

INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION™

# The College Football Historian™

*Expanding the knowledge and information on college football's unique past—today!*

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With this issue of [The College Football Historian](#)...we kick-off our third season!

## Something new for TCFH

**By Tex Noel, Executive Director**

Time to kick-off the 2010 season; no, college football hasn't started a winter football league; instead it's time for the third season for IFRA and its monthly newsletter, *The College Football Historian*.

We start this season with the most subscribers ever 174—and new members are joining all the time. **To all 174...Thank You!!**

While the basic format of TCFH will remain the same; some new features have been added.

**IFRA's** Bo Carter has compiled a list of College Football Hall of Famers; arranged by date of birth and date of death—these will be included in each issue as a remembrance and honor of the players and coaches

who have played this great game college football.

While this is a composite of list of only a select few; we need you're your assistance: If you local paper runs a story or even a paragraph of a former coach or player that participated in or with college football, regardless if he was inducted into the Hall...please send it.

Same goes for players and coaches inducted into school and/or conference Halls of Fame, we need this info as well; or any worthwhile accomplishment.

And should your alma mater do something or if an IFRA member be recognized for something—let us know!

And should you read or hear of any accomplishment such as these:

**The Ohio State University hasn't lost to an Ohio school since a 7-6 defeat to Oberlin in 1921.**

**The closest any instate rival has come since was a 7-7 tie achieved by Wooster in 1924.**

We want to know about it.  
**TCFH** is your publication...so;  
please send any and everything you  
see as it relates to college football,  
regardless of team, season or

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## **Who is College Football's "King of the Nineties"?**

**By E. Lee North**

[*Warning to viewers:* if you do not  
like statistics, skip the first few  
paragraphs!]

By "king of the Nineties," we are  
referring to the 1890s and 1990s...  
so let's consult the record books,  
noting that some of the schools with  
top records in the 1990s either did  
not play in the 1890s (e.g., Florida  
did not start football til 1906;  
Miami, 1926; Florida State, 1947;  
St. Johns--MN, 1910) or did not  
play over half of the ten years of the  
1890s decade (e.g., Marshall  
University and Mount Union).

As longtime students of football may  
know, the Ivy League was the  
gridiron leader for most of the  
sport's early years, so it is no  
surprise to find that Yale was No. 1  
in the 1890s with a record of 114  
wins and only eight losses, to go  
with five ties, for a 93.4 winning  
percentage. Right behind the Eli  
were Princeton (107-8-2, 93.0 pct),  
Harvard (103-12-2, 89.6 pct), and  
Penn (121-15-3, 88.9).

division!! You will be credit for your  
contribution.

We just want to continue to improve  
and grow. Any other suggestions are  
also welcome.

Send any information to Tex,  
[statwhiz@hotmail.com](mailto:statwhiz@hotmail.com).

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Thus all the top four were Ivy  
Leaguers... what about Notre Dame,  
you ask? Well, the Fighting Irish  
hadn't found Knute Rockne yet, and  
their record for the 1890s was 29-  
12-4 (70.1 pct), giving them 16th  
place. Michigan? The Wolverines  
were among the leaders, with a 70-  
20-3 record (77.8), good for 8th...

But guess who comes in at No. 5?  
In the 1890s decade W & J posted  
65 wins against ten losses and eight  
ties, or 86.7 pct. No. 6 is also a  
surprise, University of Buffalo -- 17  
wins, four losses, and five ties 81.0).

Next is Stanford at 30-9-7 (77.9),  
then the aforementioned Michigan  
at 8, Texas 20-6-0 (76.9) at No. 9,  
and (wow!) Oberlin 44-14-4 (75.9) to  
finish our top 10.

Rounding out our 1890s top 20 are  
VMI, Kansas, Bates, Navy,  
Wisconsin, Notre Dame, Oregon,  
Grove City, North Dakota, and  
Vanderbilt.

W & J a Deserving No. 5 in 1890s

So little Washington and Jefferson College, averaging less than five hundred students a year, was FIFTH in the 1890s, ahead of such grid powers as Notre Dame, Pitt, West Virginia, Michigan... but, one might ask, was that not accomplished against "minor-league" opposition? Well, not exactly -- W & J beat Pitt (then Western U of Pennsylvania) five times in five meetings (1890-94); West Virginia (five of five), and played Penn State, Duquesne, Penn, Lafayette, Princeton, and Cincinnati, all much larger schools.

OK, what does all that have to do with the Nineteen-nineties? Back to the record book...Our early No. 1, Yale, tallied 46 wins and 54 losses in the latter decade (46 pct); Princeton did better (59-40-1, 60 pct), while Harvard was 44-56-1(44 pct) and Penn tallied 57-42-0 (57 pct). W & J easily overtook them with a 86-19-0 record, or 82 pct.

More importantly, the Presidents' overall winning percentage for both '90s decades becomes 83.9 pct. Yale's overall percentage is 72; Penn's, 76; Harvard, 68.3; Princeton, 78.

Nebraska, Notre Dame, Texas et al.

So W & J overtook the four teams which had ranked ahead of them, but what about other powerhouses such as Nebraska, Notre Dame, Stanford, Texas, Southern Cal...?? Nebraska went an amazing 109-16-1 in the 1990s, but in the 1890s the

Cornhuskers were a modest 42-25-4, so their overall pct. reckons at 78.6. Notre Dame, as noted earlier, won 29 and lost 12 (with four ties) in the 1890s; in the 1990s, the Irish went 69-37-1, thus their overall pct is 64.2. Stanford's total for the two decades is 94-68-10, or 58 pct.

Texas? 96-47-2 (67 pct). Southern Cal's two-decade total is 85-61-7, or just 57.8 pct. Penn State was 139-47-5 (74.7). Ohio State posted a 120-69-7 record (63.5). Oklahoma was 70-52-3 (57.4). Wyoming, with a fine 1990s, posts an overall 81-50-2 record (61.8).

