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Tex Noel, Editor (ifra.tcfh@gmail.com)

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Nelson “Bud” Talbott: The First Head Coach of a College and NFL Team in the Same Season

By Andrew McKillop

Nelson “Bud” Talbott is a name that many people probably see in a football encyclopedia, but don’t really give too much thought to it. Most people weren’t even alive when Talbott was a notable name in football. What I find most interesting about Talbott’s football career, is that he was the first person to coach a college football and an NFL team in the same season. In 1920 and 1921, Talbott coached the now defunct Dayton Triangles of the American Professional Football Association (now known as the National Football League). He also coached the University of Dayton grid team in 1920, and in their last game of the 1921 season.

Talbott was a native of Dayton, Ohio but prepared for his college career at the

Hotchkiss Prep School in Lakeville, Connecticut. Talbott left Hotchkiss for Yale and became a standout on the gridiron as a tackle in the early 1910’s. The 6’0, 189-pound Talbott, was a three-time letter winner from 1912-14; he was also a letter winner in track. Talbott was selected as a Walter Camp All-American in 1913, helping lead Yale to seven shutouts in ten games that season.

Talbott was elected team captain for the 1914 season. Back then the Yale team captain was responsible for selecting the team’s head coach. Howard H. Jones, the future coaching legend at USC, led Yale to a 5-2-3 record in 1913, in what would be his second one-year stint at Yale. Talbott chose Frank Hinkey, not Jones for the job of Yale head coach in 1914.

As team captain, Talbott helped lead Yale to a 7-2 record in 1914. Yale’s most notable victory of the year was a 28-0 shutout over Notre Dame in New Haven. Notre Dame

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entered the game with a 27-game unbeaten streak, and had beaten Rose Polytechnic (now known as Rose-Hulman) 103-0 the previous week. The most notable loss of the year was to Harvard. The game was notable, because it was the first ever game played at the Yale Bowl; Harvard defeated Yale 36-0.

In 1915, Talbott served as an assistant coach under Hinkey, during a disappointing 4-5 season, which led to the dismissal of Hinkey as Yale's coach. Talbott's time at Yale had a great influence on the rest of his career in football. In 1921, when Talbott was the head coach of the APFA's (NFL's) Dayton Triangles, the Chicago Staleys' George Halas was quoted in the October 19, 1921 edition of the Chicago Tribune, saying that Talbott was using "Yale's style of offense and defense" with the Triangles.

In 1916 the Dayton Cadets became the Dayton Triangles, and Talbott was named the head coach of the professional team. Talbott helped lead the Triangles to a 9-1 record in that season.

After serving two years in the armed forces during WWI, Talbott returned to the Triangles as their head coach in 1919. That season Talbott led the Triangles to a 5-2-1 record. In 1920, Talbott became one of the NFL's original head coaches, as the Triangles joined the APFA (NFL). That same season, Talbott also became the head coach of the University of Dayton grid team.

In 1920, the Dayton Triangles went 5-2-2 under Talbott's direction. The Triangles started the season 4-0-2, and were in the hunt for the NFL's first championship; however they faded at the end of the season, losing twice to the eventual first NFL champion, the Akron Pros.

That same season, Talbott led the University of Dayton to a disappointing 2-4 record. But in the last game of the season, Dayton defeated Georgetown College of Kentucky, 6-5. It was Dayton's first ever victory over Georgetown in four tries. On at least four weekends, Talbott coached the University of Dayton on a Saturday and the professional Triangles on a Sunday. On the weekend of November 13-14, 1920, Talbott coached two games for Dayton on Saturday, and one game for the Triangles on Sunday; winning one game with the University of Dayton, and the one with the Triangles.

It seems that coaching college football on Saturdays helped Talbott coach the Triangles on Sundays. The Triangles late season collapse occurred when Talbott's season with the University of Dayton was over.

At least initially in 1921, Talbott didn't continue his dual role as a head coach in college and the pros. Talbott remained the head coach of the Triangles, but didn't return to his position of head coach at the University of Dayton until the last game of the season. Talbott led the Triangles to a 4-4-1 record. In his only game coaching the University of Dayton in 1921, Talbott led the school to their first and only victory of the season; a 13-6 victory over John Carroll University.

After the 1921 season, Talbott left both the Dayton Triangles and the University of Dayton. After football, Talbott would go on to have a successful business career, as well as a successful military career. He clearly never shied away from dual roles in his life. Talbott eventually took over his family's business, becoming the president of the Talbott Corporation. Talbott also rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Air Force by the time he retired from the armed forces.

In 1947, Talbott founded the Nelson Talbott Foundation to support conservation programs, the arts, education, and human services.

Talbott led an extraordinary life, fitting for a man who completed an extraordinary feat in football; becoming the first head coach of a college football team, and an NFL team in the same season.

Note: Originally this article was entitled *Nelson "Bud" Talbott: The First Head Coach of a College and NFL Team in the*

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TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE

By Reggie Thomas

As some FCS teams entertain the thought of moving into FBS conferences, much is to be considered. Many programs improve their facilities, retain quality coaches for the long-term, and position themselves to recruit quality players consistently. Certainly, there are financial considerations and logistical demands that must be met for NCAA approval.

The Underdawg put together a few facts regarding FCS-to-FBS transition; and will include only teams that have played in a Min. of 3 years on FCS level

Same Season. A special thanks to Ralph Hickok for pointing out that Aldo Donelli was also a head coach for a pro and college football team in the same season. Donelli coached Duquesne and the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1941. Thank you for the correction. [from Joe Williams]

This story originally ran on Andy's website, SportsDelve.com and then on the *Leatherheads of the Gridiron* (a partner site with IFRA; its webmaster is IFRA member, Joe Williams.)
<http://www.leatherheadsofthegridiron.com/>

Check out these stats!

