

Iowa lands 19 on drama-free Signing Day

SPORTS 6B

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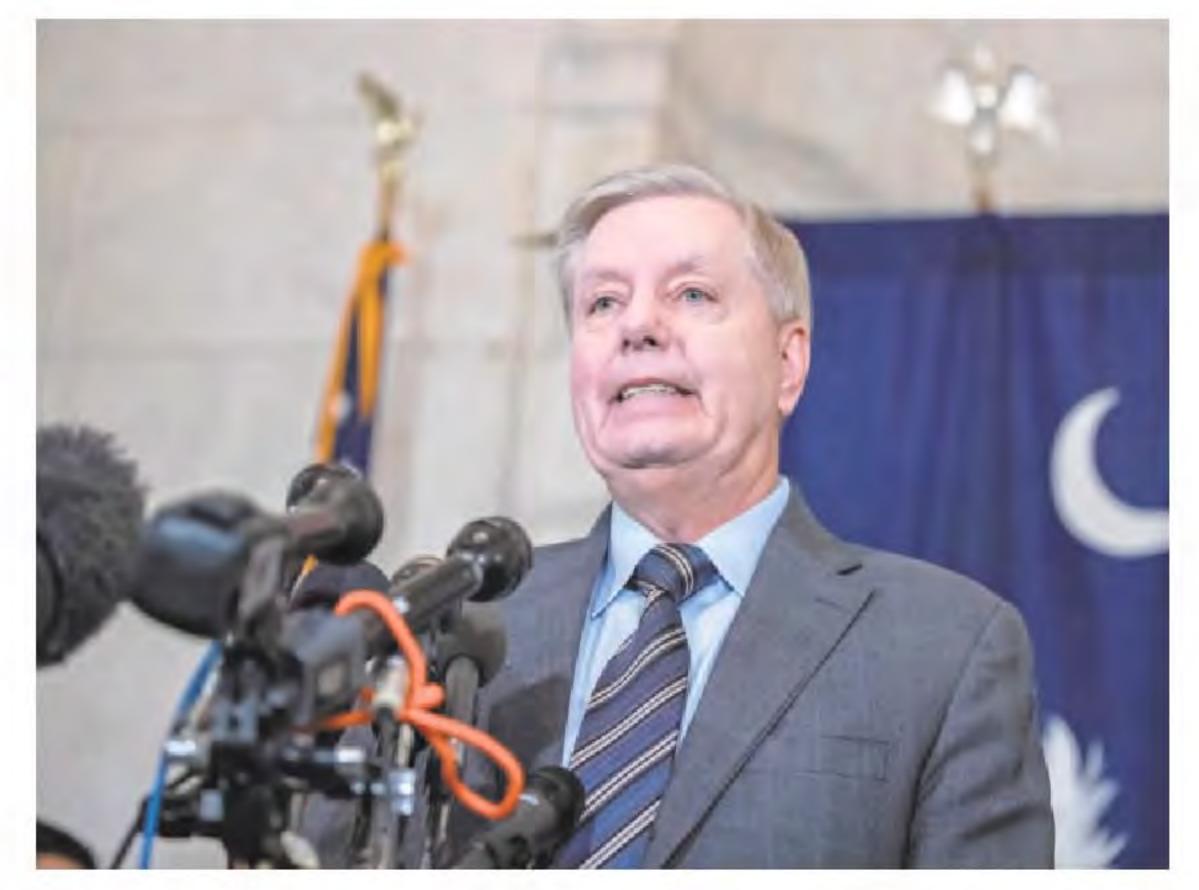
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House debates into the night on impeachment vote

On a somber day on a deeply divided Capitol Hill, the House approached a history-making evening vote to impeach President Donald Trump. Republicans sought, futilely, to delay the proceedings, but the House was expected to approve one or both of the articles of impeachment and send the matter to the Senate for a trial – where the GOP majority is expected to keep the president in office.

"Help them, and help us all."

The Rev. Pat Conroy, the House chaplain, opening the session



PELOSI: "Today we are here to defend democracy"

REPUBLICANS: Firmly united behind president

Partisan ranks appeared to be holding firm, with no House Republicans saying they'd defy Trump. The president, meanwhile, spent much of the day angrily denouncing the proceedings via Twitter. "SUCH ATRO-CIOUS LIES BY THE RADICAL LEFT, DO NOTHING DEMOCRATS," he wrote in one tweet.

For details, go to **usatoday.com**

STORY INSIDE Page, 5A

SENATE: Acquittal likely in GOP-held chamber

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks to reporters Wednesday in Washington. ERIK S. LESSER/EPA-EFE

'HE'S ONE OF THOSE GUYS YOU THINK WILL BE AROUND FOREVER'



A statue of former Iowa football coach Hayden Fry is pictured as the sun rises Wednesday along First Avenue/Hayden Fry Way in Coralville. Fry died Tuesday at age 90. JOSEPH CRESS/IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

Iowa football legend Hayden Fry dies, leaves behind Texas-sized legacy

Mark Emmert Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK For more on Hayden Fry coverage, go to inside sports section.

Hayden Fry was 90 years old and had "He didn't coach football. He been battling cancer off and on for the past 21 of them. "He didn't coach football. He changed lives," said former Hawkeye quarterback Gordy Bohannon, who ven-

Still, the legendary Iowa football coach's death hit hard for those who loved playing for him. It was evident in their voices late Tuesday as they talked about the man who shaped their lives, who was a de facto second father to so many. Grown men were crying. And for good reason. "He didn't coach football. He changed lives," said former Hawkeye quarterback Gordy Bohannon, who ventured here from Southern California as Fry's first recruit 40 years ago and stayed to raise a family.

"He changed my life because he gave me a chance to play in the Big Ten and fulfill a dream. And because of him, I got

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Many of Hayden Fry's assistants went on to become successful head coaches, including Dan McCarney, Kirk Ferentz, Bob Stoops, Bill Snyder and Barry Alvarez. REGISTER FILE PHOTO

USA TODAY

Drug plan would OK buying from Canada. **4A**

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Coach

Continued from Page 1A

to stay in **Iowa** and met my wife and have four kids."

Fry brought a Texas-sized personality and a keen desire to win to the Iowa football program. He redesigned the uniforms, painted the visiting locker room pink and doled out homespun witticisms in his southern drawl.

But most significantly, Fry restored the Hawkeyes to national relevance, and then prominence, after two decades of dormancy.

Fry won 143 football games and the hearts of thousands of Iowa football fans in his 20 seasons, retiring in 1998 while secretly fighting prostate cancer.

One of the most cherished and admired sports figures in Iowa history, Fry died Tuesday surrounded by family in Texas.

