



## **Personal Biography**

My name is Johnny Callaway and I'm from Manning, South Carolina. My family and I now reside in Summerton, South Carolina. I'm the oldest of four children raised by our mother, a special needs teacher. My siblings include two brothers and one sister. I started playing sports at an early age and quickly developed a passion for athletics and competition. The first sport I ever competed in was soccer and I really enjoyed the experience of being on a team as well as being coached to develop my skills for the sport. At the age of 8 years old, I began competing in YMCA basketball. My mother was my first basketball coach and she had won three state titles at Manning Christian Academy and also became a walk-on for the women's team at Columbia College in the early 80's. My mother taught me so much about the game and what it means to

work hard to develop your skills. She conveyed to me the importance of dedication to my sport and to the team to which I belonged. I learned very early on in my athletic career that being a member of a team means belonging to something bigger than myself and that I had a commitment to my teammates that I must uphold. These ideals followed me throughout my playing career and I continue to strive for them today in my professional career.

In seventh-grade my mother transferred me to the independent school system and I began to attend Clarendon Hall. There I began playing football, basketball and baseball. My first year I played all three sports at the junior varsity level, but my second year I was moved up to the varsity football team where I became a starter as the offensive center and defensive nose guard. This was a tough transition for me at first as it was only my second year playing football and we had a mature football team that included many junior and senior athletes. I had to reflect often on the teachings from my mother in order to stay committed to my development as a football player in order to be competitive with much older athletes. Luckily for me I had several good coaches who took the extra time with me to not only develop my strength and skills on the gridiron, but they also mentored me off the field. These men played an integral role in my development as a student-athlete and as a young man. They taught me that my development as a young man and a student was just as important to them as my development as a ball player. These were very valuable lessons to learn from men that I truly trusted and respected.

After spending four years at Clarendon Hall, I transferred to Roy Hudgens Academy. I really enjoyed my time there, both in the classroom and in sports, but unfortunately it closed following my junior year. I transferred to Laurence Manning Academy for my senior year. After graduation, instead of pursuing a collegiate career in football, I joined the military in 2004. I served six years in the Army National Guard as a 68X Mental Health Specialist. My tours of

duty included a combat tour in 2007-08 in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and a homeland security mission in 2009 at my home unit in Darlington, South Carolina. Just before I left home for my tour in Afghanistan, I began my college education at Limestone College majoring in psychology.

Once I returned home from my tour, I continued pursuing my degree from Limestone College. While I was earning my degree, I worked as a correctional officer for Clarendon County Detention Center in Manning, South Carolina. During this time, I met my wife Melissa and we now have three boys, Levi, Hatcher and Dalton. Our oldest son Levi is 8, our second son Hatcher is 6, and our third son Dalton turned one back in March.

Once I completed my studies, I decided to get in to the teaching and coaching profession to follow in the footsteps of my mother and former coaches. I taught high school English at Marlboro County High School where I assisted coaching the JV baseball team then transferred to Kingstree Senior High School where I taught Freshmen English and coached defensive line for the football team. After leaving Kingstree Senior High, I went to welding school and earned my welding certifications. After graduating welding school, I spent three years in construction as a welder and electrician. It did not take me long to realize I was missing out on my calling as a coach and a mentor.

I enrolled at Liberty University and began pursuing a Master's of Science in Coaching and Athletic Administration. While working on my masters, I've spent the past couple of years at Holly Hill Academy as the PE coach and the Assistant JV football coach and one year as the assistant JV Boys basketball coach. The last semester of my program required an internship, which I was lucky enough to complete at Dorchester Academy with Coach Sheryle Young. I learned a lot from Coach Young during my internship and enjoyed my time working with the JV

Boys basketball team. I'm thoroughly excited about my new position as athletic director of  
Dorchester Academy and look forward to meeting and working with the academic  
administration, boosters, faculty, staff, student-athletes and parents in the near future. **LET'S GO  
RAIDERS!!!!**

Coach Callaway