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Book Report: Gridiron Glory

By Randy Snow

In the 2005 book, *Gridiron Glory*, authors Barry Wilmer and Ken Rappoport tell the story of the Army-Navy football rivalry from its beginnings in 1890 through the 2004 season.

Football was a relatively new sport in the late 1800's. The first intercollegiate football game was played just 21 years earlier in 1869 between Rutgers and Princeton. In those days, football was more like the game of Rugby than what we know it as today. There was no forward passing, just running, blocking and kicking.

The first game between the two service academies was played on November 29, 1890 at West Point. It came about when some players from the Navy team challenged Army to a game. Navy had been playing football since 1879. An Army cadet by the name of Dennis Mahan

Michie, who had played football before, accepted the challenge. Since Michie's father was a member of the academic board at West Point, the game was approved. Michie hastily put together a team for the game, but none of the other Army players that year had ever played football before. When the Navy team arrived for the game, they marched to the school from the ferry boat station. Along the way they found a goat and decided to bring it along with them as their mascot. A goat has been the symbol of Navy athletics ever since.

The first Army-Navy game was played during a time even before the use of leather helmets. Protecting one's head consisted of nothing more than a thick head of hair and a wool stocking cap. During that first game, the Army team wore caps that were back and orange while the Navy team wore red and white caps.

The teams wore no shoulder pads or any other kind of padding at all in those days either. Navy won the game 24-0.

The very next year, however, Army fielded a much better team and beat Navy, 32-16. The rivalry was officially born.

In 1893, the teams played before a crowd of 10,000 spectators at

Annapolis. Navy beat Army 6-4. But during the game, an Army General and a Navy Admiral got into a heated argument over the game and challenged each other to a duel. President Grover Cleveland was so angry over the behavior of the officers at the game that he cancelled the annual contest after just four games. Navy led the series 3-1.

It was not until 1899, six years later, that the Army-Navy game resumed, this time at a neutral site. The game was played at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Army won that game 17-5.

In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt began the tradition of sitting on one side of the stadium during the first half of the game and then on the other side for the second half. Even though he was a fan of the Army, he didn't want to show favoritism for either team. In 1905 there were many deaths involving college football players because of the rough nature of the game. President Roosevelt threatened to ban the game if changes were not made. The forward pass was adopted in 1906 as a way of spreading the players out on the

field and not having them all concentrated into one massive pile all the time. The new rules also outlawed the Flying Wedge formation, which was responsible for many player injuries.

During a 1909 game between Army and Harvard at West Point, a cadet by the name of John Byrne was severely injured on the field. He was carried off the field and died from his injuries the next day at the age of 21. Army cancelled the last four games of the season, including the game against Navy.

The 1915 Army-Navy game featured a change to the uniforms. Players wore numbers for the first time to identify themselves. The entire 1917 season was cut short due to World War I. The Army-Navy series resumed in 1919 and the game that year was played at the Polo Grounds in New York.

In 1926, the teams played before a record crowd of 110,000 fans at Soldier Field in Chicago. It was the first event ever at the newly built stadium and a dedication ceremony took place prior to kickoff. The game ended in a 21-21 tie and is considered one of the greatest games ever in the series.

The 1926 game also featured brothers on opposite sides of the field. Chuck Born played for the Army team and his brother, Arthur, played for the Navy. The game was cancelled in 1928 and 1929 because of disagreements over eligibility requirements at the two academies.

When the series resumed once again in 1930, the game was played at Yankee Stadium in New York.

The 1941 game featured a player by the name of Bob Woods, who played for Navy. However, he was expelled from the school due to academic problems. But he was back in the game the next season after being accepted at West Point and played for the Army in 1942.

The 1940's were an incredibly successful decade for Army. The team boasted not one, but two Heisman Trophy winners and two college football national championships. Felix "Doc" Blanchard won the Heisman in 1945 and his teammate, Glenn Davis, won the award in 1946. They were known as "Mr. Inside" and "Mr. Outside" respectively. In the three years the two shared the Army backfield together (1944-1946), they never lost a game. The only blemish was a 0-0 tie with Notre Dame in 1946. Army's back-to-back college football national championships occurred in 1944 and 1945.

After the 1944 game, Army head coach Earl "Red" Blaik received the following telegram; "The greatest of all Army teams. Stop. We have stopped the war to celebrate your magnificent success." It was from General Douglas McArthur.

The first time that the Army-Navy game was televised live on television was in 1951. That was also the year

that a major cheating scandal rocked West Point. Ninety cadets, including thirty-seven football players, were dismissed from the academy including the son of the Army coach, Robert Blaik. Coach Blaik was ready to resign in the wake of the scandal, but he was persuaded to stay by General McArthur. Blaik remained at West Point through the 1958 season.

In 1958, Blaik would coach a third Heisman Trophy winner at Army in running back Pete Dawkins. Navy also had its own pair of Heisman winners. There was running back Joe Bellino in 1960 and quarterback Roger Staubach in 1963.

The 1963 Army-Navy game was postponed for a week following the assassination of President Kennedy.

When the game was finally played on December 7, a new innovation in sports broadcasting called instant replay debuted for the first time. A former Army cadet by the name of Tony Verna, who was a sports director for CBS television, had come up with a way to show the previous play again while the game was still going on, a replay. As with most new things, however, the replay equipment did not work for most of the game and was only used once during the entire game. It was used to reshow a touchdown play by the Army in the fourth quarter.

