

Coach Lee Tressel

1956 - 1957 – Won 16, Lost 3, Tied 0

The death of LEE TRESSEL on April 16, 1981 has removed from the athletic scene an outstanding football coach and truly a fine gentleman.

At the time of his death, Lee had completed 23 years as head coach at Baldwin-Wallace College. He had also served as the college's athletic director since 1960.

Lee's career spanned many years and numerous experiences. He started his playing career at Ada, Ohio, High School as a running back, playing there in 1940, 1941 and 1942.



While still a high school senior, Tressel participated in the 1943 spring football drills at Ohio State University under Coach PAUL BROWN.

Lee Tressel - Massillon Record						
Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Points		Ranking
				Mass.	Opp.	
1956	8	2	0	237	103	2nd State - AP
1957	8	1	0	221	47	8th State - AP
Total	16	3	0	458	150	
Winning Percentage						
84.2%						

However, he enlisted during the summer or 1943 in the U.S. Navy V-12 program and was assigned to Baldwin-Wallace. He played for the Yellow Jackets in 1943 and 1944 before being called to active duty by the Navy.

He returned to Baldwin-Wallace at the conclusion of World War II and played there in 1946 and 1947. He received his bachelor's degree there in 1948 and subsequently received his master's degree at Ohio State University and doctorate at Indiana University.

Lee started his coaching career at Ada High School in 1948 and after two seasons had an 11-8-0 record. He had jumped from a 2-7-0 record in his first year to a 9-1-0 slate in his second campaign.

He then obtained the coaching post at Mentor High School, then a Class B high school, in 1950 and fashioned a brilliant 44-9-0 record in six years there.

Tressel came to Massillon in 1956 with a 34 game winning streak gained at Mentor. Lee had been the number two choice for the Tiger post in 1954 when it went to Tom Harp, then head coach at Carrollton.

In his first year here in 1956, Lee compiled an 8-2-0 record.

It was generally agreed that he was not blessed with material. He dropped a 14-6 decision to Coach Bob McNea's fine Mansfield team and a 34-7 loss to Canton McKinley. Except for the 1934 McKinley eleven, this was the best team in Bulldogs' history.

Before 1957 rolled around, Lee provided the suggestion that a Sideliners Club be organized here. The idea was to provide individual guidance by adult members to the Tigers' junior and senior gridgers, This organization has since been in existence here and played an integral part in the success of the Massillon football program.

Tressel's second year here in 1957 found the Tigers going 8-1-0. The lone loss was a 13-7 setback at the hands of undefeated Cleveland Benedictine. The Bennies were selected as the Associated Press Class AAA poll champion at the conclusion of the 1957 season. The Mansfield game in 1957 was cancelled due to a mild influenza epidemic among the Tiger footballers.

After the 1957 campaign here, Lee was named head coach at Baldwin-Wallace College where he compiled an overall 154-53-6 record. He had but one losing season in 23 years there. In his final year in 1980 at this fine Division III college he had a 10-1-0 slate.

Although his career here was relatively brief, all of Massillon shall be forever grateful to DR. TRESSEL for his outstanding contributions to Washington High School and to its football program.

Head Coach of the 1957 Massillon Tigers

"Massillon is a great place to live and couch," says Lee Tressel, who is in his second year of coaching the Massillon Tiger Football Team. Lee is determined to continue the proud name of football in Tigertown and has been very well-pleased with the fine cooperation he has received from the entire community.

Football has been an important part of Tressel's life since his high school playing days in Ada, Ohio, his one spring session at Ohio State under Paul Brown, and his four years at Baldwin-Wallace College, with active service in the U.S. Navy breaking into his college career. While at B-W, Lee was football captain two years and was named All-Ohio Fullback three years. Thus Lee gained a firm knowledge of the game and a love for football which have combined with his tireless efforts and his fine character to make him a successful football coach.

Tressel's coaching career began in his hometown of Ada where he spent two years before moving to Mentor, Ohio for six years. Tressel left Mentor with a 34-game winning streak to come to Massillon where his personal winning streak continued to 39 before Mansfield rudely ended it last October. Lee's first season in Massillon was not all he hoped for, losing two games, one being to the State Champion McKinley Bulldogs. The Tigers' eight wins included victories over Benedictine, Cleveland City Champs; Akron Garfield, Akron City Champs; Elder, Parochial Champs of Cincinnati and two perennial Stark County toughies, Alliance and Canton Lincoln.

The challenge of bringing the State Championship back to Massillon is uppermost in Tressel's mind, and with the fine group of players with whom to work and an excellent staff of assistants, the challenge is being faced with enthusiasm. Assistant coaches are Carl "Ducky" Schroeder, Arden "Stretch" Roberson, Dick King, Don Boothe, Bob Marich and Tow Crowe.

Tressel's family, including his wife Eloise, and three sons Richard, 9, David, 6, and James, 4, are loyal and rabid Tiger fans.

B-W earns national title

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (AP) – “It was a typical Wittenberg,-Baldwin-Wallace game. It went right down to the finish.” said Baldwin-Wallace quarterback Joe Surniak.

The NCAA Division III championship came down to the two Ohio Conference rivals in Saturday's Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl. And the outcome remained in doubt until a last-minute, 28 yard scoring run by halfback John Sanner sealed Baldwin-Wallace's 24-10 victory.

B-W's 20-year veteran coach Lee Tressel, Ohio's college coach of the year in 1977, compiled a 16-8 record in two seasons at Massillon (1956-57) before departing for the Berea school, which he also serves as athletic director.

“There were the two best teams in the country and now we know who's number one,” added Surniak, who ran for one touchdown and ended up on the receiving end of another score.

Baldwin-Wallace opened the scoring with a 20-yard first quarter field goal by Tim Robinson.

In the second quarter, Scanner took a pitch from Surniak and threw a three-yard pass back to his quarterback for the Yellow Jackets first touchdown.

The Tigers got on the scoreboard when Steve Jefferies booted a 28 yard field goal with six seconds left in the half.

Wittenberg cut the lead to 17-10 on a nine-yard pass play from Chuck Delaney to split end Cliff Davis with 3:25 remaining. Sanner's game breaking run, however, came about two minutes later.

Earlier this season the two teams played to a 17-17 tie.

Baldwin-Wallace defensive tackle Paul Petrella, who recovered two Wittenberg fumbles, said containment of the Tigers' ground attack was the key difference in Saturday's meeting.

"Our goal was to shut down the running game and we did that," Petrella said, "We played much more aggressive than the first time we played them."