"He's one of those guys you think will be around forever," former Iowa defensive lineman Jared DeVries said upon hearing the news. "It hurts because he has a special place in your heart. ... You knew he cared about you. He wanted the best for you. And he would challenge you in his own unique way to get that out of you, to become a better person, a better football player." Fry was introduced as the **Iowa** football coach on Dec. 9, 1978, flashing a self-assured smile and making fans believe the swagger would return to a Hawkeye program starved for success. Iowa endured 17 consecutive nonwinning seasons before Fry's arrival. He brought the Hawkeyes to three Rose Bowls. He also brought pizzazz to a Big Ten Conference known for stodgy offenses and stingy defenses. "I looked at film when I first took the job, and what I saw was a bunch of teams that liked to run the ball," Fry said. "Being an old quarterback, I knew that it'd take a while for Big Ten defenses to catch up to us." Bohannon said Fry told his players he needed to run "exotic" plays because they weren't talented enough to win with a more traditional style.



Former lowa football coach Hayden Fry instructs quarterback Ryan Driscoll during a 1996 game against lowa State at Kinnick Stadium. FILE PHOTO

played some quarterback and earned a degree in psychology that would come in handy during his decades of coaching. Fry coached at Odessa for a year, then served in the Marine Corps from 1952-55, where he played and coached football. He rose to the rank of captain. He returned to Odessa for three more years of coaching. He followed that with assistant jobs at Baylor and Arkansas before taking the reins at Southern Methodist and North Texas State, winning 89 games in 17 seasons. Iowa athletic director Bump Elliott had tried Frank Lauterbur and Bob Commings in search of a spark for his football program. Nothing clicked. Then, he turned to Fry and watched him work his magic. Elliott, who died Dec. 7 at age 94, often said Fry was going to be his final hire at **Iowa**, either because the losing seasons would continue and Elliott would be fired, or because the football team would finally prosper. Fry promised fans a "high-porch picnic," an expression from his West Texas upbringing that meant things were going to be fun. He wore white slacks, aviator glasses, a thick mustache and a cowboy hat or a ball cap. If he had been a losing coach, this would have been dismissed as eccentricity. But Fry won. Hawkeye fans considered it character, and generations later you can still see young men dressed as Fry on Halloween.

staff that included, at various times, Bill Snyder, Bob Stoops, Barry Alvarez, Dan McCarney, Bret Bielema, Mark Stoops, Bo Pelini and Kirk Ferentz, who is in his 21st season after replacing his mentor. "They're just like my sons," Fry said. "I never hired an assistant coach unless I knew they were motivated to be a head coach. Because I knew they would do all the things that needed to be done, other than teaching the technical aspect of football."

his native New Jersey, entranced by Fry's persistence in recruiting and the chance to compete against the likes of Michigan and Ohio State. Fry later became a valuable mentor as Porter embarked on a baseball career.

In 2012, Porter was chosen to manage the Houston Astros. He created a foundation called S.E.L.F. (Sports, Education, Life Skills and Faith). He insisted that its first "Torch" award be given to Fry. Porter flew to Nevada to accompany his ailing former coach to Houston for the ceremony.

Porter said Fry was in tears.

"When you talk about generational impact and leaving a legacy, this man has done it better than anybody in the world," Porter said.

"There are some coaches that are into transactions. They're trying to be successful in the moment and it has nothing to do with the lives that they get to impact. Coach Fry saw well beyond that. He's the greatest coach in my era."

Fry's final season resulted in a 3-8 record. He later said that his battle with prostate cancer was a distraction for him and his staff.

"We kept it from the public," he said. "Nevertheless, it bothered us."

"It wasn't really complicated," Bohannon said of innovations like the shotgun formation. "It just looked like it was."

Fry's early success, however, was measured in small gains. The Hawkeyes went 5-6 and 4-7 in his first two seasons.

Those who worked under Fry considered themselves fortunate.

"Fans saw greatness," said Ferentz, who joined Fry's staff in 1981. "He was a great coach and a great person, who through his folksy ways and little sayings captivated a state for 20 years."

In 1985, Iowa spent five weeks at No. 1 in the Associated Press poll, beating the thensecond ranked Wolverines, 12-10, in a memorable showdown at Kinnick Stadium.

Chuck Long, the '85 Heisman Trophy runner-up, was one of seven first-team all-conference quarterbacks the Hawkeyes produced during Fry's tenure.

"Hayden added the passing game to the conference," legendary Michigan coach Bo Schembechler said. "His offenses were very imaginative. You had to start recruiting speedy guys in the secondary to stop it."

Fry's last Big Ten crown came in 1990, after Iowa beat Michigan, Michigan State and Illinois on the road.

Fry loved playing up his persona. Matt Bowen, who played safety for him at Iowa, vividly remembers Fry strolling into his Illinois home on a recruiting visit, sporting an **Iowa** blazer, sunglasses and the cowboy boots he loved to show off, the ones with a rose embedded in a Tigerhawk logo. "I'll never forget how big of a moment it was to have Hayden Fry in my house," Bowen said. "Hayden was bigger than football, the way he treated his players, the way he loved his players, the way he saved a lot of his players. No one's perfect and a lot of men go through hard times. The football side of it, that stuff leaves you. Whether you're 18 or 30, eventually the music stops. And you're going to go on to life, have a second career, have a family, be involved in the community. The core values he gave me to develop as a person, I still use in my everyday life." Bo Porter came to Iowa in 1990 from

It was the willingness to take risks and provide opportunities that led to what Fry considered his greatest moment.

Before shaking things up in the Big Ten, Fry broke down the Southwestern Conference color barrier.

On Sept. 24, 1966, Fry was coaching at SMU when he started receiver Jerry LeVias in a game against Illinois. LeVias was the SWC's first black player.

"I'm more proud of giving Jerry Levias a scholarship," Fry once told a reporter, "than I am of any game, bowl game or championship I've ever won."

Fry and Levias went into the College Football Hall of Fame together, in 2003.

Fry has a street named after him in Coralville and a life-sized statue there that greets visitors. And he has hundreds of former players still living in the area.

Randy Reiners is one of them. The Fort Dodge native played quarterback for Fry. He estimated that there are nearly 200 of his former teammates living nearby, a testament to how tightknit Fry's squads were.

Reiners has a poignant example. His sister Natalie died four days before August training camp was to begin in 1998, Fry's last season. Fry never liked to cancel practice, but he did the day of Natalie's funeral, stunning Reiners by bringing the entire team to Fort Dodge for the ceremony. "He was a human being as a coach. We had every walk of life in that locker room. He wanted to know what was going on, where you were coming from, why you were doing it. And he always knew everybody's hometown," Reiners said. "When he retired he said: 'I've got a fencerow that I've never walked. I've got guns I've never shot. I've got boots I've never worn.' He was an original. And he gave so much to this community." Memorial services for Fry are pending.

Iowa moved among the league's elite in 1981, winning the Big Ten title and earning its first Rose Bowl trip in 23 years.

Suddenly, Michigan and Ohio State were not the only contenders in the nation's oldest conference.

"Bringing Hayden in was a breath of fresh air," former Big Ten commissioner Wayne Duke once said. "As a conference, at times our personality was a little stuffy. Hayden brought his Texas humor, tales and one-liners. He brought a passing game that changed the course of our games."

