



DIVISION II FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

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Jeff Hodges • Chairman

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DIVISION II FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT FIRST CLASS OF COACHES: SPARKS, TJEERDSMA AND WALLACE

FLORENCE, Ala. -- The Division II Football Hall of Fame has named three of the most successful coaches in the history of college football as its Hall of Fame Class of 2010, and will induct **Ken Sparks**, **Mel Tjeerdsma** and **Bobby Wallace** as its 12th induction class on December 17.

Established in 1999, the Division II Football Hall of Fame has inducted former Division II players annually for the last 11 years. The 2010 inductions will mark the first group of coaches to be honored.

Sparks, current head coach at Carson-Newman (Tenn.) College, ranks as the winningest coach in Division II history and has won 13 conference championships and made 12 NCAA playoff appearances in the last 17 years. His overall coaching record in 30 seasons is 287-70-2 and ranks third highest among active coaches in all NCAA Divisions. He has led Carson-Newman to three Championship Game appearances in Florence.

Tjeerdsma, current head coach at Northwest Missouri State University, has led the Bearcats to five consecutive appearances in the Division II Championship Game and to three NCAA titles. He and Wallace are the only coaches in the 37-year history of the Division II Football Championship to have coached three national championship teams. Tjeerdsma has 230 overall collegiate wins and has won 11 conference championships at Northwest Missouri State and made 12 NCAA playoff appearances. His 38 playoff games coached, 29 playoff wins and seven Championship Game appearances are the most in Division II history. His 1998 national championship team was also the first in Division II history to go 15-0.

Wallace, current head coach at the University of West Alabama, became the first coach in college football history to win as many as 40 games in just three seasons when he led the University of North Alabama to a 41-1 record and three straight NCAA Division II National Championships from 1993-95. He is also the only coach in Division II to ever win three straight national championships. Wallace has led seven teams to Division II post-season play, including West Alabama last season, marking the school's first NCAA appearance since 1975. He was previously named Division II Coach of the Quarter Century (1972-97).

The coaches were chosen by a selection committee and the official announcement was made Thursday by Division II Football Hall of Fame Chairman Jeff Hodges.

"It has been our intention since the Hall of Fame was created in 1999 to not only honor the outstanding players from Division II but also the outstanding coaches within the division," Hodges said. "Our induction of Shannon Sharpe last December gave us 25 players in the Hall, and with this year being the 25th anniversary of the Division II Championship Game's move to Florence, we felt it was perfect timing.

"While all three of these coaches selected are still actively coaching at Division II programs, our committee felt that each had already reached a pinnacle of success deserving of Hall of Fame recognition," Hodges added.

Division II Football Hall of Fame Add . . .

"All three have also been a part of the Division II Championship Game tradition in the Shoals and this will be our chance to honor them, not only for their coaching accomplishments, but also for being the great ambassadors that they have been for Division II football."

The trio of coaches will be inducted on December 17 as part of a combined Harlon Hill Trophy and Division II Football Hall of Fame Banquet at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center in Florence, Ala.

The initial class of inductees in 1999 included running back Johnny Bailey of Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville), quarterback Jeff Bentrin of North Dakota State and the late Walter Payton of Jackson State University.

In 2000, defensive lineman Harry Carson of South Carolina State University, defensive lineman Pierce Holt of Angelo State University, and wide receiver John Stallworth of Alabama A&M were inducted.

In 2001 the third class was comprised of tight end Brent Jones of Santa Clara University, linebacker Greg Lloyd of Fort Valley State University and quarterback Ken O'Brien of the University of California-Davis.

Quarterback Scott Brunner of Delaware, receiver Andre Reed of Kutztown and linebacker Jessie Tuggle of Valdosta State comprised the 2002 class.

Former Texas A&M-Kingsville and Washington Redskins standout Darrell Green was inducted in 2003, and former North Dakota State and Buffalo Bills standout Phil Hansen was inducted in 2004.

The 2005 class included Chris Hatcher of Valdosta State, Ronald Moore of Pittsburg State and Donnie Shell of South Carolina State.

