

Cal State Fullerton Football Coaching and Support Staffs

- 1970 - Head Coach Dick Coury
Assistants: Joe O'Hara, Dave Jordan, Dallas Moon, Bill Redell, Jack Stovall, Farley Day
SID: Bob Bowser Equipment Manager: Warren Smith Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1971 - Head Coach Dick Coury
Assistants: Joe O'Hara, Dallas Moon, Bill Hannah, Farley Day, Ed Bain, Raul Castillo
SID: Bob Bowser; Asst. SID: Pat Mooney
Equipment Manager: Warren Smith Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1972 - Head Coach Pete Yoder
Assistants: John Gooden, Dave Gibbs, Bill Griffin, Gil Mendoza, Raul Castillo, Ron Ortmyer
SID: Tom York Equipment Manager: Warren Smith Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1973 - Head Coach Pete Yoder
Assistants: Larry Cook
SID: ? Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1974 - Head Coach Pete Yoder
Assistants: Larry Cook, Pat Callahan, Warren Simmons
SID: ? Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1975 - Head Coach Jim Colletto
Assistants: Pat Callahan, Warren Simmons, Ernie Zermeno
SID: ? Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1976 - Head Coach Jim Colletto
Assistants: Larry Cook, Pat Callahan, Larry Welsh, Warren Simmons, Ernie Zermeno, Morrison England,
Dana Brenner
SID: ? Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1977 - Head Coach Jim Colletto
Assistants: Larry Cook, Pat Callahan, Larry Welsh, Warren Simmons, Ernie Zermeno, Greg Robinson,
Morrison England, Dana Brenner
SID: John Culwell Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1978 - Head Coach Jim Colletto
Assistants: Greg Robinson
SID: John Culwell Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1979- Head Coach Jim Colletto
Assistants: Greg Robinson, Bill White, Tom Hayes, Wayne Nunnely
SID: John Culwell Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1980 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Roger Thomas, Bob Burt, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Mariucci, Greg Newhouse,
Bob Davies, Rich Ellerson, Jimmie Lawson, Dan Ferrell, Bill Baggott
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1981 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Roger Thomas, Bob Burt, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Mariucci, Greg Newhouse,
Bob Davies, Rick Smith, Bruce Ivory, Jimmie Lawson, Bill Baggott, Ed Cole
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
- 1982 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Roger Thomas, Bob Burt, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Mariucci, Greg Newhouse,
Bob Davies, Rich Smith, Bruce Ivory
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd

1983 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Bob Burt, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Hall,
John Miklesh, Rich Smith, Jim McAllister, Dale Bunn
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd

1984 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Bob Burt, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Hall, Jim McAllister,
John Miklesh, Dave Tipton, Dale Bunn
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd

1985 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Bob Burt, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Hall, Jim McAllister,
John Miklesh, Dave Tipton, Dale Bunn, Clint South
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Football Secretary: Tammy Renich

1986 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Hall, Jim McAllister,
John Miklesh, Dave Tipton, Dale Bunn, Jim Chaney
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Football Secretary: Tammy Renich

1987 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Larry Manfull, Jerry Brown, Steve Hall, Jim McAllister,
John Miklesh, Dave Tipton, Dale Bunn, Jim Chaney, Don Morel
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Football Secretary: Tammy Renich

1988 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Larry Manfull, Mike Heimerdinger, John Miklesh,
Gary Spielbuehler, Dale Bunn, Jim Chaney, Don Morel, Ron Milner, Bill Wentworth, Rich Sheriff
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Football Secretary: Tammy Renich

1989 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Larry Manfull, Gary Spielbuehler, Dale Bunn, Jim Chaney, Don Morel,
Bill Wentworth, Rich Sheriff, Ed Donatell, Preston Dennard,
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Football Secretary: Tammy Renich

1990 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Larry Manfull, Gary Spielbuehler, Dale Bunn, Jim Chaney, Don Morel, Mike Foster,
Bill Wentworth, Rich Sheriff, Hue Jackson, Clint South - GAs: Tom Cable, Dan Speltz, Tom Gang, Shawn Forristall
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Video/Computers: Mike Hastin

1991 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Jim Chaney, Rich Sheriff, Mike Foster, Hue Jackson, Rick Redden, Jim Wachenheim
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Video/Computers: Mike Hastin Football Secretary: Marlo Escobar

1992 - Head Coach Gene Murphy
Assistants: Kirk Harmon, Jim Chaney, Rich Sheriff, Mike Foster, Rick Redden, Jim Wachenheim,
Bill Dobson, Don Johnson
SID: Mel Franks Equipment Manager: Cliff Hatter Athletic Trainer: Jerry Lloyd
Video/Computers: Mike Hastin Football Secretary: Marlo Escobar

Cal State Fullerton -- a Coaching Incubator

If Miami of Ohio is the cradle of football coaches, Cal State Fullerton could be considered kindergarten.