Some other teams with top 1990s records did not play the necessary years of the 1890s decade to qualify -- Montana, for instance, with a 95-31-0 (74.2 pct) record for the 1990s, did not start football till 1897. St. John's of Minnesota had a sensational 1990s run, won the Stagg Bowl in 2003, and claims the best record all-time in Division III, but did not play football in the 1890s, starting in 1910. Mount Union, the terror of Division III in recent years, played only half of the 1890s decade (going 10-11).

Pittsburg State in Kansas (Div. II), had a sensational 1990s record of 103 wins and 18 losses (85.1) but played no football till 1910. Grove City, one of the leaders in the 1890s, fell back in the 1990s, finishing with an overall 85-70-3 mark (54.8).

### ***Winningest Wittenberg***

The small college with the most wins in football history is Wittenberg of

Ohio (over 650 at this writing). The Tigers won national championships in 1962, '64, '69, '73, and '75. Their record for the 1990s was 86-17-1; but for the 1890s, it was 27-28-2, for an overall Nineties 113-45-3 (71.5 pct). Another fine football program is Augustana Ill., which posted a 71-23-0 mark in the 1990s, but only played two years in the 1890s. University of Colorado posts an interesting record -- 126-56-4, or a 69.2 winning pct. -- but forfeited all 11 games in 1997; their record would have been well over 70 pct otherwise. Many schools experienced this forfeit problem, because of using illegal players.

Renssalaer (RPI), was 73-21-2 in the 1990s, but 7-33-4 in 1890s for overall 80-54-6 or 59.7 pct; Ithaca, with an 80-28-0 record in the 1990s (won the NCAA title in 1991), did not play in the 1890s.

We have NOT included a few of the leaders from the 1890s because they had losing records in the 1990s --

*Mel Smith* has sent the following....please make the following changes if you have his latest book: **Evolvements of Early American Foot Ball: Through the 1890/91 Season:**

**On Page 244...**You will see in the right column; Trenton Normal School (now College of New Jersey). They played a team called C. C. C.

Buffalo, VMI, and Vanderbilt are examples.

### **King of the Nineties, Final Reckoning**

So, re-establishing our "*King of the Nineties*" with the combined two-decade totals... here they are:

- No. 1 - W & J (83.9 pct)  
2- Nebraska, 78.6; 3- Princeton, 78.0; 4-Tennessee, 77.6; 5- Penn, 76; 6- Penn State, 74.7; 7- Yale, 72; 8- Wittenberg, 71.5; 9- Williams, 70.7; 10- Colorado, 69.2; 11- Union (NY), 69.0; 12- Villanova, 68.4; 13- Harvard, 68.3; 14- North Carolina, 67.7; 15- U. Washington, 67.4; 16- Texas, 67.0; 17- Washington- Mo., 66.7; 18- Kansas, 66.4; 19-Auburn, 65.2; 20- Alabama, 64.4; 21- Notre Dame, 64.2; 22- Syracuse, 64.1; 23 (tie) - Ohio State, Wyoming, 63.5; 25- Georgia, 62.9; 26- Cornell, 61.1.

Note that the following schools fall below 60 pct: Stanford, 58.0; U. Southern Cal., 57.8; Oklahoma, 57.4; West Virginia, 57.0; California, 56.0; LSU, 50.1; and Boston College, 50.0.

\* \* \*

C. in 1879. I just found out who that team was. It stands for Capital City Commercial College of Trenton. It was founded in 1865 and became Rider Business College in 1897, then Rider-Stewart Business College. It moved to Lawrenceville, NJ in 1960 and is now Rider University. So you can add an early rugby game to Rider University's list. Both these teams were not

division I teams. Trenton was a two-year normal school and Capital City

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## **An Auspicious Beginning**

### **By Patrick Garbin**

On January 30, 1892, the University of Georgia competed in the very first of its 1,178 football games played through this past season.

The birth of one of college football's most prominent programs began when 24-year-old Dr. Charles Herty decided to bring the sport to his alma mater after first witnessing it in Baltimore while earning his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins.

At the initial practice, Herty, considered more of a "trainer" than a coach, walked onto the field carrying a Walter Camp rule book. To start practice, he simply tossed a football in the air and then watched as a group of college boys fought for it.

George Shackelford, one of those boys, said in a 1946 interview with the *Atlanta Journal*: "[Herty] selected the strongest looking specimens for the first team. Luckily I was the one who recovered the ball and thus I was assigned a position."

(Rider) was a two year business college in the early years.

The "strong specimens" in Georgia's starting lineup versus Mercer averaged 156 pounds and 5-foot, 10 inches in height, nearly 100 pounds lighter and a half foot shorter than the Bulldogs' starting eleven on offense in the season opener of 2009.

Approximately 1,500 spectators gathered at Alumni Athletic Field on the school's campus to witness the first intercollegiate football game in the Deep South. A few years later, the field would be renamed "Herty Field" in honor of UGA football's founding father.

School records indicate Georgia's mascot made its initial appearance at the Red and Black's second game—a meeting with Auburn in Atlanta three weeks following the first contest. On the contrary, according to the *Athens Banner*, "the university goat was driven across the field by the boys and raised quite a ripple of laughter," just prior to the 3:00 PM kickoff with Mercer.

Soon after the introduction of Georgia's goat, the Red and Black student section hollered, "rah, rah, rah, ta Georgia!" This was answered by the Mercer fans with a "rah, rah, rah, U-ni-v-sis-boom ah Var-sity Mercer!"

At the time, football resembled more of a rugby scrum than the sport we know of today. The rules were considerably different: no

passing, five yards were needed for a first down, a kicked field goal was actually worth more than a touchdown, and because of a loophole in the game's rules, a team kicking off could easily gain possession by nudging the ball forward, recovering it, and promptly go on the offensive.

