

INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Established: 2008

SAMPLE ISSUE / **January 2008**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the **Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association**.

While we share the passion of college football history; as we are all as equally as different as the game itself—as our areas of specialization proves that.

Each month, the IFRA brings out the best of historical college football findings by the country's top researchers.

With this introductory issue, we will share with you what current topics of interest by those who have been at this for some time.

So, sit back and enjoy the trip down college football's memory lane...and next month, maybe we will be reading your research here—so get busy, start researching and send it in.

As you can see, we need a name for our publication...send your suggestions to IFRA editor, Tex Noel, statwhiz@hotmail.com.

[Current Projects](#)

Every college football fan knows the scores from his alma mater...and the Georgia Tech-Cumberland TN contest of 1916.

What about a small school in Illinois or you at a game and see the opposing fans ride in on horseback?

The answers to these questions and all-related to a school's all-time scores are a continuous project of Richard Topp.

His last count of the 1069 schools that have played football since 1882 was 468,654.

Topp's research not only list scores, but also where the game was played and the correct date of the game.

Best schools to nail were...

(1) William & Vashti College (Aledo, Ill.) The school played from 1908 to 1916, it closed in 1919. Last Summer I was in the vicinity and on College Road in Aledo is nothing but a cornfield.

(2) Mount Morris College (Mount Morris, Ill.) school played from 1899 to 1931, only one building is left, that's now the City Hall of the town. I asked at the Library what were the colors and what was the nickname. The Librarian said the colors were Blue & Gold and they were called the "Orangemen" (don't ask). My favorite restaurant in town..."Ed's Pretty Good Hot Dogs".

(3) Albert Lea College (Albert Lea, Minn.) Can't miss the town, right past the huge can of Spam. The local library had a scrapbook that somebody kept of all articles on every game played, 1968-1971. Bless 'em.

(4) St. Mary's College (St. Mary's, Kansas) The school played from 1894 to 1930. It was founded in 1859, and the most famous grad was Charles Comiskey. Maybe because his uncle, Benjamin Comiskey, was the dean? The college is gone but I had a local newspaper. The first game was

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December 1, 1894 with nearby Fort Riley.

The newspaper said..."The soldiers from Fort Riley rode into town, 100 strong, to attend the football match."

At that time they were still fighting Indians, the newspaper was right out of a John Wayne movie!

Books Available

But what if your interest in is in college football back in the earlier days of the sport...two books highlight different eras of the game.

Mel Smith's second book is coming out soon and here is a preview on what it will contain.

"Evolvements of Early American 'Foot Ball': Through the 1890/91 Season"

ABOUT THE BOOK: This book is a revision/extension to the author's first book. With the recent availability of digitized newspapers and magazines, much more 'foot ball' data have been found for the 1800s. The games are again divided into three basic forms of 'foot ball'; but now are listed under the actual style names used at the times played. They are the Kicking Game/Association Football (now soccer), the Carrying Game/Boston Rules Game/American Rugby Game/English Rugby Union (now rugby) and the Ball-Control/American Collegiate Game/American Rugby Football (now football). Within these basic forms, the games are listed under colleges, independent clubs and high schools. There is a chapter on leagues/conferences and the appendices contain team histories with the type of 'foot ball' played.

The other book recalling the game's beginnings is Stars of an Earlier Autumn. This publication will cover the game from its beginning, filling in many gaps of missing information over the first 68 years—before official compilations began in fall 1937.

The book has Top 10 player statistics for game, season and career and, several game and season records for teams are included.

Other highlights within its 367 pages include coach's career records and composite of National Champions and final polls well before the regular release the weekly AP poll; (many early polls, have not been previously published until now.)

Stars can be ordered directly from the publisher, Lulu.com by following this link: <http://stores.lulu.com/1st-n-goal>

If you would like additional information on STARS before you order it, contact Tex Noel at statwhiz@hotmail.com, for an FYI sheet.

Preparing for history

From Steve Greene, NJ...

(Steve is conducting research on his alma mater, Rutgers for a future and found this interesting story and submitted it for the first issue.)

But the real find came in the edition of the papers BEFORE the November 6, 1869 inaugural game. From everything I've read on the first game, my understanding is that Rutgers challenged Princeton to the match. I discovered two articles in the month leading up to the

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game. The first mention was three weeks before by a Princeton student writing the editor of the new, New Brunswick paper...

"A day or two ago, a fellow student dropped in to see me, and placed before my eyes a long subscription paper for a couple of dozen of foot-balls. He said 25 picked men from Princeton were about to make arrangements with 25 from Rutgers for a grand foot-ball match, to take place in about one month. I am sure the match would be exceedingly interesting, and would bring about friendships, pleasing and, to a considerable extent, valuable. I hope it will come off."

