

Washington's Head Coaches

Gil Dobie, 1908-16

Dobie attended Minnesota and played quarterback for the Golden Gophers from 1899 to 1901. He graduated from Minnesota in 1903 and was an assistant for the Gophers through 1905. He then took his first head coaching job at North Dakota State in 1906 where he went undefeated in two seasons (7-0). In 1908 he became head coach at Washington where he coached the Sun Dodgers in 61 of the 63 games that make up the longest unbeaten streak in NCAA history. Dobie's Washington squads outscored opponents by a tally of 1,930 to 118 during his nine seasons. He left Washington following the 1916 season and moved to Navy until 1919 where he was 17-3-0. From there he coached at Cornell (1920-35, 82-36-7) and Boston College (1936-38, 16-6-5). Dobie's Washington record of 58-0-3 contributed to his overall record of 180-45-15 which earned him induction into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951. Dobie died at the age of 69 and was inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural induction class in 1979.



Claude J. Hunt, 1917,1919

Hunt graduated from DePauw University in 1911. Washington hired Hunt in 1917 after Hunt had guided Carleton College in Minnesota to consecutive undefeated seasons. Hunt did not coach the 1918 squad because he was off fighting in World War I. Lincoln High School football coach Tony Savage led the 1918 squad which played only two games (1-1). Hunt's overall record at Washington was 6-3-1.



Leonard B. "Stub" Allison 1920

Allison attended and graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota. He was promoted to head coach after serving as an assistant at Washington in 1919. Allison coached the last Washington football game at Denny Field on November 5, 1920, which ended in a 3-0 loss to Stanford. He also coached the first game at Husky Stadium on November 27, 1920, when Washington lost to Dartmouth 28-7 before 24,000 fans to finish the season a disappointing 1-5-0. Allison's squad was the last at Washington to be nicknamed the Sun Dodgers. Allison later resurfaced as the head coach at California in 1935 after serving as an assistant in Berkeley from 1931-34. In 10 seasons as the Bears' head coach, Allison compiled a 58-42-2 record including a 10-0-1 squad in 1937 that finished second in the AP poll and beat Alabama in the 1938 Rose Bowl 13-0 for Cal's last Rose Bowl win.



Enoch Bagshaw, 1921-29

Bagshaw graduated from Washington in 1907 after becoming the first of two five-year lettermen in Washington history. Between 1903 and 1907 Bagshaw played end, halfback and quarterback for Washington under three different coaches. After graduation Bagshaw went to Everett High School where he was head coach from 1909 to 1920. His last Everett squads won consecutive national championships in 1919 and 1920. He was then hired as Washington's head coach in 1921. In his nine seasons at Washington, Bagshaw compiled a 63-22-6 record and took the Huskies to their first ever Rose Bowl in 1924 where they tied Navy 14-14. Bagshaw returned to the Rose Bowl in 1926 where the Huskies lost to Alabama 20-19. Bagshaw retired after the 1929 season and died of a heart attack October 3, 1930, at the age of 46. He was inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1980.



James M. Phelan 1930-41

Phelan graduated from Notre Dame in 1919 and started at quarterback for the Irish from 1915-1917, when he guided them to a 21-3-1 record in Jesse Harper's last three years as head coach. Following graduation, Phelan served in the US Army as a First Lieutenant. In 1920 he was hired at Missouri as head coach, where he was 13-3-0 in two seasons before he moved to Purdue in 1922. In eight seasons as the Boilermakers head coach, Phelan was 35-22-5 including an 8-0 squad in 1929. In 12 years as head coach at Washington, Phelan guided the Huskies to a 65-37-8 record. The Huskies went to the Rose Bowl in 1937, losing to Pittsburgh 21-0. Phelan guided the Huskies to their first bowl victory in the Pineapple Bowl in 1938, when they beat Hawaii 53-13. Phelan left Washington in 1941 for St. Mary's (Calif.), and later became the first Husky head coach to coach in the professional football league, skipping the New York Titans, New York Yankees, Baltimore Colts, and Texas Rangers. Phelan eventually involved himself in politics, serving three terms as County Commissioner for Sacramento County in California where he became a personal friend of then-governor Ronald Reagan. He died November 14, 1979, at the age of 81. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1973 and into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1986.



