

Robert Reese Neyland had not yet been born when the Vols played their first football game in November 1891 and more than 100 years of football tradition were begun. But remember the name.

Tennessee football is the story of the "greats"... the players, coaches, plays and fans, all of whom have helped build the program. From Bob Neyland to Phillip Fulmer, from Gene McEver to Bob Johnson, from Nathan Washington Dougherty to Reggie White, from Dick Huffman to John Henderson. And all points in between.

The Vols' debut on the gridiron in that 1891 season was none too promising, as Sewanee defeated the Vols, 24-0, in a game played in the muck and mire in Chattanooga. It was also the only game on that year's schedule. The first win would come in 1892, a 25-0 decision at Maryville. The first home win would have to wait until 1893, as the Vols topped Maryville again, this time by a 32-0 count.

Neyland was born Feb. 17, 1892, in Greenville, Texas, and his influence on the Vol program would be felt from 1926 on, even through today.

A year later, the Vols wore Orange jerseys for the first time (black shirts with orange and white piping being the previous color of choice), taking the color from the American Daisy which grew in profusion on The Hill north of the stadium.

A Vol guard of 1922-23 vintage, Estes Kefauver of Madisonville, became a United States Senator and was a candidate for Vice-President in 1956.

■ Enter Bob Neyland: A Tradition Is Born

In 1926, Neyland, then an ROTC instructor, Army captain and backfield coach the previous season, was named head coach and served through the end of the 1934 season when the Army beckoned him to Panama. Dougherty, dean of UT's College of Engineering and longtime faculty chairman of athletics, hired Neyland with the lone injunction: "Even the score with Vanderbilt; do something about our terrible standing in the series."

■ Neyland Returns from Panama for the Second of His Three Great Eras

Bill Britton had taken Neyland's place in the 1935 season while Neyland was in the Canal Zone. Neyland returned home for the 1936 season and immediately began building another dynasty.

By 1938, he was ready. With another group of sensational sophomores leading the way, he began a three-year run in which the Vols won 30 consecutive regular season games and visited the Orange, Rose and Sugar Bowls.

The 1938 team ended with an 11-0 record, defeating Oklahoma in the 1939 Orange Bowl. The 1938 Vols were named national champions by Dunkel, Litkenhous, Board, Houlgate and Poling. The 1939 team shut out 10 consecutive opponents. Consider this. No collegiate team has since shut out an entire slate of opponents. The Vols brought home a check for \$100,000 from the 1940 Rose Bowl.

In the 1939 Alabama game, which found Ted Husing of CBS and Bill Stern of NBC at Shields-Watkins Field covering the game, a sophomore tailback from Knoxville named Johnny Butler etched his name into Vol history with a 56-yard run against the Tide on which he went sideline to sideline for the score at the south end.

Neyland's record during this era was 43-7-3. The Vols still hold an NCAA record for holding opponents scoreless for 71 consecutive quarters (from the second quarter of the 1938 Louisiana State game through the second quarter of the 1940 Alabama game) and pitched 17 consecutive shutouts. The 1940 Vols were voted national champions by Dunkel and Williamson.

After the 1940 season, however, Neyland was called back to the military as winds of war hovered over the world. He was gone until just before the 1946 season, leaving the Vol football program in the capable hands of John Barnhill, who later became head coach and athletic director at Arkansas.

Barnhill compiled a 32-5-2 record and led the Vols to the Sugar and Rose Bowls. The Vols also played their first night game in 1944, a 13-0 decision at LSU.

Four Vol players did not return home from World War II. They were Bill Nowling, Rudy Klarer, Willis Tucker and Clyde "Ig" Fuson. They are memorialized in the Tennessee Hall of Fame Exhibit on campus.

