

## **Coach Mimi Bolden-Morris: A Trailblazer**

By Emma Eckerle

By now you probably have heard of the first female coach in the Big 10 Conference. Milan Bolden-Morris is now a quarterback coach for the Michigan Wolverines, though she goes by Coach Mimi. Coach Mimi said, "It is a blessing and honor to be an inspiration to other little girls to do whatever they want to." She believes that anyone should be able to follow their dreams.

As a kid she was always around football. Her dad was a high school football coach and coached her brother. She always was her dad's water girl. Coach Mimi has always played basketball, and still really enjoys both sports. Later on she played flag football (but was not allowed to play tackle) and soon wanted to experience it at a higher level. She received her undergraduate degree at Boston College and played basketball there. She went to graduate school at Georgetown and received a sports management degree with a focus on business. On Tuesday, March 15, 2022, Coach Jim Harbaugh announced the hiring of Milan Bolden-Morris. Since then she and the other coaches of the Wolverines have led their team to many victories!

Coach Mimi's favorite part of coaching has been connecting with the players. One of the things that she thinks people misunderstand is even though they are elite level athletes, they are people and she is grateful to be in a position to help them be the best they can be. She thinks of the team like brothers and the whole community like a family.

One of this Coach's favorite parts of a game is scoring touchdowns (of course). "I have watched all these guys work so hard to accomplish goals and seeing them execute this on game day is really cool. Hearing the fans and the crowd going crazy, the intensity of the game." says Coach Mimi. She loves to watch the team celebrate after touchdowns on the field, and she likes to congratulate them as well.

For Coach Mimi a typical practice day looks like a lot of things. They first start off with warm-ups, next comes the individual drills. During individual drills the quarterbacks and Coach Mimi will work on footwork and throws. They will wrap-up practice with routes, wide receivers, and tight ends. They will also go into team periods where they will play Michigan on Michigan. Sometimes they do scatter periods, this is where they script plays they want to run and have their scout team "pretend" to be the other team. All in all, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are considered to be the harder days of the week, then Thursdays slow down, and Fridays they work through everything.

In the future Coach Mimi has even more big dreams coming. Ideally she wants to be a head coach one day and have her own program. Though since this is quite a large goal, she made a few short term ones to start her off with. She wants to learn as much as she can, including learning from coaches and players. Another goal is in a few years she wants to have her own position group. "I will take this wonderful opportunity wherever it leads me." Coach Mimi said. "Whatever will happen will happen. So if I am going to be an athletic director one day, or go back to basketball I am going to take every opportunity and utilize every resource I can to be the best at whatever it is." That is how she looks at life - be where your feet are and go wherever God takes you.