

ASU LEGENDS

COACH FRANK KUSH

1958-1979

RECOLLECTIONS OF FRANK KUSH:

"The first three years that I was a head coach, Frank was a loyal, hard-working and intelligent assistant coach to me at Arizona State. Without his dedication and help, we never would have had the outstanding record that we had during those years. He was named my successor at the age of 29, and his record over the next two decades speaks for itself."

**- Dan Devine, former Head Coach,
Arizona State, Missouri, Notre Dame and
Green Bay**

"I came to Arizona State on a football scholarship, and I shall always be indebted to Frank Kush for instilling toughness in his players. He was as tough as Charlie Finley and George Steinbrenner rolled into one."

**- Reggie Jackson, during his Baseball
Hall of Fame induction speech**

"Frank Kush was able to get out of me something that no one else could get. He affected hundreds of athletes that he coached in that same way."

- Danny White, ASU QB, 1971-73



In 1955, Hall of Fame coach Dan Devine hired Frank Kush as one of his assistants at Arizona State. It was his first coaching job. Just three years later, Kush succeeded Devine as head coach. On December 12, 1995 he joined his mentor and friend in the College Football Hall of Fame.

Before he went on to become a top coach, Frank Kush was an outstanding player. He was a guard, playing both ways for Clarence "Biggie" Munn at Michigan State. He was small for a guard; 5-9, 175, but he played big. State went 26-1 during Kush's college days and in 1952 he was named to the Look Magazine All-America team. His alma mater has inducted Kush into the Michigan State Hall of Fame and presented him with the Duffy Daugherty Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to college football.

As a coach, Kush ranks among the all-time winningest coaches with a 176-54-1 record (.764).

In his 22 years at the helm of Arizona State, Kush had 19 winning seasons, won nine conference championships and ran up a 6-1 bowl record.

He had undefeated teams in 1970 and 1975. He was named Coach of the Year in 1975 by the American Football Coaches Association of the Walter Camp Foundation and his team was ranked number two nationally by AP and UPI. He had unbeaten and untied winning streaks of 21, 13 and 12 (twice) at Arizona State.

Kush himself served as a head coach in pro football. He coached the CFL Hamilton Tiger-Cats to an Eastern Conference first-place finish and spent three seasons with the Baltimore Colts before moving back to Arizona to coach the USFL Phoenix team.

After the USFL folded, Kush stayed in Arizona and became active in public relations and community work. In the summer of 2000, Kush returned to ASU as a special assistant to the athletics director. His duties include strengthening ties with former ASU student-athletes and alumni, working as an ambassador for the athletic department and assisting with special projects.

One of college football's legendary coaches, Frank Kush became Arizona State University's 15th head football coach on December 22, 1957. In the 22 seasons that followed, Kush brought unmatched success to the Sun Devil football program and unrivaled national prominence to Arizona State University. The following is a listing of some of the facts and figures which trace the Kush legend.

- The field at Sun Devil Stadium was renamed in honor of Coach Kush.
- The 1996 football season was dedicated to celebrating ASU's athletic tradition and the September 21 Nebraska game was designated "Frank Kush Day" at Sun Devil Stadium. All former Kush players were invited to participate in a spectacular halftime celebration that included the rededication of the field with the unveiling of the Kush nameplate by then ASU President Lattie Coor.
- Kush is ASU's coaching leader in years served (22), games coached (231) and wins (176). He is second in winning percentage (.764), trailing his predecessor, Dan Devine (.887) who went 27-3-1 over a three year career.
- Nineteen of Kush's teams posted winning season records, 18 of which won at least seven games, 12 of which won at least eight, eight of which won at least nine, and six of which won 10 or more games in a season.
- Seven of Kush's teams played in bowl games, posting a 6-1 won-loss record.
- Kush coached two of ASU's most important games -- the 1970 Peach Bowl and the 1975 Fiesta Bowl. In 1970, the Sun Devils received their first postseason bowl invitation in 19 years, and completed a 12-0 season with a 48-26 victory over North Carolina. Local sports historians point to that game as the introduction of Arizona State football to the national scene. Five years later, the Sun Devils again capped an undefeated season by downing Nebraska, 17-14. The win gave ASU a No. 2 national ranking for the year, and ushered ASU into the elite of college football programs.
- The success of Arizona State University football under Frank Kush led to increased exposure for the university through national and regional television appearances. Evidence of this can be traced to the fact that Arizona State's enrollment increased from 10,000 in 1958 (Kush's first season) to 37,122 in 1979 (Kush's final season), an increase of over 300%.
- One hundred twenty-eight ASU football student-athletes coached by Kush were drafted by teams in the National, American and World Football Leagues. Kush-coached players have 17 combined NFL Pro Bowl appearances. Ten Kush-coached players were first-round NFL and AFL draft selections.
- Twenty-two members of the Arizona State University football program from 1958 through 1979 are members of the Arizona State University Sports Hall of Fame. Kush is a member of the Hall of Distinction, which honors former ASU athletic administrators and coaches.
- The success of the Sun Devil football program under Kush led to the expansion of Sun Devil Stadium to accommodate increased local interest. In 1969, the stadium was expanded from its original seating capacity of 35,000 to 50,000. In 1976, a two-year expansion project brought capacity to 70,021.
- Arizona State University's football success under Kush led to the move of the school's athletic program to the Pacific-10 Conference in 1978. Conference officials had been offered the opportunity to take the University of Arizona, but would only accept the idea if Arizona State was included. By joining, Arizona State University not only enjoyed increased attention for its athletic programs, but additional national prestige for its campus as well.
- In 21 meetings with the University of Arizona, Kush-coached teams won 16 games, including a streak of nine consecutive wins from 1965 through 1973.
- Thirty-eight Kush-coached student-athletes were honored as All-Americans.



