

## **GARY ZAUNERS 13 YEAR NFL COACHING CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **2006 SEASON: ARIZONA CARDINALS:**

*From 2006 Arizona Cardinals Media Guide:*

Gary Zauner is entering his 13<sup>th</sup> season as an NFL assistant and his first with the Cardinals after being hired to coach special teams on 1/5/06. Throughout his career, Zauner has been noted for discovering and recruiting undrafted rookie free agents and turning them into successful NFL players. Robert Griffith (Minnesota) and Obefemi Ayanbadejo (Minnesota), who are both on the Cardinals roster, got their start under Zauner as did Brian Russell (Minnesota), Will Demps (Baltimore), B.J. Sams (Baltimore) and Matt Katula (Baltimore).

### **2002 – 2005 SEASON: BALTIMORE RAVENS:**

*From 2005 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:*

Gary Zauner entered his 4<sup>th</sup> season as Special Teams Coordinator following dramatic efforts of the ever-changing special teams unit. Rookie free agent B.J. Sams posted two punt returns for TDs (tied for NFL and Ravens record) and set a new single-season franchise record with 1,826 combined return yards.

*From 2004 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:*

Gary Zauner guided the 2003 Ravens kickoff coverage team to 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in NFL (2<sup>nd</sup> in AFC) with an average start of 26.4-yard line. Dallas Morning News football Columnist Rick Gosselin ranked the Ravens' 2003 special teams 4<sup>th</sup> in the NFL (based on 20+ categories). This Ravens' kickoff special teams unit was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NFL with 17 tackles inside the 20.

*From 2003 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:*

Gary Zauner was named the Ravens 1<sup>st</sup> Special Teams Coordinator in 2002. After 8 years of setting or breaking NFL records with the Minnesota Vikings as their special teams coach, it's no fluke that the Ravens produced 4 special teams TDs last season. **Chris McAlister** stunned Denver, as well as Ravens fans and a national television audience after grabbing a Jason Elam missed FG, then racing a spectacular 107 yards for a TD, when he set the record for the **longest play in NFL history**. In 2002, Ed Reed blocked the first two punts in team history, and Chad Williams added a third (2 of 3 returned for TDs).

*From 2002 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:*

“There is a rare breed of Special Teams Coaches, and in my opinion, a very rare breed, less than a handful, and I think we have the best by way of Gary Zauner,” said head coach Brian Billick. He has proven his expertise in not only special team's play, but in the specifics of kicking, punting and long snapping, which are such a huge part of this game. He is a tremendous resource to us.”

*From 2001 Minnesota Vikings Official Web Site:*

Since Gary Zauner came to the Minnesota Vikings in 1994 as the special teams coach, he has helped produce six National Football League records and numerous team records. During his 7 seasons with the club he has coached three different kicking specialists (Gary Anderson, Faud Reveiz and Mitch Berger) to the Pro Bowl. Even more impressive is that this is Zauner's first full-time NFL coaching assignment.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

**In '99**, the Vikings set team record kicks/punts returned for a touchdown in a season with three (kickoffs by Robert Tate and Moe Williams and a punt by Randy Moss). The Vikings led the NFL for average opponents drive start line on kickoffs (23.5-yard line).

**In '98**, Zauner guided kicker Gary Anderson to the first perfect season by a kicker in NFL history. Zauner also guided punter/kickoff specialist Berger who led the NFL in touchbacks with 40, which was a NFL record since the kickoff was moved to the 30-yard line in 1993. Return specialist David Palmer returned the Vikings first kickoff for a TD since 1989 with an 88-yarder vs. Baltimore (12/13).

**In '97**, Punt returner David Palmer finished first in the NFC in punt return average (13.1) for the second time in his career.

**In '95**, the Vikings placed a player among the top two in the NFC in punt return average (David Palmer) and kickoff return average (Qadry Ismail) for the first time in the same season in team history in '95. Palmer became the first Minnesota player to lead the league in punt returns with a team season record 13.2-yard average.