Today, instant replay is something we take for granted, but it made its first appearance ever during an Army-Navy game.

In the 70's and 80's, both teams struggled on the field. There were many years when the two teams posted losing records and interest in the Army-Navy game fell. President Gerald Ford attended the game in 1974, but it was not until 1996 that another Commander-in-Chief, Bill Clinton, actually attended the game.

In 1984, Navy running back Napoleon McCallum broke his leg early in his senior season. He was red-shirted and was allowed to play for a fifth year in 1985 (past his graduation date) which was something that had never happened at either academy before. In 1986, the Los Angeles Raiders selected him in the fourth round of the NFL Draft. He played for the Raiders that season and still performed his naval duties while stationed at Long Beach, California. But that only lasted one season. When a new Secretary of the Navy took command, he revoked the special accommodations that allowed McCallum to play professional football. McCallum was able to rejoin the Raiders in 1990 after completing his five-year commitment to the Navy and he remained on the team until an injury ended his career in 1994.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 however, interest in the game has begun to return. Many see the game as more than just a football game now. It is now looked at as more of a celebration of those who serve, and

those who will soon be serving their country. Something we can all appreciate.

Prior to the 1992 Army-Navy game, the series was tied 43-43-7. Navy won the 2004 game to tie the series once again at 49-49-7. This year's game will be played on December 12, 2009 at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, home of the NFL Philadelphia Eagles. This will be the 110th meeting between the two service academies with Navy leading the all-time series by just four games, 53-49-7. Navy won last year's game 34-0.

The game has been played at 15 different stadiums since its inception, but mainly in the Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore areas. The game was even played at the Rose Bowl in 1983.

In today's world of 24-hour sports coverage on TV, radio and the Internet, it is hard for the average fan to identify with teams like Army and Navy, whose players are not turned into household names by the media. Everyone knows who the quarterbacks are at teams in the Big Ten, SEC and ACC conferences and what they did or didn't do in last week's "big" games. But the players at the military academies have a much higher calling awaiting them when they graduate, and that is the key word, graduate. You don't hear of juniors at the military academies leaving school early every year to enter the NFL Draft. They graduate and become commissioned officers in the U.S. military, leaders charged

with insuring the security of our nation.

They may not have their highlights shown on *SportsCenter* hundreds of times each day, but they will always remember what they did during the biggest college football game of their lives, the Army-Navy game.

* * *

Ideas for Christmas Presents for the College Football Fan on your list...
Books written by IFRA members

➤ Tom Benjey

- **Oklahoma's Carlisle Indian School Immortals**, \$24.99, hardback
- **Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs:** Jim Thorpe & Pop Warner's Carlisle Indian School football immortals tackle socialites, bootleggers, students, moguls, prejudice, the government, ghouls, tooth decay and rum, \$17.95, softcover
- **Keep A-goin': the life of Lone Star Dietz**, \$19.95 softcover, \$32.95 hardback
- **Pop Warner's Single-Wing Trilogy**, \$35.00 as a set directly from Tuxedo Press
- **A Course in Football for Players and Coaches: Offense**, \$10.00, softcover
- **A Course in Football for Players and Coaches**, \$15.00, softcover

- **Football for Coaches and Players**, \$17.00, softcover

All books can be ordered by any bookseller, are all available through on-line booksellers

➤ John Dayne

We have a new book that was published in September concerning the history of football in South Carolina. The title is: **The History of College Football in South Carolina: Glory On The Gridiron** by Fritz Hamer and John Daye. The cover price is \$19.99 and can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Books-A-Million for less than the cover price. I have some copies for the cover price with free shipping and I can be contacted at jdaye@sc.rr.com.

➤ Patrick Garbin

- **About Them Dawgs! Georgia Football's Memorable Teams and Players** (The Scarecrow Press) is a compilation of what the author considers UGA football's 24 most memorable seasons in nearly 400 pages packed with fascinating details, comprehensive records and statistics, and extensive information on Georgia players, legends, and lore.
- **In The 50 Greatest Plays in Georgia Bulldogs Football History** (Triumph Books), the program's greatest plays are recounted, detailed, and diagrammed.
- **Then Vince Said to Herschel... The Best Georgia Bulldog Stories Ever Told** (Triumph Books)—a collection of approximately 120 game recaps, memorable moments, and entertaining stories spanning the first 115 years of Georgia football (1892-2006).

Email the author at book@patrickgarbin.com or visit his website www.patrickgarbin.com or blog www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com and

receive one or both books at a substantial discount off the retail price. Any of the books purchased in this manner will be signed by the author if desired.

➤ **John Hirn**

Book Name- **Aggies to Rams: The History of Football at Colorado State University**

\$45.00 with 80% of net profits donated to CSU Athletic scholarship funds.

