.4 YPG). The biggest improvement came in the passing defense, where Tulane went from No. 115 in 2020 prior to Hampton's return to No. 37 in 2022 (208.1 YPG).

Linebackers Dorian Williams and Nick Anderson headlined Hampton's 2022 defense. Williams ranked 10th in the nation with 131 total tackles, and Anderson tied for 27th with 110. Williams earned all-ACC first-team honors after adding 8.5 tackles for loss and five sacks, while Anderson landed on the second team along with defensive linemen Darius Hodges and Patrick Jenkins.

Prior to leaving for Duke in 2020, Hampton guided a 2019 Tulane defensive backs unit that ranked third in the AAC with 12 interceptions, led by four from safety Larry Brooks. Safeties Chase Kuerschen (76) and P.J. Hall (68) led the team in tackles, and combined for four interceptions, 11 pass breakups, 6.0 tackles for loss and three forced fumbles.

Hampton directed one of the nation's most disruptive pass defenses in 2018, as the Green Wave led the nation with 76 passes broken up and tied for second with 88 passes defended. In a showdown with East Carolina, Hampton's defensive back unit was largely responsible for an NCAA-record 20 pass breakups.

Following his unit's impressive 2018 season, Hampton was national recognized on the American Football Coaches Association 35 Under 35 list.

Hampton's first two seasons at Tulane were headlined by the development of cornerback Parry Nickerson. After earning second-team all-AAC honors in 2016, Nickerson accounted for six of nine interceptions by Green Wave cornerbacks and was named the all-AAC first team.

In four seasons as defensive backs coach at McNeese State, Hampton coached six defensive backs to all-Southland Conference honors. Wallace Scott was the conference defensive player of the year and an FCS all-American in 2015, and Hampton also coached Aaron Sam, Brent Spikes and Guy Morgan to the all-AAC first team. In 2014, Spikes made history with three interceptions and a conference record 148 return yards vs. Incarnate Word.

Hampton played college football at South Carolina, where he was a four-year letter winner and a two-year starter at safety. Hampton, who graduated in 2007 with a degree in criminology, was awarded South Carolina's Harold White Award as the player with the highest grade point average.

Statement

As a co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach, I build aggressive, disciplined secondaries that control the game through communication, leverage, and takeaways--developing defensive backs who can diagnose quickly, play with range, and execute within a system designed to disrupt modern passing offenses.

Achievement

2022 FootballScoop Defensive Coordinator of the Year (Finalist)

The FootballScoop Coach of the Year program honors excellence in performance and character at every on-the-field position and key off-the-field posts in FBS, as well as coordinators at the FCS, Division II, Division III and NAIA levels. The winner of each of the individual Coach of the Year categories will be announced in the coming days and weeks and honored at the AFCA Convention in Charlotte next month.

247Sports National Recruiter of the Year

Chris Hampton, Oregon's co-defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach, is the 247Sports National Recruiter of the Year for college football's 2025 recruiting cycle. With Hampton leading the way, the Ducks secured an elite DB haul and headlined a 20-member class that exits Wednesday's Signing Day at No. 5 in the 247Sports Composite Team Rankings.

2025 FootballScoop Defensive Back Coach of the Year

FootballScoop is proud to announce that Chris Hampton and Rashad Wadood (Oregon) are the 2025 FootballScoop Defensive Backs Coaches of the Year presented by Teamworks as selected by prior winners.

AFCA 35 Under 35

Following the Green Wave secondary's impressive 2018 campaign, Hampton was recognized nationally by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) with the 35 Under 35 Award. Under Hampton's watch, cornerback Donnie Lewis Jr. and Roderic Teamer Jr. both received Second Team All-AAC honors.

Cotton Bowl (Win) Tulane vs USC (12-2 Record)

Tulane (Defensive Coordinator, 2022 Season)

Education

Criminology

University of South Carolina

Four-year letterman and two-year starting safety for the Gamecocks while completing a degree in criminology. Recognized for academic excellence with the Harold White Award, given to the player with the highest GPA on the team—reflecting a strong foundation in discipline, accountability, and attention to detail that carries into his coaching approach.

Career

Defensive Coordinator at University of Oregon

Leads the structure and development of Oregon's defense, with direct oversight of the safeties. Focused on building a fast, disciplined secondary capable of controlling the passing game through communication, versatility, and execution.

Now elevated to full Defensive Coordinator, continuing to shape a championship-caliber defense within a top national program.

Defensive Coordinator at Tulane University

Engineered one of the most notable defensive turnarounds in college football: 12–2 record (2022), Cotton Bowl victory over USC,

Improved defense by +82 spots in scoring defense, Built a complete unit emphasizing takeaways, tackling, and explosive play prevention

Defensive Backs Coach at Tulane University

Elevated Tulane's secondary into one of the most disruptive units in the country. Led a defense that ranked No. 1 nationally in passes broken up (2018). Developed multiple All-AAC and NFL defensive backs (Parry Nickerson, Donnie Lewis Jr.) Known for aggressive, turnover-driven pass defense.

