



Feb. 10, 2009

Passings: Mustang Football Lineman Coach Mel Kaufman

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly assistant coach and two-time Super Bowl champion Mel Kaufman died Saturday night, Feb. 7, at his home in Santa Margarita. He was 50. Kaufman is survived by his mother, Muriel; one brother, Earl, and three nephews, Chris Smith, Nicholas Smith and Schuyler Smith.

A funeral service will be held next week in Santa Monica, with a memorial service being planned in San Luis Obispo after the funeral. Details will be announced.

Kaufman was a linebacker for the Cal Poly Division II national championship team of 1980, but he had his greatest success with the Washington Redskins where he won Super Bowls XVII in 1982 and XXII in 1987.

One of the best linebackers to ever play at Cal Poly, Kaufman's professional career continued his excellence. He was a starter for the 1980 NCAA Division II Championship team for the Mustangs, ending his collegiate career with a victory over Eastern Illinois in the National Championship game played at the Zia Bowl at the University of New Mexico Stadium.

As an undrafted free agent, Kaufman was a starter with three Super Bowl Champions and was with the Washington Redskins in 1982, 1983 and 1987. After retiring as a player, Kaufman worked with the Redskins organization as a scouting supervisor before coming to San Luis Obispo and serving as an assistant coach for the Mustang Football Team.



[Read the story on Kaufman on GoPoly.com](#)

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[Read the Associated Press story on Kaufman in Sports Illustrated](#)

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