■ Neyland's Final Years: A Consensus National Championship Comes to Knoxville

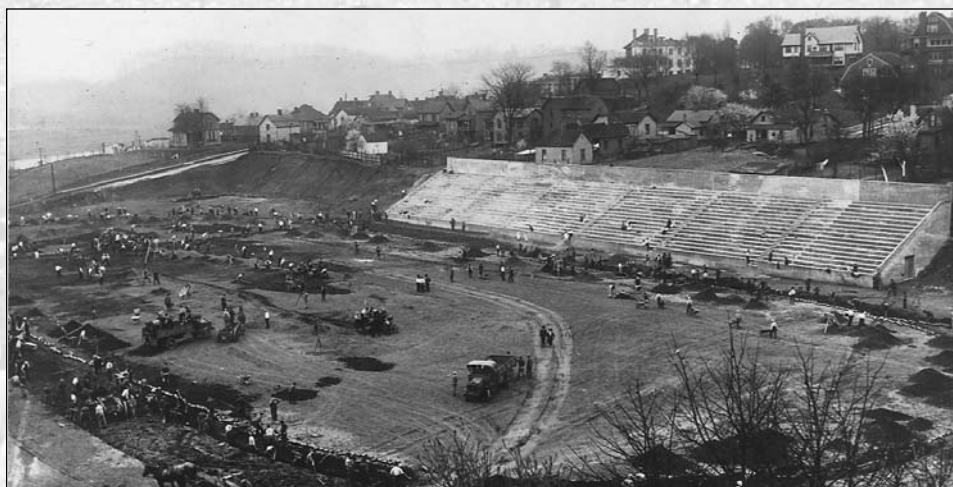
Neyland arrived home from World War II for the 1946 season and noted, "It will take us five years to put Tennessee back on top." Undaunted, the Vols immediately won the SEC Championship and a bid to the Orange Bowl. The dominant player that season was tackle Dick Huffman, still remembered as one of the toughest Vols ever. He would lead the charge against Alabama quarterback Harry Gilmer in a 12-0 Vol win.

Critics argued that Neyland had lost his touch, particularly in view of 5-5 and 4-4-2 seasons in 1947 and 1948 and the assertion that his beloved single-wing offense had gone out of style.

In 1948, Tennessee won its 300th game, defeating Alabama, 21-6, on Homecoming afternoon.

By the end of the 1948 season, Neyland was ready for his final run as Vol head man. It was just before the 1949 season that Vol publicist Lindsey Nelson formed the initial Vol Radio Network.

After a 7-2-1 mark in 1949, led by another talented group of sophomores, the Vols kicked off the decade of the 1950s with an 11-1 season, marred only by a 7-0 loss at Mississippi State in the season's second week. The Vols, named national champions by Dunkel and DeVold, rolled through the season and upset Texas in the 1951 Cotton



STUDENT FIELD DAY: Students, faculty and administrators work to prepare Shields-Watkins Field for the 1921 season.

■ The Formative Years: A New Stadium Is Built in 1921

In those early years, from 1891 to 1912, football coaches came and went, frequently on a year-to-year basis. The Vols did not have a head coach until 1899 and had seven head coaches between that time and 1911.

In the 1907 season, organized cheerleading was brought to campus by R. C. (Red) Matthews.

The Vols won the 1914 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship under head coach Zora Clevenger, piling up 374 points to 37 for their opponents. It was also the first Vol squad to defeat Vanderbilt, doing so 16-14 Nov. 7. In 1916, the first Homecoming game was held, as the Vols defeated Vanderbilt, 10-6.

It was not until 1920, 29 years into the program's history, that the Vols won their 100th game, a 49-0 victory over Transylvania. The leading player of that time was Dougherty, an All-Southern selection in 1907 and 1908, and known to his teammates as "Big-Un."

Tennessee had played its home games on Wait Field at the corner of 15th Street and Cumberland Avenue on campus, but moved into a new home in 1921.

