



The Gulf Coast **RAIDERS**

Greetings,

As you are taking the time to read this letter, let me begin with saying thank you! Roughly six years ago I began a journey back into football. Like many, I had dreams of playing for an NFL team as a child, to score the game winning touchdown, or make the game saving tackle. Football really helped me with fitting in as a kid and learning about brotherhood and camaraderie. But as with most, after high school the dream of going Pro was all done and it was time to get to work.

For work I chose the US Army and served proudly for over 4 years. A couple of those years were right after September 11th, 2001. On this date everything changed, and I spent the next 2 years deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq relying on the training, brotherhood, and camaraderie I had developed to even further levels while serving. After serving my country I came home to my family here on the Gulf Coast and while trying to learn how to fit back into society outside the service I came across Semi-Pro football. The sport gave me the brotherhood I was missing, the camaraderie I so desperately needed while getting myself back to where I should be. I played for 2 years on great teams and was finally starting to feel like I was back where I needed to be. Unfortunately, here on the Coast we were hit by Hurricane Katrina. Then life got in the way.

Fast forward 14 years. It is 2019 and I am now facing some medical issues and football presents itself again. For a third time football helped fix my life. I came on as a position coach for a semi pro team right here on the Gulf Coast where it started. Football has saved me multiple times in the past 20 years and after this last time I decided it was time to give back and hopefully through football I can help save someone as well. My name is Joshua Heppel, and I am the owner of the Gulf Coast Raiders.

In the 6 years since I took the first coaching job, I have worked tirelessly to bring a championship team to the Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast Raiders with roots in Biloxi and Gulfport, were created in 2022 and kicked off play in 2023. After a playoff appearance in 2024, the Raiders took a year off to rebrand and rebuild with us kicking off in the NLFA in Spring of 2026. The rebranding and rebuilding of the Raiders begins with the team behind the team. The staff is amazing, and we have great plans and ideas for the raiders beginning with our media presence and footprint. In the first week of our relaunch our video content and staff announcements have had over 41,000 views and are consistently gaining more. The buzz and interest are amazing and that is further solidified with the over 30 young men who have reached out to try out for the organization via our website, Thegcraiders.com.

Why are we reaching out to you? Well football, as you know, requires a lot of different pieces to come together and with that brotherhood, camaraderie work together as one to be successful. As we begin to

prepare for our 2026 season, there is a lot of eyes, hype, and buzz about this team. As well there should be. We have players coming from all over the Gulf Coast and these players and coaches pay out of pocket to play this game because of the love they have for the game, dreams of something more, even to just keep the dream alive. The constant is they all have one goal. That goal is a championship! With that we are inviting Businesses to sponsor or assist us with donations as we move toward preparing for what the standard will be as a developmental football organization not just on the Gulf Coast but throughout the Nation.

In this packet you will find our wish list of items, our game day sponsorship opportunities, and our Various packages and events you can contribute too and help make the Raiders standard of excellence a reality, We invite you to visit our website <https://thegcraiders.com/> and see more of The Gulf Coast Raiders sponsorship options as well as photo and video progress of the team. We look forward to hearing from you! #RESPECT #Backinthebattle

Thank you,

Joshua Heppel

Owner/Head Coach

Gulf Coast Raiders