

**WALLACE WADE**

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*Championship Years at  
Alabama and Duke*

Lewis Bowling

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*To Beth Harward. You are the best.*

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# PREFACE

The great majority of the references I have used are documents, newspapers, magazines, game programs, scrapbooks, and various archival material from the early 1900s to 1950. Player comments from Coach Wade's teams at Alabama came mostly from old newspaper clippings, for, as far as I have been able to research, none of Coach Wade's former players at Alabama survive from his Tuscaloosa years of 1923 to 1931. Many of Coach Wade's former Duke players are still going strong, and I have had personal contact with over forty of them through letters, email, or on the phone.

This book is meant to be more oriented to the general public than to academicians, so footnotes are not used. That being said, I made every attempt to accurately attribute my sources: all sources of information that I read as background material, quoted from, or drew upon for content are listed in the reference section.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I owe a sincere thank you to many people for helping me to write this biography of Wallace Wade. Keith Sipe, Kasia Krzysztoforska, Linda Sipe, and L. Taylor Arnold of Carolina Academic Press were most helpful in editing and publishing this book.

Al Buehler, Duke University professor emeritus, is a legend on the Duke campus himself. Coach Buehler is enshrined in the National Track Hall of Fame, the NC Sports Hall of Fame, and the Duke Sports Hall of Fame. He has served as an Olympic track coach also. These honors came to him from his many years as head track and cross-country coach at Duke University. Coach Buehler also has been an athletic administrator and director of the physical education department at Duke.

Coach Buehler simply knows everybody at Duke, or so it seems, and his help and guidance has been absolutely indispensable to me. Having known Wallace Wade after Wade had retired, Coach Buehler was a great person to go to for information about Coach Wade. Once a week for close to a year, I would sit down with him and talk about Coach Wade. Coach Buehler's office in Cameron Indoor Stadium was formerly occupied by another man I have enjoyed getting to know from writing this book ... Wallace Wade. My association with Coach Buehler was simply invaluable in preparing this book.

Beth Harward is one of the most loyal Duke fans I know. She absolutely loves Duke basketball, although hopefully this book might just remind her that there was a time when football was by far the most popular sport on the Duke campus. A longtime teacher in Granville County, NC, Beth was the one I turned to for help in the actual writing of the manuscript more than anyone else, and she always came through for me, just as she always has. Without her typing, editing, support, and encouragement, this book could not have been done. Thank you Beth.

Betty Hilliard of Duke University is one of the nicest ladies one could ever meet, and a fast and accurate typist. Helen Fuller typed much of this book also, and delivered when I had a tight deadline. Thanks Betty and Helen.



The Duke University Archives supplied the majority of information on Coach Wade. Tim Pyatt, Tom Harkins, Jill Katte, and Kimberly Sims were all very helpful, and this book could not have been done without their archival information and their kindness in assisting me.

Many former players for Coach Wade either wrote me or shared their experiences with me in conversations. Bob Barnett, the captain of the great 1941 team that played in the 1942 Rose Bowl, was the one who I turned to most. Mr. Barnett was very gracious with his time over several rather long phone conversations, and was just a wealth of knowledge. Other players who shared their thoughts of Coach Wade were Werner Brown, E.P. Bethune Jr., John Carey, Billy Cox, W.D. McRoy, Richard Lenox, Paul Stephanz, James Wolfe Jr., Jasper Davis, C.A. Adams, Jim Groome, Ralph Felty, Leonard Darnell, George Clark, Bernard Jack, Walter Lenox, James Gibson Jr., Blaine Earon, Leonard Smith, Winston {and Anne, his wife} Siegfried, Robert Deyton, Charles Looper, Walter Smith, William Mazingo, Larry Karl, Hunter Hadley Jr., Clyde Bryant, Robert Smith, John Mueller, Don Bafford, Robert Bickel, George McAfee, Charles Smith, and Paul Conway. Student managers who helped were Howard Ris and Robert Price.

The Duke Sports Information Department was very helpful in supplying much written information on Coach Wade, and also many fine photographs.

Most of my information on Coach Wade's career at Alabama came from the Paul W. Bryant Museum at the University of Alabama. Brad Green met my every request in my visits to the museum and through many emails. Taylor Watson also assisted me, and it was a pleasure meeting Clem Gryska. Tom Land and Donnelly Lancaster of the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library at the University of Alabama were also very helpful. Kirk McNair of Bama Magazine and Fred Sington Jr., son of the great All-American Fred Sington, who played and coached for Wade, were supportive also.

Fred Culp and Nell Breeden assisted me greatly on my visit to Trenton, Tennessee, where Coach Wade grew up. Mrs. Breeden once cared for a sister of Wade's, Lucille, and Mr. Culp is a great historian of Trenton and Gibson County. It was also a pleasure to talk to Louise Faulkner and Evelyn Wade Harwood. Mrs. Harwood is now 105 years old, and is related to Coach Wade. She grew up in Trenton and still lives there.

Mrs. Anita Caldwell met Herschel Caldwell while both were students at the University of Alabama, and she came to know Coach Wade well as her husband served as an assistant to Wade at Duke. Mrs. Caldwell still attends Duke football games at the age of 98, and I enjoyed listening to her still vivid memories of her days at Alabama and Duke. Herschel Caldwell Jr. was also very helpful and supportive. Lee Caldwell supplied me with several good pictures.

Two of Coach Wade's granddaughters, Nancy Wade and Diane Withrow, were very supportive to me and supplied me with information on Coach Wade away from the football field. What courage Bob Withrow, Diane's husband, showed as a young man upon meeting Coach Wade for the first time, when asked what he planned to do for a living by his grandfather-in-law, replied, "I want to be a football coach, sir." And Bob did, becoming a very successful high school football coach.

I either talked or corresponded with all of the following: Patrick Miller, Bill Turpin, Bobby King, Allen Barra, author of *The Last Coach*, Warren St. John, author of *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer*, James Harward, Dorothy Harward, Clyde Bolton, Will Fitzgerald, Ken Stephens of the College Football Hall of Fame, Larry Leathers and Chris Skinker of Vanderbilt, Senator Jesse Helms, John Carroll, Peter Mackie and David Thompson of Brown University, Scott Nave, son of Doyle Nave, who threw the touchdown pass in the 1939 Rose Bowl for USC to beat Duke, Jay Wilkinson, son of the legendary Buzz Wilkinson, Pam Matheson and Mary Dinkins of the Duke Varsity Club, Add Penfield, Bob Harris, Johnny Moore, Southern Conference Commissioner John Iamarino, Mike McGee, Mike Flynn of Appalachian State University, Barry Kritzberg of Morgan Park Academy, Matt Eviston of Elon University, Mady Salvani of the sports information department at Army, Bob Kinney, Andrew Doyle, Tobin Lim, Dr. Galen Wagner, Ron Brister, Bob Moyer, Robert Durden, and Christian Hoffman of VMI.