Available at the CSU bookstore through a link on my website www.coloradoaggies.com

➤ **Adam Jones**

Rose Bowl Dreams: A Memoir of Faith, Family and Football

The book is available at Amazon.com and at all major booksellers and is now available in paperback from Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press.

www.rosebowldreams.com

Contact the author at rosebowldreams@mac.com

➤ **Tex Noel**

Stars of an Earlier Autumn If you were ever curious about the accomplishments of players and teams from the early days of college football; then this book will satisfy that mystery for you. The book is a comprehensive college football record/fact book covering the first 68 years (1869-1936) of the sport's existence. It has Top 10 player and team statistical accomplishments; annual player leaders. It also has members of the College Football Hall of Fame and Citizens Savings Hall of Fame; bowl leaders and pictures of players and coaches. (For additional information on the book, contact Tex.)

The book can be purchased directly from Amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0025UOR34/sr=1-1/qid=1244273912/ref=olp_product_details?ie=UTF8&me=&qid=1244273912&sr=1-1&seller=

➤ **Mel Smith**

Title: **EVOLVEMENTS OF EARLY AMERICAN FOOT BALL: THROUGH THE 1890/91 SEASON**

This book is a 724 page revision/extension to the author's first book and includes many more games found under the name of foot ball played up through the 1890/91 season. The games are separated by three major styles in their time. The kicking game/association football/soccer is the original style of foot ball. The second form of foot ball is the carrying game/Boston rules game/American rugby game/English rugby union game/rugby. The third form of foot ball is the American collegiate game/American rugby football/football. By the 1905 period these games are known as soccer, rugby and football. All games are divided into three groups: colleges, independent clubs and high schools; plus divided into two and three divisions by seasons. There also is a section with early leagues/conferences. Three appendices list short histories and the types of foot ball played by most of the teams found in the book.

The book can be obtained at the publisher by going to:

www.authorhouse.com/bookstore/ItemDetail.aspx?bookid=50561

AUTHORHOUSE, 1663 Liberty Drive, Suite 200, Bloomington, IN 47403.

Book Order Dept. Tele. 888-280-7715; Fax. 812-961-3134. Shipping by UPS.

➤ **Bill Traugher**

I have a book coming out about February called **Nashville Sports History: Stories From the Stands**. There are a few football stories that include Vanderbilt, Fisk University and the first football game played in Nashville in 1885 (also in the South as reported in the newspaper of that era). But it includes Nashville baseball, basketball, golf, auto racing, horse racing and hockey. The book is 127 pages and a paperback and retails for \$19.99. When published it can be purchased on www.historypress.com.

For additional information contact, WLTraughber@aol.com

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Homer Martin asks...

Should High (School) Games count in the total wins of a college team, or should they all be looked at as exhibition games?

I would like for today's football historians to work on a line of what should be counted as a football game and what should not be counted.

Look at Michigan's all time wins and there is a number of non-football wins counted, as there are with a number of other schools.

* * *

Championship Game Schedule

Dec. 12-NCAA Div. II National Championship Game-Florence, Ala. (ESPN)

Dec. 18- NCAA FCS National Championship Game- Chattanooga, Tenn. (ESPN)

Dec. 19- NCAA Div. III National Championship Game- Salem, Va. (ESPN)

Dec. 19- NAIA National Championship- Rome, Ga. (CBS College)

Jan. 7 - Citi BCS National Championship Game, Pasadena, Calif., (ABC)

* * *

Notre Dame's First Bowl Trip Was One For the Ages

The following excerpts are from the award-winning book, **Loyal Sons: The Story of The Four Horsemen and Notre Dame Football's 1924 Champions** (2008, Great Day Press, 288 p.) by Jim Lefebvre. Jim is the founder and editor of the online magazine **Forever Irish**, at www.NDFootballHistory.com.

Knute Rockne's "wonder team," led by the Four Horsemen and the Seven Mules, ripped through the regular season with a 9-0 mark, before heading to southern California for a January 1, 1925 meeting with Pacific coast champion Stanford at the Rose Bowl. It would be no ordinary trip, but rather a three-week celebration

of this special group of young men. In a time of widespread anti-
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Catholicism, the Irish were becoming a source of intense pride for Catholics across the U.S.

The train trip began from Chicago Dec. 20, with lengthy stops in Memphis, New Orleans, Houston and Tucson en route to Pasadena. The return trip started with several days in the Bay area, followed by celebratory stops in Salt Lake City, Denver, Cheyenne and Lincoln, Nebraska, before returning to Chicago and finally campus.

When Knute Rockne stepped off the train in Tucson, he looked up at a bright blue sky and broke into a wide grin, rubbing his hands together in anticipation. Finally they had encountered the mild weather he had hoped for. Minutes later, after a member of the welcoming committee gave him the schedule of receptions, dinners and banquets, his mood darkened. Rockne thought that his club was already showing the physical and psychological effects of too many feasts on the trip and that the players needed a different regimen. His hosts explained that special care was being taken to feed his players healthy food and allow them plenty of rest, and he again smiled and gave his approval....

Originally, there was no practice scheduled for Sunday, but Rockne decided to add one to make the best use of the good weather and available time. "We have been giving

alibis for four days," the coach scolded his players. "We are going to get down to business. We've got a reputation to uphold and we are going to win from that coast gang." After the session, Rockne expressed satisfaction with the workout, saying his players were returning to form.

In Glenn Scobey "Pop" Warner of Stanford, the Irish would face one of the most experienced, accomplished and innovative coaches in college football history. The wily veteran had seen almost everything in his 30 years as a college coach – and much he had developed himself. The spiral pass, numbered plays, the dummy scrimmage, the double-wing formation, the unbalanced line were all the creative work of Warner.