Shields-Watkins Field was less than a mile away on 15th Street (now Phillip Fulmer Way) and was named for its benefactors, Knoxville banker and UT trustee William S. Shields and his wife, Alice Watkins-Shields. It opened that season with 3,200 seats, although it had been used for baseball the previous spring. No one knew that just over 80 years later, the stadium would hold more than 100,000 fans.

The Vols won the Southern Conference championship in 1927 with an 8-0-1 record and looked forward to the 1928 season. In that season, the Vols defeated heavily-favored Alabama, 15-13, in Tuscaloosa, as tailback Gene McEver, the "Bristol Blizzard" and one of the "Flaming Sophomores of 1928," took the opening kickoff 98 yards for a score.

Buddy Hackman did likewise a week later against Washington & Lee and the Vol express was off and running. Hackman and McEver became known as the "Touchdown Twins." The 1928 season also saw the UT Alma Mater selected in a contest sponsored by the UT men's Glee Club, a lofty selection penned by Mary Fleming Meek, who died just a year later. In 1929, McEver became Tennessee's first All-America selection.

The beginning of the 1930s saw Tennessee play in its first bowl game, a 13-0 victory over New York University at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Vol lineman Herman Hickman, later a College Football Hall of Fame selection, had an outstanding game that afternoon and Grantland Rice added Hickman to his All-America team on the basis of that performance.

Tennessee won the Southern Conference championship again in 1932 with a 9-0-1 record and joined the fledgling Southeastern Conference a year later. In 1934, Tennessee won its 200th game, defeating Mississippi 27-0 in Knoxville Oct. 13.

Over that time, Neyland and the Vols had assembled a 76-7-5 record, with undefeated streaks of 33 and 28 games along with a 30-game home winning streak.

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Bowl, sparked by a 75-yard run by tailback Hank Lauricella that Stern called one of the best he had ever seen.

Neyland's 1951 team came back and won the national championship with a 10-0 regular-season record. The contest with Alabama that season, a 27-13 Vol victory, was the Vols' first on a new invention called television. Lauricella, that season's Heisman Trophy runner-up, offensive guard John Michels and defensive tackle Doug Atkins were later named to the College Football Hall of Fame. Atkins, named also to the Pro Football Hall of Fame for his work at Cleveland, Chicago and New Orleans, is the only Vol enshrined in both. Atkins was also named SEC "Player of the Quarter Century" in 1976.

Tennessee finished with an 8-2-1 record in 1952, but the big story was Neyland stepping down as Vol head coach just before the Cotton Bowl game against Texas, a game the Vols lost, 16-0. His record for his third stint at Tennessee was 54-17-4 and his overall record was 173-31-12.

In 1953 Smokey, a blue tick coon hound, became the Vols' official mascot by vote of the student crowd in a contest organized by the Pep Club. There have been Smokeys ever since then, nine in all, provided by the Brooks and Hudson families of Knoxville.

Harvey Robinson became the Vols' new head coach in 1953, serving through the 1954 season. Neyland once called dismissing Robinson after that 1954 season "the hardest thing I've ever had to do."

■ 1955: Bowden Wyatt Returns Home

Bowden Wyatt, who had been head coach at Wyoming and Arkansas, returned to campus as Vol head coach in 1955, 17 years after leading the Vols to an 11-0 record in 1938. He hit the jackpot in 1956, his second year, as the Vols won the SEC and earned a berth in the Sugar Bowl. The Vols' 6-0 win over Georgia Tech that November, matching Neyland proteges Wyatt and Bobby Dodd at Atlanta's Grant Field, was later voted by the Associated Press as the second-greatest college football game ever.

Tailback Johnny Majors was twice SEC Player of the Year and an All-America selection and runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1956. He was also named to the College Football Hall of Fame as a player in 1987.

The Vols followed up the 1956 season with a 7-3 season in 1957 and played Bear Bryant's last Texas A&M team in the Gator Bowl, winning 3-0 on the accurate toe of place-kicker Sammy Burklow.

