



Joker Phillips

Joker Phillips fulfilled a destiny when he was named head football coach at the University of Kentucky.

A native of Kentucky, Phillips grew up as the quarterback in football, the point guard in basketball and the catcher in baseball – positions that require leadership on the field – while winning a pair of state football championships at Franklin-Simpson High School.

In college, Phillips became one of the top wide receivers in school history and he played professionally in the NFL and CFL.

Phillips began coaching at UK and also gained experience at Cincinnati, Minnesota, Notre Dame and South Carolina before returning home to help Rich Brooks rebuild the Kentucky program.

As offensive coordinator, Phillips' attacks set numerous school records and helped the Wildcats advance to four-consecutive bowl games. His coaching achievements, legacy of leadership and well-earned reputation as one of the nation's best recruiters made Phillips a natural choice upon Brooks' retirement.