Pop Warner had amassed a record of 60-12-4 in the previous nine seasons at Pitt, and in coming to Palo Alto, he inherited one of the great talents of the game – fullback Ernie Nevers. The great back was frequently injured in 1924, but was ready to go in the Rose Bowl despite two sore ankles. Warner had assembled a huge body of information on Notre Dame's formations and tendencies, prompting one commentator to write, "Never before did a coach have as much information about a team as has Warner. The intelligence section of the United States expeditionary force during the World war...was a mere amateur compared to Warner's volunteer informants."

Football fans were now pouring into Pasadena and environs. Those still wishing to find a ticket descended

on the Stanford headquarters in the hopes, against all odds, of finding
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one. A special train filled with Notre Dame alumni and Knights of Columbus members from the San Francisco area headed south on Monday evening. A special from Chicago carrying Notre Dame alumni and fans....rolled into town Tuesday. One report said the travelers "have plenty of money, given them by Notre Dame enthusiasts back home, to wager on the result." Stanford backers demanded 2-to-1 odds, though the "experts" were making the Irish an 8-to-5 favorite.

Stanford was expected to have the edge in color and student support. There would be a full rooting section including 1,100 Stanford students, equipped with brilliantly-colored cards and organized stunts. A 72-piece Stanford band was preparing to march in the Tournament of Roses parade and to accompany the rooting section at the game. Notre Dame would need to rely mainly on its support within the general admission audience as well as the attending alumni....The Irish had support from many quarters. Hundreds of alumni of various eastern and Midwest schools purchased blocks of tickets in adjoining sections and planned to cheer for Notre Dame.

For millions of fans across the country, the game would enter their homes via radio broadcasting, with four stations providing coverage. A

direct wire from the field in Pasadena to the WGN studios in Chicago was to be relayed to WCBS in New York, resulting in "the first time in radio history that Eastern stations have broadcast direct a Pacific coast event." Across the Midwest, telegraph offices in countless towns and cities planned to remain open on the holiday to receive reports from Pasadena. By all accounts, the game would be the most widely followed in the history of football.

A huge crowd greeted the Irish upon their arrival in Los Angeles, including world heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey. Fans strained to get a look at the "four horsemen," the "seven mules" and their teammates. The players were hustled into waiting autos for the ride to their headquarters at the Maryland Hotel. There, another rousing reception awaited the squad, and people jammed the lobby day and night hoping to see any of the lads in person. Chicago's Walter Eckersall, in his dispatches back to Chicago, noted that "never before in the history of football along the Pacific seaboard has so much interest been shown in a pending gridiron struggle." The game would be seen by a capacity crowd of 53,000, and "if the stadium was larger, double that number of tickets could have been sold."

January 1, 1925 began in customary fashion in Pasadena with the annual Tournament of Roses parade, a colorful assemblage of pageantry attracting tens of thousands of viewers to the city's

streets. Throughways were clogged with traffic for hours after the last of
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the floats finished the route. Despite that, the 53,000 seats of the Rose Bowl stadium in the Arroyo Seco valley were filled by 1:45 p.m., a half hour before the scheduled kickoff. An estimated 10,000 cars were parked nearby.

In the hills surrounding the valley, thousands more onlookers took their spots alongside the eucalyptus trees. In the distance, the snow-capped San Gabriel mountains stood sentinel over the scene. Down below, the Rose Bowl's grass field gleamed in the brilliant sunshine. The soft breeze created perfect comfort. It was, said one observer, all the Chamber of Commerce could have hoped for.

Up until game time, Rockne had been vague about who he planned to start. But he continued the season's strategy of starting the Shock Troops – a complete second unit meant to take some of the energy out of the opposition's starters. They kept Stanford off the scoreboard on its first possession, even nailing Nevers for a loss on a fake double-pass.

The Shock Troops had held, and now it was time for the regulars. The crowd roared as they saw the "four horsemen" and "seven mules" take the field. On the first play from the Irish 20, Don Miller took the snap and started around left end, as he had so many times during the season. This time, though, he lost

control of the ball and Stanford's Johnston recovered on the Irish 17, sending the red-clad rooters into hysteria. Nevers plowed to the 13. The mighty fullback churned for two yards to the 11. With Walsh, Kizer and Weibel on alert, Cuddeback tried to go around end, but failed. On fourth down, Cuddeback made the 20-yard placekick for a 3-0 Cardinal lead.

The Irish then drove to the Stanford 5, only to be stopped. On a fourth-down pass attempt, Stuhldreher was clobbered, and lay crumpled on the turf. Shortly after, tackle Joe Bach suffered an injury the Irish believed to have been caused by a steel brace worn on a Stanford player's knee. The Irish, with Stuhldreher limping badly, stiffened their resolve, and drove to their first touchdown, with Layden plowing over for a 6-3 lead. But the Cardinal continued to press.