The Vols closed out the decade of the 1950s with two major upset victories in 1959, defeating Auburn 3-0 in September and LSU 14-13 in November, both games in Knoxville.

The 1960 season saw the Vols begin the decade with a 10-3 win over Auburn in Birmingham and a 20-7 triumph over Alabama in Knoxville.

The date was March 28, 1962, when Gen. Neyland died at the Oescher Clinic in New Orleans. In his memory, the stadium was named "Neyland Stadium" and an academic scholarship fund started, both events happening at the Alabama game in October.

There was a new upper deck seating 5,837 on the west side, plus a new press box, making total stadium capacity 52,227.

Wyatt's tenure as Vol coach ended after a 4-6 record in 1962, with assistant coach Jim McDonald taking the reins for the 1963 season. During that season, the first Neyland Stadium crowd of more than 50,000 saw the Vols play Georgia Tech.

Later that season, the Vols took their 400th victory, defeating Tulane, 26-0, in New Orleans. The times were changing and these changes would become evident a year later.

■ Doug Dickey Brings the T Formation to Knoxville

After the 1963 season, Doug Dickey, then a top assistant to Frank Broyles at Arkansas, became the Vols' head coach, bringing the "T" formation with him to Knoxville.

Dickey's first Tennessee team finished 4-5-1, but hopes were high as the Vols narrowly lost to Auburn and Alabama, tied Louisiana State at Baton Rouge and upset favored Georgia Tech at Grant Field.

Middle guard Steve DeLong won the Outland Trophy and Dickey's staff recruited a freshman class which would help lead the Vols out of the wilderness. One of that year's recruits, wide receiver Richmond Flowers from Montgomery, Ala., was the first of a number of track-football athletes who brought a new dimension of speed to the Vol program.

In 1965, Dickey's second team finished 8-1-2 and earned a Bluebonnet Bowl bid, UT's first bowl game since 1957. The season's pivotal moment came in the aftermath of the Alabama game. The Vols had tied Alabama, 7-7, in Birmingham and spirits were high on the Knoxville campus. Line coach Charley Rash put a note in each of his linemen's mailbox that night after the game: "Play like that every week and you'll go undefeated."

Two days later, Rash, Bill Majors and Bob Jones were killed in an early morning car-train collision in west Knoxville. Nearly 40 years later, persons connected with the Vol program still praise the way Dickey handled the tragedy, pulling everybody together and keeping the Vol program going.

One of the most memorable moments of that, or any other season, was the 37-34 "Rosebonnet Bowl" victory over UCLA at Memorial Stadium in Memphis, so named by Vol broadcaster George Mooney because of the post-season destinations of the two teams.

It was a classic offensive shootout that was finally settled when Vol quarterback Dewey Warren ambled around left end for the winning score and Bobby Petrella grabbed a last-ditch Bruin aerial.

In 1966, there was an addition of 5,895 seats to the north stands, which increased stadium capacity to 58,122. There was also a new scoreboard at the north end, with a "countdown clock," replacing one that was really a clock, complete with minute and second hands. Tennessee's 8-3 record, including an 18-12 Gator Bowl win over a Syracuse team which featured running backs Larry Csonka and Floyd Little, presaged what was to come in 1967.

The Vols lost their opener to UCLA, a nocturnal affair at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, but came back to win their remaining nine games and the SEC Championship, earning an Orange Bowl date against Oklahoma. The Vols swept Alabama, Auburn, Louisiana State and Mississippi, defeating the Tide for the first time since 1960 and the Rebels for the first time since 1958. The Vols finished No. 2 in the final polls and were selected as national champions by Litkenhous. One other note, the Vols' 41-14 win over Vanderbilt in December was the last game played on the Neyland Stadium grass until September 1994.

In 1968, artificial turf came to Neyland Stadium. With the new turf and the demise of the grass field came a 6,307-seat east upper deck and new auxiliary east side scoreboard. The addition raised capacity to 64,429.

