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## Former WV coach survives shooting

3 hrs ago



Sholten Singer/The Herald-Dispatch Hurricane High School head football coach Willis May on Tuesday, Aug. 9, at Hurricane High School.

Sholten Singer/The Herald-Dispat

From staff and wire reports

HUNTINGTON - An assistant football coach who also worked as a security guard is among the dead in a school shooting that claimed 17 lives in Parkland, Florida, and perhaps his last words were spoken to fellow coach Willis May, a native of Logan County and former coach at Hurricane, both in West Virginia.

The football program at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tweeted that assistant coach Aaron Feis died while selflessly shielding students.

The tweet ended: "He died a hero and he will forever be in our hearts and memories."

Feis graduated from the school in 1999 and worked mainly with the junior varsity, the team website said. It said he lived in nearby Coral Springs with his wife and daughter.

A former student is charged with using an AR-15 to kill 17 people at the school. The team website said Feis spent his entire coaching career at Stoneman Douglas after playing there as a student.

The Sun Sentinel reported that Feis, acting as a school security guard, responded to the original call on a school walkie-talkie. Someone on the radio asked if loud sounds they heard were firecrackers, said May, who also carries a radio.

"I heard Aaron say, 'No, that is not firecrackers.' That's the last I heard of him," May said.

May previously was employed as the football coach for the Hurricane High School Redskins in Hurricane, West Virginia, where he also taught.

He and his family moved to Florida in 2012, according to The Herald-Dispatch archives.

His son, Corey, who along with his brother, Jordan, played football for Stoneman Douglas and now assists on the coaching staff there, tweeted at about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday that his father was safe. "Me and Jordan are home and he is locked in his office safe!!! Thank you for the prayers and concerns," he wrote.

Feis' online biography at the team website said he played center at the school from 1995-98 and worked with both junior varsity and varsity linemen. He also served as the college recruiting coordinator and worked with football operations.

"He was a great guy," sophomore Douglas lineman Gage Gaynor told the newspaper. "Everyone loved him. Shame he had to go like this. Always gave his all to making us better. Definitely learned a lot from him."

Corey May also had fond memories of the assistant coach.

"One of the best men Douglas could ever have," he tweeted Thursday morning. "Touched the lives of many people. The kindest soul and funniest person. It was a privilege to be coached by you and even bigger privilege to coach with you and be able to call you a friend. Won't be the same without you. RIP."

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