

= Bobby Dodd =

Robert Lee Dodd (November 11 , 1908 ? June 21 , 1988) was an American college football coach at Georgia Tech . He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame as a player and coach , something that only three people have accomplished .

After playing quarterback at the University of Tennessee , he served as an assistant coach under William Alexander at Georgia Tech beginning in December 1930 . Alexander made the hire while Dodd was still a student at Tennessee . Dodd succeeded Alexander in 1945 as the third head coach at the Institute . He retired from coaching after the 1966 season , compiling a 165 ? 64 ? 8 record . He also served as Athletic Director from 1950 until 1976 . All together , Dodd served Georgia Tech 57 years in various capacities . Bobby Dodd died in June 1988 at the age of 79 in Atlanta , Georgia .

= = Early life = =

Robert Lee " Bobby " Dodd was born in 1908 in Galax , Virginia . He was named after another famous Virginian , Confederate General Robert E. Lee . Dodd was the youngest of Edwin and Susan Dodd 's four children . In the fall of 1921 , the Dodd family relocated to Kingsport , Tennessee . When Dodd was twelve years old and weighed only 100 pounds , he made the seventh @-@ grade team of Kingsport 's first organized football program .

However , the happiness of Bobby Dodd 's early life came to a sad end in 1924 when his father committed suicide due to business failure and financial troubles . The family was forced to move , but was held together by the perseverance of Dodd 's mother . During the next three seasons , the Kingsport Indians football team at Dobyns Bennett High School was very successful gaining two state titles . They were helped by Dodd , who moved from receiver to quarterback and kicker positions . In 1926 , Bobby Dodd graduated high school and was admitted to the University of Tennessee with a football scholarship .

= = Player = =

Bobby Dodd played quarterback for the Tennessee Volunteers football team from 1928 to 1930 , playing under legendary coach Robert Neyland . He wore number 17 . Dodd wanted to play for Georgia Tech but was not offered a scholarship . Ironically , he would later go on to coach the Yellow Jackets . In the games that Dodd started at UT , the Vols held a record of 27 ? 1 ? 2 .

Dodd was a difference in one famous game . During his sophomore year , in his first game of The Third Saturday in October rivalry against Alabama played in Tuscaloosa , " Dodd threw a touchdown pass in that game to tie Alabama , 13 ? 13 . Then he punted out of bounds inside the Alabama 1 @-@ yard line and Tennessee got a safety on the next play to win , 15 ? 13 " .

Another instance in Dodd 's career foreshadowed the creativity he would use in his coaching career .

" Against Florida in 1930 he got his teammates in a huddle and told them about a play he had used in high school . When the ball was snapped , it was placed on the ground unattended . The players ran in one direction . Then the center returned , picked up the ball , and waltzed to the winning touchdown . "

This play would later come to be popularly known as the " fumblerooski " , after Nebraska famously used it in the 1984 Orange Bowl versus Miami . Tennessee fans even developed a catch phrase for Dodd during his time there : " In Dodd we trust " .

During his time at UT , Dodd twice earned All @-@ Southern team honors . Dodd led Tennessee to back @-@ to @-@ back unbeaten seasons with identical 9 @-@ 0 @-@ 1 records his sophomore and junior years . During Dodd 's era , the Vols went 33 games without a loss until an 18 @-@ 6 setback against Alabama in 1930 , which ranks as the longest unbeaten streak in UT history . After the loss , Dodd and his teammates helped kick off a 28 @-@ game unbeaten streak that ranks as the second longest . " It is doubtful if any quarterback in the south can match Dodd on all @-@

around ability . He is a fine passer , a punter of ability , and the greatest field general to ever grace southern turf since the days of the one and only Pooley Hubert , " according to newspaper article of this era .