John Hayden Fry was born in Eastland, Texas, on Feb. 28, 1929. His family moved to the football-obsessed town of Odessa when he was 8 years old and he quickly showed an affinity for that favorite pastime. He played quarterback and safety on the high school team, leading it to a state championship in 1946.

Then, it was off to Baylor, where he

DeVries used to love listening to Fry's rambling pep talks.

"Every time that he got behind the podium, it could have been some kind of motivation in its own right, but it also could have been a comedy show. I'm not sure people realized how funny he was," DeVries said. "He'd get up there, and sometimes we'd struggle to find the correlation, but man he was funny."

Fry redesigned the Tigerhawk logo. He altered Iowa's black-and-gold uniforms to closely resemble those of the Pittsburgh Steelers, who dominated the NFL in the 1970s. He had his players enter Kinnick Stadium running and holding hands in a tradition called "The Swarm." And he painted the visiting locker room pink as a way to get under his opponents' skin before the game had even started.

But none of that would ensure success. To do that, Fry built a legendary coaching

Former Register reporter Andrew Logue provided earlier reporting for this story.

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Houses into Homes \$25,000 request moves forward

Zachary Oren Smith

lowa City Press-Citizen **USA TODAY NETWORK**

The 100+ Men Who Care: Hawkeye Chapter donated \$15,000 to the organization which was matched by Randy's Flooring and a \$10,000 donation from an unnamed donor. Jason Barker, a spokesperson for Houses into Homes, added that a fundraiser had set them up with under \$50,000 since the issue came before the Council.

since the outset. While no one has disputed the need for the service, the request came outside of city government's typical Aid to Agencies process. The process requires area nonprofits like Shelter House and the Domestic Violence Intervention Program to all compete for funding allocations based on need. The Housing Into Homes request effectively bypasses that process, which members of other non-profits claims is unfair. While the organization stated in their ask letter to the Council that the \$25,000 would go towards funding an executive director, Houses into Homes still has not divulged what the director salary would be nor what their day-today responsibilities would entail. Barker told councilors during public comment that they would prepare a memo for Council with that information. Leadership from the nonprofits like CommUnity and Shelter House that participated in the Aid to Agencies program publicly stated their concern over the fairness of fully funding an organization that didn't go through the checks that process requires. On December 9, city staff convened a meeting with Houses Into Homes, DVIP, SHelter House, Habitat for Humanity and Inside Out Reentry. However, due to a scheduling error, representatives from

Houses Into Homes were not present. The meeting was to provide a history of furnishing projects in the past and what existing organizations are doing currently.

raising over Despite privately \$40,000 since it requested funding from the Iowa City Council, local nonprofit Houses Into Homes appears poised to still get the \$25,000 in taxpayer funds it asked for.

Houses Into Homes leaders said they needed the \$25,000 to help pay the salary of an executive director who would help the agency – which helps housingchallenged people transition to permanent housing — increase its service capacity to 18 to 20 additional households per month.

At a Tuesday Council work session, a majority of councilors indicated support for Housing Into Homes request to be paid for through an Iowa DNR mattress-diversion grant supplemented with money from the city's Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund.

Since a November 4 meeting, City Council has expressed a desire to fund the executive director position. The work session was convened to determine the source of the funding. But Tuesday's meeting was the first time councilors had a chance to react to the organization's recent fundraising success.

Barker noted the organization is always looking for multiple funding sources, adding that the ask from the city is a one-off funding request to fill Houses into Homes immediate needs until they are able to compete with other area-nonprofits for funding in the next Aid to Agencies process.

Prior Tuesday, the word "emergency" peppered the arguments of councilors for why the funding request should be granted. However, as Barker pointed out, nowhere in Houses into Homes request did they refer to their request as an emergency, only that they were at an "inflection point."

"Given the immense need in the community, (Houses into Homes) must now transition to a social service agency with stable storage, office space and at least one paid staff person," co-founders Lucy Barker and Salina McCarty wrote in the initial request.

The request has been controversial

The fear among those nonprofits and Councilor Susan Mims is that there are few charitable dollars available. With multiple organizations targeting the same needs with similar programs, there is concern about duplication of services and wasted money in in overhead costs.

The city plans to reconvene this group in the new year to hear from Houses Into Homes.

Councilor John Thomas said that while he supports the city granting money to the organization, the fact of Houses Into Homes has garnered other sources of funding, as well as the potential savings from collaboration, makes the need for a subsequent meeting clear.

Councilor Mazahir Salih said this changed no part of her calculus on funding the organization. "The need is clear. We need to stop delaying," she said.

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Governor orders flags to be lowered in memory of Hayden Fry

Dargan Southard Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kim Reynolds is making sure the state properly mourns the loss of legendary coach Hayden Fry.

Reynolds on Wednesday morning ordered all flags in Iowa to be lowered to half-staff until sunset Friday in remembrance of Fry. The former Iowa football coach passed away Tuesday night after a long battle with cancer.

"Hayden Fry was an Iowa coaching legend who left it all on the field in every game, practice, and in all aspects of his life," Reynolds said in a news release. "Born a Texan, he quickly earned his place among the greatest Iowans, by carrying Hawkeye football to new heights and connecting with our state on a level only few have.

"During the depths of the Farm Crisis of the 1980s, he popularized the 'America Needs Farmers' movement, showing farmers and rural America that he stood by them. Iowans always stood with Hayden Fry, and now they will honor his legacy and always remember him as a model for how coaches should be."

Flags will be lowered at the Iowa Capitol and at public buildings, grounds and facilities throughout the state. Individuals, businesses, schools, municipalities, counties and other government subdivisions are encouraged to fly the flags at half-staff for the same time period.

Iowa Police SUV hit helping stalled driver



Philip Joens Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

A vehicle struck a Cedar Rapids Police Department SUV as an officer and an Iowa Department of Transportation Highway Helper assisted a vehicle in a northbound lane of Interstate Highway 380 Tuesday morning.

Around 7:08 a.m., an officer was parked on the side of the road behind a stalled vehicle in a police SUV with his emergency lights on, according to a news release from Greg Buelow, a Cedar Rapids Police spokesman. An IDOT Highway Helper was parked behind the police SUV and had its lights on, the release states.

A vehicle traveling northbound in the outside lane slowed as it passed the three vehicles, but was rear-ended by another vehicle.

The rear-ended vehicle slid sideways into the police SUV and struck the back of that vehicle and then went into a ditch. The vehicle that rear-ended the vehicle in the outside lane then careened back into traffic toward the median and was struck in the side by another vehicle.

The Highway Helper was not hit.

"It was stopped along the side of the road, but was not hit," IDOT spokeswoman Andrea Henry said.

An officer was in the police SUV

when it was struck, Buelow said. The officer was taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and was later released. No other injuries were reported, Buelow said.

