

Only one other school besides the University of Connecticut has moved up from Division I-AA to Division I-A (Football Bowl Subdivision) and earned an AP ranking faster. Only five times has a team ascended from Division I-AA to Division I-A and produced a .500 or better season in each of its first three years at the highest level of collegiate football and UConn is one of those programs.

The Huskies' continue to climb in a BCS Conference and much of the credit for this remarkable ascension is due to Randy Edsall who is the third winningest coach in school history and stands at an impressive 41-30 (.577) in the school's first six Division I-A seasons.

In 2007, the Bryant and Munger Award finalist helped guide UConn to a share of its first-ever BIG EAST Championship in a season where the Huskies were picked to finish seventh in the league. The Huskies are playing in their second bowl game in four years.

UConn joined the BIG EAST Conference in 2004, finishing just one win shy of tying for the conference championship. The Huskies led the conference in total defense each of their first two years in the league, and, during their debut season in 2004, led the BIG EAST in both total offense and total defense.

During this span, UConn has finished in the national top 20 for total offense (2003, 2004) and total defense (2002, 2005). Under Edsall's guidance, the Huskies have defeated members of the Atlantic Coast Conference, BIG EAST, Big Ten, Big 12 and Conference USA during their brief Division I-A tenure.



In addition to the great success on the field, UConn has performed admirably in the classroom under Edsall. In three of the past five years, including 2007, UConn was recognized by the American Football Coaches Association for its high graduation rate. In 2003, UConn was the only public I-A school to graduate at least 90 percent of its football players and in 2005, UConn was one of only eight schools to both graduate 70 percent and win a bowl game.

In 2007, the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR) for the UConn football team was an impressive 963, which placed it higher than the national Bowl Subdivision average of 934 and among the top 20 percent of all football programs in the country.

Edsall guided the 2002 team to a 6-6 record in its first year with a full Division I-A compliment of 85 scholarships. UConn ended the 2002 season impressively with four-straight wins to reach the .500 mark, including season-ending road wins at Navy and at bowl-bound Iowa State of the Big 12 Conference.

"This was the day that the man on the street connected with UConn football," proclaimed a Connecticut sportswriter after the win. "It's his team, and by gawd, he's going to cheer for it."

UConn's .500 season was its best record since the squad won 10 games in 1998. The Huskies' six wins were more than the Huskies posted in 2000 (three) and 2001 (two) combined. The Huskies were the most improved Division I-A team in the country in 2002, according to preseason and postseason ratings by College Football News.

The excitement for Edsall and his team continued to swell in 2003 as the Huskies moved into their new home, Rentschler Field, and enjoyed the nation's largest attendance increase with a gain of 21,252 fans per game.

Finishing with a 9-3 record, many national media outlets, including Bristol-based ESPN, proclaimed that UConn should have received a bowl berth, a feat highly-uncommon for an independent team other than Notre Dame.

With their membership in the BIG EAST for the 2004 season, another strong campaign by the Huskies resulted in a bowl berth. UConn went 8-4 against a challenging slate that fall as the program gained its highest ever level of exposure with four nationally televised games on the ESPN family of networks, three of them in prime time. UConn used one of those opportunities to defeat eventual BCS participant Pittsburgh, 29-17, before a rowdy sell out crowd at Rentschler Field. The Huskies capped their historic season with a resounding 39-10 win over Mid-American Champion Toledo in the Motor City Bowl.

The 2007 season witnessed a new level of excitement in Storrs as the Huskies earned their first ever national rankings, peaking at No. 13 in the BCS standings. Only Marshall has ever cracked the national polls faster after moving up from I-AA. UConn became just the second BIG EAST team to ever go 7-0 at home and defeated three teams there which were ranked in the Top 10 at some point during the season.

When UConn announced its plans to join the Division I-A ranks, these were the moments that were dreamt of, but they came sooner than almost anyone besides Edsall may have anticipated.

"I pride myself on taking advantage of opportunities and attacking challenges head on," says Edsall. "I see this as a great opportunity. An opportunity to take a program to the Division I-A level and being able to put my stamp on it, along with Jeff Hathaway and



everyone else here, and building it into something that the entire University and the state of Connecticut can be proud of."

