

Stepp to Coach ASU Running Backs

Written by Mike Flynn

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Justin Stepp, who helped lead Clemson to the 2011 Atlantic Coast Conference championship as a member of the Tigers' coaching staff, has been hired as Appalachian State University's running backs coach, head coach Jerry Moore announced on Thursday. Stepp has spent the last three years at Clemson, most recently as an offensive graduate assistant coach in 2011. In that role, Stepp had a hand in all aspects of the Clemson's offense, including working directly with the Tigers' running backs, quarterbacks, wide receivers and tight ends, game-planning and assisting the offensive coordinator with in-game play-calling adjustments. With Stepp on the sideline, Clemson ranked second in the ACC and in the top 30 nationally in scoring (33.6 ppg) and total offense (440.8 ypg) and boasted a pair of all-Americans on the offensive side of the ball in 2011.

Prior to serving as a graduate-assistant coach, he spent two seasons (2009-10) as an offensive video graduate assistant, with a large role in opponent breakdown and preparation of practice scripts.

He started his college coaching career as the wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator at NCAA Division II North Greenville in 2008, where he coached a pair of 40-catch receivers in his only season with the Crusaders. He also served as a wide receivers and strength coach at Fort Mill (S.C.) H.S. in 2007.

The Pelion, S.C. native was a standout wide receiver and punt returner at Southern Conference rival Furman from 2003-06. He earned all-SoCon recognition as a junior and senior and finished his playing career ranked fourth all-time in receptions at FU. He graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in health and exercise science.

"Justin is a good fit for our staff and our program," Moore said. "He is familiar with what it takes to win in the Southern Conference due to being part of a nice program at Furman and familiar with what we do offensively due to the similarities between our system and the one he worked with at Clemson. He has a terrific football background and will step right in and be a contributor on our staff and in our program."

Stepp is the fourth new coach added to Appalachian's staff since the end of the 2011 season, joining assistant head coach/offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Scott Satterfield, wide receivers coach Alvis Whitted and tight ends coach Nic Cardwell. ASU expects to complete the hiring process for new offensive line and inside linebackers coaches in the coming days.

Photo Courtesy: Justin Stepp, Clemson Athletics