- **Number of teams that have moved from FCS to FBS-18**
- **Avg winning % of FCS teams before moving to FBS-.560**
- **Avg winning % of FCS teams after moving to FBS-.438**
- **Team with longest stint before FBS transition- Western Kentucky, 30 years**
- **Teams with shortest stint before FBS transition- Florida International and South Florida, 3 years**
- **Team with highest winning % as an FCS team before moving to FBS- Troy (.764)**
- **Team with highest winning % as an FCS team after**

moving to FBS- Boise St.
(.767)

- **Team with lowest winning % as an FCS team before moving to FBS-** Buffalo (.333)
- **Team with lowest winning % as an FCS team after moving to FBS-** Western Kentucky (.083)
- **FCS conference that has moved more teams to FBS-** Independents (7)
- **State with the most FCS teams that moved to FBS-** Florida, 3 (Florida International, Florida Atlantic and South Florida)
- **Who was the first team to move from FCS to the FBS?** Akron (1986)
- **Who was the most recent team to move from FCS to the FBS?** Western Kentucky (2008)
- **Which teams improved their winning % from FCS-to-FBS transition?** Boise St, Connecticut, South Florida
- **Success rate of FCS-to-FBS transition with teams having equal or better winning%-16%**
- **What is the Bowl History W-L record and winning %**

of FCS-to-FBS teams? 37-34 W-L, .521 (note: includes bowl games post FCS, not prior FCS as some teams dropped to FCS before going back to FBS)

- **Which FCS-to-FBS team has the best bowl game success?** Marshall (6-2 W/L, .75%)
- **Which FCS-to-FBS team has the most bowl game appearances?** Boise St (11)

Current FCS teams that are either committed or anticipating moving to FBS: Massachusetts, UTSA, South Alabama, Texas State, Villanova, Appalachian State, Jacksonville State, Georgia Southern, Lamar, Old Dominion, Georgia State.

The Underdawg, first of all is **NOT** about gambling ...but it is, instead, a new website/home-base for interesting news, info, stats, and trivia centered on **NCAA FCS Football**.

It distributes a weekly digest to subscribers intended to provide a quick view of such content and encourages feedback and contributions from its readers.

For additional information visit TheUnderdawg.com to subscribe and learn more.

Contact Reggie Thomas at Reggie@TheUnderdawg.com for NCAA Div-I FCS stats and history.

1893--The faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary have dealt a deadly blow to foot ball in that institution. Oct. 26 the seminary team was informed that they must cancel all dates for this season.

President Greene says that the game must be abolished, as it is beneath the dignity of a divinity student to play so rough a game.

Source: *The Sporting Life*

Bo Carter remembers the College Football Hall of Famers for the month of

August

- 1 (1929) Joe Palumbo, Beaver, Pa.
- 1-(d 2011) Bubba Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 2 (1901) Charley Caldwell, Bristol, Va.
- 2 (1905) Billy Nicks, Griffin, Ga.
- 2 (1933) Matt Hazeltine, Ross, Calif.
- 2 (1937) Billy Cannon, Philadelphia, Miss.
- 2-(d – 1992) Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 3 (1898) Gordon Locke, Denison, Iowa
- 3 (1932) Jackie Parker, Knoxville Tenn.
- 3 (1934) Don Holleder, Rochester, N.Y.
- 3 (1938) Maxie Baughan, Forkland, Ala.
- 3-(d – 1972) Vince Pazzetti, Bethlehem, Pa.
- 3-(d – 1977) Ralph Baker, Portland, Ore.
- 4 (1908) Frank Carideo, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.
- 4-(d – 1981) Jack Green, Nashville, Tenn.
- 4-(d - 2010) Gary Johnson, Shreveport, La.
- 5 (1940) Roman Gabriel, Wilmington, N.C.
- 5 (1946) Gary Beban, San Francisco, Calif.
- 5 (1952) Freddie Scott, Grady, Ark.
- 5-(d – 1978) Dutch Clark, Canon City, Colo.
- 5-(d – 1986) Les Lautenschlaeger, New Orleans, La.
- 6 (1902) Harry Wilson, Mingo Junction, Ohio
- 6 (1906) Ken Strong, West Haven, Conn.
- 6 (1907) Jerry Dalrymple, Arkadelphia, Ark.
- 6 (1920) Steve Lach, Altoona, Pa.
- 7 (1928) Ron Schipper, Zeeland, Mich.
- 7 (1945) Alan Page, Canton, Ohio
- 7-(d – 1962) Vince Stevenson, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 8-(d – 1987) Myles Lane, New York City
- 8-(d – 1988) Alan Ameche, Houston, Texas
- 9 (1899) Ed McGinley, Chester, Pa.
- 9 (1955) Doug Williams, Zachary, La.
- 9 (1967) Deion Sanders, Ft. Myers, Fla.
- 9-(d – 1970) John McEwan, New York, N.Y.
- 9-(d – 1972) Joe Skladany, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 9-(d – 1990) – Max Starcevich, Silverdale, Wash.
- 9-(d – 1999) Riley Smith, Mobile, Ala.
- 10 (1961) Billy Ray Smith, Fayetteville, Ark.
- 10 (1970) Gino Torretta, Pinole, Calif.
- 12 (1915) Alex Wojciechowicz, South River, N.J.
- 12 (1930) Jack Scarbath, Baltimore, Md.
- 14-(d – 1958) Henry “Red” Sanders, Los Angeles, Calif.**
- 14-(d – 1966) Duke Slater, Chicago, Ill.**
- 14-(d – 1985) Murray Shelton, Columbia, Md.**
- 14-(d – 1999) John Pingel, Palm Beach, Fla.**
- 14-(d – 2002) Kyle Rote, Baltimore, Md.**
- 15 (1929) Doug Porter, Memphis, Tenn.
- 15 (1950) Sam Cunningham, Santa Barbara, Calif.
- 15-(d – 1981) Lynn “Pappy” Waldorf, Berkeley, Calif.
- 16 (1862) Amos Alonzo Stagg, West Orange, N.J.
- 16 (1913) Bobby Wilson, Nacogdoches, Texas
- 16 (1921) Dick Wildung, Scotland, S.D.
- 16 (1924) Art Weiner, Newark, N.J.
- 16 (1930) Frank Gifford, Santa Monica, Calif.
- 16 (1935) Bill Glass, Texarkana, Texas
- 16 (1946) Ron Yary, Chicago, Ill.
- 16-(d – 1943) Albert Benbrook, Dallas, Texas
- 16-(d – 1947) Clint Wycoff, Buffalo, N.Y.
- 16-(d – 1951) Jimmy Leech, Hamden, Conn.
- 17 (1905) Raymond “Rags” Matthews, Ft. Worth, Texas

