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## He Turned Lemons Into Lemonade

By Patrick Garbin

September 8, 2009: Three years ago, the University of Georgia football program lost one of its greatest Bulldogs of all time.

Erskine “Erk” Russell was Georgia’s defensive coordinator for 17 seasons and, during this time, became one of the most highly-regarded and renowned assistant coaches in the game.

In the late 1970s, I actually met Erk once, sort of, when I was just a few years old. His wife was a friend of my mother’s and the Russell’s were invited to our house for dinner. Even today, my father often reminds me how lucky I was to sit in the lap of the great Coach Russell.

While in college, Russell earned 10 letters at Auburn University and still remains the school’s last

four-sport letterman. Following a few coaching positions, Erk arrived with new head coach Vince Dooley at Georgia in 1964 to coordinate the Bulldogs’ defense. The Georgia football program needed to be revitalized as it had suffered seven losing seasons the previous nine years.

Through the 1980 season with Russell as a major contributor, UGA football was turned into one of the better programs in the country. Erk then went off on his own to small, Division III Georgia Southern College where he helped elevate a second football program to national prominence.

In the 17 seasons and 192 games while at Georgia, Erk’s defenses held more than 43 percent of the opposition to 10 points or less, including 26 shutouts. The Bulldogs also finished in the nation’s top 10 in scoring defense in five seasons. Russell’s defenses were normally not all that physically talented but were extremely emotional and aggressive. His “Junkyard Dogs”

defensive unit of 1975 and “Runts” of 1976 were small in stature but gritty and determined and strained their full potential to help Georgia win 19 of 22 regular-season games.

Foremost, Erk was a master at communicating with and motivating his players. He devised Georgia’s big “TEAM” little “me” t-shirts, proclaiming the team is always bigger and more important than an individual player. His shaven, bald head was often bleeding, since he frequently rammed it against the helmets of players during pre-game drills to motivate them for the game at hand. Russell was “like an institution,” according to ABC-TV color analyst Lee Grosscup in 1981. “I kind of miss him along the sidelines with that bald head of his that was always bloodied.”

His last game at Georgia was a 17-10 win over Notre Dame in the 1981 Sugar Bowl for the national championship. In the spring of 1981, he accepted the head coaching position at Georgia Southern College (later Georgia Southern University) in Statesboro. With it he acquired an inactive football program that had not fielded a team since 1941. Erk had left the Bulldogs to pursue and tackle a much bigger challenge.

Although Georgia Southern’s exhibition season opener of 1981

was not until mid-November, although asked to attend, Erk thought it would be better if he did not make an appearance at Georgia’s first game versus Tennessee in Athens. The bald Russell was tempted, however, and joked he might go to the game in disguise if he “could wear a toupee.”

As the Bulldogs began the 1981 season by allowing only 225 yards per game and three touchdowns through the first five contests, Georgia’s defense seemed as dominant as it had while under the guidance of Erk.

A newspaper reported that although Russell was physically absent from the Dogs, he surely had a “vicarious presence” with the ’81 defense. New defensive coordinator Bill Lewis was speaking almost weekly to Russell and asking his advice.

“He’s a true authority on our defense,” said Lewis. “As far as I’m concerned, he wrote the book on the Split 60 defense (Georgia’s defensive formation).”

Head coach Erk Russell’s first game in 1981 was against Florida State’s junior varsity. Since it was a lower division football program, Georgia Southern could not grant football scholarships. Florida State’s JV, on the other hand, had several scholarship players. Erk’s squad surprisingly led late in the game until Florida State scored two touchdowns in the final 90 seconds to win, 30-

20. After the loss, Russell was not satisfied with the moral victory and declared, "I hope our people don't ever feel good about losing."

While Erk coached Georgia Southern, the "people" likely never felt good about losing because they rarely had to endure defeat. The Eagles moved to Division II in 1983 and then onto Division I-AA the following season. In only its fourth season of football after four decades of being dormant, Georgia Southern won the national title in 1985.

For an encore to the championship season, Erk's Eagles won their second consecutive national championship in 1986. Following a 9-4 campaign in 1987, Georgia Southern won 12 games in 1988 and made another appearance in the national title game, losing to Furman. In Erk Russell's final year in 1989, the Eagles recorded a perfect 15-0 record, including a defeat of Stephen F. Austin 37-34 for a third national championship in only five seasons. Four days following the title win, Erk decided to retire at the age of 63.

In just eight seasons as Georgia Southern's head coach, Russell compiled an 83-22-1 (.788) overall record and made four trips to the Division I-AA national title game in his final five

seasons, winning three. Most significantly, he took a once lifeless football program and built it into excellence, an achievement similar to what Erk assisted with at Georgia a quarter-century prior to his retirement in 1989.

On September 8, 2006, Erk Russell passed away in Statesboro at the age of 80. A day later, in honor of Russell, Georgia players wore a black "ERK" decal on the back of their helmets against South Carolina in Columbia. Georgia paid a fitting tribute to Russell by shutting out the Gamecocks 18-0, reminiscent of Erk's "Junkyard Dogs" of three decades before. It was Georgia's first shutout over a conference opponent on the road since 1980, Erk's final season at the University of Georgia.

