

# Coaching Biographies



**Jesse Harper (1913-17)**

Harper attended the University of Chicago and played football under the immortal Amos Alonzo Stagg from 1902-06. He acquired his first coaching position the following season at Alma College in Michigan where he accumulated a 10-4-4 record from 1906-1908. In 1909 he moved to Wabash College in Indiana where he coached until 1913, leaving with a 15-9-2 record. In 1913 he became head coach and athletic director at Notre Dame, guiding the Irish to an undefeated season that first year. He resigned at the age of 33 in 1917 to live on his 20,000-acre ranch in Sitka, Kansas. His five-year record at Notre Dame stood 34-5-1. Harper was elected to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1971.



**Knute Rockne (1918-30)**

Upon graduation from Notre Dame Rockne was offered a post at his alma mater as a graduate assistant in chemistry. He accepted that position on the condition that he be allowed to help Jesse Harper coach the football team. When Harper retired after the 1917 season, Rockne was named his successor. During Rockne's 13-year coaching tenure, the Irish won six national championships, beat Stanford in the 1925 Rose Bowl and put together five unbeaten and untied seasons. His lifetime winning percentage of .881 (105-12-5) still ranks at the top of the list for both college and professional football. Rockne was inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in the first year of inductions in 1951. He also was named the 76th most influential sports figure of the 20th century by *The Sporting News*.



**Heartley (Hunk) Anderson (1931-33)**

From 1918-1921 Anderson played football at Notre Dame under Knute Rockne, earning All-American honors at guard. While playing with the Chicago Bears from 1922-1926 he assisted Rockne at Notre Dame. From 1927-1928 he coached at the University of St. Louis. He returned to Notre Dame in 1930 as an assistant to Rockne and after Rockne's tragic death assumed the head coaching responsibilities until 1933. Anderson had a three-year record of 16-9-2. He moved next to North Carolina State where he coached until 1936. In 1937 he coached at Michigan and in 1938 at Cincinnati, he took over as head coach of the NFL Detroit Lions in 1939. His final coaching position was with the Chicago Bears, where he remained for 11 seasons. He retired from football in 1951 to devote full time to his job as an account executive for the Production Steel Co. based in Detroit.



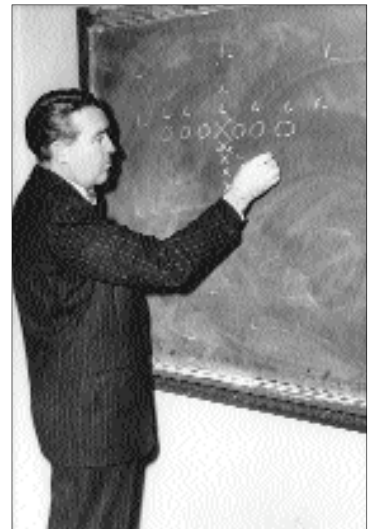
**Elmer Layden (1934-40)**

Best remembered as an All-American fullback and one of the Four Horsemen during his playing days at Notre Dame, Layden played one year of professional football after graduating in 1924. In 1925 he became head football coach at Columbia College in Dubuque, Iowa, finishing 8-5-2 in two seasons. He held the same post at Duquesne in Pittsburgh from 1927-1933 and put together a 48-16-6 mark. Layden coached at his alma mater for seven years and compiled a 47-13-3 record after taking over as both coach and athletic director in 1933 following the resignations of coach Hunk Anderson and athletic director Jesse Harper. In 1940 he resigned his Notre Dame post and a year later became commissioner of the National Football League. He resigned from that position in 1946 to start a business career in Chicago.



**Frank Leahy (1941-43, 1946-53)**

A tackle on Knute Rockne's last three Notre Dame teams, Leahy graduated from Notre Dame in 1931. He went to Georgetown as line coach in 1931 and went to Michigan State the following year to take a similar position. Leahy took over as line coach at Fordham in 1933 and stayed until 1938 under Jim Crowley, coaching the famed Seven Blocks of Granite from 1935-37 when the Rams lost only two combined games. In 1939, he went to Boston College as head coach for two years, guiding the Eagles to a 20-2 record and a 1941 Sugar Bowl victory. Leahy came to Notre Dame as head coach the next season. He entered the Navy in 1944 and was discharged as a lieutenant. He returned to Notre Dame for the 1946 season and stayed until resigning for health reasons in 1954. While at Notre Dame, Leahy had six undefeated seasons, five national championship teams and an unbeaten string of 39 games in the late 1940s. He was selected to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1970.



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**Ed McKeever (1944)**

McKeever originally attended Notre Dame from 1930-1931 and transferred to Texas Tech, where he played football from 1932-1934. He became the backfield coach at Texas Tech in 1935 and remained through 1938, coaching teams that played in bowl games four straight years. He joined Frank Leahy's staff at Boston College from 1939-1940. When Leahy came to Notre Dame so did McKeever, despite being asked to become head coach at Boston College. He coached under Leahy through the 1943 season and took over the head coaching responsibilities in '44 when Leahy went into the Navy. He moved on to Cornell as head coach from 1945-1946. In 1947 he became head coach at the University of San Francisco. He went to the All-American Conference to coach the Chicago Rockets in 1948, then joined the LSU staff the following season. He became general manager of the Boston Patriots in 1960.



