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Source: *Dating 1909*

GREAT TEAMS OF THE PAST

BY WALTER CAMP

WHEN EVER a group of old football, players is gathered together there are sure to crop up reminiscences of old days, former players, and earlier teams, and with this review of the past comes discussion as to what was really the strongest team that ever lined up on the field. For a long time at New Haven the belief prevailed that Lee McClung's team was the best that Yale ever produced, but the advent of Gordon Brown's eleven with its powerful tackle back formation first began to shake the confidence of the adherents to the older team.

Just after Brown's season closed there was a disposition wherever Yale men met to make this an issue, and the younger contingent stood firmly for the opinion that Gordon Brown's men could have beaten McClung's. Naturally, it was a point that could never be settled, but it is safe to say that while the individual brilliancy, and beyond that the individual independence and football initiative of the men comprising McClung's team stand probably unequaled the

style of team play perfected by Gordon Brown's men, in attack, could not have been met successfully by any team, even one like McClung's, unless that team had had an opportunity of practicing against the tackles back play, and that, too, for a considerable period of time.

Hence it is as certain as anything can in the Princeton game, the year before, he had actually averaged, in a succession of some seven or eight plays, nineteen and a fraction yards to the run.

As two of these runs carried the ball over the goal line his possible average would have been nearer twenty-five yards. Then, too, Heffelfinger was a bigger man than Gordon Brown; both had been brought up in the same school of football and neither had found his match.

Sanford, of McClung's team, was one of the most versatile of centers, and This team was never scored upon by any opponent, and ran up four hundred and eighty-eight points in thirteen games, an average of thirty-six to the game.

Surely Gordon Brown's team would have had their work cut out to keep this aggregation from knocking at the gates of their goal.

Such discussions as this at Yale are typical of similar arguments at other universities. Having had the pleasure of seeing most of these teams play, and following the developments of the game and the players from year to year, it has occurred to me that many of those who have seen these various organizations come and go would be interested in harking back a little and recalling some of the great elevens of the past.

When Harvard came down to New Haven in the fall of 1876, flushed with pride as the conquerors of the All Canadian Rugby team, there were few indeed in the college at New Haven who believed that the Yale team stood any chance against them.

In fact, as we measure the game to-day, Yale would have been defeated, but not so under the Rugby Union rules of 1876.

These provided that goals only counted, and the only case in which touchdowns had any effect on the score was when neither team secured a goal.

Yale scored a field goal and Harvard, try as they would, made each of their three touchdowns at the corner of the field and not one of the goals was kicked.

Small Beginnings at New Haven

Yet much is to be said of the rugged development of that team of Captain Baker's of 1876.

Everything was against it, but it plugged along with little sympathy and no support, practicing on a Dixwell Avenue lot where one touch line was the curbstone and the other a picket fence.

Up to within a couple of weeks of the Harvard game the only ball they had was the old round rubber Association ball, Harvard later lending them a Rugby ball for their practice.

It must be confessed that O. D. Thompson's field goal was made by kicking the ball on its side instead of the end. However, that little team came back from Hamilton Park heroes, and laid the foundation for Rugby football at Yale.

The most noted Harvard team was Arthur J. Cumnock's, for it was that eleven which turned the tables on Yale, for the first time after many desperate struggles, by a score of 12 to 6. On that team played Lake, who was recently lieutenant governor of Connecticut. The team also included Dean as quarterback whose name and signature are now so familiar to football readers, as well as Newell, later to become Harvard's greatest tackle.

The game was remarkable in many senses. Yale just previously had defeated Pennsylvania no less than 60 to 0 and both teams were regarded as very powerful. The result proved this, for they struggled through the long first half without a score, and the game had gone no less than thirty minutes in the second half in the same manner when Lee, the Harvard sprinter, who had been put in fresh, circled Yale's end for a touchdown by a long run.

This was followed almost at once by Dean, the Harvard quarter back, breaking through the Yale substitute center, seizing the ball, and running with it for another touchdown. Both the goals were kicked.

Yale then came back with a desperate attempt to tie the score. They succeeded in a very few minutes in carrying the ball straight down the field and across Harvard's goal line for a touchdown which McClung, then a freshman, converted into a goal from a very difficult angle. Soon they were on their way toward the goal again, but time was called before they reached striking distance. (sic)

Harvard's two other great teams were those of Ben Dibblee, 1898, the team that for the first time since 1890 succeeded in defeating Yale, and of Dave Campbell, whose team accomplished the same feat in 1901. Dibblee's team, with Cameron Forbes as coach, defeated Yale by a score of 17 to 0 at New Haven on a day which began with a drenching rain, in the midst of which the freshmen contest between the two universities took place. The weather was still most unpropitious when the spectators gathered for the afternoon game. The result was that many of them were clothed in oilcloth covering borrowed from the tables in various restaurants, and the stands were a strange sight.

Upon this team played Reid, later to become Harvard's coach as well as captain; Haughton, Harvard's present coach, and Daly who was probably the most noted quarter-back of his time. They had started the season well, beating Dartmouth, 21 to 0, Amherst, 53 to 2, West Point, 28 to 0, and Chicago, 39 to 0.

Then there seemed to be a slight let up, for the Indian game was only 11 to 5, the Pennsylvania game, 10 to 0, the Brown game; 17 to 6. But the power still remained sufficient and was much in evidence at New Haven. Harvard was never in danger except possibly once when a field kick was attempted.

Dave Campbell's team represented Harvard in 1901 and defeated Gould's team at Cambridge by a score of 22 to 0, in spite of the fact that in the first few minutes of play Yale was twice within Harvard's twenty-five-yard line. This team numbered, together with Campbell who was an All America end for three years, Kernan, the powerful back, Marshall, Blagden, now Harvard's member of the Rules Committee, and the celebrated Cutts.

It is worth while (sic) to compare the Harvard teams of 1898 and 1901. The scores of Dibblee's team of 1898 have already been given, and it will be noted that there was a curious letting down previous to the final games. Campbell's team showed something of the same characteristics, defeating Columbia, 18 to 0; West Point, 6 to 0; the Indians, 29 to 0; Brown, 48 to 0; Pennsylvania, 33 to 6, and Dartmouth, 27 to 12.

From this comparison it is fair to conclude that Campbell's team had the greater scoring possibilities of the two. The men who composed the team in 1898 were, in the line, Jaffray, Burnett, Burden, Haughton, Donald, Cochrane, Hallowell, and Boal; behind the line, Daly, Dibblee, Reid, Farley, and Warren. In 1901 the line consisted of Sargent, Blagden, Lee, Barnard, Cutts, Campbell, and Bowditch and the back field of Kernan, Graydon, Marshall and Ristine.

DeCamp's Princeton team of 1885 seemed to be the cradle for many noted players. Both the Hodges played on it, Adams, Savage, as well as Tracy Harris, while Irvine, now head of the Mercersburg School, was one of its powerful men, as were also Cook and Toler. Most noted of all were Cowan and Lamar, the latter the man who made the long run, the length of the field, which settled the Yale game in the last few minutes of play, and the former the big captain and tackle who was soon to become the most prominent man on Princeton's team.

This game was a most remarkable one. The Harvard faculty had this year forbidden the team to play any games with other colleges. At New Haven most of the old players had graduated so that there were only two of the team of the former year left. Yale had, however, shown remarkable strength for a green team, having been scored on only once during the season and defeating Pennsylvania the week before her Princeton game by a score of 53 to 5.

Princeton came to New Haven and the play was exciting from the very start. Yale forced the ball into Princeton's territory and Watkinson, Yale's fullback, narrowly missed a goal from the field. Finally he secured another try and this time made the goal, making the score by the ruling of those days 5 to 0 in Yale's favor. In the second half Princeton carried the ball almost to Yale's five-yard line, but was held for downs.

Yale then responded with a succession of running plays which took the ball out once more to the middle of the field. From that point Watkinson made a long punt toward Princeton's goal, but a little to the side. Toler was coming up on it when it struck him squarely on the chest and bounded off to the side, Lamar getting it on the bound just out of reach of the Yale men who had followed the kick down.