The second article came out days before the game and spoke of all that remained was for Rutgers to accept the Princeton challenge and the rest of the article was to the editor telling him essentially "Here we come! let's have a good time!" I have not seen any of the information in these two article incorporated into any story on the first game.

Early National Champions

This was found in an issue of *Outing Magazine* a leading sports publication.

The writer, R.M. Hodge has this to say on the Intercollegiate Football Association champions.

*The intercollegiate record to date credits Princeton with five championships, those of '77, '78, '79, '80, and '85 ; and Yale with five, of '81, '82, '83, '87, and '88. Both '84 and '86 were draws, not being played out; 1889 is a rubber for Princeton and Yale.**

**This article was written by Mr. Hodge in November, 1889, and the result of the intercollegiate football matches shows with what rare skill Mr. Hodge judged the teams.-*

Ed. Outing.

OUTING FOR FEBRUARY.

[Legendary Head Coach against playing a game to determine the National Champions.](#)

(I am sure it was in other papers, but the source which was found is credited: Ada Evening News, Ada, OK, Tues Dec. 13, 1927)

Playing the Game

Why Have a National Champion?

By FIELDING H. YOST
ANN ARBOR, Mich.—If it were possible to decide a national college football championship, of what real value would such a decision be to intercollegiate athletics.

One of my friends once wondered as he watched a furiously barking dog chasing a railroad train, what the dog would do if by some unusual circumstance he happened to catch the train.

Is not this canine experience about that of those who raise a hue and cry in attempting to pick a national college football champion every year?

What would they do with it if they had it, and what good would it do intercollegiate athletics as a whole?

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It would not add to rivalries. The most intense rivalries are those of like institutions in nearby and similar communities. Call to mind the noted college rivalries of these and other times—Oxford and Cambridge in England; Harvard and Yale, to cite the earliest American rivalry; Michigan and Ohio State; Kansas and Missouri; Vanderbilt and Sewanee; Stanford and California. There are many others which are fully as important to the rival schools.

Football schedules, therefore, should include as many of these natural rivals as possible. There will be greater interest in it for the students and more "fun" in it for the players—two factors which help to rise intercollegiate competition to its highest possible standard. There are cases of friendships between large and small schools that frequently furnish good meetings between their respective teams, but the best of competition and interest are reached only when the teams and schools are about the same strength.

National championships and intersectional contests are not necessary—it is almost possible to say not desirable—for the best competition in intercollegiate athletics.

In my opinion, the Western Conference early made a wise decision when it passed a rule that all football schedules should close on Saturday before Thanksgiving.

There certainly should be a uniform time for the closing of schedules, both from the standpoint of interest in the sport and the standpoint of the competing athletes.

If we were to have a national championship at all, it would have to be determined upon the basis of intersectional games not the contests against natural and nearby rivals. These intersectional clashes involvement of trips, sometimes across the continent, and extension of the training season. The latter is a great drawback to scholastic work, it is interesting to note that the northern teams that are not restricted by conference membership eight game schedules have. With very few exception scheduled only the usual eight games and. in some and. in some instances, even fewer.

Conviction is that "enough is enough" must have been the force behind this change.

Neither the quest of a national championship nor the intersectional game, played after the close of a schedule, fits into the ideal that has advanced intercollegiate sport to its present place as a part of the educational program for the development of the individual.

Interest and college loyalty are still a mighty factor in individual development in competitive sport and both are best served with game schedules that interfere as little as possible with a well-rounded educational effort.

[Perfect Record Required for National Championship consideration](#)

FYI: This was for the 1935 season... Alan J. Gould, AP Sports Editor (and creator of the weekly AP Poll) named his National Champions for 1935—Minnesota, SMU and Princeton.

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List Is Certain To Be Cut Further In Games This Week

New York "U" Appears Due To Be Dropped; Southern Methodist and Texas Christian Match Perfect Records.

By HERBERT W. BARKER
Associated Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK, Nov. 25— (AP)—A double dose of competition this week will settle most of the remaining sectional arguments stirred up by a frenzied football campaign, but the biggest dispute of all never will be settled to everyone's satisfaction.

The list of national championship contenders—just about as mythical as the championship itself—consists today of Minnesota, Princeton, Southern Methodist, Texas Christian and New York University, if it must be limited to teams neither beaten nor tied.

Minnesota, unbeaten in 24 games over three seasons, has wound up competition for the year and thus rests its championship case on its 1935 record of eight successive triumphs.

