



BOB MACK/SUN SENTINEL

Dolphins head coach Don Shula tries a pep talk before overtime against the Bills on Oct. 25 at Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami Gardens. The Dolphins lost 34-31.

**TIMELINE**

# A life, career of tenacity, triumph

A look some of the key points in the life and career of Miami Dolphins Hall of Fame coach Don Shula.

**Jan. 4, 1930:** Born in Grand River, Ohio. He later moved to and grew up in Painesville, Ohio.

**Jan. 19, 1951:** Drafted by the Cleveland Browns, as a defensive back, in the ninth round. Later signs a contract for \$5,000.

**March 26, 1953:** Traded to Colts — along with Carl Taseff, a college teammate and later a longtime assistant coach with Shula — in a 15-player deal.

**February 1958:** Hired as an assistant coach at University of Virginia.

**July 19, 1958:** Marries Dorothy Bar-tish.

**March 21, 1960:** Hired as defensive backfield coach of the Lions under George Wilson, the man he would later replace as Dolphins coach.

**Jan. 8, 1963:** Hired to succeed Weeb Ewbank as coach of the Colts. At 33, he is the youngest coach in NFL history.

**Sept. 22, 1963:** First victory, Colts 20, 49ers 14.

**Dec. 27, 1964:** Colts lose to Cleveland 27-0 in the NFL championship game (there was no Super Bowl yet).

**Dec. 18, 1965:** Starts running back Tom Matte at quarterback in place of the injured Gary Cuozzo, who had been subbing for Johnny Unitas. The Colts beat the Rams 20-17 to make the playoffs.

**Dec. 26, 1965:** Colts, still with running back Matte at quarterback, lose to the Packers 13-10 in overtime, aided by a disputed field goal at the end of regulation.

**Dec. 29, 1968:** The Colts beat Cleveland 34-0 to win the NFL championship.

**Jan. 12, 1969:** Baltimore loses 16-7 to the Jets in Super Bowl III, the victory Joe Namath guaranteed and which legitimized the AFL, soon to merge with the established league.

**Feb. 18, 1970:** Dolphin owner Joe Robbie hires Shula, who is given a 10% ownership stake in the team.

**Sept. 27, 1970:** Shula's first Dolphins



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Dolphins head coach Don Shula, middle, and quarterback Dan Marino have a talk on the sideline during the 1989 season.



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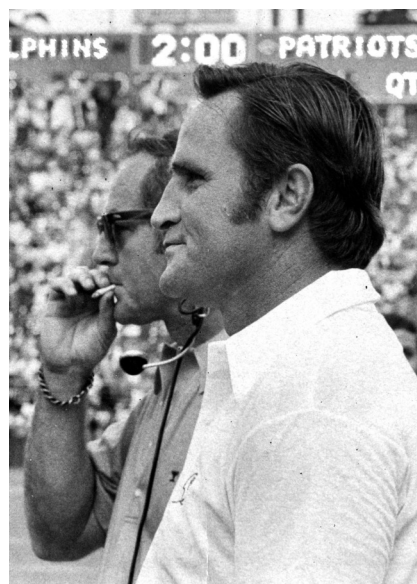
Don Shula wrestles with one of his sons, Michael, during a moment of relaxation at his Miami Lakes home on Jan. 5, 1973.

victory, 20-10 over the Oilers.

**Dec. 25, 1971:** In the longest game in NFL history (82 minutes, 40 seconds), the Dolphins beat Kansas City 27-24 on Garo Yepremian's field goal in the second overtime in the AFC playoffs.