This gave the Princeton man a perfectly clear field until he should reach the backs. These he dodged easily and landed the ball behind Yale's goal line after running the length of the field. The goal was kicked and the score stood 6 to 5, with only five minutes left to play; no further score resulted.

For clean-cut, steady, consistent development and safety of play, the University of Pennsylvania's team of 1904 was a paragon. They began in a small way, defeating Pennsylvania State, 6 to 0, and had a hard time with Swarthmore, the final score being 6 to 4 in favor of Pennsylvania, but that was the only game in which they were scored on during the season and their progress was steady and consistent.

They defeated Brown, 6 to 0; Columbia, 16 to 0; Harvard, 11 to 0; Lafayette, 22 to 0; Carlisle, 18 to 0; and wound up by swamping Cornell, 34 to 0. Pennsylvania had other remarkable teams, but this one was the one upon which its adherents could bank with greatest certainty.

The Dartmouth team of 1903 was one of the most powerful that college has ever turned out, and it is small wonder that they defeated Harvard, 11 to 0; Williams, 17 to 0; Amherst, 18 to 0; and overwhelmed Brown in the last game of the season by 62 to 0. The strange feature of their career, like that of many other noted teams, was a slump in midseason. Dartmouth, in view of the men on her team that year, expected to defeat Princeton.

There were many others who thought so too, but the result proved that they had misjudged the situation for Princeton won 17 to 0. The Dartmouth team never got on its feet in that game from start to finish, but in spite of that defeat this team made a big start for Dartmouth football and paved the way for further great teams.

Hooper, the center on the team that year, was one of the best in the position and was chosen on the All America team. Other men of prominence were Witham, Glaze, Vaughn, Maine, Gilman, Foster, and Hillard, later the Dartmouth coach.

End of Part 1 of 2

Source: *Pittsburgh Press, 1935*

A Mighty Team—The Army Gang!

*Selected by George
Trevor, noted
Sportswriter*

John McEwan '17	CENTER	Maurice Daly '26
Augustus Farwick '24	GUARD	Milton Summerfelt '32
William Erwin '02	GUARD	Robert Boyers '02

The College Football

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Paul Bunker '02	TACKLE	Ernest Graves '04
Alexander Weyand '15	TACKLE	Daniel Pullen '09
Walter Smith '00	END	Charles Born '27
Louis Merrilat '14	END	Thomas Hammond '04
Charles Daly '02	QUARTER	Vernon Prichard '14
Christian Cagle '29	BACK	Ray Stecker '31
Harry Wilson '27	BACK	Jack Buckler '34
Elmer Oliphant '17	BACK	Henry Torney '05

* * *

Source: Originally appeared in the College Football Historical Society Newsletter, 2005; used by permission.

ECKERSALL TO STEFFEN FOOTBALL'S FIRST GREAT PASSING COMBO

By Bernie McCarty

University of Chicago coach Amos Alonzo Stagg ranks with the first great innovators in the use of the forward pass, and Walter Eckersall and Walter Steffen formed football's first great passing combination. These facts have been forgotten for two reasons -- the Big Nine Conference decreed its member schools could only play five games in 1906, the first year the forward pass was legalized; and because of the reduced schedule the only big game of the year in the Midwest was the Chicago-Minnesota contest in the third week of the season.

Stagg created a complicated new offense for the season of 1906 based on forward and lateral passes. However, he elected to keep his series of forward passing plays under wraps until the Minnesota game. That matchup was played in a downpour and Chicago was forced to stick to straight, "old-fashioned" football consisting of handoffs by Eckersall. Minnesota, the bigger club, won 4-2. Chicago then unleashed the full fury of its new offense in the last two games and routed Illinois and Nebraska. For comparison, Minnesota beat Nebraska, 13-0, and edged Indiana, 8-6. Chicago had beaten Indiana 33-8 earlier in the season.

President Teddy Roosevelt had forced the legalization of the forward pass in 1906 following the horrendous number of football-related deaths in the season of 1905.

The restrictions involving the use of the forward pass were great though. An incomplete pass on which the receiver did not touch the ball meant a turnover; if a receiver touched but did not actually catch the ball it was treated as a fumble and could be recovered by either side.

Two other rule changes in 1906 forced all colleges to experiment with forward and lateral passes. For the first time at least six men had to be on the line of scrimmage, which wiped out the massed power plays; and first down yardage was increased from five to ten yards in the same number of plays, three. The later single and double wing formations were designed to return the power plays to football, but didn't compare with the old tackle-back play in which any number of blockers lined up in front of the ball carrier behind the line of scrimmage. The new rules of 1906 also placed greater emphasis on punting and punt returns.

Several respected sources credit the St. Louis University team of 1906, coached by Eddie Cochems, with being the first great forward passing club. St. Louis had eleven games to showcase its passing attack and was tremendously successful. But for pure passing efficiency and class I'll take the Eckersall-Steffen show. In 1950 the Associated Press selected an all-time college football team and Eckersall was named the quarterback even though his exposure to the forward pass was limited. Steffen, a halfback in 1906, succeeded Eckersall as an All-America quarterback in 1907 and 1908.

Chicago drubbed Purdue 39-0 in its 1906 opener. Chicago used double and triple passes extensively, but as far as this writer can determine, never threw the ball forward. The Chicago Tribune of Sunday, October 21, stated: "Eckersall used a long pass frequently either to one side or to the rear, giving the back who was to carry the ball a long start toward the end of the line before it was disclosed which man was to take the ball. But the long forward pass was tabooed by the Maroons." Purdue did launch forward passes in the game, but one pass was intercepted and returned for a touchdown, and another pass, fumbled after the catch, was grabbed by a Chicago defender and returned for long yardage.

Chicago's play was even more wide open the next week against Indiana, though the lateral passes weren't as successful because Indiana was prepared. For the first time, late in the second half, Eckersall tried two forward passes, one complete for a total of 15 yards after Steffen caught the ball, fumbled it forward and recovered himself.

Stagg introduced another innovative play in the game. Steffen took a handoff from Eckersall, ran to the right, then suddenly wheeled around and tore back through the left side of the line for a 15-yard touchdown run. The offensive linemen on the left side

had held their positions and when Steffen came back they wiped out the two Indiana linemen who had not chased Steffen in the other direction.

The Chicago-Minnesota game was a mess. The ball was waterlogged and heavy, and the only time Minnesota threatened it kicked a field goal.

Chicago got its two points when a terrific punt by Eckersall sailed over the returner's head and plopped in the end zone. The chalk marks were washed away by this time, and instead of touching the ball down the returner picked it up and tried to run, not realizing where he was.

Now the fun for Chicago begins. When Chicago lined up against Illinois one end was split wide 15 yards. Was this the first wide receiver in football history? On the second play from scrimmage Eckersall lofted a forward pass to Steffen far out in the flat, and Steffen dashed to the end zone to complete a 75-yard scoring play. As far as this writer can determine from the Tribune report and a play-by-play diagram of the game, Eckersall completed five of seven forward passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns.

According to the Tribune, Chicago utilized "forward passes, double, triple and criss-cross passes. With a single exception every one of Eckersall's forward passes resulted advantageously to the Maroons. Once the Maroon captain passed the ball too far ahead of Steffen, but the halfback jumped and touched it with his hands, preventing the imposition of a penalty, then chased the ball himself and fell on it. The passes were worked with variations which made them repeatedly successful."

According to referee Walter McCornack: "Eckersall played one of the best games I have ever seen. His passing is just as good as his kicking." The Tribune continued: "On all sides among the gridiron fans who saw the game the opinion was expressed freely that if the conditions for the Minnesota game had been even as good as yesterday's, Stagg's men would have been able to score a victory over the Gophers by this brilliantly versatile attack And if the Minnesota game could have been played on a really fast gridiron, it is the belief of the majority of experts and critics who watched both games the advantage would have been still more in Chicago's favor."

Incidentally, (sic) Steffen scored five touchdowns in the Illinois game. In addition to the 75-yard pass play, he had touchdown jaunts of 75 and 60 yards from scrimmage.

