



# TAVER JOHNSON

## ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE BACKS



**NFL Experience:** 5th Year (1st with Eagles)  
**College:** Wittenberg **Hometown:** Cincinnati, OH

**Taver Johnson** was hired by the Philadelphia Eagles as the assistant defensive backs coach during the 2023 offseason. He brings 30 years of collegiate and professional coaching experience to Philadelphia’s staff.

Prior to joining the Eagles, Johnson served as the defensive pass game coordinator and safeties coach at Eastern Michigan in 2022. He helped Eastern Michigan rank first in the MAC in interceptions (13, tied) and second in opponent completion percentage (54.9 pct.) during its 9-4 campaign.

From 2019-21, Johnson was an offensive assistant (2021) and assistant defensive backs coach (2019-20) with the Oakland/Las Vegas Raiders.

While assisting the Raiders’ secondary in 2020, Johnson played a key role in cornerback **Trayvon Mullen’s** continued improvement in his second NFL season. Mullen started all 16 contests and logged career highs in tackles (62), passes defended (14) and interceptions (two). In addition, Johnson helped guide safety **Jeff Heath** to a career-high three interceptions.

In his first year with the Raiders, Johnson supported a young defensive backs room that included Mullen, who was the team’s second-round draft selection. That season, the rookie cornerback led the club with 10 passes defended, which were the most by a Raiders rookie since **Charles Woodson** in 1998 (22). Johnson also assisted in navigating safety **Erik Harris** to career highs in tackles (68), passes defended (nine) and interceptions (three).

Johnson returned to Ohio State in 2018 as the cornerbacks coach after previously working as the defensive backs coach from 2007-11. He helped the Buckeyes finish 13-1 and claim the eighth Rose Bowl victory in program history while ranking 15th nationally in third-down defense (32.7 pct.).

During the 2017 campaign, Johnson served as Temple’s defensive coordinator. He led a group that ranked 11th in the country in sacks (39, first in the American Athletic Conference) and tackles for loss (102).

Johnson coached the defensive backs at Purdue from 2014-16. Under his tutelage, the secondary registered double-digit interceptions every year while also having a member of his group lead the defense twice in tackles (safety **Landon Feichter** in 2014; safety **Leroy Clark** in 2015).

Before joining Purdue’s staff, Johnson held the title of assistant head coach at Arkansas from 2012-13. During that span, he also worked closely with the Razorbacks’ defensive backs (2013) and linebackers (2012).

From 2007-11, Johnson helped Ohio State capture four straight conference titles and earn four BCS bowl game appearances. He also helped the Buckeyes rank fifth in the nation in scoring defense in back-to-back seasons (2009-10). Johnson’s unit ranked in the top 15 in passing defense for three consecutive years (13th in 2009; eighth in 2010; 14th in 2011).

Johnson mentored three All-Americans in his first stop at Ohio State – cornerback **Malcolm Jenkins** (2008), safety **Kurt Coleman** (2009) and cornerback **Chimdi Chekwa** (2010). Jenkins won the Thorpe Award in 2008 as the nation’s most outstanding defensive back. Including Jenkins, five players from Johnson’s secondary went on to be drafted by NFL franchises.

From 2005-06, Johnson returned to Miami (OH) to coordinate the RedHawks’ defense. In his first season leading the unit, Miami (OH) finished fifth nationally in turnover margin. Before those two seasons, Johnson served as the RedHawks’ linebackers coach for four years (2000-03).

In between stints at Miami (OH), Johnson first entered the NFL as a special teams assistant with the Cleveland Browns in 2004.

COACHING TIMELINE		
Years	Team	Position
2023-	Philadelphia Eagles	Assistant Defensive Backs
2022	Eastern Michigan	Def. Pass Game Coordinator/Safeties
2021	Las Vegas Raiders	Offensive Assistant
2019-20	Oak./Las Vegas Raiders	Assistant Defensive Backs
2018	Ohio State	Cornerbacks
2017	Temple	Defensive Coordinator
2014-16	Purdue	Defensive Backs
2013	Arkansas	Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Backs
2012	Arkansas	Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers
2007-11	Ohio State	Defensive Backs
2005-06	Miami (OH)	Defensive Coordinator
2004	Cleveland Browns	Assistant Special Teams
2000-03	Miami (OH)	Linebackers
1999	Notre Dame	Graduate Assistant
1998	Millikin	Defensive Coordinator
1996-97	Millikin	Linebackers
1994-95	Wittenberg	Defensive Line



In 1999, Johnson spent one season at Notre Dame as a graduate assistant, working on the defensive side of the ball and on the scout team.

Johnson originally began his coaching career at his alma mater Wittenberg, an NCAA Division III school, working with the defensive line from 1994-95. He then spent three years at Division III Millikin coaching the linebackers (1996-97) before being promoted to defensive coordinator (1998).

A native of Cincinnati, OH, Johnson was a two-time Division III All-American and two-time North Coast Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year (1992 and 1993) at Wittenberg. He graduated from Wittenberg with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Johnson and his wife, Sharday, have a son, Tyree, and a daughter, Brooklyn.