



News Release--For Immediate Release

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## **Keiser University Announces Football Coach**

*Socha to lead Seahawks to first game in 2018*

**West Palm Beach, FL– JAN. 2017** - Dr. Arthur Keiser, Chancellor of Keiser University, announced earlier today that Doug Socha will be the head coach of the university's new football program at its Flagship Campus in West Palm Beach, Florida.

“Having a strong and proven leader like Doug Socha as our head coach will help to build our football program into a respected team in our division,” stated Dr. Arthur Keiser, Chancellor and CEO of Keiser University. “Socha has experience in building robust programs from the ground up and the Seahawks are excited to grow under his direction.”

Selected from over a hundred highly qualified candidates who hailed from all areas of football including the NFL, CFL, the NCAA, CBS Sports, and more. Socha comes to the Seahawks from the Buffalo Bills, where he spent the past season as an offensive assistant. Prior to his season in the NFL, Socha was the head coach of the Oxbridge Academy Thunderwolves. As the first head coach at Oxbridge Academy, Socha built the program from the ground up and in 2015 led the team to a 9-3 record and the district title. Overall, Socha has coached in 4 state titles games, won 1 as a Head Coach in 2011 and has an overall record of 50-11. In addition to his team success, he has also been named the Sun-Sentinel Coach of the Year (2011 and 2015), the Nike Coach of the Year (2011), the Miami Dolphins Coach of the Year (2011), the Gulf Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year (2013) and the Gulf Coast Conference Coach of the Year (2014).

“It is a privilege and an honor to be named the first head coach of the Keiser University football program,” stated Socha. “I am excited to get started, and I will start right here in Palm Beach County. The Keiser football program creates an opportunity for local student athletes to get a quality education and to compete at a high level in their own back yard. We will be a program that embeds ourselves in the community, and competes for championships while representing Keiser University in a first class manner.”

Last October, Dr. Keiser announced the launch of the football program and named Howard Schnellenberger, Gregg Wallick, Rob Konrad, and Dr. Gary Vonk to the national search committee.

“After an exhaustive national search, Coach Socha’s professional experience and commitment to student-athletes’ academic and athletic goals demonstrate he is the right fit to lead our program,” said Dr. Gary Vonk, Keiser University’s Flagship Campus president who added that he expects the first official game to be played in Fall 2018 with completion of the stadium, track, and additional athletic facilities scheduled for completion late Summer 2018.

Socha began his career as a defensive backs coach at the College of the Canyons (1998-2000), before heading to the University of Buffalo in 2000. During his time at the University of Buffalo, Socha coached inside linebackers, wide receivers, and served as the recruiting coordinator. In 2006, Socha took the role of offensive coordinator at American Heritage School in Delray Beach, Florida, and he held this role until 2010 when he took over as the head coach until leaving for Oxbridge in 2012. He received his bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology from California State University-Northridge.

Keiser University now has 22 intercollegiate athletic teams competing in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) division. The Seahawks have won four national championships and boast 67 All-American student-athlete scholars from over 39 countries. Since 2011, the university’s athletic department student athlete population has doubled, and the number of NAIA varsity sports offered has increased from 11 to 21. In addition, in 2015-2016 Keiser Athletics had 10 NAIA Scholar Teams.

**About Keiser University:** Keiser University, co-founded by Dr. Arthur Keiser, Chancellor in 1977, is a private, not-for-profit University serving nearly 20,000 students offering 100 degrees at the doctoral through associate level on 18 Florida campuses, online and internationally, employing 3,800 staff and faculty.

Ranked #23 by US News & World Report in its 2017 Best Regional Colleges South category, Keiser University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award certificates and degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Keiser University.

For additional information regarding Keiser University, visit <http://www.keiseruniversity.edu>



*Campus President Gary Vonk, Coach Doug Socha, Athletic Director Kris Swogger*