

Thirty-two Major College Coaches Began at the Divisional Level

By Tex Noel

Bobby Bowden. John Heisman. Woody Hayes. Lou Holtz. Amos Alonzo Stagg. Jim Tressel—is among 32 of the winningest major college head coaches—that began a career at a divisional college football team.

Coaches with at least 150 all-time career victories were eligible to be included in this listing—that includes a pair of coaches with over 300 all-time victories.

Bowden's teams won a total of 377 on-field records during his outstanding career; of this total 31 were at Samford (now Howard AL); while Stagg also won 314 during his career on the sidelines, including 70 at Springfield and College of the Pacific.

Heading into the 2010 season—for mentors that are included in this analysis—only Ohio State's Tressel has begun his career at a division-level school and later coached a national championship at the Bowl Subdivision level.

An unusual twist with this next coach; as each of the mentors below changed schools before moving-up to the top level...all but Nevada's Chris Ault.

Ault has led the school as it advanced from level-to-level; beginning with it was a member of NCAA II; then to 1AA and into the highest level.

A pair of small college coaches won two titles—at different schools—before moving up.

The late Jim Wacker, who began his coaching career in 1971 at Texas Lutheran, led the school to back titles (NAIA II) in 1974-75; and years later, after returning back to Texas from a stint at North Dakota State, he led NCAA II Southwest Texas State (now Texas State) to the 1981-82 crowns.

Wacker's 104 small college wins ranks him fifth and final coach with at least 100 wins at a divisional level colleges.

Leading in total victories at the small college level was Joe Glenn who began his career at Doane Neb., and would later coach Northern Colorado and Montana to a National Championship: winning in 1998-99 and 2000 and 2002, respectively.

Of Glenn's 188 career wins, 158 were on the small college level; which leads the way.

Division Wins	Coach	School	Seasons	Record	Career Wins+
158	Joe Glenn	Doane	1976-79	21--18--1	188
		Northern Colorado	1989-99	98--35--0	
		Montana	2000-02	39--6--0	
138	Chris Ault	Nevada	1976-91	138-53-1	206
			1986-		
135	Jim Tressel	Youngstown State	2000	135-57-2	229
117	Ossie Solem	Luther	1920	5--1--1	162
		Drake	1921-31	54--35--2	
		Springfield	1946-57	58--33--7	
106	Al Molde	Sioux Falls	1971-72	5--12--1	168
		Minnesota-Morris	1973-79	52--21--1	
		Central Missouri State	1980-82	17--9--4	
		Eastern Illinois	1983-86	32--15--0	
104	Jim Wacker	Texas Lutheran	1971-75	38--16--0	160
		North Dakota State	1976-78	24--9--1	
		Southwest Texas State	1979-82	42--8--0	
76	Eddie Anderson	Loras	1922-24	16--6--2	201
		DePaul	1925-31	21--22--3	
		Holy Cross	1933-37	39--6--4	
75	Carl Snavley	Bucknell	1927-33	42--16--8	180
		Washington-Missouri	1953-58	33--19--0	180
				70--15--	
70	Morely Jennings	Ouachita Baptist	1912-25	12	153
63	Don Faurot	Northeast Missouri	1926-34	63--13--3	163
60	Warren Woodson	Central Arkansas	1935-39	40--8--3	203
		Hardin-Simmons	1941-42	16--4--2	
		New Mexico State	1958	4--6--0	
42	Grant Teaff	McMurry TX	1960-65	23--35--2	170
		Angelo State	1969-71	19--11--0	
41	Lou Little	Georgetown DC	1924-29	41--12--3	151
39	Ara Parseghian	Miami OH	1951-55	39--6--1	170
33	Bennie Owen	Washburn	1900	6--2--0	155
		Bethany KS	1901-04	27--4--3	
31	Ray Morrison	Temple	1941-45	20--18--5	155
		Austin	1949-52	11--26--0	
31	Bobby Bowden	Samford	1959-62	31--6--0	373
31	Jim Sweeney	Montana State	1963-67	31--20--0	200

29	John Heisman	Oberlin	1892, 94	11--3--1	185
		Akron	1893	12--4--2	
		Washington & Jefferson	1923	6--1--1	
28	Woody Hayes	Denison	1946-48	19--6--0	238
		Miami OH	1950	9--1--0	
25	Ben Schwartzwalder	Muhlenberg	1946-48	25--5--0	178
20	Jess Neely	Rhodes	1924-27	20--17--2	207
17	Matty Bell	Haskell	1920-21	13--6--0	153
		Carroll WI	1922	4--3--0	
17	Pappy Waldorf	Oklahoma City	1925-27	17--11--2	174
15	Earle Bruce	Tampa	1972	10--2--0	154
		Northern Iowa	1988	5--6--0	
13	Lou Holtz	William & Mary	1969-71	13--20--0	249
12	Dana X. Bible	Carson-Newman	1913-15	12--7--2	198
10	Amos Alonzo Stagg	Springfield	1890-91	10--11--1	314
	Fielding "Hurry-up"				
7	Yost	Ohio Wesleyan	1897	7--1--1	196
7	Gil Dobie	North Dakota State	1906-07	7--0--0	180
7	Bill Mallory	Miami OH	1982	7--4--0	167
7	Francis Schmidt	Idaho	1941-42	7--12--0	158

+At least 150 career victories