It was in 1980 when a newspaper article mentioned Erk had the following motto on his office's bulletin board—one certainly suited for the coach and likely had been posted for years: "If life deals you lemons, turn it into lemonade." I like to think I'll get to see Coach Russell again in person one day. If so, I'd asked if he is aware of the great number of football fans astonished how he often turned hindered and undersized players to over-achieving, spirited, and determined all-stars.

Understanding what I know about Erk Russell, he would probably respond with one of his

acclaimed quips, like “I’d rather be lucky than good.”

Part of this article is a revised feature from Garbin’s book *About Them Dawgs!* (Scarecrow Press—2008). For more information on Garbin’s books and writing, please visit the author’s website at [www.patrickgarbin.com](http://www.patrickgarbin.com) and his blog at [www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com](http://www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com).

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## **A Backward Glance at the Forward Pass: Giving Credit Where Credit is DU!**

**© Anthony J. Lisska  
Denison University  
Granville Historical Society**

*Used by permission*

The Denison University Marching Band, circa 1913 Livy had watched Dave Reese's all-round athletic ability when he played for Doane Academy [then the preparatory school at Denison University]. Thinking that a basketball player should be a good man to catch passes, Livy devised a shift so that Dave, our center, while still centering the ball, was at one end of the line and thus was eligible to receive passes. In the case of Black, a tackle, the problem was easier; to become an eligible pass receiver, all he had to do was to line up outside his end.

Observing the possibility of deftly using the forward pass at the

Wooster game, and depending on Livy's ability to listen to his players, the Denison eleven adapted marvelously to the new rules and went on to an outstanding remainder of their 1912 football season. This Denison team had several sophomores who jelled in the next two years to produce the famous 1914 Ohio Conference Championship football team.

### **The Big Red Adapt to the New Passing Rules**

under Livy did was get its own copy of the new rulebook. With this new strategic possibility, the passing expertise of halfback Roudebush blossomed.

Roudebush himself noted that Denison "scored 19 points in our first three games. In the next five, we scored almost 200! "The passing strategy had begun in earnest.

Roudebush remarked that the football was "fatter" in 1912 than it is today and hence it was

difficult to handle. Many players entrusted to pass the football would try to "palm it in the middle.

"Roudebush, who also played baseball for the Big Red, drew upon skills that had been finely honed by throwing those stones and corncobs from his early days on the farm in Newtonsville. He passed the ball by gripping it near the end and throwing it to his intended receiver with a pitching motion.

This new passing weapon was so successful that the next week Denison beat the Otterbein Cardinals 60-3 and the Tigers of Wittenberg 68-0 in short order the following week. Reporting on the match with Wittenberg, the *Columbia Dispatch* in its November 2, 1912, edition noted that "Roudebush again starred by throwing passes for all sorts of distance with wonderful accuracy."

*The Newark Advocate* for the same day offers the following account: The forward pass was worked time and time again, giving enormous gains to Denison. The game was featured by the wonderful passes of Roudebush, which were the best seen on the Denison gridiron for many years. Five or six passes for 30 or more yards were successfully made.<sup>10</sup>

The following three games that closed out the season were all victories and against larger institutions: Denison 31-University of Cincinnati 13; Denison 13-Miami of Ohio 0; and Denison 17-West

Virginia University 6. The passing arm of George Roudebush carried the day—and the season—for the Big Red of little Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Newspapers of the day provide factual accounts of the great ability of Roudebush to be a forward passer of distinction. *The Columbus Dispatch* in reporting on the Wittenberg game noted that "the Springfield bunch was outclassed and seemed to have no idea ... how to break up the forward pass.

"Another example of stellar forward passing came a week later when Denison beat Cincinnati 31-13; The *Advocate* sports writer reports that "Granville's well trained and conditioned athletes showed too much dazzling work in the forward pass for Cincinnati to cope with."

Following the second to the last game with Miami University, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* reported that "Denison by Brilliant forward passes defeated Miami 13 to 0." A description of the final game of the season against West Virginia played in Fairmont, W.Va., noted that "the forward passes and long end runs of Denison bewildered..."the West Virginia Mountaineers.

In describing for Denison 's own institutional history the very successful 1912 gridiron season, the *Adytum*, which is the college yearbook, focuses much attention on the role of the forward pass in

Denison's football success that year.

The striking feature of the season was the development of the open style of play. "Livy" started out by running the team much as it had been the year before, but after the Ohio State and Wooster games, the team were drilled in the use of the forward pass until it became the leader in this style of play.

The *Adytum* comments on the dramatic change after the Wooster game.

The Otterbein game showed a change in Denison's style of play, the forward pass being used to such advantage that the game resulted in a walk-away 60 to 3.

The Wittenberg game was a repetition of this and gave us our highest score of the season, 68 to 0. Cincinnati could do little better and were easily taken into camp to the tune of 31-13. Miami fought hard but the Denison bunch succeeded in chalking up a 13-0 score in one of the season's best games. The West Virginia team could not solve our system of offence and were forced to yield to the better team, 17-6.

In all, Denison amassed a total of 211 points to our opponents 65.

Here's to the Championship in 1913!

This *Adytum* summary conjoined with the newspaper accounts provide substantial evidence that the Denison football team of 1912, using the passing skills of George Roudebush, executed with distinction the craft of throwing the forward pass accurately and used this newly justified strategy deftly to win football games, some played against larger institutions.

