

A Special Introduction by

# Merv Habenicht

I feel privileged to have worked with the coaches and players at Bettendorf High School for 40 years. Team unity, pride, and tradition are the foundation and strength of the Bettendorf Football Program. Our number one goal was always to outwork our opponents, to play from “snap to whistle,” and for the players to achieve their maximum potential.

The program had to accelerate when we moved from small school league to 4A football. We implemented a two-platoon system, a full Junior Varsity schedule, and established two freshmen teams with each playing a full schedule.



Offensive coordinator Tom Freeman and his son Tommy introduced the use of computers for scouting reports and record keeping. Coach John Lavelle and Trainer Reggie Speak worked hard at developing the idea of year-round conditioning. The players learned the advantages gained from spending time in the weight room. The Freking Crew was established and led by Coach Kevin Freking while passing camps were established by coaches Freeman and Lavelle. Coach Randy Scott developed many outstanding linemen who were able to advance to the next level. He eventually himself advanced to the Head Coach of the Bulldog’s position.

Bettendorf football players have always made their school and community proud of them. Their record speaks for itself and we would be remiss not to mention a few outstanding assistant coaches such as: Tom Downs, David Hodam, Greg Meyer, Dennis Pelisek, Aaron Wiley, Kevin Freking, Gary Hirsch, Brian Barquist, Ron Egger, and Paul Castro. They helped build the program that made the Bettendorf team feared by their opponents. Among many of its greatest accomplishments, the Bettendorf football team has won 7 State Championship titles, have been nationally ranked, and many of the players have earned All-State honors.

My wife Evelyn and I will always have a special place in our hearts for all of the players and trainers who represented Bulldog Football.

Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!

*Coach Merv Habenicht (Retired)*  
*November 22, 2007*

PHOTO NOTE: The above picture is from Coach Habenicht’s retirement party and features assistant coaches who served under him: (FRONT) Gary Hirsch, Gary Altman, Habenicht, George Thuenen, Robbie Furne, (BACK) Dave Hodam, John Lavelle, Dennis Pelisek, Tom Downs, Greg Meyer, Chad Remmert, Brian Barquist, and Kevin Freking.