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18 (1890) Everett Bacon, Westbrook, Conn.
18 (1943) Cosmo Iacavazzi, Scranton, Pa.
18-(d - 1977) John Cain, Memphis, Tenn.
18-(d - 1994) John Weller, Princeton, N.J.
18-(d - 2010) Steve DeLong, Knoxville, Tenn.
18 (1951) Greg Pruitt, Houston, Texas
19 (1946) Bob Johnson, Gary, Ind.
19-(d - 1979) Walter Gilbert, Auburn, Ala.
19-(d - 1982) Fritz Crisler, Ann Arbor, Mich.
19-(d - 1985) Bobby Reynolds (Neb.), Lincoln, Neb.
20 (1908) Beattie Feathers, Bristol, Va.
20 (1917) Ed Molinski, Scranton, Pa.
20 (1927) John Rauch, Philadelphia, Pa.
20-(d - 1946) Fielding Yost, Ann Arbor, Mich.
20-(d - 1998) Fred Sington, Birmingham, Ala.
20-(d - 2010) Johnny Bailey, Houston, Tex.
21 (1928) Bud McFadin, Rankin, Texas
21 (1945) Willie Lanier, Clover, Va.
21 (1954) Archie Griffin, Columbus, Ohio
21 (1959) Jim McMahon, Jersey City, N.J.
22 (1878) Henry Seibels, Montgomery, Ala.
22 (1880) Bill Roper, Philadelphia, Pa.
22 (1899) Don Lourie, Decatur, Ala.
22 (1909) Mel Hein, Redding, Calif.
23 (1874) Bill Hickok, Harrisburg, Pa.
23 (1885) Howard Jones, Excello, Ohio
24 (1887) Albert Benbrook, Chicago, Ill.
24 (1893) Paul Des Jardien, Coffeyville, Kan.
24-(d - 1967) Mike McKeever, Montebello, Calif.

24-(d - 1973) Gaylord Stinchcomb, Findlay, Ohio
24-(d - 1978) Ernie Rentner, Glencoe, Ill.
24-(d - 1989) Dan Hill, Durham, N.C.
25 (1900) Chuck Carney, Chicago, Ill.
25 (1953) Doug English, Dallas, Texas
25 (1965) Cornelius Bennett, Birmingham, Ala.
26 (1876) Gary Cochran, Driftwood, Pa.
26 (1912) Aaron Rosenberg, Brooklyn, N.Y.
26 (1918) Harry Smith, Russellville, Mo.
26 (1928) Jerry Claiborne, Hopkinsville, Ky.
26 (1933) George Welsh, Coaldale, Pa.
26 (1952) Donnie Shell, Whitmire, S.C.
27 (1908) Frank Leahy, O'Neill, Neb.
27-(d - 1958) Bobby Marshall, Minneapolis, Minn.
28 (1945) Jim Lynch, Lima, Ohio
28-(d - 1967) Bruce Smith (Minn.), Alexandria, Minn.
29 (1896) George McLaren, Pittsburgh, Pa.
29 (1924) Clyde Scott, Dixie, La.
29 (1939) Bob Ferguson, Columbus, Ohio
29 (1950) Tommy Casanova, New Orleans, La.
29-(d - 1933) Frank Cavanaugh, Marshfield, Mass.
29-(d - 2001) Eric Tipton, Newport News, Va.
30 (1915) George Cafego, Whipple, W.Va.
30 (1940) Lance Alworth, Houston, Texas
30 (1955) Marvin Powell, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
30-(d - 1976) Merle Gulick, Ajijic, Mexico
30-(d - 1977) Erby Pinckert, Los Angeles, Calif.
31 (1906) Bill Spears, Jasper, Tenn.
31 (1918) Kenny Washington, Los Angeles, Calif.
31 (1952) Gary Johnson, Shreveport, La.

