

Kyle Whittingham

University of Michigan Football Head Coach. Husband, father & grandfather. All in or in the Way!

Football • University of Michigan • Salt Lake City, UT

og1.coaches.com/p/kyle-whittingham

CAREER RECORDS

Record

1 seasons | 19W-8L (70.4%)

Defensive Line Coach — University of Utah

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 2 seasons | 12W-11L (52.2%)

Defensive Coordinator — Idaho State

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 4 seasons | 9W-31L (22.0%)

Defensive Coordinator — University of Utah

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 9 seasons | 72W-38L (65.5%)

Head Coach — University of Utah

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | 21 seasons | 177W-88L (66.8%)

Biography

Kyle Whittingham has served as the head coach of the University of Utah football program since 2005. Prior to taking on this role, he was the Utes' defensive coordinator for nearly a decade, including two seasons under Urban Meyer.

A former linebacker at Brigham Young University (1978–1981), Whittingham developed a passion for defensive football that he carried into his coaching career. Under his guidance, Utah transitioned from the Mountain West Conference to the Pac-12 and cemented itself as a nationally respected program. Whittingham's teams have consistently displayed a disciplined and physical style of play.

One of his hallmark seasons came in 2008, when the Utes finished 13–0 and upset Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, a victory that catapulted the program into the national spotlight.

Statement

Our program is built on discipline, accountability, and relentless effort. We measure success not just by wins but by the consistent improvement of our student-athletes—on and off the field.

Achievement

2022 Pac-12 Champions

Guided the Utes to back-to-back conference titles in 2021 and 2022.

2021 Pac-12 Champions

Guided the Utes to back-to-back conference titles in 2021 .

2019 & 2021 Pac-12 Coach of the Year

Recognized by peers and media for building a top-tier program.

13-0 Season (2008)

Led Utah to an undefeated year and a victory in the Sugar Bowl over Alabama.

Education

Bachelor's in Educational Psychology

Brigham Young University (BYU)

Career

Defensive Line Coach at University of Utah

From 1994–1995, I served as defensive line coach at Utah, helping guide the Utes to a combined 12–11 record while laying the foundation for the defensive identity.

Head Coach at University of Utah

Transitioned Utah from the Mountain West to the Pac-12. Amassed 150+ career wins, multiple bowl victories, and Pac-12 titles.

Graduate Assistant at Brigham Young University

I became a graduate assistant for BYU during the 1985 and 1986 seasons.

Defensive Coordinator at University of Utah

Oversaw a dominant defense, helping Utah gain national recognition.

Defensive Coordinator at Idaho State

Linebackers and special teams coach at Idaho State from 1988–1991, and defensive coordinator from 1992–1993

Feature

NCAA gives the '08 Utes credit as national champions - The Salt Lake Tribune

Computer ranking placed unbeaten Utah above BCS winner Florida.

<https://www.sltrib.com/sports/utah-utes/2018/08/27/ncaa-gives-utes-credit/>

The 'Utah Way' — Kyle Whittingham's Utes keep making do and keep winning - The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/4999064/2023/10/26/utah-kyle-whittingham-usc-oregon/>

Utah football coach Kyle Whittingham issues 2-word message to announce return: 'I'm back' -

Yahoo Sports

In a memo issued by the Utah football team, Whittingham showed his sense of humor by simply issuing the message, "I'm back."

<https://sports.yahoo.com/utah-football-coach-kyle-whittingham-issues-2-word-message-to-announce-return-im-back-233213842.html>

Utah's Kyle Whittingham reveals his favorite place to recruit - Sports Illustrated

The longtime coach sees several similarities with the Utes "second home"

Kyle Whittingham breaks down Utah's success in the transfer portal, recruiting and more - The

Athletic

This week The Athletic spoke with Whittingham about the evolution of recruiting in college football, nationwide and within his own program, and how the Utes' rise in the Pac-12 has changed the complexion of the lifeblood of Utah football.

Kyle Whittingham signs 5-year deal to coach Michigan

Kyle Whittingham was hired as Michigan's next head football coach, signing a five-year contract, the school said Friday night.

"Michigan is synonymous with tradition and excellence -- both on the field and beyond -- and our entire program is committed to upholding those values while striving for greatness together," Whittingham said in a statement released by the Wolverines.

Whittingham's deal at Michigan averages \$8.2 million per year, sources told ESPN's Pete Thamel and Dan Wetzel. The deal is 75% guaranteed, and Whittingham is expected to make \$8 million in salary in 2026.

PRINCIPLES

- **Accountability:** Everyone in the program must take responsibility for their actions and deliver on their roles.
 - **Consistency:** Improvement is driven by daily habits, repetition, and unwavering standards of excellence.
 - **Team Unity:** Emphasizes camaraderie and mutual trust, ensuring that players support one another both on and off the field.
 - **Attention to Detail:** Believes in perfecting the "little things," which ultimately shape major successes.
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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Marcus Williams

University of Utah | Football | 2014 - 2025

Starting safety for the Baltimore Ravens.

Eric Weddle

University of Utah | Football | 2003 - 2006

NFL All-Pro and Super Bowl champion.

ATHLETIC CAREER

Linebacker — Brigham Young University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1981 - 1984

Kyle Whittingham played college football at BYU from 1981–1984, competing as a linebacker under legendary head coach LaVell Edwards.

COACHING CAREER

Head Coach — University of Michigan

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2026

Kyle Whittingham was named the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family head coach of the University of Michigan football program on December 26, 2025. The 22nd head coach in U-M history, 2026 is Whittingham's first season leading U-M.

Head Coach — University of Utah

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 2005 - 2025

Transitioned Utah from the Mountain West to the Pac-12. Amassed 150+ career wins, multiple bowl victories, and Pac-12 titles.

Defensive Coordinator — University of Utah

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1995 - 2004

Oversaw a dominant defense, helping Utah gain national recognition.

Defensive Line Coach — University of Utah

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1994 - 1995

From 1994–1995, I served as defensive line coach at Utah, helping guide the Utes to a combined 12–11 record while laying the foundation for the defensive identity.

Defensive Coordinator — Idaho State

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1988 - 1993

Linebackers and special teams coach at Idaho State from 1988–1991, and defensive coordinator from 1992–1993

Defensive Coordinator — College of Eastern Utah

NJCAA - National Junior College Athletic Association | Football | 1987 - 1987

In 1987, I was named Defensive Coordinator at the College of Eastern Utah.

Graduate Assistant — Brigham Young University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1985 - 1986

I became a graduate assistant for BYU during the 1985 and 1986 seasons.
