



Lou Holtz

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Lou Holtz has established himself as one of the most successful college football coaches of all time.

Born Louis Leo Holtz on January 6, 1937, Holtz grew up in East Liverpool, Ohio, just up the Ohio River from his Follansbee, West Virginia birthplace. He graduated from East Liverpool High School, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history from Kent State in 1959 and a master's degree in arts and education from Iowa State in 1961. He played as a linebacker at Kent State for two seasons before an injury ended his career.

COACH

Holtz is the only coach in the history of college football to 1) take six different teams to a bowl game; 2) win five bowl games with different teams; and 3) have four different college teams ranked in the final Top 20 poll.

Holtz has a 243-127-7 career record that ranks him third in victories among active coaches and eighth in winning percentage. His 12 career postseason bowl victories ranks him fifth on the all-time list.

Holtz became the 27th head coach of Notre Dame following two seasons at Minnesota (1984–85), seven at Arkansas (1977–83), four at North Carolina State (1972–75) and three at William & Mary (1969–71). He spent the 1976 season as head coach of the National Football League's New York Jets. Twenty-one of the 26 collegiate teams under his direction have earned postseason bowl invitations; 14 have finished in the final AP top 20 and 8 in the top 10 (not including the 1995 finish in that category).

Holtz's career as a head coach began in 1969 at William & Mary at age 32. Despite three straight losing seasons, his second team, in 1970, won the Southern Conference title and advanced to play 15th-ranked Toledo in the Tangerine Bowl in the only postseason appearance in the history of the school. Holtz's stab at coaching professional football, between his tenures at North Carolina State and Arkansas, produced a 3-10 record. He resigned the week of the Jets' final regular season game.

Before becoming head coach at William & Mary in 1969, Holtz was an assistant coach at Iowa (freshmen, 1960), William & Mary (offensive backs, 1961–63), Connecticut (defensive backs, 1964–65), South Carolina (defensive backs, 1966–67) and Ohio State (defensive backs, 1968). The Buckeyes won the national championship in 1968, his one season at Ohio State. He worked under such respected coaches as Forest Evashevski at Iowa, Rick Foranzo at Connecticut, Paul Dietzel at South Carolina and Woody Hayes at Ohio State.

When Holtz took over as Notre Dame's head football coach in November of 1985, he brought with him a proven reputation as someone who could fix an ailing football program, thanks to his series of spectacular repair jobs at William & Mary, North Carolina State, Arkansas and Minnesota.

NOTRE DAME

Twenty-six seasons as a collegiate head coach earned Holtz a sterling reputation for turning pretenders into contenders—for taking football programs and elevating them a level or two on their way to the top 20. But nowhere has he done this as impressively as at Notre Dame.

He enhanced that track record quickly, needing only two years to put the Fighting Irish back into a major postseason bowl game for the first time in seven seasons. Holtz proved he could take the Irish back to the ranks of college football's elite and keep them there consistently.

He also has developed a well-earned reputation as an expert when it comes to knocking off highly ranked opponents. That ability has been particularly well displayed at bowl games, with his team recording wins on January 1 in five of his last seven seasons against teams with a combined record of 74-4-1, all of them ranked seventh or higher in the Associated Press poll.

In his 11 seasons at Notre Dame, Holtz chalked up more victories than Parseghian, Rockne or Leahy in their first 11 years on the job—including the consensus national championship in 1988, a record 23-game winning streak that ranks as the longest in Notre Dame history. With an overall 100-30-2 mark during those 11 years, his accomplishments have positioned him alongside those Fighting Irish coaching legends. When the Fighting Irish met Florida in the 1996 Orange Bowl, it was the ninth straight year Holtz had taken Notre Dame to the traditional January postseason bowls (the Cotton Bowl following the 1987, 1992 and 1993 campaigns; Fiesta in 1988 and 1994; Orange in 1989, 1990 and 1995; and Sugar in 1991). This is something that no other coach in the country has matched.

After he left Notre Dame following the 1996 season, he joined CBS Sports' *College Football Today* for two seasons as a sports analyst and worked with United States Filter (a global provider of water treatment) as a customer relations spokesman. From there he went on to be head coach at the University of South Carolina for six seasons, from 1999–2004, where he led the Gamecocks to back-to-back January 1 bowl games for the first time in the history of the school.

ESPN ANALYST

Currently, Holtz is a college football studio analyst on ESPN. He appears on ESPNEWS, ESPN *College GameDay* programs and *SportsCenter* and as an on-site analyst for college football games.

SPEAKER

For many years Holtz has been considered among the greatest speaking legends in America. He speaks on overcoming seemingly impossible challenges by setting your own goals and working to achieve them. He has built a reputation as a motivator, a demanding disciplinarian and someone who relishes challenges and hard work.

AUTHOR

Holtz has written three *New York Times* best-selling books. *The Fighting Spirit* chronicled Notre Dame's 1988 championship season, and *Winning Every Day: A Game Plan for Success* (August 1998) has been published in several languages. His latest best-selling

book, released in 2006, is *Wins, Losses and Lessons*, an autobiography of his life and the lessons he has learned.

Additionally, he has produced three highly acclaimed motivational videos: *Do Right*, *Do Right II* and *If Enough People Care*. The Lou Holtz Hall of Fame opened in East Liverpool, Ohio, in July 1998. And he recently released his latest video, *Do Right 20 Years Later*.

The Walter Camp Football Foundation, which presents an award annually to an individual who has attained a measure of success and has been a leader in his chosen profession, named Lou Holtz 1998's Man of the Year. This is the second time Coach Holtz has been saluted by the organization named for the legendary father of American football. In 1977, while in Arkansas, he was named Coach of the Year.

Holtz married Beth Barcus of East Liverpool on July 22, 1961. They are the parents of four children and currently reside in Orlando, Florida.

2/09