

Lance Leipold



Lance Leipold played quarterback for the UW-Whitewater Warhawks in the mid-80's. He is third all-time in the Warhawk record books for pass attempts (647), fourth in yards (4277), sixth in completions (303) and tied for tenth with 27 touchdowns. He is also among the top 10 in those same categories in the UW-W records for a single season, all in his junior year in 1985. In a game against UW-River Falls, Leipold completed 37-57 for 494 yards -- all among the top 20 individual games in WIAC history. He was the team MVP, and was elected to the UW-W Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003.

After his playing days, he served as a UW-Whitewater assistant coach, which is where his coaching career began. Leipold's coaching career began where he played, at UW-W. He coached quarterbacks in 1987 and wide receivers in 1988, helping both teams win conference championships. After one year at Doane College in Nebraska, he returned to Whitewater in 1990 to coach and work on a master's degree. He helped the Warhawks win another conference title while serving as Bob Berezowitz's offensive coordinator.

Leipold moved on to the UW-Madison for the 1991, '92 and '93 seasons, serving as a graduate assistant all three years, as he worked with the offense. The 1993 Badgers won the Big Ten and the Rose Bowl, going 10-1-1. His first stint at Division II Nebraska-Omaha covered 1994 through 2000, where he was part of a staff that turned UNO from a 1-10 team in 1994 to North Central Conference champions in 1996, 1998 and 2000. He was UNO's offensive coordinator in 2000. He moved to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2001, serving as an administrative assistant the year the Cornhuskers played in the national championship game. In 2002 and 2003, Nebraska also went to bowl games with Leipold on staff. He returned to Nebraska-Omaha in 2004 as the associate head coach and offensive coordinator, where he contributed to three consecutive 8-3 seasons and three straight conference championships.

Lance Leipold became the head football coach for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater beginning with the 2007 season. Since taking over, Leipold has led the Warhawks to four consecutive Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles, as well four consecutive NCAA national championship finals appearances. Of the four finals, they have won three NCAA Division III National Championships. The titles came in 2007, 2009 and 2010. The Warhawks will enter the upcoming 2011 season as the two-time defending NCAA Champs, having beaten the other DIII perennial powerhouse, Mount Union, three of their last four meetings, clearly establishing their physical and mental dominance of their national rival, and in the process becoming the division's top program in the country.

The individual and team accolades continue to accumulate at an alarming rate due to the level of success UW-Whitewater has each year. The Warhawks' record under Leipold is an unbelievable 57-3 in just his first four years. He has produced twenty-seven All-Americans and numerous national award winners. After leading his team to a National Championship in his first season, the Warhawks dominated the All-Conference selections with eight first-teamers, six All-Americans, the Division III Player of the Year (Justin Beaver-Gagliardi Trophy) and the Division III Rimington Trophy recipient (Brent Allen), which gets awarded to the nation's best center. During the 2008 season, Leipold was named the Division III National Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association, Schutt Sports and Field Turf, with linebacker Jace Rindahl taking home Defensive Player of the Year honors. The Warhawks had six All-American selections that season.

In 2009, UW-Whitewater wrapped up another great year with an undefeated season, the first 15-0 record in school history. The Warhawks walked away with their second national title in three years, and Leipold was again named National Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association, Field Turf and D3football.com. The 2009 season included seven All-Americans, and the Fred Mitchell Award presented to kicker, Jeff Schebler.



The 2010 season saw little change from 2009, as Leipold and the Warhawks completed their second straight 15-0 season, earning another NCAA DIII National Championship by defeating Mount Union again in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl. Leipold went on to sweep the National Coach of the Year awards presented by the American Football Coaches Association, Field Turf, American Football Monthly magazine, and D3football.com. The 2010 season also included six All-Americans, including Conference MVP and D3Football.com's Offensive Player of the Year, Levell Coppage.

UW-Whitewater, under the careful guidance of Lance Leipold, is surely to be the favorite to once again earn a berth in the Stagg Bowl and the right to compete for a National Championship this season. Lance Leipold is a native of Jefferson, WI. He and his wife, Kelly have a daughter (Lindsey) and a son (Landon).