COACH DAN DEVINE

1955-57

Dan Devine, a football coaching legend at Arizona State, Missouri and Notre Dame, began his head coaching career at ASU, where he was hired in 1955 at the age of 31. In his inaugural season, the Sun Devils accomplished a record of 8-2-1. While a magnificent debut, incredibly the .772 winning percentage would be Devine's worst as the Sun Devil coach.

In 1956, ASU improved to 9-1, suffering its only defeat to UTEP by a score of 28-0. Save that loss, the Sun Devils never scored fewer than 19 points that season, while allowing only two other teams into double-figures.

The following season (1957), Devine's Sun Devils recorded the first perfect season and national ranking in ASU history, finishing 10-0 in a year that included four shutouts (Devine's Sun Devils had nine in his career) and only one game decided by fewer than double-digits (35-26 win over Hardin-Simmons).

After the 1957 season, Devine packed up his 27-3-1 (.887) record and moved on to Missouri where he would remain until 1970. At ASU, Devine was replaced by Frank Kush, who, just three years after receiving his first coaching opportunity from Devine, began what would be 22 memorable seasons at the helm of Sun Devil football.

Despite his accomplishments at ASU, Devine's 13 seasons with the Tigers of Missouri were altogether finer. Going 93-37-7 (.700) over that span, Missouri never lost more than three games in a single season while accumulating victories in the 1961 Orange Bowl, the 1963 Bluebonnet Bowl, the 1966 Sugar Bowl and the 1969 Gator Bowl.

After his term at Missouri, Devine enjoyed a stay at the professional ranks, serving as head coach and general manager of the Green Bay Packers from 1971-1974. Of those seasons, the Packers' finest was 1972, when they tallied a 10-4 record en route to the Central Division title and Coach of the Year honors for Devine from Pro Football Writers and UPI.

Devine returned to the collegiate ranks in 1975, enjoying his final coaching years at Notre Dame. Called upon to replace Hall of Fame coach Ara Parseghian, the Fighting Irish went 53-6-1 (.890) over Devine's five seasons. Most memorable was the 1977 team (11-1), which knocked off previously undefeated Texas 38-10 to earn a national championship at the Cotton Bowl.