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IFRA Remembers

<Halls of Fame>

Theotis Brown and **Ernie Case** have been chosen to the **UCLA** Athletics Hall of Fame...John Petrus, Millersville University...Reggie Spearmon, Grand Valley State University... **Kenny Gamble** (Colgate) and **Gordie Lockbaum** (Holy Cross), the *Patriot League's 25th Anniversary Football Team*... Former **Kentucky** athletics director **Russell Rice** and quarterback **Bill Ransdell** will enter the UK

Athletics Hall of Fame this year. . . . Former football player **Lee Kirk** will enter the **Stephen F. Austin** Athletics Hall of Fame...Tony **Boselli**,

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Clarence Davis, Keyshawn Johnson and Adrian Young will enter the *USC Athletics Hall of Fame*. . . **Johnny Quinn** and **Bobby Way** will enter the *University of North Texas Athletics Hall of Fame*

<Deaths>

Pete Duranko, Notre Dame; age of 67...**Charles Kyeremeh**, a sophomore running back at the University of Maine; he was 20.... Sacramento State strength and conditioning coach and former Kalamazoo College (Mich.) head football coach **Terrance Brooks**, who played at Towson was 47. . . . Penn State radio broadcaster **Pat Boland**; he was 42... **Steve Trimble**, who played at Maryland; he was 53... Former Michigan player **James Maddock**; he was 76... Former USC player **Skip Thomas**, at age 61... Coach **Dave Maurer**, former **Wittenberg University** head coach, he was 79...*Southern Arkansas* athletics director **Jay Adcox**; he was 60. . . . former **Duke** football player **Art Gregory**; he was 71. . . . Former *Texas Tech* broadcaster **Jack Dale** at age 79...former Michigan State defensive player, Bubba Smith, at age 66...

<Awards>

Jack Youngblood (Florida) has been named the Charlotte Touchdown Club's *2011 Bronko Nagurski Legends Award* recipient.

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Foot Ball Players Get Rewards

WOULD you call-the men who played in the Iowa University and Northwestern game professionals because many of them played for something besides, their expenses. Prior to the game, Iowa City merchants got together a list; of rewards, for the players who made star plays during the game and nobody prevented the students from taking the prizes. Here are some of the things offered the players of the Iowa team: Fall suits, gloves, hats, scarfs, gold cuff links, shoes, free tonsorial work for the balance of the school term, season tickets to the leading theaters, etc.

Source: SPORTING LIFE NOVEMBER 1915...interesting Sidelights on College Foot Ball

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Caspar Whitney's review of the football season of 1895

"But the most gratifying showing of the year was made by the two National Academy elevens at West Point and Annapolis. No other institution in the United States more thoroughly demonstrates the mens

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sana in corpore sano in college sport than these two.

I cannot miss the opportunity of again saying all honor to the cadets, for in six years they have

developed their game to the rank of first class. Without gate money, without losing any time from prescribed academic duties, without suspicion of offering inducements to players to take a course at the Academy, they play a clean, sportsmanly, forceful game, and their record is an object lesson in honest, manly sport for sport's sake. Comparing the leading teams of the year, I should place them: Yale, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Harvard, West Point, Brown, Cornell.

Source: Outing 1902

* * *

Dickinson State leader closes in on NAIA football wins record Hank Biesiot needs just five wins to pass Frosty Westering for the most wins all-time

Hank Biesiot, head football coach at Dickinson State (N.D.)

By Jake Knabel, NAIA Sports Intern

When Hank Biesiot steps onto a football field, he feels 22 again. Never mind the fact that he has coached football for more than 40 years. That number seems completely irrelevant as he prepares for yet another season at the helm of Dickinson State (N.D.) football. The butterflies still churn within as the leaves turn and football Saturdays arrive once again.

"It's still a thrill," Biesiot said. "I still get that knot in my stomach as I get ready to go on the field. It's something that every player and

coach feels. There's nothing like that walk to the field right before game-time. I get the same feeling now as I got taking that walk in 1967."

However, 2011 offers Biesiot a chance to feel something different - such as what it's like to be on top of the NAIA coaching world. Only the retired Frosty Westering, who most recently coached at Pacific Lutheran (formerly of the NAIA) in Tacoma, Wash., tops the Blue Hawks legend. Westering's 256 NAIA victories stand just five in front of Biesiot's 251

triumphs, which have all come at Dickinson State.

Biesiot, who grew up in eastern North Dakota/western Minnesota, came to Dickinson, N.D., in 1972 with no prior connection to the town

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or the community. Fast forward to 2011 and one finds Biesiot has established himself as one of the most exemplary citizens in North Dakota.

"He's been a foundation of the community for many years," Dickinson State assistant coach Pete Stanton said. "He's been here for 40 years. What really speaks highly of him is if you went to the coffee shop and talked to him, you wouldn't even know he was a football coach. He might talk to you about hunting or politics. He's a big part of the community. Throughout the state, he's very well-known and respected."

Biesiot's gained that respect, in part, by being a consistent winner. In 35 seasons as head coach of the Blue Hawks, he's endured just two losing seasons and led his squad to 15 NAIA postseason appearances and 17 conference championships. Soon he will perhaps hold more coaching wins than any other NAIA football coach ever. What does such a feat mean to the selfless Biesiot?

"Nothing," Biesiot said. "Other than we would be closer to .500 this year. Most coaches don't look at the total

number of wins. Most of those are attributed to past coaches and players. The win I look forward to the most is the first win of the season. That means we won't lose every game.

"I haven't thought about (the record). I didn't even realize I was up there. What it does do is give recognition to all of the coaches and players over the years."

Biesiot may deflect any notion of feeling personal gratification for what is to come in 2011, but senior linebacker Jerel Hafner isn't afraid to express his own satisfaction for his head coach. Hafner wants to return the favor for a man that Hafner says has preached toughness while also showing he truly cares about each of the players and their families. In his final season at Dickinson State, Hafner has made it a priority to take Biesiot to the top of the wins list.