In his senior year " The Dodger " again showed his versatility in a 13 @-@ 0 win against Vanderbilt . Dodd finished with 14 punts for a 42 @-@ yard average , had nine carries for 39 yards , was 7 @-@ of @-@ 12 passing for 159 yards and two touchdowns and intercepted two passes . During that game , Dodd gained 212 all @-@ purpose yards , collecting all but 14 of Tennessee 's team total of 226 . The Vols finished the 1930 season with 9 @-@ 1 record , and Dodd earned multiple honors for his dominance on the gridiron .

Dodd was named to Grantland Rice 's All @-@ American team in 1930 , making him the 2nd granted that honor at Tennessee (following Gene McEver) . In 1959 , Dodd was named to the University of Tennessee 's Hall of Fame and to the College Football Hall of Fame as a player . He was elected in the same year as teammate Herman Hickman . He was nominated though not selected for an Associated Press All @-@ Time Southeast 1920 @-@ 1969 era team . Dodd also won varsity letters in baseball , basketball , and track during his time at Tennessee .

= = Coach = =

After being recognized as 1928 national champions , Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets football team struggled during the next two season . Georgia Tech football coach William Alexander began looking for a new assistant . During 1930 football season , Alexander sent his line coach , Mac Tharpe , to scout future opponent North Carolina , playing Tennessee in Knoxville . Tharpe 's car broke down and by the time he reached Knoxville , the game was over . Tharpe asked Tennessee head coach Bob Neyland for information , who suggested that he talk to Dodd . When Tharpe returned to Atlanta he told Alexander : " Dodd 's analysis of Carolina is better than any scouting report that I could have made . " Alexander was also impressed by reports of Dodd 's performance during games . Dodd joined Alexander 's staff as an assistant coach on December 28 , 1930 . Dodd served as an assistant coach at Tech for 14 years , even though he received many offers for head coaching positions from other schools during that time frame . Dodd lionized Coach Alexander which was later reflected in his coaching style . " He taught me to treat athletes as men , not boys - to never use their failings as an alibi for a loss , " Dodd said .

Dodd took over the Georgia Tech football program in 1945 following Coach Alexander 's retirement as head football coach . Dodd 's coaching philosophy revolved around player treatment and character development . He did not believe in intense physical practices but rather precise and well executed practices . Dodd 's philosophy translated to winning ; he set the record for career wins at Tech at 165 career coaching wins , including a 31 @-@ game unbeaten streak from 1951 ? 1953 . He also managed to capture two Southeastern Conference (SEC) championships (1951 and 1952) and the 1952 national title , which concluded a perfect 12 ? 0 season and Sugar Bowl conquest of Ole Miss . Under Dodd 's leadership , Tech played in 13 major bowl games , winning 9 , including six in a row from 1952 to 1956 . Bobby Dodd compiled a 165 ? 64 ? 8 record as head coach at Georgia Tech .

Football was Dodd 's lifelong passion , but at Tech he was just as obsessed with the notion that his players should get an education as he was with teaching them how to play football . Other coaches and sportswriters of his era were united in their puzzlement that anyone could coach with such a light hand and still win so many games . However , Coach Dodd knew that his " Books First " reputation caused parents to favor Georgia Tech over his competition . Georgia Tech often played teams that were physically superior but Bobby Dodd would still find a way win . The experts called it " Dodd 's luck , " but his success actually came from an understanding of motivational psychology , football strategy , and innovative game @-@ planning .

Georgia Tech football was Atlanta 's one major sports franchise during this time frame . To hold a ticket to watch the Yellow Jackets play was highly valued and was difficult to obtain . During the games , Bobby Dodd sat in a folding chair at a card table on the side line , rarely standing or showing interest in the game . Dodd took his seat and left the pacing to his assistants . When a

crisis arose , Dodd would decide which plays to be run and the designated players to run them . Dodd sometimes made unusual substitutions , as on a Saturday in Athens when Georgia Tech was about to be upset . Dodd sent in a small halfback who had been frequently injured during his career , who then broke to the right faking a run , stopped , threw a pass for a touchdown and returned to the bench . What Dodd brought to Grant Field was a kind of unbruising football other coaches couldn 't understand : runty halfbacks ; lightweight linemen ; rarely a classic quarterback . Once free substitution became possible , no one made more use of it than Dodd .

