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FURMAN DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR WILSON TO LEAVE COACHING FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS

GREENVILLE — Furman University head football coach Bobby Johnson announced today that Steve Wilson, a member of the Paladins' coaching staff since 1986 and defensive coordinator for the past six seasons, is leaving the coaching profession to accept a position in private business.

"Steve has done a tremendous job, and we certainly hate to lose him," Johnson said in making the announcement. "His record as a defensive coordinator and especially in the development of linebackers speaks for itself. It will be hard to replace him, but we are excited about the tremendous opportunity he now has."

Wilson, a Gainesville, Ga., native and 1977 Furman graduate, returned to his alma mater in 1986 to coach the Paladin linebackers, a position he held for 13 seasons. In 1993 he added the role of defensive coordinator. During his tenure as a Paladin assistant coach, Furman posted a 96-56-3 record and won three Southern Conference championships and a national championship. In addition, Furman produced 12 All-Southern Conference and four All-America linebackers during Wilsons' tenure. Two of his players, Jeff Blankenship and Kevin Kendrick, earned Southern Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year honors, and Blankenship was named national defensive player-of-the-year in 1988.

"I've known Steve since his time as a student here at Furman, and he was a real credit to our football program as a player and later as a coach," said vice president for intercollegiate athletics Dr. John Block. "On behalf of Furman University, I'd like to thank him for his service and wish him the best."

(For More Information, Contact: Hunter Reid)