The finale against Nebraska is remembered for Eckie's feat of kicking five field goals. The big highlight of the game, however, from the viewpoint of a modern researcher, was the 96-yard touchdown pass from Eckersall to Steffen. It had to be the record pass play of 1906 and ranks as one of the longest pass plays of all time. Yet somehow historians seem to have forgotten the play. Steffen lined up far to one side and a

defender went out to cover him. The ball traveled at least 20 yards in the air, three yards forward. One of the restrictions on passing at the time was that the ball could not be thrown forward from a position five yards beyond the center of the line of scrimmage. Such plays as a rollout forward pass by the quarterback, or a halfback forward pass after taking a lateral, would have been illegal. Steffen took Eckie's pass, easily dodged the lone defender, and nobody else was in position to stop the play.

Eckersall completed three of six passes against Nebraska for 116 yards. Thus, for the three games in which Chicago attempted forward passes, Eckersall appears to have completed nine of 15 tosses for 315 yards and three touchdowns. No passes were intercepted. These stats are to be considered only as a reference tool and cannot be taken literally because there is probably no way to cross check the figures.

Just how good was Eckersall as a passer? He did not throw the high lobs employed by most early passers as a method of gaining distance. Any forward pass in the early years that traveled as far as 40-45 yards in the air probably also reached a peak height of 40 feet. Rather, Eckie's forwards and laterals traveled a low trajectory. Such passes could have been easy to intercept, but the ball got there very fast and probably stunned rival defenses. Eckersall had to have a strong arm to hurl the old, fat ball on a line, and the assumption can be made that none of his passes went over 25 yards. His passes didn't need to go any further, of course, because the idea was to quickly get the ball to Steffen out in the open.

What a shame Chicago couldn't use its aerial attack against Minnesota in 1906. It could have been the game which introduced the football world to the real potential of the forward pass as an offensive weapon. Football had to wait seven more years before Dorais and Rockne of Notre Dame put on the passing show against Army that forever changed the way the game is played.

* * *

“Who is John Carroll?” Syracuse Finds Out in 1950

By Timothy L. Hudak

Sports Heritage Specialty Publications

When the football game between John Carroll University and Syracuse University was first announced in April of 1950, there were more than a few in Syracuse, N.Y., who wanted to know “Who is John Carroll?” When the final

seconds had ticked off the game clock on Friday evening, November 10, of that year those same people were probably wishing that they had never heard of “him”.

John Carroll University is a small Jesuit University located in University Heights, Ohio, a suburb to the east of Cleveland with a population that struggles to exceed 10,000. The Blue Streaks have been playing football since 1920. Their schedule traditionally consisted of smaller schools in and around Ohio. Carroll had played, and defeated, Duquesne on one occasion, but this was in the early 1920s before that school had become a national football power. They had also played Villanova a couple of times early in the tenure of Rockne alum Harry Stuhldreher, losing both games. That was about the extent of Carroll’s “big time” football experience.

The Blue Streaks had never won more than seven games in any one season. From 1935-1942 they enjoyed only three winning campaigns and the school, like many others, dropped the sport during the war years of 1943-1945. When Carroll resumed football in '46 it finished with a 1-7 mark.

For the 1947 season John Carroll hired Herb Eisele as its football coach and Athletic Director, and things immediately picked up. Eisele had been schooled in the Notre Dame box formation offense during his collegiate days at the University of Dayton. He had employed this system during much of his very successful high school coaching career in Cleveland, but had switched to the more modern T-formation in 1943. The results were immediate and dramatic as his teams at Cathedral Latin School won five consecutive Cleveland championships (1943-1947) and three consecutive Ohio high school state titles (1944-1946). When he left Latin after 19 seasons and started at Carroll he brought the T-formation with him.

That first season at Carroll, Eisele’s team went 6-3, definitely an improvement over the 1-7 of the previous year. The next two years the Blue Streaks finished with records of 7-1-2 and 6-3.

Besides striving to win games, Herb was always looking for a way to put his team on to the national football map, and when the opportunity came to play Syracuse during the 1950 season he jumped at it. The Orange was not a premiere national eleven, but as the Plain Dealer’s Gordon Cobbledick put it,

“In Syracuse they will meet a ‘name opponent’. Not a member of the first rank nationally, but one of the strong eastern teams ...”

Like John Carroll, Syracuse football was also in something of a transition. The Orange had dropped football for just a single year during the war, 1943, but since then the team had not provided its fans with a great many victories. In 1949 the school hired Floyd Schwartzwalder, more commonly known as “Ben”, as its football coach. It was a hiring move that would shortly take Syracuse to the highest reaches of college football.

Thus far during the 1950 campaign both teams had been traveling along parallel courses. Syracuse had opened with a victory over Rutgers, but then dropped a one-point decision to Temple and lost to Cornell the following week.

However, after those two defeats the Orange had rebounded strongly and were currently enjoying a four-game win streak after posting impressive victories over Penn State, Holy Cross, Boston U. and Lafayette. John Carroll also had a pair of losses, losing its first two contests to St. Bonaventure and St. Xavier.

Like Syracuse, Carroll had rebounded after those early setbacks and was now riding a six-game win streak after knocking off Toledo, Kent State, Youngstown State, Case Tech, Marshall and Dayton.

Unlike the average resident of Syracuse, Coach Schwartzwalder and his staff had a very good idea who “he”, i.e. John Carroll was. They had been scouting the Blue Streaks all season, and Coach Schwartzwalder had sent three of his assistants to Dayton, Ohio, the previous weekend to watch the game between JCU and the Dayton Flyers. In seeing Carroll break open a close game by scoring a pair of unanswered touchdowns in the fourth quarter to pull out a 24-12 victory, they would have seen how the Blue Streaks once again used a big fourth quarter to win a game. During the season Carroll had totaled just 51 points in each of the first three quarters, but in the final period they had scored 115 points.

They may also have picked up a few pointers on how to stop Carroll’s star fullback Carl Taseff. But they also learned that if you stop Taseff you also had to stop halfback Don Shula, and that stopping both was a near impossibility.

The Flyers held Taseff to only 72 yards rushing, but Shula had exploded for a season best 165.

Who was this Carl Taseff who had earned so much of the Flyers attention? Not only was he a four-year starter and the Blue Streaks best runningback, but he was one of the best in the nation. He entered the game against Syracuse with 848 yards rushing, good for third in the country, and he had crossed the opponent's goal line 17 times, which was tops in collegiate football. Carl was also a very able pass catcher when the ball was thrown to him and he was the Blue Streaks punter.

At one of the halfback positions was Taseff's roommate and fellow senior Don Shula, who had already rushed for 666 yards on the season. JCU backfield coach Dan Mormile considered Shula to be the best collegiate back in Ohio, in part because, unlike Taseff, Shula also played defense. Carroll's other halfback was junior Burrell Shields, who had chipped in with 353 yards rushing.

Running the offense at quarterback was Rudy Schaeffer, whose arm had provided an additional 785 yards through the air, 398 of which were caught by end Joe Minor.

Like John Carroll, Syracuse used the T-formation, but Coach Schwartzwalder employed a split, unbalanced line with the wing-T formation in the backfield.

The Syracuse offense was run by senior quarterback Bernie Custis, rated as the best passer up to that point in Orange history. Already in 1950 he had thrown for 566 yards, giving him almost 2,500 yards for his career – a huge total for that time. Custis was also currently 18th in the country in total offense. His primary receiver was sophomore end Joe Szombathy with 204 yards.

While Custis was able to put the ball in the air, the Orange were also very capable of moving it along the ground. In fact, they were ranked 13th in the country with 254 yards rushing per game. Junior fullback Bob Young, 486 yards, and freshman halfback John Colceri, 423 yards, did most of the ball toting for Syracuse, providing Syracuse, like John Carroll, with a balanced offensive attack.

Both teams were thus pretty evenly matched on offense. The defenses were also quite formidable, especially along the trenches. The Orange were thought to be the speedier of the two teams, while the weight advantage belonged to the Blue Streaks by about 20 lbs. per man. The Ohioans were also more of a veteran team, the New Yorkers fielding a team that had only two senior starters, with most of the rest of the starting line-up composed of sophomores.