Georgia Tech had an intense rivalry with University of Alabama which ended during Bobby Dodd 's tenure as head football coach . Until that time , the matchup between the Crimson Tide and the Yellow Jackets was a fall football classic . The two teams have met on the gridiron a total of 52 times with Georgia Tech coming away victorious in 21 of those matchups with 3 additional tied games . Bobby Dodd 's football teams won 7 out of 17 games played against the University of Alabama . The contests were annual events until Georgia Tech withdrew from the SEC .

Dodd considered two of his biggest victories at Tech came against Alabama , including a 7 ? 3 victory in 1952 and a 7 ? 6 victory in 1962 . The former victory secured a perfect season for Georgia Tech which led to a national title . The latter victory came against a top ranked Alabama team and cost the Crimson Tide another national title .

Dodd also understood the deep @-@ seated rivalry with the University of Georgia . His teams won 8 games in a row over the Bulldogs from 1949 ? 1956 outscoring the Bulldogs 176 ? 39 during the winning streak . This 8 ? game winning streak is still the longest winning streak for either side in the series , which is commonly referred to as " The Drought " by UGA football fans . Dodd would finish his career with a 12 ? 10 record against the Bulldogs .

By the end of his coaching career , Dodd had built a reputation not only as a good coach , but also as a lucky one . University of Georgia 's longtime football coach Wallace Butts once said " If Bobby Dodd were trapped in the center of an H @-@ Bomb explosion , he 'd walk away with his pockets full of marketable uranium . " However , the following describes Dodd 's perspective regarding his luck :

In 1967 , Dodd stepped down as head football coach due to health concerns , and he was succeeded by assistant Bud Carson . Dodd simply retained his athletic director position , which he had acquired in 1950 from William Alexander . Dodd retired as athletic director in 1976 and was followed in the position by Doug Weaver . Dodd continued to serve during his retirement years as an Alumni Association consultant and as a fundraiser for Georgia Tech . In 1983 , he expressed interest in running a United States Football League team if Atlanta were awarded one , but the league folded before Atlanta received a team .

= = Integration = =

During Bobby Dodd 's tenure , Georgia Tech played against several integrated football teams while the South was resisting integration . Georgia Tech played against Notre Dame in 1953 with Wayne Edmonds starting at offensive tackle and defensive end for the Irish . Edmonds was the first black player to win a monogram at Notre Dame . Georgia Tech lost to Notre Dame by score 27 @-@ 14 .

Georgia Tech also participated in the first integrated bowl game in the Deep South . The 1956 Sugar Bowl featured the 7th ranked Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets , and the 11th ranked Pitt Panthers . There was controversy over whether Bobby Grier from Pitt should be allowed to play because he was black , and whether Georgia Tech should even play at all due to Georgia governor Marvin Griffin 's opposition to integration . Ultimately , Bobby Grier played which made the game the first integrated Sugar Bowl and the first integrated bowl game in the Deep South . Georgia Tech won the 1956 Sugar Bowl by score 7 @-@ 0 .

Bobby Dodd oversaw the integration of Georgia Tech football team as Athletic Director . Eddie McAshan was the first African American football player to start for Georgia Tech . Bud Carson started McAshan in 1970 at quarterback as a sophomore and McAshan would go on to set several career records for Georgia Tech (which have since been broken by Shawn Jones and Joe Hamilton) . McAshan 's first career start was on September 12 , 1970 against South Carolina . His start

marked the first time that an African American had ever started at quarterback for a major Southeastern university and McAshan did not disappoint . He rallied Tech with a fourth quarter deficit , defeating the Gamecocks 23 @-@ 20 with two late touchdown drives . McAshan threw for 32 touchdowns during his college football career , and Georgia Tech had 22 @-@ 13 @-@ 1 record during that time frame .

