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The Centre College Football Team's Amazing Run, Climaxed by Winning the "Southern Championship" in 1924

**Rob Robertson - Author of
"The Wonder Team"**

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The Centre College Colonels had an amazing run in college football from the years 1917-1924. The little Danville, Kentucky college is probably best remembered, if remembered at all, for its 6-0 win over mighty Harvard in 1921.

Harvard at the time was one of the "Big 3" along with Yale and Princeton.

Unlike today, when the Ivy League schools make no claim to being members of the upper echelon of college football, from the first game in 1869 between Princeton and Rutgers until the early 1920's, the Eastern colleges dominated the gridiron.

Centre initially gained national attention by defeating a West Virginia Mountaineer's team in a game played in Charleston, West Virginia in 1919. West Virginia had dominated an excellent Princeton eleven, winning 25-0 at the Tigers' Palmer Stadium.

After Centre's 14-6 win, and after the Colonels finished at 9-0 in a year which also included

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victories over Indiana, Virginia and Kentucky, Walter Camp, considered to be the "Father of College Football," declared that

Centre was the top team in the country for 1919.

Camp picked THE All-American team each year. While there were several other selections, Camp's was recognized as the most prestigious. For the first time in the history of football, a small Southern college was recognized as having talent on par with that of the larger, mainly Eastern schools.

The Colonels' Alvin Nugent "Bo" McMillin was selected for the quarterback position and James "Red" Weaver was picked at center. James "Red" Roberts was placed on the third team at end.

The successes of 1919 earned Centre a spot on Harvard's schedule for 1920. A sellout crowd at Harvard Stadium watched in awe as Centre jumped out to a 14-7 lead. The half ended at 14-14, but Harvard's size and numbers prevailed and the Crimson won, 31-14.

Centre lost to Georgia Tech the week after the loss to Harvard. The Colonels were so banged up after the effort against the Crimson that the two "Red's," Roberts and Weaver, along with George Chinn, an end, all starters in Cambridge, were held out of the game.

The Colonels regular season finished with a record of 7-2 and "Bo" landed a second team berth on the Camp All-American team.

Centre played in the second bowl venue of all time (of course, the Rose Bowl was the first) after the 1920 season, beating an undefeated TCU squad on January 1, 1921. The game was called "The Fort Worth Classic," and after TCU scored early on an intercepted pass, Centre ran off 63 straight points to win 63-7, and season ended at 8-2.

1921 was a huge year for the Colonels. The highlight was the 6-0 win over Harvard. The regular season ended at 9-0, and besides beating Harvard, significant wins were over Clemson, Virginia Tech, Kentucky, Auburn and Tulane.

"Red" Roberts was selected by Walter Camp as a first team All-American at the end of the regular season and became the third, first team player designated by Camp, joining "Bo" McMillin and "Red" Weaver from the 1919 team. "Bo" made Camp's second team at quarterback in 1921.

It was decided to reward the team with an western excursion after the season. The trip included bowl games in San Diego on December 26, 1921, and in Dallas on January 2, 1922.

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Therefore, little Centre played in the third bowl venue ever held, the "Christmas Bowl" on December 26, 1921, in which the

Colonels rolled over the University of Arizona, 38-0, in San Diego.

They also played in the fourth bowl venue ever, the "Dallas Classic", which found Centre losing to a very tough Texas A & M team coached by D.X. Bible, 22-14, on January 2, 1922.

The trip by train covered over 2,000 miles and took 20 days.

Centre continued to play with the "big boys" during the 1922 and 1923 seasons.

The Colonels were 8-2 in 1922, losing the rubber match to Harvard, 24-10, and going down to defeat against Auburn in Birmingham, 6-0. Notable wins were over Clemson, Mississippi, Virginia Tech, Kentucky and South Carolina, all state universities with student bodies which far exceeded the enrollment in Danville.

By 1923, the numbers able to suit up at Centre had been greatly diminished by the "freshman rule" of 1922 which had been put in place by football authorities. The rule forbade freshmen from participating in intercollegiate sports until they had been enrolled for 12 months.

Centre had taken 28 young men to play Harvard in 1921. Fourteen were freshmen. Of the 16 who got into action, 8 were freshmen. Without those first year men, Centre would have had difficulty even fielding a team,

and defeating Harvard would have been out of the question.

The strong class which entered in 1921 had allowed Centre to continue turning out excellent teams during 1922 and 1923, but it was obvious that the "glory days" of what was being called "the Wonder Team" would soon come to an end.

In 1923, the Colonels were 7-1-1. The loss was to Pennsylvania, at the time a major power, in a game played before 42,000 fans in Penn's new (1922) Franklin Field. The first half ended with the Quakers up 3-0 due to a field goal kicked just as time expired.

The Colonels were worn down in the second half, much as they had been in the 1920 Harvard game, as Penn's numbers and size increasingly took their toll. The final score was 24-0.

The 1923 season-ending tie was with a Georgia Bulldog team in Athens. Wins included victories over Clemson, Kentucky and Auburn.

Centre's coach, Charles B. Moran, "Uncle Charlie," resigned after the 1923 season and took over the Bucknell (PA) program. Sports fans all over Kentucky and the South knew what "Unc"

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had meant to the Colonels' program.

Moran had taken the reins after Centre lost the second game of the 1917 season to DePauw, 6-0. During "Unc's" tenure, Centre had gone 52-6-1 and had outscored its opponents, 2113-218, for a rounded-off average score of 36-4.

As phenomenal as Centre's record was during the Moran years, it was even more remarkable due to the fact that nearly all of the major games were played on the road. The limited accommodations in Danville and the small wooden stadium (until 1923) meant that attracting programs of substance was virtually impossible. Of the 49 contests from 1919 through 1923, 31 were played away from Danville.

Robert L. "Chief" Myers, Centre '07, had brought the nucleus of the team after the Great War to Danville from Fort Worth North Texas High School where he had been the football coach. Myers had been Centre's coach during the first two games of 1917 but moved aside when he saw that "Uncle Charlie" was available to take over the team.