Mercer practiced this type of onside kick from yesteryear to begin the game and started with the ball around midfield.

On the first play in Georgia football history, a Mercer ball carrier was thrown for a three-yard loss. This was followed with a play for no gain and then a lost fumble recovered by Shackelford.

On the Red and Black's first offensive play, Frank "Si" Herty, cousin of Dr. Herty, got the ball, made an "extraordinary" run, and scored a touchdown, giving Georgia an early 4-0 advantage.

Later in the contest, Georgia increased its lead to 16-0 when Shackelford made the play of the game by scoring a two-point safety in a most unusual fashion. "I picked up the ball-carrier," said Shackelford, "and slung him over one shoulder, carrying him [along with the football] twenty yards across his own goal-line."

The game ended with Georgia prevailing 50-0 over the visitors. "Si" Herty led the Red and Black by scoring six touchdowns, including Georgia's final points where he somehow scored a touchdown together with fullback Henry Brown.

Reportedly, the final score should have been 60-0 but the official scorer made two trips to the Broad Street Dispensary during the game for some "refreshments" and missed two touchdowns and a successful kick-after by Georgia.

The *Atlanta Constitution* reported spectators' hats were tossed into the air after the game and Georgia players were hoisted onto the shoulders of patrons in celebration as "the red and crimson of the University of Georgia waves triumphantly, and a score of fifty to nothing shows the university boys know how to play football."

Exactly 118 years later, much has changed in the sport of college football, especially in its rules. However, some things do remain the same, in particular, the "university boys" *still* know how to play football, and play it well.

*Patrick Garbin is a freelance writer and the author of three books on University of Georgia football. For more information about Garbin and his writing/books, please visit his website [www.patrickgarbin.com](http://www.patrickgarbin.com) and [www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com](http://www.patrickgarbin.blogspot.com).*

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## **To: IFRA membership**

If anyone has the MVPs list from the Oahu Bowl, Seattle Bowl, Aloha Bowl, Blue-Gray Classic, East-West Shrine Game and/or Freedom Bowl, please email me at [jameswschweitzer@netzero.net](mailto:jameswschweitzer@netzero.net) or if you prefer, can snail mail them to me.

THANKS FOR ANY AND ALL HELP!

Jim Schweitzer  
800 S. Brea Blvd. #509  
Brea, CA 92821

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### **Tom Benjey writes...**

Here's a little trivia on college teams playing high schools:

For the years 1908 through 1916, the years that Gloomy "Gil" Dobie coached the University of Washington, they played 61 games. Of these, 8 were against high schools, 4 were against military teams, 4 were against athletic clubs and two were against the Ballard Meteors. That means a total of 18 games credited to Dobie and Washington for these nine years, or 29.5%, were not played against college opponents.

\* \* \*

## **Seven Southwest Conference Bowl Teams-- Only in Our Dreams By Bo Carter**

About this time every year, or at least for the last 12 seasons with the BCS "hangover" and upcoming Super Bowls, reminiscing about the old Southwest Conference seems to be a barbershop and sports bar topic.

The venerable old girl "passed on" to the Big 12, Western Athletic, Conference USA, and Southeastern Conferences (technically after the 1991 season in the SEC's case) in July 1, 1996, when the SWC office locked its doors and auctioned off everything but the 553 boxes of memorabilia shipped to the Southwest Collection in Lubbock and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco.

*But wait...*

The Southwest rose again during the 2009 football with seven bowl teams from the old 1976-91 configuration of nine members, and, interestingly, this development would not have been possible with the demise of

the old league. Every old participant in the SWC's glory years except Baylor and Rice went bowling after '09.

With nine schools competing in 1980 and '84, the venerable SWC produced record-tying numbers of five bowl teams. Most years there were 3-4 (remember, until the late 1990s there were between 12-16 bowls and a maximum of 30-32 positions for the 100-plus teams competing in "major college" football.

The conference later suffered from 1985 onward when conference administrators voted to prohibit teams on current NCAA or bowl probation from being listed anywhere but the bottom of the standings. Besides not making postseason or appearing on the tube, these miscreants were marked with one or two "x" notations. This situation also produced a never-repeated in NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision conferences (and a major boon for the Jostens championship ring business) quin-champions in the SWC in 1994.

Texas A&M, officially 10-0-1 overall and 6-0-1 within the circuit (having to battle upstart SMU to a 21-21 tie in the Alamodome in San Antonio that year), sat at the bottom of the conference standings with the peremptory "x" for bowl probation and playing for pride.

The Aggies also had unofficial, commemorative "No. 1 in the SWC" rings and watches minted that year.

The other five champions, all tied at 4-3 in conference activity, had to wait for hours after Rice's season-ending 31-13 win over Houston to find out which SWC team would be the automatic representative from the loop for the 1996 Cotton Bowl. The SWC had become the first conference in history to sign an automatic championship tie-in invitation with the Classic prior to the 1940 season and '41 Cotton Bowl. Texas Tech drew the bid via the "Last Appearance Rule" as every member of the SWC had played in at least one Cotton Bowl since the Red Raiders met St. Mary's (Calif.) in the 1939 encounter.

It was just another day in the office for the SWC, which crowned champions in football every season from 1914-95 (82 in all) and which offered plenty of incentive for the title for Rice and TCU. They were not included in the merger with the Big Eight Conference by Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech to form the Big 12 Conference on Feb. 25, 1994, prior to that fateful season. The four teams not included felt that Baylor and Texas Tech had utilized their political power in Austin to edge out the likes of Houston, Rice, SMU, and TCU for one of those coveted spots.