= = Georgia Tech 's withdrawal from SEC = =

= = = Feud with Bear Bryant = = =

Dodd 's tenure included Georgia Tech 's withdrawal from the Southeastern Conference (SEC) . The initial spark for Dodd 's withdrawal was an historic feud with Alabama Crimson Tide Coach Bear Bryant . The feud began when Tech was playing the Tide at Legion Field in Birmingham in 1961 . After a Tech punt , Alabama fair @-@ caught the ball . Chick Graning of Tech was playing coverage and relaxed after the signal for the fair catch . Darwin Holt of Alabama continued play and smashed his elbow into Graning 's face causing severe fracturing in his face , a broken nose , and blood @-@ filled sinuses . Graning was knocked unconscious and suffered a severe concussion , the result of which left him unable to play football ever again . Dodd sent Bryant a letter asking Bryant to suspend Holt after game film indicated Holt had intentionally injured Graning . Bryant never suspended Holt . The lack of discipline infuriated Dodd and sparked Dodd 's interest in withdrawing from the SEC . Georgia Tech lost that game , 10 ? 0 , and Alabama went on to win its first Associated Press national championship .

= = = Over @-@ recruitment = = =

Another issue of concern for Dodd was Alabama 's and other SEC schools ' over @-@ recruitment of players . Universities would recruit more players than available space on their rosters . During the summer the teams in question would cut the players well after signing day . This practice prevented the cut players from being able to play for other colleges during the following football season . Dodd appealed the SEC administration to punish the " tryout camps " of his fellow SEC members but the SEC did not . Finally , Dodd withdrew Georgia Tech from the SEC after 1963 football season . Tech would remain an independent like Notre Dame and Penn State (at the time) during the final three years of Dodd 's coaching tenure .

Dodd insisted the only reason he left the SEC was due to the " 140 Rule " , which allowed colleges to over @-@ recruit . The 140 Rule stated a college program could only have 140 football and basketball players on scholarship at any one time , but the teams were still allowed to sign up to 45 players a year . Therefore , if a school recruited its full allotment of players each year it would exceed the 140 maximum even with normal attrition . Dodd would sign about 30 @-@ 32 football players a year to meet the guidelines , but the other schools in the SEC were offering 45 scholarships a year , and most were allotting all but a nominal amount to football . Players not good enough to fall under the 140 Rule had their scholarships withdrawn before the end of each year by the other schools . Dodd insisted the recruiting of athletes by this method amounted to nothing more than a tryout for a scholarship . Dodd would not allow any of the football players choosing Tech to be dismissed from Tech , because they were not the best players . Dodd said , " it is not the recruit 's fault for not making the squad , it was the coaches ' fault for misjudging their talents . " If a recruit came to Tech , he would stay on a football scholarship until he graduated .

Dodd wanted the SEC to limit the amount of scholarships to about 32 per year , which would keep the other schools from offering 45 scholarships , picking the best , and withdrawing scholarships from the rest . A vote was to be taken by the presidents of the colleges on the issue , and Dodd made it clear that Tech would have to leave the SEC unless the rule was changed . The presidents were split six for Dodd ? s position and six against . Bear had promised Dodd he would get his president to vote for Dodd ? s position , which would have changed the rule . When the meeting was

held on January 24 , 1964 , the Alabama president voted against Dodd ' s position and the 140 Rule was upheld . Tech ' s president immediately walked to the podium and announced Tech was withdrawing from the SEC .