**Jan. 16, 1972:** Dolphins lose 24-3 to the Cowboys in Super Bowl VI.

**Dec. 16, 1972:** Dolphins beat the Colts 16-0 to finish the regular season 14-0.



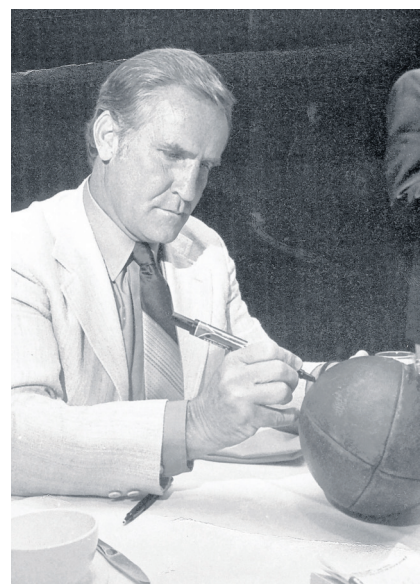
URSULA SEEMANN/SUN SENTINEL

Don Shula stands on the sidelines in the fourth quarter of a 52-0 win over the Patriots on Nov. 12, 1972, one of three shutouts on the year for Miami.

**Jan. 14, 1973:** Miami beats Washington 14-7 in Super Bowl VII to go 17-0 and complete the only perfect season in NFL history.

**Jan. 13, 1974:** Dolphins repeat as champions by dominating Minnesota 24-7 in Super Bowl VIII.

**March 31, 1974:** Dolphins stars Paul Warfield, Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick sign with the WFL.



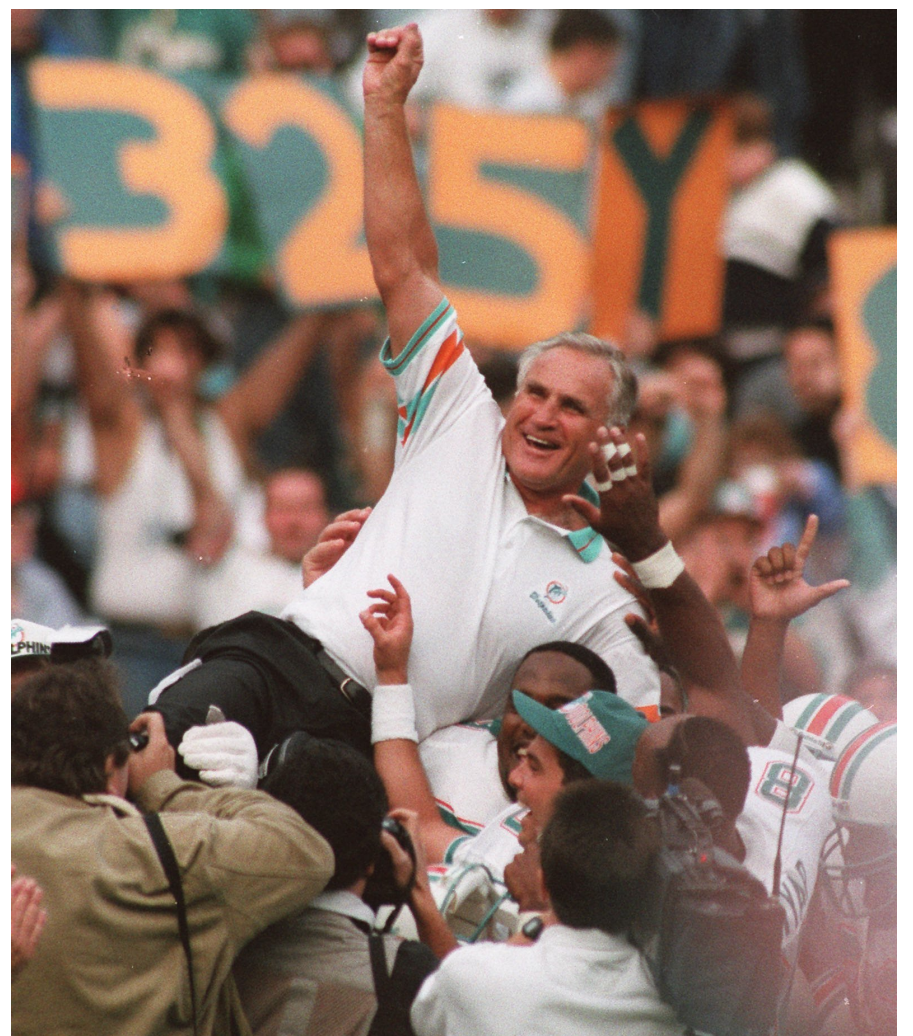
CHARLES TRAINOR JR./SUN SENTINEL

Don Shula signs a football at a "Meet the Miami Dolphins" breakfast event hosted by the Broward County booster club on July 11, 1980.