But getting back to the point of



record numbers of postseason berths, the even-steven nature of the SWC after major scholarship cutbacks for football in the 1980s and 1990s was even more pronounced in the final years. For years, Arkansas, Texas and Texas A&M ruled the roosts (Texas went to its first bowl game in history in the 1943 Cotton Bowl (14-7 win over national power Georgia Tech), and the SWC produced national champions in SMU and TCU (split between agencies before Associated Press began its national surveys in 1936) in 1935, Texas Christian in 1938, Texas A&M in 1939, Texas in 1963, '69, and '70 as a member of this conference, and Arkansas in 1964.

Advancing over half the league members (in the cases of 1980 and '84, five of nine teams) into bowls was almost unheard of when there were 15-16 postseason matchups, and SWC teams traditionally beat each others' brains out (or tried to) in heated rivalries going back to the 19th Century in many cases.

And that's why seven SWC "alumni" playing in 2009 postseason may seem astounding on the surface – not so incredible when TCU, a Top Five team nationally throughout the campaign, swapped BYU, New Mexico, Colorado State, Utah, and others, after tangling with "friendly" rivals UT, A&M,

Arkansas, and Texas Tech (after the Red Raiders joined the SWC for football in 1960). To their credit, the Horned Frogs have kept in touch with old neighbors by meeting SMU almost annually (when they were members of the WAC and later in rival conferences), Baylor, Texas, and Rice often since the breakup.

Arkansas and Texas A&M even chose Cowboys Stadium in Arlington during '09 to renew their series for the first time since the Hogs departed the SWC for the greener (financially) pastures of the SEC prior to the 1992 campaign. Both went to bowls.

And with a new assortment of Conference USA foes East Carolina, Tulsa, UTEP, Marshall, and Tulane joining old SWC standbys and current CUSA opponents Houston and Rice, SMU rolled into its first bowl since the 1984 Aloha Bowl (27-20 win over Notre Dame in Honolulu) by returning to the islands under former Hawai'i head coach June Jones to compete Nevada 45-10 in the Christmas Eve 2009 Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl.

It was that kind of year for the old SWC schools as Arkansas (AutoZone Liberty), Houston (Armed Forces Bell Helicopter), SMU, Texas (Citi BCS championship), Texas A&M (Advocare 101 Independence), TCU (Tostitos Fiesta, first BCS appearance for coach Gary

Patterson's Frogs), and Texas Tech (Valero Alamo) all made the postseason. Houston (CUSA) and Texas (Big 12) played in their conference's title contests, TCU won the MWC outright, and SMU tied UH for the Conference USA West Division trophy.

Just for grins, here is a comparison of SWC standings the final year of Arkansas' involvement with the group in 1991, the last year of SWC standings in 1995, and the record-setting 2009 season for the old gang.

### **1991**

#### **School Overall W-L Conference W-L**

Texas A&M 10-2 8-0  
Baylor 8-4 5-3  
Texas Tech 6-5 5-3  
Arkansas 6-6 5-3  
Texas 5-6 4-4  
TCU 7-4 4-4  
Houston 4-7 3-5  
Rice 4-7 2-6  
SMU 1-10 0-8

**Totals 51-51 36-36**

*Bowl teams:* Texas A&M, Baylor, Arkansas. TCU and Texas Tech was bowl eligible but did not receive invitations.

### **1995**

#### **School Overall W-L-T Conference W-L-T**

Texas 10-2-1 7-0  
Texas Tech 9-3 5-2  
Texas A&M 9-3 5-2  
Baylor 7-4 5-2  
TCU 6-5 3-4

Houston 2-9 2-5

Rice 2-8-1 1-6

SMU 1-10 0-7

**Totals 46-44-2 28-28**

**Bowl teams:** Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M. Baylor and TCU were bowl eligible but did not receive invitations. The SWC's tie with the AT&T Cotton Bowl ended with the 1995 Classic, and Colorado and Oregon met in the '96 Classic in Dallas.

### **2009**

#### **School Overall W-L Conference W-L**

Texas 13-1 8-0 (Big 12)  
TCU 12-1 8-0 (MWC)  
Texas Tech 9-4 5-3 (Big 12)  
Houston 10-4 6-2 (CUSA)  
SMU 8-5 6-2 (CUSA)  
Arkansas 8-5 3-5 (SEC)  
Texas A&M 6-7 3-5 (Big 12)  
Rice 2-10 2-6 (CUSA)  
Baylor 4-8 1-7 (Big 12)

**Totals 72-45 42-30**

*Bowl teams:* Texas, TCU, Texas Tech, Houston, SMU, Arkansas, and Texas A&M.

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#### **(As Is)**

*Arthur Daley, in the Aug. 1 Sports of The Times column, wrote about the Gus Dorais-Knute Rockne forward passing combination that startled the East with its skill when Notre Dame's football team beat Army in 1913.*

*A reader, David Scott, called attention to the work of passers prior to 1913 and made particular mention of Brown's William*

*Sprackling, who was named to Walter Camp's all-America first team in 1910.*

*Now, a word or two from Mr. Sprackling:*

**TO THE EDITOR:**

Knowing you are interested in football history, let me give you a few facts "right out of the horse's mouth." Arthur Daley is correct in quoting Knute Rockne and Amos Alonzo Stagg to the effect that the Middle West was way ahead of the East in developing the forward pass.

I came in with the pass. I started playing high school football in 1906 in Cleveland. That was the year the pass was made legal. Our coach was a former quarterback at Wisconsin.

And he was good. From the very start we threw the ball with a spiral and we caught it with our hands not close to the body.

In 1907, when I was a senior, our little outfit beat all of the secondary schools around Cleveland. And I might add that one of our ends was Roger Peckinpugh, who later became a great shortstop.

When I arrived at Brown in the fall of 1908, entering five days before the first game and not knowing a soul, the coach, Daff Gammons, noticed that I knew

something about throwing the ball and gave me a chance with the varsity (we played freshmen then) and from then on the forward pass was a definite part of our offense. In the next two or three years we had four and even five players who came from Ohio and who knew how to throw and catch a football.

One of these men, Busty Ashbaugh from Youngstown, a big (for those days) 190-pound end, was a fine a receiver as I ever saw, even in these days.

Arthur Daley wrote of Walter Camp shifting his line to make a tackle eligible. Well, we had such a play, only more effective. In those days we never brought the ball in when it was downed near the sidelines; we played from the spot where it came to rest. That meant that we might well line up with an unbalanced line. We took advantage of this by putting a big tackle on the end, thus making him eligible to receive a pass.

When the ball was passed to the quarterback, the tackle would run out of bounds and come in behind the secondary—something that is illegal now.

I would fake giving the ball to a back, running away from the sidelines and then dropping back (we had to be five yards back when we passed) and passing over the line of scrimmage to the tackle. It was a very effective play. So much for Brown and the forward pass.

Let me tell you about one more thing that Joe Fogg pulled in 1906. Our last game was with a prep school, University School, which always had good teams. Joe knew he would have to pull something out of his hat for us to win. This is what he did, and I wouldn't be surprised if it wasn't the first time it ever was done.

The team would line up in regular T formation, the quarterback would holler "Split right" and the right side of the line would shift out about five or six yards, with one back five yards behind. The center could pass somewhat laterally to the back or a play could be run by the unshifted man.

Then there was a play with a "Split right" followed by a "Split left," leaving the center all alone. Also, an most effective, we had a "Team right," leaving an end to pass back.

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## **American Football**

By Bruce K. Stewart; From *American History*, November, 1995

*Used by permission of the author*

### Part 2

Uniforms -- introduced into college play in that groundbreaking 1875 Harvard-Yale contest--were made from a thin canvas-like

Also, a "Team left," naturally.

Now, of course, you can say you can dope out defenses for this. Sure, But don't forget this was on a one-time basis, brand new and most successful on that particular day.

One more "first": Who was the first coach to pull linemen out to run interference? I say that it was Pop Warner and he did it against us in 1909.

And I might add that hose Carlisle Indians just about killed our ends. They would be fighting off the backs running interference when someone would come out of nowhere and smack 'em down.

Believe me, it took a whole lot of study to find the answer.

WILLIAM E. SPRACKLING  
341 Comstock Avenue  
Los Angeles, Calif.

material called mole-skins, which soon tagged the players "canvasbacks." During June each year, players would begin growing their hair long as protection against the football season's bone-jarring collisions. But if a player secretly stashed pads beneath his unnumbered moleskins, his teammates would ridicule him without mercy.

For all its roughness, however, there was a lighter side to football during this era. After a game the two teams dined together, enjoying a feast of fresh fish and wild game; it was a practice that bestowed a soothing balm to their weary muscles. After dinner,

unbridled boasting, story telling, and song satisfied a deeper appetite.

The year 1888 heralded energetic changes that led directly to the modern game of football. Before that time, defensemen were permitted to tackle only above the waist, a restriction that encouraged an open style of running and pitching the ball from player to player across the whole width of the field until the defense caught up. When tackling below the waist finally became legal below the waist but above the knees defensemen had a much larger target tackling area.

Ball carriers, much to their dismay, found that they could not easily elude such ferocious tackles. For counterbalance, the offensive line began bunching together to provide their carriers with more protection. Because there were not yet any rules regulating the number of men a team put on the line of scrimmage to begin each play, offenses initiated a new strategy of placing a mass of players in the backfield. At the snap of the ball, the players would all charge toward one defenseman. The power of these "massing plays" soon resulted in deaths and many grievous injuries.

During kickoff plays, teams made use of a loophole in the old rule that required the offense to kick the ball, but did not specify that the receiver had to be on the opposing team. Amos Alonzo Stagg, a Yale All-American in 1889 and later one of the game's greatest coaches, recalled that "the subterfuge was conceived of inch-kicking," whereby the kicker made an "inch kick" to himself, thus retaining possession of the ball. He would then hand it back to a teammate in a play called the V-wedge, "and the slow-moving mass of players clinging to one another moved forward in a slow lock-

step run. The strategy was to open an aperture at a certain point of the wedge, through which the imprisoned runner would dart."

The suffering wrought by such plays increased dramatically with the introduction of the mighty "fling wedge," a remarkable "kickoff" play invented by Lorin E Deland, a military strategist, chess expert, and Harvard supporter who had never played a game of football in his life. Fans got to see Deland's bold new tactic for the first time in the second half of the 1892 Harvard-Yale encounter.

Deland divided Harvard's players into two groups of five men each at opposite sidelines. Before the ball was even in play team captain Bernie Trafford signaled the two groups. Each unit sprang forward, at first striding in unison, then sprinting obliquely toward the center of the field. Simultaneously, spectators leapt to their feet gasping.

Restricted by the rules, Yale's front line nervously held its position.

After amassing twenty yards at full velocity, the "flyers" fused at mid-field, forming a massive human arrow. Just then, Trafford pitched the ball back to his speedy halfback, Charlie Brewer. At that moment, one group of players executed a quarter turn, focusing the entire wedge toward Yale's right flank. Now both sides of the flying wedge pierced ahead at breakneck speed, attacking Yale's front line with great momentum. Brewer scampered behind the punishing wall, while Yale's brave defenders threw themselves into its dreadful path.

Brewer was finally forced out of the partially disintegrated wedge at Yale's twenty-yard line, where he tripped over one

of his own players just as he was tackled by Frank Butterworth. Parke Davis, an early footballer turned historian, wrote of the action: "Sensation runs through the stands at the novel play, which is the most organized and beautiful one ever seen upon a football field."

Yale's incredible defense held and eventually won the game. However, Deland had opened Pandora's box. According to Davis, "No play has ever been devised so spectacular and sensational as this one." Stagg, writing in 1926, remarked that "The Deland invention probably was the most spectacular single formation ever opened as a surprise package. It was a great play when perfectly executed, but, demanding the exact coordination of eleven men, extremely difficult to execute properly."

Harvard's dangerous flying wedge quickly became the standard opening play for teams all across the country. But the play, which used the principle of mass momentum to great advantage, was deadly as well as effective. The cause of numerous deaths, the flying wedge was outlawed after only two seasons. As often happens with new sports rules, however, coaches and players soon found intriguing loopholes that kept the flying wedge alive.

Mass formations resembling the forbidden play crept onto the field on nearly every down. If anything, variations of the flying wedge became even more vicious than the original. Injuries soared, leading an outraged press to denounce the game for its excessive violence. For eleven years the press fueled the public's clamor for substantial rule changes, advocating such things as increasing from five to ten the number of yards a team must cover within four downs.

Barnstorming Rugby and soccer teams from all over Europe and Australia gave demonstrations across the United States to convince Americans of their games' noble values and superior morals. Some colleges did switch to Rugby or soccer, while others banned all kinds of football.

During those years, public outrage was not universal, nor was the negative sentiment shared by the players of the game. It was during this era that the first "sports heroes" captured the public imagination. Since 1889, Walter Camp had been selecting the best players to an All-American team. Outstanding players captivated the crowds and sustained growing interest in the sport despite concerns about the dangers associated with it. By the turn of the century, colleges across the country had become as involved with football as their Eastern counterparts. In 1896, the Western Conference--which later evolved into the "Big Ten"--was formed with memorable teams from the universities of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Chicago. In 1901 football was added to the program of events associated with Pasadena, California's twelve-year-old Tournament of Roses; on New Year's Day of 1902, the tradition of the Rose Bowl was born.

At the end of the 1905 season, the Chicago Tribune reported some frightening news: 18 FOOTBALL PLAYERS DEAD AND 159 SERIOUSLY INJURED! This report, coming weeks after he had seen photographs of the bloodied combatants in a contest between Swarthmore and the University of Pennsylvania, led President Theodore Roosevelt to proclaim: "I demand that football change its rules or be abolished. Brutality and foul play should receive the same summary punishment given to a man who cheats at cards! Change the game or forsake it!"

The president immediately appointed a rules committee and pressured football coaches across the country to come up with a solution. John Heisman, Georgia Tech's coach, proposed that a passing play might be a good way to open up the game and help disband massing plays. He hoped that the forward pass would change football's emphasis from brute force to the kind of clever ball-handling that would please crowds and, more importantly, save players' lives.

Just after New Year's Day 1906, the rules committee approved the forward pass. Although the identity of those involved in the first play to involve a legal forward pass has been the subject of debate, credit is usually given to Bradbury Robinson of St. Louis University. A halfback, Robinson threw the ball to a teammate in a September 1906 game with Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The new rule, however, was full of conflicting restrictions -- such as a penalty of fifteen yards for an incomplete pass -- that limited coaches' freedom to experiment with the innovative play.

It was six years after its introduction that the forward pass really came alive. Before the 1913 season opener, Gus Dorais, Notre Dame's talented quarterback, practiced concise pass patterns with a talented pass catcher on the shores of Lake Erie during their summer break. In the Notre Dame-Army game, Dorais made the forward pass a vital offensive weapon by passing for 243 yards, primarily to his main receiver and future coaching great Knute Rockne.

Meanwhile, flying-wedge principles continued to persist in insidious forms. In

1909, two important players -- Navy's Early Wilson and Army's Eugene "Icy" Byrne -- were both killed in massing plays, creating a "great clamor for re-form or radical changes . . ." Embarrassed and perplexed by its own inadequacy and spurred on by public outrage, the rules committee finally permitted only four players to line up in the backfield, demanded a seven-man line, barred offensive linemen from using their hands, and required kickers to send the ball at least ten yards on every kickoff. At last football was freed of its own nemesis.

In spite of its destructiveness, the flying wedge and related "massing plays" did create some positive movements in American football. The news of the plays' power and alluring beauty helped to launch the exciting game across the country, while their destructiveness heralded the birth of player-safety measures, including the formation of the National College Athletic Association in 1906. Additionally, there arose united groups of concerned citizens, media, and college administrators, all of which endeavored to make football a fair game for both sides.

One such administrator, Stanford University president David Starr Jordan, wrote in the 1890s that "College football has come to stay: It has its advantages, its dangers, and its evils, but it fills a place which no other game can take. Its members are bound together by the strongest of ties. . . college spirit."

The flying wedge could be used only in place of a kickoff play at the start of each half or after a team had scored.

Teams from Stanford University and the University of Michigan met in the first such game on January 1, 1902. However, the second Rose Bowl game, which pitted

Washington State against Brown University was not played until 1916.

**End of Part 2 of 3**

\* \* \*

*In Memory of...*

**Gaines Adams** Clemson, 26....**Tulane LB Sule Osagiede**...**Boydson Baird**, legendary coach, at Maryville College TN, 91...**Tom Brookshier**, 78, Colorado... Ole Miss lineman **Bull Churchwell**, 73...**Walter Fondren**, Texas, 73...**Larry Bortstein**, 67, who covered Pacific-10 Conference football and several bowls for Los Angeles-area newspapers and USA Today... "**Bullet**" **Bill Dudley**, 88.

*Enshrined into Halls of Fame...*

**Texas Sports: Lawrence Elkins** (Baylor); **Chuck Howley** (West Virginia); **Tommy Kramer** (Rice); **Harvey Martin** (Texas A&M-Commerce [East Texas State when he played]) and **Dan Reeves** (South Carolina).

