OUR COACH

farewell to
UM alumni and head coach of five years, Manny Diaz, is replaced by Mario Cristobal from University of Oregon

Story and Design by Giselle Spicer

Manny Diaz

After joining the Miami football team in 2016 as defensive coordinator, Manny Diaz coached the ‘Canes for six seasons as both defensive coordinator and head coach.

Hired by head coach Mark Richt, Diaz made his mark on the Miami defense. He invented the Turnover Chain in 2017, which has become a Miami tradition to incentivise interceptions and garnered a No. 4 overall NCAA defense in 2018 also scoring No. 1 in several categories.

Two years into his position, Diaz was offered a head coach position at Temple, which he accepted. Within weeks, Richt retired and Diaz was offered the head coach position at Miami and rejoined the Hurricanes for another three seasons.

With an overall 21-15 record with the ‘Canes, Diaz had some tough losses, but despite his disappointment leaving the ‘U’ Diaz will continue is coaching career at Penn State as their new defensive coordinator.

Mario Cristobal

Mario Cristobal has been named the 26th head coach of the University of Miami. As a former Hurricane himself, Cristobal was a part of the 1989 and 1991 National Championship teams as an offensive lineman. After his time at the ‘U’, he was tight end and offensive line coach at Rutgers for two years and returned to Miami in the same position for two more.

He was then named Florida International University’s second head coach in 2006 where he stayed for five years. After leaving FIU, he was hired by Nick Saban as Alabama’s assistant head coach and offensive line coach spending three seasons there. In 2017 Cristobal moved to the University of Oregon where he was also the offensive line coach under Willie Taggart. Cristobal then became the head coach for Oregon and remained there until being offered the head coach position at Miami.

In his introductory press conference, Cristobal stated his excitement about joining the Hurricane family again. “I can’t wait to get to work. This show of support here is just poured all in. The University of Miami was a game changer in my life. I’ve never been the same. Never. Because of my experience here. I believe I owe it to everyone that wears that ‘U’.”

Coaching Career

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A WARM WELCOME

President Julio Frenk embraces Mark Cristobal after introducing him as the new head coach of the Hurricane football team with a $5.6 million salary.

Photo by Jared Lennon

INVESTED

Coach Manny Diaz watches the field intently as Andres Borregales prepares for his game-winning field goal to defeat Appalachian State 25-23.

Photo by Jared Lennon

COACH CHANGE