"For me personally, that's definitely one of the goals of the team," Hafner said. "If I could be part of it, it would be a true honor. As far as Coach Biesiot, I'm sure it's in the back of his mind, but he sure doesn't show it. It would be pretty cool to be part of that."

Frosty Westering, the man who Biesiot is about to pass, won't lose a wink of sleep over falling into second place. Like Biesiot, Westering used football as means to teach core values like loyalty, courage and religious devotion in the process of becoming an NAIA legend in his own

right. Along the way, Westering won three NAIA National Championships, has been the subject of multiple *Sports Illustrated* articles and has even written a book, *Make the Big Time Where You Are*.

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"I'd like to congratulate him big-time," Westering said. "I'd want him to know how proud I am that he has coached this many years and had so much success. And I'm sure he's influenced many young men in a positive way."

Ironically, it was Westering's Pacific Lutheran Lutes that kept Biesiot's Blue Hawks out of the 1991 national title game by a 47-25 score in what remains Biesiot's deepest run in the NAIA playoffs. Yet few will remember him as the coach without a national title, nor the coach with the most wins.

Stanton, now in his eighth season as an assistant under Biesiot, will remember the lessons he's learned from Biesiot.

"He's a classy person," Stanton said. "He has taught everyone to respect the bus driver, the custodian and the other team. Another word I'd use is consistency. He's never wavered in his philosophy or his style. He's only had two losing seasons his entire career. Class and consistency are the most important things I've learned from him."

Not only does Biesiot teach on the football field, he also teaches in the classroom. Biesiot got started as a teacher at Langdon High School in Langdon, N.D., in 1967 and hasn't stopped since. He continues to instruct classes like Football Theory, Sport Psychology and even a combination fly-fishing and archery class at Dickinson State.

The 66-year old Biesiot is not sure when his career will come to an end. He does not plan to stick around into his eighties, reminiscent of Penn State's Joe Paterno, "unless I get his salary," Biesiot joked. Instead, he looks forward to the days when he has more time to be a family man. Perhaps then he'll ponder his tenure as arguably the greatest coach in NAIA football history.

For now, Biesiot is still enjoying the ride.

"It's a treat and a privilege to do what I do," Biesiot said.

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In 1914...Following the suggestion of Walter Camp, teams were given the optional right to use a fourth official in their games if they desired. This official will be known as "field judge."

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Holman Received Biggest Gridiron Thrill Of Season

Many athletes heaved longer forward passes, this past football season and others made longer gallops across goal lines, but none received a greater thrill than did Allen Holman, Ohio State quarterback, when he saw his 28-yard toss settle into the arms of Wesley Fesler for the only touchdown that let the Buckeyes down Michigan, 7 to 0.

To Holman that particular play brought more funny little wrinkles chasing up and down his spine than any other play in which he has participated. It was particularly gratifying to thousands of football fans and to the Buckeye coaching staff And Michigan players fell for the trap Holman had laid for them.

The Buckeye quarterback had been passing considerably but had thrown nothing but short tosses to the left with the ball on Michigan's 30 yard line, Holman tossed another short one to the left and then coolly

calculated to shoot another pass looking just like the previous one but entirely different in execution.

It was a long pass this time and over to the right, to Fesler. Michigan was taken entirely by surprise as Fesler was completely isolated no Michigan back followed him to the spot in which he caught the toss and stepped over the goal line Holman's thrill in watching the play end so successfully was as gratifying as Fester's was in catching the toss to score the winning points.

For two years in succession Holman captained Ohio State in her initial game of the season. At the close of the 1929 campaign his mates elected him honorary captain of the season.

Source: *The Sheboygan Press, 1929*

Only a year before...

Expect Holman To Be Banished Has Played Football At Three Colleges

Chicago, Dec. 10— (A.P.)— Allan Holman, Ohio State's star quarterback, as well as Mayes McLain, Iowa's Cherokee Indian fullback ace, is apparently through with Big Ten football.

While McLain was the only one to be officially declared ineligible from further competition by the faculty committee because of the three-year player rule, it was regarded as a foregone conclusion by the committee and coaches that Holman, too would be banished.

The three-year rule, reaffirmed by the committee during the annual Big Ten sports conclave here Saturday limits any one to three

years of college athletic competition Holman played a season on the Parsons college football team, another with Iowa State and one at Ohio State. McLain played two seasons with the Haskell Indians and one with Iowa.

Source: *Decatur Review* 12-10-1928

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ANOTHER STAR KILLED BALTIMORE, Md., October 30.

Formal notification was received yesterday from the British War Office by members of his family of the death in action of John Prentiss Poe, Jr., of this city, a member of the "Black Watch" Scottish Regiment, of the British army. Poe was killed on September 25 last, the first day of the big drive by the allied forces on the German Tines near Loos, France. Poe first came into the limelight at Princeton University, where he played halfback for the foot ball teams of 1892, 1893 and 1894.

NEW RULES **A Plan Suggested to** **Prevent Teams**

His work on the gridiron became a matter of history. He was looked upon as one of the greatest foot ball players who ever foot stepped upon a foot ball field.

Afterward he was chosen as coach at Princeton. Poe had been away from Princeton only a few years when the Spanish-American War broke out. He joined the Fifth Maryland Regiment and went South with that regiment, but never got to the fighting line.

This chafed him so that after the regiment and was sent back to Baltimore, Poe enlisted in the United States Army for service in the Philippines.