The 1912 *Adytum* description of Roudy the passer is explicit about his football throwing abilities and this contribution to Denison's winning ways on the gridiron: This year's style of play brought out a new star in the person of "Roudy." "Roudy" went out for quarterback and since he couldn't very well take Deeter's place, he made his presence so felt on the second team that Livy was forced to give him a place at half on the regular team, where his beautiful long forward passes furnished all sorts of the spectacular element to the team's work.

Here's hoping that "Roudy's" arm is working as well next year.

These events occurred one full *year* before the Dorais/Rockne passing duo mesmerized the

Cadets of Army in that fateful November 1913 football match.

Roudebush's passing skills transformed football for Denison and ultimately for everybody.

This young Denison sophomore led the "revolution" in modern football by elevating the forward pass to a significant offensive weapon. At the time, the Denison home football games were played on old Beaver Field, which was located where the present Denison University heating plant stands on South Main Street.

\* \* \*

## Mount Union College Won-Lost records: home and away

By Leonard Reich, SID

- Since 2000, 74-2 at home
- Since the start of the 1993 season (first national title), 125-3
- Since 1990 , 141-4-1

Coach Larry Kehres' home record since he took over as head coach in 1986, 153-9-3

*Remember the first rule of this ... Is that the Stagg Bowl is a neutral site game NOT a road game by this calculation ...*

- Mount Union has won 71 straight road games at an opponent's home stadium dating back to a 34-33 loss at Albion (MI) in the 1994 NCAA Playoffs

- If you look at ONLY regular season games Mount Union has won 89 straight dating back to a 21-18 loss in 1991 at Baldwin-Wallace.

\* \* \*

## NAIA Pre-Season Poll Notes

By Chad Waller  
NAIA Director of Sports  
Information & Media  
Services

In the last eight preseason polls, Sioux Falls (S.D.) has been ranked in the Top 5 on all occasions with a No. 1 billing twice (2007 and 2009)... The last time a team other than Carroll (Mont.) and Sioux Falls was ranked at No. 1 was Saint Francis (Ind.) on Nov. 12, 2006 – a streak of 29 polls.

Carroll has now been ranked in the Top 5 in the last 53 straight polls dating back to November, 2004... St. Francis boasts the longest consecutive stretch of being named in the Coaches' Top 25 Poll – now standing at 119 straight mentions.

The last time St. Francis was not mentioned in the Top 25 was Oct. 19, 1999... Carroll is the next team in line with 106 straight Top 25 rankings while Sioux Falls stands at 105 straight mentions... Sioux Falls heads into 2009 with the nation's longest winning streak at 14 games.

Since 2004 when Ohio Dominican started varsity football, the Panthers have been ranked in 37 of a possible 66 polls – those 37 polls happen to be the last 37 straight weeks.

Since 2000, Carroll has been ranked No. 1 53 times, the highest amount of any program during that time span; Sioux Falls is second with 31 mentions at No. 1 followed by Georgetown (Ky.) with 14, Northwestern Oklahoma State with 11 and St. Francis with three.

USF continues its recent trend of success in the polls with being ranked now either No. 1 or No. 2 for the last 32 consecutive polls. Overall, Sioux Falls has been ranked in the Top 25 in the last 105 straight polls.

With its 11<sup>th</sup> straight Top 10 ranking, Lindenwood (Mo.) comes in at No. 3; No. 4 Saint Francis (Ind.) is seeking its eighth straight season of 10 or more wins. No. 5 Morningside (Iowa) lists 16 returners overall and was the No. 1 scoring offense last season with 48 points per game.

Checking in at No. 2 is Carroll (Mont.) is gunning for their 10<sup>th</sup> straight Frontier Conference title under head coach Mike Van Diest.

\* \* \*

## Memorable Games of the Southwest Conference; through the eyes of:

### Six veteran observers of the Southwest Conference Football

**Rice:** Oct. 11, 1919: Rice 8, Baylor 0 (RU's first SWC win after returning to conference); Nov. 3, 1990: Rice 19, at Arkansas 11; Nov. 26, 1994: Rice 31, Houston 13 (to tie for SWC title); Nov. 16, 1957: Rice 7, Texas A&M 6; Oct. 16, 1994: Rice 19, Texas 17 (to break 28-game Texas series winning streak from 1966-93)

**Baylor:** Oct. 8, 1915: Baylor 8, Rice 0; Nov. 9, 1974: Baylor 34, Texas 24; Nov. 22, 1980: Baylor 16, Texas 0; Oct. 29, 1994: Baylor 52, Houston 13; Nov. 10, 1956: Baylor 10, Texas 7

**SMU:** Nov. 1, 1947: SMU 14, Texas 13; Nov. 13, 1982: SMU 37, Texas Tech 27; Nov. 29, 1923: SMU 16, Baylor 0; Nov. 5, 1966: SMU 21, Texas A&M 14; Nov. 24, 1984: SMU 31, Arkansas 28. *Also* Nov. 30, 1935: SMU 20, TCU 14.

**Oklahoma:** Oct. 23, 1915: OU 14, Texas 13; Nov. 13, 1916: Oklahoma 14, Arkansas 13; Oct. 20, 1917: Oklahoma 14, Texas 0; Nov. 16, 1918: Oklahoma 103, Arkansas 0; Oct. 18, 1919: Oklahoma 12, Texas 7.