"Chief" Myers continued on as the unpaid athletic director and after Moran's resignation was named the head coach for 1924.

Thus the stage was set for what many consider was Centre College's finest moment of many memorable moments in the little school's storied history – the amazing exploits of 1924.

Only 21 young men showed up for practice in the fall of 1924. The number of students on campus had dropped from 292 during the 1923-24 school year to 223. While the larger universities would hardly notice a decrease of 69 enrolled, for Centre it meant nearly a 25% decline.

Centre had a freshman team in 1924 coached by former Colonel All-American, James B. "Red" Roberts. The first-year team was also short in numbers as demonstrated by the fact that during a game with the University of Kentucky frosh in Lexington, "Red" had only 11 men available.

Only by "borrowing" a few of the freshmen could "Chief" Myers even have a scrimmage for the varsity.

Fortunately for the "Chief," the 21 team members included 7 who had been on the team since 1921. Six of the 7 were present at the famous 6-0 win over Harvard and 4 – Herb Covington, Minos Gordy, Ed Kubale and Frank Rubarth – saw action.

The seniors were dubbed "The Seven Immortals" by "Chief" Myers.

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(Besides the 4 who played against Harvard, Clifton "Hennie" Lemon and Robert L. "Case" Thomasson made the trip to Cambridge. The 7th "Immortal",

Howard Lynch, wasn't included on the travel squad.)

The 1924 season began not with a bang, but more like with a whimper.

Bill Shadoan, a starter at guard on the 1921 and '22 Centre teams, had taken over the coaching position at Valparaiso University in Indiana. On October 4, he brought his well-drilled squad to Danville and played the Colonels to a 0-0 tie.

Centre got back into the win column on October 18 with an easy victory over Transylvania, located in Lexington, Kentucky. The game, played in Danville, ended at 43-0.

The Centre athletics department and administration had decided after the trips to Cambridge to play Harvard that a journey to the East brought publicity like no money could buy. The 1923 game in Philadelphia to play Penn had been scheduled for that reason, and now, in 1924, it was off to New York to play West Virginia at the Polo Grounds.

Revenge was on the minds of an excellent Mountaineer team. The 1919 loss still galled. West Virginia was 20-2-2 over the last 3 seasons, allowing only 101 points in the 24 games which included 12 shutouts.

The Colonels scored first on a 40 yard field goal by "Hennie" Lemon. During the second quarter, West Virginia scored on

a "double pass" and at the half it was 6-3. The third quarter ended at 6-6 after Herb Covington, the little Centre quarterback, kicked an 18 yard field goal. Ten minutes into the last quarter, the Mountaineers began a drive which culminated in a score as the clock wound down and West Virginia walked off the field with a hard-fought 13-6 win.

The game was as statistically close as the score. Centre gained 218 yards and West Virginia picked up 234. "Chief" Myers sent in only two substitutes, a pattern which was going to define the rest of the season.

Adding to the Colonels' problems with such a small squad was the matter of injuries suffered in New York. Tackle Frank Rubarth was diagnosed after the return to Danville with a fractured clavicle and Robert Wallace, another starter, had x-rays which revealed a broken bone in his hand. Both continued to play the entire 60 minutes against the Mountaineers, but Wallace was later declared definitely out for the season.

At a team meeting back in Danville on Monday, October 27, captain Herb Covington called a meeting of the squad. He declared that he had to come to

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Centre because of its winning tradition and he was determined to go out a winner. And then he made a bold declaration.

“We are Centre. We play hard. We play clean. And we play to win. We have 4 games left with Southern Conference colleges. If we win all 4, we can be declared the best team in the South. And, we will win the next 4 games and not only that, we won’t give up another point the rest of the season!”

Then the captain began the chant that Centre often used to help bond the team to a common purpose.

“We are Centre!”

“We are Centre!”

“We are Centre!”

One by one, the players stood and picked up the chant.

“We are Centre!”

“We are Centre!”

“We are Centre!”

Robert W. “Red” Robertson, a senior who was “Red” Roberts’ freshman team manager, later related what he had witnessed in Centre’s tiny Boyle-Humphrey gymnasium.

“The seniors made a simple declaration. They would not lose another game. I was at Centre from 1921 through the 1924 season and sat in on every meeting during 1924 because “Red” Roberts was always in attendance and I was “Red’s” shadow. Each of the seniors made a vow that they would play every minute of the remaining games, and the only way they’d not be in the action was if they were literally carried off the field on a stretcher.”

(End of part 1 of 3)

* * *

1876/77 COLLEGE FOOT-BALL SUMMARY

By Mel Smith

This article summarizes the American college foot-ball season of 1876/77. The kicking game or association game of foot-ball (early soccer) reached an early pinnacle of play in the United States this season. The carrying game or early rugby game begins to increase significantly after this season. A table below shows the number of teams playing the early soccer and rugby games during a period surrounding the 1876/77 season.

The number of teams includes both college varsities and class teams.

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CODE	SEASON				
	1874/75	1875/76	1876/77	1877/78	1878/79
Early Soccer	39	33	46	27	21
Early Rugby	9	12	17	43	52

It is seen about 80% of the teams played the soccer style of foot-ball during the 1874/75 season. By 1876/77, about 73% of the teams played the kicking game of soccer. Many teams in the northeast United States then dropped the early soccer game for the rugby game after 1876/77. By the 1878/79 season, only 29% of the teams were playing the early soccer game.

For discussion purposes, nine varsity teams are placed in the

senior level of the association football/soccer-style game and six teams are listed as division I under the ball-handling/rugby-style game during 1876/77.

Three of these teams played both types of games during the season. Columbia played three soccer games and two rugby games. Princeton also played three soccer games and two rugby games. Stevens Tech played three soccer games and one rugby game.

Here are the varsity teams listed by W-L-T records in both the early soccer game and the rugby games:

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

AMERICAN RUGBY GAME

Princeton Coll	3-0-0	Yale Coll	3-0-0
Washington & Lee Univ	2-0-0	Harvard Univ	4-1-0
Rutgers Coll/NBTS	1-0-0	Tufts Coll	2-0-1
Stevens Tech	2-1-0	Columbia Coll	1-1-0
Columbia Coll	1-2-0	Stevens Tech	0-1-0
U Pennsylvania	1-2-0	Princeton Coll	0-2-0
City Coll New York	0-1-0		
New York City UNIV (NYU)	0-1-0		

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

In the association/soccer-style games, Princeton scored fifteen goals and did not allow a goal.

