

Bear Bryant

It has been over twenty years since coach **Paul Bear Bryant** passed away, yet his legendary status and influence continue to grow as the years go by. When Bryant retired as coach of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide football program following the 1982 season, he was college football's winningest coach with **323 victories**. His Crimson Tide teams won **6 national championships** and **13 Southeastern Conference titles**. **Simply put, he is one of the greatest coaches of all time.**

"Find your own picture, your own self in anything that goes bad. It's awfully easy to mouth off at your staff or chew out players, but if it's bad, and you're the head coach, you're responsible. If we have an intercepted pass, I threw it. I'm the head coach. If we get a punt blocked, I caused it. A bad practice, a bad game, it's up to the head coach to assume his responsibility."

"It's awfully important to win with humility. It's also important to lose. I hate to lose worse than anyone, but if you never lose you won't know how to act. If you lose with humility, then you can come back."

"Losing doesn't make me want to quit. It makes me want to fight that much harder."

"The biggest mistake coaches make is taking borderline cases and trying to save them. I'm not talking about grades now, I'm talking about character. I want to know before a boy enrolls about his home life, and what his parents want him to be."

"What are you doing here? Tell me why you are here. If you are not here to win a national championship, you're in the wrong place. You boys are special. I don't want my players to be like other students. I want special people. You can learn a lot on the football field that isn't taught in the home, the church, or the classroom. There are going to be days when you think you've got no more to give and then you're going to give plenty more. You are going to have pride and class. You are going to be very special. You are going to win the national championship for Alabama."

"I'm no innovator. If anything I'm a stealer, or borrower. I've stolen or borrowed from more people than you can shake a stick at."

"There is no sin in not liking to play; it's a mistake for a boy to be there if he doesn't want to."

"I'm no miracle man. I guarantee nothing but hard work."

"Don't overwork your squad. If you're going to make a mistake, under-work them."

"Be aware of "yes" men. Generally, they are losers. Surround yourself with winners. Never forget - people win."

"If there is one thing that has helped me as a coach, it's my ability to recognize winners, or good people who can become winners by paying the price."

"You take those little rascals, talk to them good, pat them on the back, let them think they are good, and they will go out and beat the biguns."

"If you whoop and holler all the time, the players just get used to it."

"I know what it takes to win. If I can sell them on what it takes to win, then we are not going to lose too many football games."

"If you want to coach you have three rules to follow to win. One, surround yourself with people who can't live without football. I've had a lot of them. Two, be able to recognize winners. They come in all forms. And, three, have a plan for everything. A plan for practice, a plan for the game. A plan for being ahead, and a plan for being behind 20-0 at half, with your quarterback hurt and the phones dead, with it raining cats and dogs and no rain gear because the equipment man left it at home."

"My approach to the game has been the same at all the places I've been. Vanilla. The sure way. That means, first of all, to win physically. If you got eleven on a field, and they beat the other eleven physically, they'll win. They will start forcing mistakes. They'll win in the fourth quarter."

"Little things make the difference. Everyone is well prepared in the big things, but only the winners perfect the little things."

"Scout yourself. Have a buddy who coaches scout you."

"The first time you quit, it's hard. The second time, it