

# WABASH VALLEY

P R O F I L E S

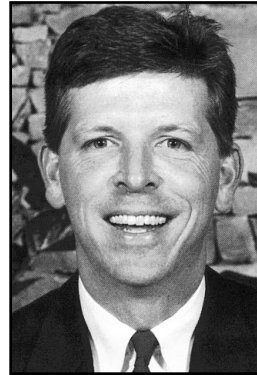
*A series of tributes to hometown people and events that have shaped our history.*

## Cam Cameron

**W**hen Indiana University was conducting a nationwide search in 1996 to replace football coach Bill Mallory, popular Terre Haute South alumnus Malcolm “Cam” Cameron was a logical choice.

Though born in Chapel Hill, N.C., Feb. 6, 1961, Cameron spent his formative years in Terre Haute, arriving in 1973 when stepfather Tom Harp became head football coach at Indiana State University (1973–1977). His mother Barbara was active in the community and an outstanding golfer.

Cam’s high school athletic exploits are legendary. Twice (1978 and 1979) he received the coveted McMillan Award given to Vigo County’s best athlete. Earning all-state recognition in both football and basketball, he received All-America mention in football, won the 1979 Arthur L. Trester Award for mental attitude at the IHSAA basketball finals, was named to the 1979 Indiana basketball All-Star team and was selected Fellowship of Christian Athletes’ National High School Athlete of the Year in 1979. Acquiring a football scholarship to IU, the congenial red-head graduated from IU’s business school in 1983 and pursued graduate work in sports administration. Meanwhile, he played basketball for Coach Bob Knight and football for coaches Lee Corso and Sam Wyche.



Cameron credits Harp, one-time head coach at Cornell and Duke, as being the most influential person in his life. South football coach Bob Clements and Dr. William G. Bannon rank high on his list. Yet it was Knight’s rapport with Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler that delivered Cameron into coaching in 1984. After two years as a graduate assistant at Ann Arbor, he became the Wolverines’ youngest assistant, tutoring quarterbacks and receivers including future pro stars Jim Harbaugh, Elvis Grbac, Todd Collins and Desmond Howard. Michigan played in the Rose Bowl five times in his 10 seasons. Meanwhile, he earned a reputation for recruiting. In 1994 Cam became a Washington Redskins assistant coach under Norv Turner, securing NFL notoriety for developing unseasoned quarterbacks Gus Frerotte and Trent Green.

Cameron’s marriage to Missy Bridges, daughter of Monroe Circuit Court judge Randy Bridges, cemented his Indiana ties. The couple has three children: Tommy (named for Cam’s stepfather), Danny and Christopher. After signing a seven-year contract as the Hoosiers’ coach, Cam appointed Anthony Thompson, former Terre Haute North and IU football legend, and Marty Fine, former ISU assistant coach and husband of Cam’s sister Betsy, to his staff.

Residing in Pinehurst, N.C., Barbara and Tom Harp trek to IU games each week. Last Saturday they saw the Hoosiers come from 21 points behind to defeat Illinois in overtime, 34–31. It was perhaps Cam’s finest coaching moment since returning to Indiana. He should have many more.

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