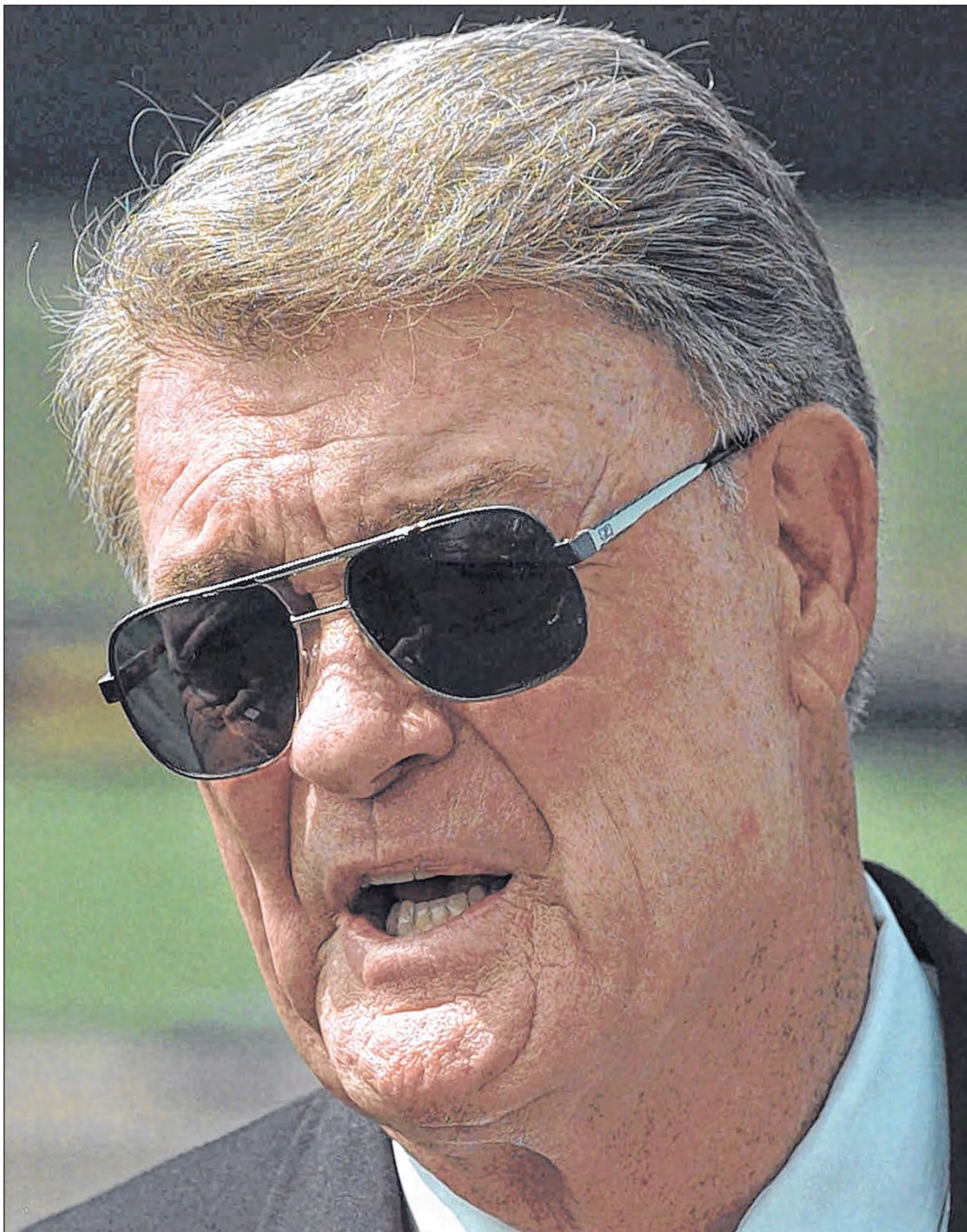


The Gazette

# HAYDEN FRY

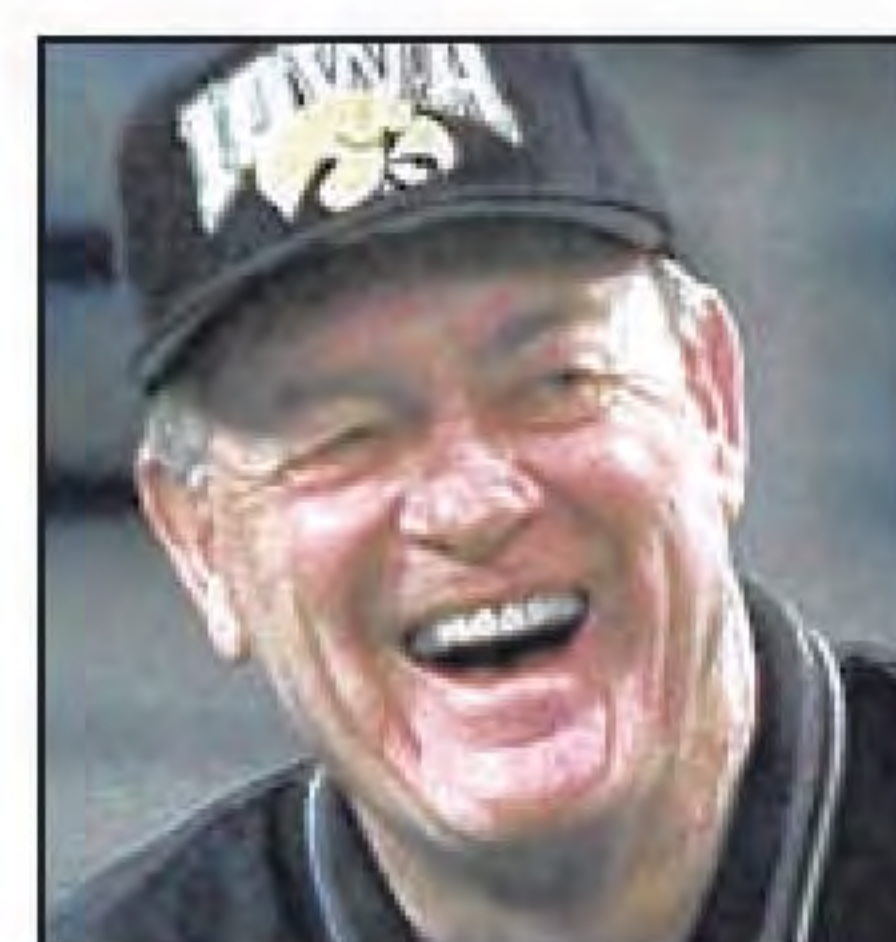
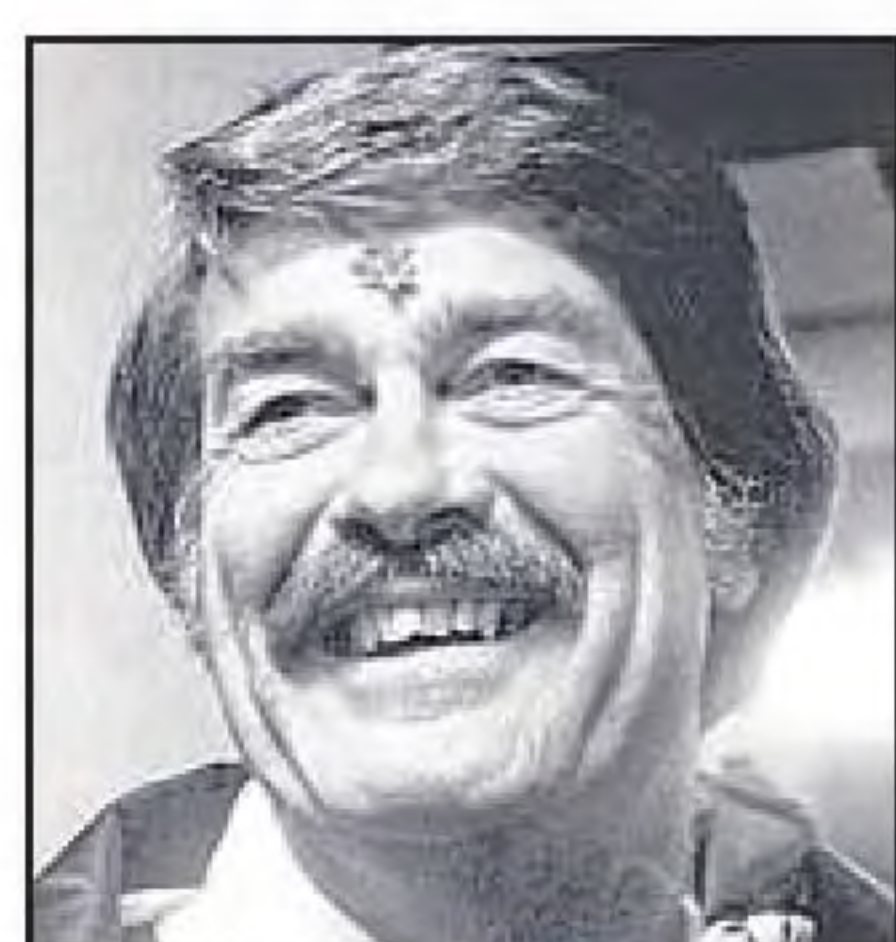
## REMEMBERING AN IOWA LEGEND



Longtime University of Iowa football coach Hayden Fry in 1998. Fry died Dec. 17 in Dallas.

# A

celebration of a Hawkeye Iowa folk hero, whose successes on the football field reversed two decades of misery and, in turn, helped turn the University of Iowa from Big Ten also-rans to a college athletics destination.





## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“Coach Fry had a tremendous impact on my life. He will be greatly missed. My prayers are with the Fry family.” **Matt Whitaker @MattWhitaker46**



Iowa head coach Hayden Fry talks to the media before a practice in El Paso, Texas, getting ready for the 1997 Sun Bowl. Fry had a hot and cold relationship with the media, but there was a lot of respect both ways. (The Gazette)

## Fry galvanized Hawkeye fan base

By Mark Dukes

The larger the legend, the more difficult it becomes to completely capture that person's legacy.

Such is the case with Hayden Fry.

This will not be a reiteration of his accomplishments. So many members of the media in the days since his death have done a magnificent job of doing just that, and more.

As I scanned my list of possible angles for this piece, I landed on not only how he changed the culture of Iowa football, but specifically how he changed the thoughts and habits of the Hawkeye fan. Keep in mind, it would not



Mark Dukes  
Former sports editor

have been possible had Fry not won.

Iowa was in throes of 17 straight non-winning seasons, a period that spanned five head coaches. During this dreadful time in Iowa football history, there were certainly loyal fans. But it was largely a mediocre product. Tickets were easy to come by. I knew a man who got into the stadium by using a matchbook cover to give his friend, a ticket taker.

Athletics director Bump Elliott already had hired two coaches, Frank Lauterbur and Bob Commings. Elliott was deep in the count as he stepped to the plate in 1978. He needed a home run and not just a ball in play.

Enter Fry.

Fry rapidly changed the Iowa Fan in many ways, foremost among them by win-

ning. But it also was his wit and one-liners, his personality and availability to all, the Hawkeye marketing group, and more. Not long after he arrived, Kinnick Stadium became a tough ticket. Fans soon were saving their money for bowl trips as much as for college savings accounts.

Saturdays at Kinnick became an event and all-day commitment, not an afterthought. And Fry had the Iowa Fan in his back pocket.

Fry's relationship with media largely was good, but there were times it became contentious — often for his own benefit, I believed. During the 1988 season, I unwantingly found myself in his cross hairs.

The Hawkeyes were 5-3-2 (ties to Michigan State and Michigan) when Ohio State visited for the next-to-last

game of the regular season. Iowa was driving for a potential winning touchdown, but the effort stalled. With 16 seconds remaining, Fry elected to have Jeff Skillett kick a 40-yard field goal to tie the game, 24-24. Iowa failed on an onside kick and it became the third tie of the season.

I followed Fry closely off the field and clearly heard boos and catcalls from a minority of fans. I wrote about what I saw and heard in my Sunday column. I even reread it this week and still believe it was true and accurate.

But at the Tuesday news conference, Fry was upset. He didn't like or appreciate the column.

“It's like somebody's out to get me or my team,” he said. “We've got a few writers who've got that poison pen.”

The next day, my phone didn't stop ringing, call after call from fans — 95 percent of them in Fry's corner.