**Oklahoma State (then Oklahoma A&M):** Nov. 29, 1917: OSU 9, Oklahoma 0; Oct. 22, 1921: OSU 7, Arkansas 0; Nov. 30, 1922: OSU 13,

Arkansas 0; Oct. 20, 1923: OSU 13, Rice 0; Nov. 22, 1924: OSU 20, Arkansas 0.

**TCU:** Nov. 7, 1936: TCU 27, Texas 6; Nov. 12, 1955: TCU 47, Texas 20; Nov. 10, 1984: TCU 27, Texas Tech 16; Oct. 22, 1994: TCU 31, Houston 10; Nov. 14, 1959: TCU 14, Texas 9.

**Texas:** Dec. 6, 1969, Texas 14, Arkansas 13; Dec. 1, 1990: Texas 28, Texas A&M 27; Dec. 2, 1995: Texas 16, Texas A&M 6; Nov. 25, 1920: Texas 7, Texas A&M 3; Nov. 3, 1945: Texas 12, SMU 7; Nov. 7, 1959: Texas 13, Baylor 12.

**Texas A&M:** Oct. 18, 1986: A&M 31, Baylor 30; Dec. 1, 1984: A&M 37, Texas 12; Nov. 26, 1987: A&M 20, Texas 13; Oct. 14, 1967: A&M 28, Texas Tech 24; Nov. 20, 1917: A&M 7, Texas 0.

**Houston:** Nov. 20, 1976: Houston 27, Texas Tech 19; Nov. 11, 1978: Houston 10, Texas 7; Oct. 21, 1989: Houston 95, SMU 21; Nov. 19, 1988: Houston 30, Texas Tech 29; Nov. 10, 1984: Houston 29, Texas 15.

**Texas Tech:** Dec. 4, 1976: Texas Tech 24, Baylor 21; Oct. 29, 1994: Tech 33, Texas 9; Oct. 24, 1964: Tech 12, SMU 0; Oct. 23, 1965: Tech 26, SMU 24; Nov. 4, 1989: Tech 24, Texas 17.

**Arkansas:** 1936: Arkansas 6, Texas 0; Oct. 17, 1964: Arkansas 14, Texas 13; Nov. 24, 1989: Arkansas

23, A&M 22; Nov. 12, 1988: Arkansas 25, A&M 20; Oct. 18, 1986: Arkansas 21, Texas 14.

Southwestern and Phillips also participated in the SWC, but didn't have any significant SWC football wins in their three seasons in the conference.

\* \* \*

## (PRELIMINARY) COLLEGE SOCCER CHAMPIONS 1857/58-1909/10

By Mel Smith

This listing is a first attempt to include college champions playing in the early seasons of the Kicking Game/Association Football/Soccer up to 1909/10. The kicking game of foot-ball became known as the association game when American colleges began to use the London Football Association code written in 1863. No carrying of the ball was allowed. By the end of 1905, many big city American newspapers began to use the term 'socket', or 'soccer' for association football game descriptions.

Most college national champions' listings of the soccer game begin in 1904. Presently, the first accepted intercollegiate soccer game is played between Haverford College and Harvard University on April 1, 1905. This game is called the first 'modern-era' soccer by Haverford; see:

[www.haverford.edu/athletics/soccer/m/history.php](http://www.haverford.edu/athletics/soccer/m/history.php)

The first college foot-ball club (now called varsity) was formed by the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) after the class games were finished in the fall of 1857 (see 'The Princeton Book; Chapter on Foot-ball', D. Stewart, 1879). The Christian Brothers College High School in St Louis, MO, lists their predecessor, the college, as national champions in 1901 and 1904. The Christian Brothers College of St Louis was selected to play in the association football games at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, NY, in 1901. This college also won the Silver Medal in the association football games played at the III Olympiad in St Louis, MO, in 1904.

### **VARIATIONS OF THE KICKING GAME**

1857/58 Coll New Jersey (Princeton) (NJ)  
1858/59 Coll New Jersey (Princeton) (NJ)  
1859/60 Coll New Jersey (Princeton) (NJ)  
1860/61-1865/66 N/A

### **ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL**

1866/67 Carroll (WI)  
1867/68 Coll New Jersey (Princeton) (NJ)  
1868/69 Coll New Jersey (Princeton) (NJ)  
1869/70 Coll New Jersey (Princeton) (NJ)

1870/71 Princeton (NJ)  
1871/72 Princeton (NJ)  
1872/73 Princeton (NJ)  
1873/74 Stevens Tech (NJ)  
1874/75 Yale (CT)  
1875/76 Princeton (NJ)  
1876/77 Princeton (NJ)  
1877/78 U Vermont (VT)  
1878/79 Syracuse Medics (SUNY-Upstate) (NY)  
1879/80 Pennsylvania (Gettysburg) (PA)  
1880/81 Washington & Lee (VA)  
1881/82 Washington & Lee (VA)  
1882/83 Richmond (VA)  
1883/84 U Iowa (IA)  
1884/85 Virginia Military Inst (VA)  
1885/86 U Iowa (IA)  
1886/87 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1887/88 U Iowa (IA)  
1888/89 Virginia Military Inst (VA)  
1889/90 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1890/91 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1891/92 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1892/93 Christian Brothers (MO); St Bonaventure (NY)  
1893/94 Christian Brothers "Paulians" (MO)  
1894/95 Christian Brothers "Paulians" (MO); Princeton (NJ)  
1895/96 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1896/97 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1897/98 Christian Brothers (NO)  
1898/99 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1899/00 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1900/01 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1901/02 Christian Brothers (MO); Haverford (PA)  
1902/03 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1903/04 Christian Brothers (MO)  
1904/05 Christian Brothers (MO); Haverford (PA)\*\*

