

Phil Padgett –

Phil Padgett was a 1976 graduate of Jacksonville Senior High School where he played football and baseball. He attended the University of North Carolina Wilmington, graduating in 1981. He also received his DR in Education from East Carolina University.

Phil began his coaching career at Southwest High School in 1981 as the Defensive Coordinator for the Junior Varsity football team. In 1984, he became the head coach. Padgett's team compiled a 36-3-1 record and three conference championships. Two of his teams played in the State Championship game.

In 1988 Padgett became head coach of the varsity football team.

Twenty-four years and 318 games later, his teams have made the state playoffs twenty-two times. There have been fourteen conference championships and trips to the State Championship game. The State 2-A Championship titles were won in 2000, 2003 and 2004. His team was a 2A Runner-up in 1999 and a 1AA Runner-up in 2009. Phil was honored as Region 2 Coach of the Year in 1991, 1992 and 1993.