Twelve goals were scored while playing the University of Pennsylvania. The association rules of 1873 were used. It would be Penn's only varsity year playing the early kicking game.

Washington & Lee scored fourteen goals and allowed three.

Rutgers players combined with the New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) team this season and beat Steven Tech.

Captain Andrew Raymond of the Rutgers/NBTS team came from the NBTS. Stevens Tech scored fifteen goals and allowed six. In the Columbia-Princeton game of 11/18/1876, the goals were kicked over a 10-foot cross-rope.

It was only the second time a ball was kicked over a cross-line in an early soccer game. The City College of New York and New York City University (NYU) each lost big-time to Columbia and Stevens Tech. The Virginia Military Institute only scored three goals while Washington & Lee scored almost five times that number.

At a lower level, the University of California 1880 Freshmen team

defeated the California FBC of San Francisco in an outside game. The Worcester Free Institute (now Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA) beat the Worcester English & Classical HS (now Doherty HS). The Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute had at least a 1-1-1 record playing outside teams.

AMERICAN RUGBY GAME

On November 7, 1876, the football association of Princeton College sent out a call to Yale, Harvard and Columbia to meet and form a conference playing the rugby-style game, not the soccer-style game. The delegates met Saturday, November 26th in the Massasoit House in Springfield, MA. There were 61 rules taken from the British rugby union rules of 1871. There would be 15 players a side. The biggest argument came over the 7th rule – how to score the game. The decision was made that a match game was to be determined by touchdowns and 1 goal would equal 4 touchdowns and a goal took precedent over 4 touchdowns (see Parke H. Davis, *Football: The Intercollegiate Game*, 1911).

The British had also changed their rule #7 in November 1875 to read, 'a match to be decided by goals. If no goals are obtained, then the match is to be decided by tries'. The British also changed the number of players from 20 down to 15 in late 1876 (see Rev. F.

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Marshall, 'Football: The Rugby Union Game', 1892).

In the rugby-style games, Yale would score a total of 5 goals and 7 touchdowns (5g, 7t) while allowing 4tds in their undefeated year. Harvard scored 4g, 13t versus 1g, 1t scored against them. Harvard beat the best team in Canada by a 2g, 3t-0 score. Tufts College played a lower level schedule to get a 2-0-1 record. They were tied by the Boston Resolute Athletic Club. Columbia split their two rugby games, but did score a touchdown against Yale. Stevens Tech lost their one game with partial rugby rules played with Columbia. Princeton was undefeated playing soccer while they lost their first two attempts at the rugby game. Princeton used 20 men while playing the three soccer-style games and 11 and 15 players while playing the two rugby-style games

➤ **In Memory of**

Ollie Matson, University of San Francisco, he was 80.... Former **Houston** center **Ben Fricke**, was 35. . . . **Ohio State** volunteer assistant strength and conditioning coach and former **Capital (Ohio) University** player **Jack Nickle** passed away at the age of 22... former Duke quarterback **Elmore Hackney** was age of 95.

➤ **Halls of Fame**

against Yale and Harvard, respectively (Frank Presbry & James Moffat, 'Athletics at Princeton: A History, 1901'.

At a division II level, the Harvard 1880 Freshmen had a 4-2-0 record playing mostly outside teams. Their wins came over the Adams Academy, the Resolute Athletic Club, Phillips Academy of Andover and the Yale 1880 Freshmen. Their two losses were to the Harvard 1878 Junior and 1879 Sophomore class teams.

The University of Michigan 1877 Seniors won the campus championship rugby game and possibly played the Chicago Foot-Ball Club on 11/17/1876. No other information has been found. A proposed game with the old Chicago University did not come to pass.

* * *

Brad Smith (Missouri), into the *University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame*

State of South Carolina Athletics Hall of Fame—**Arnold Tucker** (Army); South Carolina safety **Brad Edwards**, Clemson defensive tackle **Chester McGlockton**, South Carolina tackle **Ed Pitts** and Clemson center **Gene Moore**.

State of West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame-- **Ace Mumford**

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State of Georgia Athletics Hall of Fame inductees include longtime SEC official **Joe DeLany**, former **Georgia** quarterback and coach **Ray Goff**, and James Thomas, who played for Florida State **James Thomas**.

LSU Athletics Hall of Fame--Former **LSU** athletics directors **Carl Maddox** and **Skip Bertman** and wide receiver **Wendell Davis**.

➤ **Awards**

Former **LSU** fullback **Jim Taylor** will receive the *Doak Walker Legends Award*... **Bob Griese** (Purdue), the *Davey O'Brien Legends Award*...

➤ **Retired**

Bob Greise announcer at ABC; **1997 Chris Schenkel Award** winner **Jack Cristil**, the voice of **Mississippi State** football for 58 years; in all, Cristil called 636 Bulldogs football games since 1953.

Collie J.

By Michael Hurd

Through the years, Collie J. had several top lieutenants, most prominent of who was Pete Doshier a white journalism professor and a former newsman, Andrew Harris,

who Collie J. plucked from the Shreveport Sun, photographer Glenn Lewis, and Ernie Miles, another photographer, but also radio announcer for football games and Collie's successor as SID. Miles is known more as the founder and editor, in 1960, of The Monroe News Leader, the first African American weekly newspaper in Northeast Louisiana. Miles is also the popular host of a long-running weekly gospel music show that airs throughout Northeast Louisiana, Southern Arkansas, and Northwest Mississippi, and, in 1972, he became the first black television news anchor and reporter in the area when he started working for KNOE-TV in Monroe, Louisiana.

Doshier, who passed away in 2003, had also been an SID at Louisiana Tech, leaving there to start a journalism department at Grambling. He never got past Collie's office.

