

Eagles Set To Name Fritz New Coach

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Georgia Southern has set a press conference to announce its next football coach Friday at noon in Bishop Fieldhouse. The leading candidate seems to be Sam

Houston State coach Willie Fritz.

Fritz is expected to become the next head coach at Georgia Southern, according to a report from Football Scoop. Fritz had been the head coach at FCS Sam Houston State since 2010. He would succeed Jeff Monken, who left to coach at Army on December 23.

His Sam Houston State team finished the 2013 season 9-5, advancing to the second round of the FCS playoffs in the process. The Bearkats reached the FCS national title game in 2011 and 2012, losing to North Dakota State in both cases.

Georgia Southern is moving up to the FBS' Sun Belt after a dominant run as one of the best programs at the FCS level. The Eagles have six national championships and capped their FCS run with a win over Florida in Gainesville. They're known for their option offense, and since Sam Houston State hasn't run that attack, it appears that tradition is taking a break.

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Fritz was a defensive back at Pittsburgh State from 1978 to '81, and he got his coaching start as a student assistant at his alma mater in 1982. After a two-year stint as a grad assistant at Sam Houston State sandwiched between two high school jobs, he served as defensive coordinator at Coffeyville Community College from 1987 to 1990. He returned to Sam Houston in '91, coaching defensive backs and special teams for two seasons.

Mike Ayers of Wofford College was among the four finalists for the Georgia Southern head coaching job.