In the first game played on Tartan Turf against Vince Dooley's Georgia Bulldogs, Nashville's Lester McClain became Tennessee's first African-American to play in an SEC varsity football game.

The Vols rallied for a 17-17 tie that day in an exciting finish led by quarterback Bubba Wyche. Runner-up in the SEC in 1968, Tennessee won the crown again in 1969 with a 9-1 record and played in the Gator Bowl. Linebacker Steve Kiner (1967-69) was named to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1999.

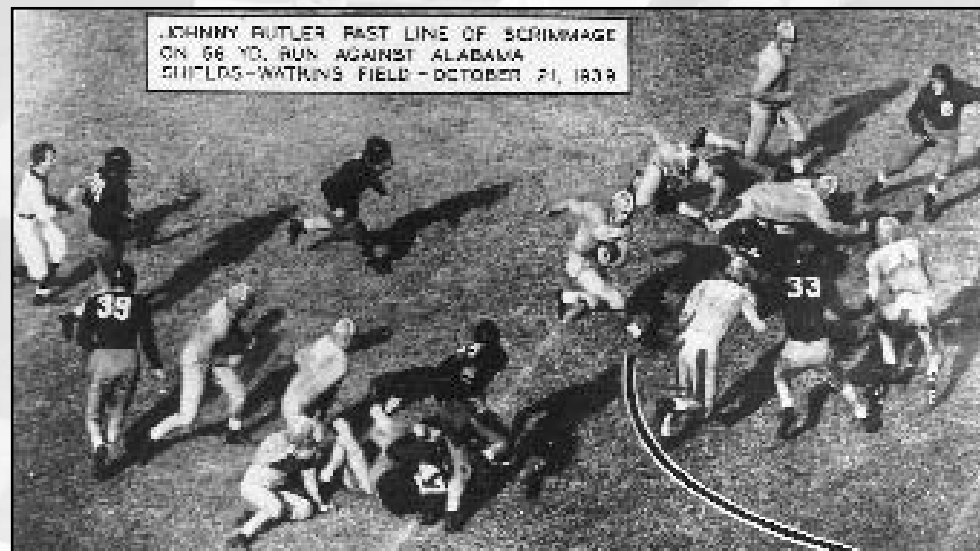
After the 1969 season, Dickey moved to Florida as head coach and 28-year-old Bill Battle became the Vols' new head man. His first team finished 11-1 and he became the first Division I head coach to win 11 games in his first year.

Seasons of 10-2 and 10-2 followed in 1971 and 1972. In 1972, 6,221 seats were added to the stadium's southwest corner and capacity was increased to 70,650.

In that 1972 season, Condredge Holloway became a whirlwind dervish under center, a master of the broken field run. He ran over, under and even occasionally through opponents during his career, which saw him tabbed "The Artful Dodger."

In 1975, the Vols won their 500th game, defeating Kentucky, 17-13, at Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington.

Battle resigned after the 1976 season and Johnny Majors, tailback of 1954-56 vintage, then head coach of the national champion Pittsburgh Panthers, answered the University's call, coming home as head coach for the 1977 season. "Follow me to Tennessee" was the rallying cry, and Vol fans couldn't wait for the 1977 opener against California.



JOHNNY BUTLER EAST LINE OF SCRIMMAGE ON 66 YD. RUN AGAINST ALABAMA SHIELDS-WATKINS FIELD - OCTOBER 21, 1939

Tennessee's Johnny Butler broke his famous 56-yard run in the Volunteers' 21-0 victory over Alabama in Knoxville. The 1939 Vols are the last college football team to go through the regular season unscored upon.

■ Johnny Majors Marches Home

Johnny Majors' early teams had no bigger victory than a 40-18 victory over Notre Dame at Neyland Stadium in 1979, a season in which the Vols led eventual national champion Alabama 17-0 in the second quarter at Legion Field. A 7-4 record was sufficient to earn a Bluebonnet Bowl bid.