"The police department would like to remind motorists to slow down, leave adequate space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you," Buelow said in the news release. "Move over to another lane if you can safely do so when emergency vehicles or Highway Helper vehicles are parked on the side of the road."

Highway Helper vehicles patrol hightraffic roadways looking for motorists in need of assistance. DOT also uses traffic cameras around the state to identify stranded drivers so they can dispatch Highway Helpers to assist.

In September IDOT expanded the hours of its Highway Helper program in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Council Bluffs, and is expanding the service to include the Quad Cities.

On Dec. 3 a Des Moines police officer was injured when a car crashed into a Des Moines Police Department cruiser and a Highway Helper vehicle.

Philip Joens covers breaking news for The Des Moines Register. He can be reached at 515-284-8184 at pjoens@registermedia.com or on Twitter @Philip_Joens.

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- Don Lindich, Syndicated Columnist

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HAYDEN FRY 1929-2019

Larger than life



lowa head coach Hayden Fry waits to take the field during a 1991 game against Michigan. USA TODAY SPORTS PHOTO, TRENT JOHNSON ILLUSTRATION/USA TODAY NETWORK

Behind the sunglasses, Hayden Fry's true genius was revealed

Chad Leistikow Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

The sunglasses, the white pants, the cowboy hat, the mustache, the folksy rhetoric? All Hayden Fry. And all part of the genius behind a 1980s resurgence that became the heyday of Iowa Hawkeyes football.

But behind that persona that represented radical change in Iowa City, perhaps the most important thing Fry brought from Texas in December of 1978 was his Master's degree in psychology from Baylor.

Fry wound up being uniquely qualified to help the Hawkeyes ditch nearly two decades of losing football and believe that they could not only be good ... but great.

Inside

Remembering the man who orchestrated the resurgance of lowa football and transformed the culture surrounding the Hawkeyes:

Pages 2-5B

Fry wasn't slow-witted, although that's what he wanted his coaching counterparts to think. Behind the aviator glasses was a leader, a motivator, an innovator and a master psychologist.

"This was little old Iowa," former Iowa quarterback Chuck Long said Tuesday night, not long after the news broke that Fry had died after a long battle with cancer at 90. "It's cliché and it's coach speak, but he made us believe in something bigger than what we were as individuals. He made us believe."

The stories were flowing from Long, whose career is forever intertwined with Fry's as a player and coach, and Chuck Hartlieb — two of the most prolific passers in Hawkeye history and catalysts for an amazing 11-year run from 1981 to 1991 in which Iowa lost only 24 Big Ten Conference games and attended three Rose Bowls.

"He pulled out all your emotions and got you to play your absolute best," said Hartlieb, who directed Iowa's 10-win season of 1987. "He was the Bear Bryant of the '80s. He had an unbelievable aura around him."

See LEISTIKOW, Page 2B

Leistikow

Continued from Page 1B

The stories, oh, there are plenty of them.

Everyone knows about the pink visitors' locker room at Kinnick Stadium, a tradition that Fry's successor, 21st-year Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz, kept going.

You still see footage on national-TV broadcasts today of the pink walls, pink urinals, pink lockers ... pink everything.

The color was thought to have a calming effect, a mentality visiting coaches of course would want their team to avoid. But the mere idea of thinking about the pink walls was the calculated layer that Fry outlined in his biography, "A High Porch Picnic" (an expression in West Texas that means having a good time).

"When I talk to an opposing coach before a game and he mentions the pink walls, I know I've got him," Fry wrote. "I can't recall a coach who has stirred up a fuss about the color and then beat us." He particularly enjoyed getting under the skin of Michigan coach Bo Schembechler.



looked me in the eye," Hartlieb recalled, "and said, 'What do you think?"

Hartlieb responded without hesitation.

"Lion 75 Y Trail. Marv (Cook) is our best player,' And he said, 'Let's do it," Hartlieb recalled. "No head coach would do that today."

But Fry wanted his quarterback to have a belief that the play would work. And sure enough, Hartlieb found Cook along the right sideline in man-to-man coverage. The future NFL tight end caught the pass around the 10-yard line and lumbered into the end zone for a miracle touchdown and a 29-27 Hawkeye win.

Those type of moments stemmed from a coach with a plan.

The plan included the shtick. Like when Fry dressed in overalls, a flannel shirt and a cowboy hat following **Iowa's** 21-16 win at Minnesota in 1982, after Gophers coach Joe Salem had referred to the Hawkeyes as "a bunch of farmers." Fry always had a knack for grabbing his team's attention. "He made it fun," Long said. "You could not wait to go to practice every day to see what he was going to say or do next. I think that's the big reason he has so many coaches out there." Hartlieb was recently reminiscing with Mark Stoops, a former Hawkeye teammate and Kentucky's head coach. Stoops told Hartlieb that the best football meetings he's ever had were with Fry at Iowa. You could never predict what Fry would do next.

The story has been famously told, but it's worth memorializing.

During the pregame of the biggest matchup of Fry's 20-year Hawkeye tenure — No. 1 Iowa vs. No. 2 Michigan in 1985 — the ole fox sent an imposter to snap errant footballs to Iowa's punter. And to make sure Schembechler could see the staged gaffes.

"He's snapping the ball into the ground and over the guy's head," Long recalled. "And Schembechler calls Fry over and says, 'You're not going to have this long snapper snap to your punter today, are you?"

Fry turned to Schembechler and told him simply, "Well, we don't plan on punting today, Coach."

Iowa, of course, went on to win that legendary game at Kinnick Stadium by a 12-10 score on Rob Houghtlin's walk-off field goal, a triumphant moment that epitomized the excitement of that 1985 season.

Who ever could have imagined <mark>Iowa</mark> winning three of five from mighty Mich-

From 1983: Iowa football coach Hayden Fry and QB Chuck Long. REGISTER FILE PHOTO

igan between 1981 and 1985?

Fry did.

And he got it done.

Fry's mind games translated into how lowa moved the football, too.

Under Fry (who called the plays) and offensive coordinator Bill Snyder, Iowa brought an aggressive, pass-happy style to the black-and-blue Big Ten.

Three decades before RPOs took over college football, Fry's Hawkeyes were cutting-edge innovators.

"It was a bomb here or a draw on third-and-15," said Hartlieb, whose 3,738 passing yards in 1988 are far-andaway a school record. "He just knew you had to take chances sometimes and keep your opponent off kilter. Again, it's that psychology of don't stay between the rails, don't be vanilla. That stuff rubbed off on us. "Every single time we took the field, we felt we were going to win."

The unforgettable bootleg run by Long on third-and-goal to beat Michigan State, 35-31, during that 1985 season that saw Iowa ranked No. 1 for five straight weeks as it rolled to a 7-0 record? Fry called that out of a timeout.

Hartlieb also tells the story of a play call that Fry let him make — perhaps a stroke of desperation but also psychological genius.

You remember the play, don't you?