Edsall has done just that after being named the 27th head football coach at the University of Connecticut on December 21, 1998.

"Randy Edsall has done a tremendous job of transforming our football program over the past nine years," says UConn Director of Athletics Jeffrey Hathaway. "He has proven to be the perfect fit for our school and our team. He has drawn well upon both his NFL and collegiate experiences to rapidly develop this program and prepare it for BIG EAST competition."

Edsall brought 19 years of previous coaching experience to the Husky program, including 15 seasons at the Division I-A collegiate level and three seasons in the National Football League.

Edsall joined the Huskies after completing the 1998 season as the defensive coordinator at Georgia Tech, where he helped the 14th-ranked Yellow Jackets complete a 9-2 campaign and earn a New Year's Day win in the Gator Bowl over Notre Dame. Georgia Tech finished 7-1 in the ACC and earned a share of the league championship with Florida State.

Prior to joining the staff at Georgia Tech, Edsall spent three seasons as the secondary coach for the Jacksonville Jaguars of the National Football League. In his three seasons on Tom Coughlin's staff, Edsall was a part of one of the most successful expansion franchises in the history of the NFL. The Jaguars reached the playoffs in 1996 and 1997, including a berth in the AFC Championship Game in 1996. During that 1996 playoff run, Edsall's secondary allowed an average of only 217 yards passing to three of the top quarterbacks in the NFL, New England's Drew Bledsoe and NFL Hall of Famers Jim Kelly of Buffalo and John Elway of Denver.

Edsall began his coaching career in 1980 at his alma mater, Syracuse University. A former quarterback for the Orangemen, Edsall started as a graduate assistant from 1980-1982. In 1983, coach Dick MacPherson named Edsall running backs coach. He coached the running backs for three seasons at Syracuse (1983-84 and 1986) and coached the tight ends in 1985 before making the switch to the defensive side of the ball. He coached the Syracuse defensive backs from 1987-1990 and during that period the Orangemen were ranked amongst the National Division I-A leaders in pass defense.

In 1991, Edsall moved on to Boston College and joined the staff of Coughlin. He coached the Eagle defensive backs for three seasons (1991-1993) and had his secondary ranked among the national top 20 in pass defense in two of those three seasons. He moved with Coughlin to the NFL in 1994.

Success has followed Edsall at every stop along his playing and coaching journey. He has been a part of 10 different teams (nine as a coach) that made bowl appearances and came away with a victory seven times.

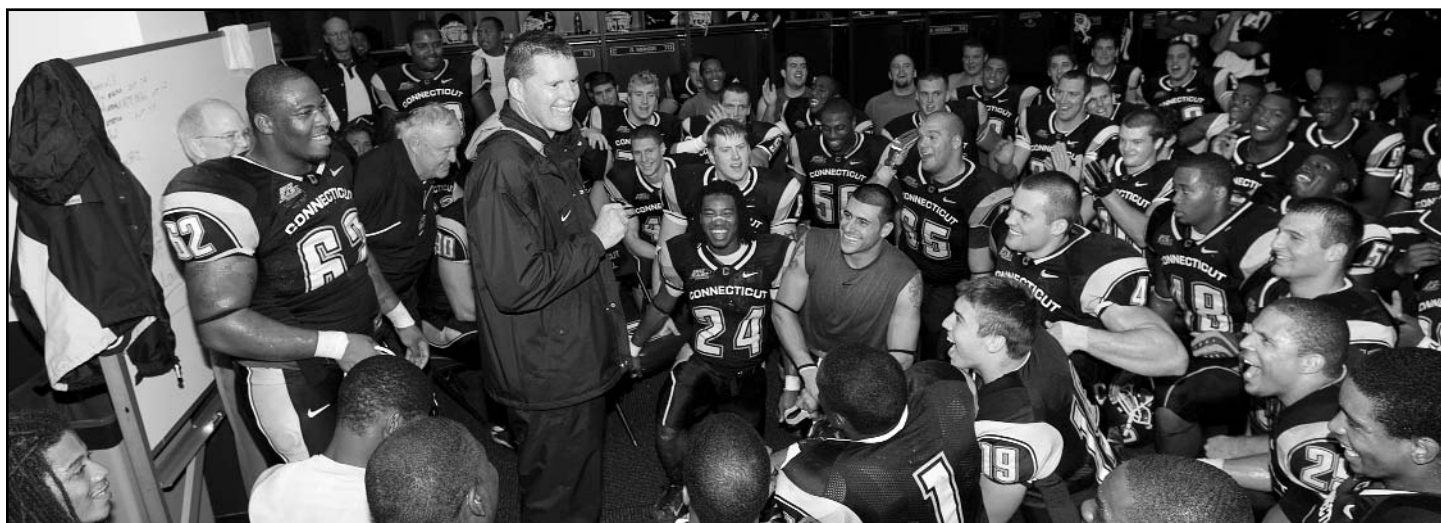
The Jacksonville Jaguars advanced to the NFL Playoffs in two of his three seasons, including an AFC Championship Game appearance in 1996. From 1985 to 1993, Edsall was a part of seven teams that made bowl appearances and in 1993, Boston College upset three top 10 teams on the road in Notre Dame, Penn State and Syracuse.