In the week before the game, Syracuse was considered to be as much as a two touchdown favorite, but off the field circumstances would intervene to considerably cut down the odds for John Carroll. On Thursday, November 9, the day before the game, Syracuse quarterback Bernie Custis was sent to the school infirmary with a fever and sore throat. Custis, who had accounted for fully half of Syracuse's touchdowns with his passing and running, never made it to the train for the trip to Cleveland. His normal back-up was John Donati, but Donati was still pretty banged up from the previous week's game with Lafayette. That left sophomore Avatus Stone, who was also the team's punter. Normally a defensive player when not punting, Stone had been at quarterback only once during the season, and that had come during the fourth quarter of the game against Lafayette. Now he would of necessity be thrust into the role of starter.

Cleveland Plain Dealer sportswriter Chuck Heaton wrote on the morning of November 10 that "With everything to gain and nothing to lose, John Carroll's football team will shoot the works against a good Syracuse eleven tonight in Cleveland Stadium." It was seasonably cold that night, 27 degrees at game time, when 16,724 mostly partisan fans showed up at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, making this the largest crowd to ever see a Cleveland collegiate team play football.

As the fans were settling into their seats Syracuse took the opening kickoff and started play at its own 27-yard line. Eight plays into the drive a 47-yard Avatus Stone to halfback Don Willis aerial put the ball on the JCU two-yard line. Two plays later fullback Bob Young plunged into the end zone from the one, the extra point giving Syracuse an early 7-0 lead at 4:50 of the opening session.

Late in the first quarter Syracuse punted from midfield, with Don Shula taking the ball at his own eight-yard line and returning it out to the 18. Shula then

advanced the ball to the 50-yard line via a pass reception and a 13-yard scamper. After a timeout by Syracuse, successive runs by Carl Taseff and Don Shula advanced to the ball to the Syracuse 38 as the first quarter came to an end. *End of Part 1 of 4*

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Source: Sporting Life, 1887

The Game in England—Difference Between It and the Rugby Game

The coming season of 1887-1888 will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the Foot Ball Association of England. Previous to 1863 foot ball was a game of many rules and practices, played differently in almost every school and county in Britain. The best rules then current were in use at Rugby, and these allowed running with the ball, hacking and tripping. In the association code these practices, as tending to make the game rougher than was desirable, were put a stop to, and the innovation caused a split in the association, and was the means of causing the clubs which played under the Rugby rules to withdraw.

Some years afterward they formed an association, and its superiority is now unchallenged.

The referee in each match is practically the representative of the association. He decides in all cases between the umpires, keeps a record of the game and acts as time-keeper. In October, 1871, the association introduced the challenge cup, the competition for which has evoked so much interest among the general public in England.

The winners of the toss have the option of kick-off or choice of goals, the game to be commenced by a placekick from the centre of the ground, in the direction of the opposite goal line. The opposite side is forbidden to approach within ten yards of the ball until it is kicked.

The goal is not won until the ball passes between the goal-post under the bar without having been thrown, knocked or carried by one of the attacking side.

Neither tripping, hacking nor jumping at a player is allowed and no player shall use his hands to push or hold his adversary or charge him from behind. Association foot ball played according to the rule is not a rough game. In Rugby rules if the ball touches an umpire or referee, it is dead, and a scrum has to be formed around the

spot; but in the association rules the ball touching an umpire or referee is as live as ever, just as much so as if it had merely touched the ground.

* * *

Bo Carter Presents Date of Birth and Death of members of the College Football Hall of Fame

July

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 (1922) Don Whitmire, Giles County, Tenn. | 5 (1923) John McKay, Everettsville, W.Va. |
| 1 (1953) Michael Haynes, Denison, Texas | 5 (1951) Johnny Rodgers, Omaha, Neb. |
| 1-(d – 1971) Jesse Harper, Sitka, Kan. | 5-(d – 1998) Sid Luckman, No. Miami Beach, Fla. |
| 1-(d – 1984) Ziggy Czarobski, Aurora, Ill. | 6 (1924) Darrell Royal, Hollis, Okla. |
| 1-(d – 2010) Don Coryell, La Mesa, Calif. | 6 (1946) Fred Dryer, Hawthorne, Calif. |
| 2 (1891) Gus Dorais, Chippewa Falls, Wis. | 6-(d – 1950) Harold Weekes, New York City |
| 2 (1879) Bob Zuppke, Berlin, Germany | 7 (1918) Bob Blackman, DeSoto, Iowa |
| 2 (1900) Ernie Vick, Toledo, Ohio | 7-(d – 1942) Bob Fisher, Newton, Mass. |
| 2 (1937) John Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn. | 7-(d – 1976) Bill Swiacki, Sturbridge, Mass. |
| 2-(d - 1957) Leroy Mercer, Swarthmore, Pa. | 7-(d – 1992) Clint Frank, Evanston, Ill. |
| 2-(d – 1987) Ellery Huntington, Alexandria City, Va. | 8 (1890) Pete Mauthe, Turkey City, Pa. |
| 3 (1943) Steve DeLong, Norfolk, Va. | 8 (1935) John David Crow, Marion, La. |
| 3 (1959) Frank Hawkins, Las Vegas, Nev. | 8-(d – 1918) Gary Cochran, In Combat in France |
| 3 (1976) Grant Wistrom, Webb City, Mo. | 9 (1870) Ed Hall, Granville, Ill. |
| 3-(d – 1963) Tony Blazine, Richland, Wash. | 9 (1874) George Brooke, Brookville, Md. |
| 3-(d – 1975) Elmer Oliphant, New Canaan, Conn. | 9 (1892) Elmer Oliphant, Bloomfield, Ind. |
| 4 (1912) Edgar Manske, Nekoosa, Wis. | 9 (1912) Abe Mickal, Talia, Lebanon |
| 4 (1942) Floyd Little, New Haven, Conn. | 9 (1918) Nile Kinnick, Adel, Iowa |
| 4 (1962) Willie Totten, Leflore, Miss. | 9 (1947) O.J. Simpson, San Francisco, Calif. |

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- 9-(d – 1974) Jim Bausch, Hot Springs, Ark.
9-(d – 1995) Reds Bagnell, Philadelphia, Pa.
9-(d – 2005) Al Sparlis, Porterville, Calif.
10 (1960) Darryl Talley, Cleveland, Ohio
10-(d - 2010) Milt Morin, Northhampton, Mass.
11 (1876) Percy Haughton, Staten Island, N.Y.
11 (1915) Cecil Isbell, Houston, Texas
12 (1863) Hector Cowan, Hobart, N.Y.
12 (1878) Bob Torrey, Henrico County, Va.
12 (1920) Glenn Dobbs, McKinney, Texas
12 (1939) Bill Cooper, Carrollton, Ohio
12-(d – 1961) Steve Lach, Altoona, Pa.
12-(d -1975) Carl Snavelly, St. Louis, Mo.
12-(d – 1985) Gene McEver, Davidson, N.C.
13 (1903) Lloyd Yoder, Salem, Ohio
13 (1912) Ed Sherman, Licking County, Ohio
13 (1922) Alex Sarkisian, Constantinople, Turkey
13-(d – 1992) Alex Wojociechowicz, Forked River, N.J.
14 (1911) Riley Smith, Greenwood, Miss.
14 (1922) Robin Olds, Honolulu, Hawai'i
14 (1928) Brad Rowland, Hamlin, Texas
14-(d – 1982) Jackie Jensen, Charlottesville, Va.
14-(d – 1999) Hugh Gallarneau, Northbrook, Ill.
14-(d - 2010) Gene Goodreault, Orinda, Calif.
15 (1892) Ray Eichenlaub, Columbus, Ohio
15 (1893) Orin Hollingbery, Hollister, Calif.
15 (1935) Alex Karras, Gary, Ind.
16 (1889) Percy Wendell, Roxbury, Mass.
16 (1943) Jimmy Johnson (Arkansas), Port Arthur, Texas
16 (1951) Jerry Sisemore, Olton, Texas
16 (1968) Barry Sanders, Wichita, Kan.
16 (1974) Tommie Frazier, Bradenton, Fla.
16-(d – 1980) Ernie Vick, Ann Arbor, Mich.
16-(d – 1992) Buck Buchanan, Kansas City, Mo.
16-(d – 1994) Tay Brown, Los Angeles, Calif.
17 (1927) Thurman "Fum" McGraw, Garden City, Kan.
17-(d – 1978) Bill Fincher, Atlanta, Ga.
17-(d – 1980) Ralph "Shug" Jordan, Auburn, Ala.
18 (1905) George Wilson, Glenside, Pa.
18 (1939) Jerry Moore, Bonham, Texas
18-(d – 2005) Jim Parker, Columbia, Md.
20 (1864) Pa Corbin, Hartford, Conn.
20 (1920) Frank Merritt, New York, N.Y.
20 (1920) Tommy Prothro, Dyersburg, Tenn.
20 (1945) Jake Scott, Greenwood, S.C.
20-(d - 1964) Lone Star Dietz, Reading, Pa.
20-(d – 1994) George Munger, Villanova, Pa.
21 (1912) Bill Wallace, El Campo, Texas
21-(d – 1979) Eddie Price, New Orleans, La.
21-(d – 1999) Kurt Burris, Billings, Mont.
22 (1913) Jim Tatum, McColl, S.C.