Source: *The Sporting Life*, 1915

TCFH Editor's Note: The April issue of *The College Football Historian*, published a story of Poe's mother awarding a ceremonial cup to Board of Control at Princeton. The above story is the reason behind her gift.

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From Making Big Scores

NEW YORK, Oct. 10. It is believed that the day of tremendous foot ball scores by

strong teams against weak ones is passed, and it is also believed to be improbable that the present season will see any record-breaking in that direction. The reason for this will be found in the new rule adopted by the Intercollegiate Foot Ball Association. Up to this year the failure to kick a

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goal from a touch-down, the side whose goal had been attacked could only bring the ball out to its 25-yard line, and play was resumed there.

This, of course, gave the team hard pressed but little relief, as the contest was still carried on in dangerous proximity to its goal.

Side Lights on College Foot Ball

Big Scoring Games

FOOT BALL seems to be getting back to the old days of high scores.

Not at any time in recent years have there been so many contests in which the winning team has scored more than 90

This year, however, upon such failure to kick goal the ball goes to the middle of the field as at the beginning of the game. As the opposing team must line up ten yards from the centre line, this not only relieves the hard pressed defenders, but gives them the advantage of that ten yards.

The only other change of importance is the abolishing of the play known as the "punt out" after a touch-down for position from which to try for a goal. This play has fallen into disuse in late years and its elimination will not affect the game.

Source: THE SPORTING LIFE
1892

points on the opposition. This would indicate that foot ball coaches are fast getting grip on the new game and that when they do they are going ahead with rapid strides.

Indiana Normal ran up a total of 101 points against Waynesburg, on October 9, while in the West there were

three games in which the winning eleven tallied more than 75 points. Wisconsin piled, up an 85 score, Illinois 75; Michigan Aggies 76, and Vanderbilt, in the South, also scored 75.

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The Pennsylvania State College freshmen made a score of 91 against Conway Hall.

On the previous Saturday there was the same run of high scores, new records being set on that day. Osage, Ia. High

A Famous Star of the Past

Willie Heston, of Michigan, Compiled Record as a Halfback That Has Never Been Equaled—His Remarkable Point Total.

By Frank G. Menke

NEW YORK, November 22.—Time cannot dim the glory that is Willie Heston's; the onrushing years cannot efface the memories of the greatest halfback that America has ever produced.

School tallied 134 points, while shutting out Nashua High School and Illinois Wesleyan College defeated Hedding College, 100 to 0.

Yet strange as it may seem, while all of these scoring possibilities are evident, there have been any number of scoreless contests, while scores of 3 to 0 and 7 to 0 have been abundant, thus showing that with anything like evenly-matched teams, the scoring will not be excessive.

Source: SPORTING LIFE, 1915

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A decade and more has passed since the great Wolverine halfback hung up his uniform for the last time. Yet his deeds are as fresh in the minds of foot ball lovers as they were in the era when he was tearing lines to ribbons with his powerful, bull-like rushes. And the tales of Heston's triumphs will thunder down through the vales of history to echo and re-echo for the next generation—and the next—and the next.

Heston was the irresistible force—the human juggernaut. He hurled his compact, marvelous body into, the most powerful human walls that ever were produced and split them a sunder. Every team that played Michigan during the regime of Heston had orders to "Get Heston!" And none succeeded. Four men, six men, eight men, oftentimes

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threw themselves into the pathway of the charging Wolverine. And he crashed into—and through—those defenses as a bowling ball zips through the tenpins

HOW ECKERSALL, STOPPED HESTON

Only one man—Walter Eckersall, of Chicago—ever was able to stop Heston temporarily. He accomplished it with a trick, but Heston quickly thwarted it. "Ecky," like the other Michigan foes, first tried to halt the Heston rushes by tackling him as he came at him. And, of course, he failed.

"Don't try that any more." was Coach Alonzo Stagg's orders to Eckersall. "Hereafter tackle

Heston from behind. Let him get past you, if necessary. Then, because you are faster you can catch up to him. And throw yourself at the back of his legs."

Heston was "dumped" by Eckersall several times by that method. Fielding Yost and Heston quickly got together and mapped out a plan whereby the fleetest of the Michigan players was to do nothing else but "box" Eckersall every time a Michigan play was made. And from then on, when Eckersall tried to tackle Heston from behind he found himself blocked.

Heston, during his four years as a Michigander, scored 93 touchdowns for a total of 465 points. It is a record that has withstood the onslaught of all gridiron stars since then—an achievement that may rank foremost for all time.

HESTON'S "RUSH" RECORD

If all of Heston's gains were added together and divided by 110 yards—the touchdown distance in his day—they would show that Heston gained enough ground alone to score 300 touchdowns—and more.

An instance of his ground gaining power is shown in the recital of his work against Chicago in 1903. The entire

Wolverine squad gained 260 yards by rushing—and of this Heston alone gained 237 yards!

The Wolverine star never placed his own interest above

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those of his team. He ever was willing to sacrifice individual glory for that of his mates—and his team. Often during his amazing career, when he had earned the right to carry over the ball for a touchdown, he surrendered it to one of his mates.

HIS UNSELFISHNESS

The best illustration of this came in the famous 6-6 game that Minnesota and Michigan played. It was one of the few games Michigan failed to win during the four years Heston battled under the Wolverine standard. Michigan got the ball on its own 45-yard line. In twelve crashes into the tremendous Minnesota line the ball was carried over for a touchdown.

And Heston alone carried the ball on 11 of those charges. To score on Minnesota in that game—to batter through that supposedly impregnable line—was the greatest ambition of Heston's life. Foot ball experts declared that Heston couldn't do it.

With his 11 charges he carried that ball 57 yards and rested it then upon Minnesota's three-yard line. One more rush—and the ball would be over. One more chance to carry it and Heston's ambition would be realized. Just another crash into that line and Heston could have accomplished what many had called impossible. And Heston—did he ask to carry the ball? Did he insist upon finishing the charge he had started and earned on with much demoniacal.

No, Heston submerged his own desires. He remembered that Joe Maddock, one of his mates, too, had yearned for the joy and the glory of scoring on Minnesota.

And so he jumped over to the quarterback as the teams lined up for the last Wolverine charge, and whispered:

"Give the ball to Joe this time."

And the quarterback, although surprised, followed Heston's orders. Maddock took the ball, lunged for the line, and with Heston back of him and pushing with all his superb strength, went over for a
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touchdown, while the Michigan stands volleyed and thundered their plaudits for the man who had scored for Michigan—Joe Maddock.

Such a man was Willie Heston.

Source: *The Sporting Life* 1916

TCFH Editor's Note: *Mr. Maddock just recently passed away; as noted in IFRA Remembers*

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Daly Returns to West Point

Lieutenant Charles D. Daly, U.S.A., former Harvard and Army foot ball star, who is to act as head coach to the Army foot ball team again this year, arrived at West Point during the past week from his station on the Mexican border.

Source: *Sporting Life*, 1915

Side Lights on Foot Ball

What Score Boy's Mistake Cost

By Thomas D. Richter

CHICAGO fans who bet at the end of the first half of the Chicago-Wisconsin game that the Badgers would not run up a score of 30 points are tearing their hair and trying to devise a method of regaining their lost coin, for a post-mortem discloses the fact that Wisconsin scored only 29 points. When Withington's pupils put over their final touchdown a substitute rushed on to the Held and joined the Badgers just as Hancock was booting the ball through the goal posts. Capt. Jackson called the attention of referee Birch to the fact that Wisconsin had 12 men on the field and the goal was not allowed. The scoreboard boy saw the kick pass between the posts and pasted up a "30" for the Badgers, and there was no time to change the score before the final whistle blew. There were many bets on the score made during the third quarter, when Chicago took its brief spurt and the Midway students

paid when the score reached 30.

Source: The Sporting Life 1916, Side Lights on Foot Ball

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In 1906... A touchdown pass had to be completed short of the goal line and run across. A completion beyond the goal line was a touchback.

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Yost's Straight Talk

By Chandler D. Richter

WHILE in Philadelphia with the Michigan eleven, Coach Fielding Yost, of the Wolverines, became riled when someone asked him why Michigan was slipping in the foot ball world at a time when the student body was growing rapidly and built to suit the Yost style of attack. The famous coach unburdened himself of a few pet ideas which are more truth than poetry.

Yost said: "Everybody wonders why schools with five and six thousand students should be losing games to colleges with half that number to pick the foot ball team from. I say it is due to the rule which bars freshmen from the 'varsity team. The fellows who like to play foot ball would rather go to a smaller college

than remain out of foot ball for one season.

I don't think many of the colleges will stand for slack eligibility rules in regard to study nowadays, and the rise of the little fellows has been accomplished on merit and aided by the rules of the larger colleges. A foot ball player is of little use to a team unless he loves the game itself, and not the notoriety and publicity which he gains from playing and the fellows who are passing up the larger colleges because they don't want to lose that first year are naturally fellows with great natural ability and a love for the game.

Speaking of the 5000 student body, you can have it and all the material there is in it, but I'll take 15 real foot ball players and trust to getting the second string out of a student body of 25 or less. Another aid to the smaller colleges is the immediate engagement of these natural foot ball stars as coaches as soon as they graduate. They are students of the new game. They love their work and the men under them appreciate and there is always harmony. There was a time when the coaching at a few Institutions was so much superior to that of the others that they just naturally swept everything before them for years, but it is different now."

Source: The Sporting Life 1915

"The World of Football"

The dream of K. E. Davis, graduate manager of the University of Pittsburgh, comes true this Fall when his college puts in force the rule barring freshmen from the "varsity teams.

Source: Sporting Life 1916

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Bicycle Football...in 1895

BALL WORK

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*Where Foot Ball and
Cycling Formed an
Agreeable Mixture Society
Tries a New Way to Make
the Repairer Love Them.*

Brooklyn, April 1. Football on bicycles is the latest athletic craze in Brooklyn, and several interesting games have been played by members of the Brooklyn Cycle Club in the old Clermont Avenue Rink.

Football on bicycles is an absolute novelty. So far as the members of the Brooklyn Cycle Club know, nothing of the sort has ever been attempted before.

The Cycle Club is Brooklyn's latest society diversion. It was organized late in

February by seven young men of that social section known as the "Hill," purely as an experiment, to see if the wheel could not be made to occupy some of the dull Lenten hours.

THE RESULT

has exceeded their fondest hopes. The club now has over two hundred subscribing members, and many of the tickets being family subscriptions at least five hundred people use the old rink hall, which is now turned into a ring.

The club is modeled to some extent upon the Michaux Club of New York, but it far exceeds that organization in the originality of its entertainments.

The hall is open at all times, but Tuesday and Saturday evenings are the club nights. On Tuesday there is the old fashioned music ride as practiced in the riding schools. Saturday is devoted to novel amusements, the programme (sic) being changed each week. There is fancy an trick riding of every kind, a recent novelty being an obstacle race, with one of its difficulties consisting of riding at full speed up and

Bicycle foot ball is the hit of the season. Its trial performance came off on a recent Saturday night. The

sport combines cycle dexterity with cleverness in foot ball maneuvers.