Cody Gross of North Alabama, John Randle of Texas A&M-Kingsville and Sean Landeta of Towson State were inducted in 2006.

The 2007 inductees included Earl Dotson of Texas A&M-Kingsville, Ronald McKinnon of North Alabama and Mike Turk of Troy State. Missouri Southern's Rod Smith was the 24th inductee into the Hall in 2008 and Shannon Sharpe was the 25th last December.

The Division II Football Hall of Fame is housed at Braly Municipal Stadium, which has hosted the Division II Football Championship Game since 1986.

The 38th annual Division II Football Championship Game will be played at Braly Stadium at 11 a.m. on December 18, 2010, and the Harlon Hill Trophy presentation to the Division II Player of the Year, and the Hall of Fame inductions are part of the Shoals area's championship week activities.

The Division II Football Hall of Fame is sponsored by The City of Florence, Florence-Lauderdale Tourism, OptiNet, Herff Jones and the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa.

Tickets are \$50 each or \$400 for a table of eight and are available by calling the Shoals Chamber of Commerce (256) 764-4661 or the UNA Sports Information Office at (256) 765-4595.



DIVISION II FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ALL-TIME INDUCTEES

PLAYERS INDUCTED

Class of 1999

Johnny Bailey	RB	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1986-89
Jeff Bentrin	QB	North Dakota State	1983-86
Walter Payton	RB	Jackson State (Miss.)	1971-74

Class of 2000

Harry Carson	LB	South Carolina State	1972-1975
Pierce Holt	DL	Angelo State (Texas)	1984-87
John Stallworth	WR	Alabama A&M	1970-73

Class of 2001

Brent Jones	TE	Santa Clara (Calif)	1982-85
Greg Lloyd	LB	Fort Valley State (Ga.)	1983-86
Ken O'Brien	QB	UC Davis	1980-82

Class of 2002

Scott Brunner	QB	Delaware	1978-79
Andre Reed	WR	Kutztown (Pa.)	1981-84
Jessie Tuggle	LB	Valdosta State (Ga.)	1983-86

Class of 2003

Darrell Green	DB	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1981-82
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Class of 2004

Phil Hansen	DL	North Dakota State	1987-90
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Class of 2005

Chris Hatcher	QB	Valdosta State	1991-94
Ronald Moore	RB	Pittsburg State	1989-92
Donnie Shell	DB	South Carolina State	1970-73

Class of 2006

Cody Gross	QB	North Alabama	1992-95
John Randle	DL	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1988-89
Sean Landeta	P	Towson	1979-82

Class of 2007

Earl Dotson	OL	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1991-92
Ronald McKinnon	LB	North Alabama	1992-95
Mike Turk	QB	Troy State	1984-87

Class of 2008

Rod Smith	WR	Missouri Southern State	1988-93
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Class of 2009

Shannon Sharpe	WR	Savannah State	1986-89
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COACHES INDUCTED

Class of 2010

		Years in Division II
Ken Sparks	Carson-Newman	1993-Present
Mel Tjeerdsma	Northwest Missouri State	1994-Present
Bobby Wallace	North Alabama	1988-97
	West Alabama	2006-Present



Class of 2010

**Induction:
December 17, 2010
Florence, Alabama**



**KEN
SPARKS**
•
**Carson-Newman
College**



Division II Biography

Years Coaching in Division II: 17, 1993-2010
Record as Division II Coach: 159-39-1 (18 years)
Division II National Championships: none
Division II National Runner-up: 3 (1996, 1998, 1999)
Division II Playoff Appearances: 12
(1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002,
2003, 2004, 2008, 2009)
Division II Playoff Record: 17-12
Conference Championships in Division II:
13 South Atlantic Conference
(1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002,
2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009)

Coaching Awards in Division II:

- * Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Coach of the Year (1999)
- * American Football Coach Magazine Division II Coach of the Year (1999)
- * Tennessee Sports Writers Association Coach of the Year (1999)
- * South Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year 6 times (1993, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2009)
- * Received the 2010 Gen. Robert R. Neyland Trophy

