



## **Ex-Vaca High football player promoted to assistant head coach at Ball State University**

Many ex-NFL players go on to coach somewhere, whether that be at the college, high school or even pee-wee level.

To sniff anywhere near the NFL, one's knowledge of the game and ability to lead have to be off the charts, which makes those players who do make it to the professional ranks perfect for coaching the game in retirement.

Former Vacaville High School offensive lineman Kyle DeVan is one of those former NFL players currently using what he learned on the field to help today's up-and-coming stars accomplish their dreams.

About a year-and-a-half after being hired by Ball State University as an offensive line coach, DeVan was recently promoted to assistant head coach of the team.

"For our football program to get to the level where we are competing for MAC (Mid-American Conference) championships on a yearly basis, we need the right staff in place at Ball State," head coach Mike Neu said in an earlier press release. "Kyle has done a tremendous job since joining our team and deserves an added role."

DeVan will still be the head offensive line coach at Ball State — located just outside of Indianapolis, Ind. — but will now have much more of an influence in all areas of the football team.

DeVan is probably the perfect choice for the promotion. His football background is impressive, dating back to his days pancaking defensive tackles as a cornerstone offensive lineman in Vacaville High's classic Wing-T offense.

DeVan was dominant in the trenches for the Bulldogs in the early 2000s before taking his game north to Oregon State University, where he started all four seasons at center for the Beavers. DeVan was a second-team all-Pacific-10 selection as a junior, and received honorable mention honors after his sophomore and senior seasons.

He went on to play in the NFL for five seasons, lining up for the Indianapolis Colts, Philadelphia Eagles and Tennessee Titans over his 40 game NFL career. Of the 40 games DeVan appeared in, he was a starter in 26 of them.

DeVan's best professional years came with the Colts. He started at right guard for most of the 2009-2010 season as a vital member of Peyton Manning's trusted offensive line. Indianapolis made it to the Super Bowl that year, ultimately falling to the Drew Brees-led New Orleans Saints. DeVan later switched over to left guard in the 2010-2011 season with the Colts.

After parting ways with the Colts, DeVan played sparingly for the Eagles and Titans before deciding to retire and pursue a career in coaching.

DeVan's coaching journey has been one full of travel and ranking up.

His first coaching job came in 2013, as a graduate assistant at Oregon State. In 2014, he was hired for the same position at USC. New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton caught wind of DeVan's coaching aspirations and hired him as an offensive line assistant coach for the 2015 NFL season.

He was hired in January 2016 as an offensive line coach for Ball State University, earning a promotion to assistant head coach earlier this spring.