**MEAC:** Rickey Anderson (South Carolina State)...Jacquay Nunnally (Florida A&M) and Ted White (Howard).

**Oklahoma Sports: Troy Aikman** and **Rick Bryan**.

**Fordham University Athletic:** Javarus Dudley, Kevin Eakin and Kirwin Watson

*Worth Noting...*

1984 NFF National Scholar-Athlete **Doug Flutie** (Boston College), 1984 NFF National Scholar-Athlete **Gregg Carr** (Auburn) and **Jack Del Rio** (USC) were recipients the **NCAA Silver Anniversary Award**.

\* \* \*

Jan. 20, 1925: Three of the legendary "Four Horsemen" of Notre Dame – HB Jim Crowley, FB Elmer Layden and QB Harry Stuhldreher – earn consensus All-America status after the 1924 season. HB Don Miller is named to three All-America teams (but not consensus), and all four eventually are honored in the NFF College Football Hall of Fame—located in South Bend, Ind.

They receive this notation from NFF tri-founder Grantland Rice for their performance against Army in '24.

**College Football Hall of Famers: Date of Birth and Date of Death**

**February**

- 1 (1908) Albie Booth, New Haven, Conn.
- 1 (1915) Gaynell "Gus" Tinsley, Ruple, La.
- 1-(d – 1964) Clarence Spears, Jupiter, Fla.
- 1-(d – 1928) Joe Thompson, Beaver Falls, Pa.
- 1-(d – 1978) John Orsi, Naples, Fla.



*The College Football Historian-17-*

1-(d – 1989) Everett Bacon,  
Southampton, N.Y.  
2 (1945) Loyd Phillips, Ft. Worth,  
Texas  
2-(d – 1956) Truxton Hare, Radnor,  
Pa.  
3 (1938) Joe Fusco, Wilkinsburg, Pa.  
3 (1940) Fran Tarkenton, Richmond,  
Va.  
3 (1945) Bob Griese, Evansville, Ind.  
3 (1956) John Jefferson, Dallas,  
Texas  
3-(d – 1968) Homer Hazel, Marshall,  
Mich.  
3-(d – 1974) Bob Suffridge,  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
3-(d – 2006) Johnny Vaught, Oxford,  
Miss.  
4 (1933) Leo Lewis, Des Moines,  
Iowa  
4 (1938) Wayne Harris, Hampton,  
Ark.  
4 (1940) Billy Neighbors,  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.  
4 (1960) Tom Deery, Oaklyn, N.J.  
4-(d – 1950) Everett Strupper,  
Atlanta, Ga.  
4-(d – 1962) Pat O’Dea, San  
Francisco, Calif.  
4-(d – 2005) Malcolm Kutner, Tyler,  
Texas  
4-(d - 2010) Bill Dudley, Lynchburg,  
Va.  
5 (1903) Morley Drury, Midland,  
Ontario, Canada  
5 (1915) Walter Gilbert, Fairfield,  
Ala.  
5 (1942) Roger Staubach,  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
5 (1943) Craig Morton, Flint, Mich.  
5 (1947) Ron Sellers, Jacksonville,  
Fla.

5 (1950) Terry Beasley, Montgomery,  
Ala.  
5 (1951) Charles Young, Fresno,  
Calif.  
5-(d - 1969) Dick Romney, Salt Lake  
City, Utah  
5-(d – 1994) George Sauer, Waco,  
Texas  
6 (1886) Jack Hubbard, Hatfield,  
Mass.  
6 (1889) Bill Alexander, Mud River,  
Ky.  
6 (1948) Major Harris, Pittsburgh,  
Pa.  
6 (1948) Dennis Onkotz,  
Northampton, Pa.  
6 (1950) Rich Glover, Bayonne, N.J.  
6-(d – 1979) John Baker,  
Sacramento, Calif.  
7 (1905) Wally Butts, Milledgeville,  
Ga.  
7 (1917) Banks McFadden, Ft.  
Lawn, S.C.  
7 (1922) Paul Cleary, North Loop,  
Neb.  
7 (1933) Calvin Jones, Steubenville,  
Ohio  
7 (1934) Ron Beagle, Hartford,  
Conn.  
7 (1959) Neal Lomax, Portland, Ore.  
7-(d – 1932) Forrest Geyer, Norman,  
Okla.  
7-(d – 1952) Wilbur Henry,  
Washington, Pa.  
8 (1920) Bruce Smith (Minn.),  
Faribault, Minn.  
8 (1925) Rod Franz, San Francisco,  
Calif.  
8 (1942) George Bork, Mt. Prospect,  
Ill.  
8-(d – 1968) Doc Fenton, Baton  
Rouge, La.  
8-(d – 1994) Bobby Reynolds  
(Stanford), San Rafael, Calif.  
8-(d – 2005) Parker Hall, Vicksburg,  
Miss.

*The College Football Historian-18-*

9 (1950) Rod Cason, San Angelo, Texas  
9 (1952) Danny White, Mesa, Ariz.  
9 (1957) Dan Ross, Malden, Mass.  
9-(d -1994) Bud Wilkinson, St. Louis, Mo.  
9-(d – 1998) George Cafego, Knoxville, Tenn.  
10 (1946) Dick Anderson, Midland, Mich.  
10-(d – 1992) Doyt Perry, Bowling Green, Ohio  
11 (1882) John Tigert, Nashville, Tenn.  
11 (1938) Jim Sochor, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
11 (1949) Murry Bowden, Colorado City, Texas  
11 (1949) Jim Stillwagon, Mt. Vernon, Ohio  
12 (1885) Frank Murray, Maynard, Mass.  
12 (1895) Dick Romney, Salt Lake City, Utah  
12 (1925) Lee Tressel, Ada, Ohio  
12 (1963) Brent Jones, Santa Clara, Calif.  
12-(d – 1944) Bill Warner, Portland, Ore.  
12-(d – 1959) Charlie Daly, Pacific Grove, Calif.  
12-(d – 1979) Ben Ticknor, Peterborough, N.H.  
13 (1919) Eddie Robinson, Jackson, La.  
13 (1933) Kenneth Dement, Poplar Bluff, Mo.  
13-(d - 1945) Bill Mallory, in combat in Italy  
13-(d – 1996) Charlie Conerly, Memphis, Tenn.  
13-(d – 2006) Bud McFadin, Victoria, Texas