At the Horseshoe in Columbus, 1987. Iowa's trailing, 27-22. Fourth-and-23 from the Buckeyes' 29-yard line. Just 16 seconds left.

Iowa called timeout. Hartlieb met Fry near the sideline, with one final shot to beat Ohio State.

"He took his sunglasses off and

It was enough to keep you on edge.

It was enough to keep you coming back for more.

And, with Fry's human connection to his players and their parents, you didn't want to let him down.

Fry convinced his players that anything was possible.

Like going from the bottom of the Big Ten to the top.

"And that," Long said, "was the beauty of Hayden Fry."

Hawkeyes columnist Chad Leistikow has covered sports for 25 years with The Des Moines Register, USA TODAY and Iowa City Press-Citizen. Follow @ChadLeistikow on Twitter.



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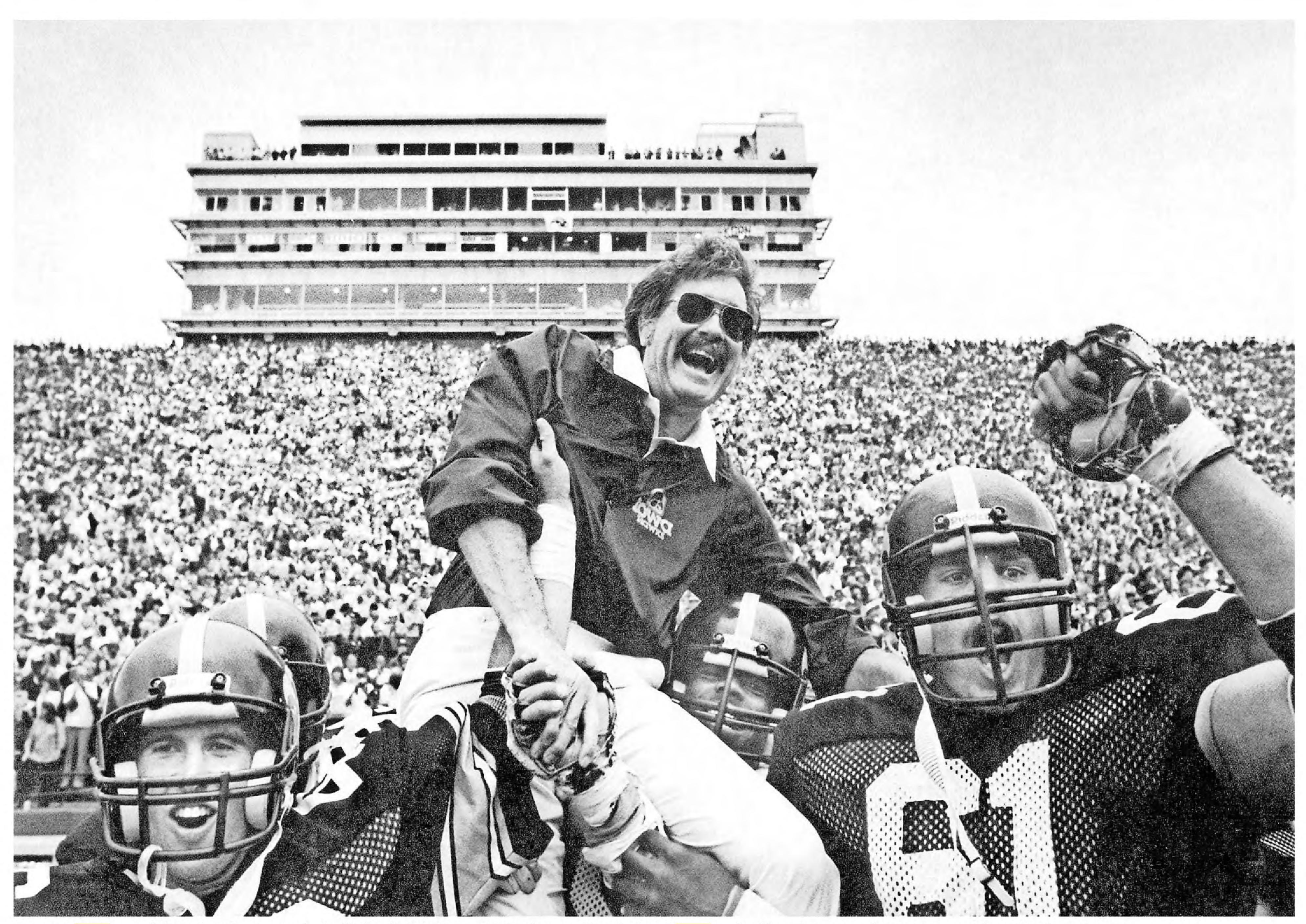


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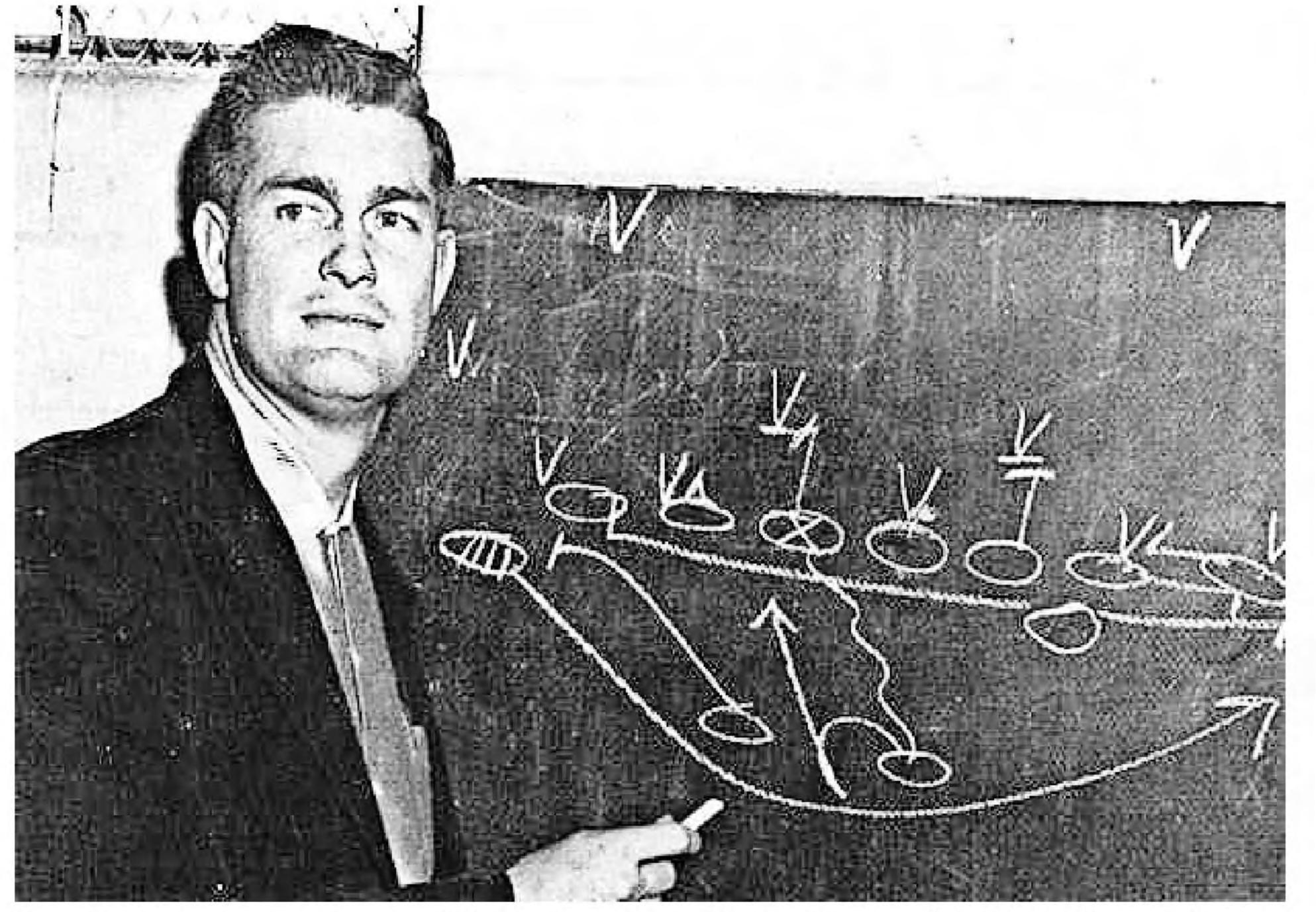


