

FROM THE NFL TO...HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

STAN BROCK is the new head coach at Army...**JIM HARBAUGH** is the new head man at Stanford...**GRANT WISTROM** starts his first year as an assistant coach in the high school ranks.

More and more, it seems, former NFL players are returning to their roots to guide the next generation of football players as high school and college coaches.

In 2005, former NFL tight end **LONNIE JOHNSON** jumped at the opportunity to help the Mount Dora Christian Home and Bible School start a varsity football program for he first time. He's been coaching there ever since.

"My immediate goal is to teach the players basic fundamentals of the game of football," says Johnson, 36, who was a second-round pick of the Buffalo Bills in 1994. "A long-term goal is to use football to reveal to the players character and life lessons."

Ten of the many former NFL players who are coaching at the high school or college level:

COACH	CURRENT POSITION	NFL PLAYING EXPERIENCE
Stan Brock	Head Coach, Army	T – New Orleans (1980-92), San Diego (1993-95)
Timothy Edwards	Assistant Coach, Hampton University	DT – New England (1992-95)
Jim Harbaugh	Head Coach, Stanford University	QB – Chicago (1987-93), Indianapolis (1994-97), Baltimore (1998), San Diego (1999-2000)
Jerry Holmes	Defensive Coordinator, Hampton University	CB – NY Jets (1980-83, 1986-87), Detroit (1988-89), Green Bay (1990-91)
Lonnie Johnson	Head Coach, Mount Dora Christian Home & Bible School (FL)	TE – Buffalo (1994-98), Kansas City (1999)
Mark Kelso	Head Coach, Saint Mary's High School (NY)	S – Buffalo (1986-93)
Dan Lloyd	Assistant Coach, West Valley College	LB – NY Giants (1976-79)
Brian Sipe	Head Coach, Santa Fe Christian School (CA)	QB – Cleveland (1974-83)
Randy Shannon	Head Coach, University of Miami (FL)	LB – Dallas (1989-90)
Grant Wistrom	Assistant Coach, Parkview High School (MO)	DE – St. Louis (1998-2003), Seattle (2004-06)

FLAG'S TAKING OVER FLORIDA!

Flag football is the fastest growing girls' high school sport in Florida.

In 1998, 17 Florida high schools fielded girls' teams. In 2003, the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) recognized flag football as an interscholastic sport. That year, Florida also held its first flag football state championship. Currently, more than 4,000 girls at 146 schools participate.

Some Florida coaches say flag football is pulling talented girls away from traditional spring sports such as softball and track. At Palm Beach Gardens, participation on girls' track has halved as girls prefer to spend their springs playing flag football.

BRIANNA LAUER of Loxahatchee, Florida is proof of this trend. Lauer is a softball player turned quarterback. What drives Lauer to the football field?

"Flag football is so much fun," she recently told *Sports Illustrated*. "It's such an adrenaline rush. You're always moving."

Flag football has risen in popularity off the field as well. "People say, 'You should go out and see the girls play football,' because no one thinks girls can play football," says Lauer of her schoolmates.

The popularity of **NFL FLAG**, the NFL's flag football program, parallels the surge occurring in Florida. NFL FLAG involves more than 150,000 kids ages 5-17, 30 percent of whom are girls.

Top five Florida high school girls flag football programs:

TEAM	CITY	RECORD
Leon High*	Tallahassee	10-2-1
Riverview High	Sarasota	10-0
Palm Beach Gardens High	Palm Beach Gardens	12-1
Dillard High	Ft. Lauderdale	8-3

*2007 State Champions