"He and Collie were like brothers," said Buddy Davis, of the Ruston Daily Leader, and one of Doshier's former students at La. Tech. "He worked at Grambling for nearly 20 years. Pete said before he came to Grambling, when he worked at newspapers in Arkansas, they couldn't wait to get Collie's stories because they were so enjoyable and unusual to read."

Glenn Lewis returned from Vietnam and enrolled at Louisiana Tech, where he would be one of Doshier's students. In 1971, the former professor recommend his former student to Collie for the photographer's job at Grambling.

"I had heard of Collie," Lewis said. "He was a legend. I was a journalism student just about when integration was taking place. Every day Pete would come in and show us articles Collie had written, because his writing was so colorful and Pete was trying to get us to get that style. There wasn't a black person in the class.

"He had a huge impact around here, even when it was segregated. Everybody knew about Collie's writing. He had a gift. We started getting students from all over the country because they'd heard Grambling's name on Monday Night Football or any pro football game. He was very professional and knowledgeable, and he knew so much about sports. All sports. He was like a walking encyclopedia."

Black or white, everyone in Northern Louisiana knew what Collie J. could do and even other athletic conferences sought his guidance. Lewis recalls a representative from the Gulf South Conference coming to Grambling to meet with Collie J.

and Doshier and offered to pay them to put their conference on the maps like Collie had done for Grambling.

"They just told him, 'It's a totally different situation.' Part of that was the band, but there was so much more there. Nobody else had that product."

Nicholson spread the Grambling name from Northern Louisiana to Japan and given more time who knows where else he could have taken the program.

"Somebody said, in today's time, if they were going to play a game on the moon," (his wife) Ophelia recalled, "Collie would try to get the team up there. The first team to schedule a football game on the moon."

One season, Eddie Robinson had a struggling quarterback with a penchant for throwing wobbly passes. At last, after repeated attempts to improve the player's mechanics, and soothe his ego, Robinson pulled the player aside and assured him: "That's okay, son, keep throwing those wobbly passes. By the time Collie finishes writing about them, they'll be spirals."

Collie J.'s colorfully-written press releases, game stories and award-winning media guides are treasures, many of which were lost in a devastating fire in the athletic building during the 1960s. He knew

how to turn a phrase. An exceptionally speedy wide receiver could be known as an “afterburner”; a hard-hitting linebacker was a “rib rattler”; a huge lineman could be responsible for “setting off the Richter Scale” when he stepped onto the field; an exciting player could provide “pyrotechnics.” It was Nicholson who bestowed the name “Tank” on running back Paul Younger.

Here are some gems from his media guides:

- In describing the 1975 team’s schedule: “It is loaded with booby traps and leaves little time for recuperation.”
- In describing sophomore quarterback Doug Williams: “Douglas has a diagnostic brain, reads defensive alignments well, and has a flair for translating nothing into something. There is little doubt that Williams will radiate electricity. His individual virtuosity is being compared with the likes of James Harris...”
- On wide receiver Sammie White: “...the wispy senior speedster with a many-gaited stride is a mercurial stalwart with an All-American gridiron charm. Distinctive and often disarming,

White is a dreadnaught both as a runner and receiver.”

- On linebacker Robert Pennywell: “He is built for rough work and sports an upper torso that would put Mr. America to shame.”
- On the 1972 team: “Several sets of interesting circumstances will keep Robinson and his Black Knights from getting lost in a mélange of arms, legs and indistinguishable bodies.”
- On the Grambling band: “The band that has the music you can hear and see and feel and know, all in one – and know that, whoever you are, wherever you are, whatever your background or race, whatever your age, whatever your calling, you can be with it...The group is rhythmically geared to and energetically propelled by the zesty gyrations of stately drum majors.”
- On Grambling’s landmark network television appearance in 1971 – ABC-TV aired the Grambling-Morgan State game live, nationally, the first for any “college division” NCAA team: “Grambling fans are bug-eyed with delight...”
- One year, on the Tigers undersized secondary: “...makes up in belligerence for what they lack in size.”
- On freshman defensive tackle Gary “Big Hands” Johnson: “An

amazing immovable object...has committed marvelous acts of self-discovery...this young giant who arrests the progress of ball carriers with violent finality.”

- On wide receiver Frank Lewis: “He combines stop-and-go tactics with blinding bursts of speed. This speed and the open-field savvy to utilize it, makes him equally devastating as a runner on scintillating counter plays.”

- On the 1970 team’s offensive and defensive lines: “Grambling has a mammoth rush line of murderous capability that can supply straight-ahead blasting power, blaze trails on sweeps, wreck havoc on passers, and smother running plays at their inception.”

- On a less than enthusiastic outlook for the 1969 team, that included the loss of two star defensive players to academic probation: “Coaches will be contented to win enough to keep sullen fans from becoming mutinous...Coaches are snorting in disdain because half the team can’t block and tackle, and the other half can’t read and write.”