Former lowa coach Hayden Fry is carried off the field after a 1981 victory that helped lowa to its first Rose Bowl appearance since 1959. REGISTER FILE PHOTOS



Hayden Fry tosses a California orange as he poses for pictures with 1982 Rose Bowl Queen Katy Potthast.

Minnesota coach Joe Salem had mocked Iowa before the game by wearing overalls during practice.



Hayden Fry appears in a publicity image for Baylor University during his early coaching days for the Bears.



Hayden Fry celebrates with Bill Ennis-Inge (9) and Damien Robinson in the closing seconds of a victory over Minnesota in 1995.

Fry changed what it means to be a Hawkeye



Chad Leistikow Columnist Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

Hayden Fry's voice crackled with emotion as his Nov. 24, 1998, press conference to announce his retirement as **Iowa's** football coach wound to an emotional close.

Then, tears coming from his eyes so often hidden behind his trademark sunglasses, the tough Texan and former Marine uttered five unforgettable words.

"I'll always be a Hawk."

That's absolutely true, even in his passing.



Fry died Tuesday night at the age of 90 under hospice care in Dallas after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He will be remembered as perhaps the most influential figure in the history of Iowa athletics. An argument could be made for Nile Kinnick or Dan Gable. Fry is probably at the front of that conversation.

Credit the late Bump Elliott for taking a chance on the cowboy-hat-wearing coach from Odessa, Texas. Fry had always been bold and different. As coach at SMU in the 1960s, Fry had been instrumental in paving the way for Jerry LeVias to become the first black scholarship athlete in the old Southwest Conference.

LeVias would later marvel at what Fry did for him as a young coach at age 35.

"Coach Fry," LeVias said, "put his job on the line."

It wasn't until age 49, after back-toback 9-2 seasons as North Texas State's coach, that Fry jaunted to Iowa City where being different became a necessary identity.

And Fry certainly fit the bill.

Iowa had experienced 17 straight non-winning seasons in football, a dormant time.

Yet at his introductory press conference, on Dec. 9, 1978, Fry boldly promised that good times would be returning to Hawkeye football. "I believe I know something maybe some of the other coaches who've been through here didn't know," he said then. "I know what it takes to win, and I'm strong enough to do something about it. Whatever it takes, we're going to do it. As long as it's ethical and within the rules."

Flowers rest at the feet of a statue of former lowa football head coach Hayden Fry on Tuesday night in Coralville. JOSEPH CRESS/IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

contract, worth \$45,000 annually, as **Iowa's** fourth coach of the 1970s.

Three days later, Fry brought in five of his North Texas assistant coaches. One of them was 37-year-old Bill Snyder, who would become Fry's offensive coordinator and one of many prominent branches in Fry's eventual legendary coaching tree that would also include the likes of Barry Alvarez, Bill Snyder, Bob Stoops, Dan McCarney, Jim Leavitt, Brett Bielema, Mike Stoops and, yes, Kirk Ferentz.

Fry brought the Tiger Hawk logo, an iconic image that permeates every corner of our state today, along with the colors of the Pittsburgh Steelers — the NFL's dominant team of the 1970s. When you see the Tiger Hawk, you think Iowa. That was all Fry. Heck, a national network sit-com made paid homage to the national stature that Fry had obtained. Played by Craig T. Nelson, Hayden Fox was the lead character in the show "Coach," created by Iowa alum Barry Kemp. And, obviously, Fry most importantly won football games at the highest level.

Iowa's rags-to-riches story graced the pages of "Sports Illustrated." Fry had brought the upstart Hawkeyes in the conversation with longtime heavyweights Ohio State and Michigan as the powers of the Big Ten Conference.

Fry's 1981, 1985 and 1990 teams went to the Rose Bowl behind innovative offenses and Bill Brashier's hard-nosed defenses.

All told, Fry won 143 games at Iowa. His 230 wins in 37 years overall ranks 13th at the FBS level. He's one spot behind Bo Schembechler; one ahead of Steve Spurrier. That's the kind of company that Fry maintains today. ments at the University of Iowa hospitals, telling only his wife, Shirley. But now the results were showing on his forlorn face, on the heels of a 3-8 Iowa football season.

But the man who learned toughness in the oil fields of West Texas went ahead and faced off with cancer. He battled for another 21 years.

Stubborn and determined as always, until his final breath.

He'll always be a Hawk.

And maybe that's his ultimate legacy to so many people in our state — not just the players and coaches whose lives he touched. He brought a unique identity, *winning* football, packed stadiums and state pride to Iowa.

Fry had been hired under a five-year

At Iowa, he was iconic.

He would've probably coached until he was 90, too, if he could have. But at 69, at that press conference of finality, his body had been battered by prostate cancer.

He had quietly been getting treat-

Fry changed what it means to be a Hawk.

Forever.

Hawkeyes columnist Chad Leistikow has covered sports for 25 years with The Des Moines Register, USA TODAY and Iowa City Press-Citizen. Follow @ChadLeistikow on Twitter.