Everything old "Pop" tried seemed to be working. He was especially fond of plays that kept Cardinal backs wide in the backfield for a pass, then upfield once they had the ball. But the Irish were spotting the pattern, and it matched what Coach Madigan of St. Mary's had told them. On a third-and-five from deep in Irish territory, Nevers faded and attempted a cross-field pass. Elmer Layden anticipated this play and perfectly timed a leap between two Cardinal targets. The ball hit his shoulder and bounced a few feet over his head. But Layden kept his eye on the ball, snared it in his arms and continued running. With his sprinter's speed, Layden dashed into an open field. Within seconds, there

was only a Blue-jerseyed horseman accompanying him. Layden waltzed *The College Football Historian-11-*

into the end zone to complete a 78-yard play.

Frenzied Notre Dame backers jumped and hugged. Crowley made the kick and the Irish led, 13-3.

Early in the second half, ND still leading 13-3, Stanford bobbled a punt by Layden. Solomon dove for the ball but Chuck Collins brushed him aside, and Irish end Ed Hunsinger flew past, picking up the ball and racing 20 yards into the Cardinal end zone. Another huge Stanford miscue had resulted in Notre Dame's 20-3 lead. However, Stanford had far too much pride to lie down. Nevers, like a human battering ram, led another charge downfield, and threw a short TD pass to pull Warner's troops to within 20-10 heading into the final quarter.

Warner's crew had ten points to make up in 15 minutes of play. The next few minutes would be critical. Stanford's Baker made the first big play, stepping in front of a Layden pass at the Irish 25. The Cardinal, now playing with the confidence of a champion, drove relentlessly.

Nevers made three yards over right tackle, then three more on the left side. On fourth-and-one from the 10, the Cardinal star drove for four yards to the six.

By now the brilliant sun had dropped behind the mountains and

the chill of nightfall hung over the stadium. On each play, the throngs roared. A Stanford touchdown here could cut the lead to three points. Nevers had to have the ball. He dragged Irish tacklers for four yards to the 2. Another play gained a yard. Nevers made a half-yard dash – fourth down inside the 1-yard line. Adam Walsh encouraged his mates as they bunched together on the Irish goal line. They had a pretty good idea of who was headed their way. Nevers took the snap, smacked into the ND wall and fell forward. Harry Stuhldreher ignored the piercing pain in his ankle and drove his 152-pound frame into the pile. The stack of gridders was untangled and revealed the football – less than six inches short of the goal line. Notre Dame ball. Stanford hearts sank.

Stanford's last-ditch comeback effort was thwarted by two more ND interceptions, first by Crowley and then another returned 63 yards for a TD by Layden, providing the final 27-10 margin.

The gun sounded and the battle of the ages was history. Notre Dame had survived the knockout punches of a great opponent, made the most of its opportunities and capped its most memorable season to be truly crowned with glory.

* * *

**ESPN'S ALL-TIME
GREATEST COLLEGE
FOOTBALL TEAM**

By Patrick M. Premo

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PART II: THE RESULTS

In the last issue, I introduced “ESPN Classic’s ALL-TIME GREATEST COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF” which was conducted in December of 2006.

I also provided the results of the polled audience. Now, using my **FAST-ACTION COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME**, I will “replay” the tournament. Here are the quick results.

ROUND ONE:

COTTON BOWL:

1947 Notre Dame 27
1947 Michigan 28

1983 Nebraska 17
2002 Ohio St. 20

1999 Florida St. 27
1983 Miami, FL 24

1995 Nebraska 38
1959 Syracuse 30

SUGAR BOWL:

2001 Miami, FL 28
1938 TCU 20

1988 Notre Dame 31
1971 Oklahoma 32

1961 Alabama 21
1974 Oklahoma 24

1968 Ohio St. 27
1932 USC 24

ORANGE BOWL:

1971 Nebraska 31
1941 Minnesota 21

1969 Texas 24
1986 Penn St. 21

2004 USC 21
1976 Pittsburgh 20

1956 Oklahoma 30
1955 Oklahoma 27

ROSE BOWL:

1972 USC 28

1980 Georgia 24

2005 Texas 30
2000 Oklahoma 24

1924 Notre Dame 27
1962 USC 24

1945 Army 34
1944 Army 30

ROUND TWO:

COTTON BOWL:

1947 Michigan 17
2002 Ohio St. 14

1999 Florida St. 28
1995 Nebraska 42

SUGAR BOWL:

2001 Miami, FL 31
1971 Oklahoma 28

1974 Oklahoma 27
1968 Ohio St. 24

ORANGE BOWL:

1971 Nebraska	31
1969 Texas	24

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2004 USC	27
1956 Oklahoma	28

ROSE BOWL:

1972 USC	27
2005 Texas	30

1924 Notre Dame	28
1945 Army	35

ROUND THREE:

COTTON BOWL:

1947 Michigan	30
1995 Nebraska	38

SUGAR BOWL:

2001 Miami, FL	17
1974 Oklahoma	14

ORANGE BOWL:

1971 Nebraska	31
1956 Oklahoma	27

ROSE BOWL:

2005 Texas	24
1945 Army	30

SEMI-FINALS:

1995 Nebraska	34
2001 Miami	26

1971 Nebraska	24
1945 Army	28

CHAMPIONSHIP:

1995 Nebraska	35
1945 Army	31

Amazingly, the **Fast-Action Games** winner was the same as the ESPN

voters' winner, although against a different finalist!!