My point here is not to make this personal but to give yet another example of how Fry could galvanize the fan base. He had the fans support on almost everything, sometimes no matter the facts.

To Fry's credit, the following Tuesday after the blowup, he treated me as if nothing ever happened. And we had a good relationship after, one of mutual respect.

Hayden Fry was a wonderful football coach. He had a Hall of Fame mind, one that changed the behavior of the Iowa football fan forever.

Mark Dukes worked at The Gazette from 1973 to 1998, not only as the Iowa football beat writer but also sports editor for several years.

## Joining the 'club' when Fry went on attack

By Jim Ecker

Hayden Fry called me a liar.

That's not something you want to hear while covering an Iowa football news conference for The Gazette, but oddly his false remark welcomed me into the “club.”

That's the “club” of sportswriters and sportscasters who occasionally became Hayden's foils, especially if he wanted to deflect attention from his Hawk-eyes.

There was a long list of club members, but you did not become a club member without Hayden paying attention (at least a little) to your work.

You had to write or say something that got under his skin, even if it was innocent or somehow got a little twisted in the translation.

In my case, I asked Hayden if The Gazette could do a story about

Iowa's newfangled “winged” jerseys. This was back in the mid-1990s, and the request got a little bumpy from there.

Hayden said “yes,” IF I could get permission from his equipment manager who had the new jerseys. I relayed Hayden's directive to the equipment guy — that it would be OK, if the equipment guy approved — but it somehow got mangled in the translation when the equipment guy checked with Hayden.

Hayden ended up with the impression that I had misrepresented the deal, that I had told the equipment guy that Hayden himself had issued a full green light, which was not the case.

So there I was, attending a weekly news conference, when I asked Hayden a question about the next game. That's when Hayden welcomed me into the “club.”

“You LIED Jimm-ee! JIM-ee, you lied!,” he growled, staring right at me as all the eyes in the

room turned in my direction. What? Huh? What's he talking about?

As I recall, I had written a few sentences in an Iowa game story that questioned one of Hayden's calls on fourth down near midfield. It's been about 25 years ago and memory fades, but Hayden did not like to be second-guessed, even if it was a legitimate question.

So that's the day I joined the “club,” as a quasi badge of honor. It's not something I sought, but Hayden picked the club members, and nobody else.

And you know what? In a few weeks, the little spat was over. It never affected our relationship and we continued to work cordially together.

A few years after the incident he said he “regretted” what happened, but never actually apologized. But that's OK. I liked and respected Hayden.

John Hayden Fry died Tuesday at 90. He led a full and productive life,

touching thousands of players and millions of fans along the way.

Jim Ecker not only covered the Iowa football team for The Gazette, he also served as the men's

basketball beat writer and was assistant sports editor for several years.





## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“Heaven is having a High Porch Picnic. Coach Fry changed all of our lives forever. I love you Coach. RIP.” **Chuck Long @ChuckLongIowa**

# A love story

Former **Iowa** QB said Coach Fry changed his life

Editor’s note: Former **Iowa** quarterback Chuck Long did a telephone interview with The Gazette after Hayden Fry’s death on Tuesday. Long was an All-American and Heisman Trophy runner-up under Fry who, after his NFL career, coached with him at **Iowa**. Here is Long’s story:

By **Chuck Long**

Everybody should write a book called “What if?”

What if Hayden Fry never came along? Where would I be? Who knows?

I got recruited by Northern Illinois and Northwestern but only because **Iowa** was recruiting me. If Iowa didn’t recruit me ... who knows where I’d be?

He changed my life forever. Football’s opened up the world to me — I’ve been around the world because of football.

I was not recruited at all. We threw the ball four or five times a game. We went to the state championship my junior year and I passed for minus 3 yards.

Then I got the phone call that changed my life forever, from the great Bill Snyder.

He was the offensive coordinator (and) quarterbacks coach at the time ... in December of 1980. I’ll never forget it. I came home from the basketball practice, you know, thinking, hey, life goes on ... let’s go on to the next step. And I get this call.

I think it’s my buddy Tom playing a practical joke on me. I realized it was no practical joke. It was Bill Snyder himself calling for Fry. And they wanted to fly me in for an official visit.

John Streif picked me up and took me to Iowa River Power restaurant. I had the biggest prime rib I’ve ever had in my life.

I met this John Wayne-like



Frustration shows on the faces of **Iowa** quarterback Chuck Long and head coach Hayden Fry during the Rose Bowl against UCLA on Jan. 1, 1986, in Pasadena, Calif. (The Gazette)

figure named Hayden Fry. He was bigger than life. When I shook his hand for the first time I said, my goodness, he just oozed with charisma. He knew all about my family, as you do in recruiting, but ... I shook his hand for the first time (and) I thought I was shaking hands with a dignitary or a movie star ...

He just had IT! That was the first moment of impact he had on my life. He became a second father to me. I just loved the man.

Fry was my best mentor and coach ever, (but) he was much more than just a football coach to me.

He took time off the field to get to know you, and that’s what made the difference. He

always took time to ask about my family. When I was coaching for him, he always took time to ask about my immediate family, of course, and what they’re doing. Every time I called him, before we even talked business or football or whatever, he always asked about my family and wanted me to tell him what each one of them were up to. Every time.

He had so much charisma and a wonderful sense of humor and made football practices and games so much fun.

He was very disciplined. He was an ex-Marine. He had a Hall of Fame coaching staff — he knew how to hire people. He drove his coaches and us hard, but he made it fun.

You couldn’t wait to get to

practice every day. He had a thing at the end of practice he called “cheer.” It was always on the practice script.

He wanted his players to leave the field, whether it’s a bad practice or a good practice, with something positive, something funny. You always had somebody tell a joke, or he would tell a joke or motivational story, but he wanted it to be cheerful.

When I was coaching for him — he was very adamant about this, and I believe it was crucial to his success — he wanted every coach to tell his players something positive on the way off the practice field, or after a game, even if we lost the game. He would make sure they didn’t leave the locker

room without something positive. That was very important to him, and I believe was a difference in our success.

I mean, how many places do you know do the “Hokey Pokey?”

He had a profound effect on everybody. The impact he had on lives in **Iowa** is just amazing.

I think everybody, in every single living room in the state of **Iowa**, at some point in time mentioned Hayden Fry. And always in a good way.

Chuck Long is CEO and executive director of the Iowa Sports Foundation, which is comprised of the Iowa Games, Live Healthy Iowa, Corporate Games, Senior Games and Adaptive Sports Iowa. He also is an analyst for the Big Ten Network and recently signed on as running backs coach for the St. Louis BattleHawks of the NFL.

## Fry was tough, compassionate

By **Bill Hoppel**

Like so many others, some of my favorite childhood memories are of Saturdays at Kinnick Stadium.

Most of my childhood was in the 1970s, however, so the victories I witnessed were not many. I always looked forward to a time when **Iowa** would be a “winner.”

I was fortunate to have a father who played and coached in **Iowa**’s “glory years” in the 1950s, so I knew it could happen.

As I entered high school, Iowa hired a guy named Hayden Fry. Like most other **Iowans**, I had no idea who this man was and why he might be different.

While I didn’t know him very well yet, I saw the change in the **Iowa** Hawkeye football team. In 1981, as a high school senior, I witnessed victories over No. 7 Nebraska and No. 6 UCLA (as well as No. 5 Michigan) that forever changed the pos-



**Bill Hoppel**  
Former WR

sibilities for Hawkeye football.

**Iowa** really could compete with anybody.

Coach Fry was a well known “salesman” but he didn’t have to sell me to come to **Iowa**. I had already witnessed the change he was creating and I wanted to be a part of it.

I must admit when I first got to **Iowa**, I was a little intimidated by Coach Fry. He already was kind of a larger than life figure to me. I quickly found there were a lot of attributes that made Coach Fry the great man and coach that he was.

He was disciplined. Everything was always on a schedule and there were consequences if you were late. (Much to the quarterbacks and receivers chagrin, he did allow Coach Bill Snyder to keep us in our film room long over the allotted time).

He was tough. When players made mistakes, he would usually take it out on his coaches for not preparing us better. Then we would hear it from our coaches. There were no short cuts in

Coach Fry’s program.

He was compassionate. How many coaches do you see going out on the field to check on injured players? It wasn’t for show; he truly hated to see his players get hurt.

He was funny. His humor always has been on display and he laughed so hard at his own jokes that you just had to laugh with him.

One time, after missing three weeks with a high ankle sprain, I returned to practice. Afterward he gave a few of us a ride to training table and he asked how practice went for me.

Knowing I was never known for my speed, I responded “I think I might have lost a step or two on my routes.”

He deadpanned back, “Billy, if you were any slower, you’d be walking.”

He was inspirational. It wasn’t so much the words he said ... and we heard many of the same stories again and again. He was inspirational because you knew how much he cared for his players, coaches, the University of **Iowa** and,

quite frankly, the state of **Iowa**.

He inspired most of us to attain goals that we didn’t even think were attainable.

He was confident. He always used to say “if you done it, it ain’t bragging.” And because he was confident, his teams were confident. From the outside, **Iowa** wasn’t supposed to compete with Ohio State and Michigan. But he never took a team in to any of those games where we weren’t confident we would win.

Coach Fry was all those things, but I believe he would say his most important attribute is what he left us with at his retirement announcement — “I’ll always be a Hawk!”

Last spring, more than 40 of his former players and coaches traveled to Dallas to share an afternoon with Coach and celebrate his 90th birthday.

He couldn’t believe all these guys would come down to see him ... and we couldn’t miss the chance to thank him one more time for all that he has done for all of us.

Love you coach.

Bill Hoppel was a wide receiver at Iowa from 1982 to 1985. He played in 46 games, catching 112 passes for 1,685 yards and 10 touchdowns. In his last two seasons, he caught 103 of those passes for 1,533 of those yards

and all 10 TDs. His father, Bill, was a three-year letterwinner in football at Iowa, including a trip to the 1957 Rose Bowl. Father and son both scored a touchdown in the Rose Bowl.

It is great to be a **Hawkeye.**

*Thank you*

for the incredible memories  
legendary Coach Fry.



**PREMIER**  
AUTOMOTIVE INC.

North Liberty, Iowa



## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“Amazing coach with great integrity. In my New Jersey living room, in front of my parents, he made a PROMISE to this NJ kid to allow me to play baseball and football at Iowa and kept his word! He never wavered! Allowed me to achieve my dreams!

Love you Coach, RIP!” Danan Hughes @dahughesguy83

# TWO DIFFERENT, ENLIGHTENING DAYS

Ultimately, the game isn't really the thing

**MIKE HLAS**  
THE GAZETTE

People aren't at their best when they're disappointed or exhausted, and Hayden Fry was both on the morning of Aug. 30, 1992.

His Iowa football team had lost, 24-14, to North Carolina State the night before at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. At the time, it was an allowed extra game for the two teams, an unofficial season-starter for college football.

The Hawkeyes, coming off a 10-1-1 season the year before, were 0-1 before September had started and facing a home game against national power Miami (Fla.) six days later.

That was an era when not everything was a charter flight for even high-profile college teams. Then-Gazette sports writer Jim Ecker and I not only were on the same connecting flight from Chicago to Cedar Rapids with Fry on that day after the game, we were in the same block of three seats with him.

Fry wasn't thrilled with that twist of fate. Before we even got seated, he bluntly said “No interviews.” We assured him none were sought. We were tired, too.

There was no corn pone from Fry on that hourlong flight. Coaches put their lives into those games. They have to bounce back ahead of everyone else following losses because they have to get their assistants and players off the carpet before another week begins. It was a safe bet Fry hadn't slept a wink the night before.

But he loosened up a little as time passed. There was small talk. I don't remember what led into it, but at one point the discussion was about money. Fry made a comment about how some people resented how much he was paid.

“They don't know how I busted my ass to get here,” he wearily said.

I knew I wouldn't trade



Hayden Fry, who died Tuesday at the age of 90, shares a laugh with Gazette sports columnist Mike Hlas. (The Gazette)

salaries with him if it meant trading commitments, being responsible to and for as many people as he was, never really having a day off no matter where you were or what you were doing, having to wear dozens of hats, putting out all sorts of fires at any given moment, maybe trying to start a few of your own.

He'd taken Iowa to three Rose Bowls at that point, and was coming off a heck of a year when the Hawkeyes opened the 1992 season in New Jersey. But you go right back to 0-0. Then, poof, you're 0-1 and playing the mighty Miami Hurricanes next.

