

1st college football team to allow 500+ Points in a single-season!

Lone Star State's (and College Football's) Worst College Football Team, Ever

By Tex Noel, Editor, The College Football Historian

The state of Texas has earned the reputation as one of the country's traditional football powers—on all levels.

And because of this notoriety, “The Lone Star State” has produced many of the gridiron's greatest elevens.

Sadly, this isn't about one of them teams legends have been written about.

Instead, it is about a college that was so bad; its own school yearbook was so ashamed that it declined to include the annual scores in the publication.

Trying to determine the worst college football team of all-time would be a more undoubting task than to name the greatest eleven in the sport's history.

At least with the latter, there more than likely a team would be ranked and season statistics will aid in the effort.

But, in order to go back for the worst team over the 143 years often only game-by-game scores being the majority source of information, the task would take a bit of research!

Remember, as the old cliché states: “Everyone Loves a Winner.”

Many teams have completed a season winless; low scoring or failing to score; while the opposition seems to have scored at will.

Playing at least a three-game schedule, there have been 115 teams to complete the season without a single point being registered in their favor.

Several teams could have qualified as the worst of all time; as there have been 170 schools—with 220 accomplishments—with at least one season where they fielded a team and failed to score.

The first such school was 1882 Lafayette: 0-2-0, 0-86; with Madison VA in 1972—its first year of playing college football—finished the season, 0-4-1, 0-140. Four years later the school changed its name to James Madison.

But, out of all of the schools that laid a lack-of-scoring egg of 0 points; three stood out more than the other (as they combined for 0-28-0 slate and surrendering a composite 1557 points.)

But of one of the trio-of terrible stands out even more than the other two.

- **1920 Daniel Baker (Brownwood, Texas); 0-9-0, 0-506;**
- **1923 Kansas City University, (Kansas City, KS); 0-6-0, 0-532**
- **1941 Arkansas A&M, (Monticello, Ark.) 0-12-0, 0-541**

Drum roll, please...the scoreless wonder is Daniel Baker College.

For years, Daniel Baker's opponents were a mystery, to the exact number of games played and the final score.

Historians would utilize many sources in research for their info; including a school's annual yearbook for scores.

***Only one problem:* Daniel Baker, known as the Hill Billies and whose mascot was a Billie goat, had such a rough year in 1920, that the editor of the school's yearbook, *The Trail*, must have made an executive decision: he excluded the scores.**

While there has been no other documentation if the other two schools' scores were in their respective annuals, but proof has been made that Daniel Baker's were not.

Just recently, score researcher Richard Topp, whose project is to research and compile correct and accurate information on every college football game that has been played since 1882. This was the origin of when touchdown, goals from the field and goals after touchdown were beginning to be used when computing scores; replace goals and earlier scoring methods.

Topp's efforts have produced exact dates, location, scores and even, at times, opponents for countless colleges and university, through his *American College Football Encyclopedia*/since being renamed *American Football Scorebook*. He has often find scores that the schools weren't

even aware of—or a change of information that was previously reported as fact.

But that's getting ahead of the story; so, first let's look at what has been written about the 1920 Daniel Baker college football team that would be supportive as being the worse college football team ever.

Many outstanding teams have come out of the Lone Star State; but just two of its teams failed to score and only one using the three-game minimum. Texas Lutheran gave up 39 points in 1946; while losing both games.

Daniel Baker played its first games in 1903; compiling a 3-1 record that included a 72-0 shutout triumph over Howard Payne University—just three miles from the DBC campus; other wins were 10-5 over TCU and 10-6 Austin College. The lone setback came at the hands of Trinity Texas, 35-0.

- *Between 1899-1903, Scoring Values: Touchdowns and field goals, 5 points each; with a safety 2 points and the conversion a single point.*

But as the seasons came and went, and of course WW I, small enrollment and financial difficulties, DBC began to decline.

The end of WW I, brought maybe a glimmer of hope for those involved with Daniel Baker...maybe it was a spark; okay a flicker.

The school had an enrollment of 67 students—mostly future preachers and teachers—of that, 44 were beginning their college studies.

The athletic teams were members of the fledging Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association (TIAA) conference.

Before joining the TIAA, DBC would play schools from the five-year old Southwest Conference; compiling a 5-22-1 slate.

The Billie Goats opened the 1920 season losing to a pair of teams that would second and sixth in the final SWC standings.

The SWC schools shellacked the tiny school by a combined 180-0; including a 110-0 by Texas A&M, who was coached by one of the game's legendary mentors, Dana X, Bible, in his third of a 11-year career in College Station. He would compile a 72-19-9; the most victories at any of the five schools he coached.