To compare the 2 tournaments from the Semi-Finals on:

ESPN: 1995 Nebraska beat 2001 Miami in the Semis and 1971 Nebraska defeated 2005 Texas, resulting in an all Nebraska final.

In the Championship game, 1995 Nebraska won over 1971 Nebraska.

Fast-Action Games: 1995 Nebraska took the measure of 2001 Miami and 1945 Army outlasted 1971 Nebraska. In the Championship, 1995 Nebraska outscored 1945 Army.

There you have it! If we were to play the tournament again using another board (or computer) game or even with my own board game again, chances are the results would differ – but who knows?!?

Of course, others might even choose different teams to compete.

Let the arguments continue!!!!

* * *

Total No. 1 AP Rankings

George Macor reports the progression of the teams that have the most total No. 1 AP rankings. His explanation is below.

What the above means is the college that had the most total #1 rankings from the start of the polls in 1936.

For example, after the 1936 season, Minnesota was #1 four times.

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After the 1940 season, Minnesota had been #1 a total of 15 times. After the 1947 season, Notre Dame became the all-time leader with 23 #1 rankings and remained the leader until 2003 when Oklahoma tied them.

THE HISTORY OF THE AP #1 RANKINGS		
YEAR-BY-YEAR PROGRESSION		TOTAL
SEASON	TOTAL COLLEGE	#1s
1936	4 MINNESOTA	
1937	4 MINNESOTA	&
	PITTSBURGH	
1938	7 PITTSBURGH	
1939	8 MINNESOTA	
1940	8 MINNESOTA	&
	PITTSBURGH	
1941	15 MINNESOTA	
1942	15 MINNESOTA	
1943	15 MINNESOTA	
1944	15 MINNESOTA	
1945	15 ARMY	&
	MINNESOTA	
1946	22 ARMY	
1947	23 NOTRE DAME	
1948	25 NOTRE DAME	
1949	33 NOTRE DAME	
1950	35 NOTRE DAME	
1951	35 NOTRE DAME	
1952	35 NOTRE DAME	
1953	44 NOTRE DAME	
1954	46 NOTRE DAME	
1955	46 NOTRE DAME	
1956	46 NOTRE DAME	
1957	46 NOTRE DAME	
1958	46 NOTRE DAME	
1959	46 NOTRE DAME	
1960	46 NOTRE DAME	
1961	46 NOTRE DAME	
1962	46 NOTRE DAME	
1963	46 NOTRE DAME	
1964	50 NOTRE DAME	
1965	51 NOTRE DAME	
1966	59 NOTRE DAME	
1967	62 NOTRE DAME	
1968	62 NOTRE DAME	
1969	62 NOTRE DAME	
1970	63 NOTRE DAME	
1971	64 NOTRE DAME	
1972	64 NOTRE DAME	
1973	65 NOTRE DAME	
1974	66 NOTRE DAME	

1975	66	NOTRE DAME
1976	66	NOTRE DAME
1977	67	NOTRE DAME
1978	67	NOTRE DAME
1979	67	NOTRE DAME
1980	68	NOTRE DAME
1981	69	NOTRE DAME
1982	69	NOTRE DAME
1983	69	NOTRE DAME
1984	69	NOTRE DAME
1985	69	NOTRE DAME
1986	69	NOTRE DAME
1987	69	NOTRE DAME
1988	76	NOTRE DAME
1989	88	NOTRE DAME
1990	94	NOTRE DAME
1991	94	NOTRE DAME
1992	94	NOTRE DAME
1993	95	NOTRE DAME
1994	95	NOTRE DAME
1995	95	NOTRE DAME
1996	95	NOTRE DAME
1997	95	NOTRE DAME
1998	95	NOTRE DAME
1999	95	NOTRE DAME
2000	95	NOTRE DAME
2001	95	NOTRE DAME
2002	95	NOTRE DAME
2003	95	NOTRE DAME &
	OKLAHOMA	
2004	95	NOTRE DAME &
	OKLAHOMA	
2005	95	NOTRE DAME &
	OKLAHOMA	
2006	95	NOTRE DAME &
	OKLAHOMA	
2007	95	NOTRE DAME &
	OKLAHOMA	
2008	97	OKLAHOMA
2009	97	OKLAHOMA

* * *

‘WE’RE NOT THAT KIND OF SCHOOL’

By Mel Smith

I have spent a few decades in college and state libraries doing research in the early years of ‘football’. Most of the venues have been at colleges and libraries looking at old local & student publications. With a lot of patience, I have managed to find a lot of interesting games, scores, & the stories that go with them. Reasons why games were not accepted, or why teams canceled

games or seasons were usually varied and interesting. The extreme
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cases of denial that no games ever occurred come from a few institutions that have never accepted playing any style of 'football'.

While checking the Toronto Globe one day, I ran across an article that described the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) in Princeton, New Jersey. The college was founded in 1812. The article kept emphasizing that there was no connection to Princeton University what so ever. Up to this point, I had not even considered this school in my data collection. Whatever references I had come across showed that the school was considered just another class team of the University.

I first went to Princeton and the Seminary in 1986. I met the Librarian of the Seminary and he said, 'there was no way he could help me because he didn't believe the students had ever indulged in sports like football'. I told him about the football game between Princeton and the Seminary in 1895. It was an officially accepted game by Princeton. The librarian did not seem to be interested.