## **GARY ZAUNER'S 11 YEAR COLLEGE COACHING CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **SOME IMPRESSIVE RESULTS DURING 11 YEARS OF COLLEGE COACHING:**

- 1) Coached (9) All-Conference punters and kickers from 1979 to 1991.
- 2) Blocked a total of (38) punts and field goals.
- 3) Scored (12) touchdowns on punt and kickoff returns and blocked kicks.
- 4) In five seasons at SDSU, the coverage teams never allowed a touchdown to be scored against them.
- 5) Also, at SDSU, the longest opponent's kickoff return was only 42 yards in five seasons.

### **1990 – 1991 SEASONS AT Long Beach STATE:**

A career highlight or dream come true, was in 1990, I was hired by the **Legendary & Hall of Fame Head Coach George Allen** to coach the 49ers special teams units. In Coach Allen's only year at Long Beach State we finished with a winning 6-5 season. Coach Allen never had a losing season throughout his entire college or NFL coaching career!

### **1987 – 1988 SEASONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:**

From 1987-88, I coached Special Teams at the University of New Mexico under **Head Coach Mike Sheppard**. In 1987 we had three special teams' touchdowns, off of blocked punts and punt returns. In 1988, former Falcons wide receiver Terrance Mathis, tied a NCAA season record for TDs (three) on kickoff returns for the Lobos.

### **1981 – 1985 SEASON AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY:**

After the 1980 Holiday Bowl or Miracle Bowl in San Diego in which BYU had one of the greatest come-back victory's ever, to defeated SMU 46-45. In that game our special teams units, returned a punt 88 yards for a TD, recovered a surprise onside kick, and blocked a punt with 18 seconds left in the game, to set up the winning touchdown pass. The next week, **Doug Scovil** was named Head Coach at San Diego State. **I was hired in San Diego and became the 1<sup>st</sup> full-time Special Teams Coach in NCAA history.** The special teams units were one of the best in the country! Jim Sandusky in '83 was the nation's leading punt return man. He averaged 19.0 yards per return and the team's average was 17.0 yards per return. Chris O'Brien set a Western Athletic Conference record of 25 consecutive field goals in the 1984-85 seasons.

### **1979 – 1980 SEASONS AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY:**

My coaching career was started when **Head Coach LaVell Edwards** recognized, the only players not coached on his football team where the kicking specialist. In 1979 Coach Edwards hired me as a graduate assistant. I was put in charge of coaching the kickers & the kickoff return unit. In 1979, punter Clay Brown led the nation in punting with a 45.3 yard average and the kickoff return team led the nation in kickoff return average. In 1980, Coach Edwards placed me in charge of all the special teams units and kicking game.

**From 2006 Arizona Cardinals Media Guide:**

Gary Zauner is entering his 13<sup>th</sup> season as an NFL assistant and his first with the Cardinals after being hired to coach special teams on 1/5/06. Zauner comes to the Cardinals after spending the last four seasons as the Special Teams Coordinator for the Baltimore Ravens (2002-2005). His move to Arizona also reunites him with Head Coach Dennis Green whom he worked under while the pair coached together in Minnesota from 1994-2001. Throughout his career, Zauner has been noted for discovering and recruiting undrafted rookie free agents and turning them into successful NFL players. Robert Griffith (Minnesota) and Obefemi Ayanbadejo (Minnesota), who are both on the Cardinals roster, got their start under Zauner as did Brian Russell (Minnesota), Will Demps (Baltimore), B.J. Sams (Baltimore), and Matt Katula (Baltimore).