Remembering College Football Hall of Fame Players and Coaches

By Bo Carter

March

- 1 (1883) Tom Shevlin, Muskegon, Mich.
- 1 (1884) Vince Stevenson, Livingston, Ky.
- 1 (1961) Mike Rozier, Camden, N.J.
- 1-(d – 1959) Albie Booth, New York City
- 1-(d - 1969) Andy Kerr, Tucson, Ariz.
- 1-(d – 1979) Hube Wagner, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 2 (1934) Howard “Hopalong” Cassady, Columbus, Ohio
- 2 (1946) Wayne Meylan, Bay City, Mich.
- 2-(d – 1970) Paul Christman, Lake Forest, Ill.
- 2-(d – 1971) Dixie Howell, Hollywood, Calif.
- 3 (1890) Art Howe, South Orange, N.J.
- 3 (1917) Carl Hinkle, Hendersonville, Tenn.
- 3 (1952) Randy Gradishar, Warren, Ohio
- 3 (1962) Herschel Walker, Wrightsville, Ga.
- 3-(d – 1966) Calvin Roberts, St. Louis Park, Minn.
- 4 (1888) Knute Rockne, Voss, Norway
- 4-(d – 1962) Pat O’Dea, San Francisco, Calif.
- 4-(d – 1986) George Owen, Milton, Mass.
- 4-(d - 1989) Harvey Jablonsky, San Antonio, Texas
- 4-(d - 2009) George McAfee, Durham, N.C.
- 5 (1875) Frank O’Neill, Syracuse, N.Y.
- 5 (1918) Paul Christman, St. Louis, Mo.
- 5 (1921) Dave Schreiner, Lancaster, Wis.
- 5 (1922) Bob Odell, Corning, Iowa
- 5-(d - 1974) Fred Crawford, Tallahassee, Fla.
- 5-(d – 1990) Stan Barnes, Palm Springs, Calif.
- 6 (1892) Clark Shaughnessy, St. Cloud, Minn.
- 6 (1927) Jim Owens, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 6 (1942) Jerry Rhome, Dallas, Texas
- 6 (1950) Johnny Musso, Birmingham, Ala.
- 7 (1943) Rick Redman, Portland, Ore.
- 7 (1952) Lynn Swann, Alcoa, Tenn.
- 7-(d – 1956) Paul Des Jardien, Monrovia, Calif.
- 7-(d – 1977) Bernie Bierman, Laguna Hills, Calif.
- 7-(d – 1983) Rip Engle, Bellefonte, Pa.
- 8 (1873) Charley Brewer, Honolulu, Hawai’i
- 8 (1893) Harry Young, Charleston, W.Va.
- 8 (1917) Dan Hill, Asheville, N.C.
- 8 (1931) Earle Bruce, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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- 8 (1965) Kenny Gamble, Holyoke, Mass.
9 (1877) Art Hillebrand, Freeport, Ill.
9 (1927) Jackie Jensen, San Francisco, Calif.
9-(d – 1937) Walter Steffen, Chicago, Ill.
9-(d – 1971) Barry Wood, Tamaica Plain, Mass.
9-(d – 2005) Glenn Davis, La Quinta, Calif.
10 (1927) Bill Fischer, Chicago, Ill.
10 (1949) Chip Kell, Atlanta, Ga.
10 (1960) Bill Stromberg, Baltimore, Md.
10-(d – 1919) John Dalton, Brooklyn, N.Y.
10-(d – 1945) Ed “Robbie” Robinson, Boston, Mass.
10-(d – 1954) Frank Thomas, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11 (1893) Ellery Huntington, Nashville, Tenn.
11 (1894) Bernie Bierman, Springfield, Minn.
11-(d – 1979) Beattie Feathers, Winston-Salem, N.C.
11-(d - 1995) Herb McCracken, Ocean Ridge, Fla.
12 (1880) Bobby Marshall, Milwaukee, Wis.
12-(d – 1968) Bill Hollenbeck, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
12-(d – 1983) Ki Aldrich, Coffeyville, Kan.
12-(d – 1987) Woody Hayes, Upper Arlington, Ohio
13 (1918) George McAfee, Ironton, Ohio
13 (1938) Joe Bellino, Winchester, Mass.
13 (1969) Chris Zorich, Chicago, Ill.
13-(d – 1932) Percy Wendell, Boston, Mass,
14 (1903) Ed Weir, Superior, Neb.
14 (1936) Dr. Jim Swink, Sacul, Texas
14 (1943) Charlie Green, Dayton, Ohio
14 (d – 1925) Walter Camp, New York City
15 (1898) Clarence Swanson, Wakefield, Neb.
15 (1926) Norm Van Brocklin, Eagle Butte, S.D.
15 (1937) Randy Duncan, Osage, Iowa
15 (1956) Ozzie Newsome, Muscle Shoals, Ala.
15-(d – 1990) Tom Harmon, Los Angeles, Calif.
15-(d – 2006) Dick Wildung, Minneapolis, Minn.
16 (1872) Phillip King, Washington, D.C.
16 (1920) Buster Ramsey, Townsend, Tenn.
16-(d – 1943) Paul Bunker, POW Camp in Japan
16-(d – 2006) Bill Hartman, Athens, Ga.
17 (1871) John Outland, Hesper, Kan.
17 (1876) Bill Morley, Cimarron, N.M.
17 (1905) Joe Donchess, Youngstown, Ohio
17 (1912) Joe Styhahar, Kaylor, Pa.
17 (1914) Sam Baugh, Temple, Texas
17 (1915) Bill Hartman, Thomaston, Ga.
17 (1916) Bob Suffridge, Fountain City, Tenn.
17 (1931) Ray Beck, Bowden, Ga.
17 (1967) Johnny Bailey, Houston, Texas
17-(d – 1965) Amos Alonzo Stagg, Stockton, Calif.
17-(d – 1992) Frank Carideo, Ocean Springs, Miss.
18 (1905) Benny Friedman, Cleveland, Ohio
18 (1906) Frank Wickhorst, Aurora, Ill.
18 (1910) Wear Schoonover, Pocahontas, Ark.
18 (1928) James Williams, Waco, Texas
18 (1932) Dave Maurer, Duquesne, Pa.
18 (1938) Joe Kapp, Santa Fe, N.M.
18 (1961) Curt Warner, Pineville, W.Va.
18-(d – 1975) Biggie Munn, Lansing, Mich.
18-(d – 1984) John Smith, West Hartford, Conn.
18-(d – 2000) Bob Blackman, Hilton Head, S.C.
19 (1913) Nello Falaschi, Dos Palos, Calif.
19 (1914) Jay Berwanger, Dubuque, Iowa
19 (1931) George Morris, Vicksburg, Miss.
19-(d – 1977) Buck Shaw, Menlo Park, Calif.
20 (1906) Ben Stevenson, Smith Mills, Mo.
20 (1909) Marchmont “Marchy” Schwartz, New Orleans, La.
20-(d – 1910) James Hogan, New Haven, Conn.
21 (1884) Jim McCormick, Boston, Mass.
21 (1889) Jock Sutherland, Coupar Angus, Scotland
21 (1951) John Hicks, Cleveland, Ohio
21-(d – 1971) Gomer Jones, New York City
21-(d – 1995) Frank Merritt, Clearwater, Fla.
22 (1879) Art Poe, Baltimore, Md.
22 (1931) Billy Vessels, Cleveland, Okla.
22 (1954) Ross Browner, Warren, Ohio
22 (1960) Jimbo Covert, Conway, Pa.
22-(d – 1993) Jack Riley, Kenilworth, Ill.
23 (1886) Nathan Dougherty, Hales Mill, Va.
23-(d – 1934) George Woodruff, Harrisburg, Pa.
23-(d – 1977) Joe Stydahar, Beckley, W. Va.
23-(d – 1980) Frank Sundstrom, Summit, N.J.
24-(d - 1930) Walter Eckersall, Chicago, Ill.
24-(d – 1947) Dr. John Outland, Laguna Beach, Calif.

