

= Roy Lester =

E. Roy Lester (born c . 1923) is an American former college and high school football coach . As head coach of Richard Montgomery High School , his teams compiled an 86 ? 10 ? 1 record and six undefeated seasons .

After a successful career at the high school level , he served as the head coach of the University of Maryland football team from 1969 to 1971 . Lester was the school 's fourth head coach in five years , and compiled a 7 ? 25 record during his tenure . He was fired after the 1971 season when Maryland finished at the bottom of the Atlantic Coast Conference for the second consecutive year .

Lester returned to coach interscholastic football at Paint Branch High School and Magruder High School . His teams won three Maryland state championships .

Lester attended West Virginia University where he was a three @-@ sport athlete and earned letters in football , baseball , and basketball . He was inducted into the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame in 2008 .

= = Early life = =

Lester grew up in Spencer , West Virginia and attended college at West Virginia University , where he lettered in football , basketball , and baseball . In basketball , he played as a center and recorded 27 points in 21 games during his career. In baseball , he played as an outfielder from 1947 to 1949 , and as a senior recorded 53 hits and a .339 batting average. He played college football as an end in 1948 and participated in the 1949 Sun Bowl. Lester was named to the West Virginia 1940 ? 1949 Team. Record Book Supplement (PDF) , 2009 West Virginia Football Media Guide , West Virginia University , 2009. He graduated in 1949 with a degree in political science. In 1949 , Lester played football for the Paterson Panthers of the American Association , a farm team of the Philadelphia Eagles .

= = = High school and assistant coach = = =

In 1950 , Lester began his coaching career at Walton High School in Walton , West Virginia from 1950 to 1951 . The following season , he moved on to Allegany High School in Cumberland , Maryland . From 1956 to 1958 , Lester served under Tommy Mont as the University of Maryland 's ends coach and freshman team coach for three seasons . Lester served the head football coach at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville , Maryland from 1959 to 1968 . During his tenure , Richard Montgomery compiled an 86 ? 10 ? 1 record , which included six undefeated seasons. R. Montgomery To Honor Lester , The Washington Post , September 20 , 2002 . In a time before Maryland hosted high school football playoffs , Lester 's teams were considered some of the best in the state .

At the end of his stint at Richard Montgomery in 1968 , he held a 25 @-@ game winning streak , and his 1968 team was ranked third in the nation .

Future NFL linebacker Mike Curtis was among the players under Lester at Richard Montgomery .

= = = Maryland = = =

In 1969 , Lester was hired as Maryland 's fourth head coach in five years . His embattled predecessor , Bob Ward , had been forced out in the face of a player rebellion and a combined 2 ? 17 record .

Lester had previously twice applied for the Maryland head coach position . The Daytona Beach Morning Journal speculated that Lester 's undisclosed salary probably matched that of Ward : \$ 20 @, @ 000 .

Lester reintroduced the split @-@ T formation at Maryland , which Jim Tatum had used to great effect there in the 1950s .

Lester 's philosophy was explained by the Maryland sports information director Jack Zane : " the

pass should open up the defense for the running game . " In the sixth game of his first season , Maryland 's starting quarterback , junior Dennis O 'Hara , was injured in a loss at South Carolina , and was replaced by sophomore Jeff Shugars .

In the season 's penultimate game , Maryland lost to Penn State , 48 ? 0 . Penn State halfback Lydell Mitchell had been recruited by Lester and originally intended to go to Maryland before he opted for Penn State instead . Lester was bothered by a similar situation with fullback Franco Harris , whose high school coach was a friend of Lester 's . Lester attributed Maryland 's football woes to the turnover at head coach and lack of depth because of recruitment shortcomings . Maryland won the finale against Virginia to finish the season with a 3 ? 7 record .

In 1970 , Lester 's Terrapins finished with a 2 ? 9 record . After an upset loss in the season opener against Villanova , 21 ? 3 , Lester shuffled the roster . He switched the positions of eight players , which included Tom Miller from fullback to linebacker. The season prior , Miller had gained 629 yards , the second @-@ most ever by a Maryland sophomore .