**Terry Brennan (1954-58)**

Brennan played under Frank Leahy at Notre Dame graduating in 1949. He started for three seasons at halfback and led the Irish in receiving and scoring in '46 and '47 while also rushing for 1,269 career yards. After winning three straight city championships at Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, he returned to Notre Dame in 1953 to coach the freshman squad under Leahy. He succeeded Leahy as head coach in 1954 and his five-year 32-18 record included 9-1 and 8-2 records his first two seasons that ranked the Irish fourth and ninth, respectively, in the final Associated Press polls. In 1959 he became the player conditioning coach for the Cincinnati Reds in spring training and eventually joined a Chicago investment banking firm.



**Hugh Devore (1945, 1963)**

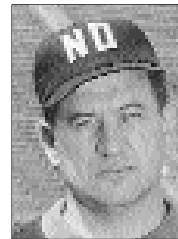
After graduating from Notre Dame in 1934 and serving as an end and Irish co-captain as a senior, Devore stayed on as freshman coach under Elmer Layden. From 1935-1937 he served as end coach at Fordham under Jim Crowley. He became the head coach at Providence in 1938 and stayed until 1941. In 1942 he took over as assistant head coach at Holy Cross. He came back to Notre Dame in 1943 as Frank Leahy's end coach and left again in 1946, when Leahy returned from military service, to become head coach at St. Bonaventure until 1949. He moved on to become head coach at New York University until 1952, then became an assistant coach for the Green Bay Packers in 1953. He served as head coach for the University of Dayton from 1954-55. From 1956-1957 he was head coach for the Philadelphia Eagles.

## Coaching Records

Year	Coach	Seasons	Won	Lost	†Tied	Pct.
1887-88-89-92-93	No head coaches	5	7	4	1	.625
1894	J. L. Morrison	1	3	1	1	.700
1895	H. G. Hadden	1	3	1	0	.750
1896-98	Frank E. Hering	3	12	6	1	.658
1899	James McWeeney	1	6	3	1	.650
1900-01	Patrick O'Dea	2	14	4	2	.750
1902-03	James Faragher	2	14	2	2	.833
1904	Louis Salmon	1	5	3	0	.625
1905	Henry J. McGlew	1	5	4	0	.556
1906-07	Thomas Barry	2	12	1	1	.893
1908	Victor M. Place	1	8	1	0	.889
1909-10	Frank C. Longman	2	11	1	2	.857
1911-12	John L. Marks	2	13	0	2	.933
1913-17	Jesse C. Harper	5	34	5	1	.863
1918-30	Knute Rockne	13	105	12	5	*.881
1931-33	Hunk Anderson	3	16	9	2	.630
1934-40	Elmer Layden	7	47	13	3	.770
1941-43, 46-53	Frank Leahy	11	87	11	9	*.855
1944	Ed McKeever	1	8	2	0	.800
1945; 1963	Hugh Devore	2	9	9	1	.500
1954-58	Terry Brennan	5	32	18	0	.640
1959-62	Joe Kuharich	4	17	23	0	.425
1964-74	Ara Parseghian	11	95	17	4	.836
1975-1980	Dan Devine	6	53	16	1	.764
1981-1985	Gerry Faust	5	30	26	1	.535
1986-1996	Lou Holtz	11	100	30	2	.765
1997-2001	Bob Davie	5	35	25	0	.583
2002-2004	Tyrone Willingham	3	21	15	0	.583
2004 Insight Bowl	Kent Baer (interim)	-	0	1	0	.000
2005	Charlie Weis	1	9	3	0	.750
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>.744</b>

†Ties computed as half won, half lost

\*The winning percentage of Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy rank one-two among all coaches according to NCAA figures, making them the two winningest coaches in college football history. Leahy's official NCAA mark is .864 on a 107-13-9 record that includes a 20-2 mark as Boston College head coach in 1939 and '40.



**Joe Kuharich (1959-62)**

Kuharich played professional football with the Chicago Cardinals from 1940-1941. He served in the Navy for the next four years and in 1946 became line coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He moved on to become line coach at the University of San Francisco in 1947, then became the head coach of the Chicago Cardinals. In 1953 he scouted for various clubs. From 1954-58 he served as the head coach of the Washington Redskins, earning pro coach of the year honors in '55. After his four-year stint at Notre Dame, from 1958-1962, Kuharich became supervisor of officials for the National Football League. From 1964-1969 he was head coach and general manager of the Philadelphia Eagles.

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**Gerry Faust (1981-85)**

Faust began as a three-time letterman as quarterback at the University of Dayton. His 18 years of coaching at Moeller High School in Cincinnati (1963-80) produced a 174-17-2 record to go with seven unbeaten seasons, four mythical national prep titles and five Ohio state titles in his last six seasons. He coached Notre Dame to a 30-26-1 record, including a 1983 Liberty Bowl victory and an '84 Aloha Bowl appearance, before resigning at the end of the 1985 season. Faust spent the next nine seasons (1986-94) as head coach at the University of Akron and finished with an overall record of 43-53-3 at the school.



