

MOUSE DAVIS • PORTLAND STATE



A legendary coach and football man, Darrel "Mouse" Davis became nationally famous at Portland State in the 1970s and in the end came full circle, finishing his coaching career on the Park Blocks three decades later.

Davis, who spent more than 50 years in coaching and the game of football, brought the Run-and-Shoot offense to national prominence at Portland State after having great success at local Oregon high schools. With the Viking program, Davis' offense set NCAA records and regularly led the nation in scoring and total offense behind the brilliance of quarterbacks Neil Lomax and June Jones.

To this day, the Run-and-Shoot is still employed to great success by one of his proteges, Jones, at Southern Methodist following a nationally-recognized run at the University of Hawai'i.

Despite nearly three decades since last employing the Run-and-Shoot offense at Portland State, Davis came back as in 2007-08 and proved it can be as effective as ever. He was the offensive coordinator at PSU, coaching with former Head Coach Jerry Glanville. During his final two seasons as a coach the Vikings led the nation in passing offense each year, averaging 360.9 yards per game in 2007 and 372.2 yards in 2008. PSU also ranked 17th in total offense (423.0 yards) and 28th in scoring (30.7 points per game) in 2007, 21st in total offense (401.4) and 55th in scoring (25.8) in 2008.

The Vikings threw 48 touchdown passes and had their quarterbacks earn Big Sky Conference Player of the Week honors five times over those two seasons.

Ironically, Davis who led Lomax and Jones to NFL careers came back to coach Drew Hubel, who broke some of their records. Davis guided Hubel to one of the great performances of all-time in his first career start as a true freshman (35-56 passing, 485 yards, national-record tying 9 TDs, 0 INTs, and National Player

of the Week honors) in 2007. Hubel threw for a school-record 623 yards and five TDs in a win over nationally-ranked Eastern Washington in 2008.

A coaching legend in the state of Oregon and at Portland State, Davis never slowed a bit after five decades of coaching. He was simply the youngest 76-year old in America during the 2008 season. His energy was remarkable as Davis' work day began at 4:30 a.m. during the season.

Davis was named an inaugural member of the Portland State Athletics Hall of Fame when he was inducted in 1997. He is also a member of the Western Oregon University Athletics Hall of Fame. In 2010, he earned an Oregon Sports Awards' Merit Award for his lifetime contributions to the athletics in the state.

Now retired, Davis still lives in the Portland area with his wife, Mary Lou. He remains an avid supporter and ambassador for Portland State Athletics.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Mouse gained his nickname from older brother Don, while a freshman shortstop on the Independence High School team in Monmouth, OR. Despite his 4'10" stature at the time, Mouse already excelled at sports, including baseball, basketball and track.



Mouse Davis was a vital coach well into his 70s.

THE MOUSE DAVIS FILE

Portland State Head Coach, 1975-80

Offensive Coordinator, 1974, 2007-08

Member: PSU Athletics Hall of Fame

Hometown: Independence, OR

Alma Mater: Western Oregon, 1955

Playing Experience: Quarterback, Halfback, Cornerback, Western Oregon, 1951-54

Date of Birth: Sept. 6, 1932

Wife: Mary Lou

Mouse Davis' Portland State Head Coaching Record: 42-24

Year	W-L	Level	YPG	PPG
1975	8-3	NCAA II	472.4	33.3
1976	8-3	NCAA II	497.5	41.5
1977	7-4	NCAA II	506.7	37.8
1978	5-6	NCAA 1-AA	477.4	30.6
1979	6-5	NCAA 1-AA	460.7	34.3
1980	8-3	NCAA 1-AA	504.3	49.2

COACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2007-08 Portland State**
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
- 2004-06 Hawai'i**
Special Teams/Running Backs
- 2003 San Diego Riptide**
Head Coach
- 2001-02 Detroit Fury**
Head Coach
- 1994-95 Atlanta Falcons**
Quarterbacks
- 1991-92 New York/New Jersey Knights**
Head Coach
- 1988-90 Detroit Lions**
Offensive Coordinator
- 1986-88 Arena Football League**
Director of Football Operations
- 1985 Denver Gold**
Head Coach
- 1984 Houston Gamblers**
Offensive Coordinator
- 1982-83 Toronto Argonauts**
Head Coach
- 1975-80 Portland State**
Head Coach
- 1974 Portland State**
Offensive Coordinator
- 1971-73 Hillsboro (OR) HS**
Head Coach
- 1965-70 Sunset (Portland, OR) HS**
Head Coach
- 1962-64 Milwaukie (OR) HS**
Head Coach
- 1959-61 Grant (Portland, OR) HS**
Assistant Coach
- 1958 Jefferson (Portland, OR) HS**
Assistant Coach
- 1955 Oregon College of Education**
Defensive Coordinator

He played quarterback and halfback on three straight championship teams from 1952-54 under Coach Bill McArthur at OCE (WOU). Davis also played basketball and baseball in college.

