From Locker Room to Leadership: The Alumni Impact on AMU Athletics

Campus Update

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Ave Maria University's athletic department stands as a powerful testament to the enduring bonds between Gyrenes and their alma mater. From the locker room to the coaching staff, from the training room to the administrative offices, alumni are shaping the future of AMU athletics while embodying the values that define our university community. These dedicated professionals represent the best of what it means to be a Gyrene—individuals who have internalized the lessons of student-athlete life and channeled them into meaningful service that strengthens our athletic programs and supports our current student-athletes.

At the helm of many of our most successful programs stand alumni who have returned to lead with purpose and passion. Elizabeth Feger, now in her ninth year as Associate Athletics Director, has been instrumental in overseeing an expanding list of sports while maintaining the highest academic standards for our student-athletes. Jelani Akil, a former men's basketball captain and Male Athlete of the Year, has brought his championship mentality and financial acumen back to lead the women's basketball program. Katelyn Sherman, Ave Maria's all-time leading scorer in lacrosse, has stepped into the role of head lacrosse coach and Director of Game Day Operations. These leaders and many others represent a living continuity of excellence, passing forward the lessons they learned as students to guide the next generation of Gyrenes.

Beyond the head coaching positions, alumni fill essential roles throughout our athletic infrastructure, ensuring that every student-athlete receives comprehensive support. Cameron Barford, who earned his degrees in exercise physiology and psychology, now guides our athletes' physical development as Director of Sports Performance. Savohn Hunt and Charles Mickens, both football standouts who earned All-American honors and academic distinctions, serve as student support services advisors, helping athletes navigate the demands of collegiate life. Jimmy Coffey and Sebastian Cabeza have just joined the baseball program as graduate assistants, bringing fresh perspectives and recent playing experience to the coaching staff. Kristian Marks, a standout quarterback and theology graduate, manages football operations while maintaining our athletic facilities, embodying the servant leadership that defines Ave Maria's mission.

The impact of alumni coaches and staff extends beyond wins and losses. These individuals model the integration of athletic excellence with academic rigor, spiritual growth, and service to others—the very foundation upon which Ave Maria was built. Whether inspiring confidence in young athletes, maintaining championship-caliber facilities, or ensuring compliance with

academic standards, our alumni are living proof that a Gyrene education prepares students not just for successful careers, but for lives of meaningful contribution. As we celebrate these remarkable men and women, we recognize that the strongest measure of our athletic department's success is not only found in scorebooks and championship banners, but in the ways our student-athletes go on to serve their communities and pass on the formation they received at Ave Maria University.

Read online for photos and videos:

https://alumni.avemaria.edu/news/from-locker-room-to-leadership-the-alumni-impact-on-amu-athletics-1776545953815