### **SOCCER**

1905/06 Haverford (PA)++

1906/07 Haverford (PA)++  
1907/08 Haverford (PA)++;  
Yale (CT)++  
1908/09 Columbia (NY)++  
1909/10 Columbia (NY)++

\*\* Haverford also won the Philadelphia Cricket Club Soccer League.

++ Also selected; the Intercollegiate Soccer Football League Titlists. St Bonaventure College beat the big Toronto Ass'n team 2g-0 on November 24, 1892. Princeton College lost to a strong professional association football team, known as the Philadelphia Phillies Association Football Club 1g-7g on November 24, 1894. The association football varsity program at the Christian Brothers College in St Louis, MO, divided into two teams, the Paulians and the Athletics in 1893 and 1894.

### IN MEMORY of

**George Olsen**, 82, executive director emeritus of the Gator Bowl Association...**Robert Buschman**, 83, TCU... **Wiles Hallock**, 91, former Pac-10 Commissioner...**Walter Cronkite**, 92, who, in 1937 college football season was the broadcaster for the Oklahoma Sooners....**Marvin "Moose" Stewart**, 97, LSU and **Dave Smith**, 76, SMU's coach from 1973-1975

### IN HONOR of

The AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl announced today that the **National Football Foundation &**

The Paulians seem to be the better of the two teams.

Much more research is needed to be done in this early period of the kicking game. Up to the present, there has never been any interest to follow the colleges playing the association football/soccer games after 1876. That year saw many of the large colleges in the northeastern United States switch to the carrying or rugby game. But not every school followed the crowd. Therefore, this listing is only done to drum up more interest and research into the early kicking game/association football/soccer games played by the colleges up to the accepted beginning of college soccer in 1904/05.

\* \* \*

**College Hall of Fame (NFF)** has been named the 2009 recipient of the *Omar N. Bradley "Spirit of Independence Award."*

Since its inception in 1978, the Omar Bradley "Spirit of Independence Award," presented by the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., has been bestowed upon outstanding American citizens or organizations that symbolize the spirit of freedom and independence on which our country was founded.

With a mission to promote and develop the power of amateur football in developing the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive zeal and the drive for

academic excellence in America's young people, the **National Football Foundation becomes the 33rd recipient of the award.**

ESPN commentator and former Fresno State QB **Trent Dilfer** has won the annual American Century John Brodie Award, Community Service awareness...the FWAAs Bert McGrane Award to longtime Atlanta Journal-Constitution writer and Mr. College Football **Tony Barnhart**

**Fred Martinelli** will have Ashland's (Ohio) new Fred Martinelli Field dedicated... Wisconsin's 2009 Athletics Hall of Fame class includes Heisman Trophy winner **Ron Dayne** and former lineman **Joe Panos**

The **2009 ACC Football Championship Game Legends** class which includes: Heisman Trophy winners **Chris Weinke** (Florida State) and **Vinny Testaverde** (Miami); Coach **Danny Ford** (Clemson); **Bill Barnes** (Wake Forest); **Jim Bakhtiar** (Virginia); **Bob Pascal** (Duke); **Mike Mayock** (Boston College); **Bob Schweickert** (Virginia Tech); **Kevin Glover** (Maryland); **Eddie Lee Ivery** (Georgia Tech); **Willie Burden** (N.C. State) and **Kelvin Bryant** (North Carolina)... All ten members of the **SWAC** will be wearing *No. 9 stickers on their helmets to commemorate* former Alcorn State star **Steve McNair**... **Michigan State** will wear special helmet stickers in support of the state of Michigan.

## Winning the Heisman Trophy and Playing for a National Champion

Compiled by Dave Thomas and Tex Noel

**IFRA** member Dave Thomas writes...

On the ESPN show, "Outside the Lines" (aired Sept. 3, 2009) it stated that:

Tim Tebow is the 5<sup>th</sup> Heisman winner since 1950 to play 2 ON National Championship teams.

*Dave added:*

Naturally they did NOT show the other 4. I think 3 of them are Johnny Rogers, Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush but I can not find the 4th one. I also realize the some years there are multiple "crowned" national champs with the AP being the most accepted till the BCS in 1998.

Checking the NCAA 1A/Bowl Subdivision National champions and *Heisman Trophy* winners, 1950-2008, Editor Tex Noel found the same 3 players Dave did.

Then with subsequent research, more than likely, a fourth such player was found.

In addition, the following was found:  
*Pre-1950 Heisman Trophy winners* that were members of at least 2 AP National Championship teams were: Bruce Smith, {HT: 1941}, Minnesota, 1940-41; Johnny Lujack, {HT: 1947}, Notre Dame, 1943-46-47; Felix “Doc” Blanchard {HT: 1945} and Glenn Davis {HT: 1946}, both Army, 1944-45; Leon Hart, {HT: 1949}, Notre Dame, 1946-47-49.