25 (1909) Frank Howard, Barlow Bend, Ala.
25-(d – 1983) Edwin “Goat” Hale, Jackson, Miss.
26 (1870) Lee McClung, Knoxville, Tenn.
26 (1899) Buck Flowers, Sumter, S.C.
26 (1899) Harry Kipke, Lansing, Mich.
26 (1906) Rip Engle, Elk Lick, Pa.
26 (1960) Marcus Allen, San Diego, Calif.
27 (1898) Herb Stein, Warren, Ohio
27 (1921) Malcolm Kutner, Dallas, Texas
27 (1922) Alex Agase, Chicago, Ill.
27-(d – 2006) Ron Schipper, Holland, Mich.
28 (1899) Buck Shaw, Mitchellville, Iowa
28-(d – 1953) Jim Thorpe, Lomita, Calif.
28-(d – 1955) Art Howe, Plymouth, N.H.
28-(d – 1962) Bob Neyland, New Orleans, La.
29 (1902) Don Miller, Defiance, Ohio
29 (1906) Jim Bausch, Marion Junction, S.D.
29 (1955) Earl Campbell, Tyler, Texas
29-(d – 1986) Bill Murray, Durham, N.C.
30 (1914) Bob Reynolds (Stanford), Morris, Okla.
30 (1935) Willie Gallimore, St. Augustine, Fla.
31 (1938) Bob Anderson (Army), Elizabeth, N.J.
31 (1950) Ed Marinaro, New York City
31-(d – 1931) Knute Rockne, Bazaar, Kan.
31-(d – 1952) Bo McMillin, Bloomington, Ind.
31-(d – 2003) George Connor, Chicago, Ill.

* * *

AP Poll Database

By Tex Noel/Editor TCFH

Since 1936 one of college football’s sources when it comes to ranking teams and eventually a National

Champion is made by the Associated Press.

Have you ever wished you knew how many times your favorite school has been ranked; but with little time to do the research?

George Macor has compiled an exclusive database on the teams that have been ranked in the 75-year old poll--and in very detailed information and facts.

One feature of this database is the record of each national champion and its coaches.

Other interesting aspects contained this source is the week-by-week ranking of each team in the final poll; annual match-up of teams in the final poll against the other...and *LOTS MORE!*

Subscribers of *The College Football Historian* can download the entire database from Macor's website:
<http://www.georgemacor.com/>

While on the site, visitors will also be able to access other

databases for major sporting events as well.

* * *

FROM WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP

This will be a regular feature when the information becomes available... consisting of when one of our members is recognized for his/her accomplishments.

TCFH subscriber Scott McGinnins is the SID at Washington & Jefferson. He is a busy man; he compiles the statistics and publicity for many successful athletic teams at the school on the NCAA III level.

The Washington & Jefferson College men's athletic programs lead the 2010-11 **Presidents' Athletic Conference All-Sports Trophy** race by nine points heading into the spring season. If the Presidents hold on, W&J would claim a seventh consecutive Men's All-Sports Trophy.

* * *

Unusual Conference Games

Jim has also been kind enough to offer TCFH subscribers a complimentary

Jim Gumm

Sports Editor "The Kickoff"

In 1964 the Missouri Valley Conference wanted every school to play 4 league games. Since Cincinnati and Louisville had only scheduled 3 conference games, the Missouri Valley Conference came up with a unique solution.

The conference game between Cincinnati and North Texas State counted as 1 conference game for North Texas State but as 2 conference games for Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Bearcats won the game 27-6, so Cincinnati was awarded with 2 conference wins in one day while North Texas State received the normal 1 conference loss.

The conference game between Louisville and North Texas State counted as 1 conference game for North Texas State but as 2 conference games for Louisville. North Texas State won the game 22-0 and added, again, a normal 1 win to their 1964 conference ledger, however Louisville was set back with 2 conference losses.

subscription to The Kick-off. If you're interested, just send him an email at kickoffzone@yahoo.com.

From Richard Topp's **American College Football Scorebase**

Lake Forest-Rush Medical---was 3-6-0 in 1895. Both schools were to merge in 1896, and that fell through. Lake Forest attended a meeting at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago called by the President of Purdue; it was to form a conference. When the merger

fell through, Lake Forest dropped out and Michigan took their place. Hmmmmm! What if...???

Here is the 1895 season. There were THREE schools involved, Lake Forest, Rush Medical and Lake Forest/Rush Medical.

DATE	COLLEGE	GAME	D	PTS	OPTS	SITE
Sep 28 1895	Lake Forest	Chicago YMCA	W	6	0	Lake Forest, Ill.
Oct 5 1895	Lake Forest	Chicago	L	0	52	Chicago, Ill.
Oct 9 1895	Lake Forest	Armour Institute	L	0	14	Chicago, Ill.
Oct 5 1895	Rush Medical	Chicago AA	L	0	30	Chicago, Ill.
Oct 12 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Wisconsin	L	5	26	Madison, Wisc.
Oct 19 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Illinois Cycling Club	W	6	0	Chicago, Ill.
Oct 22 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Chicago AA	L	0	30	Chicago, Ill.
Oct 26 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Michigan	L	0	40	Ann Arbor, Mich.
Oct 28 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Michigan Academy	W	16	0	Detroit, Mich.
Oct 31 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Northwestern	L	0	24	Evanston, Ill.
Nov 2 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Illinois	L	0	38	Champaign, Ill.
Nov 16 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Wabash	W	26	0	Crawfordsville, Ind.
Nov 28 1895	Lake Forest-Rush Medical	Beloit	L	0	18	Elgin, Ill.

