



# PENN STATE Intercollegiate Athletics

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## Head Coach James Franklin - What They're Saying

"James is a tremendous worker and a tremendous recruiter. He is just a great person. He will represent the University with all kinds of pride and respect. What an addition he will be to a great University in Penn State."

**- Andy Reid, Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach**

"He was an outstanding player, has been an outstanding coach and I think he will do an outstanding job at Penn State. It will be exciting to watch him take on this new challenge and meet it with the enthusiasm and passion that he always does. James is the type of individual who has a great passion for the game of football. He has goals and aspirations. He is enthusiastic and has an outstanding work ethic. He applied those attributes as a player and has applied them to his coaching and that is why he has been able to have so much success everywhere he has been. He is an outstanding communicator and that parlays into being a great recruiter. He was one of the nation's top recruiters when he was at Maryland, continued that at Vanderbilt and will surely bring that to Penn State. He will bring as much enthusiasm and passion for Penn State as the fan base does."

**- Denny Douds – East Stroudsburg Head Coach**

"Over a period of 17 years, I have admired the ability of Coach Franklin to connect respectfully with his players, their families and university stakeholders. Congratulations to Penn State for hiring a terrific football coach and man of excellent character, who will also be an effective ambassador for the entire University."

**- Debbie Yow, former Maryland Athletics Director**

"First, let me take this time to congratulate my good friend, James Franklin, on becoming the new head coach at Penn State. It was an honor to have him as a coach. He brings out the passion and the love for the game in everyone. He is a leader, he knows how to win, and he brings a relentless work ethic. He is a tremendous motivator on and off the field. I know he'll do an amazing job and be an asset to the Penn State campus, community and football program. Good Luck coach Franklin."

**- Donald Driver, Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver**

"Coach Franklin has a lot of energy, a lot of passion for the game, and obviously knew what he was doing. He cared about his players and was a great family guy. He was intense, but yet had fun and like I said, he had his passion for the game, his love for the game and a love for his players, and he cares about his players like family."

**- Jordy Nelson, Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver, Kansas State University ('09) Wide Receiver**

"Coach has meant so much to me, both on and off the field. One of the best things that ever happened to me was getting to work with Coach Franklin. I was very raw, and needed development in really every area. Coach taught me proper footwork, how to better understand pass routes and schemes, just how to play the position. Truly, to this day, my fundamental foundation as a quarterback came from the time with him."

**- Josh Freeman, Minnesota Vikings Quarterback; former Kansas State Quarterback**

"James Franklin is a proven commodity as a head coach with all his accomplishments at Vanderbilt. His leadership, integrity and competitive spirit make him a perfect fit for Penn State."

**- Kirk Herbstreit, ESPN/ABC Analyst**

"I am pleased with the selection of James Franklin as Penn State's next head football coach and I appreciate the committee's rapid response to filling the coaching position. He was obviously thoroughly vetted and researched, and I know the committee determined he was a good fit for our football program and for our University. Understanding the excitement of our student athletes and student body, we look forward to Penn State's bright future."

**- Keith Masser, Penn State Board of Trustees Chairperson**



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## Head Coach James Franklin - What They're Saying (cont.)

"I've had the chance to work closely with Coach Franklin and I can't say enough good things about his approach, his work ethic, his passion for the game and his ability to teach the game. He's a tireless recruiter and one of those coaches who can get the most out of his players and is excellent at making and maintaining relationships."

**- Darrell Bevell, Offensive Coordinator, Seattle Seahawks**

"But Franklin won't be intimidated. He stared down the best in the nation at Vanderbilt, so there's nothing he'll encounter at Penn State that will make him flinch."

**- Tom Dienhart, BTN.com Senior Writer**

"James is a great coach, a great leader and tireless worker. His players play tough, but they are old-school and disciplined. He brings new approaches to the field for the players and offenses, and he is an innovator and a cutting-edge type of coach. You would love to have that type of guy be your son. He is a wonderful person with great character and great integrity. He is a wonderful husband and a wonderful father. He's a great friend, who never forgets where he came from, and his friends. He's just a wonderful human being."

**- Mike Price, UTEP Head Football Coach/Former Washington State Head Coach**

"James Franklin worked for me at the Green Bay Packers. I noticed early on that he always saw the big picture. He didn't just coach his players on the field, but saw the need for them to be accountable off the field as well. He took an interest in every aspect of their lives and coached not just the player, but the person."

**- Mike Sherman, former Green Bay Packers and Texas A&M Head Coach**

"Coach Franklin has earned the opportunity to be a leader at a program like Penn State. I had a greater appreciation for him after I left (Maryland). He wants you to be the best you can be as a student and a player and brought a family environment. He is very passionate about what he does and has all the tools to be successful."

**- Torrey Smith, Baltimore Ravens Wide Receiver/Maryland ('10) Wide Receiver**

"Coach Franklin and is a great person and a great coach. I am happy that he has the opportunity to take what is probably one of his dream jobs, being from Pennsylvania, and I am happy for his family. He transformed the program and my career during my time at Vanderbilt. He took us from the bottom of the SEC to the upper tier of college football's toughest conference and a national contender. It was amazing to see what he was able to do at Vanderbilt and I am sure he will do the same at Penn State. For him, there is only one goal in mind; a National Championship. I feel like he has the right mindset as a coach, can put the right coaches around him and with the student-athletes, resources and fan base at Penn State, I know he will do a tremendous job."

**- Casey Heyward - Green Bay Packers Cornerback/Vanderbilt ('12) Cornerback**

"I got to know James when he was at Kansas State and I enjoyed being around him a great deal. I think he is a quality person and is a very fine football coach. I liked his integrity and the way he carried himself. He is a coach that does things the right way and treats people with respect. He truly cares about the student-athletes that he coaches and he is a guy that seems to get along with everyone he interacts with."

**- Bill Snyder, Kansas State Head Coach**

"From the day he stepped on Vanderbilt's campus, Coach Franklin changed the atmosphere around the football program. He did a tremendous job instilling confidence in the players and the fan base, as a whole. He's a great motivator. He is a young, energetic players' coach. And he is always confident in everything he does."

**- Zac Stacy, St. Louis Rams Running Back/ Vanderbilt ('12) Running Back**