To use a phrase often heard from Fry, tough duty.

So, I saw and heard someone who wasn't in front of a camera or a banquet room full of true-believer fans. I saw and heard what defeat really felt like. It's hard and it's

haunting.

Of course, two days later Fry was at his weekly news conference bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, right back in the fight he stayed in all the way to the end of the 1998 season. There were no more Rose Bowls, but there was a 38-18 stunner of a Sun Bowl rout of (then) Pac-10 co-champion Washington in 1995 and a 27-0 romp over Texas Tech in the following year's Alamo Bowl that capped a 9-3 season.

Only one of Fry's final six teams had a losing record, and that was the last one. Excuses don't hold up much in big-time sports, but Fry started chemotherapy treatments for prostate cancer shortly before that season began and kept it secret from all but his family and hospital personnel. He didn't begin to reveal details until well after his retirement.

As the years passed, Fry

repeatedly invited me to his home in Mesquite, Nev. I wasn't sure how much he meant it. Some people doubted me when I told them about it, since he famously sparred with local sports media types from time to time.

When I finally did try to take Fry up on the offer, he wasn't feeling well and didn't want to be seen that way. I kicked myself for waiting too long.

I had a trip to Las Vegas planned in 2015 for another reason, and took one more shot at seeing if Fry would meet me in Mesquite. He told me to come on out, as long as I called the day before to make sure he was feeling up to it. Thankfully, he was.

He had me drive to a convenience store, where I would then follow him back to his house. Here was a black Hummer with a metallic

Tigerhawk logo on the back bumper.

I was following this 86-year-old man driving a tank of a vehicle through this small town, thinking “How much would a lot of people in Iowa pay to trade places with me right now?”

Fry loved it when I told him I was going to play in a World Series of Poker tournament for people 50-and-over the next day in Las Vegas. He told me about an article he read about the event.

Success came slowly for me in the tourney, but I wasn't edgy or impatient like I usually am and gradually built a chip-stack. I lasted two days, and was among the 10 percent or so of the 4,000-plus players who finished in the money. It may sound silly, but it was a huge delight, something I doubt I could ever do again. I credit it to being in a good, relaxed mood because of the day before when I spent with Fry, listening to his stories and observations, and sharing a lot of laughs.

The next time I saw him was back in Kinnick Stadium a couple months later. He had come back for Coralville's FRYfest the day before. The first thing he said to me was to ask how I did in the poker tourney. When I told him I cashed, he said “I knew you would.”

In the hours I had spent listening to him at his house and at lunch at a nearby golf club, he didn't mention a single football game he coached. Not one. He talked about growing up, talked about his family, his high school team, his hometown, jobs he had as a kid, people he befriended throughout his life. He also described what it's like to be old and battle cancer for so long, how keeping a positive attitude and a sense of humor are essential tools.

I honestly remember nothing about that football game in New Jersey. Nothing. That day in Nevada? Even if I live to be 90, I'll never forget it.

Comments: (319) 368-8840; mike.hlas@thegazette.com



JEWELRY AND OBJECTS OF ART

110 EAST WASHINGTON STREET  
IOWA CITY, IA | (319) 351-1700  
WWW.MCGINSBERG.COM  
IN THE HEART OF IOWA CITY'S CULTURAL DISTRICT





## Catch the Wave

A portion of the proceeds will go to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital

© 2019 The Gazette



## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“This man gave me an opportunity to walk on and join the Hawkeye family. He gave me a scholarship, my first coaching job, and the coaching DNA for life. I love you Coach Fry.

#Hawkeyes #MyCoach.” Bret Bielema @BretBielema

# THE COACHING TREE

Hayden Fry’s impact on college football went well beyond the Iowa borders. One of the interesting treats after Fry’s death on Dec. 17 was how other media outlets framed his body of work. Here is part of a story from the Washington Post, which focused on his coaching tree.

Washington Post

Iowa’s 1983 coaching staff, which included seven future NCAA head coaches, is a football dendrologist’s dream.

### DON PATTERSON

An assistant to Fry at both North Texas and Iowa, Patterson became head coach at FCS Western Illinois upon Fry’s retirement in 1998. He went 63-47, won the Leathernecks’ three most recent conference championships and led them to three FCS playoff berths.

### BOB STOOPS

Stoops was a defensive back at Iowa for Fry from 1979 to 1982 and then served on his coaching staff until 1987. He eventually ascended to the top job at Oklahoma and resuscitated the Sooners’ program, winning the BCS title in his second season (2000). Currently head coach of the NFL’s Dallas Renegades, Stoops went 190-48 in 18 seasons at Oklahoma with 11 Top 10 finishes.

### DAN MCCARNEY

McCarney, Fry’s defensive line coach, did have some success as a head coach. As coach at Iowa State, the Hawkeyes’ in-state rival, he led the Cyclones to 56 wins, the most by one coach in program history, and at one point beat Iowa five straight times, the Cyclones’ longest winning streak in the series. Later, as coach at North Texas (Fry’s former team), he snapped the Mean Green’s nine-year bowl drought in 2013. But he also finished with a 78-118 overall record as a head coach, a rare losing mark for Fry’s coaching tree.

### BARRY ALVAREZ

The Hawkeyes’ linebackers coach under Fry, Alvarez went 1-10 in his first season as Wisconsin’s head coach in 1990. In 1993, the Badgers went 10-1-1 and won their first Rose Bowl. Two more Rose Bowl victories would follow, and Alvarez finished his career with a 118-75-4 career record. He’s now Wisconsin’s athletics director.

### BILL SNYDER

Snyder was on Fry’s North Texas staff and came over with him to Iowa, where he was offensive coordinator for 10 seasons. In 1989, he took over at Kansas State, which at the time was perhaps the worst major-conference program in the country and was coming off consecutive winless seasons. In 1993, the Wildcats won a bowl game for the first time, and Kansas State would finish in the Top 10 in five of the next 10 seasons. Snyder stepped down after the 2005 season but returned in 2009 and led the Wildcats to eight more bowl games, plus a rise to No. 2 in the rankings in 2012. In 27 seasons as a head coach, Snyder went 215-117-1.

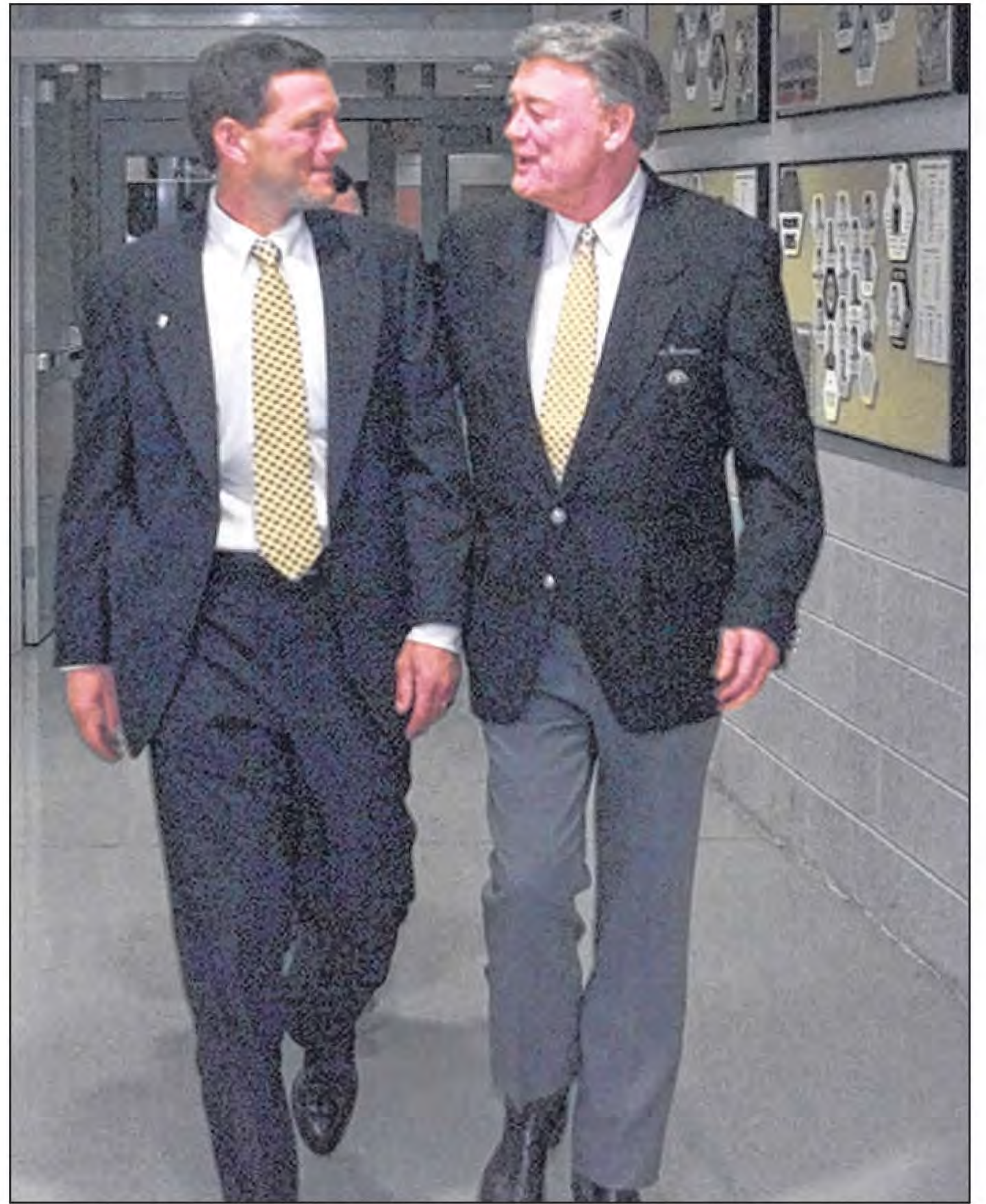
### DEL MILLER

Miller left Iowa for Kansas State with Snyder, then took the top job at FCS Southwest Missouri State in 1995, compiling a 21-23 record over four seasons.

### KIRK FERENTZ

Ferentz left Fry’s staff in 1990 to take the head coaching position at FCS Maine, going just 12-21. Two NFL coaching stops followed before he succeeded Fry in 1999, and he’s been in Iowa City ever since, compiling a 161-104 record with a Rose Bowl bid, two Orange Bowl appearances and five seasons with at least 10 victories, a tally that could grow if the 9-3 Hawkeyes win this season’s Holiday Bowl.

“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,” Ferentz said after Fry died. “I was proud to coach with him and honored to succeed him when he retired.”



Kirk Ferentz (left) and Hayden Fry walk together Dec. 3, 1998, before the introduction of Ferentz as Fry’s replacement as the Iowa football coach. (The Gazette)

The 1983 staff list is only a partial illustration of the Fry coaching tree.

Bret Bielema played at Iowa from 1989 to 1992 before serving as an assistant to both Fry and Ferentz. He then replaced Alvarez at Wisconsin and went 68-24 in seven seasons before leaving for Arkansas (and much less

success). Chuck Long, the Iowa Fry in 1991 before eventually becoming coach at Nebraska and currently Youngstown State. The Stoops branch of Fry’s coach tree has its own branches, as both Mark Stoops and Mike Stoops served as players and assistants under Fry before eventually earning head coaching jobs (Mark is

currently leading Kentucky, Mike spent eight seasons at Arizona).

Bob Diaco, whom Fry called “one of the all-time great leaders I’ve had in 47 years of coaching” in 2013, played at Iowa for Fry and began his coaching career there as a graduate assistant. He spent three seasons as Connecticut’s

head coach earlier this decade. Jim Leavitt was an Iowa intern and graduate assistant in 1988 and 1989 before eventually becoming head coach at South Florida for 13 seasons. Jay Norvell was a Hawkeye player and graduate assistant before becoming head coach at Nevada, a job he still holds today.



The 1985 Iowa coaching staff. (University of Iowa)



The 1986 Iowa coaching staff. (University of Iowa)

IN HONOR OF COACH

## HAYDEN FRY’S 20 YEAR LEGACY

AND AS THE CREATOR OF

### AMERICAN NEEDS FARMERS

ALL ANF MERCHANDISE IS

## ON SALE FOR 20% OFF

THROUGH THE HOLIDAY BOWL ON DEC. 27TH.