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- 22 (1966) Tim Brown, Dallas, Texas
- 22-(d – 1975) Eddie Mahan, Natick, Mass.
- 22-(d – 1977) Jack O’Hearn, Brookline, Mass.
- 22-(d - 2010) Dennis Byrd, Charlotte, N.C.
- 23 (1935) John Robinson, Chicago, Ill.
- 23-(d – 1959) Jim Tatum, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- 24 (1875) Bennie Owen, Chicago, Ill.
- 24 (1876) Clarence “Bert” Herschberger, Peoria, Ill.
- 24 (1894) Clarence Spears, DeWitt, Ark.
- 24 (1962) Kevin Butler, Savannah, Ga.
- 24-(d – 1978) Joel Hunt, Teague, Texas
- 24-(d – 2002) Gaynell “Gus” Tinsley, Baton Rouge, La.
- 25 (1900) Ed Tryon, Medford, Mass.
- 25 (1936) Ron Burton, Springfield, Ohio
- 25 (1954) Walter Payton, Columbia, Miss.
- 26 (1869) Henry Williams, Hartford, Conn.
- 26 (1896) Everett Strupper, Columbus, Ga.
- 26 (1934) Tommy McDonald, Roy, N.M.
- 26 (1939) Bob Lilly, Olney, Texas
- 26-(d – 1966) Eddie Casey, Boston, Mass.
- 26-(d – 1981) John Beckett, LaJolla, Calif.
- 27 (1910) Fred Crawford, Waynesville, N.C.
- 27 (d - 1941) Howard Jones, Toluca Lake, Calif.
- 27 (1950) Reggie McKenzie, Detroit, Mich.
- 27 (1959) Hugh Green, Natchez, Miss.
- 27-(d – 1964) Willie Gallimore, Rensselaer, Ind.
- 27-(d - 2010) Jack Tatum, Pittsburg, Calif.
- 28 (1893) John “Jack” O’Hearn, Brookline, Mass.
- 28 (1943) Larry Elkins, Brownwood, Texas
- 28 (1957) Charles Alexander, Galveston, Texas
- 28-(d – 1930) John DeWitt, New York City
- 28-(d – 1979) Don Miller, Cleveland, Ohio
- 28-(d – 2010) Bob Fenimore. Stillwater, Okla.
- 29 (1879) Dan McGugin, Ringgold County, Iowa
- 29 (1902) Herbert Sturhahn, Far Rockaway, N.Y.
- 29-(d – 1986) Nello Falaschi, Oakland, Calif.
- 30 (1894) Carl Snavelly, Omaha, Neb.
- 30 (1903) Vic Hanson, Sacramento, Calif.
- 30 (1924) Dr. George Savitsky, New York City
- 30 (1945) Lloyd Carr, Hawkins Co., Tenn.
- 30 (1948) Jim Mandich, Cleveland, Ohio
- 30-(d – 1989) Wes Fesler, Laguna Hills, Calif.
- 30-(d -1993) Darrell Lester, Temple, Texas
- 30-(d – 2011) Dave Maurer, Springfield, Ohio
- 31 (1918) Gene Goodreault, Haverhill, Mass.
- 31 (1919) Forrest Behm, Lincoln, Neb.
- 31 (1968) Andre Ware, Galveston, Texas
- 31 (1974) Jonathan Ogden, Washington, D.C.
- 31-(d – 1986) Mal Aldrich, Southampton, N.Y.
- 31-(d – 2004) Ed Bock, St. Louis, Mo.

The Grave of Fielding Yost

Ann Arbor, MI

By Randy Snow

In a previous article, I told of going to the Forest Hills Cemetery in Ann Arbor, MI to visit the grave of Bo Schembechler. Well, Bo is not the only famous Michigan head coach who is buried in that cemetery. The man who not only coached the Wolverines and is also responsible for building Michigan Stadium, a.k.a., The Big House, is also there, Fielding H. Yost.

Yost was born and raised in West Virginia. His first college head coaching job was at Ohio Wesleyan in 1897. He also coached briefly at Nebraska, Kansas and Stanford before arriving at Michigan.

Yost was head coach at Michigan from 1901-1923 as well as in 1925 and 1926. In 1901, the Wolverines shut out every team they faced and outscored their opponents 550-0. Those early Michigan teams earned the nickname of the "Point-A-Minute" teams due to the many times that they scored over 60 points a game.

He was known as "Hurry Up" Yost, because of the way his teams would hurry back to the line of scrimmage and run another play before the defense had recovered from the previous play. It was similar to today's No-Huddle Offense. Michigan went undefeated (with one tie) in Yost's first four years as head coach, finally losing their first game in 1905.

Yost was also the school's athletic director from 1921-1941. One of his first projects as AD was building what he called, a field house. Something that would be big enough for the football team to practice in during inclement weather. It would also be used for basketball and hockey games. It was a totally unique concept at the time and when it was completed in 1922, students successfully petitioned to have it named the Yost Field House.

It was as the Michigan AD that he made his greatest contribution to the school, building Michigan Stadium. From 1906-1926, Michigan played its home games at Ferry Field. It was a wooden-bleacher stadium that held about 45,000 people. Because of the team's success on the football field, the demand for tickets to Michigan football games was growing every year and it was getting increasingly harder to keep up with the demand. A few other Big Ten teams were building new concrete stadiums about that time including Ohio State, Minnesota and Illinois.

Yost conceived the idea for Michigan Stadium after seeing the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1923. He modeled his design on the same bowl shape.

To pay for a new stadium, other schools sought donations from students and alumni, but Yost decided he would sell bonds to raise the money. He offered 2,000 tax-free bonds at \$500 each. When those sold out in just a few months, Yost issued 1,000 more, raising a total of \$1.5 million. Those who purchased bonds received the rights to purchase two preferred tickets to all Michigan home games for the next 20 years.

Excavation for Michigan Stadium began in the fall of 1926. They began pouring concrete in May of 1927 and in just five months, all the concrete work was completed. Originally, the stadium held 75,000 fans, but it was designed to be expanded by 30,000-40,000 seats if needed.

Michigan played its first home game in the new stadium on October 1, 1927 against Ohio Wesleyan, the school where he was the head coach in 1897.

Yost was also known as "The Grand Old Man," because of the many years he had been at the school. He died on August 20, 1946.

According to www.sports-reference.com, in his 25 seasons as head coach at Michigan, Yost posted a record of 165-29-10. However, he coached in only one bowl game. But it was in the first ever bowl game, the 1902 Rose Bowl (following the 1901 season). Michigan defeated Stanford 49-0. Michigan would not participate in another bowl game until 1948, when it defeated Southern California, again in the Rose Bowl.

Compared to the modern looking headstone that Bo Schembechler has at the historic Forest Hills Cemetery, the one for Fielding Yost looks like it belongs there. It is a simple, grey stone with his name and dates on it. Nothing fancy or ostentatious.

It is located in Section 8 in the northwest part of the cemetery. There are four separate stones in front of it marking the graves of his wife and children.

As well as Schembechler and Yost, there are two other Michigan legends buried in the Forest Hills Cemetery in Ann Arbor; long-time radio broadcaster Bob Ufer and quarterback Peter Elliott. They will be the subject of a future article.

