

Ole Miss hires former Maryland coach Durkin as assistant

Associated Press

Former Maryland coach D.J. Durkin, who was fired during the 2018 season following the death of a player who had collapsed during offseason conditioning drills, was hired Thursday as an assistant by Mississippi.

Durkin, who spent part of this past season as a consultant with the Atlanta Falcons, will join new Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin's defensive staff.

Durkin had stints as defensive coordinator at Michigan and Florida, building up a reputation as a top recruiter, before being hired as Maryland head coach at age 37. He went 10-15 in two seasons at Maryland, but his tenure ended abruptly amid scandal.

Ole Miss athletic director Keith Carter said in a statement the university conducted a "thorough" background check on Durkin, speaking with several "highly respected college football coaches, administrators and school officials."

"We received consistently strong feedback about Coach Durkin's strong character and work ethic and his positive impact on the communities and institutions where he was previously employed," Carter said, "Once we had the chance to spend time with Coach Durkin, we were even more convinced that he is exactly the type of accomplished coach with strong football credentials who is also a proud and committed family man that will make



D.J. DURKIN

him a great addition to our new staff."

On May 29, 2018, offensive lineman Jordan McNair, a 19-year-old sophomore, collapsed during conditioning drills because of heat-related illness. McNair died on June 13.

An independent investigation determined athletic trainers on the scene did not follow proper procedures to treat McNair for possible heatstroke. Durkin was not found responsible for McNair's death, but he was fired in October after having been placed on administrative leave to start the season.

Reports of dysfunction in the football program emerged after McNair's death. Durkin and his strength and conditioning coach, Rick Court, were accused by some players of creating a toxic culture where some players were demeaned and bullied.

Court was put on administrative leave by the school and eventually resigned.

Other players and their parents supported Durkin and wanted him to remain

Maryland's coach.

The school commissioned an investigation into the culture of the football program under Durkin and the board of regents decided to retain the coach, saying he was "unfairly blamed for the dysfunction in the athletic department."

The next day, Halloween 2018, facing scrutiny and criticism from the public and politicians, University of Maryland president Wallace Loh fired Durkin.

Durkin has been out of college coaching since.

Ole Miss also announced the hirings of Chris Partridge, who had been the safeties coach at Michigan, and Joe Jon Finley, who had been tight ends coach at Texas A&M.

*Bell Siblings

(Continued from page 1.) Mississippi State University. He will graduate in May with a degree in biological sciences.

Both siblings were accepted into the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry on the same day, Monday, December 2, 2019. They will both begin classes in the fall of 2020. They are following in the footsteps of their father who was a dentist at Bell Dental Clinic in Lexington for many years and their mother who still maintains the clinic.



January 9 - Doyle Gilmore, Jr., Jeremy Hobson, Cody Holland

January 10 - Tina Pierce, Sterling Starns, Ashley Rowlen, Derek Dodd, Angelica Brown, Arthur Sumerall, Corey Garrett, Stacey Riley, Alexandria Rogers

January 11 - Lavell Thomas, Ricky Winstead, Ricky Winstead, Jr., Angela Spell, Patricia G. Gillespie, Janece Barron

January 12 - John M. Gilmore, Jesse Gilbert, Daisy Malone, Ashley N. Wallace, Rayne Tate, Betty Byrd, Larkin Kirkwood, Daynie Parish

January 13 - Dale McBride, Bra'kiaya Smart, Li Ables, Patrick Roberts, Dani Tate Ramsey, Dan Loflin, Maddie Drennan, Chad Bishop, Kaley McGraw, Leslie Taylor Spell, Janet Hynum, Joetta Edwards, Danny Ingold, Joshua Morris

January 14 - Angel Gilmore, LaShonda Harrison, Sadie Angell, Payton Grace Ray, Joy Tate, Clyde Dixon

January 15 - Campbell Atkinson, Dee Word, David

Hunters Needed: final push for CWD samples

Press Release

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) has collected more than 4,000 samples for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing during 2019-2020 hunting season. All samples were from hunter-harvested, road-killed, or reported diseased white-tailed deer.