By 1999, I was putting on the finishing touches to a manuscript about the early years of football. I went to Princeton again to check about the possibility of some

'football' games back into the 1850s. Lo & behold there was reference to games between an all-college team of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and the Seminary. So then I walked to the Seminary (they are separated by only one block of housing). When I met with the archivist, he said the school was not interested in assisting me in any research about sports. A librarian told me that PTS was; 'not that kind of school that would indulge in research about sports. We can not and will not help you in your endeavors.'

Went back again in 2000, hoping to not be recognized. But the librarian happened to be right there when I walked in through the door. I tried to request the names of graduates of PTS in the 1850s and 1860s. This way I could check all those volumes of PTS Necrology located in the archives of Princeton University. She demanded I leave the premises. The seminarian God had spoken.

Another major reason why this school never had any 'football' records was the attitude of Princeton University to the Seminary. The PTS students were looked down upon and called the 'seminoles' during the 1860s and 1870s. All the games were considered 'practice' games. PTS was athletically considered just another class team for the University, where in reality it was a totally different institution.

There is one note that might summarize the relationship of these two schools in the early years. Two

members of the Princeton team that played in the first Princeton-Yale

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game in 1873 were PTS students; Chambers and Martin. This is probably a case where one college was too big and too close, and the smaller school becomes insignificant.

To summarize my findings for PTS, some time in the 1850s the school began playing class teams from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in the kicking game or an early soccer style of 'football'. Although PTS had barely more than 30 students, this college might be the first one to play any outside games. The college was too small to set aside a field for sports. Plus the administration frowned on sports, so the students went out of sight to the Princeton campus to play any games. They could never field more than one team in this period. The College of New Jersey (Princeton) all-college teams played the PTS teams in the late 1850s. The College also received the new leather-cased ball in 1858, and the art of 'dribbling' to move the ball along the ground became very popular. This new feature replaced the 'ballown' game practice of batting the ball with the hand. As far as I can tell, these games were the first 'dribbling' or soccer style games between two colleges in America.

Scores of these games seem to be lost in antiquity, for the games in the late 1850s were etched in the trees surrounding the 'quad

between the east and west colleges' on the Princeton campus.

These styles of 'football' play preceded the London Association meeting in 1863. In England, all the 'dribblers' consolidated their different styles into the 'association code' that eventually became soccer.

PTS did not have teams from 1860 through 1866. When football returns to both colleges in 1867, the London association code is used to draw up rules for a game. The College of New Jersey (Princeton) beat PTS by the score of 5'games' to 2'games'.

There was another PTS loss in 1868, but no games have been found between these schools in 1869. The 1869 games between Rutgers College and the College of New Jersey were the first 'officially accepted' football games between two different 4-year colleges. The soccer historians have also called this game as the first 'official' soccer game in America.

There were several more soccer style games played between the PTS and Princeton (the College of New Jersey was informally called Princeton College from 1870 to 1896). Several games were played in 1870, and at least two games were noted for 1871. No games have yet been found for 1872, with one game alluded to in 1873. PTS then de-emphasized, and stopped playing the Princeton all-college or varsity teams after 1873. PTS lost to the Princeton Junior team in 1874.

No games have been found yet for the years 1875 and 1876. Princeton
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changed to the 'carrying' or the American rugby style of football during the 1876/77 season. PTS also played a rugby style game with the Princeton Frosh in the Fall of 1877.

I do not find any PTS games again until the late 1880s when they were playing the intercollegiate (or football) game. Play continues into the 1890s. I have not found any more football games after the 'official' one on October 16, 1895. The last I see of PTS is in an 'official' game of soccer with Princeton in 1912.

Slim pickings for a college that played some type of 'football' for over 50 years.

Even colleges that have never officially played any type of football games will be included in my book.

*This story was originally published in the **College Football Historical Society (CFHS) Journal**, Vol. XVII, #1, November 2003—and is used by permission of its author, Mel Smith who is also an IFRA member.*

Mel recently found this: 1824 Foot-Ball: Membership lists of an Edinburgh, Scotland, Foot-Ball Club have been found for 1824 up through 1841. In America, Columbia College of New York City allowed foot-ball to be played, and a game was played between the Seniors & Sophomores versus the Juniors &

Freshmen at Park Place in NYC. The score has not been found (see page 32, 'Evolvements of Early American Foot Ball: Through the 1890/91 Season').

* * *

A President's Affection Saved Football

Evan Haning, WTOP Radio

UNDATED - Monday morning quarterbacks may trace the Redskins big 52-7 loss to team performance, but Patriot quarterback Tom Brady couldn't have thrown the ball without help from a past president.

The first college football games were not only brutal, they could be fatal. Some players' uniforms were equipped with handles, which allowed their teammates to pick up players and throw them at their opponents. Several state legislatures were considering legislation to outlaw the new sport.

In his book "The Greatest Presidential Stories Never Told," historian Rick Beyer reveals how football was "saved" by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The president's son played for Harvard, so Roosevelt had affection for the game. But he warned college presidents that they had to clean football up and make it safer, or he would be forced to ban it.