**Dec. 21, 1974:** Dolphins lose a 28-26 thriller to Oakland in the first round of the playoffs, ending their chance to win three consecutive Super Bowls.

**June 1975:** On a family trip to Europe, Shula has an audience with Pope Paul VI.

**Dec. 14, 1975:** A 10-7 overtime loss to the Colts prevents the Dolphins from making the playoffs for the first time in



AMY SANCETTA/AP

Dolphins coach Don Shula is carried on his team's shoulders after his 325th victory, at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia on Nov. 14, 1993.



RHONA WISE/AFP

Don Shula talks to reporters on Jan. 25, 1997 as newly elected member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame are announced.



ANDREW ITKOFF/SUN SENTINEL

Dolphins coach Don Shula looks over the planning board during the NFL draft on April 22, 1990. Miami selected tackle Richmond Webb with the ninth overall pick.



JIM RASSOL/SUN SENTINEL

Mike Shula, left, says hello to his father, Don Shula, before the game against the Panthers Nov. 24, 2013. Mike Shula was the offensive coordinator of the Panthers.



MIKE STOCKER/SUN SENTINEL

Don Shula sits in his home office talks about turning 80. Shula spent 26 seasons as Dolphins head coach and went 257-133-2 in regular season.

Shula's six seasons with Miami.

**July 9, 1976:** Signs a five-year contract with the Dolphins and sells his stock in the team back to Robbie.

**Nov. 8, 1981:** Victory No. 200, Dolphins 30, Patriots 27 (OT)

**Dec. 12, 1982:** Mark Henderson, a work-release parolee, clears the snow-covered turf at Foxboro Stadium, which helps the Patriots convert a late field goal for a 3-0 win over the Dolphins. Shula later called it the "most unfair act" in the history of the league.

**Dec. 20, 1982:** Son David, 23, who played at Dartmouth and briefly with the Colts, joins the Dolphins as an assistant coach in charge of receivers.

**Jan. 30, 1983:** Dolphins lose 27-17 to the Redskins in Super Bowl XVII.

**April 26, 1983:** Dolphins draft Dan Marino out of Pittsburgh.

**Jan. 20, 1985:** Shula makes a record sixth Super Bowl appearance. Dolphins lose 38-16 to San Francisco in Marino's only Super Bowl.

**Aug. 8, 1987:** Introduces Larry Csonka and Jim Langer at their induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**Jan. 5, 1991:** Becomes the second coach to reach the playoffs in four decades (George Halas is the other).

**Feb. 25, 1991:** Wife Dorothy dies of

cancer.

**March 8, 1991:** Son Mike is hired as a Dolphin assistant coach.

**Sept. 22, 1991:** Victory No. 300, Dolphins 16, Packers 13

**Oct. 15, 1993:** Marries Mary Anne Stephens.

**Nov. 14, 1993:** With victory No. 325 (Dolphins 19, Eagles 14), Shula surpasses George Halas as the NFL's all-time winningest coach with third-string quarterback Doug Pederson playing most of the second half.

**Oct. 2, 1994:** Defeats son David's Bengals 23-7, marking the first time in professional sports that a father and son faced each other as head coaches.

**Dec. 24, 1995:** Shula's final victory, No. 347, Dolphins 41, Rams 22

**Dec. 30, 1995:** Shula's final game, a 37-22 playoff loss to the Bills.

**Jan. 5, 1996:** Shula steps down as coach, becoming vice chairman of the team.

**Jan. 25, 1997:** Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**July 26, 1997:** Induction into the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, 50 miles from where he was born.

**May 4, 2020:** Shula dies at age 90.

— Craig Davis