



Head Coach Jay Hopson

Southern Miss football enjoys a long, storied history that includes 71 winning seasons over its first 102 seasons on the gridiron.

Fourth-year coach Jay Hopson holds the distinction with two other Golden Eagle coaches over that span with winning seasons over their respective first three seasons, along with Reed Green and Larry Fedora.

The 27-year coaching veteran on the collegiate level and twice previously a member of the Golden Eagle coaching staff, Hopson said he would hit the ground running when he took over the Golden Eagle program. And he has.

Hopson was named the school's 21st head football coach prior to the school's 100th season in football in 2016.

In his first year directing the program, Hopson started the season by leading the Golden Eagles to their first victory over an opponent in the Southeastern Conference since the 2000 campaign, rallying for a 44-35 win at Kentucky, and leading the team to its second-straight bowl appearance. The Golden Eagles went on to earn a berth in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, capturing a 28-21 victory over the Ragin' Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette.

In his second year, Hopson led the Golden Eagles to eight victories, marking the second time in the last three seasons that the program had reached at least eight victories and the third consecutive year as well as 25th overall time to reach a bowl game.

In his first three seasons, Hopson has overseen eight Conference USA first-team selections and he mentored three former Golden Eagles that were taken in the 2017 National Football League draft.

The Golden Eagles finished in the Top 25 in both total offense (21st/472.8 ypg) and total defense (15th/324.8) in his first year and the Nasty Bunch defense ranked No. 20 in total yards allowed in 2017 (331.9 ypg).

That string of nationally ranked defenses continued in 2018 in which that squad enjoyed its highest ranking under Hopson at No. 3, giving up 278.4 yards per contest.

A native of Vicksburg, Miss., Hopson returned to Southern Miss after a successful four-year stint as the head coach at Alcorn State. During his tenure there, Hopson led the Braves to a 32-17 record and consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference championships his last two seasons. Alcorn State also recorded at least nine victories in each of his

last three seasons, including a 10-3 mark in 2014 and following this season, Hopson led the Braves to the inaugural Celebration Bowl, a postseason football bowl featuring two standout programs from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

His team also captured the SBN Black College Championship in 2014.

Prior to his arrival at Lorman, Hopson worked as linebackers coach for two seasons at Michigan (2008-09) and worked as defensive coordinator at Memphis during the 2010 and 2011 campaigns.

His first two stints at Southern Miss as an assistant coach came from 2001-03 (defensive backs) and then again from 2005-07 (linebackers, defensive coordinator).

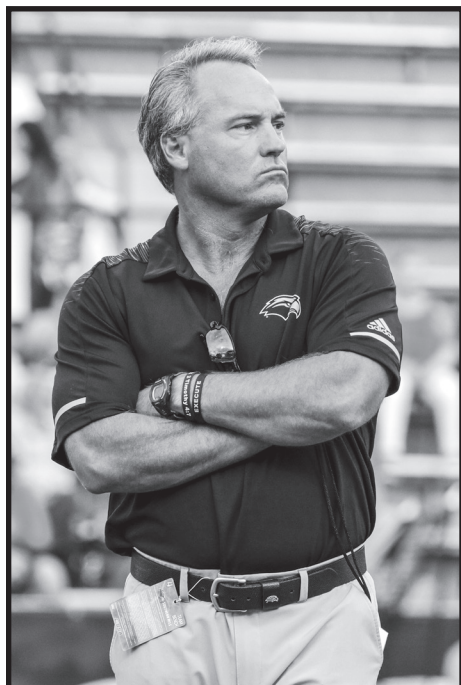
Hopson's defensive units led Conference USA in scoring defense each of his three seasons as defensive coordinator. In 2006, the Golden Eagles led C-USA in third down defense and red zone defense while his 2005 unit led the league in turnovers forced per game as well as led the nation in fumbles gained.

During his first stint with the Golden Eagles, the defensive unit led the nation in fewest passing touchdowns allowed and





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finished fourth nationally in pass efficiency defense in 2002. Southern Miss led C-USA and finished fifth nationally in pass defense during the 2003 season and each year during that stretch, Southern Miss ranked in the Top 15 nationally in scoring defense.

Hopson spent 2004 at his alma mater, the University of Mississippi, as defensive backs coach and was the program's recruiting coordinator. The Rebels' pass defense improved from 109th nationally in 2003 to 49th during the 2004 campaign.

Hopson's coaching experience also includes positions at Marshall (1996-2000) and Delta State (1993) as defensive backs coach. He was a member of the Herds' 1996 NCAA I-AA National Championship staff and coached the team to four straight Mid-American Conference championships. Hopson also held defensive graduate assistant positions at the Florida (1995), LSU (1994) and Tulane (1992). He helped the Gators to the Southeastern Conference championship and played for the national championship in the Fiesta Bowl.

He earned four letters and received the 1991 John Howard Vaught Award as a player at Ole Miss. A CoSIDA Academic All-American, Hopson graduated from Ole Miss with a bachelor's degree in business administration (1992) and received a master's of health in physical education and recreation from Delta State (1994).

Hopson and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters, Hyde and Hannah.

Jay Hopson File



Date of Birth: Oct. 13, 1968
Hometown: Vicksburg, Miss.
Education: Ole Miss, '92 (Bachelor's),
Delta State, '94 (Master's)
Years at Southern Miss: 6 seasons
as an assistant coach
Years in Coaching: 27

Coaching Career

2016-Present	Southern Miss	Head Coach
2012-2015	Alcorn State	Head Coach
2010-2011	Memphis	Defensive Coordinator
2008-2009	Michigan	Linebackers Coach
2006-2007	Southern Miss	Defensive Coordinator/ Middle Linebackers
2005	Southern Miss	Defensive Coordinator/ Defensive Backs
2004	Ole Miss	Defensive Backs
2001-2003	Southern Miss	Defensive Backs
1996-2000	Marshall	Defensive Backs
1995	Florida	Graduate Assistant/Offensive Scout Team/Special Teams
1994	LSU	Graduate Assistant/Defensive Backs/Offensive Scout Team
1993	Delta State	Defensive Backs
1992	Tulane	Graduate Assistant/Offensive Scout Team/ Special Teams/Video Breakdown

Bowl/Playoff Experience

2017: Independence Bowl
2016: New Orleans Bowl
2015: Celebration Bowl
2015: SWAC Championship Game
2014: SWAC Championship Game
2007: PapaJohns.com Bowl
2007: GMAC Bowl
2005: New Orleans Bowl
2004: New Orleans Bowl
2003: Liberty Bowl
2002: Houston Bowl
2000: Motor City Bowl
1999: Motor City Bowl
1998: Motor City Bowl
1997: Motor City Bowl
1996: NCAA I-AA National Champions
1995: Fiesta Bowl