*Single-season Heisman Trophy/National Champions* prior to 1950 include: Davey O’Brien, TCU, [HT/NC]; (1938/1938); Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame, (1943/1943) Les Horvath, (1944/1942) and Leon Hart, Notre Dame, (1949/1949).

Below is a list of *Heisman Trophy* winners that were members of a National Championship Team, since 1950—but it must be noted, without actual rosters, there is no way to determine if the players were even actually on the team when the school was No. 1!

Players in *italics* played for a National Champion and won the *Heisman Trophy* in the same season.

**Year---Heisman Trophy, Player Team...Year of National Championship\***

- Players below were members of that season’s National Championship teams and also won the *Heisman Trophy*.

- 1952 Billy Vessels, Oklahoma...1950
- 1955 Howard Cassady, Ohio State....1954
- 1959 Billy Cannon, LSU...1958
- 1961 Ernie Davis, Syracuse...1959
- *1964 John Huarte, Notre Dame...1964*
- 1968 O.J. Simpson, USC...1967
- 1972 Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska...1970-71
- *1976 Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh...1976*
- 1978 Billy Sims, Oklahoma...1975
- 1979 Charles White, USC...1978
- 1981 Marcus Allen, USC...1978
- 1982 Herschel Walker, Georgia...1980
- 1986 Vinnie Testaverde, Miami FL...1983 (redshirted)
- 1992 Gino Torretta, Miami FL....1989-91
- *1993 Charlie Ward, Florida State....1993*
- 1994 Rashaan Salaam, Colorado....1990
- *1996 Danny Wuerffel, Florida...1996*
- *1997 Charles Woodson, Michigan... 2004 Matt Leinart, USC...2003-04*
- *2005 Reggie Bush, USC...2003-04*
- 2007 Tim Tebow, Florida...2006-08
  
- 1937 Marshall Goldberg, Pittsburgh, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1940 George Franck, Minnesota, 3<sup>rd</sup>

*The College Football Historian-14-*

- 1944 Glenn Davis, Army, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Doc Blanchard, Army, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1945 Glenn Davis, Army, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 1946 Johnny Lujack, Notre Dame, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1951 Hank Lauricella, Tennessee, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 1953 Bernie Faloney, Maryland, 4<sup>th</sup>
- 1954 Howard Cassady, Ohio State, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1956 Tommy McDonald, Oklahoma, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1958 Billy Cannon, LSU, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1960 Jake Gibbs, Mississippi, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1966 Nick Eddy, Notre Dame, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1967 O. J. Simpson, USC, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 1970 Steve Wooster, Texas, 4<sup>th</sup>
- 1974 Joe Washington, Oklahoma, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Bob Kirlin writes:**

The new **Sports Illustrated College Football Issue** is out; I thought I'd offer my humble and subjective list of the top ten worst preseason projections in the history of *Sports Illustrated* college football magazines, listed in chronological order.

- 1954 Illinois, projected to be among the eleven best elevens, went 1-8.

- 1977 Ken McAfee, Notre Dame, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1978 Charles White, USC, 4<sup>th</sup>
- 1989 Herschel Walker, Georgia, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1984 Robbie Bosco, BYU, 4<sup>th</sup>
- 1990 Eric Bieniemy, Colorado, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1991 Steve Emtman, Washington, 4<sup>th</sup>
- 1995 Tommy Frazier, Nebraska, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 2000 Josh Heupel, Oklahoma, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 2001 Ken Dorsey, Miami FL, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 2008 Tim Tebow, Florida, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**\*National Champions as selected by AP, UP/UI, FWAA, NFFHF and USA Today, 1950-2008.**

\* \* \*

- 1956 Notre Dame, projected to be among the eleven best elevens, went 2-8.
- 1967 Michigan State, picked number 6, went 3-7.
- 1975 Auburn, picked number six, went 3-6-2.
- 1976 Arizona State, picked number three, went 4-7.
- 1984 Pittsburgh, picked number three, went 3-7-1.

- 1989 UCLA, picked number seven, went 3-7-1.
- 1989 LSU, picked number eight, went 4-7.
- 2000 Alabama, picked number three, went 3-8.
- And 2001 Oregon State, picked number one, went 5-6.
- *Honorable mention ... 1969 Kansas, picked number 20, went 1-9.*

\* \* \*

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## **Brother Against Brother: The Top Intrastate College Football Rivalries in the Country**

**By Greg Goodwin**

Last month we took a look at the top interstate rivalries in CFB, but this week, we take a look at the fight for state supremacy, bragging rights over your friends and family for the next 365 days. Rivalries between states are a little easier--all you need are two good teams and a border! But rivals within the state are a different matter. Most states don't have two well qualified teams to make any one's discerning list,

states like Ohio, Illinois, Louisiana, and Arkansas, among many. Yet others have too many, the big states like California, Texas, and Florida. The results from compiling this list were either feast or famine, but as promised, here's your smorgasbord.

We're going to use a little different format to rank the rivalries this time. In the interstate rivalries, I used a matrix based on teams' historic rankings in relation to all-time winning percentage, strength of schedule, and national championships. I tried the same formula with this poll, but the results came out eerily similar to another thread earlier in the year looking at the best duo of teams coming from one state.