POWERED BY: IRONSIDE APPAREL & PROMOTIONS

**OFFICIAL IOWA HAWKEYE RETAIL STORE OR SHOP ONLINE;**

**USE THE CODE: FRY20ANF**

**WWW.IOWASTYLEAPPAREL.COM**

Hours: M-F 10:00-7:00  
 Saturday 10:00-6:00  
 Sunday 11:00-5:00  
 Christmas Eve  
 Open 9am to 1pm

3620 Edgewood Rd. SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
[www.iowastyleapparel.com](http://www.iowastyleapparel.com)

© 2019 The Gazette



“RIP to one of the greatest mentors I ever had. I love you Coach! I know I sp

# TOP 10

Hayden Fry had many memorable wins during his 20-year career as Iowa's football coach

## NO. 1 OCT. 19, 1985 IOWA 12, MICHIGAN 10

IOWA CITY — In all the classic fang-and-claw struggle between No. 1 and No. 2 in college football, there may never have been a more dramatic finish than Iowa's 12-10 victory over Michigan.

Thousands of delirious fans from the all-time Kinnick Stadium record crowd of 66,350 poured onto the field after Rob Houghtlin's 29-yard field goal split the uprights on the final play.

And what was Houghtlin thinking as he knelt over the kicking tee before the fate-filled kick?

“I was praying,” the slender junior from Glenview, Ill., replied seriously. “I was praying to the Lord, asking for a little strength and direction.”

As soon as Houghtlin's kick was in the air, both he and his holder, Mark Vlasic, leaped in the air with arms upraised, pre-empting the call by the officials.

And what was Coach Hayden Fry's first reaction?

“Praise the Lord!” the Iowa mentor told the CBS interviewer after he and Michigan's Bo Schembechler exchanged kind words at midfield. Before shaking hands with Fry, Schembechler looked up Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon and congratulated him.

Harmon put an affectionate arm around the Wolverine coach.

Michigan's vaunted defense, which still has given up only one touchdown in six games and led the nation by allowing its first five foes an average of 4.2 points a game, did succeed in holding Chuck Long without a touchdown pass.

But Long feathered his nest with the Heisman Trophy voters by completing 26 of 39 passes for 297 yards with one interception. Bill Happel caught nine of them for the second time this season.

“Long is a magnificent quarterback,” said Schembechler after recovering from his near-apoplexy demonstrations on the sideline. “If it were just Long or just Harmon, we could handle either of them. But with both in there, it's just about impossible.”

Scott Helverson came up with five grabs for 60 yards. Most of the crowd — and undoubtedly many of the millions watching on CBS' nearly nationwide TV audience — thought another of Helverson's remarkable catches should have counted, that one for a touchdown. It might have made the Hawkeyes' victory easier, and not so dramatic.

— Gus Schrader

## NO. 2 OCT. 17, 1981 IOWA 9, MICHIGAN 7

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Before the current college football season began, many Iowa fans no doubt hoped their team would have a winning season.

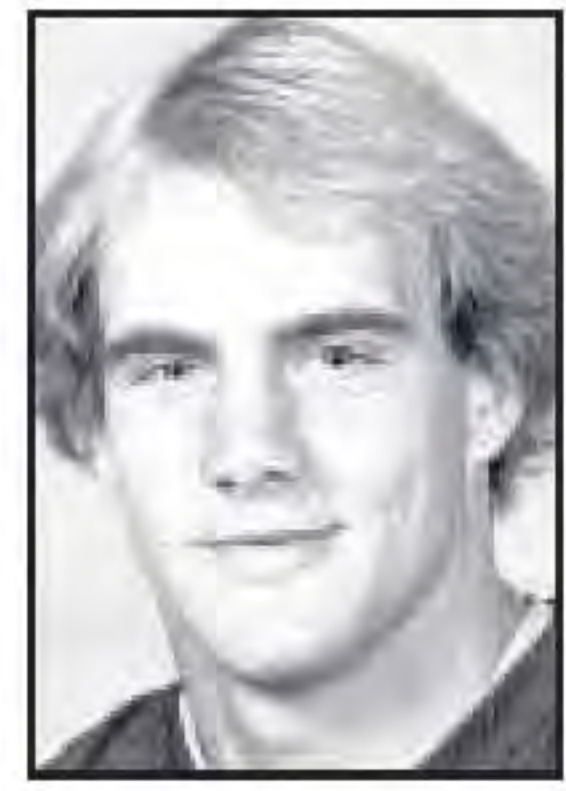
But, those fans really underestimated “Hayden's Heroes.”

Make no mistake about it, the Iowa Hawkeyes have arrived ... not just as a team with a winning record, but as a full-blown powerhouse in the world of Big Ten football.

Any last doubters were almost certainly swayed Saturday as Coach Hayden Fry's Hawks recorded perhaps their biggest victory in the last 20 years, stifling traditional heavyweight Michigan, 9-7, before a sardined-in crowd of 105,951 at Michigan Stadium.

The crowd, which was the largest ever to see an Iowa football game and the third largest in Michigan history, also included representatives from six different bowl games, and they no doubt returned to their individual areas of the country very impressed.

Iowa used a conservative ball-control offense, a big-play defense and the talented foot of freshman Tom Nichol to record a victory over a team ranked among the top half-dozen in the nation for the third time this season.



Kicker Tom Nichol

“Man, that was one great football game,” exclaimed an ecstatic Fry in a postgame press conference. “I thought I fouled up a jillion times by playing it too close to the vest. But we put a lot of faith in our defense.

“Nobody expected us to win this football game except those guys over there in the next room. Nobody's heard of Iowa football for 20 years.”

— Don Doxsie

## NO. 3 NOV. 14, 1987 IOWA 29, OHIO STATE 27

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Marv Cook, now we know why they call you Marvelous.

Cook, the junior tight end, and quarterback Chuck Hartlieb teamed up on a miracle play — a 28-yard touchdown pass on fourth and forever, no timeouts, very little clock and nearly no Hawkeye hope left.

The play beat Ohio State, 29-27, on Saturday in sunny-but-surlly Ohio Stadium.

It's historically significant because, prior to Saturday, Iowa defeated Ohio State only once in its last 20 attempts.

Further, you'll have to check back to 1959 to find the last Iowa win in Columbus. In 1959, Hawkeye coach Hayden Fry was defensive coordinator at Baylor and Herbert Hoover was the most famous person to come from West Branch.

No more. Cook made his move to go one-up on the former President, at least in today's papers, by catching nine passes covering 159 yards and punting five times for a 43-yard average.

“To be honest with you, I don't even know the final score,” Cook said. “I know we won. That's all.”

Fry, who has been trying to beat Ohio State since he became a head coach in 1962, was as happy as anyone has ever seen him.

“I think I'll just go ahead and retire right now,” Fry said with a laugh.

Scouts from the Peach, Liberty, All-American, Bluebonnet, Hall of Fame, Freedom and Holiday bowl were fighting for Fry's ear and seventh straight bowl appearance.

“Anybody listening, if you haven't called in about your bowl, please call in now,” Fry said.

— Mark Neuzil

## NO. 4 OCT. 5, 1985 IOWA 35, MICHIGAN STATE 31

IOWA CITY — Good call. Great quarterback. Hell of a football game ...

The Iowa Hawkeyes allowed 31 points and 580 yards of total offense. They may have coughed up their No. 1 national ranking. Were they downcast after a hard-earned 35-31 win over unheralded Michigan State Saturday afternoon? No.

They were euphoric.

Chuck Long's 2-yard touchdown run with 27 seconds left gave Iowa a 35-31 win over the Spartans before 66,044 screaming fans at Kinnick Stadium. A national television audience saw more twists and turns than in 40 miles of bad road, but the final twist turned a very possible Hawkeye loss into victory.

Iowa had a third-and-1 at the MSU 2-yard line with 31 seconds left in the game and the



Iowa quarterback Chuck Long drops back to pass against Michigan on Oct. 19, 1985. The top-ranked Haw

Spartans ahead, 31-28. Long faked a handoff to Ronnie Harmon, and almost everyone in Johnson County bought the fake as Harmon tried to leap through the line.

But Long still had the ball.

He sprinted around the right end with absolutely no one breathing down his neck, danced into the right corner of the end zone, and hugged a teammate or two.

“That might have been the greatest fake of all time in college football,” Iowa Coach Hayden Fry said. “I believe I could have scored on that one, and I'm really slow.

“Chuck's not all that fast. I noticed he hoisted the ball over his head at the 3- or 4-yard line, and I was about to have a heart attack.”

— Mike Hlas

## NO. 5 NOV. 21, 1981 IOWA 36, MICHIGAN STATE 7

IOWA CITY — Start packing!

California, here they come! Pasadena or bust! Rose Bowl, how sweet it is! How do we get tickets?

Or, as coach Hayden Fry said, “How 'bout those Hawks? Yaaaahooo!”

Who would have guessed it three months ago? Or two months ago after the Hawkeyes were upset at Iowa State? Or a month ago



Iowa tight end Marv Cook catches a pass in front of Columbus, Ohio. Cook pulled in a miracle pass on for Buckeyes, 29-27. (The Gazette)

when Iowa lost two straight, to Minnesota and Illinois?

Or even a few hours ago when an incredible two-game Big Ten parlay had to come home

**1929** John Hayden Fry born in Eastland, Texas, on Feb. 28.

**1940s** Played football for Odessa High School (Texas).

**1947 to 1950** Played football at Baylor University.

**1952 to 1955** Served in U.S. Marine Corps. Reached rank of captain.

**1955** Became teacher and football coach in Odessa, Texas.

**1959** Hired as assistant coach at Baylor.

**1960** Hired as assistant coach at Arkansas.

**1962** Hired as head coach at Southern Methodist University. Went 49-66-1 in 11 seasons.

**1966** Jerry LeVias became the first black player

to take the field in the Southwest Conference for SMU under Fry.

**1973** Hired at North Texas State (now known as the University of North Texas). Went 40-23-3 over six seasons.

**1978** Hayden Fry is introduced as the Iowa football coach on Dec. 9, serving under Chalmers “Bump” Elliott. His initial staff includes Barry Alvarez, Bill Brashier, Tom Cecchini, Howard Cissell, Clovis Hale, Dan McCarney, Carl Jackson and Bill Snyder. At the time, Iowa had 17 straight nonwinning seasons.

**1978** Hired marketing group to create Tigerhawk.

**1978** Got permission from

Pittsburgh Steelers to copy their uniform.

**1979** Iowa wins five games, including a three-game winning streak and a 58-6 laughter over Northwestern.

**1980** The Hawkeyes take a step backward, finishing at 4-7 and suffering a 57-0 loss to Nebraska and a 58-13 pounding from Purdue.

**1981** Fry's third season produced a Big Ten co-championship and Rose Bowl berth, Iowa's first winning season in 19 years. Fry grabs wins over Nebraska (10-7), UCLA (20-7) and Michigan (9-7) along the way. He also earns Big Ten, regional and national Coach of the Year

honors.

**1982** Fourth straight first division Big Ten finish and a 28-22 Peach Bowl win over Tennessee.

**1983** Offense breaks 35 school records on way to 9-3 mark and third straight bowl trip (Gator).

**1984** Played in a postseason bowl game for the fourth straight year, defeating Texas 55-17 in the inaugural Freedom Bowl. Shut out Michigan for the first time since 1929 and won first game in 28 years at Purdue.

**1985** Won a school-record 10 games en route to the Big Ten championship and played in the Rose Bowl (vs. UCLA) for the second time in five seasons.

Spent five weeks ranked No. 1 in the nation. QB Chuck Long (winner of the Maxwell Trophy and Davey O'Brien Quarterback Award) and Larry Station were consensus all-Americans.

**1986** Champion of the ninth annual Holiday Bowl with a 39-38 triumph over San Diego State. A 9-3 overall mark helped Hayden Fry's Hawkeyes win at least eight games for the sixth consecutive season.

**1987** Ten victories tied the school record and included Holiday Bowl triumph over Wyoming (20-19). Six-game winning streak to end the year earned Iowa its fifth consecutive Top 20 finish.

**1988** Iowa played North Carolina State in the Peach Bowl, the school's eighth straight postseason appearance. A 6-4-3 season set an Iowa record for ties. TE Marv Cook was a consensus all-American.

