

Erk Russell



Year Inducted: 1987 Category: Coach

Born in Birmingham, Alabama...Resurrected the football program as head coach at Georgia Southern University from 1982-1989 winning three Division I-AA national championships and compiling an 83-22-1 mark....Eagles averaged over 10 wins per year under Erk's tenure with records of 13-2 (1985 National Championship), 13-2 (1986 National Championship), 12-3 (1988) and 15-0 (1989 National Championship)...National Coach of the Year three times...For 17 years at the University of Georgia, served as defensive coordinator to the "Junkyard Dogs" ...1968 defense led the nation in scoring defense yielding just 9.8 points per game...Member of the Alabama and Blue-Gray Halls of Fame..."When I get ready to compete in anything today, I always remember a little speech Coach Russell gave before every game...his words have been a great inspiration in my approach to competition." Herschel Walker..."If I was picking a list of top 10 coaches that I have ever met and wanted to play for, Erk Russell would be on that list. He is unsurpassed as a motivator." Bobby Bowden, head football coach, Florida State University..."Not a young man who played for Erk Russell won't tell his children

and his grandchildren something he learned from this great man. It was like that with Knute Rockne and Bear Bryant." Keith Jackson, Sportscaster, ABC-TV.