Edsall was a three-year letterwinner in football, basketball and baseball at Susquehannock High School in Glen Rock, Pa. He was an all-state selection in all three sports in his senior season and has been inducted into the York Area Sports Hall of Fame. He then went on to Syracuse, where he was a member of the football team and earned one varsity letter as a quarterback for the Orangemen. He was a member of the Syracuse squad that captured the 1979 Independence Bowl title under head coach Frank Maloney.

Edsall is a native of Glen Rock, Penn., and earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Syracuse in 1980 and added a master's degree in health and physical education in 1982 from Syracuse.

Edsall also is the honorary chairman of the Southern New England Arthritis Foundation Gridiron Gala. He is on the advisory council of The Children's Home in Cromwell, Conn., a center for over 100 neglected and abused children. Edsall also partakes in several other charitable endeavors including serving as the honorary chairman of the Greater Hartford American Heart Association Walk in September 2002. He is a member of the York Area Sports Hall of Fame.

He and his wife, Eileen, a former basketball and volleyball letterwinner at Syracuse, have a daughter, Alexi (17), and a son, Corey (15).



Randy Edsall is 7-2-1 in bowl games in his career as a player and coach combined.



Rob Ambrose (2nd bowl)
Offensive Coordinator, Quarterbacks

Rob Ambrose is in his third year as the offensive coordinator at UConn and his sixth year as the quarterbacks coach, coming to Storrs in July 2002 after a one-year stint as the head coach at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Ambrose's work has resulted in UConn quarterback Dan Orlovsky (2001-04) setting many seasonal and career records for the Huskies. In 2007 he has helped the team build a more balanced offense which has served UConn well in several of its nine victories.

Before coaching at Catholic, Ambrose was an assistant coach in a variety of capacities at Towson State for eight seasons (1993-2000).

Ambrose graduated from Towson State in 1993 with a degree in English. He played football as quarterback and wide receiver at the school until an injury ended his career in the spring of 1992.



Matt Cersosimo (1st bowl)
Wide Receivers, Recruiting Coordinator

Matt Cersosimo is in his second year as wide receivers coach and his fourth with the program overall. He previously served as a graduate assistant coach for the Huskies in 2002-03, the program's first two Division I-A seasons.

UConn's receivers and its recruiting classes have steadily improved over the past two years under Cersosimo's mindful watch.

Between his stints at UConn, Cersosimo spent two years at Harvard, coaching the Crimson wide receivers in 2004 and the running backs in 2005.

Cersosimo is a native of West Hartford and was born into a prominent high school coaching family in the state. His wife, Megan, is also a coach as she mentors the UConn women's lacrosse team. Cersosimo earned both his bachelor's degree (200) and master's degree (2002) from Springfield College.