Yost's contributions to the University of Michigan as a head coach and athletic director will forever be etched in U of M history. It was his contributions that set the school on the direction that it still follows today. A tradition of winning and a high standard of leading the way for other schools to follow. That is the legacy of Fielding Yost.

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No Christian End! The Beginnings of Football in America

By PFRA Research

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America got into football early. Colonists kicked and threw inflated bladders or sawdust-filled leather balls around long before they decided to fire on the whites of the redcoats' blue eyes. Understandably, games played a minor part in the lives of people more concerned with clearing trees and Indians off the land, but, by the latter part of the 18th Century, football had found its way onto the college campuses. Infrequent matches joined fisticuffs, wrestling, and drinking bouts as popular ways to relieve the severe mental discipline of college life. Some students were relieved right onto probation or worse.

Much as had happened on English campuses, each American school developed its own form of the sport. At Princeton, they were playing a version called "ballown" by 1820. Harvard, Yale, and others each had individual variations. However, if the diverse development echoed Britannia early-1800's, the American style of play resembled circa medieval. The only thing missing was the Dane's head. The young gentlemen attacked each other in most ungentlemanly ways. The New York EVENING POST was moved to observe that one such game would "make the same impression on the public mind as a bull fight. Boys and young men knocked each other down, tore off each other's clothing. Eyes were bunged, faces blacked and bloody, and shirts and coats torn to rags."

The usual excuse for a game was the "class rush", a joyous custom in which the sophomores demonstrated the benefit of an additional year's education by trampling the freshmen into the campus sod. The frosh proved their worthiness among halls of ivy by attempting to fertilize the sod with sophomores. Although a ball of some sort was involved, no one really kept score so long as a sufficient number of opponents were mangled. At Harvard, "Bloody Monday" took place on the first Monday of each new college year, starting in 1827. The two lower classes vied with each other so lethally that, as a modern historian put it, "Had 15-yard penalties been handed out, it is conceivable they would have reached California." Apparently, the freshmen kicked the ball well, but the sophomores kept missing the ball and kicking the freshmen. The game, according to another account, "consisted of kicking, pushing, slugging and getting angry."

At Yale, the interclass conflict took on a more definite form. The upper classmen supervised the freshmen who were herded into a huge phalanx with the ball carrier in the center. Then the sophomores attacked this mob and tried to push, kick, throw, or otherwise coerce the ball over the goal. Meanwhile, the upper classmen stood off to one side and clucked about school spirit and sportsmanship while occasionally wiping off spatters of blood.

The faculties and administrations alternately approved and condemned football playing. On the plus side, the game revved up school spirit and decreased class sizes. But, on the other hand, there was altogether too much destruction of school property to be tolerated.

In 1860 when the destruction began to spread into the town, New Haven officials complained to Yale authorities, and the game was abolished. Harvard banned football playing the same year. The school authorities may have been echoing all those English kings, but there was one new note -- the bans stuck. Harvard students reacted with an elaborate funeral for "Football Fightum". As they interred the game, one student read an eloquent eulogy while a chorus of mourners solemnly chanted: *Beneath this sod we lay you down, This sign of glorious fight; With dismal groans and yells we'll drown Your mournful burial rite!*

The Boston Game

But football wasn't really dead; it had just gone away. It now became the property of New England schoolboys who took care of it much better than their older college brothers. The kids had been playing versions of football for years, of course. Unlike the college students, they usually followed some simple rules, although these might vary considerably from town to town. Primarily, they played variations of soccer, and boys could be seen on autumn days diligently practicing dribbling or "puddling" balls across fields by tapping them with their feet while school books were forgotten back by the fences. Occasionally, a locally popular game allowed carrying, making it a rugby derivative. Then the books could be tucked under arms as football-substitutes and the boys would be away dodging down lanes, eluding imaginary tacklers.

On Saturdays, groups of as many as forty or fifty boys might gather at a chosen lot or meadow, divide into teams, and spend several hours happily agitating a ball across the grass. Usually, the ball was handmade by someone's father, but, if the boys were lucky, they might have one of the store-bought rubber balls that had been introduced in 1855. These allowed for more accurate kicking, and as the use of them spread, they encouraged soccer-like games over rugby styles. These schoolboy gatherings were quite informal, but "buddies" tended to hang together and set teams sometimes were developed.

One such group of prep school boys in Boston formed the Oneida Football Club in 1862. The original Oneidas had been a tribe of Iroquois Indians long gone from the Boston environs, but the boys liked the heroic aura of the name. The mainspring of the bunch was teenager Gerrit Smith Miller, named for his maternal grandfather, the ardent abolitionist Gerrit Smith. Young Miller was a natural leader and exceptional athlete who soon had his gang practicing soccer and rugby on the Boston Common. After awhile, the boys tired of both games, perhaps because they could find no one to play. Rather than disband, they occupied their time by inventing a new game, one that combined their favorite features of both soccer and rugby. They liked goal kicking from the former and running with the ball from the latter, and both became features of their hybrid, "The Boston Game".

On November 7, 1863, the boys finally found someone to play. They lured a pick-up team of non-members to the Common and explained the rules to them. Not surprisingly, Miller's well-drilled crew zapped the neophytes. Reportedly, the score was 12-0, but just what scored how many points in the Boston Game is open to dispute.

At any rate, the Boston newspapers found the Oneidas' victory sufficiently amusing to honor it the next day with a one-paragraph write-up. Over the next three years, Gerrit Miller's gang took on anyone they could sucker into a game. They remained undefeated, never once allowing a point. The Oneidas credited their success to diligent practice; some suggested it was more due to their having invented their own game.

Some historians have gone so far as to call the Oneidas' victories the first games of American football, maintaining the hybrid Boston Game was neither soccer nor rugby and, therefore, was what Americans recognize as their favorite autumn sport. To call the Oneidas the inventors of American football is surely giving the little devils more than their due. Their game allowed running under certain circumstances, but it was still essentially soccer. Perhaps it should be called football's missing link.

Although the Boston Game can't be placed any higher on football's evolutionary ladder, it seems fair to say that the Oneidas themselves exerted an important influence on the eventual course of American football, particularly because several of the boys grew up and took their game with them to Harvard. And, it was the Crimson's preference for the Boston Game that proved the key in turning America away from soccer.

Princeton-Rutgers: 1869

By the end of the 1860's with the Civil War a thing of memory, Yale, Princeton, Rutgers, Brown and most of the other eastern colleges began experimenting with soccer as an enjoyable alternative to studying. Princeton even published a set of rules in 1867 based on those of the London Football Association. Despite slight variations, the games played on most campuses resembled each other sufficiently that sooner or later one school was bound to challenge another to a match.

1869 was a pivotal year in American sport. It was, for example, the year in which the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first all-professional baseball team. For those interested in comparisons, baseball had reached the point where it stood only two years away from its first pro league, the ill-fated National Association. Professional football had not even been thought of for the very good reason that American football did not yet exist. However, an important step was taken in the fall of 1869 when William Leggett, the captain of Rutgers' soccer team, took advantage of the proximity of the two schools and issued a challenge to William S. Gummere, his opposite number at Princeton.

Gummere accepted and a three-game series was planned. Both schools had class teams for intramural games, but Leggett and Gummere were to captain school teams made up of the best players from each institution. The two captains worked out the details. The first game was scheduled for three o'clock on the afternoon of November 6 at Rutgers. Generally, the Rutgers' version of any rule differences was to be in force. Each team would field twenty-five men, and the first side to score six goals was to be declared the winner.

Despite a cold wind whistling over the field, about a hundred spectators showed up on the commons at New Brunswick to watch the contest. Some perched on an old board fence; others sat in buckboards. Reportedly, organized cheering was a feature. It was based on a Civil War Regiment cheer first heard when soldiers marched through Princeton.

Spectators later told of a crotchety Rutgers professor who pedaled up on a bicycle. He watched for a few minutes and then shook his umbrella at the players, shouting, "You men will come to no Christian end!" With that, he wheeled off, missing what turned out to be an excellent game.

