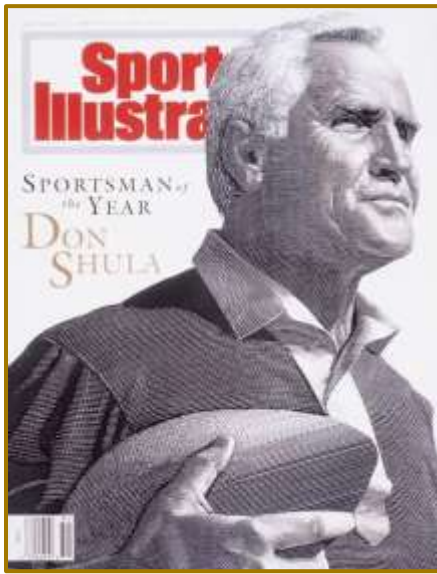


Humbling a Head Coach

One of the most popular figures in professional football is Don Shula, a player and coach best known as the head coach of the Miami Dolphins, the team he led to two Super Bowl victories and to the only perfect season in the history of the National Football League.



He was previously the head coach of the Baltimore Colts, with whom he won the 1968 NFL championship. Shula was named 1993 Sportsman of the Year by *Sports Illustrated*. He had only two losing seasons in his 33-year career as a head coach in the NFL. He took his teams to six Super Bowls. He currently holds the NFL record for most career wins as a head coach with 347. Shula was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997.

To say he has a high sports profile would be an understatement. But Shula – a very humble man – tells a humorous story about himself.

He recalls a day when he let his humility slip. He and his wife had retreated to a small town in Maine to avoid being noticed on their vacation. While there, they went to see a movie on a messy, rainy night.

When Shula and his wife walked into the theater, the people began to applaud. The famous coach whispered to his wife, “I guess there’s no place we can go where people don’t recognize me.”

When they sat down, Shula shook hands with the man on their row, and said, “I’m surprised that you knew who I am.”

The man looked at him and replied, “Am I supposed to know who you are? We’re just glad you came in because the manager of the theater said he wasn’t going to start the movie unless there were at least 10 people here.”

The conclusion? Just about the time we think we’re something, somebody reminds us we’re not.

Humility is widely seen as a virtue, an unwillingness to put oneself forward.

The Bible applauds humility: *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves* (Philippians 2:3-11 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter