



# KENNY BAKER

ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE LINE  
 COLLEGE: GARDNER-WEBB  
 NFL: FIRST SEASON  
 DOLPHINS: FIRST SEASON

Kenny Baker joined the Miami Dolphins as assistant defensive line coach in 2023.

The 2023 season marks Baker's first as an NFL coach following 11 years in the collegiate ranks.

Prior to joining Miami, Baker spent three seasons at Western Kentucky where he coached defensive ends (2020) and defensive line (2021-22). The Hilltoppers advanced to bowl games in all three seasons, including wins in the last two (2021-22).

In 2022, Western Kentucky had the second-best scoring defense in Conference USA, limiting opponents to just 23.4 points per game. They totaled 32.0 sacks, good for second in the conference, and ranked third in total defense, allowing 383.9 yards per game. The Hilltoppers defeated South Alabama in the New Orleans Bowl.

Baker worked closely in 2021 with defensive end DeAngelo Malone, the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year. Malone tied for the conference lead with 16.5 tackles for loss and ranked second with eight sacks. His 88 tackles were the most among all FBS defensive linemen. He was selected by Atlanta in the third round (82nd overall) of the 2022 NFL Draft. Western Kentucky won nine games, including the C-USA East division, and the Boca Raton Bowl.

In Baker's first season with Western Kentucky in 2020, he helped Malone earn first-team All-Conference USA honors. His six sacks were tied for third-most in the conference as the team finished with the second-best pass defense (177.3 pass yards allowed per game) in the C-USA that season.

Baker spent one season at UT-Chattanooga in 2019 where he helped develop three players – Devonsha Maxwell (first team), Khayyan Edwards (second team) and Telvin Jones (second team) – into All-SoCon selections. Maxwell led the Mocs with seven sacks and finished second in the conference with 13 tackles for loss.

Baker was the defensive line coach at Mercer for five seasons (2014-18). In 2017, the Bears led the SoCon in red zone defense (.750), takeaways (25) and turnover margin (+9). Defensive lineman Isaiah Buehler earned first-team All-SoCon honors with 5.5 sacks and 7.5 tackles for loss. In 2015, Mercer had the conference's best scoring defense (21.6).

Baker began his coaching career as a student assistant at his alma mater, Gardner-Webb, in 2009. He moved on to defensive coordinator at Lakeside High School in Evans, Georgia from 2010-12 and was the co-defensive coordinator/linebackers coach at Berry College in 2013.

Baker was a three-year starter on the defensive line at Gardner-Webb, where he was a team captain and earned the team's Defensive Player of the Year award in 2007.

## KENNY BAKER'S COACHING CAREER

|                     |                   |   |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>2009</b>         | Gardner-Webb      | Student Assistant                                 |
| <b>2010-12</b>      | Lakeside HS (Ga.) | Defensive Coordinator                             |
| <b>2013</b>         | Berry College     | Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers              |
| <b>2014-18</b>      | Mercer            | Defensive Line                                    |
| <b>2019</b>         | UT-Chattanooga    | Defensive Line                                    |
| <b>2020-22</b>      | Western Kentucky  | Defensive Ends (2020)<br>Defensive Line (2021-22) |
| <b>2023-present</b> | Miami Dolphins    | Assistant Defensive Line                          |