

Coaching Horizon's linebackers is Horizon alumnus and Navy veteran Ben Burnell, who brings a well-rounded athletic background to the Husky program. While a Husky himself, Burnell not only played football but the tuba as well (and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout), and went on to play linebacker at Scottsdale Community College. He completed his studies at ASU, earning his degree in sports science and performance programming, and returned to SCC as the baseball strength coach, helping them to the NJCAA regional championship in 2018. Burnell continued to play during his ten years of coaching—he was a member of the South Phoenix Runnin' Rebels state champion teams of 2017 and 2021, and the national runner-up in 2021.

Effort, integrity, and accountability are Coach Burnell's top priorities; he knows that building these habits in sports will follow players throughout their lives. His players might also find him in their classrooms, since he works as a substitute teacher here in the PV district. Coach and his wife Cierra have a full house of pets—two dogs and a cat—and when he's relaxing at home, Burnell spends time painting, camping, or bowling.