The Aggies' 110 outburst was the most points ever against DBC, surpassing the 1915 mark of 92 held by A&M's arch rival, the Texas Longhorns.

Later, Bible would make the comment: that his school's freshman team gave the Varsity a better game than DBC.

***Ouch!* There is nothing on record that the conference (Southwest) office fined Bible for slamming the opposition.**

This would not be the lone game where a Billie Goat eleven would see a century mark put up on its opponents side of the scoreboard.

To this day, the 110 points remain as the Aggies' single-game high point total.

***Ding Dong! Ding Dong...crack!* Next week's opponent was Austin College; founded by none other than Daniel Baker and was coached by E.Y. Freeland who had led the DBC to some glory before the war and would also coach at SMU and TCU.**

Traditionally the bell would chime per number of points that AC, known as the Kangaroos, scored.

The bell was a present to the school by Sam Houston, the first and third President of the Republic of Texas.

***Home Sweet Home* (maybe!) After playing 3 straight road games, Daniel Baker returned home—Brownwood--for its first of three home games.**

An old cliché says “something must have been in the water”. All three games played in Brownwood Texas, the Hill Billie defensive unit allowed just 42 combined points—15 came in the first home contest against St. Edward's, a school that no longer plays football.

A 40-0 loss to Southwest Normal Institute (now Texas State); the Hill Billies returned home to face Meridian Miss. Junior College...same result,

but the defensive unit stepped-up and allowed the lowest point total yielded in 1920, as the visitors scored just 13 points.

Two of the last three games were played in the city of Abilene Texas. The first contest, Daniel Baker lost 54-0 to Simmons (now Hardin-Simmons) and in the season finale; an 81-0 setback came at the hands of Abilene Christian.

To further enhance its claim as the worse college football team in history, DBC couldn't even register a safety against the alums, losing 14-0; in a game that separated the two trips to Abilene.

Just 12 players would earn letters in 1920.

Following its disastrous 1920 season, DBC would almost finish with a .500 record in 1921; but ended-up 3-4-1 as every game was at home but one.

The latter part of the 1920s and mid-1930s were favorable towards the Billie Goats.

They were TIAA champions in 1926 and 1928 and then, after joining the Texas Conference; as they won titles in 1934 and 1936.

But, again, another war (WW II) would take its toll on Daniel Baker.

The 1940 and 41 elevens combined for a 0-18-0 mark; while averaging 1.0 (18 points scored) and would surrender 554; before the school would not play again for another five seasons.

The Billie Goats were put out to pasture following the 1950 season (as the school was closed in 1953). That season, saw the school win 4 of 9 games; but holding true to form, was outscored once again, 88-225.

All-Time record for Daniel Baker: 102-189-31; as it tallied 2487 points while allowing its 59 opponents to register 5006 points.

1920 Daniel Baker (0-9-0, 0-506)

Opponent	D	DBC	OPP s	Location
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Southern Methodist	L	0	70	Dallas
Texas A & M	L	0	110	College Station
Austin	L	0	109	Sherman
St. Edward's	L	0	15	Brownwood
Southwest Texas Normal	L	0	40	San Marcos
Meridian JC	L	0	13	Brownwood
Simmons	L	0	54	Abilene
Daniel Baker Alumni	L	0	14	Brownwood
Abilene Christian	L	0	81	Abilene

All-Time vs Daniel Baker:

OPPONENTS=59	W	L	T	PTS	OSA	OP PTS	DSA	Net Scoring Avg	AMV	AMD
Abilene Christian	10	11	2	154	6.7	272	11.8	5.1	10.1	19.9
Arkansas A & M	1	0	0	33	33.0	10	10.0	23.0	23.0	
Austin	8	14	0	172	7.8	413	18.8	11.0	13.6	25.0
Baylor	0	3	1	0	0.0	54	18.0	18.0		18.0
Britton Training Institute	2	0	0	59	29.5	0	0.0	29.5	29.5	
Brooke Army Hospital	1	1	0	39	19.4	18	9.0	10.5	26.0	5.0
Brownwood HS	1	0	0	15	15.0	0	0.0	15.0	15.0	
Centenary	0	1	0	12	12.0	20	20.0	8.0		8.0
Corpus Christi	0	2	0	0	0.0	61	30.5	30.5		30.5
Dallas	1	0	0	27	27.0	0	0.0	27.0	27.0	
Dallas NAS	2	0	0	55	27.5	0	0.0	27.5	27.5	
Daniel Baker Alumni	0	1	0	0	0.0	14	14.0	14.0		14.0
East Texas Baptist	1	2	1	40	10.0	44	11.0	1.0	22.0	13.0
East Texas Teachers	1	0	0	12	12.0	0	0.0	12.0	12.0	
Eastern New Mexico	0	1	0	7	7.0	13	13.0	6.0		6.0
Ft. Worth University (not TCU)	1	0	0	17	17.0	0	0.0	17.0	17.0	
Hardin	0	1	0	0	0.0	40	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Hardin-Simmons	3	15	4	73	3.3	341	15.5	12.2	14.0	18.2

