

INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION™

The College Football Historian™

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

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<http://www.secsportsfan.com/college-football-association.html>

➤ **IFRA** congratulates the
2009 National
Champions:

Bowl Subdivision:

Alabama (1961-64-65-73-
78-79-92)

Championship

Subdivision: Villanova,
first title

NCAA II: Northwest

Missouri State (1998-99)

NCAA III: Wisconsin-

Whitewater (2007)

NAIA: Sioux Falls (1996-
2006-08)

NJCAA: Blinn TX (1995-
96-2006)

JC Grid-Wire: College of
Mt. San Antonio CA (1997)

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WHICH GAMES COUNT?

By Mel Smith

This article is a discussion to Homer Martin's question, 'Should high school games count in the total wins of a college team, or should they all be looked as exhibition games?'

I wrote an article several years ago, *What's in a Game of Early Football*; see the College Football Historical Society (CFHS) Journal; vol. XVI, #3, May 2003. It dealt with some questions about all the different approaches colleges have to count, or not count football games in their histories.

Here is one specific answer to a question I asked Syracuse University back in the 1980s about their acceptance of high school games. 'If Syracuse accepts the two high school games played in 1890 with the St Johns Manlius Prep School in 1890, why don't you accept the game with the Syracuse HS in 1889?' Their answer was, 'The St Johns Manlius School played a schedule with other college games, whereas the Syracuse HS played only a high school schedule.'

Apparently, Syracuse did not want to be the first college team to be listed on their cross-town high school's schedule. It was their reason for the HS game to be classed as 'unsanctioned'.

Turns out, every college counts their football games by different rules or restrictions. I'll list some of the differences. Some colleges count high school games and some don't. Some count independent club games or not, exhibition games or not and practice games or not. Some games are declared 'unsanctioned' for reasons only the schools can explain.

Some games are left out because they are not played in the accepted September-January schedule period. It's hard to imagine now that there were early football games played in the dead heat of summer in the 1800s. How about those amateur club football games played in New Orleans in July 1868? Some early games were left out because the colleges could not figure out what type of early football games they played. For examples, Iowa and VMI will not count their early kicking games of football in the 1870s & 1880s. Maryland doesn't count their first game in 1880 because it was a rugby game, not a football game.

Games lost or won to perceived lower-level teams are also approached differently by each college. For example, the newly

formed University of Texas lost a kicking game of football to the Bickler School in the fall of 1883. I haven't asked that college why the game is left out of their lists because in reality it is an early soccer game. When the Oneida FBC of the Dixwell Latin School wanted to play the Harvard 1868 Frosh team in 1864, the Harvard administration stopped the procedures because the team might lose to a high school.

Also, every historian has their own interests in the sport of their choice. We all see things differently. Some historians are only interested in intercollegiate college football, so every game is counted if it is between two different college institutions only.

But some college historians accept games with high schools or maybe games with amateur independent clubs. Some historians are only interested in Division I, some are interested in the Division II or III levels of play.

The same approaches can occur with high school interscholastic historians.

Some historians include three different types of football in their histories. Early kicking games and rugby games are included in several college football listings up into the 1880s. Very few leave out the early kicking (soccer) and carrying (rugby) games, which really belong in the early histories of those two sports.

Some historians are strictly a one team/college historian and can count every winning game they find. All these different college approaches were discovered because I was researching the 1800s for the early beginnings of soccer, rugby and football. When I would approach colleges with some early games not on their lists, they would invariably throw them out as unacceptable for one reason or another. Back when these games were played, there were no collegiate rules or restrictions. In essence, the colleges were wiping out the early history of soccer, rugby and football.

So I decided to throw out all the restrictions and count every game I could find. I figured historians then would have a much better understanding about what games they should keep or throw out, because they now can see the bigger overall picture.

So Mr. Martin as you see, it is up to you whether you want to count inter-institutional games between colleges and high schools; or not count them. Intercollegiate means between college games only. Adding high schools and/or independent club games could be called inter-institutional games or something.

If you want to call them all exhibition games, that is your prerogative. Just as long as you list your rules and reasons, so everyone knows from where you come.

American Football

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

Used by permission of the author

The origins of the sport that captivates U.S. fans each fall goes back hundreds of years, but the American version has its roots in the ivy league schools of the late 1800s.