**1989** A natural grass playing surface (PAT) was installed in Kinnick Stadium.

**1989** Bill Snyder is hired as the head coach at Kansas State and, one year later, Barry Alvarez is hired as the head coach at Wisconsin. They are the first two of 13 Fry assistants who earned head coaching jobs (Bret Bielema, Bob Diaco, Kirk Ferentz, Jim Leavitt, Chuck



# G HAYDEN FRY

...eak for so many! You will be missed. Rest well. You did good." Quinn Early @QuinnEarly

# 10 WINS

...ch, too many to count really. Here is an attempt to rank the Top 10 wins of the Fry era.



Hawkeyes beat the second-ranked Wolverines, 12-10. (The Gazette)



Ohio State's Mark Pelini on Nov. 14, 1987, in Columbus. (The Gazette)

...Saturday? But Iowa's 36-7 triumph coupled with Ohio State's 14-9 upset of Michigan turned the Rose Bowl key. It's true, no matter what the odds were,

Most Valuable Player Award. The 6-foot-4 junior helped Iowa deal the Longhorns their worst loss in 80 years. The University of Chicago beat Texas, 68-0, in 1904.

The victory was a most satisfying one for a native Texan named Hayden Fry. The Iowa coach had a 2-11 lifetime record against Texas. It also was Fry's fourth straight season of eight wins or more, as the Hawkeyes finished 8-4-1.

"This is definitely the biggest win of my career," Fry said. "Being from Texas, you don't get the chance to beat the U of T very often. I have never had a victory more meaningful to me."

"It was a great victory and one that the coaching staff, especially myself, wanted very badly. We never dreamed we could throw that well on them, let alone score 55 points."

— Mark Dukas

## NO. 7 SEPT. 24, 1983 IOWA 20, OHIO STATE 14

IOWA CITY — P.T. Barnum didn't have a thing to do with what went on down here Saturday. But he could have.

Even old P.T. wouldn't have had enough show rings to handle the goings on of this day. There was a morning exhibition by the basketball team and another by the wrestlers, the sight of two marching bands, the presence of a national television network, an appearance by Gene Kelly, and the honoring of some heroes from yesteryear, the 1958 Iowa Hawkeyes.

Into this circus of celebration stepped the Ohio State Buckeyes, the nation's third-ranked college football team. Strong, calm, methodical, and intent on proving what Barnum always said, that there's a sucker born every minute.

Unfortunately, they turned out to be the suckers.

With a record 66,175 fans in attendance and several million more viewing on television, the Iowa Hawkeyes (the 1983 version) bounced back in the second half to defeat Ohio State for the first time in 21 years, 20-14, Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

The crowning blow was a 73-yard touchdown pass from Chuck Long to Dave Moritz with 4:25 remaining in the game which upped the Iowa lead to 20-7. Long faked a back, "suckering" in the defense, and threw long up the left sideline to Moritz, who was a step ahead of cornerback Shaun Gayle. The pass hit him in stride and Moritz, who's supposed to be slow, zigzagged across the field and somehow outran the speedy Gayle to the goal line.

It was a gamble, to say the least. "But everything turned out Hawkeye today," beamed Iowa Coach Hayden Fry.

— Don Dooxie

## NO. 8 DEC. 29, 1995 IOWA 38, WASHINGTON 18

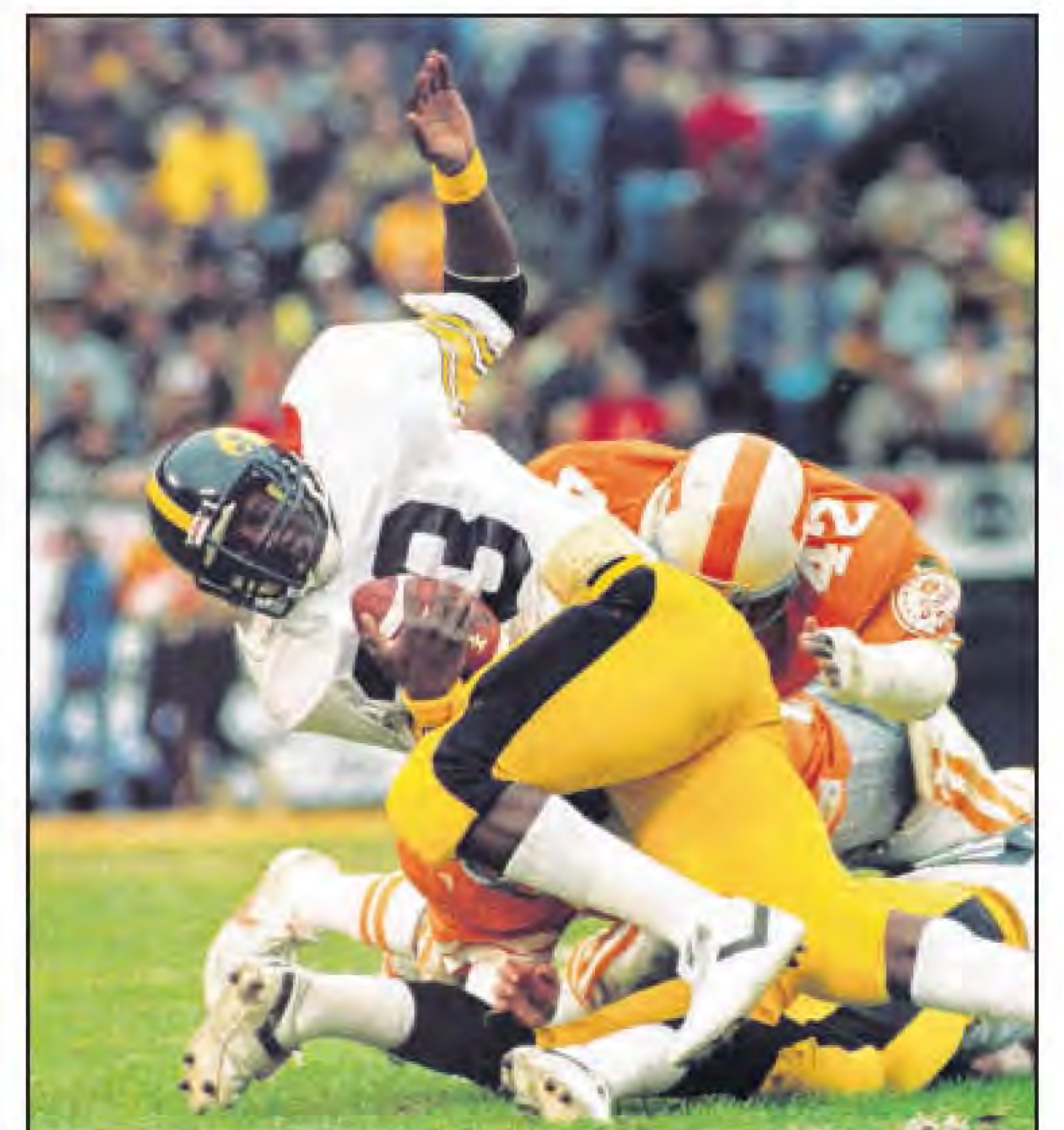
EL PASO, Texas — The sun finally shone on the Iowa Hawkeyes in a bowl game.

The Hawkeyes gave a dazzling performance in the 62nd Sun Bowl Friday and dominated 20th-ranked Washington, 38-18, before 49,116 fans in El Paso.

The Hawks won their first bowl game since 1987, and they did it in style.

"That was a fine effort by a group of fine young men," Iowa Coach Hayden Fry said, "and they whipped — and I put that in capital letters — a very, very fine Washington team that was co-champs of the Pac-10."

Fry had been 0-4 against Pac-10 teams in bowl games, including a pair of losses to



Iowa running back Owen Gill attempts to twist free for more yardage in the Hawkeyes' 28-22 victory over Tennessee in the 1982 Peach Bowl on Dec. 31, 1982.

Washington in the 1982 and '91 Rose Bowls, but he declined publicly to revel in getting that monkey off his back.

Don Patterson, his offensive coordinator, did the speaking on that topic.

"The Pac-10's kind of had our number," Patterson said. "It's nice to even it up. Not just even it up, but do it in a decisive way."

— Jim Ecker

## NO. 9 DEC. 31, 1982 IOWA 28, TENNESSEE 22

ATLANTA — Just as the new song predicted, when the New Year was greeted here Friday night, "Iowa was waltzin' and Tennessee was singin' the blues."

Iowa's unsung offense waltzed plenty in the first three quarters, rolling up a 28-19 lead on the passing arm of Chuck Long and the sticky fingers of Dave Moritz. But again it was the old reliable defense that made Tennessee sing the blues with some savage play in the final minutes that preserved a 28-22 victory.

Although the 15th annual Peach Bowl had been listed as a virtual sellout, only 50,134 showed up on a cold, windy day that turned into New Year's Eve in a hurry. Most of the enthralled spectators were still on hand at 6:15 p.m. Eastern time when senior end Straun Joseph sacked Tennessee's brilliant quarterback, Alan Cockrell, the final time.

"It was just a super game," breathed Iowa Coach Hayden Fry. "I have never seen a defense rise up on the goal line and sack the quarterback like that. We were very tough when we had to be."

— Gus Schrader

## NO. 10 OCT. 20, 1990 IOWA 24, MICHIGAN 23

ANN ARBOR, MICH. — If you saw a delirious bunch of football players dancing their way into Iowa City Saturday night, don't be too alarmed.

They were only the Iowa Hawkeyes doing the hokey-pokey after their monumental 24-23 victory over the Michigan Wolverines.

Paul Kujawa's 1-yard plunge with 69 seconds left and Jeff Skillett's PAT gave Iowa a victory it will cherish for a long, long time and sent the Hawks dancing their favorite dance again.

"Can you believe it!" yelled Iowa Coach Hayden Fry after he escaped the delirium in the U of I locker room. "Two wins in the state of Michigan in the same year. Woo-eee! First time ever."

— Jim Ecker

## TONES

Long, Dan McCarney, Jay Norvell, Bo Pelini, Bob Stoops, Mark Stoops, Mike Stoops).

**1990** The capacity of Kinnick Stadium was expanded to 70,220. Iowa earned its third Big Ten title and Rose Bowl berth under Fry, posting an 8-4 overall record. Iowa's "Road Warriors" earned the trip to Pasadena by defeating Michigan State, Michigan and Illinois, all on the road. Hawkeyes ended season ranked 18th nationally. RB Nick Bell was named Big Ten MVP.

**1991** Iowa tied the school record of 10 wins, posting a 10-1-1 record. Iowa's only loss came at the

hands of Big Ten champion Michigan as the Hawkeyes were 7-1 in league play. The Hawkeyes made their third appearance in the Holiday Bowl, which ended in a 13-13 tie with BYU. DE Leroy Smith earned consensus all-America status and was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Iowa ended the season ranked 10th nationally by both the AP and CNN/USA Today.

**1992** Iowa appeared in its second Kickoff Classic and hosted No. 1 Miami (Fla.) in first night game ever played in Kinnick Stadium. Iowa's fifth place Big Ten finish was the 13th first-division finish for Iowa in

14 seasons under Hayden Fry.

**1993** Iowa closed the regular season with four straight wins to earn an invitation to the inaugural Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. Iowa lost to California (37-3) in the bowl game and ended the season with a 6-6 record. Iowa's 21-3 win over Minnesota in the season finale not only assured the bowl invitation, but was also win No. 200 in Fry's career.

**1994** Iowa again closed the season fast, earning three wins and a tie in the last four games to post a 5-5-1 mark. The Hawkeyes fought back from

injuries at the quarterback position to score 98 points in the final two games, wins over Northwestern and Minnesota. Five Iowa quarterbacks were injured during the year.

**1995** Following the trend of the past few seasons, Iowa closed fast, winning its final two games of the regular season to earn an invitation to the Sun Bowl. Iowa ended the year racing past Pac-10 co-champion Washington, 38-18, in the Sun Bowl and finished with an 8-4 record, including a 4-4 Big Ten mark.

**1996** The Hawkeyes posted a 9-3 record, including a 27-0 win over Texas Tech in the Alamo

Bowl. The Hawkeyes posted a 6-2 Big Ten record, earning a tie for third place with Penn State. Tim Dwight and Jared DeVries earned all-American honors and Sedrick Shaw rushed for more than 1,000 yards for the third consecutive season.

**1997** Iowa posted a 7-5 overall record (4-4 in the Big Ten) and participated in the Sun Bowl, earning its third straight bowl invitation. But narrow road losses at national champion Michigan (28-24), Wisconsin (13-10) and Northwestern (15-14) put a damper on what could have been a great season. Tavian Banks, Tim Dwight

and Jared DeVries earned all-American honors and Dwight led the nation in punt returns.