Ralph "Pest" Welch 1942-47

Welch graduated from Purdue in 1930 where he was an All-American halfback under Jim Phelan. Welch followed Phelan to Washington where he served as an assistant coach in all but one (1938) of Phelan's 12 years at Washington. Welch finished with a 27-20-3 record at Washington and took the '43 squad to the 1944 Rose Bowl where they lost to USC 29-0. Welch's six seasons were marked by the turmoil caused by World War II as players came and left as their war duties allowed them to. Welch resigned in 1948.



Howard Odell 1948-52

Odell graduated from Pittsburgh in 1934 after playing at running back and punter on the 1932-33 Panther squads. He remained at Pittsburgh for two seasons as backfield coach. In 1936 he moved to Harvard for two seasons and then to Pennsylvania from 1938-40. In 1941 he served as the backfield coach at Wisconsin under Harry Stuhldreher, one of Notre Dame's Four Horsemen. He got his first head coaching job at Yale in 1942 and stayed through 1947 compiling a record of 35-15-2 which included Yale's 500th victory in 1945. He was hired at Washington in 1948 and stayed until 1952. Odell's overall record at the UW was 23-25-12. He coached two of Washington's greatest players, Hugh McElhenny and Don Heinrich. He opened a used car lot after he left the coaching ranks. In 1957 he was elected King County Commissioner and served until 1962 when he retired and moved to Southern California.



John Cherberg, 1953-55

Cherberg was a Seattle native who graduated from Washington in 1933. He played for Jim Phelan's 1930-32 squads and played every backfield position. After graduation Cherberg coached Cleveland High School from 1933-37 where he won the '37 State Championship. The same year he was named the Seattle Post-Intelligencer Sports Man of the Year. In 1938, he moved to his high school alma mater, Queen Anne High School, where he stayed until 1945 while winning two state titles. In 1946 he was hired at Washington as a backfield assistant under Ralph Welch. In 1948 he moved to the Huskies' freshman head coach position where he lost his first game but won the next 22. In 1953 he was promoted to head coach where he guided the Huskies to a 10-18-2 mark spanning three seasons. Cherberg then ran for Washington's Lieutenant Governor in 1957 and won, the first of eight consecutive victories. Cherberg served as Lt. Governor for 32 years, spanning five governors. He retired in January 1989. He died on April 8, 1992, at the age of 80. He was inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1981.



Darrell Royal, 1956

Before attending college, Royal enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from high school in 1943. In the Air Force, he attained the rank of staff sergeant. Royal graduated from Oklahoma in 1950 where he lettered on four conference championship squads from 1946-49. Royal was an all-conference quarterback in 1949 when the Sooners finished 11-0. After graduation, Royal served one-year stints as an assistant at North Carolina State, Tulsa, and Mississippi State. In 1953 Royal moved to the Canadian pro league as head coach at Edmonton where he went 16-5 and won the Western Division Championship. In 1954 he returned to Mississippi State as head coach and went 12-8 over two seasons. In his one season at Washington the Huskies went 5-5-0. Royal then decided to settle down at Texas, where he was head coach from 1957-76 and compiled a 167-47-5 record that included 11 Top 10 finishes, three national championships, 11 Southwest Conference crowns and 16 bowl games. He also served as Texas Athletic Director from 1962-80. In 1980 he was named a special assistant on athletics to UT President Peter Flawn. Royal was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1983.