Within five minutes of the kickoff, the better organized Rutgers men scored the first goal. Princeton came right back, using superior size and muscle, to tie the game. Except for red stocking caps worn by a few of the Rutgers players, neither side was in any kind of distinctive uniform. However, the crowd had no trouble distinguishing between the smaller, quicker Rutgers team and the taller but slower men of Princeton. Rutgers speed and superior kicking skill paid off in a second goal, but once more Princeton's greater strength tied it up. It was a classic confrontation.

At one point, two players pursuing the ball crashed into the board fence, spilling spectators hither and yon. For a few moments, Rutgers pulled away, scoring twice. Then, in a moment of confusion, a Rutgers player aimed a shot at his own goal. A quicker-thinking teammate blocked the kick, but Princeton was on the ball immediately and kicked a legitimate goal. Before Rutgers could completely recover, the Tigers added another goal to tie the score yet again at 4-4.

During a break in the action, Leggett instructed his men to keep the ball low to negate Princeton's height advantage. The strategy worked. Rutgers quickly knocked in two goals against the baffled Tigers to win 6-4.

The contest is usually called the first intercollegiate football game. American fans celebrated football's centennial in 1969. They were mistaken. The game played was not American football, nor even its more direct ancestor rugby. Rutgers' historic victory was in soccer. Despite that little confusion, the game was notable on two counts. It came three years before an equivalent intercollegiate match was held in England, and it instituted the practice of one American school playing some kind of football game against another.

A week later, November 13, everyone went over to Princeton to play by the Tigers' rules. The Princeton version favored height by allowing a player to catch the ball in flight and then take a free kick. The taller Tigers booted eight straight goals to none for Rutgers. A spectator at the second game reported that the ball used was never quite the regulation shape. It constantly lost air. Several times during the game the players took turns blowing it up, but by the time the last man was out of breath the ball always remained lopsided.

The third game, scheduled for November 29, was cancelled. Most likely the captains couldn't agree on whose rules to use for the rubber match. Several of the players in those historic games went on to better things. Captain Leggett, the first American strategist, became a respected clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church. His Rutgers teammate, George H. Large, was later elected to the state senate. On the Princeton side, Jacob E. Michael became Dean of the Faculty at the University of Maryland, and Captain Gummere served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for over thirty years. Others enjoyed distinguished careers in business, law, and medicine.

So much for the dire predictions of one crotchety old Rutgers professor!

The First Rules

The idea of intercollegiate matches didn't exactly spread like wildfire. Columbia tried it in 1870, losing to Rutgers, who in turn lost again to Princeton. A pair of games was hardly a bumper crop.

The next year, the total number of intercollegiate games dropped by two. Supposedly there had been criticism of rough play the year before. The games were nothing like the old class rushes, but they weren't exactly patty cake either.

Even so, a good deal of intramural soccer was going on. The Cornell Football Association was organized in 1870, and, that same year, Yale students started playing again on the New Haven green. When the police moved in, the students moved out and found a vacant lot for their class games. On October 15, 1871, Tiger students formed the Princeton Football Association and adopted rules.

In 1872, intercollegiate matches were back in style. Columbia played four games, tying Rutgers, losing twice, and defeating Stevens Tech. Rutgers, in a return match, handed Columbia one of its defeats but lost to Princeton again. The Tigers and Yale each had 1-0-0 records. Yale's win, a 3-0 victory over Columbia, drew 4,000 people at 25 cents a head to Hamilton Park in New Haven.

Rules still varied from campus to campus. Hours were wasted before each match deciding who could do what to whom under which circumstances. On October 19, 1873, representatives of Yale, Columbia, Princeton, and Rutgers met at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York to thrash out the first set of intercollegiate rules in America. Compared with today's voluminous and exquisitely worded rule book, the twelve rules they came up with seem almost absurdly brief. A player could memorize them on the way from the dressing room.

1. *The ground shall be 400 feet long and 250 feet broad.*
2. *The distance between the posts of each goal shall be 25 feet.*
3. *The number for match games shall be 20 to a side.*
4. *To win a game 6 goals are necessary, but that side shall be considered victorious which, when the game is called, shall have scored the greatest number of goals, provided that number be 2 or more. To secure a goal the ball must pass between the posts.*
5. *No player shall throw or carry the ball. Any violation of this regulation shall constitute a foul, and the player so offending shall throw the ball perpendicularly into the air to a height of at least 12 feet and the ball shall not be in play until it has touched the ground.*
6. *When the ball passes out of bounds it is a foul, and the player causing it shall advance at right angles to the boundary line, 15 paces from the point where the ball went, and shall proceed as in rule 5.*
7. *No tripping shall be allowed, nor shall any player use his hands to hold or push an adversary.*
8. *The winner of the toss shall have the choice of the first goal, and the sides shall change goals after every successive inning. In starting the ball it shall be fairly kicked, not "babied", from a point 150 feet in front of the starter's goal.*

9. *Until the ball is kicked no player on either side shall be in advance of a line parallel to the line of his goal and distant from it 150 feet.*
10. *There shall be two judges, one from each of the contesting colleges, and one referee; all to be chosen by the captains.*
11. *No player shall wear spikes or iron plates upon his shoes.*
12. *In all matches a No. 6 ball shall be used, furnished by the challenging side and to become the property of the victor*

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The No. 6 ball was imported from England where it was used by the London Football Association. It was 30 inches in circumference, entirely round, and very strong. It was NOT pigskin. Rather, the covering was heavy canvas thoroughly saturated with rubber.

It's worth noting that the goal posts had no crossbar. Another interesting provision, or lack of one, was that a game went on and on until darkness unless one team managed to get six goals. The game was a test of endurance as much as skill.

Rule number ten, providing for two judges and a referee, proved a bit naive. Each school had its own judge, and, in effect, the referee invariably made all the tough decisions.

Rules number five and number seven stamped the game as soccer by eliminating carrying and the use of hands. There was unanimity among the four assembled schools for the exclusion of these practices. And, it was because everyone knew that the four assembled schools felt that way about it that Harvard, although invited, chose to skip the whole get-together.

In the long run, Harvard's absence was the most important thing about the entire meeting.

Harvard-McGill: 1874

Harvard's funeral for Football Fightum turned out to be premature, to say the least. By 1871, only ten years after the burial, they were playing at Cambridge once more. The Boston Game, developed by the Oneidas, was favored by the Crimson for its class games. This, remember, was a combination of both soccer and rugby. The emphasis seems to have been on kicking, but the ball could be caught and run if the catcher was pursued. That made it just different enough to cut off Harvard from competition with other schools, all of whom played the strict kicking game.

When the invitation came to attend the 1873 meeting, Harvard had a tough decision to make: should they keep running by themselves or kick with the pack?

They decided to stay home and keep running. Some people have called it the most momentous decision in the history of American football. Some people exaggerate. Football lends itself to hyperbole -- the greatest, the best, the most, etc. Harvard's decision was important. Let it go at that.

The reason it was important is that Harvard began to look high and low for someone to play their precious Boston Game against. No other U.S. school would touch it.

Finally, in the spring of 1874, McGill University of Montreal, Canada, issued a challenge to the Crimson. Captain Harry Grant happily accepted. It turned out Harvard got more than it bargained for. McGill agreed to come to Cambridge for a session of Boston Game if Harvard would then have a go at a game by McGill's rules. McGill played rugby. The two teams met on May 14. Played under Harvard's rules, the game was such a rout they called it off after only 22 minutes with the home team in front 3-0. "Just wait until tomorrow when we play rugby!" warned the McGill men.

The Harvard team laughed, but when the McGill players were out of earshot they asked each other nervously, "What's a rugby?" Years later, a member of the Harvard class of 1874 said, "There were many points of difference [in the Boston Game] from the Rugby game. It was eminently a kicking, as distinguished from a running and tackling, game. The rules ... existed only in tradition. We went to work to learn the Rugby game, but I should question if there were three men in college who had ever seen the egg-shaped ball. A drop kick was an unknown and incredible feat, and the intricacies of 'off side,' 'free kick,' 'put out,' and such commonplaces of the game seemed inextricable mysteries to novices like us."