**1998** A youthful team, coupled with a series of injuries, doomed the Hawkeyes. Iowa finished 3-8, the worst record in Fry's career in Iowa City, losing its final five games.

**1998** Fry announces his retirement on Nov. 23 following a 3-8 season, his 20th at Iowa. His overall record is 232-178-10, including 143-89-6 with the Hawkeyes.

**2003** Fry is inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, alongside LeVias.

**2019** John Hayden Fry dies in Dallas on Dec. 17.



## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“Coach Fry gave this skinny walk-on kicker a chance to play at Iowa.

I am forever grateful for what he saw in me, and the values he instilled in me.

Love you Coach. RIP.” Rob Houghtlin @robhawkeye7

# Bowling with Hayden

### The Gazette

Hayden Fry made the Iowa football team a consistent winner in his 20 years head coach, retiring after 1998 season with a 143-89-6 record.

He took the Hawkeyes to 14 bowls during his tenure, compiling a 6-7-1 record.

Here's a look back the Fry-coached Iowa bowl games:

#### 1982 ROSE BOWL Pasadena, Calif.

Washington 28, Iowa 0

Backup Jacque Robinson rushed for 142 yards and two touchdowns as the Huskies dominated the Hawkeyes in front of 105,611 fans. Iowa turned the ball over five times and Pete Gales and Gordy Bohannon combined for just 84 passing yards.

#### 1982 PEACH BOWL Atlanta

Iowa 28, Tennessee 22

Chuck Long passed for 304 yards, completing 19 of 26 passes, as the Hawkeyes hung on before 50,134 fans at Fulton County Stadium. Long completed 14 of 17 for 231 yards and three touchdowns as Iowa led 21-7 at halftime. Dave Moritz tied a bowl record with eight catches for 168 yards.

#### 1983 GATOR BOWL Jacksonville, Fla.

Florida 14, Iowa 6

With a wind-chill of 13 below, both offense stalled in this game before 81,292 chilly fans at the Gator Bowl. Florida led 14-3 at halftime, getting its last TD on a botched punt attempt from the end zone. Chuck Long completed only 13 of 30 passes.

#### 1984 FREEDOM BOWL Anaheim, Calif.

Iowa 55, Texas 17

Chuck Long had a game for the ages, completing 29 of 39 passes for 461 yards and six touchdowns in front of 24,093 fans. The Hawkeyes scored 31 unanswered points in the third quarter after holding a 24-17 halftime advantage. Robert Smith caught four passes for 115 yards and a touchdown and Bill Happel had eight catches for 104 yards and a TD.

#### 1986 ROSE BOWL Pasadena, Calif.

UCLA 45, Iowa 28

Coming off a Big Ten championship, Iowa stumbled out of the blocks and fell behind 24-10 by halftime. UCLA freshman Eric Ball rushed for 227 yards and four touchdowns. Chuck Long passed for 319 yards as the two teams combined for 889 yards of offense before 103,292 fans.

#### 1986 HOLIDAY BOWL San Diego, Calif.

Iowa 39, San Diego State 38

Rob Houghtlin's 41-year field goal as time expired capped a 18-point comeback in the final 8 minutes and 39 seconds before 59,473 at Jack Murphy Stadium. Mark Vlasic passed for 222 yards, including late touchdowns to Marv Cook and Mike Flagg.

#### 1987 HOLIDAY BOWL San Diego, Calif.

Iowa 20, Wyoming 19

Iowa rallied from 12-0 first quarter and 19-7 halftime deficits, winning on a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. Iowa scored on a blocked punt in the second quarter, Anthony Wright's 33-yard interception return in the fourth and David Hudson's 1-yard run.

#### 1988 PEACH BOWL Atlanta

North Carolina State 28, Iowa 23

Iowa turned the ball over seven times, including three interceptions by North Carolina State's Michael Brooks. The Hawkeyes outscored the Wolfpack, 20-0, after falling behind, 28-3, in the first half. Chuck Hartlieb passed for 428 yards, 122 to tight end Marv Cook.

#### 1991 ROSE BOWL Pasadena, Calif.

Washington 46, Iowa 34

The Hawkeyes fell behind, 33-7, by halftime and never recovered. The Hawks did score 27 second-half points, but it was too little,



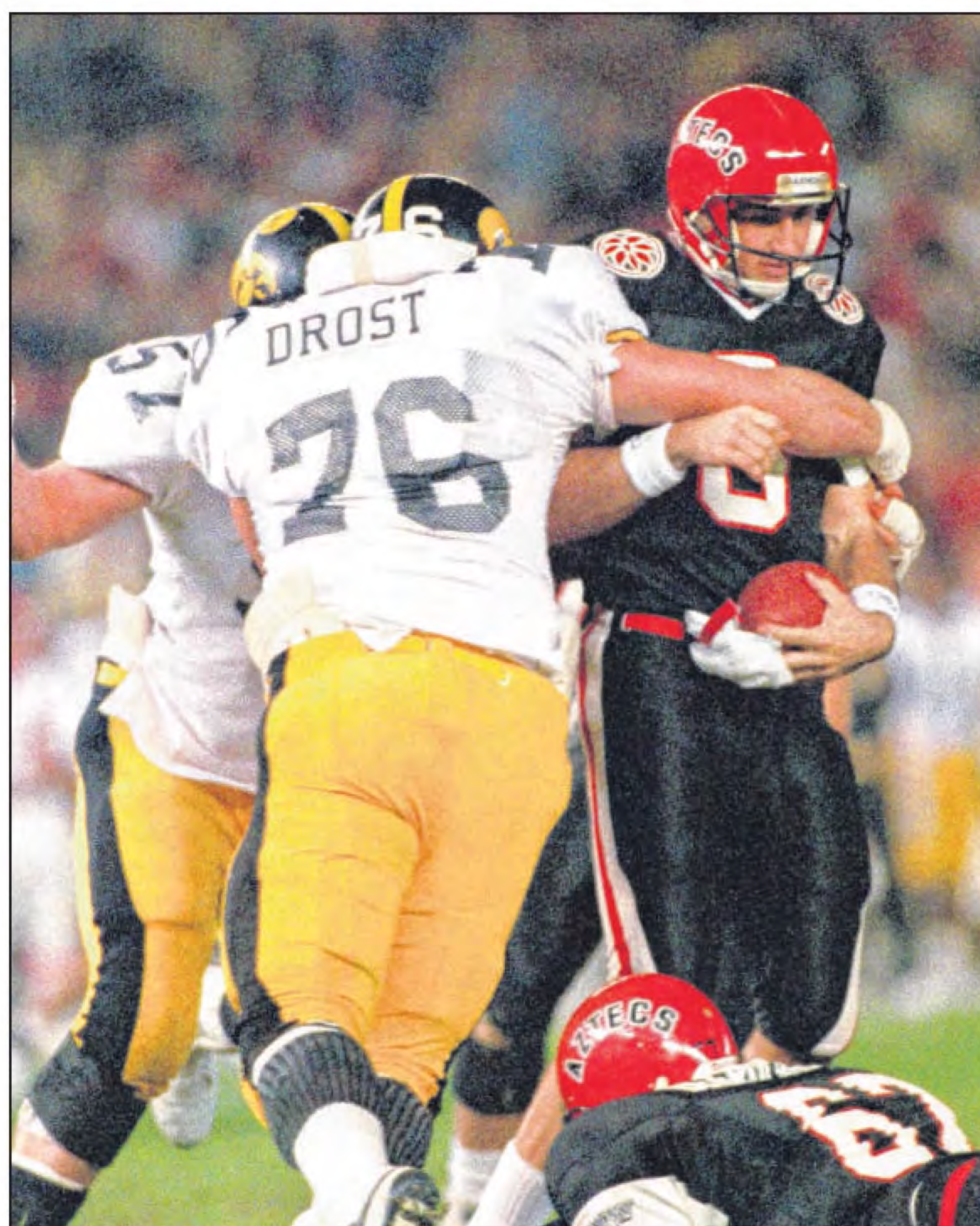
Hayden Fry celebrates a victory over Tennessee in the 1982 Peach Bowl. (Associated Press)



Fry reacts during the 1986 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Iowa lost to UCLA, 45-28 (The Gazette)



Fry talks with quarterback Matt Rodgers during the 1991 Rose Bowl, a 46-34 loss to Washington. (The Gazette)



Iowa's Jeff Drost sacks San Diego State quarterback Todd Santos in the 1986 Holiday Bowl. (The Gazette)

too late. Matt Rodgers rushed for two touchdowns and passed for another for the Hawkeyes, who outgained Huskies, 454-385.

#### 1991 HOLIDAY BOWL San Diego, Calif.

Iowa 13, BYU 13

Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer rallied BYU from a

3-0 deficit, passing for 350 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Detmer's final pass, however, was intercepted by Carlos James on the goal line.

Iowa scored on a pair of Mike Saunders runs and Saunders finished for 103 yards on 19 carries.



Fry addresses the media before the 1997 Sun Bowl, his last bowl game as Iowa coach. The Hawkeyes lost, 17-7, to Arizona State. (The Gazette)

#### 1993 ALAMO BOWL San Antonio, Texas

California 37, Iowa 3

The Hawkeyes mustered just 90 yards of offense and allowed Cal 445, including 266 from quarterback Dave Barr. This was the inaugural Alamo Bowl.

#### 1995 SUN BOWL El Paso, Texas

Iowa 38, Washington 18

Sedrick Shaw rushed for 135 yards and a touchdown and Tavian Banks chipped in with 122 on 13 carries as Iowa rolled up 421 yards of offense. Brion Hurley kicked three field goals and fullback Michael Burger scored twice.

#### 1996 ALAMO BOWL San Antonio, Texas

Iowa 27, Texas Tech 0  
Iowa's defense held Doak

Walker winner Byron Hanspard to 64 yards while the Hawkeye offense was led by Sedrick Shaw's 113 yards and touchdown, Tim Dwight's 106 receiving yards and Matt Sherman's 126 passing yards.

#### 1997 SUN BOWL El Paso, Texas

Arizona State 17, Iowa 7

ASU's defensive effort was the story of this game, limiting Iowa's ninth-ranked offense to 209 yards and Tavian Banks to 52 yards.

ASU, meanwhile, rolled up 377 yards of offense.

Iowa punter Jason Baker was named special teams MVP after averaging 48.9 yards and booting a 76-yarder.



## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“Can’t help but think of Coach Hayden Fry on National Signing Day. Almost 24 years ago today I accepted his offer to be a Hawkeye, which changed my life forever. I am eternally grateful he took a chance on a small town kid from Alvord, Iowa. Rest in peace, Coach.” LeVar Woods @LeVarWoods



Hayden Fry, who died Tuesday at the age of 90, stands near a banner hanging on the outside of Kinnick Stadium near what has been designated the new ANF Plaza on Aug. 5, 2011, in Iowa City. The former Iowa coach retired in 1998 after leading the Hawkeyes for 20 years and remains an icon in Hawkeye athletics. (The Gazette)

# ‘I’ll always be a Hawk’

Editor’s note: This story first appeared in The Gazette on Nov. 24, 1998.

By Jim Ecker, Gazette sportswriter

IOWA CITY — Hayden Fry cried Monday like he was saying a final goodbye to the love of his life, and in many respects he was.

Fry, 69, announced the end of his colorful 20-year career as the head football coach at the University of Iowa, a career filled with great triumphs and tremendous thrills for Hawkeye fans.

“I truly love the University of Iowa. I truly love the state of Iowa,” he said. “I’ll always be a Hawk.”

Fry took over a losing program in 1979 and led the Hawkeyes to the Rose Bowl in three short years as Big Ten champs, cracking the “Big 2, Little 8” stranglehold of Michigan and Ohio State.

He had the Hawkeyes ranked No. 1 in the country for



Hayden Fry wipes away tears as he announces his retirement as Iowa football coach on Nov. 23, 1998. (The Gazette)

a few magical weeks in 1985, completing their rise from rags to riches.

Fry cried several times Monday as he thanked all the players, assistant coaches, administrators, support staff and

fans who have been part of his “Hawkeye family” the last two decades in Iowa City.

“It’s kind of hard to do,” he said, wiping away the tears, his lantern jaw quivering before live TV cameras and a packed room that included dozens of his current players. “I could never repay them.”

Fry decided Sunday to retire, a day after Iowa finished a 3-8 campaign with a 49-7 loss at Minnesota. It was the worst season of his U of I career, a year filled with heartache and personal tragedies.