In developing his Run-and-Shoot offense, Davis espoused the theories of Middletown (Ohio) High School coach Glenn "Tiger" Ellison, who wrote the book *Run-and-Shoot Football: Offense of the Future*. Ellison was a mentor during Davis' tenure at Hillsboro High. Davis avidly read Ellison's manual, eventually modifying and polishing it into the "Run-and-Shoot" that has terrorized defenses, amassed yardage and scoring records and turned quarterbacks into supermen at every level of football.

RUN AND SHOOT

Davis will be quick to tell you he is not the man who "invented" the Run-and-Shoot offense, or even wrote the book on it (That was Tiger Ellison). But, Davis is certainly the man who made it famous, revolutionizing football back in the 1970s. At that time, he led a Portland State program that went 42-24 over six seasons, averaged 38 points and nearly 500 yards of offense per game. PSU led the nation in scoring three times. The unique passing game made stars out of Davis' two main quarterbacks, June Jones and Neil Lomax.

Davis introduced the innovative Run-and-Shoot offense to a mass audience in those days. These days, when you hear "spread offense" just know the origins go back to Davis' original Run-and-Shoot years at PSU. Davis' offensive philosophies have affected the game of football at every level and had a significant influence on the pass-first, multiple-receiver modern game.

MOUSE DAVIS - The first time around at Portland State



PUTTING PORTLAND STATE FOOTBALL ON THE MAP

Originally from the northwest, Davis claims Independence, Oregon as his hometown, and he is a 1955 graduate of Western Oregon University (then Oregon College of Education). Davis spent 15 seasons coaching high school football in Oregon, culminating in a 1973 state championship at Hillsboro High School, going 11-1. Davis also was head coach at Sunset and Milwaukie High Schools, building a combined 79-29 record among those three.

In 1974, Mouse moved to Portland State to become offensive coordinator for Head Coach Ron Stratten. When Stratten left PSU following the season, Davis took over and the rest is history.

In 1975, his quarterback, current SMU Head Coach June Jones, threw for a Division II record 3,518 yards. Davis' next quarterback, Neil Lomax, set NCAA records of 13,220 yards and 106 touchdowns in 42 games. Under Davis' direction, Portland State set 20 NCAA Division I-AA offensive records in addition to the Vikings being the NCAA's all-time point producers in 1980, scoring 541 points in 11 games for an average of 49.2 points per game, along with 434.9 yards passing and 504.3 yards of total offense per game.

AROUND THE FOOTBALL WORLD AND HOME AGAIN

After his head coaching tenure at Portland State (1975-80), Davis went on to coach in the Canadian Football League, the now-defunct USFL, the NFL, the WFL and the Arena Football League.

He coached Hall of Famer Jim Kelly with the Houston Gamblers and the Run-and-Shoot offense produced 618 points, 5,793 yards and 45 touchdowns in one 18-game season (breaking the previous record of 456). Davis was Head Coach of the Denver Gold in the USFL in 1985, compiling an 11-7 record.

Following the disbandment of the league, Davis moved on to be integral in the development of the Arena League. He was vital to the pass-happy game that produced many NFL players - including NFL MVP Curt Warner - as the league's operations director and as a Head Coach.

In the NFL, Davis spent time as offensive coordinator with the Detroit Lions (1988-90), and was quarterbacks coach for the Atlanta Falcons (1994-95) under June Jones.

Davis' return to college football came in 2004, when he was an assistant coach for Jones with the University of Hawai'i. The Warriors employed the Run-and-Shoot to great success, averaging 559.2 yards of total offense, 46.9 points and producing a 10-3 record in 2006. Hawai'i led the nation in passing offense (441.3), total offense, scoring offense and pass efficiency (185.95).