Other Items of Note:

- * His 294 wins ranks third best among all active collegiate coaches behind only John Gagliardi of St. Johns and Joe Paterno of Penn State
- * Inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2004
- * President of the American Football Coaches Association in 2008

NON-Division II

- * Overall Coaching Record: 294-74-2 (31 seasons)
- * 5 NAIA National Championships
- * 1 NAIA National Runner-up
- * 9 NAIA Playoff Appearances
- * 20 total South Atlantic Conference Championships (7 NAIA, 13 Division II)
- * NAIA National Coach of the Year in 1984
- * 12 time SAC Coach of the Year (6 NAIA, 6 Division II)



MEL TJEERDSMA

Northwest Missouri State University



Division II Biography

Years Coaching in Division II: 16, 1994-2010 Reg. Season Record as Division II Coach: 181-42 (17 years)
 Division II National Championships: 3 (1998, 1999, 2009)
 Division II National Runner-up: 4 (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)
 Division II Playoff Appearances: 13 (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)
 Division II Playoff Record: 29-9
 Conference Championships in Division II:
 12 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)

Coaching Awards in Division II:

- * AFCA Division II National Coach of the Year (1998, 1999, 2008, 2009)
- * Liberty Mutual National Coach of the Year (2009)
- * FieldTurf National Coach of the Year (2009)
- * MIAA Coach of the Year 11 times (1995-2000, 2002, 2006-09)
- * AFCA Regional Coach of the Year 7 times (1996-2000, 2006, 2008)

Other Items of Note:

- * His three Division II National Championships tie him with Bobby Wallace for the most by any coach in the division's 37-year history.
- * His seven Division II Championship Game appearances are the most by any coach in the division's history.
- * His 29 career playoff wins are the most by any coach in Division II history
- * His 38 playoff games coached are the most in Division II history
- * Coached first Division II team to go 15-0 in 1998
- * On August 23, 2007, the field at NW Missouri's Bearcat Stadium was named Mel Tjeerdsma Field.
- * President of the American Football Coaches Association in 2006

NON-Division II

- * Overall Coaching Record: 240-80-4 (27 years)
- * Led Austin College to three Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships
- * Two trips to the NAIA Playoffs
- * Three-time TIAA Coach of the Year



BOBBY WALLACE

University of West Alabama



Division II Biography

Years Coaching in Division II: 14 (1988-97, 2006-10)
 Record as Division II Coach: 108-66-1 (82-36-1 at UNA 10 years/26-30 at UWA 5 years)
 Division II National Championships: 3 (1993, 1994, 1995)
 Division II National Runner-up: none
 Division II Playoff Appearances: 7 (1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2009)
 Division II Playoff Record: 14-4
 Conference Championships in Division II:
 3 Gulf South Conference (1993, 1994, 1995)

Coaching Awards in Division II:

- * Division II Coach of the Quarter Century (1972-97)
- * Gulf South Conference Coach of the Quarter Century (1971-95)
- * AFCA Division II National Coach of the Year (1993, 1994, 1995)
- * Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year (1993, 1994, 1995)

Other Items of Note:

- * His three Division II National Championships tie him with Mel Tjeerdsma for the most by any coach in the division's 37-year history.
- * Wallace's 1993-95 teams had a combined 41-1 record, making Wallace the first coach in collegiate football history to win as many as 40 games in just three seasons.
- * The three straight national titles also made UNA the first school in the history of NCAA scholarship football to win three straight national titles.
- * His 1995 team was chosen as the "Division II Team of the Quarter Century" for 1972-97
- * His 1995 squad was first Division II team invited to the White House (President Clinton)
- * Inducted into Alabama Sports Hall of Fame
- * Only Coach with 10 or more post-season wins to take two different Division II schools to playoffs
- * First year at West Alabama in 2006, he led the Tigers to their first winning season in 14 years
- * In 2009 he led West Alabama to first Division II playoff appearance since 1975

NON-Division II

- * Overall Coaching Record: 127-137-1 (includes eight seasons at Temple)