"Roosevelt's call for reform prompted the formation of a new rules committee to make major changes,"

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Beyer says. "One committee member suggested an idea long advocated by legendary coach John Heisman: legalizing the forward pass. That might open up the game, reducing dangerous mass collisions in the middle of the field."

Early passing rules were more restrictive than they are today. If a pass was incomplete, the other team got the ball, and no passes within 5 yards of the center were allowed.

But after the first one was thrown on Sept. 22, 1906, passing caught on.

"They've been throwing it ever since. The result is Tom Brady throws three touchdown passes, and the Patriots defeat the Redskins 52-7."

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WORTH NOTING--

Austin College (Texas) *61 year-old kicker Tom Thompson* successfully converted a PAT for the Div. III Kangaroos against Trinity (Texas).

The NCAA's Silver Anniversary Award annually recognizes six distinguished former student-

athletes on the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of their college athletics careers. Three former college football players are on the list: **Gregg Carr** (Auburn), **Jack Del Rio** (USC) and **Doug Flutie** (Boston College).

In Memory of--

Former Hope College football coach **Russ DeVette**...Eastern Illinois offensive line coach **Jeff Hoover**, 41...**Howard Waugh**, 78, former running back at Tulsa...**Foge Fazio**, former Pittsburgh coach, age 71.

* * *

Richard Topp finds College Football's Winningest Coach's First Season

The Helena Independent Helena, Mont. Friday, September 2, 1949

John P. Gagliardi Arrives to Take Over Hilltop Chore

John P. Gagliardi of Trinidad, Colo., has arrived in Helena to take over athletic coaching chores of the Fighting Saints of Carroll College.

Gagliardi, pronounced Go-Lardy, plans to spend the next week looking over the Carroll athletic plant and schedule. He will greet Carroll's football candidates for 1949 at 2:30 o'clock the afternoon of Sept. 10.

The new coach at Carroll is expressing more concern over a short schedule than he is over

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prospects for the coming season against Montana Collegiate Conference foes.

"We want to play football and four games just aren't enough," Gagliardi exclaimed. "We are open to suggestion when it comes to more opponents."

The only certain foes that Carroll has for 1949 are Rocky Mountain of Billings, Eastern Montana College of Education of Billings, Western Montana College of Education of Dillon and Montana School of Mines of Butte.

Gagliardi explained that he wasn't too concerned over the material "just so 30 men report for practice."

He promised a good showing-from-the Fighting Saints of 1948.

Gagliardi's Record at Carroll College

1949.....3-1-0...**1950**.....5-2-0
1951.....6-1-1...**1952**.....7-2-0

* * *

All-Time leaders in scoring 100 or more points

Looking for an all-time score, IFRA member Richard Topp probably has it.

While offenses are more productive; it seems like opposing defensive units have also gotten stronger in keep the opposition from scoring 100 or more points.

➤ **Last Ten 100 point games:**

- *Sep 6 2003*...Rockford 105, Trinity Bible 0
- *Oct 28 1989*...Central State (Ohio) 101, Lane 0
- *Nov 8 1980*...Portland State 105, Delaware State 0
- *Nov 23 1968*...Houston 100, Tulsa 6
- *Oct 12 1968*...North Park 104, North Central 32
- *Sep 22 1956*...Mississippi Vocational 101, Rust 0
- *Oct 30 1953*...Iowa Wesleyan 103, William Penn 0
- *Sep 22 1951*...Paul Quinn 111, Mary Allen JC 0
- *Nov 5 1949*...Wyoming 103, Colorado State College 0
- *Oct 22 1949*...Connecticut 125, Newport Navy 0

Top Ten schools with 100 Point victories:

8...Oklahoma
 5...Centre

5...Georgia Tech
4...Harvard
4...Michigan
4...Michigan State
4...Nebraska

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4...Princeton
4...Tennessee
4...Yale

➤ **By season, here are the 100+ games:**

1884	2
1885	1
1886	2
1887	2
1888	3
1889	1
1890	2
1891	3
1892	1
1894	1
1899	2
1901	2
1902	4
1903	2
1904	7
1905	5
1907	1
1910	2
1911	3
1912	13
1913	13
1914	15
1915	9
1916	14 (2-200+ games)
1917	10
1918	5
1919	8
1920	13
1921	8
1922	6 (1-200+ games)
1923	5

1924	2
1925	2
1926	2
1927	3
1928	2
1929	1
1931	1
1932	3
1933	1
1936	1
1947	1
1949	4
1951	1
1953	1
1956	1
1968	2
1980	1
1989	1
2003	1

* * *

Scored all of his team's Points

Ryan Magnuson set a conference record with six touchdown catches in Taylor's 36-35 win over Marian (Ind.). The game was played Oct. 31, 2009.

In addition to the Mid-States Football Association best of touchdown catches, Magnuson now holds the Taylor high mark for touchdowns in a game and most points (36) in a game. His 44-yard catch with no time remaining was the game-winner and capped a brilliant performance.

He single-handedly won the game as he scored all of Taylor's 36 points – the Trojans had two PAT attempts blocked and failed to score on another two-point conversion. He

finished with 196 yards on 11 catches

(17.8) and four of his scores covered 20 yards or more.



MERRY

CHRISTMAS

*and may 2010 be filled
with joy, peace, good
health and blessings every
day throughout the year.*