Particularly from the early staffs of Head Coach Gene Murphy, the Titan football program produced more than two dozen coaches who went on to positions at major football colleges and the National Football League. Steve Mariucci, former coach of the San Francisco 49ers and Detroit Lions, and Tom Cable, new head coach of the Oakland Raiders, are the most nationally prominent names but the list is long and varied.

And what of the former head coaches? Dick Coury moved to professional football, as an assistant with several NFL clubs, as head coach of the Portland Storm of the WFL and then the multi-city Breakers of the USFL. Pete Yoder coached until 1986 at Esperanza High School in Anaheim. He passed away in 2006. Jim Colletto most recently was offensive coordinator for the winless 2008 Detroit Lions. He served as an assistant at several schools including UCLA and Notre Dame and was head coach at Purdue (1991-96). Murphy didn't miss a season, becoming head coach at Fullerton College in 1993 and only recently retired.

| Coach (Seasons at CSF) | What Became of Him |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Jerry Brown (1980-87) | Defensive coordinator for many years at Northwestern, his alma mater |
| Bob Burt (1980-86) | Head Coach at Cal State Northridge; coached at high school level, retired, and is back coaching again |
| Larry Cook (1977-??) | Became a scout for the L.A. Rams in 1979 and moved to the Patriots in 1985, eventually becoming college scouting director; now a consultant to the Patriots |
| Preston Dennard (1989) | Former NFL receiver became an assistant at New Mexico |
| Bill Dobson (1992) | Currently an assistant at his alma mater, Occidental College; spent 2003-08 with the L.A. Avengers of the Arena League; also coached 4 years in the CFL and many years at USD |
| Ed Donatell (1989) | Several NFL jobs including defensive coordinator for Green Bay and Atlanta; defensive coordinator at Univ. of Washington in 2008 but staff was terminated |
| Rich Ellerson (1980) | Recently appointed head coach at Army after similar role at Cal Poly SLO after Fullerton, coached at U. of Arizona and was head coach at Southern Utah |
| Tom Hayes (1979) | Coached 27 years at the college level including UCLA, Oklahoma State and Kansas; and seven years in the NFL with Washington and most recently New Orleans |
| Mike Heimerdinger (1988) | Currently offensive coordinator for Tennessee Titans of the NFL; also was asst. head coach of the Denver Broncos; off. coordinator for New York Jets; off. coordinator at Duke and also coached at Rice |
| Hue Jackson (1990-91) | Currently QB coach of Baltimore Ravens; previously offensive coordinator for Atlanta and Washington in NFL, Cal and USC in college ranks; also coached at ASU |
| Dave Jordan (1970) | Head coach for 35 years at Grossmont College near San Diego |
| Steve Mariucci (1980-82) | Began NFL career as a volunteer coach with the Los Angeles Rams; spent a year in the USFL; QB coach at Green Bay with Brett Favre; head coach of San Francisco and Detroit |
| Don Morel (1988-90) | Off. coordinator and then head coach for 12 years at his alma mater, University of LaVerne |
| John Miklesh (1983-88) | Spent several years as an assistant at Fresno State |
| Greg Newhouse (1980-82) | Spent last 12 years as an assistant at Oregon State; left Fullerton for 5 years as an assistant with the BC Lions of the CFL; later an assistant at several major colleges and other CFL teams |
| Wayne Nunnely (1979) | Recently hired as defensive line coach by the Denver Broncos after 12 years in that post with San Diego; left Fullerton for Pacific and then UNLV, where he became head coach 1986-89; also coached at USC and UCLA and with the New Orleans Saints |
| Greg Robinson (1977-79) | Currently defensive coordinator at Michigan; head coach at Syracuse 2005-08; def. coordinator for three NFL teams including Denver's 1997 and 1998 Super Bowl champs |
| Warren Simmons (1974-78) | Veteran NFL assistant, currently in his 18th season with the Washington Redskins; also coached at Vanderbilt and Cerritos College |
| Richard Smith (1981-83) | Preparing for his 22nd season in the NFL with his seventh franchise as LB coach at Carolina; spent last 3 seasons as defensive coordinator for the Houston Texans |
| Roger Thomas (1980-82) | Returned to Univ. of North Dakota to become head coach, athletic director and later conference commissioner |
| Dave Tipton (1984-87) | Left Fullerton for one season at Oregon State and then spent 18 years under 5 head coaches at his alma mater, Stanford; currently a high school assistant coach |
| Larry Welsh (1977 & ?) | Head coach at Cal Poly SLO 1997-2000 |
| Bill Wentworth (1989-90) | Was head coach at Denison University in Ohio from 1993-99; also an assistant at Washington |