Defensive Backs Coach at McNeese State University

Established himself as a premier developer of defensive backs. Coached multiple all-conference players, including a Conference Defensive Player of the Year and FCS All-American (Wallace Scott). Built a reputation for producing disciplined, ball-hawking secondaries.

Graduate Assistant at Georgia Tech University

Worked under a high-level defensive staff, gaining experience in advanced scheme installation, opponent breakdown, and player development support. Continued to build technical knowledge of defensive systems and secondary play.

Feature

Chris Hampton | Spring Practice

Defensive Coordinator Chris Hampton meets with the media after Spring Practice #2 for Oregon Football.
#GoDucks

Chris Hampton! Oregon Ducks' New DC Previews Spring Football Season
USA Today's Zachary Neel sits down with Oregon Ducks new defensive coordinator Chris Hampton to preview the upcoming spring season and discuss his new role on the staff. The two look at some of the most intriguing young players on the roster and where the defense can go overall in 2026.

PRINCIPLES

- Communication Drives the Defense - I believe great defense starts with clarity. Our safeties are the quarterbacks of the defense—we get lined up, make the calls, and ensure everyone is on the same page so we can play fast and eliminate hesitation.
 - Technique shows up when it matters most. We build our foundation on fundamentals—tackling, leverage, ball disruption, and eye discipline. When the game is on the line, technique is what holds up, and that's what we train every day.
 - Disrupt without losing structure. I want our defense to be aggressive, but never reckless. We challenge the pass game through disguise, communication, and disciplined execution—forcing offenses into mistakes while staying sound in our assignments.
 - Growth is non-negotiable. I'm always learning, always evolving. I expect the same from our players. We embrace coaching, we embrace challenges, and we get better every single day.
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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Parry Nickerson

Tulane University | Football

Parry Nickerson (CB)NFL Draft pick (New York Jets). First-Team All-AAC. One of the most productive DBs in Tulane history.

Dorian Williams

Tulane University | Football

2023 NFL Draft pick (Buffalo Bills) - One of the nation's leading tacklers

Tysheem Johnson

University of Oregon | Football

Versatile defensive back. Known for range, physicality, and playmaking ability.

Evan Williams

University of Oregon | Football

All-conference caliber safety (transfer from Fresno State)

ATHLETIC CAREER

Safety — University of South Carolina

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2003 - 2007

Four-year letterman and two-year starter in the secondary for South Carolina, Hampton developed a strong foundation in defensive back play, emphasizing communication, positioning, and discipline in the back end. Known for his intelligence and consistency, he earned the Harold White Award as the player with the highest GPA on the team—highlighting his attention to detail and accountability, traits that now define his coaching style.

COACHING CAREER

Defensive Coordinator — University of Oregon

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2023

Leads the structure and development of Oregon's defense, with direct oversight of the safeties. Focused on building a fast, disciplined secondary capable of controlling the passing game through communication, versatility, and execution.

Now elevated to full Defensive Coordinator, continuing to shape a championship-caliber defense within a top national program.

Defensive Coordinator — Tulane University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2021 - 2022

Engineered one of the most notable defensive turnarounds in college football: 12-2 record (2022), Cotton Bowl victory over USC,

Improved defense by +82 spots in scoring defense, Built a complete unit emphasizing takeaways, tackling, and explosive play prevention

Cornerbacks Coach — Duke University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2020 - 2020

Coached corners in an ACC defense, continuing development of man coverage techniques, ball skills, and competitive edge at the Power Five level.

Defensive Backs Coach — Tulane University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2016 - 2019

Elevated Tulane's secondary into one of the most disruptive units in the country. Led a defense that ranked No. 1 nationally in passes broken up (2018). Developed multiple All-AAC and NFL defensive backs (Parry Nickerson, Donnie Lewis Jr.) Known for aggressive, turnover-driven pass defense.

Defensive Backs Coach — McNeese State University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2012 - 2015

Established himself as a premier developer of defensive backs. Coached multiple all-conference players, including a Conference Defensive Player of the Year and FCS All-American (Wallace Scott). Built a reputation for producing disciplined, ball-hawking secondaries.

Safeties Coach — Central Arkansas University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2011 - 2011

First full-time position coaching the secondary. Focused on developing safeties in coverage, run support, and communication responsibilities within the defense.

Graduate Assistant — Georgia Tech University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2009 - 2010

Worked under a high-level defensive staff, gaining experience in advanced scheme installation, opponent breakdown, and player development support. Continued to build technical knowledge of defensive systems and secondary play.

Graduate Assistant — Arkansas State University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2008 - 2008

Began coaching career working with the defensive staff, assisting with film breakdown, scouting reports, and practice organization. Built foundational understanding of defensive structure and game preparation.