If they were in the Big Ten they would be 0-5-0 for 1895. But there was no conference in 1895.

* * *

Mel Smith found and submitted the following:

[©1934 by The North American Newspaper Alliance, Inc.]

Appeared in *The Cleveland Plain-Dealer* of Dec. 6, 1934

'Rating the Football Titans'

By Grantland Rice

He asked about 20 coaches at a recent meeting and got this rating for the teams of 1934:

- 1) Minnesota - Power, speed, skill & squad strength
- 2) Alabama - to be decided New Year's Day
- 2) Stanford - to be decided New Year's Day
- 4) Pittsburgh - given practically an even chance against Alabama & Stanford
- 5) Ohio State- given practically an even chance against Alabama & Stanford
- 6) Rice - rated only a shade below the leaders, with one of the best backfields in football

Then there is mention of the best open field play of Colgate and Navy.

This rating may stir up a noisy squawk in many football centers, but is the majority vote of coaches.

* * *

During the decade of the 1930s (1931-39 to be more precise) the *Associated Press* conducted and released a "Team of the Year Poll."

Teams ranked were not limited to college football; but all sports.

However, only teams from the collegiate gridiron are listed below.

Year	College Football Rank	AP Team of the Year [<i>College Football Teams only</i>]	Overall AP Rank
1931	1	Southern California	1 st
	2	Army	4 th
	3	St. Mary's CA (win over Southern California)	5 th
	4	Tulane	7 th
	5	Oklahoma City (with a 12-0 record)	8 th

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	not ranked	Columbia & Michigan (for its defenses)	not ranked
1932	1	Colgate	2 nd
	2	Southern California	3 rd
1933	1	Princeton	2 nd
	2	Michigan	4 th
	3	Army	5 th
	4	Stanford (win over Southern California)	6 th -tied
	5	Oregon State (Iron Men Team)	8 th
	6	Columbia	10 th
	7	Iowa	12 th -tied
1934	1 (1)*	Minnesota	2 nd
	2 (3)	Alabama	5 th
	3 (2)	Stanford	12 th
	4 (7)	Navy	13 th tied
	(nr)	Yale	13 th -tied
	6 (8)	Colgate	15 th -tied
	(nr)	Columbia	15 th -tied
	8	Knox College LaSalle College	19 th -tied* 19 th -tied*
1935	1	Minnesota	2 nd
	2	SMU	3 rd
	3	Princeton	4 th
	4	Notre Dame	7 th
	5	Alabama	12 th

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1936	1 (1)*	Minnesota	2 nd
	2 (2)	LSU	6 th
	3 (6)	Santa Clara	17 th -tied
	3 (12)	Yale	17 th -tied
	3 (14)	Duquesne	17 th -tied
1937	1 (1)*	Pittsburgh	2 nd
	2 (4)	Alabama	8 th -tie
	2 (2)	California	8 th -tie
	2 (5)	Minnesota	8 th -tie
	5 (3)	Fordham	12 th -tie
	6 (nr)	Lafayette	17 th - tied
1938	1 (1)*	TCU	2 nd
	2 (5)	Notre Dame	3 rd
	3 (2)	Duke	4 th
	4 (2)	Tennessee	10 th
	5 (6)	Carnegie Tech	12 th -tied
	5 (15)	Fordham	12 th -tied
	7 (nr)	SMU	18 th -tied
1939	1 (9)*	Iowa	2 nd
	2 (3)	Southern California	3 rd

3 (2)	Tennessee	4 th
4 (4)	Cornell	5 th
5 (1)	Texas A&M	6 th

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6 (nr)	Penn State	18 th -tied
7 (5)	Tulane	23 rd

***(Final AP Football Poll Ranking)**

Originally appeared in an issue of the **CFRA Bulletin**; used by permission of Bob Kirlin, Editor.

the scores comparing very favorably with those made against Stevens by the members of the Eastern Foot Ball League.

* * *

THE STAGE

Sporting Life, 1887

FOOT BALL AT RUTGERS

The Excellent Showing Made at One of the Minor Schools of Learning.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Nov. 29.
Editor SPORTING LIFE:

Rutgers, although compelled to choose her team from 150 men, has this season made a record to which she can point with pride.

She defeated Stevens in two games,

Her score with Princeton was remarkable more than that, phenomenal as is no game except the ones with Harvard and Yale has Princeton been compelled to content herself with 30 points, which was all she could make against Rutgers. Lafayette fairly out-played us and won two games in a style that showed her to be Rutgers' superior at foot ball.

Our games with the University of Pennsylvania and Williams we fairly won, although in both cases the score showed against us. In the former Pennsylvania, with both referees, refused to call the game when time was up, and forced five minutes more play, in which the game was lost.

At Williamstown, after holding the lead 6 to 4 until within a few minutes of time, the referee allowed two foul passes, both of which resulted in touch-downs and the

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loss of the game. Our score with Yale shows our superiority over Williams, as we played Yale 74 0 at

New Haven, the same score which Williams, with her own referee, held her to at Williamstown; 74-0 with Yale and 30-0 with Princeton is indeed a record to which the friends of Rutgers can point with pride.

An effort will be made to enter the Intercollegiate Association this year, and Rutgers will be heard from next year on the field, as only one man of the present team leaves college.

* * *

From old issues of Baseball Magazine

A Forecast of the Coming Football Season

Signs of Life on the Gridiron—A Few Reflections on the

While it is impossible to predict the brilliant records that will be made on the gridiron this fall, every season is, at least in a measure, a reflection of the season which has gone before.

Football changes in every department, the rules are revised every year, and every year the championship falls with steady impartiality upon some new contender.

Last year was a glorious year for Princeton. Her triple victory over Dartmouth, Harvard and Yale was

Season of 1911 and the Prospects for 1912

By M. V. B. LYONS

alone sufficient to gain for her possession of the coveted football crown. It is a rare event when Princeton defeats Yale and still rarer when she wins undisputed possession of the championship of college football.