Cal State Fullerton Football

9/19/70 to 11/28/92

Titan Football managed to compress a variety of countless memories into its brief 23-year history. There was tragedy and triumph. Disappointment and delirium. Excitement and resignation. And, ultimately, inadequate support.

The players and coaches often rallied around their lack of resources and took their frustrations out on the better-heeled opponents. Individuals rose to new heights on many more than one occasion to over-achieve. If anything, the Titans were tenacious.

Probably the one word that best describes Titan football is homeless. Fullerton played only 94 "home" games in 23 seasons compared to 166 on the road. "Home" is used loosely since seven different stadiums housed Titan football, which never had its own locker room, had to build its own weight room and didn't know the meaning of dormitories.

It wasn't for lack of effort. The program had a couple of false starts before highly successful Mater Dei High School coach Dick Coury was hired in 1969 to field the first 4-year college program in football hotbed Orange County for 1970. There were visions of grandeur and the team won more games than it lost but no one seemed to notice. Crowds of 3,000-11,000 assembled in cavernous Anaheim Stadium (43,000) that first season.

Another winning season in 1971 produced no more ticket buyers although the team was poised to play for the California Collegiate Athletic Association championship in November. Tragedy struck on Nov. 13, 1971, when Assistant Coaches Bill Hannah, Joe O'Hara and Dallas Moon were killed along with the pilot when their scouting mission to San Luis Obispo crashed into a mountain. Fourteen children were left without fathers. The community responded and a hurriedly arranged Mercy Bowl game was staged to benefit the families. Nearly 17,000 fans showed up at Anaheim Stadium and more than twice that number bought tickets from volunteers sales people in a show of support. The Titans beat a Div. I team in Fresno State, 17-14.

But Coury was devastated at the loss of his long-time friends and resigned.

Pete Yoder, a highly successful coach at Blair High School in Pasadena, was hired and assembled a new staff. The Titans had another winning season in 1972 but then struggled the next two years, which were a prelude to a move up to Div. I for the 1975 season.

Pacific assistant Jim Colletto replaced Yoder and became the youngest head coach in the country. He would age considerably during his 5-year tenure that suffered the growing pains of the stiffer competition. Recruiting mostly junior college transfers, the Titans would alternately be good on offense one season then good on defense the next. But never the twains did meet and with only two home games in his final season, Colletto was dismissed after a 17-38-1 record. The highlight season was 1978 when the veer offense run by Dale Bunn, Mike Martin and Obie Graves amassed 3,632 net rushing yards with Graves getting 1,789 for what was then the fourth best total in NCAA history.

Unknown Gene Murphy, a long-time assistant and then a head coach for two years at North Dakota, was hired to replace Colletto. He assembled a young, enterprising staff that divided the city on a map and literally went door-to-door seeking financial aid and trade-in-kind to raise the level of the program. The most novel idea was building a temporary stadium inside the campus running track, utilizing borrowed bleachers from the Rose Parade. Murphy's debut game in 1980 was a rousing success. The Titans beat Fresno State, 39-25, with a flurry of long special teams plays.

A slew of victories did not follow. And the novelty of putting the stadium together and taking it down each year soon wore off. But the recruiting emphasis on high school seniors was getting better results and the payoff came in back-to-back championships in 1983 and 1984. The 1983 team opened up 7-1 before injuries decimated the defense and the team settled for a 7-5 mark including a 20-13 loss to Northern Illinois in the program's only legitimate bowl appearance, the California Bowl in Fresno.