Greatest wins of the Hayden Fry era at Iowa

Staff reports

Iowa football legend Hayden Fry died Tuesday at the age of 90. The brash Texas was one of the greatest sports figures in the state's history and is credited with building Hawkeye football into the program it is today. Here's a look at his greatest victories with the Hawkeyes:

IOWA 12, MICHIGAN 10

Oct. 19, 1985 at Kinnick Stadium, <mark>Iowa</mark> City

Perhaps the most memorable moment of Hayden Fry's tenure, a classic clash between the nations' No. 1 and No. 2 teams. Rob Houghtlin's fourth field goal of the game, from 29 yards out, provided the winning margin for the topranked Hawkeyes.



bus, Ohio

On the day Fry and his players flew to Columbus, Ohio, the University was rocked by shooting rampage that left six people dead. Tigerhawk decals were removed from helmets.

IOWA 28, TENNESSEE 22

Dec. 31, 1982 at Atlanta-Fulton Co. Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. Dave Moritz tied a Peach Bowl record with eight receptions for 168 yards, all in the first half, as the Hawkeyes earned their first postseason win under Fry.

IOWA 36, MICHIGAN STATE 7 Nov. 21, 1981 at Kinnick Stadium, **Iowa**

IOWA 29, OHIO STATE 27

Nov. 14, 1987 at Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio

Marv Cook caught a 28-yard touchdown pass from Chuck Hartlieb with 6 seconds remaining. Hartlieb's pass came on fourth-and-23 as Cook beat two defenders at the goal line.

IOWA 55, TEXAS 17

Dec. 26, 1984 at Anaheim Stadium, Anaheim, Calif.

Chuck Long threw six touchdown passes in a Freedom Bowl rout of the Longhorns, finishing 29-of-39 passing for 461 yards. It was the second-most points ever scored against Texas.

IOWA 10, NEBRASKA 7

Sept. 12, 1981 at Kinnick Stadium, <mark>Iowa</mark> City

A non-conference win over the Cornhuskers set the tone for a run to a Big Ten Conference title and the Rose Bowl. Just a year earlier, Nebraska beat the Hawkeyes 57-0.

IOWA 16, OHIO STATE 9 Nov. 2, 1991 at Ohio Stadium, Colum-

Rob Houghtlin celebrates after his game-winning field goal took down Michigan in a No.1 vs. No.2 matchup in 1985. REGISTER FILE PHOTO

City

The Hawkeyes earned their first Rose Bowl trip under Fry, after Phil Blatcher rushed for 247 yards against the Spartans. Michigan State finished with just 37 yards on the ground.

IOWA 39, SAN DIEGO STATE 38

Dec. 30, 1986 at Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, Calif.

Houghtlin added to his legacy with a game-winning 41-yard field goal as time expired in the Holiday Bowl. It capped an 18-point scoring spree by the Hawkeyes in the final 8:39.

IOWA 31, MINNESOTA 9

Nov. 23, 1985 at Kinnick Stadium, <mark>Iowa</mark> City

Another Big Ten title was secured with an impressive romp over the Gophers. A Kinnick Stadium crowd of 66,020 endured chilly temperatures and savored the win.

IOWA 27, TEXAS TECH 0

Dec. 29, 1996 at Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas

Sedrick Shaw rushed for 113 yards on 20 carries and Tim Dwight caught six passes for 105 yards, in what proved to be Fry's final postseason triumph, a shutout at the Alamo Bowl.

Former Hawkeyes and more pay tribute

Dargan Southard Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

As news circled Tuesday night regarding Hayden Fry's death, members of the Hawkeye community quickly expressed their condolences.

The tributes spread wide, from former players and coaches to broadcasting legends and more. Below are a few.

Fry family

"With our family at his side, Hayden Fry, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away following a lengthy battle with cancer. We are comforted in our faith and knowing that Hayden is no longer suffering and resides now in heaven with our Lord. Hayden passed on Dec. 17, at the age of 90. "We are proud to know that our father's life had a positive influence on so many people, the players, the coaches, and the fans who played for, worked with, and supported his long and successful coaching career. His legend will live forever with the people he touched and inspired, and the programs he led to greater heights. "Though Hayden was born in Texas and moved there more recently to be closer to our family, his love for the University of Iowa, his players and coaches, the people of Iowa, and the state of Iowa, is well known. Hayden often shared, 'I'll Always Be a Hawkeye'.



Dan McCarney, lowa letterman (1972-74) and former asst. coach

"He loves energy. He loves passion. He loves guys that can communicate. He had gotten some good recommendations, I don't know who they were from, from at least a couple people in Iowa City. One of the many things I learned from Hayden Fry: If a young man doesn't have all the things experience wise that you're looking for, but he has those other intangibles -- work ethic, loyalty, coachable, can communicate, can build relationships, a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of passion and energy for life, could be a good recruiter and a guy that might be a person on the rise -- then maybe I'll embrace him, give him a chance and opportunity, and that's what Hayden Fry did with me."

"Our family would like to pass along our heartfelt thanks to the caregivers who made Hayden's comfort their priority.

"We cannot thank everyone enough love and support. Your their tor thoughts and prayers are truly appreciated.Memorial Services are pending and will be announced at a later date."

Gary Barta, Iowa athletics director

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Shirley and the entire Fry family as we mourn the loss of Hayden Fry; a great leader, an outstanding coach, and a man as genuine and loyal as they come.



Former lowa football coach Hayden Fry waves to the crowd with his wife, Shirley, at his side prior to kickoff Sept. 5, 2009 in lowa City. REGISTER FILE PHOTO

the many outstanding coaches who served as a member of his staff. Hayden's legacy not only lives on through Iowa football, but also through the coaches and players who had the privilege to be associated with his teams.

"Hayden represented all that is good in college athletics, and did it 'his way'. Iowa athletics, and college football, has lost a pioneer. He was a dedicated family man and he will be missed."

Kirk Ferentz, lowa head coach

"Hayden Fry is a college football icon and an Iowa legend. His Hall of Fame career is well known, but personally, he will always be the man who took a chance on me at the start of my coaching career. I was proud to coach with him and honored to succeed him when he retired. He's been a great mentor and a true friend. I am forever grateful to him.

"Mary and I send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Shirley, their children and the entire Fry family. We hope that Hayden's legacy of integrity and high character will provide his family comfort during this difficult time." "There are two men who played large roles in my coaching career: One is my mentor, Joe Moore. The other is Hayden Fry. "Back in 1981, I sent three job applications out: one went to Appalachian State – I never heard back from them; I sent one to Hawaii, had a phone interview, but they needed someone who knew the west coast; the third went to

Hayden Fry at Iowa. Coach Fry hired me based on Coach Moore's recommendation (and in spite of my lack of experience and local knowledge) and showed me how to build and maintain a winning program.

"His vision included hiring coaches who would be forward thinking and challenge each other. If you look across college football, you will see a part of his legacy in the coaches who he hired and mentored - coaches like Barry Alvarez, Bill Snyder, Dan McCarney, Bob, Mike and Mark Stoops and many more.

"Even before the Hawkeyes started winning on the field, Coach Fry was beloved by the fans and trusted by his players. He had a charisma and leadership style that created a championship and winning program that continues today. In 20 seasons at Iowa, Coach Fry showed us all that you can succeed at the highest level by playing by the rules."

