



It was another time when football had nothing to do with imagination and success in small school in a small town for comfort rather than step on career ladder.

I favored offense occurred about 100 years ago, fell out of style in the middle of the century and is now all but missing, but it warmed the heart of the coach, whose presence still lingers for those stages of strong, or.

Keith Piper during a single wing offense for the attacks fit old nature inclined, purchase a creative mind and forever connected him to the history of the game was part of his soul.

And the extraordinary influence, including meshing of power and precision that propelled many of his 200 victories as coach Denison University 1954-1992.

"Woody Hayes said, 'Keith Piper can get a little more talent than anyone I know in the coaching profession,'" said George Hill, who played and coached with Piper was an assistant under Hayes and Ohio State in the 1970s and later coached 21 years in the NFL.

Piper, who died in 1997 at age 76, burst pressure for success in an offense that seemed to rise from cave drawings, but a confused and frustrated opponents with his strange complexity.

Twenty five years ago, spun Piper's offensive machine like never before in Granville. The Big Red won the 1985 North Coast Athletic Conference championship with a 10-0 record and earned a spot in the Division III playoffs.

Piper was 64 at the time and a 32: e season as coach at Denison. A no-wing reaped national media attention during the regular season perfect.

The coach received numerous awards after the first round playoff loss to Mount Union, but today, outside of Denison, in recognition of his legacy has faded with time, as the offense.

But reminders lined surface in recent years, as Tim Tebow ran and ran out of certain equipment for the Florida Gators or Miami Dolphins and other NFL teams up wildcat formation.

"It is essentially single-wing football," Hill said.

In those moments, when some students wonder the Piper dots game and again why not coach with 200 victories in 39 seasons at the school enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame.

"He ordered a half"

Piper had a barrel-chested man with a voice like John Wayne, and he could silence a room full of players with state or sarcastic barb.

"He ordered that respect," said Brian Newkirk, a starting guard for Denison in 1985. "He was cut from Woody Hayes type: 'This is my team, that's how we can and it is not up for discussion.'"

He was a history buff, particularly knowledgeable on the American civil war but also about football. Piper tweaked studies and plays with Glenn "Pop" Warner, introduced the single wing - one quarterback, fullback, tailback, and return - as coach Cornell in 1906.

Piper was enthralled, a native of Niles, with one wing, when he saw Paul Brown used it as a coach Massillon High School in the early 30s. Brown used the single wing, and won a national championship at Ohio State in 1942.

There is no middle back just under the single wing, and quarterback rarely touches the ball, instead serving as a lead blocker. Just snaps usually go to the queue, running, hands lost or damaged in an organized combination of spin moves, fakes and hills.

The single wing in football quality content to the T formation - making better use of speed and run - was popular in the 1940s and 50s.

Piper had played center in one wing in high school and at Baldwin-Wallace, and went against the trends of using this offense for three seasons at Denison in the early 1960s.

Following the Big Red went 0-8-1 in 1977, he returned to the single wing to provide good because Clay Sampson queue double threat. He was the only player in Division III history to rush for 3,000 yards and pass for 3,000 in a career when he was at 6920 meters of Denison from 1977 to '80.

Five years after Sampson deceased, the offense will be Piper's potent mix of speed athleticism, and experience which has an average margin of victory 29.6 points.

"We just had a hit machine," says Brian Gear Inger, one of four senior starters on the offensive line in 1985.

Denison ran the ball 84 percent of its plays the glorious season, led by Chris Sprigg queue. From Newark Junior rushed for 1049 yards and six touchdowns and passed for 541 yards and 11 scores in 1985.

"We did not have better talent, but our offense was so unique, no one knows how to prepare it," said Sprigg, All-American and was named the NCAC's Most Valuable Player.

Sprigg, competitive and multi shot at 6 feet, 175 pounds, behind the online success drew unfairly arrested and double-teamed from unexpected angles.

"Every morning I get up, the wing only to feel my body 46 years old 60," Sprigg said.

Denison team set nine school records for season - including the most total yards of offense

(4330), most yards rushing (3510) and most points (377) - and set marks five school single game in 1985.

"Everybody is enjoying this season because it was Keith the attention it deserves," said Jim Bickel, 1985 and Denison defensive coordinator, who spent 20 years with Piper as a player and coach.

A Hall of Fame?

Last year, the National Single Wing Coaches' Association Piper - who had a 200-142-19 record seven seasons one loss - in a speech to open the Hall of Fame class.

Would identify others Piper grander: the College Football Hall of Fame.

"People my age, we knew all of Keith," said George Hill, 77, from Florida home. "Keith was a great football coach, believe me. I say that without hesitation because I work with Woody Hayes for eight years at Ohio State and coached in the NFL with Dick Vermeil, Don Shula, Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson. I rate (Piper) right up there with them.

"It's a damn shame people in Columbus, and Columbus Touchdown Club has not gotten behind him and he got into the Hall of Fame. This was a guy who did a lot of football."

Two years ago, wrote Denison officials, former players and coaches, the NCAC commissioner and son of Jim Piper's letters of support for the Hall of Fame candidacy.

A spokesman for the National Football Foundation named Piper, although it is not technically qualified, because his .580 .600 winning percentage needed missing. A veterans committee, which determines a person each year, an annual review of his candidacy as a special case.

"Keith was more than coach now and again. I tried him as a father," said Newkirk.

For now, in honor of a permanent single-wing offense Piper's, which has experienced a renaissance in high school, and glimpses of concepts in college and the NFL.

"Every TV game, you can see some offshoot of what my father did," said Jim Piper.

Keith's son David is close to finishing a manuscript of the book because of the single wing, that had begun before his death his father 13 years ago.

"I think he liked to face the past," said David. "It was an offense old father to return. No one really figured it out. It just went out of style."