A crowd of 95,288 saw the Vols and Georgia square off to begin the 1980 season in an expanded Neyland Stadium.

Georgia won, 16-15, on its way to a national championship, but the Vols did have their moments that year, taking a 42-0 win at Auburn and concluding the season with a 45-14 win over Kentucky and a 51-13 win over Vanderbilt.

The 1981 Vols overcame early, seemingly devastating, losses at Georgia and Southern Cal to post an 8-4 record and received a Garden State Bowl berth against Wisconsin. Slowly but surely, Big Orange fortunes were on an upswing.

With the 1982 World's Fair as a backdrop, Tennessee ended 11 years of frustration by defeating Alabama, 35-28, at Neyland Stadium. Mike Terry's interception cinched things and Vol fans counted the clock down on the first of four consecutive wins over Alabama. The game would also mark Bryant's final appearance at Neyland Stadium. He stepped down after the season and died the next January.

Led by Reggie White, an absolute terror at defensive tackle, UT began an upsurge in fortunes in 1983, going 9-3 and winning the Florida Citrus Bowl. White would earn College Football Hall of Fame honors in 2002. Johnnie Jones had the game-winner against the Tide that year, motoring 66 yards to break a 34-34 tie.

In 1984, the Vols rallied from a 27-13 deficit in the fourth quarter to defeat Alabama 28-27. In 1985, the Vols surprised everybody by defeating No. 1 Auburn, 38-20, and Alabama, 16-14, on their way to an SEC crown, first since 1969, and a Sugar Bowl date with Miami. But it wasn't easy. Not at all.

Vol quarterback Tony Robinson, who had played brilliantly in a season-opening tie with UCLA and the win over Auburn, hurt a knee in the fourth quarter against Alabama and missed the rest of the season. Daryl Dickey, Doug Dickey's son, stepped into the breach and kept the Vol ship on course the rest of the way, including a 35-7 win over the Hurricanes that Vol fans remember fondly to this day. The Louisiana Superdome was Big Orange Country South that Jan. 1, 1986, night.

The 1989 season saw an 11-1 record, an SEC Championship and Cotton Bowl trip. The win over Arkansas in Dallas Jan. 1, 1990, was the Vols' 600th. The Vols were the most improved team in the country, coming from 5-6 in 1988 to 1989's 11-1.

The 1990s began with another SEC championship and trip to the Sugar Bowl.

The highlight of the 1991 season came in South Bend, Ind., at Notre Dame Stadium, when the Vols overcame a 31-7 deficit to somehow win by 35-34. Vol placekicker John Becksvoort had dreamed of defeating the Irish with a field goal, but, in this case, an extra point was plenty. Jeremy Lincoln blocked an Irish field goal attempt with his backside to preserve the victory.

■ Phillip Fulmer Takes Vols To National Title in 1998

Phillip Fulmer's remarkable coaching career includes reaching both the 50- and 75-victory milestones quicker than any other coach in Southeastern Conference history. In 1998, Fulmer guided Tennessee to its sixth national championship, with a 13-0 record and Tostitos Fiesta Bowl victory over Florida State.

In 2002, Fulmer notched his 100th career victory, and like many other milestones, the number of victories takes on an exceptional glow when held up to the light of gridiron



NEYLAND, THE PSYCHOLOGIST: Neyland is shown in the dressing room with the Vols after the 1951 Cotton Bowl triumph over Texas.

history. Fulmer only needed 123 games to reach the century mark.

Fulmer was named head coach in November of 1992 to replace Johnny Majors, who had resigned. Fulmer's stewardship began with the Vols' trip to the Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa. Quarterbacked by Heath Shuler, the Big Orange routed Boston College, 38-23. The victory, combined with three other triumphs in which Fulmer served as interim coach, gave the new mentor a 4-0 record heading into the 1993 campaign.

