

D. Deloss Dodds

Kansas State '59

Oxford Cup Roll No. 081

August 6, 2016 | Oklahoma, Okla.

A native of Riley, Kansas, DeLoss Dodds, *Kansas State '59*, was initiated into the Gamma Epsilon Chapter on April 14, 1956, as Roll No. 711.

Growing up, Dodds was a football, basketball and track standout – they called him the “Riley Flash.” After graduate school and time served in the U.S. Army, his athletic prowess led him back to Manhattan, Kansas, for a more than 15-year career with his alma mater, first as an assistant track coach, then head coach and, finally, as the director of athletics. In that time, Dodds led Kansas State to six Big Eight conference titles and turned a struggling department into a profitable athletics program.

His success in Kansas caught the attention of the University of Texas, where he was named athletic director in 1981. During his tenure, the men's athletic programs saw one of their most successful periods, claiming 14 national championships and 108 conference titles in nine different sports. The football team won their fourth national title, five straight bowl games and achieved at least 10 victories in nine straight seasons. Basketball made a school-record 14 trips to the NCAA tournament. And baseball advanced to the NCAA Men's College World Series seven times, winning the national championship twice.

As successful as his athletes were on the field, it was Dodds who further elevated Texas into the national spotlight behind the scenes. He helped UT emerge as the leading member of the new Big 12 in 2010 and, subsequently, oversaw the launch of the Longhorn Network, the first sports television channel devoted to a single school. Additionally, Dodds guided the creation of The Longhorn Foundation, which raises money for student-athlete scholarships, academic services, sports medicine, facilities and more. Today, the foundation boasts more than 13,000 donors and has raised more than \$370 million.

Dodds' honors and accolades are numerous and far reaching. He was named the 2011 Athletic Director of the Year by Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal and SportsBusiness Daily, the two leading publications on the business of sports. His dedication to college athletics and administrative abilities also earned him the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's John L. Toner Award in 2006, and the Gridiron Club of Dallas Chapter's Most Distinguished Texan Award in 2014. Dodds also belongs to the U.S. Track Coaches Hall of Fame, Drake Relays Coaches Hall of Fame, Kansas State Athletics Hall of Fame and Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

Dodds and his wife, Mary Ann, reside in Austin, Texas, and have three children – Doug, *Kansas State '83*, Diedre and Debra – and eight grandchildren.