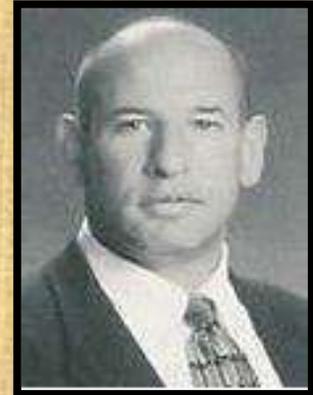


Coach Rick Shepas 1998 - 2004 – Won 53, Lost 27, Tied 0

Head Coach and Athletic Director 1998

Rick Shepas first stepped into Paul Brown Tiger Stadium 15 years ago, as a graduated high school senior. There he caught the winning touchdown pass for the North in the North vs. South All Star Game. He also caught something that would stay with him for years ... the "Massillon Mystique".

During his two week stay in the city in 1983, Rick gained an appreciation for the tradition, history and especially for the community's love and support for the game of football. That Tiger enthusiasm was something he never forgot as he continued his athletic playing career and especially when he went into coaching.



In 1998, Rick returned to Tiger Stadium, not as a young player, but as Massillon Washington High School's new head football coach.

Rick's success started in high school as a wide receiver for the tradition rich Youngstown Cardinal Mooney. After a successful athletic career (35-3) including the 1982 State Championship title, he earned a four year scholarship at Youngstown State University. He continued at Y.S.U. by leading the conference in receptions and gaining All Conference/All American honors. He still ranks 2nd as all time leading receiver and was recently inducted into the Y.S.U. Hall of Fame.

After college Rick played one year in the Arena Football League with the Pittsburgh Gladiators. He also had NFL tryouts with both the Cleveland Browns and Green Bay Packers.

At Alliance High School Rick spent one year as a receiver/secondary coach before moving on to Poland High School as defensive coordinator. After establishing Poland as the league's # 1 defense, he was promoted to the head coaching position.

In three years he successfully went 27-7 which included three straight league titles - two playoff appearances in 1993 and 1995 reaching the state semifinals in 1995. Twice named Coach of the Year, Rick was also selected as a coach in the Big 33 All Star Football Classic in Hershey, PA.

The playoff season at Poland proved to be a springboard for Shepas. In 1996, he was hired at Seneca Valley High School - a Quad A (Ohio Division I), north of Pittsburgh, PA. In 1997, Coach Shepas guided his team to become the North Conference

Champions beating arch rival North Allegheny High, who was ranked #1 in the state and #10 in USA Today. He also was named Coach of the Year for the third time.

One of Coach Shepas's goals as the new coach' at Massillon is to be an active presence at all playing levels. From the program at the Boys Club to the middle schools, he hopes to build a bridge between the youth who participate in these programs to those who are on the varsity field on Friday nights. He believes that the skills and knowledge which these young athletes develop early are crucial components to the success of the varsity program. Coordinated work with these programs will ensure their future success. "Those who stay will be champions" says Coach Shepas.

Rick hopes that every young Tiger has a burning desire to one day become a State Champion! "Together we can make it a reality."

The coaching staff is essential to the success of any program and coach Shepas is especially excited about this year's knowledgeable and dedicated staff.

Rick also receives great support from his wife Christine and their three children, Maria 8, Katie 4 and Gina 8 months. Rick and Christine are excited to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in Tiger Town this fall.

Shepas happy with the two years at Waynesburg Program poised for success, he says

By Greg Kohntopp
Independent, 2007

In 2005, Rick Shepas left arguably the nation's biggest stage in high school for one of the smallest stages in college football. Shepas, who guided the Tigers to a 53-27 record in seven seasons as head coach, accepted the same position at Tiny Waynesburg College, a Division III school located roughly halfway between Pittsburg and Morgantown, W.Va., prior to the 2005 season.

Shepas departure ended one of the more successful, yet at the same time debated, eras of Massillon Tiger football.

It was an era highlighted by back-to-back regional titles in 2001 and 2002. It was also an era that saw the Tigers finish 4-6 three times. Prior to Shepas reign; the school only had three losing seasons in the previous 70 years. It was an era that was also marred by whispers of recruiting.

But Shepas maintains that leaving Massillon was strictly a family decision.

When my daughter (Maria) became college age, I wanted to put myself in a position to coach at the college level," he said, "There are many tuition benefits to being an employee at the college level."

"In a lot of ways Shepas and Waynesburg College seem made for each other. Shepas, a hard-nosed former wide receiver from Youngstown, said he coaches because he loves the game of football. His players at Waynesburg, who don't receive athletic scholarships, play because they also love the game.

"One of the reasons I love these players so much is because they are true student athletes," said Shepas, whose Waynesburg team won six of its final seven games last season, finishing 6-4 overall and 5-1 in Patriot's Athletic Conference play. "This is probably the only place in the NCAA where the kids are true student athletes."

Shepas' record at Waynesburg is 10-11 overall in two seasons. However, like his final two Massillon teams, Shepas had started a majority of underclassmen. Now, in his third year, Shepas believes his team could compete for its second title in the past five years.

"We are going to come back with a veteran team," he said. "I think we had two very good recruiting classes my first couple of years. We've gone out there, and people know we are out there, they know we are working hard. We are visible; our coaching staff is working hard to bring in a better class of athlete, a better class of character individuals, a better class of student. The last two years, we've been able to do that."