

= Bud Grant =

Harry Peter " Bud " Grant , Jr . (born May 20 , 1927) is a former coach and player of American football and Canadian football . Grant served as the head coach of the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League (NFL) for eighteen seasons ; he was the team 's second (1967 ? 83) and fourth (1985) head coach . Before coaching the Vikings , he was the head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League (CFL) for ten seasons , winning the Grey Cup four times . Grant is the most successful coach in Vikings history , and the third most successful professional football coach overall (behind Don Shula and George Halas) , with a combined 290 wins in the NFL and CFL . Grant was elected to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1983 and to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994 . He was the first coach in the history of professional football to guide teams to the Grey Cup finals and the Super Bowl .

Grant attended the University of Minnesota and was a three @-@ sport athlete , in football , basketball , and baseball . After college , he played for the Minneapolis Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) , the Philadelphia Eagles of the NFL , and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the CFL .

On October 23 , 2014 , a statue of Grant was unveiled in front of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers ' new stadium , Investors Group Field .

= = Personal life = =

= = = Childhood = = =

Bud Grant was born on May 20 , 1927 , in Superior , Wisconsin to Harry Peter Sr. and Bernice Grant . His mother called him " Buddy Boy " , which later became " Bud " . As a child , Grant was diagnosed with poliomyelitis and a doctor suggested he become active in sports to strengthen his weakened leg muscles over time . He started with baseball , adding basketball and football as he got older . Due to a lack of organized school teams , he arranged football games between neighborhoods and contacted kids from other schools to participate . During weekends , he would spend time outdoors alone hunting rabbits . In his late teens and college years , he played organized baseball in Minnesota and Wisconsin .

= = = Family = = =

Bud married Pat (formerly Patricia Bellew ; born March 28 , 1927) in 1950 , and they had six children . Their son Mike Grant has been the football head coach for Eden Prairie High School in Eden Prairie , Minnesota since 1992 . Mike Grant has coached Eden Prairie to ten state championships since 1996 . Bud Grant 's grandson Ryan Grant was a quarterback and linebacker at Eden Prairie and played at the University of Minnesota (2008 @-@ 2012) as a linebacker . Bud 's granddaughter Jenny is married to former NFL quarterback Gibrán Hamdan . Pat Grant died in 2009 , of Parkinson 's Disease .

= = Playing career = =

= = = High school and college = = =

Grant played football , basketball , and baseball at Superior Central High School (Wisconsin) . He graduated from high school in 1945 and enlisted in the Navy during World War II . He was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois and played on the football team coached by Paul Brown . Using an acceptance letter from the University of Wisconsin ? Madison to be discharged from the service , Grant decided to attend the University of Minnesota instead . He was a three sport

, nine letterman athlete in football , basketball , and baseball for the Minnesota Golden Gophers , earning All @-@ Big Ten honors in football twice .

= = = Professional basketball = = =

After leaving the University of Minnesota , Grant was selected in both the NFL and NBA Draft . He was selected in the first round (fourteenth overall) of the 1950 NFL Draft by the Philadelphia Eagles and fourth round (forty @-@ second overall) selection of the Minneapolis Lakers in the 1950 NBA Draft . He played thirty @-@ five games during the 1949 ? 50 NBA season and signed with the Lakers for the 1950 ? 51 NBA season . He chose to continue his basketball career with the Lakers because they were local and because he was offered a raise to stay for the season . Grant 's close personal friend , Sid Hartman , was the Lakers ' general manager , which may have influenced his decision to remain with the team . He averaged 2 @.@ 6 points per game in his two seasons as a reserve with the Lakers and was a member of the 1950 championship team .

= = = Professional football = = =

After two seasons in the NBA , Grant decided to end his professional basketball career . He contacted the Philadelphia Eagles of the NFL and agreed to play for the team during the 1951 NFL season . In his first season with the Eagles , Grant played as a defensive end and led the team in sacks (an unofficial statistic at the time) . He switched to offense as a wide receiver for his second season with the club and ranked second in the NFL for receiving yardage , with 997 yards on fifty @-@ six catches , including seven touchdowns .

