

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Donald Hudson

PERSON

Hudson, Donald Edward, 1929-

**Alternative Names:** Donald Hudson;

**Life Dates:** November 20, 1929-September 30, 2018

**Place of Birth:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** Charlotte, NC

**Occupations:** College Football Coach

## Biographical Note

High school and college football coach and athletic director Donald Edward Hudson was born on November 20, 1929, and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh, where he participated in football and gymnastics. He went on to play football at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, where, in 1953, he received his B.S. degree in physical education and commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Engineers.

Hudson served his military obligation at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri as a platoon leader for the first eight weeks of basic training. He then spent the next year and a half on the DMZ in Korea, where he served as a first lieutenant platoon leader. After military service, he earned his M.Ed. degree from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Hudson first worked at Lincoln University in the 1950s and 1960s, where he taught in the Health and Physical Education Department and was an assistant football coach, assistant basketball coach, assistant track coach and head golf coach. In 1968, he became the State of Minnesota's first African American high school head football coach when he was hired at Central High School in Minneapolis.

In December of 1971, Hudson was appointed head football coach of Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, becoming the first African American head football coach at a predominantly white university in the United States in the modern NCAA era. He also served as assistant chairman of the Department of Physical Education and as the men's head track coach. While at Macalester, he testified before the U.S. Congress on behalf of the NCAA National Summer Youth Program, which he also directed for six years.

Hudson left Macalester College in 1975 and returned to Lincoln University in 1976, where he served as head football coach, head girls track coach, and athletic director for three years. He was later hired as athletic director of Smoky Hill High School in the Colorado Cherry Creek school district, where he worked until 2000.

Hudson was honored for his accomplishments during the half time of a Macalester football game on October 6, 2007. The mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota declared that day “Don Hudson Day” and Hudson was given the keys to the city. In addition, the football offices at Macalester College have been named after Hudson.

Hudson and his wife, Constance, reside in Charlotte, North Carolina. They have six children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donald Hudson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 12, 2014.

Hudson passed away on September 30, 2018.

## Related Entries

**Westinghouse Academy** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**High School Diploma**

**Lincoln University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Springfield College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.Ed.**

**Belmar Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Baxter Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Lincoln University** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1950 to 1960]

**Teacher; Assistant Football Coach; Assistant Basketball Coach; Assistant Track Coach; Head Golf Coach**

**United States Army** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1953 to 1955]

**Second Lieutenant; First Lieutenant**

**Central High School, Minneapolis** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 1971]

**Head Football Coach**

**Macalester College** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to 1975]

**Head Football Coach; Head Track Coach; Assistant Chairman of the Department of Physical Education**

**Lincoln University** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to 1983]

**Head Football Coach; Head Girls Track Coach; Athletic Director**

**Smoky Hill High School, Colorado** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 2000]

**Athletic Director**

**NCAA National Summer Youth Program** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Director**