

ALBANY CONQUEST HEAD COACH - STEVE MATTHEWS



STEVE MATTHEWS
COACHING

Steve Matthews was named Head Coach of the Albany Conquest in November 2003. He is a former NFL Quarterback playing in the 1990's with the Kansas City Chiefs, the Jacksonville Jaguars, and the Tennessee Titans. Matthews also played in the NFL Europe and coached in the AF2 for the Memphis Hookers. In college he was a star QB at the University of Memphis, where he set many passing records. The Capital District Sports Journal, managing editor Lou Gordon, recently interviewed Matthews at his Conquest team office in the Pepsi Arena.

Q: *What was your greatest achievement as a player?*

A: The victory over New York Giants and getting drafted in the NFL were my greatest achievements. It was a thrill to be drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 1992, especially with my broken leg at Memphis senior year when I thought my career was over.

In 1977 I played QB for the Jacksonville Jaguars, and we beat the Giants in Florida. The score was 40- 13 I was 23 -35 for 285 yards. I took over for Quarterback Mark Brunell who was recovering from a broken leg... It was the Second game of year...

I was looking forward to starting again..

but Brunell played the whole season and he was an all-pro ball player. And he's still playing. I see where Mark Brunell got traded to the Washington Redskins and he should do very well with returning Skins Coach Joe Gibbs.

Q: *What did you learn from the Jaguars Coach that year?*

A: Coach Tom Coughlin, he was a strict but fair disciplinarian, I learned a lot from him as a player and gained great insights into coaching. I think Coughlin will do fine job this year as the new Giants head coach.

Q: *You also played for the Kansas City Chiefs?*

A: Yes, I was drafted in 1994, out of the University of Memphis, in the 7th round.

Q: *Who were the QBs ahead of you at the Chiefs?*

A: Joe Montana and Rich Gannon and Elvis Grbac. In fact, Elvis made me homesick since I was from Tennessee.

Q: *What did you learn from Montana?*

A: How to relate with the other players. Even though Joe's a superstar, he was able to be just one of the guys and made the

players around him play harder for him.

Q: *Did you ever hang with Montana?*

A: He was hurt and I went out with him two times. I went to his home for Thanksgiving Dinner that year. Nice guy but he did not let me eat the drumstick. Yet, in all, it was a wonderful time.

Q: *What did you learn from the Kansas City Coach Marty Schottenheimer?*

A: From Coach Schottenheimer I learned how to be a professional. You come into the pros from college and he instills discipline. You must be on time, you must be where you need to be and finally with Marty there is no substitute for hard work.

I went from Kansas City to Jacksonville as a free agent and then to Tennessee the

same route.

Q: *Who did you play behind at Tennessee?*

A: Quarterbacks Steve McNair and David Kreig, who are two great players and outstanding individuals.

McNair is the toughest player I've ever been around. His toughness translates around to the entire team. And the other players see the injuries Steve plays through, and that makes them play harder for him as well.

Q: *How much did you play at Tennessee?*

A: I played only a quarter and then my knees were hurt and I retired at the age of 29.

Q: *What did you learn from Titans Coach Jeff Fisher?*



STEVE MATTHEWS AS A KANSAS CITY CHIEF QUARTERBACK

A: His players respect Fisher as a coach. He treats them as people and not pieces of meat, Jeff really cares for his players and knows that if they are treated as professionals they will perform on the field.

Q: *And in 2004 you have now arrived in Albany and the Capital region of New York to coach the Conquest. What has the NFL experience with Coaches Fisher, Coughlin and Schottenheimer given you?*

A: You take certain aspects of all their coaching philosophies and styles, and at the same time to stay true to yourself. I gained a wealth of knowledge from all my former coaches.

Q: *Who is most important influence on your life?*

A: Probably my father, he was R.K. Matthews. I remember him coming home from work at 5:30 p.m. and he always took 30 minutes to throw a football with me around the back the yard. He was an aeronautical engineer and we lived in Tullahoma, Tennessee, one-hour southeast of Nashville.

Q: *What you doing in Albany?*

A: Trying to win a championship, number one goal, At the same time, help players move up to arena one - the AFL and the NFL. It's the best job in the world, playing football for a living.

Q: *You are married?*

A: Yes, to Carol Matthews, I met her in Scotland when I was in NFL Europe, just

5 years ago this March. She is a dance teacher in Nashville, and in May she'll be up here in Albany permanently.

Q: *So Carol is Scottish, how does she relate to football?*

A: She has no clue about football to her football is soccer.

Q: *What does Carol mean to you?*

A: She is the big reason for the success I have had in my life and is my loving partner.

Q: *How are you building the team?*

A: On the defensive side of the ball, if you can get stops you have a chance. We will maintain possession of the ball to give us the edge. Our basic philosophy is to try to hit their QB and keep ours from getting hit. We've got ourselves a bunch of big huge players who know that our QB, is the gold mine and he's theirs to protect.

Q: *What do you want to tell the fans of the Albany Conquest?*

A: You, the Albany FANS, are extremely important to our success. Big loud enthusiastic crowds are the key to a winning season. Albany fans need to make the Pepsi a nightmare for our opponents. They will not be allowed to come into our home and expect anything but a loss. We need to and will have a winning Albany Conquest football team playing football this year at the Pepsi Arena.

See Y'all at the Pepsi!
- Coach Matthews

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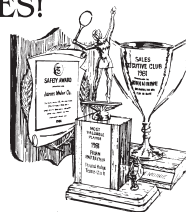
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Semi-Professional Football



2004 Schedule

July 17	Reading Renegades	Home
July 24	Syracuse Vipers	Home
July 31	Scranton Eagles	Away
Aug 7	Binghamton Green Machine	Away
Aug 14	Orange County Bulldogs	Home
Aug 21	Reading Renegades	Away
Aug 28	Syracuse Vipers	Away
	Labor Day Weekend	
Sept 11	Scranton Eagles	Home
Sept 18	Binghamton Green Machine	Home
Sept 25	Orange County Bulldogs	Away

THE ALBANY METRO MALLERS, A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM, WAS A MAJOR SPORTS VENUE IN THE 70'S, 80'S AND EARLY 90'S. THE NAME DERIVED FROM THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WHO CONSTRUCTED THE SOUTH MALL. THE METRO MALLERS ARE A PART OF THE EMPIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, WHICH INCLUDED TEAMS FROM THE NORTHEASTERN PORTION OF THE UNITED STATES. THE SUMMERS OF THE METRO MALLERS WEEKEND NIGHTS WERE FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT, AND REASONABLY PRICED ENTERTAINMENT WITH MANY OF THE CAPITAL REGION'S PREMIERE ATHLETES.

IT IS NOW 2004 AND THE METRO MALLERS ARE BACK IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT. THE METRO MALLERS ARE MAKING A POSITIVE COMBACK WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF ALBANY AFTER 13 YEARS. LOCAL PLAYERS AS WELL AS PLAYERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, RPI, UNION, SIENA AND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITIES ARE BEING CONJURED TO CREATE THE NUCLEUS OF A NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM. SIXTY MEMBERS ARE BEING ASSEMBLED TO COMPETE FOR THE EMPIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP AND THEN THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. COME JOIN THE EXCITEMENT THIS SUMMER DON'T MISS OPENING DAY WITH A PRE-GAME KICK OFF CONCERT FEATURING CAPITALANDS FAVORITE BAND "THE REFRIGERATORS". GATES OPEN AT 4:00 PM.

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