

# Pepper Rodgers



**Year Inducted: 2004 Category: Coach**

Born October 8, 1931 in Atlanta, Georgia...A successful college football head coach at Kansas, UCLA and Georgia Tech compiling a 73-65-2 record from 1967-1979... (University of Kansas: 1967-1970): Revived a dying Jayhawk program that reached its zenith in 1968...Led Kansas to the Big Eight Conference championship (9-2) and a berth in the Orange Bowl where it lost a heartbreaker to Penn State, 15-14...His first team in 1967 placed second in the Big Eight with a 5-2 conference record... Big Eight Coach of the Year in 1967... Produced a 20-22 record in his four seasons in Lawrence...Coached future NFL stars Bobby Douglas (quarterback), John Zook (defensive end) and running back John Riggins (NFL Hall of Fame)...(UCLA: 1971-1973): Fashioned a 19-12-1 record in Westwood...Guided the Bruins to an 8-3 mark in 1972 and 9-2 in 1973...Led the Pac-8 in rushing and ranked second nationally in 1972...UCLA's high-powered offense of 1973 led the nation in rushing, ranked second in scoring and third in total offense...(Georgia Tech: 1974-1979): In six seasons on the Flats, Pepper guided Tech to four winning seasons and a total record of 34-31-2...Earned Southern Independent Coach of the Year honors in 1974...Coached five All-Americans including first-team picks Randy Rhino, Lucius Sanford, and Don Bessillieu...24 of his players were NFL draft picks with Eddie Lee Ivery, and Kent Hill being taken in the first-round (1978)...Best season came in 1978 as the Yellow Jackets went 7-5 and went to the Peach Bowl...Pepper's running attack helped Ivery break the NCAA single game rushing record with 356 yards against Air Force in 1978...One of his biggest victories as a college coach came in 1976 when Tech upset 11th-ranked Notre Dame, 23-14, and did so without throwing a pass...Member of the Georgia Tech Hall of Fame...(Professional): Pepper later coached the USFL Memphis Showboats (1978) and the Memphis Mad Dogs of the CFL (1995).