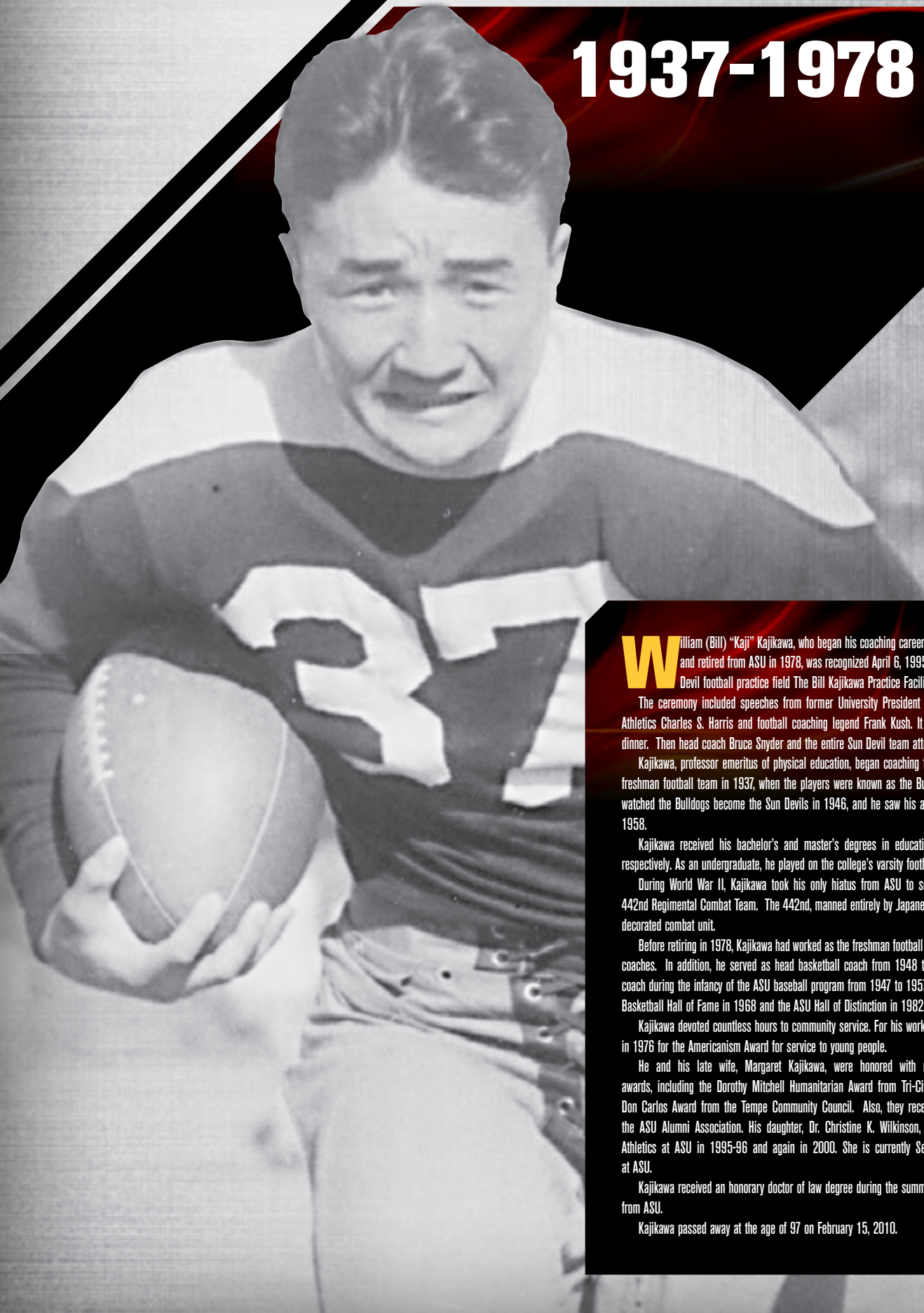
After resigning from coaching duty in 1980, Devine made his return to ASU as the executive director of the Sun Angel Foundation where he remained for seven years. In 1987 he left the Sun Angels, but not the university, accepting a position to direct an upstart ASU program designed to combat substance abuse.

Devine returned to yet another of his former schools in 1992, when he succeeded Dick Tamburo as the athletic director at Missouri, a position he would entertain until his retirement at the conclusion of the 1993-94 academic year.

Devine, born December 23, 1924, and a native of Augusta, Wis., was elected into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1985 and the ASU Hall of Distinction in 1987. He earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Michigan State University and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 1948.

Devine passed away at the age of 77 on May 9, 2002 after a long illness.

1937-1978



William (Bill) "Kaji" Kajikawa, who began his coaching career at Arizona State University in 1937 and retired from ASU in 1978, was recognized April 6, 1995 in a ceremony that named the Sun Devil football practice field The Bill Kajikawa Practice Facility, in his honor.

The ceremony included speeches from former University President Dr. Lattie F. Coor, then Director of Athletics Charles S. Harris and football coaching legend Frank Kush. It was followed by an invitation-only dinner. Then head coach Bruce Snyder and the entire Sun Devil team attended the ceremony and dinner.

Kajikawa, professor emeritus of physical education, began coaching the Arizona State Teacher's College freshman football team in 1937, when the players were known as the Bulldogs. During his tenure, Kajikawa watched the Bulldogs become the Sun Devils in 1946, and he saw his alma mater gain university status in 1958.

