

Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker Lou Holtz

*"If what you did yesterday seems big, then you haven't done anything today," Lou Holtz*

Born Louis Leo Holtz, he grew up in East Liverpool, Ohio, just up the Ohio River from his birthplace of Follansbee, West Virginia. He graduated from East Liverpool High School, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History from Kent State in 1959 and a master's degree from Iowa in Arts and Education in 1961. He played linebacker at Kent State for two seasons before an injury ended his career. While at Kent State, he was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army. A popular graduation speaker, he has received 14 honorary doctorate degrees.

### **COACHING CAREER**

Holtz is the only coach in the history of college football to: 1) Take 6 different teams to a bowl game; 2) Win 5 bowl games with different teams; 3) To have 4 different college teams ranked in the final Top 20 poll.

Despite never inheriting a winning team, he compiled a 243-127-7 career record that ranked him third in victories among active coaches and eighth in winning percentage. His 12 career postseason bowl victories ranked him fifth on the all-time list. Holtz was recently selected for the College Football Hall of Fame, class of 2008, which places him in an elite group of just over 800 individuals in the history of football who have earned this distinction. Approximately one in 5,000 people who played college football or coached it make it into the Hall of Fame.

In November 1985, he became the 27th head coach of Notre Dame following two seasons at Minnesota (1984 to 1985), seven at Arkansas (1977 to 1983), four at North Carolina State (1972 to 1975) and three at William & Mary (1969 to 1971). He spent the 1976 season as head coach of the New York Jets of the National Football League.

Before becoming head coach at William & Mary in 1969, Holtz served as an assistant coach at Iowa, William & Mary, Connecticut, South Carolina (defensive backs, 1966 to 67) and Ohio State. The Buckeyes won the national championship in 1968 in his one season on the Ohio State staff.

With all of his coaching experience, he is probably best known for his coaching days at the University of Notre Dame. It was the Fighting Irish that gave him his one and only national championship in 1988, with a record 23-game winning streak that ranks as the longest in Notre Dame history. An overall 100-30-2 mark during those eleven years—his accomplishments nonetheless have positioned him alongside Fighting Irish coaching legends.

After his departure from Notre Dame following the 1996 season, he joined CBS Sports' *College Football Today* for two seasons as a sports analyst and worked with United States Filter (a global provider of water treatment) as a customer relations spokesman. From there he went on to be head coach at the University of South Carolina for six seasons from 1999-2004.

### **ESPN Sports Analyst**

Holtz served as a college football studio analyst on ESPN from 2004-2015. He appeared on ESPNEWS, ESPN *College GameDay* programs, *SportsCenter* as well as an on-site analyst for college football games.

### **SPEAKER**

For many years Holtz has been considered among the greatest speaking legends in America today. He speaks on overcoming seemingly impossible challenges by setting your own goals and working to achieve them.

He has built a reputation as a motivator, a demanding disciplinarian and someone who relishes challenges and hard work.

When speaking, he likes to include his sense of humor to get his point across. One of his more famous quotes is, "Don't tell your problems to people: eighty percent don't care; and the other twenty percent are glad you have them."

### **AUTHOR**

Holtz has authored three *New York Times* best-selling books *The Fighting Spirit* that chronicled Notre Dame's 1988 championship season and *Winning Everyday: A Game Plan For Success* (August 1998), which has been published in several languages. His most recent book is *Wins, Losses and Lessons*, an autobiography of his life and the lessons he has learned, and is also a best seller.

Additionally, he has produced three highly acclaimed motivational videos: *Do Right, Do Right II*, and *If Enough People Care*. The Lou Holtz Hall of Fame opened in East Liverpool, Ohio in July 1998. And he recently released his latest video, *Do Right 20 Years Later*.

Holtz has been married to Beth Barcus of East Liverpool for 56 years. They are the parents of four children and currently reside in Orlando, Florida.