“This season has worn him down so much,” said assistant head coach Bob Elliott, whose own fight with a life-threatening blood disease has greatly saddened his boss. “I could see him leaning this way. I just want him to have a great retirement.”

Fry said he thought about retiring three years ago after the Hawkeyes walloped Washington, 38-18, in the 1995 Sun Bowl, but decided he couldn’t

leave his staff and players, citing commitments to the program. Now, with Iowa not going to a bowl game, he felt the time was right.

“For me, at my age, this is the only time I could see to give (athletics director) Bob Bowlsby time to interview top candidates and get the staff in place to have a chance to really do a good job recruiting,” he said.

Bowlsby hopes to have a new coach hired within two or three weeks. Fry wants someone with Iowa ties.

“It’s important to me, too,” Bowlsby said. “I think it’s a real bonus if we can.”

Assistant coaches Don Patterson and Chuck Long plan to apply. Former Hawkeye Bob Stoops, the defensive coordinator at eighth-ranked Florida, is considered a strong candidate for the job.

Fry didn’t want to leave on a sour note, and certainly not with a five-game losing streak, but felt it was best for the

program.

“Selfishly, it’s not the right time for me,” he said. “I would have rather gone out with a real good season and all that good stuff that coaches like to talk about.”

He retires as the winningest coach in U of I history (143-89-6) and the 10th-winningest coach in the history of major college football (232-178-10 in 37 years). He won three Big Ten titles, took the Hawkeyes to 14 bowl games and lifted the U of I program from obscurity to national prominence.

He could have stayed and surpassed such coaching legends as Bo Schembechler, Woody Hayes and Bear Bryant on the all-time charts but felt it was time to say “adios.” He said he doesn’t deserve to break their records.

“I don’t want to do that. I’m not in their class,” he said. “Those people were great, great coaches and what they did was unbelievable.”

# Memories come crashing back

Editor’s note: Late Gazette sports editor and columnist Gus Schrader wrote this column when Hayden Fry announced his retirement. It was first published Nov. 24, 1998.

By Gus Schrader, Gazette columnist

Has it really been two decades since Hayden Fry rode into Iowa from Texas to turn a 17-year dearth of winning football seasons into another Miracle on Melrose Avenue?

Hey, the memories are welling up as one recalls some of the triumphant moments that Hayden created, along with his assistants and a long golden line of star players.

Just think, three trips to the Rose Bowl, 14 postseason bowl games, Big Ten Coach of the

Year three times, All-America and all-conference players by the score.

For an old sports writer, Hayden’s success at Iowa was almost, as Yogi Berra once said, “kind of like deja vu all over again.”

I was a freshman at Iowa in 1939 when Dr. Eddie Anderson and his Iron Men brought a meaning to football miracles. I began covering Hawkeye football in 1942 as a 19-year-old sports editor, so another miracle was born when Forest Evashevski arrived. He soon ended a dry spell of conference titles that had existed since 1922 by coaching the Hawkeyes to three Big Ten titles and two Rose Bowl championships in nine seasons.

For someone who knows

Midwestern football, winning at Iowa has never been easy. Why? Well, the smallest state in the conference, the lack of big-city recruiting grounds, the relative shortage of influential alumni. Rival football factories like Ohio State, Michigan and Penn State are rich with their abundance of talent and resources. Yet Fry ended that every-year routine of “the Big Two and the Little Eight.”

Because I was privileged to cover Evashevski’s teams for those nine unforgettable years and Fry’s elevens for about half of his 20, I am sometimes asked to compare the two leaders. Which one would you pick as Iowa’s all-time coach?

I always duck that one.

Fans try to compare great teams, great players, great re-

cords. Shucks, I have learned you can’t really compare them from one SEASON to another, let alone one ERA. Football rules, styles and schedules change too much.

When I was new at this game, old-timers used to tell me Iowa would never have another football coach as great as Howard Jones, who directed the Hawkeyes to unbeaten seasons in 1921 and ‘22, and that era included 20 straight victories.

I can’t compare Evy and Hayden with Jones. I’ll just have to say Evy and Hayden were similar to each other as miracle workers. Both arrived when Iowa’s football orbit was in a nadir position. I am not sure any other coach could have done what each of them

did in resurrecting Hawkeye fortunes.

Both owned the wonderful gift of a magnificent presence. Alumni and fans loved to hear them speak. They walked into a crowded room and you could see and hear their magic working. People looked up from their food or drinks. You could hear awed whispers of “There’s Evy!” or “There’s Hayden!”

They had a similar effect on their assistants and the players. Their men loved and respected them. Maybe even feared them a little.

So let’s say a reluctant and fond farewell to another great Iowa football coach. You didn’t win ‘em all, Hayden, but you sure as hell made the Cornbelt a much brighter place to live.



## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“If you can keep your humor, if you can experience something that you enjoy, that helps your health. That’s the only reason I’m still here.” **Hayden Fry in 2015**



Former Iowa football coach Hayden Fry sits in his “man cave” inside his home in Mesquite, Nev., in 2015, surrounded by memorabilia from his coaching days. (Mike Hlas photos/The Gazette)

# Still Hayden

## At 86, laughter still best medicine for former Hawkeye coach

Editor’s note: This story first appeared in The Gazette in June 2015 after sports columnist Mike Hlas spent a day with Hayden Fry.

By Mike Hlas, The Gazette

MESQUITE, Nev. — Earlier this spring, more than 16 years since the last football game he coached as the University of Iowa’s head coach, Hayden Fry walked through The Eastern Iowa Airport. Fry had arrived in Cedar Rapids on an Allegiant Air direct flight from Las Vegas. Once someone recognized the College Football Hall of Famer, it set off a chain effect. Total strangers offered applause and warm words. Fry soaked up the love and respect as he made his way to securing his ground transportation to Iowa City, where he had a medical appointment.

He still poses for every photo asked of him, still spends more time (and postage) than he might prefer sending autographed items back to those who have found his home address. But Fry left Iowa City not long after his 1998 retirement partly because he couldn’t as much as go out to dinner without drawing a crowd of appreciative Hawkeye fans. But the main reason was warmer winter weather.

Fry and his wife, Shirley, didn’t move to Florida or Arizona like many other Midwest retirees who can afford to do so. Rather, they chose Mesquite, a city of about 16,000 people in the Virgin River Valley in southeast Nevada, adjacent to the Arizona border and 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

People know Fry in Mesquite, for sure. But he said when he goes out and someone asks him who he is, he replies “Humphrey Bogart.”

He laughed after saying that. No one likes Fry’s jokes more than the old Texan himself, and he tells some of the same lines every time you meet him. But coming from him, they’re still funny.

Stepping outside his house after recently spending two hours inside listening to Fry talk about his life and times, his visitor felt like he had opened the door of an incinerator. It was 107 degrees on a



Hayden Fry’s “man cave” in his Mesquite, Nev., home is filled with two large chairs, three TVs so he can watch three different football games on a fall Saturday, and pictures and other memorabilia from his coaching days.

June afternoon, one of a long string of days here with triple-digit temperatures.

You commented on the heat, and he said “I was in Iowa for 20 years. I’ve been out here for 16 years now, and my rump still hasn’t thawed out.”

He has told that same line many times before. But coming from him, it still was funny.

• • •

If you really reach, you could compare Fry coming here to when he arrived at Iowa in late 1978 for what would be a 20-year tenure that changed how Hawkeye football was perceived.

When he first visited Mesquite, it had but 800 people, one restaurant, one casino and one hotel. A gambling machine (slots, video poker) pioneer named William “Si” Redd was building a multidimensional resort in Mesquite. Redd enlisted Arnold Palmer to design a golf course, and made Palmer and former Utah State/NFL great Merlin Olsen honorary founders. He also asked Fry to serve in that capacity, having been an admirer of the coach’s career.

“He said since I took a team to the Rose Bowl, I qualify,” Fry said. “I said ‘I’m sure glad I didn’t have to win the game.’”

Fry quickly grew fond of the area and got a condominium there. After they moved to Mesquite full-time, they moved to a house.

“You can’t believe the interesting people in this town,” he said. “There are a lot of very rich people who lived in California, but taxes there just got out of sight. That’s probably half or three-fourths of the population of Mesquite. The rest of them are from the Midwest.

“Snow doesn’t get on the ground. There’s no ice. I’ve seen snow on the ground here three times in 16 years. There’s only been rain five or six times. There’s very little humidity. It’s not like Iowa, or Texas, where I was raised.

“The elevation’s 2,000 feet here. You want to cool off, you can go 35 miles where it’s 6,000-something. It’s a great place to be.”

As for anonymity, Fry doesn’t really have it here, either. On that recent afternoon, he and his visitor went to his golf club for lunch. He said he hadn’t been there in several months and was afraid no one would remember him. But the young woman who was his server knew who he was immediately and grinned when she saw him.

“I can’t believe it!” Fry exclaimed with a serious expres-

sion and tone.

“What?” she replied with concern.

“You got better looking!”

A slow but steady stream of people approached him during 90 minutes in that dining room, from a Florida millionaire to a busboy. A bald man of maybe 35 approached him and hugged him. “I see you’re letting your hair grow curly,” Fry told him.

When many remember Fry’s news conferences from his days as Iowa’s coach, they point to firestorms. Many media people and outsiders would expect Fry to blow up once a year, over slights or irritations real, perceived or invented. It sometimes was straight from the heart, and sometimes simply theater.

Divert attention from struggling or hurting players. Make someone in the media the bad guy for a day. Let his players and his fans know he is standing up for his team. Fry put his master’s degree in psychology from Baylor University to use on much more than painting the visiting team’s Kinnick Stadium dressing room pink.

Had there been YouTube then, Fry might have had his own channel.

However, far more of those Tuesdays with the media had far lighter feels. If Fry got some laughs early in a news

conference, he would often veer off the topics of the day and into more-interesting places.

“Did I fill your notebook?” he would often ask at the end of such sessions, pleased with himself.

Football coaches, as a rule, weren’t and aren’t like that. Fry was as militaristic as the next football coach. As an ex-Marine, he probably was more so. But unlike the majority of his peers, he seemed able to at least have some fun during the season.

It’s something that has carried over to the present. The day that visitor called him to confirm their scheduled visit, Fry answered his phone by saying “Mule barn.”

“If you can keep your humor, if you can experience something that you enjoy, that helps your health,” he said. “That’s the only reason I’m still here.”

• • •

Fry’s body has taken much more of a beating from cancer than it ever did from playing quarterback at Odessa High School, Baylor, and on top-notch Marine Corps teams in Japan.

He felt rotten and got a long overdue physical checkup shortly before his 20th and final season as Iowa’s coach when he was 69. His PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test score was high. Way too high. He had prostate cancer, and he kept it a secret from everyone but family and physicians that season. He said he didn’t even tell his assistant coaches.

“I was taking the back elevator at the University of Iowa hospital at 5 a.m. to get chemotherapy,” Fry said.

“It was a big surprise. If it hadn’t been right before the opening ballgame, I would have retired. If I’d known in the spring, the school would have had time to get a coach.

“My doctor at the hospital said ‘Coach, you may be the luckiest guy in the world. You’re almost 70 years old and you’re in real good physical condition other than the cancer.’ He said I could live

► MESQUITE, PAGE 11C



## REMEMBERING HAYDEN FRY

“For the entire Stoops family, our heartfelt condolences to Coach Fry’s family. A man that we all loved and revered. RIP Coach — our journey would have been much different without you. Thanks for the memories of a lifetime!!!!!!

A GOAT if there ever was one!” Bob Stoops @CoachBobStoops

# An Iowa ‘cultural icon’

By Lee Hermiston, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Throughout his career as assistant athletics director for trademark and marketing at the University of Iowa, Dale Arens has seen several iterations of the same shirt.

It’s simple enough — commander hat, aviator glasses and a mustache. No other features. No text.

“There was no doubt who that was,” Arens said. “It doesn’t say, ‘Hayden’ on it. It shouts ‘Hayden.’”

Hayden Fry, who died Tuesday at age 90, wasn’t just a football coach at Iowa. He was a popular costume on game days and during Halloween, a T-shirt logo, the inspiration behind the name of a famous TV football coach and an icon.

Fry was a part of Iowa’s cultural fabric.

Josh Schamberger, president of the Iowa City/Coralville Convention and Visitors Bureau, said there are few people in Iowa’s history as instantly recognizable as Fry.