Vol gridiron success continued through Fulmer's first full season as head coach. The Vols went 10-2 in 1993, a year in which quarterback Heath Shuler finished runner-up for the Heisman Trophy. Tennessee was rewarded with a trip to the Florida Citrus Bowl.

The 1994 season will be remembered for one of the guttiest comebacks ever staged by a Tennessee team. The Vols, whose first-string quarterback Jerry Colquitt was injured in the opening minutes of the first game, staggered to a 1-3 start but stuck together under Fulmer's direction and ended the season with an 8-4 mark, including a bowl victory. Peyton Manning earned a start in the Washington State game and was there for the duration, compiling an NCAA best 39-5 record as a starter.

UT closed the season by whipping Virginia Tech, 45-23, in the Gator Bowl (at Florida Field in Gainesville) and set the stage for a 1995 campaign that included a rousing victory at Alabama, six other SEC victories, an overall 11-1 record and an exciting 20-14 win over Ohio State in the Florida Citrus Bowl. The *CNN-USA Today* coaches poll ranked UT No. 2 in the nation after that bowl win.

The 1996 Vols gave the school its second straight top-10 ranking with a 10-2 record capped by a 48-28 victory over Northwestern in the Florida Citrus Bowl. Record crowds filed through the gates of the newly enlarged Neyland Stadium, with a collegiate attendance mark of 107,608 for the Sept. 21 game with Florida. The Vols have not had a home crowd under 100,000 since.

Also in 1996, John Michels was named to the College Football Hall of Fame.

The 1997 season tested the comeback quality of the Vols, who bounced back from a loss to Florida, won the rest of their games, including the SEC Championship contest over Auburn, and then had an outside shot at a No. 1 ranking in the AP and coaches' final poll.

But, alas, a national championship wasn't to be yet. After hanging in gamely through the first half, Tennessee yielded to powerhouse Nebraska and suffered a 42-17 loss

in the Orange Bowl at Miami.

But even that one-sided defeat couldn't diminish a season in which the Vols, behind the brilliant passing of Heisman runner-up Manning, won the Southeastern Conference championship after edging out Florida for the Eastern Division title.

As the 1998 season approached, Tennessee coaches were struck with the dimensions of the assignment that faced them: rebuild following the loss of the nation's best quarterback and one of the game's top defensive stars.

Demonstrating the unpredictability of college football, Tennessee rolled undefeated through the 1998 regular season, defeated Mississippi State for the Southeastern Conference championship and then faced Florida State in the first Bowl Championship Series matchup at Tempe, Ariz.

Tea Martin engineered a 23-16 victory over FSU in a title game that gave Tennessee the undisputed national championship and landed Phillip Fulmer deserved acclaim as national coach of the year.

The Vols found themselves in a tight crack at crunch time but showed the resourcefulness that allowed them to escape every trap. The leadership of Martin and the emergence of Travis Henry and Travis Stephens as replacements at tailback when Jamal Lewis was injured received justified recognition for their part in the unsullied championship campaign.

A defense led by the incomparable All-America linebacker Al Wilson played magnificently at critical times, and placekicker Jeff Hall was Mr. Reliable with chips on the table against Syracuse and Florida.

Tennessee had a game-winning drive after an Arkansas turnover late in the fourth period to help save the undefeated season.

Tennessee also scored 14 points on consecutive possessions in the fourth quarter of the SEC title game against Mississippi State to take a 24-14 victory.

In 1999, the awarding of the Beer Barrel, the symbol of the rivalry between Tennessee and Kentucky since 1925, was discontinued.

The 1999 team was 9-3 and continued a win streak that had reached seven by the 2002 season with a 21-7 win over Alabama at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa. It was the first time the Vols had played in Tuscaloosa since 1930.

The 1999 team also had a solid 38-14 win over Notre Dame on its resume on its way to a Fiesta Bowl game with Nebraska.

