



## MIKE CONWAY '84

**“My desire continues to be to make a measurable impact on the kingdom of God through supporting Olivet’s mission and Tiger Athletics,”**

Says Mike Conway, who joined the ONU Development team in 2024. Following God’s guidance and direction, Mike brings his vast experience in higher education and connections with the Olivet community, coaches, student-athletes and alumni to this new role.

Mike’s first connection with ONU came in the spring of 1979 when he visited campus for the first time with his pastor from South Hills Church of the Nazarene, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He made an immediate connection with then-head coach C.W. Ward and decided to enroll for the fall semester. While at ONU, he earned a double major in communications and sociology. He was a two-time first team All-American in football, inducted into the ONU Hall of Fame in 1989, and also had a successful baseball career.

While at ONU, Mike made the most important decision of his life. He accepted Jesus as his Savior, and he continues to serve Him today. He also made another important life connection when he met his wife, Beth (Moore). “We were introduced by one of my teammates and experienced a true friendship while at Olivet as students,” Mike says. “After graduating, we went our separate ways until God brought us back together. This time, our friendship grew into a lifelong spiritual journey that only God could have designed. In 2024, we will celebrate 35 years of marriage. We have two amazing sons, two great daughters-in-law, and one precious granddaughter, all who love and serve the Lord.”

After graduating from ONU, Mike briefly was able to continue his football career, but an injury redirected him into coaching. He has coached football at 10 different universities on many distinct levels. During his career, he was excited to return to ONU twice and be part of the program and university that had built his faith foundation and where God changed his life.

## OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

During his four years as ONU's head football coach, the Tigers compiled a 31-14 record. "It was a blessing to coach the Tigers and one that I will hold onto for the rest of my life," he says. "One of my fondest memories when we won the national semi-final game at Ward Field and advanced to the NAIA National Championship in 1998! After the game, the students tore down the goalpost, carried it down University Avenue into the Quad, and placed it into the tree. It remained there until the following spring. The team also won the inaugural Victory Bowl in 1997 and won the MSFA conference championship in 1999."

Mike and Beth have been challenged by God to use athletics as ministry at the many different schools where Mike has coached. They saw athletics as their mission field. "Often, there was not a lot of spiritual emphasis, especially at secular schools," he says. "We were blessed to work with Christian Coalition ministries and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes groups at many of these universities. We knew if we were obedient, God would clear a path in helping us strive to make a positive impact for the His Kingdom while keeping football in proper perspective."

**"There were times in our journey when we were not sure of our direction but remained steadfast and allowed God to direct our path in different but challenging ways."**

In 2020, Mike returned to ONU as the athletic director. "I found that leading the Department of Athletics was very similar to coaching and was about relationship-building and leading a team, only a lot more complex," he says. "Beth and I were back where God planted us and where so many at ONU helped build our faith foundation."

Some of God's biggest surprises were still ahead for Mike. In the summer of 2023, he stepped back into coaching in the role of interim head football coach during a challenging time in the program and was thankful for the unexpected gift of coaching the Tigers again. At the end of the season, he received and accepted an offer to join ONU's Development team as the director of athletic advancement. Beth is continuing to serve the students as ONU's director of Pacific Rim student services.

Mike is excited to lead funding initiatives to accomplish many vision projects for ONU's Department of Athletics, now consisting of 22 sports and more than 700 student-athletes. His current focus will include restarting a Tiger Athletics Booster Club to help alumni reconnect with ONU athletics; finding ways to help fund new building projects at Snowbarger athletic park; continuing Phase II of the men's and women's soccer locker room project; and the synthetic resurfacing of the baseball and softball fields.

"Relationships and resources will take Tiger Athletics to the next level," Mike says. "I'm committed to developing new and creative ways to include alumni and friends of ONU Athletics from many different eras in helping us advance all of our athletic programs into the future."

**Mike Conway**

*Director of Athletic Advancement*  
(724) 984-1294  
mconway@olivet.edu