

North Florida Christian is pleased to announce the hiring of new Head Football Coach Johnny Nichols

A native of Pensacola, FL, Coach Johnny Nichols graduated from Escambia High School where he played football and baseball. Nichols was the quarterback for Escambia's back-to-back State Championship football teams in 1984 and 1985.

After high school, he attended the University of Florida on a football scholarship where he earned a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Sports and was a 4-year letter winner for the Florida Gator football team. Coach Nichols played under Head Coach Galen Hall for three seasons and Head Coach Steve Spurrier for two seasons, including the 1991 season in which UF won an SEC championship and went on to play Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl on their way to a 10-2 record.

Coach Nichols and his wife Stephanie met and started dating in college, married after graduation, and settled in Gainesville, FL. He began coaching high school football as a community coach at Buchholz High School in Gainesville where he was the Co-Offensive Coordinator/varsity assistant from 2010 – 2016. Buchholz would reach the 7A Regional Semi Finals in both 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Coach Nichols relocated to Mississippi in 2016, where he worked as the Offensive Coordinator at St. Joseph Catholic School in Madison, MS and help lead them to the Mississippi state playoffs and seeing several players sign to play football in college.

Following a successful season at St. Joseph, Coach Nichols accepted the Head Coach position at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland, MS. During his first season as Head Coach, he led the Saints to the playoffs for the first time in 10 years, falling to the eventual state champions. During his time as Head Football Coach and Director of Football Operations at St. Andrew's, he developed the football program at all levels, leading efforts to install a turf field and new jumbotron, seeing several of his players go on to play college football, and finished the 2023 season with his team earning another spot in the Mississippi state playoffs.

Coach Nichols enjoys coaching and being involved in all aspects of game planning and preparation, but he is especially passionate about coaching offense. His offenses are balanced, but also fast paced, innovative, and exciting to watch. His offenses consistently led the state of MS in both passing and receiving yards.

Coach Nichols is excited to take on this new role as Head Football Coach at North Florida Christian School.

"I am excited and thankful for this incredible opportunity to be a part of a program with such a history of success as North Florida Christian. The foundations have been laid year after year here, and I am honored that Dr. Phillips and Coach Posey have entrusted me to continue the tradition of winning – I can't wait to get to work!"

Coach Nichols and his wife of almost 31 years are both FL natives and are excited to make North Florida Christian and Tallahassee their new home. They have two children – their son Jordan will soon be 28 years old, he graduated with a degree in Kinesiology/Clinical Exercise Physiology from Mississippi State University where he also worked as a recruiting assistant with Mississippi State football. Jordan then earned his MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi while working as football Defensive Coordinator and assistant baseball coach at St. Andrew's. Their daughter Ally will soon be 26 years old, she graduated from The University of Mississippi with a degree in Integrated Marketing and Communications/Digital Media and is currently completing her Master's degree in Physician Assistant studies at Mississippi College.

When he is not at the football field or watching film, Coach Nichols enjoys golfing, watching sports, and spending time with family and friends.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT COACH JOHNNY NICHOLS:

From Emmitt Smith, retired NFL Hall of Famer, Dallas Cowboys:

"Congrats to my best friend and former teammate Johnny Nichols! North Florida Christian School made a great hire with Johnny as their new Head Football Coach - not just an incredible coach but a great leader of young men!"

From Dwight Thomas, Retired Hall of Fame Florida HS Coach, current Florida Scout with Catapult Sports:

"Coach Thomas is a proud man today! From running the offense that won back-to-back state championships at Escambia High School to leading the first-class state champs at North Florida Christian football program - Congratulations Johnny Nichols! Go Eagles!"

From Clinton C. Purvis III, Florida State University Team Chaplain:

"CONGRATULATIONS to North Florida Christian School on their new football head coach! Coach JOHNNY NICHOLS will not only have a significant impact & make an incredible difference in the lives of his student-athletes & their families – BUT – also in the school & in our community! I do NOT think NFC could have made a better choice!!! Parents – there is no one that you can trust your child to more - both on & off the field - than Coach NICHOLS! He knows his football BUT he also knows Who to put his faith in! Isaiah 40:31! Go Eagles!"



Coach Johnny Nichols, new head FB coach @ NFC

Coach Nichols has had the privilege to coach several players that have gone on to play after high school including:

Jackson White (QB) Marshall

Quinlan Washington (QB/WR) The Citadel

Luke Whitemore (WR) Troy

Stephen Lawrence (OT) Tulane

Trent Whitemore (QB/DB) Florida/UCF

Marcus Clayton (DB) West Florida

Tony James (RB) Oregon

Chris Rumph (TE/DE) Duke

Naquan Howard (WR) Georgia Southern

Coby Weiss (K) University of South Florida

Kiland Harrison (WR/DB) Tulane

Jack Garrard (QB) Samford

Hayden Brice (WR/DB) Auburn

Nick Thompson (OL/DE) South Alabama

Cameron Watson (OL) University of North Alabama

Nathan Barham (TE) Samford

Joseph Garner (LB/TE) Mississippi State

John Garner (OL/LB) Mississippi State

AJ Leflore (DB) Tennessee State University

Trey Hebert (K/QB) Southern Miss

Aaron Cooper (WR) Rhodes College