“The white pants, the aviators, the commander cap ... if you sit and try and think back, maybe there’s (Olympian and former Iowa men’s wrestling coach Dan) Gable. Terry Branstad probably is one, too,” Schamberger said. “It’s been 40 years and there’s still people showing up at every game in white pants, mustaches and hats.”

The convention and visitors bureau created FRYfest in 2009 as way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his retirement from coaching and co-naming First Avenue in Coralville Hayden Fry Way. It wasn’t expected to be a huge deal, Schamberger recalls.

“That first year, 25,000 people showed up and it was insane,” he said, noting that without Fry as a draw, the party wouldn’t have had the same appeal. “We knew this had to carry on. It became FRYfest — a celebration of all that is Hawkeye. Coach Fry, he’s Hawk One in my book ... it deserves to have his name



Former Iowa football coach Hayden Fry acknowledges the crowd after an attempt to set a world record for the most people doing the “Hokey Pokey” on Sept. 3, 2010, during FRYfest at the Iowa River Landing district in Coralville. (The Gazette)

behind it.”

Arens, who has worked in university athletics for 33 years and enjoyed a close relationship with Fry, said Fry was a “cultural icon” in Iowa. That started at the very beginning of his career in Iowa City, Arens said.

“Hayden comes from West Texas, he’s got that Texas drawl in his voice,” Arens said. “He’s sort of a bigger than life person ... he has a style about him.”

But, both Schamberger and Arens agree Fry also endeared himself to everyone who knew him or had a chance to meet him. Schamberger recalls it would “take forever to get from point A to point B” at FRYfest because Fry would pose for selfies and chat up every person he came across.

“When you are talking to Coach Fry ... you instantly felt like you were the only person in the room he was talking to,” Schamberger said.

Fans of the ABC sitcom “Coach” might recall the series’ main character had a name — Hayden Fox — that was similar to Fry’s. That was no coincidence. The show’s creator and producer, Barry Kemp, graduated from the UI’s Theatre Arts program in 1971 and named Fox after Fry.

“I loved the rhythm of the name Hayden Fry,” said Kemp, who is quick to note Hayden Fox as a character was not modeled after Fry.

Kemp said when “Coach” first debuted, Fry was unaware the show — which also featured outdoor shots of the UI campus — existed, but later

became a fan.

“The funny part was early on when the show came on, people were not telling him about it,” Kemp said. “His coaches, they were all watching it, but they weren’t necessarily telling him about it ... Then some recruits started asking him about it and he was asking, ‘What is this show about?’”

Kemp said Fry invited him to campus to show off the football team’s facilities, including the then-new indoor practice facility. The two formed a “nice relationship” that lasted throughout the show’s run. Kemp said he would occasionally bounce ideas for episodes off Fry to make sure they were accurately depicted on the show.

“We did a phone call or two

occasionally,” he said. “... I felt like we had a connection. I felt like I could pick up the phone and call.”

While players are often closely identified with certain teams — Michael Jordan and the Bulls or Derek Jeter with the Yankees — there are fewer examples of coaches who transcend leading a team and become a part of its mythology. Mike Ditka and the Chicago Bears. Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers. Bear Bryant and Alabama.

Schamberger and Arens put Fry in that same conversation.

“Coach Fry and his brand and the love that this Hawkeye nation has for that man is incredible and unmatched,” Schamberger said.

Comments: (319) 339-3155; lee.hermiston@thegazette.com

## Mesquite/Fry not a ‘complex person’

► FROM PAGE 10C

another five years. That was 16 years ago, and I’m still here.

“I’ve had nine cancer operations. I’ve been a guinea pig for a new serum, and it’s worked. They haven’t found a tumor in me in over a year now, and I go back in October for a scope job.”

The reality, of course, is that surgeries and rehabilitations are difficult and lonely at any age. Fans and television cameras don’t line up outside operating rooms. Hospital beds are hospital beds whether you’re a beloved football coach or a face in the crowd.

Feeling foggy and frail is lousy. Asked how he didn’t give up at some point after all his procedures over the last 16 years, why he didn’t succumb to disease and self-pity, his simple answer seems boiled down to the fact he strongly wanted to keep living.

“If you get depressed, you get down, something’s wrong and so forth, it affects your whole body,” Fry said. “It really does.”

“A man’s average life span (in the U.S.) was 74 when I started getting cancer treatment. I’ve had former assistant coaches die in their 50s, 60s, 70s. I’m 86. I thank the good Lord that surgery has worked.”

The drive from Las Vegas to Mesquite is a flip of a switch from urban sprawl to little but mountains and scrub. There is no town of note between the two. Then you get to Mesquite, a modern-looking town built around retirees, golf and a few large casinos.

Fry’s 12-year-old, one-story Mesquite house covers about 4,000 square feet. It’s in a gated community bordering a golf course. The house is very nice, but it feels more comfortable than extravagant.

His hangout is what people popularly call a “man cave,” a room with two large, plush chairs, and a very large television screen atop two smaller screens. If he wants to watch three separate college football games at once on a fall Saturday, he can. And does.

The room is large, but feels the opposite because the walls and part of the floor are covered with memorabilia. Some of it is a collection of photos with him and elected officials. One area of a wall features a photo of he and Shirley with President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura.

He met President George H.W. Bush in Fry’s Odessa hometown in the late 1940s. He said Bush was looking for a place to rent, and he helped the future president

find a temporary apartment in Odessa before George and Barbara Bush moved to nearby Midland. They remained friends.

But most of the walls are full of pictures, plaques, paintings and other keepsakes from his football career. The Iowa portion takes up almost an entire wall. Numerous photos of his former Hawkeye assistant coaches and players are on display.

“I’ve got a lot more stuff in two storage rooms,” Fry said.

But in a few hours of conversation on this visit, he spent very little time reminiscing about games or seasons. Rather, he was more interested in discussing his life as a child and young adult, about people and experiences that made impressions on him. He spoke more of his days playing ball in Odessa and on Marine Corps teams than his 37 years as a college head coach, at SMU, North Texas State and Iowa.

“When I was in eighth grade, our football team went 8-0. The ninth grade, we were 7-1. We lost one game, to Midland. Midland was 20 miles away. Our coach was also our school bus driver. There were 17 of us on the team. He drove that school bus back to Odessa by himself. We had to hitchhike home. That inspired me how important it was to

win. My senior year of high school, we went 14-0 and won the state championship. All 11 of us seniors got four-year scholarships to college to play football, from a town of 9,600 people at the time. Six of us were first-team all-state.

“Only three of us are still alive from that ‘46 team. I tried to reach the other two to invite them (to SMU when Fry received the school’s initial Legends Award on May 1). But I couldn’t get hold of them.” Fry’s father also was John Hayden Fry and referred to by his middle name, so John Hayden Fry Jr., was called “Lil’ Brother” at home. In high school, he was commonly called “Crazy Legs” by his classmates because of his unorthodox running style as Odessa High’s quarterback. He said he was highly motivated to dodge tacklers when he ran with the ball.

“You want to know why?” he asked. He paused for effect, then said “I didn’t want to get hit.”

Then he laughed. “Makes sense, doesn’t it? I’m not a complex person.”

So here Fry is now, living in warmth in this fairly isolated place in the desert. He said his doctor has instructed him to spend 25 minutes a day sitting in the sun to try to help reduce

the risk of future cancers. He happily puts up with 100-degree days if that’s the payoff.

He said former players and coaches often swing by Mesquite to pay him visits. At FRYfest in Coralville last year, eight former quarterbacks of Fry at Iowa joined him for a panel event. Matt Rodgers was the only invited quarterback who wasn’t able to attend. But Rodgers recently phoned Fry. So did one of Fry’s top Iowa players, Tim Dwight. There is talk of some of his former Hawkeye players holding a golfing get-together here next February.

As much as anything, perhaps, contact with his long-time friends and bouncing his jokes off others keeps him going.

“The treatments are working, but they make me feel real weak,” he said. “Plus, I’ve got two metal knees. They wore out 10 years ago.”

“There are two things I do when I wake up in the morning and realize I’m still on the right side of the grass. Number 1 is I thank the good Lord. Number 2 is I reach over and chug-a-lug a quart of WD40.”

He has told that same line many times before. But coming from him, it was still funny.

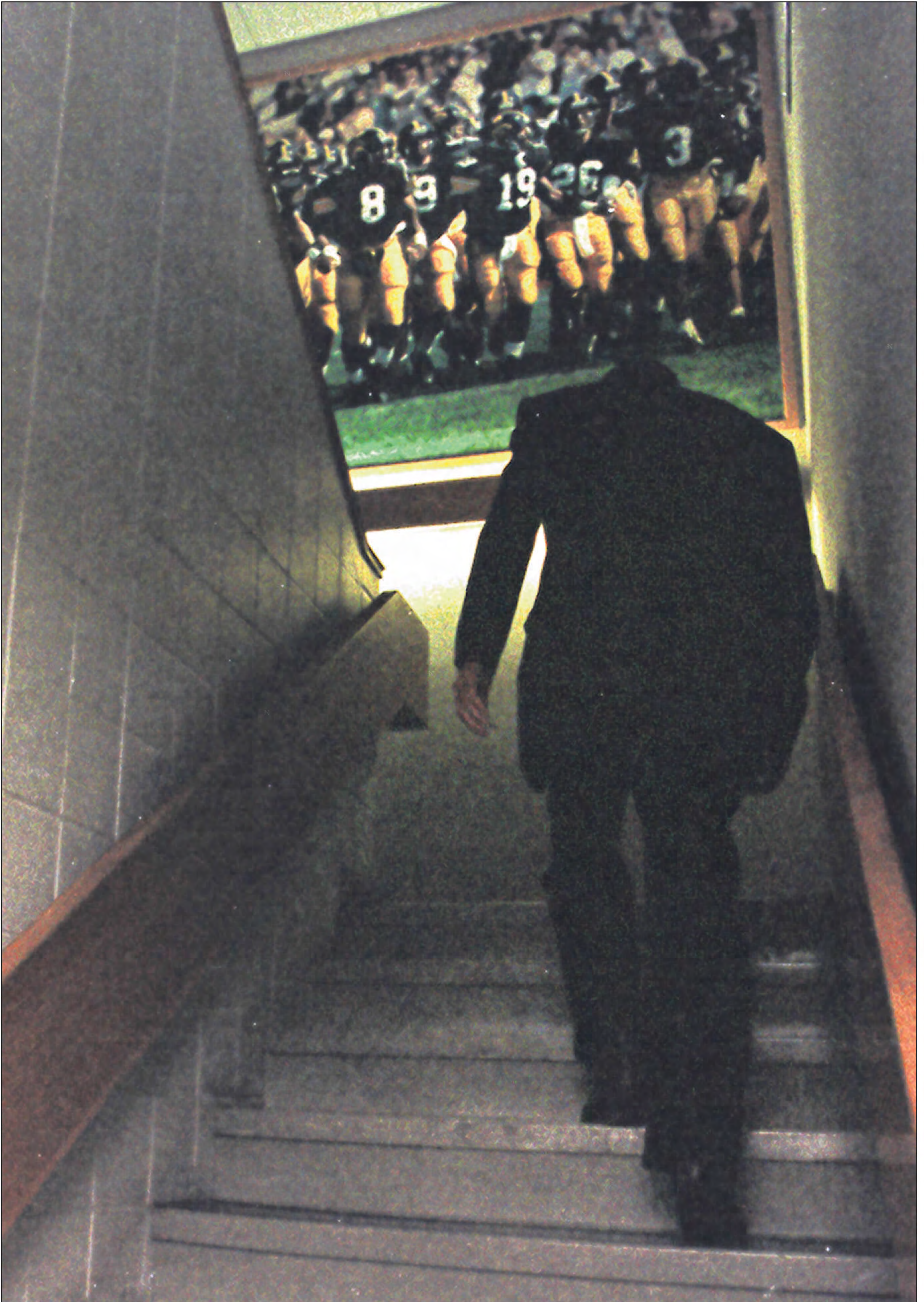
Comments: (319) 368-8840; mike.hlas@thegazette.com



The Gazette

# HAYDEN FRY

REMEMBERING AN IOWA LEGEND



Hayden Fry walks up the stairs at the University of Iowa football facility after he announced his retirement from the Hawkeyes' head coaching position Nov. 23, 1998, during a news conference in Iowa City. (The Gazette)

THANKS FOR ALL  
THE MEMORIES