While in Baltimore, Zauner assisted in sending linebacker Adalius Thomas to the Pro Bowl as a special teamer in 2003 and kicker Matt Stover was a first alternate to the Pro Bowl in 2004. Under Zauner's tutelage, Stover moved to 8<sup>th</sup> place on the NFL's all-time scoring list and 2<sup>nd</sup> on the active list with 1,594 points. Returner B.J. Sams set a franchise record in 2004 as a rookie with 1,826 combined return yards and tied an NFL and Ravens record with two punt returns for touchdowns in a season helping to earn him the AFC Special Teams Player of the Month award in October. In addition, Sams finished second in the NFL (Reno Mahe, Philadelphia, 12.8) in 2005 with a 12.2-yard punt return average, earning him a place on the Sporting News All-Pro team.

His units in Baltimore also, took part in the then **longest play in NFL history** when cornerback Chris McAlister fielded a missed Jason Elam field goal and took it back 107 yards for a touchdown in 2002. Zauner's units were also known for the ability to block punts as safety Ed Reed blocked two of them for touchdowns (22 yards @ AZ 10/12 and 16 yards vs. Seattle 11/23) in 2003. Reed blocked another two punts in 2002 and Chad Williams also blocked one that season for a TD. In 4 seasons Zauner's punt return unit blocked a total of 10 punts – 3 for touchdowns.

**From 2005 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:**

Gary Zauner entered his 4<sup>th</sup> season as Special Teams Coordinator following dramatic efforts of the ever-changing special teams unit. Kicker Matt Stover was 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to go to the Pro Bowl for the AFC and moved into 10<sup>th</sup> place on the NFL's all-time scoring list. Rookie free agent B.J. Sams posted two punt returns for TDs (tied for NFL and Ravens record) and set a new single-season franchise record with 1,826 combined return yards. Punter Dave Zastudil was 4<sup>th</sup> in the AFC inside the 20. Deion Sanders added a spark to the unit, posting 5 punt returns for 41 yards.

**Overview:** Zauner has worked with outstanding ST players, including Pro Bowlers Matt Stover and Adalius Thomas at the Ravens, and the Vikings' Faud Reveiz, Eddie Murray and Gary Anderson...Gary's Vikings ST squad set numerous club and NFL records, and he coached alongside former Vikings Offensive Coordinator Brian Billick ... Gary recruited 3 free agent players into the NFL, all starting safeties (Robert Griffith, Brian Russell and Will Demps) ... Zauner was the 1<sup>st</sup> full-time Special Teams Coach in NCAA history ... He launched his coaching career at BYU under LaVell Edwards.

**From 2004 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:**

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Gary Zauner was named the Ravens 1<sup>st</sup> Special Teams Coordinator in 2002. After 8 years of setting or breaking NFL records with the Minnesota Vikings as their special teams coach, it's no fluke that the Ravens produced 4 special teams TDs last season. Anchored by Matt Stover, one of the most consistent kickers in NFL history, special teams energized M&T Stadium. Matt was 21 of 25 in FGAs and did not miss an extra point.

**Chris McAlister** stunned Denver, as well as Ravens fans and a national television audience after grabbing a Jason Elam missed FG, then racing a spectacular 107 yards for a TD, when he set the record for the **longest play in NFL history**.

Rookies dominated these units, but produced big plays and made their own history. Return specialists Lamont Brightful, a 6<sup>th</sup>-round draft pick last season, had the longest PR in the NFL (95 yards for a TD against Cincinnati, also a Ravens' team record). In 2002, Ed Reed blocked the first two punts in team history, and Chad Williams added a third (2 of the 3 returned for TDs). David Zastudil was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NFL with 31 punts inside the 20.

***From 2002 Baltimore Ravens Media Guide:***

The Ravens named Gary Zauner as their Special Teams Coordinator in February of 2002. Zauner spent the last eight years (1994-2001) coaching the Minnesota's special teams. During his tenure in Minnesota, Zauner's special teams players have set several NFL records, led the league in a number of categories, and Mitch Berger became the first punter in the Vikings' 39-year history to make the Pro Bowl ('99).