Grant 's contract expired at the end of the 1952 NFL season and the Eagles refused to pay him what he thought he was worth . The Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the CFL had been interested in Grant while in college . Grant left for Winnipeg , Canada in 1953 and became the first professional player to " play out his option " and leave for another team . He played for the Blue Bombers until 1956 as an offensive end and was named a Western Conference all @-@ star three times . He led the Western Conference in pass receptions for the 1953 , 1954 , and 1956 seasons and receiving yards for the 1953 and 1956 seasons . He also holds the distinction of having five interceptions in a playoff game , played on October 28 , 1953 , which is a CFL record . The Blue Bombers played for the Grey Cup in 1953 , but lost to the Hamilton Tiger @-@ Cats in the 41st Grey Cup game .

= = Coaching career = =

= = = Winnipeg Blue Bombers = = =

Blue Bombers management decided that they needed a new coach prior to the 1957 season . On January 30 , 1957 , Grant accepted the Blue Bombers head coaching position after impressing management with his ability to make adjustments on offense and defense as a player . Club president , J.T. Russell , thought that Grant could coach even though nobody else did . Grant would remain the head coach of the Blue Bombers until 1966 . At age 29 (he would be 30 by the time he coached his first game) , Grant became the youngest head coach in CFL history .

During his ten seasons as head coach in Winnipeg , he led the team to six Grey Cup appearances , winning the championship four times in 1958 , 1959 , 1961 , and 1962 . He finished his Blue Bombers coaching career with a regular season record of 105 wins , 53 losses , and two ties and an overall record of 122 wins , 66 losses , and 3 ties . Grant was the CFL Coach of the Year in 1965 . Grant took on additional responsibilities as a club manager between 1964 and 1966 . Max Winter , the Minnesota Vikings founder , contacted Grant in 1961 and asked him to coach the new NFL expansion team . Grant declined the offer and remained in Winnipeg until 1967 when Winter and General Manager Jim Finks were successful in luring Grant to Minnesota .

= = = Minnesota Vikings = = =

Grant continued his coaching success in the NFL as he took over from original coach , Norm Van Brocklin . Over his tenure as Vikings head coach , Grant was known for instilling discipline in his teams and displaying a lack of emotion during games . He believed that football is a game of controlled emotion and teams would not follow the coach 's lead if he were to panic or lose his poise during the course of a game . He required his team to stand at attention in a straight line during the entire national anthem played before the game and even had national anthem practice . Grant required outdoor practice during the winter to get players used to the cold weather and would not allow heaters on the sidelines during games .

Grant and Finks orchestrated a rare trade in between leagues , which brought Joe Kapp from the British Columbia Lions to the Vikings . In return , the Vikings sent Jim Young , a Canadian born player , back to his native country .

In his second year , Grant led the team to a divisional championship and his first NFL playoffs appearance . In 1969 , he led the team to its first NFL Championship and their first appearance in the Super Bowl . The Vikings lost in Super Bowl IV to the American Football League champion Kansas City Chiefs . Prior to the 1970 season , Minnesota released Joe Kapp . After starting Gary Cuozzo at quarterback in 1970 and 1971 , the Vikings re @-@ acquired Fran Tarkenton prior to the 1972 season . During the 1970s , the Vikings would appear in three more Super Bowls (VIII , IX , and XI) under Grant and lose each one , but he was the first coach to lead a team to four Super Bowls . He retired after the 1983 NFL season and was succeeded by Les Steckel , who led the team to a 3 @-@ 13 record the following season . Steckel was fired as head coach after the 1984 season and Grant returned as coach for the Vikings in 1985 . After one season where he returned the club to a 7 @-@ 9 record , he stepped down again . Grant retired as the eighth most successful coach in NFL history with an overall record of 161 wins , 99 losses , and 5 ties . As of 2014 , he also remains the most successful coach in Vikings history . During his tenure with the Vikings , he led the Vikings to four Super Bowls , eleven division titles , one league championship and three NFC conference championships .

= = Head coaching record = =

= = Post @-@ coaching career = =

After retiring , Grant became a less prominent public figure and focused on hunting and fishing and supporting environmental reforms . He has been a spokesperson against Native American hunting and fishing treaty rights in Minnesota . In 1993 , Grant 's efforts resulted in a death threat . In 2005 , he spoke at a Capitol rally in Minnesota for the conservation of wetlands , wetland wildlife , and water . Grant addressed 5 @,@ 000 supporters , saying , " In this legislative session , we want to see some action . It ? s more important than any stadium they could ever build in this state . "

Grant is still listed as a consultant for the Vikings and maintains an office at the team 's headquarters in Eden Prairie .