Kajikawa received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from ASU in 1937 and 1948, respectively. As an undergraduate, he played on the college's varsity football team.

During World War II, Kajikawa took his only hiatus from ASU to serve with distinction in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd, manned entirely by Japanese Americans, was the Army's most decorated combat unit.

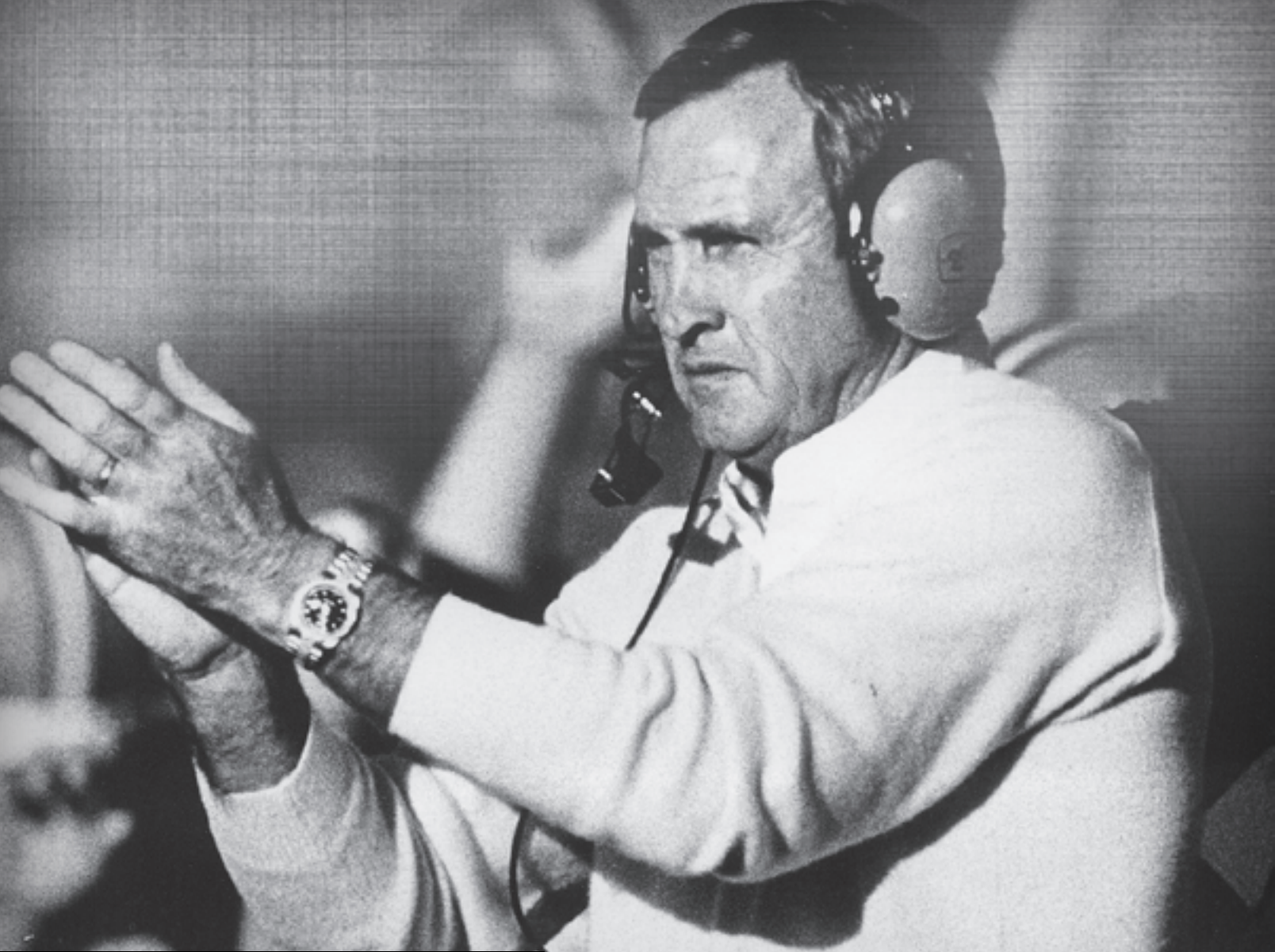
Before retiring in 1978, Kajikawa had worked as the freshman football coach under nine ASU head football coaches. In addition, he served as head basketball coach from 1948 to 1957, and he was head baseball coach during the infancy of the ASU baseball program from 1947 to 1957. He was inducted into the Arizona Basketball Hall of Fame in 1968 and the ASU Hall of Distinction in 1982.