Jim Owens, 1957-74

Owens served two-and-a-half years with the Naval Air Corps during World War II. Following his service, Owens enrolled at Oklahoma where he played from 1946-49. Owens was the Sooners' captain and leading receiver, earning him All-American honors on Oklahoma's 11-0 squad in 1949. After graduating in 1950, Owens played one season for the Baltimore Colts while also serving as a part-time assistant at John Hopkins University. Owens was then an assistant under Paul "Bear" Bryant at Kentucky from 1951-53 and followed Bryant to Texas A&M in 1954 and stayed until 1956. At Washington, Owens was 99-82-6 during his 18 seasons as head coach. Owens' Husky teams won three AAWU titles and went to three Rose Bowls including the Huskies' first ever Rose Bowl win in 1960, a 44-8 romp over Wisconsin. Owens split his other two trips to Pasadena when the Huskies beat Minnesota 17-7 in 1961 and lost to Illinois in 1964, 17-7. Owens retired following the 1974 campaign and now resides in the Montana area. He was inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural class in 1979.



Don James, 1975-92

Don James was born December 31, 1932, in the football hotbed of Massillon, Ohio. There he played quarterback and defensive back for two state championship teams at Washington High School. He then accepted a scholarship to Miami of Florida where he set five school passing records. James was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army where he served two years before resuming his studies at the University of Kansas and doubling as the Jayhawks' freshman football coach. He graduated in 1957 with a master's degree in education. He moved back to Miami where he was head football coach at Southwest Miami High School for two years. He then turned to the college ranks and served as an assistant coach at Florida State (1956-65), Michigan (1966-67) and Colorado (1968-70). In 1971, James was named head coach at Kent State where he stayed four years, compiled a 25-19-1 record, and took Kent State to its first-ever bowl game. Two days before Christmas in 1974, James accepted the head coaching position at Washington. In his 18 years at Washington, James compiled a 153-57-2 record, making him the winningest football coach in Washington history. His 99 Pac-10 victories are the most in Pac-10 history. He took his teams to 15 bowl games (10-5) including a Pac-10 record nine straight from 1979-87. He guided the Huskies to six Rose Bowls and is one of only four coaches to win four Rose Bowl games. His 1991 team finished the season 12-0 and won Washington's first ever national championship. When James retired, he had the 10th best active winning percentage, the eighth most victories among active coaches, fourth most bowl victories, fourth best bowl winning percentage and the 12th most bowl appearances. James was president of the American Football Coaches Association in 1989 and was named national college coach of the year in 1984 and 1991. James was inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1993 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1997. Don and his wife, Carol, currently reside in Bellevue.



Jim Lambright, 1993-98

A native of Everett, Wash., Jim Lambright graduated from Washington in 1965 after earning all-coast and all-conference honors for the Huskies in 1964. A two-time letterwinner, he was the team's Guy Flaherty Award winner following his senior season. Lambright began a 30-year coaching career at Washington in 1969 as an assistant for coach Jim Owens' staff. He was retained by Don James when he took over the UW program in 1975 and served as defensive coordinator for his last 16 years as an assistant coach and was the assistant head coach from 1987-92. During Lambright's six-year tenure as head coach, the Huskies achieved a 44-25-1 record with a Pac-10 record of 31-16-1. He won more games (30) in his first four years as head coach at Washington than any of his predecessors. He was the fourth alumnus to coach the Husky football program. As a player, assistant coach, and head coach, Lambright was part of 386 of the 979 games played in UW history – roughly 39 percent of the school's football games. Lambright's win total (44) ranks him sixth on the list of 23 coaches who have guided the Washington program. With the trip to the Sun Bowl in 1995, Lambright became the sixth UW coach to lead his team to a bowl berth. He is also the sixth UW coach to capture a conference championship. His 1996 team participated in the Holiday Bowl while his '97 unit won the Aloha Bowl and the '98 squad appeared in the inaugural Oahu Bowl. He was widely credited with developing UW's eight-man defensive front that helped the team win the 1991 national championship and was widely copied by numerous college programs.