This ranking of intrastate rivalries will have subjective rankings assigned in each of five different categories. Each category will rate from 1-5, with 5 being the highest mark. The totals will then determine the winners. Other basic criteria that must be met: Division 1-A (FBS) teams with a minimum of 50 games played in the series.

### **Here are the categories:**

- Competitiveness of the rivalry--this will separate the close ones from the blowouts. Most intrastate rivalries aren't really that close.
- Duration of the rivalry--how long they've been playing. The rivalries on this list can

differ in age by over 50 years.

- Historical Significance of the teams--similar to the standard used for interstate rivalries. Most of these teams will be historical top 25 programs.
- *What's at Stake*--the fallout from the meeting. Teams that are in the same division and/or conference are going to have more on the line with the match up than teams that are not or teams that no longer play on a regular basis.
- *Bitterness*--*Ahhh...*What turns a rivalry into Good Old-Fashioned Hate. No further explanation required...

And here are the results, with the leading team in the series listed first, then the scores for each category in order, with the total, followed by my comments. For teams who's scores are tied, I have broken any ties with my own subjective preference.

**15) Oklahoma-Oklahoma State, 1-5-3-3-3--- 15 points.** The most lopsided rivalry on the list. The Cowboys' weak historical standing doesn't help either.

**14) Notre Dame-Purdue, 2-4-4-2-3--- 15 points.** Dominance by the Irish and no conference crown at stake against an Independent hurts this one.

**13) Virginia Tech-Virginia, 4-4-2-3-3--- 16 points.** They've played this one close for a while. Certainly helps that they're both in the Coastal Division of the ACC now.

**12) Ole Miss-Mississippi State, 3-4-2-3-4--- 16 points.** They like to tee it up in the Magnolia State, but there's usually nothing at stake in the SEC west other than pride--and a little Egg...

**11) Clemson-South Carolina, 2-5-2-3-4--- 16 points.** They played this one in Columbia for the first 60 years or so. Didn't matter. Clemson dominates this one. And it's been a while since they were conference foes.

**10) Penn State-Pittsburgh, 4-5-3-2-3--- 17 points.** One of the classics for so long, but they haven't played this century, which kills the stakes. Doesn't help that Penn State's in the Big 10(11) now either.

**9) Florida-Florida State, 3-3-3-4-5--- 18 points.** Not the longest rivalry out there, but the Gators gave the Noles a shot when the Noles were only about a decade into their program. Good thing. The game so nice, they played it twice--within a month to conclude the 1996 season.

**8) Michigan-Michigan State, 2-5-4-3-4--- 18 points.** One of the classics, but the Victors have been hailing this one for so long. Curiously, the only one of the Big 10(11) states to have a ranked rivalry between two conference teams.

**7) Georgia-Georgia Tech, 3-5-4-3-4---19 points.** The only two Division 1-A programs in the whole state. This series revolves around momentum, which comes in 4-8 year spurts. Hasn't come back around to Tech lately. It also doesn't help that these two haven't been in the same conference for 43 years.

**6) California-Stanford, 4-5-3-4-3---19 points.** One of the longest and closest rivalries--also helps that they play in the same conference. What else would you expect from the series that gave us the greatest play in CFB history in 1982?

**5) Oregon-Oregon State, 4-5-4-3-4---20 points.** These guys started playing immediately following the formation of their teams. They don't get a lot of press, but they have very quietly had one of best rivalries in the land for a very long time.

**4) USC-UCLA, 3-4-5-5-4---21 points.** The battle between the best two historic teams in the Golden State, who just happen to

be cross-town rivals. The stakes are always high as UCLA can be a perfect stumbling block for USC's Rose Bowl's dreams.

**3) Miami-FSU, 4-3-4-5-5---21 points.** Again, small Miami gave fledgling FSU a chance years ago--a rivalry that has grown incredibly over the decades. It was the rivalry of the 1980s. It placed special emphasis on the kicking game. Curiously, not as hot as it once was now that the teams are both in the same conference, but a resurgence can't be far off.

**2) Texas-Texas A&M, 2-5-5-5-5--22 points.** One of the all-time best, and the longest rivalry on the list. Outsiders can't even imagine the joy and pain contained in this one. Would seriously challenge for number one except that the Aggies haven't traditionally held up their end of the bargain and won more games. You can't say they haven't tried, though.

And (**#1) Alabama-Auburn, 5-4-5-5-5---24 points.** (You don't know how it hurts me to put them in that order) You may accuse me of being a total homer for ranking this rivalry number one, but there's more method here than madness. The only thing preventing this one from being perfect is the duration--these two teams went over 40 years from 1908 until 1948 without playing, due to many disputes. They were finally forced

to play again by the Alabama State Legislature and then promptly made up for lost time.

This one ranks #1 because it's the closest of all the rivalries on the list (5 games) and features the best historic tandem of teams to come out of any state in the whole country. Sure, it gets top billing by many CFB experts, but it does not fail to live up to the hype. They say that upon birth in the state, you have to declare your allegiance--you take it from the cradle to the grave. I'm more like an adopted son, not being an Alabama native, but brother, let me tell you it's true.

So there you have it. You can see the rankings I gave for each category. I think you guys wanted to see a little subjectivity from me after all...If you disagree with any of the rankings, please back up your assertions with detail.