= = Legacy and awards = =

Dodd was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a player in 1959 and as a coach in 1993 . He was voted Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches in 1951 , and " National Coach of the Year " by the New York Daily News poll in 1952 . After retiring , he was awarded a special " Citation of Honor " by the Football Writers Association of America for his accomplishments and contributions to football . Dodd also developed 22 recognized All @-@ America football players as head football coach . Dodd was also inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1973 . Coach Dodd has also received honors not related to football . The Bobby Dodd Institute is an organization that helps people with disabilities ; it is named in honor of Coach Dodd for his assistance to the disabled .

= = = Bobby Dodd Stadium = = =

Georgia Tech named its stadium Bobby Dodd Stadium in honor of the legendary coach in April 1988 , two months before he died . In 1989 part of Third Street located next to Bobby Dodd Stadium was rechristened Bobby Dodd Way . On Friday September 14 , 2012 , Georgia Tech provided another honor for the former coach by unveiling the Bobby Dodd statue in Callaway Plaza on the Georgia Tech campus , which was funded by former players for Coach Dodd . In attendance for the unveiling included members of the 1952 national championship squad , the President of the Institute , Bud Peterson , athletic director , current head football coach , Paul Johnson , and Bobby Dodd ' s son and daughter .

= = = Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award = = =

While Bobby Dodd was a determined competitor , he cared deeply for those who played for him . Unlike some other coaches , he did not believe in winning at any costs ; he truly believed that the most important aspect of college football was the college football player . As a testament to the character of Bobby Dodd , each year a Division I college coach whose team excels on the field , in the classroom , and in the community is awarded the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award , presented by the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation .

= = = Influence on other coaches = = =

Many coaches have been influenced by Dodd ' s style and approach to the game , including Vince Dooley , University of Georgia ' s longtime football coach , who was the first recipient of the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award . In addition , several assistant coaches for Bobby Dodd went on to have successful careers as head football coach for other colleges , including Frank Broyles with University of Arkansas and Ray Graves with University of Florida . Broyles led the Razorbacks to 14 @-@ 7 victory over the Yellow Jackets in the 1960 Gator Bowl , which was the first bowl game Georgia Tech had lost with Bobby Dodd as head coach .

The 1990 Georgia Tech National Championship football team was led by another coach named " Bobby , " who had more in common with Dodd than his first name . Like Dodd , Bobby Ross was a fair and caring coach who wanted his players to reach their potential in both academics and athletics . As a result , Bobby Ross won the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award at the end of the 1990 football season .

= = Head coaching record = =

= = Family and personal life = =

Dodd married Alice Davis in 1933 , and they had two children , Linda Dodd Thompson and Robert Lee Dodd Jr . , who played quarterback for the University of Florida during 1960 and 1961 football seasons . Dodd Jr. had wanted to play for Georgia Tech , but Dodd thought it would be best if he played for another college . On October 1 , 1960 , Dodd Jr. contributed to Florida 's 18 @-@ 17 upset win over the Yellow Jackets at Florida Field with Ray Graves , Dodd 's former assistant , as the Gators ' head coach .

Alice Davis was a younger sister to Wink Davis , who played half back on Georgia Tech football team . Dodd met Alice in 1931 through Ed Hamm , who was the track coach at that time . They went on a few double dates together and then Bobby started dating Alice . They postponed their wedding until after the 1933 football season since Dodd was coaching his future brother @-@ in @-@ law .

Bobby Dodd and Bear Bryant ended their feud in 1975 after Bill Curry helped negotiate a peace settlement between the two old football coaches . As a result , Georgia Tech and Alabama resumed their series during 1979 through 1984 football seasons .

Dodd stayed in touch with many of his former football players over the years , and he was like a father to them up until his death . " The record I am most proud of , " he said , " is from all those years of coaching I probably don 't have five former players who are bitter at me or Georgia Tech . That means more than the number of games we won . "

Alice Dodd was named honorary alumnus of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association in 1967 . After her husband 's death in 1988 , she continued to attend Homecoming functions and special events , such as the 1991 Florida Citrus Bowl which led to Georgia Tech winning its fourth national championship .