* * *

By W. J. Menke

In 1914 the W. & J. eleven mingled in eleven gridiron battles. It won ten. It's only defeat was at the hands of Harvard, by a 10 to 9 score—and it had Harvard beaten until

almost the last minute of play, when a stroke of

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luck enabled the 1914 football champions to score a goal from field.

The Closing Match of the scheduled series of games of the Inter-Collegiate Association's championship contests for 1886, took place at Princeton on Thanksgiving day, under the most unpromising conditions or a satisfactory issue of the contest it would be possible to imagine.

The contestants were the elevens of Yale and Princeton; and two teams of the Association clubs never entered a field under conditions better calculated to elect ill-feeling and give Princeton did on this occasion.

In the first place the lay to bad temper than the players of Yale and ground was unfit for play, owing to the rain-storm which prevailed during the contest. Secondly, the arrangements for the accommodation of the crowd were simply wretched, and lastly, the course pursued by Princeton in insisting upon playing on such a field, when a model neutral field,

like the St. George ground, at Staten Island, was at command, led to a very bitter feeling of animosity between the contesting elevens.

The two teams were made up as follows—*Princeton*.— Rushers—H. Hodge, Cook, Cowan, George, Irvine, Moore, Wagenhorst; quarter-back—R. Hodge; half-backs—Price and Ames; fullback—Savage, (captain).

Yale.—Rushers—Wallace, Gill, Woodruff, Corbin, Carter, Burke, Corwin, (captain;) quarter-hack—Beecher; half-backs—Watkinson and Morrison; full-back—Bull.

We have not space for any details. Suffice it to say, therefore, that during the first half not a point was scored on either side which was acknowledged by Referee Harris. In the second half, however, Yale scored a touchdown, thereby securing 4 points to 0 in the game.

Before the second half could be concluded, darkness and the increased inclemency of the weather necessitated the calling of "Time" before the regular limit time had been reached, avoidable delays having rendered the playing out of the full time before dark impossible.

The final result was that Yale claimed a victory by 4 to 0, and Princeton claimed a drawn match on the ground of full time not having been played out.

The question was left to the Inter-Collegiate Association to settle, and on November 27, at a meeting held in New York, the contest was officially declared a drawn match.

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This leaves Princeton in possession of the championship which they won in 1885. Princeton afterward challenged Yale to play at the Polo grounds on December 4, but Yale stood by the decision of the Association meeting.

* * *

Recent Football at Harvard
A. Longdrop, Outing, 1891

The Rugby game of football was introduced here from England in 1876 by Harvard, and the first championship was won by Harvard. Since that time, or rather during the following decade, most of the credit for improving and adapting the game here belongs to Yale. Harvard having ushered in the game, seemed to lose her initiatory grip, and Yale, being favored by a succession of men who showed special aptitude and interest in this new sport, made extraordinary progress and for many years held almost uninterrupted sway over the football field.

During these years, 1876-1886, football continued to occupy a larger place among American games, until it came to be what it now is, a most attractive feature of the school and college life in this country and a delight to all who have any understanding of it.

It was not until 1886 that Harvard Cumnock's influence upon his men was very great, both in and off the field, and he was ably assisted by the coaches of his choice, for it is a well-known fact that a share of the success of the team belongs respectively to Mr. George Adams, ex-Captain "Joe" Sears, Mr. Geo. A. Stewart and Dr. Conant among other helpers.

George Adams was the chief instigator in getting football at Harvard on its feet again, and W. A. Brooks was made captain of the team. This was the fall of 1886. Adams coached the team and was induced to play end rush toward the close of the season.

The final match of the season was something of an anti-climax, for it was hardly to be supposed that Princeton could recover sufficiently from the Manheim defeat to turn the tables upon Yale, and thus tie all three, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale, for the Intercollegiate championship. Princeton played a far stronger game than was expected, and Yale, with the

exception of the first two minutes, in which, by beautiful execution, she made a touchdown, played with but little vigor and dash.

Before the largest audience of the year, variously estimated from 35,000 to 45,000 people, the Yale and Princeton teams met on

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Thanksgiving day. The weather was clear and cold, but just suited for the players. Yale came upon the field with everything in her favor, all the machinery of her game having been thoroughly tested and proved in two hard-fought matches.

There was no substitute on her team: the same eleven men that had faced and beaten first University of Pennsylvania, and then Harvard, lined up for the final contest of the year. It was an undefeated and a veteran team, and it looked it as the men came out upon the field.

Princeton, on the other hand, had lost prestige by the defeat at the hands of Pennsylvania. Some of her men had by no means recovered from the tremendous efforts they made in that game to stem the tide of defeat which had set in so heavily against them, and finally they must have felt the effect of the lack of confidence expressed in them by many of their own friends and sympathizers. It looked as though Yale would win by a large score, but

the result proved that there was not nearly the fancied difference between the playing of the two teams.

Yale opened with the ball, and the wonderful precision of her play during the first few minutes showed the possibilities of her game.

Starting with a wedge, her team moved up ten yards. Then the ball was passed to C. D. Bliss, who carried it five yards ahead and twenty yards to the left. Instantly upon the lining up the ball went to L. Bliss, who, swinging over to the other side of the field, gave his interferers a chance to fall in, and behind that little bank of three men went straight down, and, crossing line after line, finally deposited the ball behind the Princeton goal. Such an opening must have made Princeton's task a doubly hard one, for the game was uphill from the very start. Yet from this point there was little to choose between the two teams. Princeton forced the play near enough to the Yale goal to try twice for a field kick, but neither attempt succeeded. A stopped punt of Homans, well followed down by Stillman, gave Yale a second touchdown and goal in the second half; but when Yale, toward the end of the game, had the ball almost on Princeton's five-yard line, the orange and black out-played the blue and forced the ball out of the danger point by a wonderful rally, and the

game finally ended with the score 12

to 0 in Yale's favor, which was far closer than the score of the previous season.