Princeton, apparently, is certain to wind up with perfect record, and so too, it seems, will either Texas Christian or Southern Methodist, deciding on which wins their crucial duel this week.

N. Y. U. undefeated scarcely a chance to get past Fordham, but if did Violets win they will have some part in any arguments for national honors.

HIGH SCORING TEAMS

From Tex Noel, IN...

Scoring values were introduced in 1883 and two years later, the first school to score 500 or more in a season was Princeton—as the Tigers scored 539 points.

A year later (1886), Harvard—after not fielding a team in 1885—became the first college to score 700 or more points, with 765.

This mark was the standard until 2004, when Pittsburg State seemingly, scored at will and finished 837 points.

Both Harvard and Pittsburg State played a 14-game schedule, as each finished a 12-2-0 record.

College football Teams Scoring 700+ Points

Points	Team and Division	Season	Accomplishment
837	Pittsburg State KS, NCAA II	2004	5th
778	Mount Union, NCAA III	2007	14th
765	Harvard, Major College	1886	1st
752	Mount Union OH, NCAA III	1997	4th
747	Georgia Southern, NCAA 1-AA	1999	4th
744	Georgetown KY, NAIA II	1991	1st
725	Minnesota, Major College	1904	2nd
710	Georgetown KY, NAIA	1999	2nd
707	Grand Valley State MI, NCAA II	2001	2nd
707	Mary Hardin-Baylor, NCAA III	2007	2nd

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706 Mary Hardin-Baylor, NCAA III
2004 1st
702 St. John's MN, NCAA III
1993 2nd

502 California PA, NCAA II, 1st
502 UCF, Bowl Subdivision, 1st

This past season, a record 32 teams recorded a 500+ season.

Points Team, Division, Accomplishment

778 Mount Union, NCAA III, 14th
707 Mary Hardin-Baylor, NCAA III, 2nd
640 Appalachian State, CSD, 2nd
639 Abilene Christian, NCAA II, 1st
621 Ohio Dominican, NAIA, 1st
602 Sioux Falls SD, NAIA, 5th
592 Oklahoma, BSD, 5th
586 Tulsa, BSD, 4th
578 Catawba, NCAA II, 1st
571 Bethel TN, NAIA, 1st
564 Hawaii, BSD, 3rd
562 Tuskegee, NCAA II/HBCU, 1st
556 Kansas, BSD, 1st
555 Missouri, BSD, 1st
552 Florida, BSD, 6th
551 Boise State, BSD, 6th
544 Virginia-Wise, NAIA, 1st
543 Delaware, CSD, 5th
541 LSU, BSD, 1st
541 West Texas A&M, NCAA II, 2nd
540 Valdosta State, NCAA II, 6th
537 Carson-Newman, NCAA II, 3rd
532 Texas Tech, BSD, 3rd
530 Southern Illinois, CSD, 2nd
522 St. Francis IN, NAIA, 6th
515 West Virginia, BSD, 2nd
513 Northwest Missouri State, NCAA II, 6th
511 Navy, BSD, 1st
509 Southern Connecticut State, NCAA II, 2nd
508 Washington & Jefferson, NCAA III, 3rd

2007 National Champions

- LSU, Bowl SubDivision
- Appalachian State, Championship SubDivision
- Valdosta State, NCAA II
- Wisconsin-Whitewater, NCAA III
- Carroll MT, NAIA
- Mississippi Gulf Coast and Butler County Community College, NJCAA
- City College of San Francisco, JC Gridwire

Heisman History

Florida's Tim Tebow became the first sophomore to win the coveted award.

Tim Tebow, Florida: 462-229-113--1957
Darren McFadden, Arkansas: 25-84-182-425
Colt Brennan, Hawai'i: 54-114-242--632
Chase Daniel, Missouri: 25-84-182--425
Dennis Dixon, Oregon: 17-31-65--178
Please fill the application out and return it to Tex Noel, at statwhiz@hotmail.com.

NAME _____

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AREA(S)
OF
INTEREST/SPECIALIZATION
SPECIALIZATION (use as much space as
needed)

Do you want your contact information
available in a directory?

() Yes () No

Comments:

Final Thoughts (or 0:00 on the Scoreboard clock)

Working on a project and can't find
something...maybe one of the other
members can help you out.

Or should you wish to share a special
game or event that you have witnessed
as it relates to college football—share it
with us.

Find a good website that you frequent
and think others would find it of interest,
inform us.

Want to promote your own website, a
book you are writing...let us know and
we will list your accomplishment here.

If you have football friends who would
be interested in IFRA, have them email
Tex Noel, editor.