In 2001, Gary Anderson added to his NFL scoring record by kicking 15 of 18 field goals and 29 of 30 PAT's, and now has 2,133 career points scored. Punter Mitch Berger finished seventh among the top 10 punters in the NFL and tied for second in the NFC with a 43.5 yard punt average.

"There is a rare breed of Special Teams Coaches, and in my opinion, a very rare breed, less than a handful, and I think we have the best by way of Gary Zauner," said Head Coach Brian Billick. He has proven his expertise in not only special teams play, but in the specifics of kicking, punting and long snapping, which are such a huge part of this game. He is a tremendous resource to us."

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Since Gary Zauner came to the Minnesota Vikings in 1994 as the special teams coach, he has helped produce six National Football League records and numerous team records. During his 7 seasons with the club he has coached three different kicking specialist (Gary Anderson, Faud Reveiz and Mitch Berger) to the Pro Bowl. Even more impressive is that this is Zauner's first full-time NFL coaching assignment.

**In 2000**, punter Mitch Berger and kicker Gary Anderson both had fabulous seasons. Under Zauner's direction Anderson nearly had his second perfect season in the last three years. Anderson only missed one field goal on the season and finished the season as the NFL's leader in FG percentage (22 of 23 – .957). He also surpassed George Blanda to become the NFL's all-time leading scorer. Berger finished first in the NFC in punting with (44.7 yard average) for the second consecutive season. Both Anderson and Berger won NFC Special Teams Player of the Week awards and Berger was also named NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for November.

**In '99**, Zauner instructed punter Mitch Berger to his first Pro Bowl appearance. He became the first punter in the Vikings 39-year history to make the Pro Bowl. The Vikings set a team record kicks/punts returned for a touchdown in a season with three (kickoffs by Robert Tate and Moe Williams and a punt by Randy Moss). Tate and Moss' returns vs. Kansas City (12/12) marked the first time in club history that the team had two kick returns for a touchdown in the same game. Berger (12/20) and Williams (12/26) won NFC Special Teams Player of the Week awards, while Berger was also named NFC Special Teams Player of the Month in September. The Vikings led the NFL for average opponents drive-start position on kickoffs (23.5-yard line).

**In '98**, Zauner guided kicker Anderson to the first perfect season by a kicker in NFL history. He made all 35 of his field goal attempts on the season and 40 in a row dating back to 1997 and converted on all 59 of his extra point attempts. Anderson surpassed the NFL record of 31 straight field goals previously held by former Viking Faud Reveiz, who was also coached by Zauner. Anderson also set the NFL Record for points in a season by a kicker with 164. He was selected to the Pro Bowl for the fourth time in his career and was named to every All-Pro team. Zauner also guided punter/kickoff specialist Berger who led the NFL in touchbacks with 40, which is a NFL record since the kickoff was moved to the 30-yard line in 1993. Berger was named NFC Special Teams Player of the Week twice and was named NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for November. He set Vikings single-game records for punting average (55.8) and net punting average (48.2) vs Cincinnati (11/15). Return specialist David Palmer returned the Vikings first kickoff for a touchdown since 1989 with an 88-yarder vs. Baltimore (12/13).

**In '97**, Zauner guided kickers Greg Davis and Eddie Murray and punter/kickoff specialist Berger. He also oversaw quarterback Randall Cunningham at the punter position in place of the injured Berger for the season's first two games. Cunningham had a 65-yard punt in the season opener at Buffalo (8/31). Murray surpassed the NFL Record for consecutive extra points of 234 previously held by Tommie Davis vs. Carolina (10/12). Harold Morrow set a team record for special teams tackles in a season in '97 with 32. Punt returner Palmer finished first in the NFC in punt return average (13.1) for the second time in his career.

**In '96**, Zauner oversaw kicker Scott Sisson and punter/kickoff specialist Berger, who each were in their first season with the Vikings. Sisson made 22-of-29 field goals, including all four of his attempts in the last two minutes of overtime.

