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Streeter out, TCU's Riley in as Tigers' offensive coordinator

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After just one year on the job, Clemson offensive coordinator was fired on Thursday. (Bart Boatwright | For The Journal)

By Ian Taylor

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The Journal

After just one season on the job, Brandon Streeter is out as Clemson's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, and head coach Dabo Swinney is poised to replace him with a big-name hire this afternoon.

Shortly after Streeter's dismissal was announced late Thursday afternoon, multiple reports indicated Clemson is set to land TCU offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Garrett Riley as its next offensive coordinator and presumably quarterbacks coach. The compensation committee of Clemson's Board of Trustees is set to meet today via teleconference at 4:05 p.m. with just one action item — "football assistant coach contract" — appearing on the agenda.

Streeter, who was a quarterback for the Tigers from 1996-99, had been on Clemson's staff since December 2014 as quarterbacks coach, with stints as recruiting coordinator and passing game coordinator before taking over as offensive coordinator in December 2021. He replaced Tony Elliott, who left the Tigers to become the head coach at Virginia.

This season, Clemson ranked No. 48 in the nation in total offense with 410.3 yards per game and No. 30 in scoring offense at 33.2 points per game. Those numbers were improvements over 2021 — when the Tigers averaged 359.1 yards and 26.3 points per game — but it wasn't enough to give Streeter, 46, a second year leading the offense.

"I am incredibly appreciative of Brandon for all he accomplished at Clemson in his 15 years as a player, graduate assistant, position coach and offensive coordinator," Swinney said in a news release. "I am thankful for Brandon and love him and his family. He has always represented Clemson University with great pride, and I know he will continue to do great things."

However, Swinney added he was "accountable" for the team's results and that he felt it was in the best interest of the program to make the change.

"These decisions are never easy, but it is my job to evaluate and assess every part of our program every year, and this was just the right time to make a change," Swinney said.

Riley, the younger brother of Southern California coach Lincoln Riley, helped lead the Horned Frogs to the College Football Playoff National Championship Game this season — TCU fell to Georgia by a final score of 65-7 in Monday night's title game — after helping TCU rank No. 9 in the nation with 38.8 points per game and No. 27 with 455 yards per contest.

Under Riley's guidance, TCU quarterback Max Duggan won the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback and was a Heisman Trophy finalist after helping TCU go from 5-7 in 2021 to 13-2 this season. Duggan finished the year 267-of-419 passing for 3,698 yards and 32 touchdowns with eight interceptions. He also rushed for 423 yards and nine scores, exhibiting the type of dual-threat qualities Riley will have to work with in Clemson quarterback Cade Klubnik.

Riley, 33, won the Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant coach for his efforts in his one and only season at TCU. He previously served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at SMU from 2020-21 after previous stops as an offensive assistant at Appalachian State (2019), Kansas (2016-18) and East Carolina (2013-15).

"I look forward to bringing in a dynamic, proven leader at offensive coordinator with the specific purpose of meeting — and raising — the standard of excellence that has been established at Clemson," Swinney said in the news release, not identifying Riley since his hire has not yet been finalized by the school. "I passionately believe in our staff and in the young men in our program and am excited about the opportunity to see them grow even more in 2023."

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