Kajikawa devoted countless hours to community service. For his work, the American Legion selected him in 1976 for the Americanism Award for service to young people.

He and his late wife, Margaret Kajikawa, were honored with numerous community appreciation awards, including the Dorothy Mitchell Humanitarian Award from Tri-City Catholic Social Service and the Don Carlos Award from the Tempe Community Council. Also, they received the Award of Excellence from the ASU Alumni Association. His daughter, Dr. Christine K. Wilkinson, served as the Interim Director of Athletics at ASU in 1995-96 and again in 2000. She is currently Senior Vice President and Secretary at ASU.

Kajikawa received an honorary doctor of law degree during the summer 1989 commencement ceremony from ASU.

Kajikawa passed away at the age of 97 on February 15, 2010.



COACH JOHN COOPER

1985-87

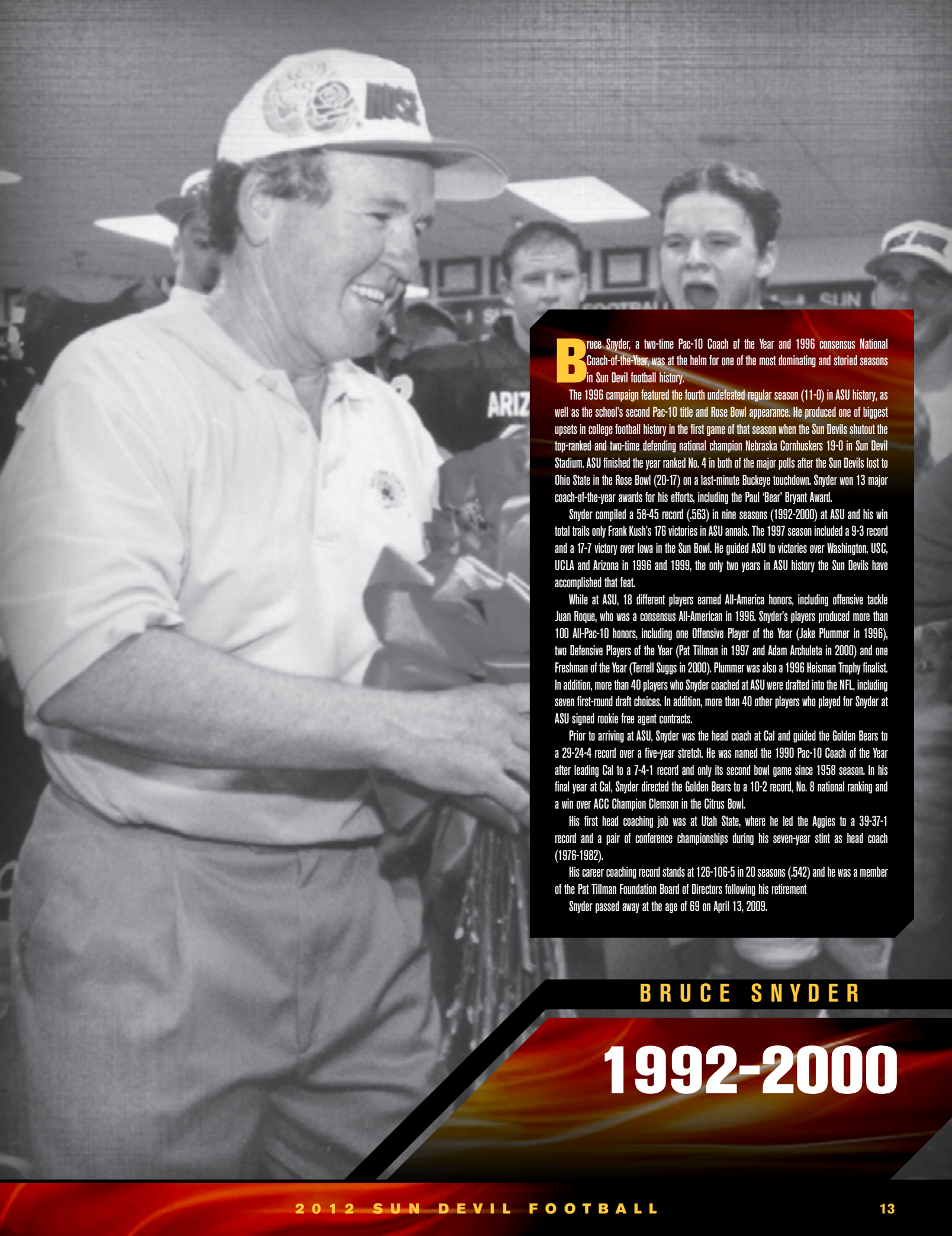
One of the finest head coaches of his time, John Cooper came to ASU after eight excellent seasons guiding the University of Tulsa. While coaching the Sun Devils, Cooper joined school icon Frank Kush as the only coaches at ASU since World War II to anchor three straight winning seasons to begin their ASU careers, while also leading ASU to postseason bowl berths all three years, at the time the second-longest postseason streak in Sun Devil history.