A special set of rules have of course been compiled. They only differ from the rules of the Association game in their simplicity, and in that they only allow points for goals kicked or thrown and not for touchdowns. Certain other modifications of lesser importance have been made. The goals are 90 feet apart, that being the exact length of the old rink. The strips of canvas that correspond to posts, and between which the

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ball must be put in order to score, are six feet apart.

Three men line up on a side.

TWO ARE RUSHERS, and the other is goal-keeper. All stand dismounted at the walls, with the ball at rest exactly in the centre of the ring, 45 feet from each end. The ball used is the regular Association pigskin.

At a signal the players mount and ride at speed towards the ball. A kick, a push of the hand, or a shove along with the wheel, dribbling, punting, any method of propulsion whatever, is allowed.

The ball must not be carried, nor can a player move it

while he is dismounted an important provision, as tumbles and collisions are frequent.

Two halves of ten minutes each, with five minutes rest between, are played.

The style of team play adopted the other night was of this order: One man rode forward, his companion moving almost at right angles behind him. From this point of vantage, when the ball was pushed back by the enemy, he would speed for it. Many brilliant stops were made by the wheel alone.

Now six riders would be widely separated and scurrying in every corner of the ring; now four would crash together in a bunch and every one meet with an upset.

IF THE CLUB DID

not have a master cycle mechanic constantly on hand to put in new spokes and adjust dismantled wheels the games would be ruinous to the machines. Little real damage was done, nevertheless, when the terrific pace of riding, the sudden twists and turns and the pedaling with one leg while actually kicking the pigskin are considered. The chief interest of the game is in the fine opportunities it offers for pretty and skilful interference. There is little question of the game's popularity.

The first game was played by the six instructors of the club, the teams being captained by Darmer for the Easts and Sherman for the Wests.

They made an effective picture in their brilliant uniforms of crimson jerseys, bearing the letters "B. C. C." across the bosoms; gray coats, knickerbockers and caps and dark crimson stockings.

Now that the game has proved thoroughly practicable teams

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of the club members will be put in the ring for practice. The club has already half a dozen excellent "rough riders," and they will be made up into two teams.

Source: Sporting Life 1895

College Football Historian Mel Smith commenting on the above:

First, that is a great description of bicycle football in 1895. You also can find mention of 'velocipede football' played a couple times before 1880. I remember reading somewhere in the northeast about this and wondering how could anyone play football using those huge big front wheels, with that very small rear wheel together!

➤ **IFRA**
currently
has 363
members

* * *

FOOT BALL THE COLLEGIATE ASSOCIATION

*A Number of Changes in the Rules—
A Provisional Schedule of Games*

The Intercollegiate Foot Ball Association held a meeting at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, N. Y., Oct. 10. Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Wesleyan colleges were represented.

The Harvard delegates had come down to inform the convention that the faculty there required the students to abstain from the game for one year at least. On the adoption of the amended rules they withdrew.

The first point settled was that of referees. As the rule requiring two judges has been done away with this year, Baker, the old Princeton player, will act as referee in the game between Princeton and the

University of Pennsylvania, and Walter C. Camp, Yale's famous football authority, has been invited to act in the rest of the games.

On account of the uncertainty of the date of the Yale-Princeton game, as the Princeton trustees will not meet until Nov. 10 to decide whether they will allow their students to participate in the annual contest on the Polo Grounds, the schedule is in an uncertain state. It was provisionally arranged as follows:

- Nov. 7, University of Pennsylvania vs. Wesleyan in New York.

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- Nov. 14, Yale vs. loser of the game of Nov. 7 in Philadelphia or New Haven.
- Nov. 14, Princeton vs. winner of Nov. 7 in Philadelphia or Princeton.
- Nov. 21, Yale vs. Princeton in New Haven, or Yale vs. winner of Nov. 7 in Philadelphia or New Haven.
- Nov. 21, Princeton vs. loser of Nov. 7 in Philadelphia or Princeton.

Foot Ball at Its High Point

*By Robert C. Folwell
Coach University of Pennsylvania
Foot Ball Team of 1916*

- Nov. 26, Yale vs. winner of Nov. 7 in New York, or
- Yale vs. Princeton

Source: **FOOTBALL** *Sporting Life*, 1886

Worth Noting: From Mel Smith noted early college football historian:

(He was asked if this format was not really college football's playoff...)

I really believe it was just a league schedule in 1885, like all the rest of the 1880s to 1893.

Harvard had just cancelled football for 1885, so they allowed Wesleyan & Penn into the league as replacements.

Here is how the actual league 'playoff' was played:

Nov 7 - Wesleyan-Penn 25-18
Nov 14 - Yale-Penn 53-5 & Princeton-Wesleyan 76-0
Nov 21 - Yale-Princeton 6-5 (for first place)
Nov 26 - Yale-Wesleyan 61-0 & Princeton-Penn 57-0

If Wesleyan and Penn had won their Nov 14th games, it would have caused a riot I'm sure.

Only Yale or Princeton was really supposed to win.

* * *

FOOT BALL NOTES

The Georgia Tech eleven trimmed a rival by the phenomenal score of 222 to 0, and there was a lot of talk about it in the

University of Pennsylvania training house recently.

"We should play that Georgia Tech team; they would be quite an attraction at

Franklin Field," said Senator Charles Wharton.

"No, Dr. Wharton." spoke up "By" Dickson, end coach. "We should play that team which got licked, and we might better that 222 score; at least you will recall that this is the day of safety first."

Source: Sports Life, 1916