The 1984 team proved the apex of the program. Utilizing redshirt years for academic and physical growth, the Titans had gotten better athletes and they panned out in the classroom and on the gridiron. Behind quarterback Damon Allen, a roster that included more than a dozen future professionals went 11-1 which became a 12-0 mark when UNLV forfeited games and the Pacific Coast Athletic Association title for using ineligible players. But UNLV went to the Cal Bowl and the new Freedom Bowl in Anaheim Stadium overlooked the home team to match Texas against Iowa in what became an artistic and financial fiasco.

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Murphy turned down offers from schools such as Utah and Oregon State, got overlooked by Missouri and remained at Fullerton until the end. Between 1985 through 1989, the Titans finished second in the conference four times. But the non-conference schedule was loaded with what Murphy termed “body bag games” – trips to LSU, Florida and Georgia and the like to pick up a guarantee check in exchange for an almost certain defeat. Highlights in this period included Mike Pringle tying the NCAA single-game rushing mark and the magical passing combination of Dan Speltz and Rocky Palamara.

The 1990 season was sacrificed to redshirt a promising class of recruits. Unfortunately, most of them left in January of 1991 when it was announced the program was in jeopardy of being dropped unless the community provided adequate financial support. That news also killed the incoming classes and the 1991 and 1992 teams each won only two games with rosters well short of the maximum number of scholarships.

Ironically, an on-campus stadium that had been missing for 22 years was completed in time for the final season – just four games. It held only 10,000 and only 8,279 showed up for the debut game, a 28-7 win over Cal State Northridge on Sept. 5, 1992. It would be the last home win. The program's final victory came at Southwestern Louisiana, 14-10, on Oct. 17, on a 27-yard TD pass from Trendell Williams to Steve Danzy -- one of only 5 that season for the wishbone attack -- with 53 seconds to play.

About 1,000 players donned the Titan uniform during those 23 seasons, with a variety of color schemes, designs and helmet decals. There would be thousands of memories, both good and bad. The usual – the dramatic wins and the heartbreaking losses; the third stringer who matured into a star as a senior; and some life-long relationships established with unit coaches. And there was the fatherly figure of Murphy, who knew the names of all the coaches' and players' children.

There were unusual and even frightening moments. The chartered plane clipping treetops taking off in Flagstaff. The equipment truck catching fire in Florida. The wheel coming off a bus. The fouled up commercial airliner reservations and the shared charters with Long Beach State. And, of course, getting kicked out of Anaheim Stadium – twice, the last time only four hours before kickoff.

There were some great players. Future Super Bowl starters Mark Collins and Bobby Kemp. Mobile offensive tackle and second-round NFL draft pick Daren Gilbert. Quarterback turned tight end James Thornton who became "RoboCop" for the Chicago Bears. The Canadian Football League Hall of Famers -- Allen, pro football's all-time leading passer; Pringle, the CFL's all-time leading rusher; and Allen Pitts, once the CFL's all-time leading receiver. And the scores of your men who played just for the fun of it, even if that meant serving only as scout team players or holding the blocking dummies.

There were also blossoming coaching careers. Steve Mariucci, quarterback coach in the early 1980s, went on to become head coach of the San Francisco 49ers and Detroit Lions. Tom Cable, a graduate assistant in 1990, is the new head coach of the Oakland Raiders. Greg Robinson, Mike Heimerdinger, Hue Jackson and Rich Smith all have been NFL coordinators with Robinson winning a pair of Super Bowls with Denver. Rich Ellerson is the new head coach at Army. The list goes on and on and even the head coaches prospered in new environments -- Coury in the pro ranks, Yoder at Esperanza High School, Colletto at many stops including the NFL and the head job at Purdue and Murphy at nearby Fullerton College.

About all that was missing were fans. The biggest “home” crowd was 60,415 at the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1971, but about 58,000 of them were there to root for Grambling. The next biggest crowd was the 12,121 that overflowed Santa Ana Bowl in 1984 to see 10-0 and No. 19-ranked Fullerton beat Fresno State, 20-17, on a late Greg Steinke field goal. But several thousand of those folks were from Fresno.

Had all the people who have asked about bringing football back to Fullerton gone to the games when there was a team, the program might still be alive today. Instead, only the memories are left to stir.