**In '95**, Zauner guided Faud Reveiz, who set league records at the time for consecutive field goals (31) and consecutive field goals of 45-or-less yards (39). The Vikings placed a player among the top two in the NFC in punt return average (David Palmer) and kickoff return average (Qadry Ismail) for the first time in the same season in team history in '95. Palmer became the first Minnesota player to lead the league in punt returns with a team season record 13.2-yard average. At Detroit (11/23) he brought back a punt 74 yards for a touchdown, the first score on a punt return by a Vikings player since 1987.

**In '94**, punter Mike Saxon, who Zauner tutored at San Diego State, tied a team season record for punts inside the 20-yard line with 28, which was good for second in the NFC. Reveiz made 34-of-39 (87.2%) field goal attempts and tallied 132 points to earn All-Pro Honors and his first trip to the Pro Bowl in '94.

**From 1992-93**, prior to joining the Vikings, Zauner consulted with many NFL teams and players on kicking and special teams. Some of the Pro Bowlers he has advised include John Kasay, Chris Gardocki, Eddie Murray, Ralf Mojsiejenko, David Treadwell. He also spent time with All-Pros John Carney, Mike Horan, Jeff Jaeger, Chip Lohmiller and Nick Lowery.

Zauner was hired by the **Legendary and Hall of Fame Coach, George Allen** at Long Beach State in 1990. He spent two seasons working with the 49ers' special teams program. From 1987-88, Zauner coached Special Teams at the University of New Mexico and guided former Falcons wide receiver Terrance Mathis, who tied a NCAA season record (1988) for TDs (three) on kickoff returns for the Lobos.

**In 1981**, Zauner was hired by **Head Coach Doug Scovil**, making him the **1st full time Special Teams Coach in NCAA history**. From 1981-85, he was with San Diego State and guided the Aztecs to become one the best special teams units in the country.

Zauner's coaching career began at Brigham Young University in 1979 under **Head Coach LaVell Edwards**. In his two years, punter/tight end, Clay Brown – led the nation in punting average, plus the kickoff return team led the nation in return average. Zauner, also, recruited punter/kicker Lee Johnson, a fifth-round draft choice by Houston in '85.

Zauner spent time as a punter at training camps of the Vikings ('73) and the Houston Oilers ('74). He lettered in football and baseball at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse where he received his bachelor's degree in health and physical education (double major) and master's degree in physical education. Gary graduated from Milwaukee Hamilton High School (Milwaukee, WI). Gary, currently resides in Fountain Hills, Arizona with his wife Michelle.

**Coaching Background:** 1979-80 (Brigham Young); 1981-85 (San Diego State); 1987-88 (New Mexico); 1990-91 (Long Beach State); 1994-2001 (Minnesota Vikings); 2002-2005 (Baltimore Ravens); and 2006 Season (Arizona Cardinals).

**Coach Zauner's Consulting Background:**

Before, Zauner coached Special Teams in the NFL, he was regarded as the best individual kicking instructor in the Country! Tutoring and coaching some of the best kickers and punters in College and the NFL. The list is unprecedented amongst Kicking Coaches. Also, some of the best NFL Head Coaches in football at that time, retained his services as a *Kicking Consultant*.

**1980 Eagles -----Head Coach Dick Vermeil**

**Special Teams – Lynn Stiles**

**1988 Browns-----Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer**

**Special Teams – Kurt Schottenheimer**

**1991 Chargers -----General Manager Bobby Beathard**

**Special Teams – Chuck Priefer**

**1991 49ers -----Head Coach George Siefert**

**Special Teams – Lynn Stiles**

**1992 Bears ----- Head Coach Mike Ditka**

**Special Teams – Danny Abramowicz**

**1992 Chiefs -----Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer**

**Special Teams – Kurt Schottenheimer**

**1993 Seahawks -----Head Coach Tom Flores**

**Special Teams – Russ Purnell**

**1993 Giants ----- Head Coach Dan Reeves**

**Special Teams – Joe DeCamillis**