

Legendary Coach Joe Paterno Dies

Written by Staff Reports

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Legendary Penn State football coach Joe Paterno passed away on Sunday. His family released a statement Sunday morning. He was 85-years-old. Paterno, the all-time winningest coach in major college football with 409 victories, had been hospitalized since January 13 for complications concerning his cancer treatment. He was diagnosed with a treatable form of lung cancer in November. A few weeks after that revelation, Paterno also broke his pelvis after a fall but did not need surgery. Paterno, who spent 62 years at Penn St., including 46 as head coach, was fired on November 9 amid a child abuse scandal concerning defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky.

Paterno, who was found of no wrong doing, according to Pennsylvania state police Commissioner Frank Noonan, was going to retire at the end of the 2011 season before he was removed as head coach by the school's Board of Trustees.

Paterno led the Nittany Lions to 37 bowl games and two national championships. And 250 players he coached went on to play in the National Football League. He surpassed the late Eddie Robinson in victories on October 29, when Penn State rallied for a 10-7 win against Illinois. He is the only Football Bowl-Division Series coach to surpass 400 wins.