**Ara Parseghian (1964-74)**

After a two-year pro career with the Cleveland Browns was halted by injury in 1949, Parseghian worked at his alma mater as an assistant coach under Woody Hayes at Miami of Ohio in 1950. In 1951 he became head coach at Miami, where he stayed until 1955. After an eight-year career with Northwestern he became the head coach at Notre Dame in 1964. He resigned in 1974 for health reasons after 11 years at Notre Dame where he won two consensus national championships and also guided the Irish to victories in the 1971 Cotton Bowl, the 1973 Sugar Bowl, and the 1975 Orange Bowl. Named college coach of the year in 1964 after guiding his first Notre Dame team to a 9-1 season, his overall 24-year college coaching record stood at 170-58-6 (.739). He worked as a color commentator with ABC Sports from 1975-1981 and served as college football analyst for CBS Sports through the 1988 season. He was voted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980.



**Dan Devine (1975-80)**

As head coach at Arizona State from 1955-1957, Devine accumulated a 27-3-1 record. From 1958-1970, he guided Missouri to a 93-37-7 mark. Among his achievements at Missouri were victories in the 1961 Orange Bowl, '63 Bluebonnet Bowl, '66 Sugar Bowl and '69 Gator Bowl. He served as head coach and general manager of the Green Bay Packers from 1971-1974 before his arrival at Notre Dame in 1975. His Irish teams won the 1976 Gator Bowl, '77 Cotton Bowl and '78 Cotton Bowl. The 1977 team captured the national championship with an 11-1 record. Devine resigned in 1980 and later became executive director of the Arizona State Sun Angel Foundation in Phoenix. In 1992, Devine returned to Missouri as athletic director and retired at the end of the 1993-94 academic year. He was elected into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1985.



**Lou Holtz (1986-96)**

Holtz coached 132 games in 11 seasons at Notre Dame and guided his teams to an overall record of 100-30-2 as he holds the Irish record for most games coached and is second to Knute Rockne in total victories. Holtz led Notre Dame to the 1988 national championship and remains 11th on the NCAA all-time win list for Division I-A coaches. Holtz took his Notre Dame teams to nine straight New Year's Day bowl games from 1987 through '95 and coached the Irish to finishes of sixth or better in the final Associated Press poll in five seasons. Holtz was named the national coach of the year in 1988 by several organizations and saw his team play the most difficult schedule in the country three different years. Holtz had a 32-20-2 mark against teams ranked in the Associated Press top 25 during his career with

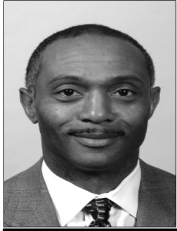


**Bob Davie (1997-2001)**

After leading some of the nation's best defenses at Texas A&M and serving as Lou Holtz's defensive coordinator for three seasons at Notre Dame, Bob Davie was promoted to head coach in November of 1996. During his five years at the helm, Davie posted an overall record of 35-25 (.583), leading the Irish to three bowl games including the 2001 Fiesta Bowl - marking Notre Dame's first-ever appearance in a Bowl Championship Series game. A *Football News* Coach of the Year Finalist twice during his tenure, Davie became the first head coach in Irish history to take his team to a bowl game in his first season. Davie's players garnered the 2001 AFCA Academic Achievement Award with a perfect 100 percent graduation rate and posted two of the highest semester team grade-point averages in school history. He is currently a color analyst at ESPN.

the Irish. Before coming to Notre Dame, the Kent State graduate previously served as head coach at William & Mary (1969-71), North Carolina State (1972-75), Arkansas (1977-83) and Minnesota (1984-85). He served as a college football analyst for CBS Sports in 1997 and '98 before serving as head football coach at the University of South Carolina from 1999 to 2004. Holtz compiled a 33-37 record with the Gamecocks in six seasons at the helm of the program before retiring from coaching at the end of the 2004 season. Upon retirement, Holtz joined ESPN as a studio analyst for its college football coverage, a position he still holds today. In 33 seasons as a college head coach, Holtz compiled a record of 249 wins, 133 losses and seven ties for a winning percentage of .651.

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**Tyrone Willingham (2002-04)**

Willingham led Notre Dame to two bowl appearances during his tenure, highlighted an eight-game win streak to begin the 2002 season. Taking over the program after a successful turn at Stanford, he finished 21-15 (.583) in three years at Notre Dame. The Irish appeared in the 2003 Gator Bowl under Willingham, as he became the first Irish coach to win 10 games in his first season. Willingham earned numerous awards after his inaugural campaign, including: ESPN/Home Depot College Coach of the Year, Scripps College Coach of the Year, the Black Coaches Male Coach of the Year and the George Hunger Award College Coach of the Year by the Maxwell Football Club. He also became the first college football coach to be named *The Sporting News* Sportsman of the Year in 2002 while also being named the most influential minority in sports by *Sports Illustrated*. Shortly after leaving Notre Dame, Willingham became the head football coach at the University of Washington and enters his second season with the Huskies in 2006.