\* \* \*

**Mel Smith sends this update:** I got the NCAA confirmation that they changed the error in the online version. It will not show up this year because the FB Record books are already out. He didn't mention anything about next year's printed version. This message came from Jeffrey Williams.

For our new subscribers, in the NCAA Football Records Book under Parke Davis' 1875 National Champions it is listed Colgate,

Princeton and Harvard. With Mel's research from his book, discovered it should have been Columbia instead of Colgate.

Mel also passes along this blurb: There was an early interracial game of football played December 7, 1889 by a Princeton 'Colored' Team vs the Princeton 'Town' team. The 'Colored' team won 5-0. [It is listed on page 448 in my book, '**Evolvements of Early American Foot Ball: Through the 1890/91 Season**'.]

\* \* \*

Interested what's happening in the sports world; but no time to read the entire story? Then a subscription based highlights in the daily reading of **Short Rutts is** what you're looking for.

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\* \* \*

Where you aware that...**St. Paul's Poly (Va.), 1946-1953**, compiled a 2-58-1 record, while being outscored 114-2057; and had a 41 game losing streak.

<b>1946</b>	0-7-0	0-248
<b>1947</b>	0-6-1	12-206
<b>1948</b>	1-5-0	7-152
<b>1949</b>	0-8-0	7-308
<b>1950</b>	0-10-0	12-449
<b>1951</b>	0-9-0	6-316
<b>1952</b>	0-8-0	34-277
<b>1953</b>	1-6-0	36-101

--Thanks **Richard Topp** for providing the correct, detailed information for this blurb.

\* \* \*

*Sporting Life, 1917*

## George W. "Tuffy" Conn, of Oregon Agricultural College, Sets Record for Season With Run of 101 Yards for a Touchdown.

BY EARL R. GOODWIN

THE Northwest produced a player in 1915 who has entered Foot Ball's Hall of Fame through a brilliant individual exploit.

This bright star, is George Washington Conn, better known as "Tuffy" Conn, the brilliant halfback of Oregon Agricultural College, of Corvallis, Ore.

Conn's entry into fame was achieved through the medium of a run of 101 yards for a touchdown after having seized a fumble a yard behind his own goal line.

Conn's run was one of the most sensational seen in years. Dow V. Walker, superintendent of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club, of Portland, Ore., is credited with a run of 105 yards from a fumble for a touchdown, but that was when the gridiron was 110 yards in length instead of 100 as a present.

Conn is, a "native son" of California, having been graduated from the Pasadena, Cal., High School and going north with Joseph A. Pipal, now coaching the Oregon Aggies. Last year Pipal was with a Southern California institution.

Conn made a big name for himself in his first game with the Corvallis, Ore., School, when he kicked two field goals against the famous Washington State College eleven, the team that whipped Brown last year 14 to 0 at Pasadena on New Year's Day. The Aggies won from Washington State, 13 to 0, surprising all followers of foot ball in the Northwest, as Coach William H. ("Lone Star") Dietz's aggregation was thought to be invincible.

Long runs were numerous in the record of Conn, although he was eligible in but a few games played by the Aggies last fall. He is a freshman, so he was automatically barred from the game with the University of Washington and University of Oregon, as well as

against University of California if the contest had been scheduled.

In the game against the Multnomah Amateur Athletic -Club he made a 70-yard run for a touchdown, during which he ran more than 120 yards, zig-zagging and running back and around. It was on a return punt. He was playing with the Oregon freshman team, which won from the clubmen, 16 to 6.

Against Whitman College Coach Pipal tried out the team that he was forced to play without freshmen. When the first half ended the score was 0-0, so "Tuffy" was sent in soon after the third period began, he started off with an 18-yard run, soon followed by a 26-yard dash.

Then he came through with one for 51 yards and wound up with a 62-yard sprint on the return of a punt. He did not make touchdowns after each run, of course, but he was taken out just before the third period was completed, and the score read 23 to 0. It remained so throughout the remainder of the match.

Conn also kicked a field goal. Conn was selected on the All-Northwest team along with Johnny Parsons, of the University of Oregon, for the half back positions.

On Thanksgiving Day the Oregon Aggies won from the University of Southern California, 16 to 7, at Los

Angles, Cal., with "Tuffy" kicking a goal.

\* \* \*

The *Daily Home News*, New Brunswick, NJ.....Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1917

Column: **Sporting Topics Edited by Harold E. O'Neill**

Though knowing we are liable indictment for prolong the football season we can not allow the 1917 Rutgers 11 to become enveloped in the war hysteria, without treating at some length on many interesting facts brought by the statistics recorded and compiled by Fred A. Hart, and he has just furnished to us.

We know of no one who has a great mania for keeping football statistics, and who gives more time and attention to the work than "Pop," unless it is Parke H. Davis, the Princeton football authority. The two great statisticians happened to meet at the Lafayette-Rutgers contest, and Mr. Davis said he was giving up the statistical work. It required too much time and entailed an usual amount of preparation. Mr. Hart's records cover five years or the period which has been reputation making since G, F, S came to Rutgers, but this treatise details only with the facts in this season's performances. The statistics only substantiate what has been said and written many times that—Rutgers had one of the best elevens in the country.

*TCFH Editor's Note: Thankfully, Davis continued his work with stats...as he compiled statistical information right up to the time of his death in 1934.*