

Jason Candle



Jason Candle has played a major role in the success of the University of Toledo football program for the past nine years, first as an assistant coach and then as head coach. Candle assumed the Rockets' head coaching role in December of 2015 following seven successful seasons as an assistant. He has since embarked on a quest that has taken an already outstanding program to even greater heights.

In three seasons as Toledo's head coach, Candle's record is 28-13. The Rockets have earned a berth into a bowl game in each of those years, most recently the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl in 2018. In 2017, his Rockets achieved an 11-3 record and won the Mid-American Conference Championship with a 45-28 victory over Akron in the MAC title game. Candle was named MAC Coach of the Year, leading the Rockets to their first outright MAC West Division crown since 1998 and first league championship since 2004.

Prior to assuming the helm of the Midnight Blue and Gold, Candle had been serving as the program's associate head coach/offensive coordinator. But his status suddenly changed when on Dec. 2, 2015, UT Athletic Director Mike O'Brien chose him to become the 27th head football coach in the storied history of Toledo football.

Following his introductory news conference, Candle had less than three weeks to put together a coaching staff and prepare his team for the Marmot Boca Raton Bowl. Twenty days later, Candle and the Rockets celebrated a 32-17 victory over No. 24 Temple in the rain of south Florida. The triumph capped a 10-2 season for the Rockets and gave Candle a head coaching debut to remember.

In his first full season as Toledo's leader in 2016, Candle led the Rockets to a 9-4 season and a berth in the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl. Candle's second season was even better as the Rockets followed up with the 2017 MAC Championship title. In 2018, Candle led the Rockets to their eighth bowl berth in the past nine years, four with Candle as the head coach, when UT was invited to play FIU in the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl.

Coach Candle and his wife Nicole has a daughter, Avery, who was born in May of 2017 and a son, Cameron, who was born in August of 2018.