14 (1913) Woody Hayes, Clifton, Ohio  
14 (1919) George Kerr, Brookline, Mass.  
14-(d – 1978) Paul Governali, San Diego, Calif.  
15 (1897) Earl “Red” Blaik, Detroit, Mich.  
15 (1920) Endicott Peabody, Lawrence, Mass.  
15 (1929) Fred Martinelli, Columbus, Ohio  
15 (1931) John Michels, Philadelphia, Pa.  
15 (1940) John Hadl, Lawrence, Kan.  
15 (1957) Marc Wilson, Bremerton, Wash.  
15 (1960) Darnell Green, Houston, Texas  
15-(d – 1963) Ira Rodgers, Morgantown, W.Va.  
16 (1931) Dick Modzelewski, West Natrona, Pa.  
16 (1964) Teel Bruner, London, Ky.  
17 (1872) Pat O’Dea, Melbourne, Australia  
17 (1892) Bob Neyland, Greenville, Texas  
17 (1905) Andy Oberlander, Chelsea, Mass.  
17 (1920) Jackie Hunt, Huntington, W.Va.  
17 (1936) Jim Brown, St. Simons Island, Ga.  
17 (1938) Jim Christopherson, Wadena, Minn.  
17-(d – 2009) Brad Van Pelt, Owosso, Mich.  
18 (1895) George Gipp, Laurium, Mich.  
18 (1947) Leroy Keyes, Newport News, Va.  
18 (1962) Gary Reasons, Crowley, Texas

18 (1963) Chuck Long, Norman, Okla.  
18-(d – 1994) Jake Gaither, Tallahassee, Fla.  
19 (1918) Forest Evashevski, Detroit, Mich.  
19-(d – 1962) Dick Harlow, Bethesda, Md.  
20 (1912) Francis Wistert, Chicago, Ill.  
21 (1921) Bob Dove, Youngstown, Ohio  
22 (1899) Matty Bell, Fort Worth, Texas  
22 (1864) George Woodruff, Dimmock, Pa.  
22 (1886) Bill Hollenbeck, Blueball, Pa.  
22-(d – 1998) Warren Woodson, Dallas, Texas  
23 (1877) Bill Edwards, Lisle, N.Y.  
23 (1934) Dick Strahm, Toledo, Ohio  
23 (1937) Tom Osborne, Hastings, Neb.  
23 (1943) Fred Biletnikoff, Erie, Pa.  
23 (1950) Jim Youngblood, Union, S.C.  
23-(d – 1914) Alex Moffat, New York City  
23-(d – 1957) George Little, Middlesex, N.J.  
24 (1903) Warren Woodson, Fort Worth, Texas  
24 (1906) Bennie Oosterbaan, Muskegon, Mich.  
24 (1910) Fred Sington, Birmingham, Ala.  
24 (1923) Bob Chappius, Toledo, Ohio  
24 (1952) Fred Dean, Arcadia, La.  
24-(d – 1953) Hunter Carpenter, Middletown, N.Y.  
24-(d – 1963) Jack Harding, Miami, Fla.

24-(d – 1990) Lloyd Jordan, Richmond, Va.  
25 (1942) Carl Eller, Winston-Salem, N.C.  
26 (1914) Gomer Jones, Cleveland, Ohio  
26 (1930) Vic Janowicz, Elyria, Ohio  
26-(d – 1970) Bennie Owen, Houston, Texas  
26-(d – 1978) Pooley Hubert, Waynesboro, Ga.  
27 (1887) Tad Jones, Excello, Ohio  
27 (1932) Jim Ray Smith, West Columbia, Texas  
27-(d – 1996) Vic Janowicz, Columbus, Ohio  
28 (1885) Ray Morrison, Sugar Branch, Ind.  
28 (1929) Hayden Fry, Odessa, Texas  
28 (1945) Bubba Smith, Beaumont, Texas  
28-(d – 1965) Paul Hoernemann, Strongsville, Ohio  
29-(d – 1972) Tom Davies, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
29-(d – 1992) Don Heinrich, Saratoga, Calif.  
29-(d – 2008) Buddy Dial, Houston, Texas  
29-(d – 2008) Jerry Groom, Sarasota, Fla.

\* \* \*

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\* \* \*

**1911 Walter Camp All-America Team**

E--Sanford B. White, Princeton  
T--Edward J. Hart, Princeton  
G--Robert T. Fisher, Harvard  
C--Henry H. Ketcham, Yale  
G--Joseph M. Duff Jr., Princeton  
T--Leland S. Devore, Army  
E--Douglass M. Bomeisler, Yale  
B—Arthur Howe, Yale  
B--Percy Wendell, Harvard  
B--Jim Thorpe, Carlisle  
B--J. P. Dalton, Navy

From: **Baseball Magazine**, Feb. 1912

From **the 2009 USC Football Media Guide...** 1905

**Coach:** Harvey Holmes

**Captain:** Carl Elliott

Oct. 10 W ....Harvard

School..... 12- 0% H .... 300

%-Because of “deficiencies” of Harvard roster, Harvard’s coach, USC’s coach, and Dean Cromwell played for Harvard.

➤ *Spring Football Practice is just around the corner.*