After losing their first five games , Maryland beat South Carolina on Homecoming weekend , 21 ? 15 , which prompted Maryland fans to tear down the goalposts in celebration. In the 25 @-@ mile per hour winds , the Terrapins capitalized on the Gamecocks ' poor punting game , which included one blocked punt .

Two weeks later , Maryland was beaten by Clemson , which scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to win , 24 ? 11 .

With the loss , Maryland slid to a 1 ? 7 record , and Lester said he was giving serious consideration to stepping down before the next season . He said , " If I 'm not doing the proper job I 'm willing to relinquish the job . I took this loss very personally . "

In 1971 , some observers considered Maryland , which returned 37 lettermen , to be the dark horse in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) . Lester said he expected a winning season and that " a lot of people may be surprised . "

However , the Terrapins dropped the season opener to underdog Villanova once again , 28 ? 13. Star @-@ News called it the most stunning of five upsets in the ACC teams ' opening weekend , rating it ahead of NC State 's loss to Kent State , Virginia 's loss to Navy , South Carolina 's win against Georgia Tech , and Duke 's win against Florida. Maryland won the following week against NC State , but then dropped five straight before beating the Virginia Military Institute on Homecoming . Maryland closed the season with losses to Penn State , Clemson , and Virginia to again finish with a 2 ? 9 record. Lester was fired at the conclusion of the 1971 season . Athletic director Jim Kehoe cited Maryland 's worst record in the ACC for two consecutive years and stated his goal of making Maryland a " nationally ranked caliber " team .

Kehoe also said , " financial factors are a serious consideration , " and that home game attendance had fallen to its lowest point , which threatened the financial well @-@ being of the athletic department . Lester was replaced by Jerry Claiborne , who later went on to considerable success in the position .

In September 1973 , Maryland All @-@ American guard Paul Vellano , then playing under Claiborne , said of the past coaches ' difficulties : " A lot of the kids said that Ward was a good coach but that he had a lot of bad apples . Lester was a high school coach and nobody had ever heard of him . I can 't understand it . We had nine freshman who were All @-@ Americans my first year here under Lester . Maybe if they had let him stay he could have done the job .

One of Lester 's lasting contributions was the recruitment of future Maryland and NFL star Randy White .

At the end of his tenure , Lester had a combined collegiate coaching record of 7 ? 25 .

= = = Return to high school coaching = = =

In 1972 , Lester returned to the interscholastic ranks as a head coach at Paint Branch High School in Burtonsville , Maryland , which awarded him a ten @-@ year contract .

It was Paint Branch 's third year of varsity football , and their first two campaigns had ended with 3 ? 7 records . About the move , Lester said , " I spent too long treating college players nice and making

sure they were happy ... I don 't have to do that now . I can coach here . If they want to quit , fine . "

In 1975 , he led Paint Branch to the Class B state championship .

From 1979 to 1993 , Lester served as head coach at Magruder High School in Rockville , Maryland

In 1984 , Lester led Magruder to capture the Class B state championship , and repeated the feat with the Class A state championship in 1986. In 1989 , he earned his 200th win as a high school coach when Magruder defeated Einstein , 24 ? 0 , to bring his interscholastic record to 200 ? 61 .

Lester finished his tenure with a 107 ? 47 record at Magruder. Upon the conclusion of his coaching career , he had won 260 games at Montgomery County schools .

= = Later life = =

In 1996 , the Maryland Football Coaches Association inducted Lester into its Hall of Fame . In 2002 , Richard Montgomery High School renamed its athletic field Roy Lester Stadium in his honor . In 2008 , the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame inducted Lester as a member of its 18th class . As of 2008 , Lester resided in Gaithersburg , Maryland and had four children ? three sons and a daughter .

= = Head coaching record = =