The game played the next day, May 15, was the first rugby game on U.S. soil. Harvard acquitted itself very well and struggled to a scoreless tie. More importantly, they fell head over heels in love with rugby and all thoughts of the once-cherished Boston Game disappeared. Harvard couldn't wait until the next fall. When it came, they raced up to Montreal to play some more rugby. In addition to kicked goals, the Canadian version of the game allowed touchdowns to count in the scoring. Harvard scored three of them to win.

Flushed with success, the Crimson came home and, the next year, challenged Yale to a rugby match. The sons of Eli thought it over and decided it might be fun. The two schools scheduled a game for November 13, at Hamilton Park in New Haven, to be played under what were called the "Concessionary Rules". These had nothing to do with selling beer, hot dogs, or crackerjacks, but were instead a special set of rules agreed to in which each side gave up a little.

Harvard sacrificed counting touchdowns in the scoring. The only thing a TD gained was the right to try for a goal. Yale agreed to play with 15 men instead of the eleven they preferred. They had been won over to the smaller group two years earlier when they played soccer against a traveling team of eleven Englishmen from Eton. Yale found it made for a more open, exciting game. From then on they kept pushing for eleven on a side until everybody was sick to death from hearing about it. For Yale to agree to put four extra men on the field was a major concession and showed real sportsmanship.

In their first rugby game, Yale's nice guys finished last. Harvard ran all over them, and the poor sons of Eli, knowing nothing about tackling, let them. The final stood 4-0 Harvard, with one of the goals coming after a touchdown. Despite the one-sided defeat, Yale was completely captivated by rugby. Forthwith, they decided, they would play it themselves.

Aside from being the first game in what became one of the most famous series in college football, the 1875 Harvard-Yale encounter saw the first uniforms worn in an American football game. Yale wore dark trousers, blue shirts, and yellow caps. Not to be outdone in sartorial splendor any more than in the score, Harvard showed up in crimson shirts, stockings, and knee breeches. From the descriptions, they looked like a couple of spiffy bowling teams.

All told, the crowd of 2,000 -- including 150 Harvard students -- got its money's worth even though the admission had been doubled from 25 cents to half a dollar for the occasion. Two fellows who paid the price were W. Earle Dodge and Jotham Potter, both of Princeton. They rushed back home singing rugby's praises to high heaven and to any Princetonians who would listen. And so, as the United States made ready to celebrate its centennial year, the coming game on at least three trend-setting eastern college campuses was that old English favorite, rugby. Anglophobes viewed the whole thing with distaste.

As for the game we know as American football, that hadn't been thought of. Or, as some would say, it wasn't even a gleam in Father's eye. But, in the fall of 1876, Father enrolled at Yale. His name was Walter Camp.

* * *

From 1883-1888, Yale went 54-1-2 and scored an unbelievable 3,242 points and surrendered only 39 including Rutgers' 10 points on this day -- the only points Yale surrendered during its 1884 season. It was the most points Yale surrendered in any game from 1876 to 1888.

* * *

Source: Evening Times (Cumberland, Maryland); 1938

"EASTERN BOWL" GAME DEFINITELY CANCELLED

New York (AP) Dec. 1, Promoters of the proposed. "Eastern Bowl" post-season football game Dec. 10 today definitely cancelled plans to stage the contest because of last week's heavy snowstorm and the continued cold weather along the Atlantic Seaboard.

Officials said that until the snowstorm, "three or four good teams," including unbeaten and untied Oklahoma had been interested.

* * *

Source: Sporting Life 1916...

Coaches' on their Team's

Foster Sanford, the Rutgers coach, wants it to be distinctly understood that he has had just as much success as a coach of defense as offense. Up to the Brown game of a week ago no team had made two successive first downs against Rutgers, and no team had made more than 80 yards by rushing.

Fielding Yost once said to us that a defense could be devised which would be perfect both against the forward pass and the rushing attack. The only difficulty, he added, was that such a defense would require the use of twelve men instead of eleven.

* * *

FROM WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP

This will be a regular feature as information becomes available...consisting of when one of our subscribers/members is recognized for his/her accomplishment!

- First Down Laser designed a track and field laser leader line system, and demonstrated it for the University of Oregon Athletic department and the NCAA track and field organizers.

Alan Amron, the laser's inventor and company founder, developed the technology.

The laser itself is mounted on a customized rig on the Hayward Field grandstand so it can switch easily from one event to another.

- **Timothy L. Hudak** has recently served as emcee at a gathering to honor

* * *

“The 50 Greatest High School Football Players the Last 50 Years, 1963-2013” from the Cleveland, Ohio area. The event was sponsored Cleveland *Plain Dealer* newspaper. He also was part of the selection process.

- **J.D. Hamilton** was honored with the *Wilbur Snyppe Award* at the NCAA College World Series.

The NCBWA / Wilbur Snyppe Award is an annual award and is presented to a professional for their contributions to the sport of collegiate baseball.

IFRA Remembers

➤ **Obituaries**

- **Chuck Noll**, the coach that led Pittsburgh to four Super Bowls victories over six seasons (1974, 1975, 1978 and 1979). He played and graduated from the University of Dayton. He was 82.

In 2007, St. Vincent College named their football field after Noll.

-**Larry Dupree**, age 70; he played for the University of Florida.

- Chuck McAninch, Humboldt State; he was 81. He was elected into the school's Hall of Fame in 2005.

- Joseph "Chip" Vaccarino, age 68, Delaware (1967-69)

-Steven Little, 52, Iowa State University. He was three-year starter along the defensive line, earning all-Big 8 honors. He also was an assistant coach at a number of schools.

➤ **Honored**

(From NFF)—Recipients of the NFF **Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award** include:

2014 – Jim Host	1994 – Mike Cleary
2013 – Dennie Poppe	1993 – John E. "Buddy" Leake
2012 – No honoree	1992 – Eddie Robinson
2011 – Verne Lundquist, Brent Musburger	1991 – Don B. Canham
2010 – Dr. Joseph Kearney	1990 – Bill Nicholas
2009 – Dan Jenkins	1989 – Bob Woodruff
2008 – Bill Battle	1988 – Lindsey Nelson
2007 – The Collegiate Bowl Games	1987 – Chris Schenkel
2006 – ESPN's College Game Day	1986 – Rex Fariior
2005 – Prentice Gautt	1985 – A.F. "Bud" Dudley
2004 – Rick Dickson, Pat Harmon	1984 – No honoree
	1983 – Gov. William Winter
2003 – Rudy J. Riska	1982 – Earnest E. Seiler
2002 – Dal Shealy	1981 – Edward "Moose" Krause
2001 – Thomas C. Hansen	1980 – Field Scovell
2000 – Tom Nugent	1979 – No honoree
1999 – Chuck Neinas	1978 – Jack Farcasin
1998 – Marino H. Casem	1977 – No honoree
1997 – Jack Lengyel	1976 – No honoree
1996 – Robert M. "Scotty" Whitelaw	1975 – Joseph J. Tomlin
1995 – Fred Jacoby	1974 – Lathrop King Leishman

➤ **Hall of Fame**

-Former Northern State quarterback Jason Landmark into the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame. He finished his career with

11,152 yards and 67 scoring strikes; and was a Second Team NAIA All-American in 1989.

-Alabama legend Ozzie Newsome will be inducted into State High School Associations (NFHS) Hall of Fame.

He played for legendary Alabama Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant; catching 102 balls for 2070 yards.

-Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame: Richard “Moon” Ducote, (Auburn, 1915-17 and Great Lakes Cleveland Naval Reserve, 1918); Alan Faneca, LSU (1995-97); Lionel Washington, Tulane (1979-82)

Visit IFRA’s partner sites for more information on your favorite sport-- Football!!

❖ **Football Geography.com**

Andrew McKillop
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❖ <http://www.gridirongreats.net>/Gridiron Greats/football memorabilia

Bob Swick
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❖ **Leatherheads of the Gridiron**
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❖ **The UnderDawgs.com—CSD football**

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❖ **Blog on College Football**
<http://www.tuxedo-press.com/>

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❖ **College Football Universe**
<http://www.collegefootballuniverseblog.com>

Justin Burnette

❖ **Ehbcsports—Edd Hayes Black College Sports History & Legends**

Edd Hayes
www.ehbcsports.com