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As the decade of the 2000s opened, the Vols won their 700th game in the season opener against Southern Mississippi.

Casey Clausen became known as the "Comeback Kid," stepping in at quarterback in the Alabama game and leading the Vols through some close contests down the stretch to a Cotton Bowl game against Kansas State. Defensive tackle John Henderson won the Outland Trophy as the nation's best interior lineman and was an All-America selection, first such award for the Vols since Steve DeLong won the award in 1964.

In 2001, Clausen led the Vols to comeback wins at Alabama, Notre Dame and Florida and capped off an Eastern Division championship season by leading a 45-17 win over Michigan at the Florida Citrus Bowl in the first ever contest between the two tradition-laden programs.

Travis Stephens and Henderson were All-America selections. An overall mark of 11-2 made Fulmer part of 11-win teams as a player (1970), an assistant coach (1989) and head coach (1995, 1998 and 2001).

Fulmer reached yet another coaching milestone in 2002 when he guided the Vols to an 18-10 win in Columbia, S.C., marking his 100th head coaching victory.

In December 2002, Reggie White was named to the College Football Hall of Fame.

The 2003 season saw the Vols win 10 games for the seventh time in Fulmer's coaching tenure. Highlights were a 51-43, five overtime, marathon win over Alabama at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa.

Two weeks later, the Vols won 10-6 over Miami at the Orange Bowl, snapping a 26-game home winning streak for the Hurricanes. A 6-2 SEC mark was

good enough for a share of the SEC Eastern Division crown.

Tennessee also extended its streak of consecutive seasons with a bowl appearance to 15, squaring-off against Clemson in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta.

Dustin Colquitt, son of former Vol Craig Colquitt (1975-77), ended his junior season by being named an All-America punter, first Vol kicker so honored since Ron Widby in 1966. Placekicker James Wilhoit was named a freshman All-America.

Doug Dickey was named to the College Football Hall of Fame in December 2003.

The 2004 season, which many fans believed could be a blueprint for disaster, evolved into a positive situation that included the SEC Eastern Division championship, which represented quite a remarkable turnaround from expectations.

In Atlanta for the title affair, the Vols had the misfortune of encountering for the second time in the same season an Auburn team that was one of the most powerful fielded by an SEC school in recent memory.

Tennessee played creditably throughout most of the rematch but eventually bowed to Auburn's superior talent that included three first-round NFL picks -- quarterback Jason Campbell and running backs Ron Brown and Carnell (Cadillac) Williams.

The 38-28 defeat left the Vols with a 9-3 record that they enhanced to 10-3 when they pounded Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, 38-7. The anticipated disaster alluded to above was predicated by an unsettled quarterback situation that eventually worked out nicely. Freshman Erik Ainge handled the lion's share of field general responsibilities.

When Ainge was injured at the end of the first half in the Notre Dame game, understudy Rick Clausen took over the rest of the way and was named MVP in the Cotton Bowl. Defensive tackle Jesse Mahelona, a junior college product, rose from virtual anonymity to nab All-America honors in his first year as a Vol. Victories over Florida, Georgia and Alabama were highlights of Phillip Fulmer's twelfth full season as head coach.

A few days after the Cotton Bowl triumph Frank Emanuel, a bruising linebacker of the Doug Dickey era, was inducted into the National Hall of Fame.

Tennessee retired the jerseys of three Vols greats during the 2005 season. Doug Atkins (91), Reggie White (92) and Peyton Manning (16) were honored by having their jerseys permanently displayed in Neyland Stadium.

In 2006, Tennessee gave the same honor to four Vols who died in service to their country during World War II. The jerseys of Clyde "Ig" Fuson (62), Rudy Klarer (49), Bill Nowling (32) and Willis Tucker (61) all were retired prior to UT's game against Air Force, giving the program a total of 11 retired jerseys.



Head Coach Phillip Fulmer has led the Vols to a .770 winning percentage during his tenure and the national title in 1998.

