

Former ASU Assistant Joins UNCG

Written by Matt McCollester
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Matt Boykin has been named assistant coaches for the UNCG baseball program, according to an announcement Tuesday by head coach Link Jarrett. Boykin spent the last two seasons as the head baseball coach at St. Andrews University after being hired in the summer of 2010. He joined the Knights' program after spending six years as an assistant coach

at Appalachian State University. He was an integral component of the Mountaineer coaching staff, helping in all aspects of the program including serving as recruiting coordinator, primary hitting & infield instructor and third base coach while assisting with strength & conditioning, practices and compliance.

His efforts as recruiting coordinator were integral in ASU's run to the 2012 Southern Conference title. The Mountaineers were slotted into the 2012 NCAA Charlottesville Regional where they knocked off top-seeded and host Virginia as well as No. 2 seed Oklahoma in consecutive contests on the way to the regional final.

"Matt's dedication to recruiting, ability to evaluate and coaching experience in the Southern Conference are all traits that have defined his 10-year coaching career," Jarrett said. "His organizational skills and extensive recruiting history in North Carolina will be key facets that will move UNCG baseball into a new era as he coordinates our recruiting efforts."

Appalachian State fans witnessed a transformation in the baseball program during Boykin's time on the mountains. He helped guide ASU from a 10-43 season with a 261 RPI rating in 2004 to a 38-18-1 record with a RPI of 50 in 2010. The 38 wins in his last season with the program were the second-most in school history and marked the fourth consecutive 30-plus win season for ASU. Boykin coached nine MLB draft picks in his tenure at Appalachian State as the institution did not have any draftees in the decade prior to his arrival. Boykin also instructed 12 all-conference and four All-America selections.

After just one season in Laurinburg, Boykin dramatically increased the size of the St. Andrew's baseball program. Not only did he keep bringing in players for the varsity team, but he also started a JV program. During the rebuilding process, Boykin raised the number of athletes on the roster from 12 to 40 and oversaw the team's transition from NCAA Division II to the NAIA for the 2013 season. Boykin graduated 100% of his athletes and involved the program heavily in the community through involvement with Old Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Optimist Club of Laurinburg, Scotland County Relay for Life and other local organizations.

The Apex, N.C., product played four seasons at Barton College and was a two-time academic all-conference and all-tournament honoree for the Bulldogs before earning a pair of bachelor's degrees in business administration and sports management in 2003. Boykin was also awarded a master's degree in sports coaching from the United States Sports Academy in 2005. In addition to spending the 2004 season as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Boykin was the head coach of the Asheboro Copperheads of the Coastal Plain League and served as an assistant coach with the CPL's Wilson Tobs in 2004. He also owns experience working at several camps throughout the Southeast and has been an assistant coach for American Legion squads in Wilson and Apex, N.C.

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Photo Courtesy: Matt Boykin, PHOTO SUBMITTED