Mike Foley (1st bowl)
Offensive Line

Mike Foley is in his second year as UConn's offensive line coach. Foley inherited a young unit in 2006 and has since molded it into a foundation of a solid line that will remain almost entirely intact next season.

Most of Foley's previous career was spent at Colgate, his alma mater. He was an assistant there from 1981-85, interim head coach in 1986 and head coach from 1987-92, returning to the school as offensive coordinator from 1997-2005. Foley played a role in five Patriot League championship teams and six teams that earned NCAA Division I-AA Championship berths.

Foley has also worked as an assistant coach at Bates, Dartmouth, Holy Cross and Harvard. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Colgate in 1978.

GAME DAY LOCATOR
Press Box: Ambrose, Johnson, McMichael.
Sideline: Cersosimo, Foley, Hughes, Lakatos, Orlovsky, Richardson.



Dave McMichael (13th bowl)
Tight Ends

The 2007 Meineke Car Care Bowl will be the 13th of Dave McMichael's coaching career, the most of any UConn staff member. He is completing his seventh season on the Husky coaching staff after joining the program in February, 2001. He is a 33-year veteran of the coaching profession and is currently UConn's tight ends coach. He has also coached offensive tackles and special teams during his time in Storrs.

Prior to 2002, McMichael spent the previous 18 seasons as an assistant coach at West Virginia under head coach Don Nehlen. McMichael has directly coached 11 NFL signees, including UConn's Tommy Collins and Ryan Krug, and has had seven players who were drafted by NFL teams.

McMichael was a three-year letterwinner on the offensive line at Bowling Green for Nehlen. He received his bachelor's degree in marketing research from Bowling Green in 1974 and his master's degree in physical education at Bowling Green in 1977.



Terry Richardson (5th bowl)
Running Backs

Terry Richardson is in his ninth season as a member of the Connecticut football coaching staff, all spent working with the Husky running backs. UConn has had a steady line of dangerous tailbacks since moving to Division I-A including Terry Caulley, Cornell Brockington, Lou Allen, Donald Brown and Andre Dixon. Over the past three seasons alone each of those five have a 100-yard rushing game to their credit.

Richardson also helped develop fullback Deon Anderson who was the Dallas Cowboys' starter for the first half of the year before suffering an injury. This year's fullbacks, Anthony Davis and Anthony Sherman have both improved greatly as the year has gone along and are an important component in the UConn offense.

Richardson is a 1994 graduate of Syracuse where he was a four-year letterwinner at running back and wore the fabled uniform number 44. He graduated from Syracuse in 1984 and played in three bowl games there - the Aloha, Hall of Fame and Fiesta.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF
Director of Football Operations: Tom Bahlquist
Director of Alumni & Community Affairs: Brady Baylock
Recruiting Assistant: Carl Kotz
Strength and Conditioning Coordinator: Terry Martin
Assistant Director: Drew Wilson
Director of Sports Medicine: Jeff Anderson
Head Athletic Trainer: Howard
Assistant Director: Brian Gallagher
Graduate Assistant: Jon Andrews, Anne Lasinsky
Football Equipment Manager: Chris Stasaitis
Graduate Assistant: Tom Wood
Director of Video Services: David Kaplan
Assistant Director: Chris Crooks
Administrative Assistant: Rebecca Dunstan (recruiting), Joanne Fazio (coach Edsall), Annie Peppard (operations)



Hank Hughes (2nd bowl)

Asst. Head Coach For Defense, Defensive Line

Hank Hughes is in his seventh season on the Husky coaching staff and third as the assistant head coach for defense. A 27-year veteran of the coaching profession, Hughes joined the program in Feb. 2001 as the defensive line coach. The 2004 Motor City Bowl was his first bowl game as a coach or player.

The Huskies spent much of the 2007 season ranked in the top 10 nationally in both scoring and total defense. In each of its first two BIG EAST seasons (2004-05), UConn led the league in total defense.

Before coming to UConn, Hughes was the defensive line coach at the University of Memphis from 1998-2000. The Tigers finished the 2000 season as the No. 1 rated defense in Division I-A against the run (72.7 rushing yards allowed per game) and finished fifth in the nation in total defense (275.3 yards per game) and 14th in scoring defense (18.1 points allowed per game).