Jerry Levias, SMU player (1965-68)

"Coach Fry caught a lot of hell for doing what he did. After he left SMU, he went to North Texas, and he couldn't get a break in Texas – sometimes coaching and having to go to good bowl games. All of a sudden, Iowa calls. From my understanding, before Coach Fry got there Iowa had not had a .500 season since 1948 or so. This guy comes in and he turns the program around. When one door closes, the Good Lord has plans. It was like in the Good Lords plans for him to come to Iowa."

Chuck Long, Iowa QB (1981-85)

"I have to give him all the credit for getting my personal career launched among others. I speak for many of the Hawkeye football past players. He had a special way of making you feel good all the time even in the tough games and in the tough moments. For me it was after an interception. He had a way of getting you back up and confident. That feeling... not every coach has that ability and I've been around a bunch of them. Not every coach has that ability to make you feel confident and be positive even in the negative situations."

Merton Hanks, lowa defensive back (1987-90)

"Hayden was always on the cutting edge and looking for the best people, regardless of race, creed, or color. What he did at Iowa, really rebuilding that program to what it was to, quite frankly, national power. To get it to the point where you were able to attract young men from states away, like myself, who may not have known about the University of Iowa and everything Iowa has to offer, speaks very well of not only him, but the University itself and being a partner with him to make the University of Iowa brand that much bigger and better."

"Iowa Athletics has lost an icon, a man that raised the bar for every Hawkeye program, and every member of our athletics department. Hayden was respected by everyone who knew him. His passing creates a void for all those who played for, coached with, and supported his successful tenure as our head football coach.

"Iowa football reached new heights under Hayden Fry, and has continued that success under Kirk Ferentz, one of

Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack

"Coach Fry led a return of Hawkeye football to winning seasons and regular bowl appearances. But, for me his greatest legacy is as a great teacher of young men especially the many coaches who have continued to emulate him as great coaches and teachers."

Ferentz: Fry 'set a standard for leadership'

Dargan Southard Des Moines Register

IOWA CITY, Ia. — As a man who inserts historical references into any press conference he can, Kirk Ferentz often circles back to 1981. It was his first year in the **Iowa** program — a fledgling offensive line coach under the eccentric Hayden Fry.

Ferentz didn't have a strong resume, just a few graduate assistant jobs and a stop leading Worcester Academy, when Fry hired the future Hawkeye head man. Ferentz hasn't forgotten that gesture and what's unfolded since. "Every day, he set a standard for leadership," Ferentz said at Wednesday's press conference. "He had such a vision. There was no lack of clarity on how he wanted to do things." Among the biggest marks Fry left was creating the iconic Tigerhawk logo — synonymous with **Iowa** athletics across the world. After it began circulating, it didn't take long for Ferentz to notice its impact. "I go to my first high school game," Ferentz recalled, "and saw Tigerhawks everywhere." Fry's standard of excellence fueled Ferentz once he took over the Iowa football program in 1999. After nine years learning under his mentor, Ferentz knew what was expected to continue Hawkeye glory. Like Fry, Ferentz started out slow with back-to-back losing seasons. Fry led **Iowa** to the Rose Bowl in his third year. Ferentz had the Hawkeyes in the Orange Bowl in year four. Asked how often he felt responsible for upholding Fry's legacy, Ferentz fought back tears with his answer.

They made only one Hayden Fry

They made only one Hayden Fry. That's a good thing, too. Because the sport of college football needed him at the time.

And it turned out, so did much of lowa.

"Hayden was out of the box before being out of the box became a cliche," former Fry assistant Dan McCarney told me Tuesday.

news came out that the **Iowa** football legend, who came to define the university in **Iowa** City in so many ways, had died Tuesday at 90. McCarney, who coached with Fry at Iowa and against him as **Iowa** State's head coach years later, was swapping stories about the man he would forever call "coach." McCarney even threw out this suggestion about Fry: "Here's one for you," Mac said. "They should make a movie about Hayden Fry." If the movie is anything like the man, not a minute would be boring. This was a man who made Hawkey football into what it is today. He put Hawkeye football on the map and made outsiders feel as if they were family. His big-picture story would also include moments such as these: "I got President Bush and Barbara their first apartment," Fry once told reporters back when I covered his teams. "The parents of a girl I was dating back in Odessa (Texas) had a garage apartment they wanted to rent. George just got out of active duty and told me he and Barbara were looking for a place to live. I swung the deal for him."



Randy Peterson Columnist Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

seen him in anything other than white pants on the sidelines for a game," McCarney said during a past inter-McCarney spoke not long after view. "I asked him what the deal was, and Hayden said that he was wearing black pants, so he could blend in on the sidelines because someone was trying to kill him."

> He wore a bullet-proof vest for a while, too, because "my bodyguard at the time got word that someone had me on a list of people that he wanted killed," Fry said after his retirement. "The guy was afraid I was going to someday be the governor. He knew I was from Texas, and for some reason, he didn't want a Texan to be the governor of the state of Iowa." Fry was so popular, that he might have even won, which would have been a dandy part of the movie McCarney suggested. But in reality, there's no need to take creative license with this man's story.

"He was a trailblazer," McCarney said. "He was a life-changer. He was maverick. 'What the hell is Scratch where it itches?' What's that?"

It's one of those zany and wonderful things Fry said a lot.

"I scarcely know where to start," Big 12 commissioner and former Iowa athletics director Bob Bowlsby said about his Fry recollections on Tuesday night. "One that happened the first year I was at Iowa — the awful shootings on campus," he said of the 1991 campus killings.

"We were in Columbus. Hayden's daughter was working in the area where the shootings were. We couldn't get any information. We were playing a national television game the next day. I was a brand-new athletics director at **Iowa**, and somehow it didn't seem right to play a football game. "But on that Friday evening before the game, we decided to take decals off the helmets and show support that way. Hayden's strength got us through it through it. He was a rock." Back in the day, the two biggest names in our proud state were Hayden Fry and Gov. Robert Ray. Sadly, both no longer are with us. Both, however, were iconic in their own ways. "I had the good fortune to know both of them well," Bowlsby said Tuesday night. "It such a personal loss. They were both icons. They were both in the hearts of Iowans, and they resided there for many, many years. "To have them gone, creates a significant void for those people — those that knew them, and those that knew them by reputation." Randy Peterson has been writing for the Des Moines Register for parts of five decades.

"Every day," Ferentz said.

Or this one:

When Fry wore black pants during the 1982 Iowa State game in Iowa City. "It was the first time in my life I'd ever Who'd be Fry?

We chatted maybe 10 minutes longer, before Mac abruptly said Kevin Costner.

Say what?

"Kevin Costner would be a great Hayden Fry," McCarney proudly said. "He'd do a great job."

That's how iconic the guy behind the dark glasses was. The more you knew Hayden, the more his charm grew on you. The more you covered his teams, the more you knew what to expect — from his crazy sayings, to the way he deflected criticism of his players when things weren't going so well.