Cooper's most memorable season at the helm for the Sun Devils came in 1986, as ASU captured its first Pac-10 Championship and the school's debut appearance in the famed Rose Bowl game, in which the Sun Devils defeated the University of Michigan, 22-15, capping off a 10-1-1 season and a No. 4 ranking by the Associated Press, which remains tied for the second-highest end of season ranking in ASU history.

During his tenure in Tempe, Cooper compiled an overall record of 25-9-2, with a 2-1 postseason record, also defeating Air Force, 33-28, in the 1987 Freedom Bowl in Anaheim, Calif.

Cooper mentored three consensus All-Americans in safety David Fulcher and offensive linemen Danny Villa and fellow 2008 Hall of Fame inductee Randall McDaniel, while sending 18 total draft selections to the National Football League. Fulcher also is on the current ballot for selection into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Following his coaching career at ASU, Cooper, now 70, went on to guide the Ohio State Buckeyes from 1988-2000 and retired with a career coaching record of 192-84-6.



Bruce Snyder, a two-time Pac-10 Coach of the Year and 1996 consensus National Coach-of-the-Year, was at the helm for one of the most dominating and storied seasons in Sun Devil football history.

The 1996 campaign featured the fourth undefeated regular season (11-0) in ASU history, as well as the school's second Pac-10 title and Rose Bowl appearance. He produced one of the biggest upsets in college football history in the first game of that season when the Sun Devils shutout the top-ranked and two-time defending national champion Nebraska Cornhuskers 19-0 in Sun Devil Stadium. ASU finished the year ranked No. 4 in both of the major polls after the Sun Devils lost to Ohio State in the Rose Bowl (20-17) on a last-minute Buckeye touchdown. Snyder won 13 major coach-of-the-year awards for his efforts, including the Paul 'Bear' Bryant Award.

Snyder compiled a 58-45 record (.563) in nine seasons (1992-2000) at ASU and his win total trails only Frank Kush's 176 victories in ASU annals. The 1997 season included a 9-3 record and a 17-7 victory over Iowa in the Sun Bowl. He guided ASU to victories over Washington, USC, UCLA and Arizona in 1996 and 1999, the only two years in ASU history the Sun Devils have accomplished that feat.

While at ASU, 18 different players earned All-America honors, including offensive tackle Juan Roque, who was a consensus All-American in 1996. Snyder's players produced more than 100 All-Pac-10 honors, including one Offensive Player of the Year (Jake Plummer in 1996), two Defensive Players of the Year (Pat Tillman in 1997 and Adam Archuleta in 2000) and one Freshman of the Year (Terrell Suggs in 2000). Plummer was also a 1996 Heisman Trophy finalist. In addition, more than 40 players who Snyder coached at ASU were drafted into the NFL, including seven first-round draft choices. In addition, more than 40 other players who played for Snyder at ASU signed rookie free agent contracts.

Prior to arriving at ASU, Snyder was the head coach at Cal and guided the Golden Bears to a 29-24-4 record over a five-year stretch. He was named the 1990 Pac-10 Coach of the Year after leading Cal to a 7-4-1 record and only its second bowl game since 1958 season. In his final year at Cal, Snyder directed the Golden Bears to a 10-2 record, No. 8 national ranking and a win over ACC Champion Clemson in the Citrus Bowl.

His first head coaching job was at Utah State, where he led the Aggies to a 39-37-1 record and a pair of conference championships during his seven-year stint as head coach (1976-1982).

His career coaching record stands at 126-106-5 in 20 seasons (.542) and he was a member of the Pat Tillman Foundation Board of Directors following his retirement.

Snyder passed away at the age of 69 on April 13, 2009.

BRUCE SNYDER

1992-2000