Since October 1, 2019, 18 CWD-positive white-tailed deer have been detected. To date, the statewide total is 37. The county locations

Clover Corner

Holmes County 4-H News and Commentary
By Betsy Padgett

As the new decade comes over 100 head on exhibit for storming in, so has the time this year's show. The Delta District Livestock Show will follow the 2020 Holmes County Junior Livestock Show. The show is set for Saturday, January 25. The Livestock group boasts nine new exhibitors—all showing Market Hogs to go along with the 28 veteran showmen. The Swine numbers for this year are also up with 78 hogs slated to show. Four youth are showing lambs, two showing goats and four showing beef cattle. In all, there should be

are as follows: Benton, 22; Issaquena, 2; Marshall, 10; Panola, 1; Pontotoc, 1; and Tallahatchie, 1. Continued surveillance is critical, and hunters are the key source for sample collection. MDWFP is relying on hunter-harvested deer for the remainder of the 2019-2020 hunting season. Please visit any of the 36 CWD Freezer Locations to submit your sample and aid in wildlife conservation efforts. For more information about Chronic Wasting Disease visit www.mdwfp.com/cwd. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

Fisher retiring as Mississippi commissioner of public safety

Associated Press

The Mississippi commissioner of public safety is stepping down as the state prepares to move from one governor to the next.

Marshall Fisher announced his retirement in a news release Tuesday, his final day on the job. The release said the longtime law enforcement officer would "pursue other opportunities," but did not specify what they are.

"I am deeply grateful to Gov. Phil Bryant for the support and confidence he displayed entrusting me to serve in various capacities of law enforcement and public safety for the state of Mississippi," Fisher said in the release. "This state has been extremely fortunate to benefit from his foresight and integrity. God has truly blessed me to have been fortunate enough to serve both in the military and law enforcement for more than four decades."

Bryant, a Republican, in 2015 chose Fisher to lead the Mississippi Department of Corrections. In 2017, the governor made Fisher the public safety commissioner. As head of the Department of Public Safety, Fisher also has overseen the Mississippi Highway Patrol, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Fisher had a long career with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administra-



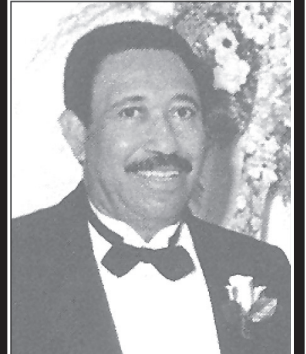
MARSHALL FISHER

tion, including as section chief and special agent in charge for Mississippi from 1983 to 2005. After leaving DEA, Fisher was appointed director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics by Bryant's predecessor as governor, Republican Gov. Haley Barbour.

Republican Tate Reeves will become governor Jan. 14, and he is in the process of naming people to serve in top jobs in his administration. He has not yet announced his nominee to be public safety commissioner.

Remembering and Honoring Odell Hampton, Jr.

Holmes County Supervisor - District 5
Sunrise: January 10, 1940
Sunset: April 5, 2004



Gone so Soon but Never Forgotten, Your Work Speaks For You. We Love You and Miss You So Much. Many Thanks To You. Your Wife, 2 - Daughters, 2 - Sons-in-law & 2 - Granddaughters "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

MHP works three fatalities over New Year's period

Press Release

The Mississippi Highway Patrol concluded its New Year's holiday enforcement period which began Tuesday, December 31, at 12:01 a.m. and ended Wednesday, January 1 at midnight.

MHP issued 3526 citations with 79 DUI arrests. During the two day period, MHP investigated 81 motor vehicle crashes that included 23 injuries and 3 fatalities on state, federal highways, and interstates systems.

On Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at approximately 1:25 a.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash on MS589 in Lamar County.

A Nissan Sentra driven by Blake H. Breazeale, 24, of Petal, MS was traveling northbound on MS589. The vehicle left the roadway and collided with tree. Breazeale was transported to a local hospital with life threatening injuries. A passenger, Kimberly R. Sumrall, 28, of Hattiesburg, MS received fatal injuries from the crash and was pronounced dead

on scene.

On Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at approximately 1:31 p.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash on I-22 in Marshall County. A 2016 Kenworth driven by Ryan J. Thomas, 44, of Gay, Georgia was traveling eastbound on I-22. A 2013 Toyota Prius driven by Matthew Zent, 31, of Millington, Tennessee was traveling eastbound on I-22 and collided with the 2016 Kenworth. Matthew Zent received fatal injuries from the crash and was pronounced dead on scene.

On Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at approximately 6:02 p.m., the Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fatal traffic crash on MS11 in Jasper County. A 1991 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by Christopher S. Tanner, 42, of Quitman, MS was traveling southbound on MS11. The vehicle left the roadway and collided with tree. Christopher S. Tanner received fatal injuries from the crash and was pronounced dead on scene.

Don't Forget 4-H Shows Coming Soon!!

All 4-H Supplies on Hand & in Demand at Lexington Farm Supply

Wood Shavings
Vitamin & Electrolyte Soluble Powders
Stall Accessories
Brushes, Oils & Grooming Supplies
Socks & Boots
Youth Gloves

LEXINGTON FARM SUPPLY

Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Highway 12 East 834-3388 Lexington