Houston	0	1	0	12	12.0	35	35.0	23.0		23.0
Howard Payne	15	2	5	406	11.4	43	2.0	16.5	25.1	9.5
Kilgore JC	0	1	0	0	0.0	12	12.0	12.0		12.0
Lamar JC	0	1	0	0	0.0	75	75.0	75.0		75.0
Louisiana College	0	1	0	6	6.0	47	47.0	47.0		47.0
Loyola (La.)	0	1	0	0	0.0	39	39.0	39.0		39.0
McMurry	3	10	1	111	7.9	228	16.3	8.4	11.7	17.7
Meridan JC	1	1	0	34	17.0	13	6.5	10.5	34.0	13.0
New Mexico Military Inst.	1	0	0	13	13.0	0	0.0	13.0	13.0	
North Texas Agricultural	1	0	0	13	13.0	2	2.0	11.0	11.0	
North Texas State	0	3	0	25	8.3	59	19.7	11.0		11.0
Ouachita Baptist	0	1	0	0	0.0	34	34.0	34.0		34.0
Panhandle A & M	1	0	0	26	26.0	0	0.0	26.0	26.0	
Polytechnic College	1	1	1	21	7.0	26	8.7	1.7	8.0	13.0
Randolph Field	0	1	0	0	0.0	7	7.0	7.0		7.0
Rice	0	2	0	7	3.5	41	20.5	17.0		17.0
Sam Houston Teachers	1	2	1	35	11.7	34	11.3	0.3	17.0	8.0
San Angelo JC	0	1	0	0	0.0	45	45.0	45.0		45.0
San Francisco	0	1	0	0	0.0	21	21.0	21.0		21.0
Schreiner Institute	3	2	0	79	15.8	45	15.0	6.8	11.3	8.0
Southeastern Oklahoma State	0	1	0	13	13.0	13	13.0	13.0		13.0
Southern Methodist	2	2	0	57	14.3	76	19.0	4.9	28.5	38.0
Southwest Texas Teachers	4	8	1	64	4.9	184	14.2	9.2	10.5	20.4
Southwestern (Tex.)	4	12	2	59	3.3	296	16.4	13.1	3.8	21.0
Southwestern Oklahoma Teachers	1	0	0	20	20.0	6	6.0	14.0	14.0	
St. Edward's	4	11	4	89	4.7	180	9.5	4.8	15.8	14.0
St. Mary's (Tex.)	2	3	1	19	3.2	124	20.7	17.5	13.0	35.0
Stephen F. Austin	0	1	0	0	0.0	40	40.0	40.0		
Sul Ross Teachers	2	6	0	33	4.1	147	18.4	14.3	13.5	21.2
Tarleton State	2	6	1	68	7.6	117	13.0	5.8	21.0	19.0
Texas	0	3	0	0	0.0	158	52.7	52.7		52.7
Texas A & I	0	8	1	41	4.7	285	31.7	27.1		30.5
Texas A & M	0	3	0	0	0.0	184	61.3	61.3		61.3
Texas Christian	4	11	0	102	6.8	343	22.9	16.1	12.8	26.5
Texas Lutheran	1	0	1	12	6.0	6	3.0	3.0	6.0	
Texas Mines	0	2	0	7	3.5	37	18.5	15.0		15.0
Texas Tech	1	2	0	19	6.3	48	16.0	9.7	4.0	16.5

Texas Wesleyan	1	5	1	27	3.9	138	19.7	15.9	7.0	23.6
Trinity (Tex.)	9	16	2	222	8.2	410	15.2	7.0	17.8	19.8
Weatherford JC	1	0	0	41	41.0	0	0.0	41.0	41.0	
West Texas Teachers	5	5	1	92	8.4	99	9.0	0.7	10.8	14.2

AMV-Average Margin of Victory...AMD-Average Margin of Defeat (*Net Points in the decisions divided by the number of each.*)