Brian Polian tapped to usher in new era of Wolf Pack Football

The University of Nevada has entered a new era as Brian Polian became the 26th head coach in the 106-year history of the Wolf Pack football program.

Polian has coached in the collegiate ranks for 16 years with the past eight seasons at Bowl Championship Series schools working alongside some of the top coaches in the nation.

“Brian brings terrific energy and enthusiasm, an impressive and well-grounded coaching philosophy and a tremendous reputation as a recruiter and coach,” said University President Marc Johnson. “I am convinced Brian is the right coach to continue the momentum and lead Wolf Pack Football to new levels of success.”

Polian, 38, comes to Nevada after a year as the special teams coordinator and tight ends coach at Texas A&M, which capped an 11-2 season in 2012 with a win over Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl. He has coached on both sides of the ball and earned a reputation as one of the top recruiters in the nation in previous coaching roles at Stanford (2010-11), Notre Dame (2005-09), UCF (2004) and Buffalo (2001-03). He replaces Chris Ault, who stepped down Dec. 28 after 28 seasons on the sidelines and more than 40 years at Nevada.

“I would like to thank President Johnson and Cary Groth for the incredible opportunity that they have presented me,” Polian said. “I cannot express how excited I am to lead the Nevada football program into what will be a very bright future. I also want to recognize and thank Coach Ault for the incredible foundation he has laid for Wolf Pack football. It is an honor for me to work to continue that legacy.”

Hired by Jim Harbaugh at Stanford University, Polian’s two-year run with the Cardinal was marked by a pair of BCS appearances and two of the top recruiting classes in school history. He served as the special teams coordinator and recruiting coordinator while also coaching the safeties at Stanford. Polian also spent five seasons at the University of Notre Dame, earning a number of honors as one of the top recruiters in the country and was a nominee for the American Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year in 2008.

Polian spent one season at the University of Central Florida as the recruiting coordinator and running backs coach and spearheaded recruiting classes that led to the Knights’ bowl appearance in 2005. Prior to that, he coordinated special teams and coached running backs at the University of Buffalo for three seasons after a previous tenure (1998) with the Bulls. Polian also worked as a graduate assistant at Michigan State (1997) and at Baylor (1999-2000).

A native of The Bronx, New York, Polian graduated from St. Francis High School and played linebacker at John Carroll University from 1993-96. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from John Carroll in 1997 and received his master’s in education from Baylor in 2000.

— Chad Hartley ’03, assistant athletics director for media services.

Mountain West Announces Football Divisions, Championship Game

The Mountain West Conference will feature two football divisions based upon common geographic regions and traditional rivalries and will contest the first Mountain West football championship game in 2013.

The conference will field a 12-team football alignment and 11-institution configuration in all other sports beginning with the 2013-14 academic year.

The new football alignments will feature Air Force, Boise State, Colorado State, New Mexico, Utah State and Wyoming in the Mountain Division and Fresno State, Hawaii, Nevada, San Diego State, San Jose State and UNLV in the West Division.

The Wolf Pack will play host to UNLV, Air Force, Hawaii and San Jose State at Mackay Stadium in 2013, while Nevada’s 2013 road conference games will be at Boise State, Colorado State, Fresno State and San Diego State.

The inaugural Mountain West Football Championship game will be played Dec. 7 at the home stadium of the team with the highest Bowl Championship Series ranking.
Message from the 2012/2013 AAUN President

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of our first year in the Mountain West Conference. This year has brought an enormous amount of change. Not only have we embraced the new rivalries and competitive challenges that accompany a new conference, but we also had the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of football coach Chris Ault. He leaves his position after 28 seasons and 40 years of service to the University, and we usher in a new era of Wolf Pack football with Brian Polian.

We will also say goodbye to Cary Groth who is retiring this year from a distinguished career that has included more than 20 years as an athletics director at the NCAA's highest level and will welcome her replacement, Doug Knuth, later this spring. A former NCAA student-athlete, Knuth brings more than 18 years of professional experience in athletics administration and has spent the past eight years at the University of Utah as the senior associate athletics director for external relations.

Nevada Athletics also has had a year of great accomplishments on and off the field. The football team earned its eighth consecutive bowl appearance, women's soccer came within a goal of advancing to the Mountain West championship game and our winter and spring sports are wrapping up their first seasons in the Mountain West. The graduation rate of our Wolf Pack student-athletes also hit its all-time high of 80 percent and increased for the eighth consecutive year.

Nevada Athletics also raised nearly $4 million in scholarship and programmatic support. More than 45 individuals and companies have joined the Battle Born Team, an exclusive group designed to raise the funds necessary to sustain our competitive success in the Mountain West. I encourage you to get involved and be a part of the success that has defined Nevada Athletics for more than 100 years. To learn more about supporting Nevada Athletics, visit NevadaWolfPack.com or call (775) 682-6973. GO PACK!

Joseph S. Bradley ’78

Nevada Athletics Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2012

Revenues

- Contributions $3,681,510
- Ticket Sales $3,744,835
- Direct State Support $3,574,730
- Student Fees $2,424,570
- Indirect Facilities/Adm Support $1,880,140
- NCAA/Conference Distribution $1,417,950
- Guarantees $1,099,500
- Royalties/Licensing/Advertising $1,086,085
- Direct Institutional Support $970,145
- Other $794,310
- Concessions/Program Sales $243,150
- Endowment Income $240,000
- Broadcast/TV/Radio $375,000

Expenses

- Salaries $7,766,720
- Student Financial Aid $5,264,165
- Team Travel $2,225,745
- Other $1,695,015
- Game Expenses $922,790
- Equipment $677,595
- Debt Service $546,645
- Marketing/Promotions/Fund Raising $445,035
- Recruiting $358,220
- Medical Expenses $333,670
- Indirect Facilities/Adm Support $1,333,495