Hughes is familiar with New England, having served at four different schools in the region. He is a 1979 graduate of Springfield College.



Todd Orlando (3rd bowl)

Defensive Coordinator, Inside Linebackers

Todd Orlando is finishing his ninth year as a member of the Connecticut football coaching staff. One of Randy Edsall's original hires as a Husky, Orlando has coached UConn's inside linebackers since the 1999 season and assumed the role of defensive coordinator in 2005.

Linebacking has been a strength of the UConn defense for years, highlighted by New Orleans Saints draftee Alfred Fincher. The current pair of Orlando proteges, Danny Lamsanah and Lawrence Wilson have been a steady core of one of the nation's top defenses.

Prior to Connecticut, Orlando spent three seasons in Philadelphia as the inside linebackers coach at the University of Pennsylvania.

Orlando was a three-year letterwinner at inside linebacker at Wisconsin and a member of the 1994 Big Ten championship team that also defeated UCLA in the Badgers' first Rose Bowl appearance since 1963. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wisconsin in 1994.



Lyndon Johnson (2nd bowl)

Special Teams Coordinator, Outside "Husky" Linebackers

Lyndon Johnson is in his ninth year as a member of the Connecticut football coaching staff. In 2001, he began coaching the Husky outside linebackers and he continues in that role to this day. He has shown a versatility in his coaching roles during his UConn tenure. In his first two seasons, Johnson coached the team's tight ends and special teams unit. He re-assumed the special teams role in 2005. He was also the team's recruiting coordinator for four years.

Johnson's linebackers have contributed heavily to the team's play the past few years including the 2007 season which has seen redshirt freshman Scott Lutrus earn Freshman All-America honors. Meanwhile, UConn's punt and kickoff returns have been a strength

all year and Tony Ciaravino set a school record with 21 field goals.

Johnson returned to his alma mater following a one-year stint as the defensive line coach at Fordham. Johnson received his degree in sociology from UConn in 1992.



Scott Lakatos (3rd bowl)

Defensive Backs

Scott Lakatos is concluding his fourth season at Connecticut with the defensive backs. Lakatos came to Storrs after spending three seasons as the secondary coach at Rutgers.

Lakatos worked with a veteran secondary in 2007 which helped the team rank amongst the nations' best in passing efficiency defense on the strength of its 22 interceptions. UConn was a solid 25th in passing defense in 2006.

The 2007 Meineke Car Care Bowl is the third of Lakatos' coaching career as he was also a defensive graduate assistant at Syracuse in 1993 when the Orange played in the Fiesta Bowl.

Lakatos graduated from Western Connecticut in 1988 after earning four varsity letters on the gridiron.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT COACHES



Jon Wholley (2nd bowl)

Offensive Graduate Assistant

A former Husky running back, Jon Wholley is in his second season as UConn's offensive graduate assistant coach. In UConn's brief time as a Division I-A level program, Wholley is the third former Husky player to also serve the team as a graduate assistant.

Wholley spent the 2005 season as an offensive assistant at Central Connecticut working with the Blue Devils' tight ends in particular. A running back for UConn, he completed his Husky career in 2004, the Motor City Bowl season. Wholley came to UConn as a walk-on but earned a scholarship through his hard work.

A native of Southington, Conn., Wholley earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UConn in December of 2004.



Tim Cary (1st bowl)

Defensive Graduate Assistant

Tim Cary is in his first season as a graduate assistant at UConn.

Cary came to Storrs after spending the 2006 season as the assistant defensive backs coach at Fordham and the spring of 2007 as the outside linebackers coach. In 2006, Cary directed the Rams offensive scout team, assisted with coaching defensive backs, recruited Nassau County and parts of California and even served as the team's video coordinator. He spent the 2005 season performing many of the same duties at Central Connecticut as a defensive graduate assistant.

A native of Watertown, Conn., and graduate of Watertown High School, Cary received a bachelor's degree in economics from Fairfield University in 2005. He played cornerback for the Stags for two years before the school discontinued the program.