More than 125 years ago, the sons of Civil War veterans fought on a new field of combat. Yankees, Rebels, and Westerners alike-- assailed at every step by their opponents-- openly attacked each other, each man fervently battling for a few extra yards of precious turf. Some men died, while many more were seriously injured in the crude charges, brawling, and bucking that each man contended was his privilege as a gentleman. The fierce game of football had taken root.

Although football had been played in one form or another for centuries, the American version of the sport originated, for the most part, in Northeastern high schools and matured during the late nineteenth century in the Ivy League universities of the Northeast. As early as the 1840s, intramural matches had assumed a significant place in the campus life of students at Harvard and Yale University.

Rivalries between classes became so intense that, by the beginning of the Civil War, the game had to be outlawed by the administrations of both institutions.

During the war years, a young man named Gerritt Smith Miller, who had played football while a high-school student in upstate New York, organized the Oneida Football Club in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first to introduce the concept of teamwork to the game. Up to this time, players functioned individually on the field, with little regard to what their teammates were doing. Miller's "Boston game" assigned each player a role in advancing the ball or defending the goal.

Princeton and Rutgers played the first intercollegiate football game in 1869, with Yale, Cornell, and Columbia following soon after. Most closely resembling soccer (ball carrying was not yet considered an option), the earliest games were melees in which roughly 25 men blocked, tackled, and fought to kick a round, leather-covered ball through a wooden crossbar.

Harvard University students again joined the ranks of footballers in 1871, but followed different, Rugby-like rules that permitted players to run with the ball. The other schools in the Northeast were not quick to adopt this innovation, leaving Harvard with no option but to restrict its play to intramural contests. Intercollegiate football,

meanwhile, spread west as far as Michigan and south to Virginia.

In 1874, David Roger of Montreal's McGill University, where Rugby itself was played, challenged Harvard's captain, Henry Grant, to a three-game match between their respective teams. Harvard comported itself well in the cross-border encounters, in which many of its players had their first opportunity to use the easier-to-control egg-shaped ball made from a pigs durable bladder.

Flushed with enthusiasm for Rugby, Harvard challenged Yale to give its rules a try. On November 13, 1875, some two thousand spectators watched as the arch rivals met in the first American intercollegiate game played under Rugby rules. Harvard took the win, and the game of American football was never the same. With their flair for unifying far-flung ideas, Americans quickly became enthralled by the game and formally adapted Rugby's ball-carrying rules for the 1876 season.

At a time when field goals made by drop-kicks vastly outscored touchdowns, the game looked like a mongrel of European soccer and English Rugby. Of course, the American "frontier" version was far more rugged than its more dignified European counterparts. Although in the American version aggressive defenses doled out uppercuts and roundhouse punches before and after the ball was snapped, football was nonetheless considered a "gentleman's Adventure in sport."

Under Rugby's rules, "neither side had possession of the ball, nor the right to put it in play and to execute the ensuing maneuver. . . ." Walter Camp, an ingenious fellow from Yale University, proposed in 1880 that a scrimmage line be set on the spot where the ball was last downed. Whereas in Rugby's scrumage, the ball was tossed between two herds of men, the new line of scrimmage in football indicated the exact spot where the following play should begin.

Camp then created the positions of snapback (center) and quarterback for placing the ball into play. The snapback rolled the ball back between his legs with his foot to the quarterback, who pitched it to another player. This created the unique feature of having one team take undisputed possession of the ball. Perhaps more than any other single rule, the scrimmage-line innovation distinguished American football from its European antecedents.

To counteract the stalling tactics that often resulted from the offense having unlimited control of the ball, Camp also introduced a rule requiring the offensive team to gain five yards in three plays or surrender possession of the ball. Since everyone except the quarterback was permitted to carry the ball, guards such as Yale's towering William "Pudge" Heffelfinger often scored as many touchdowns as halfbacks or full-back. From Camp's forward-

thinking rules came strategies and tactics for systematically advancing the ball. In tribute to his phenomenal foresight, Camp became known as the "Father of American Football."

An insatiable press, through a new breed of reporter--the "sports writer" relayed the news about football to readers from coast to coast. Before long, thousands of spectators were flocking to stadiums across the country to watch shifty ball carriers eluding their zealous pursuers. There was always great excitement among the fans just before game time as people arrived by horseback and in tally-hos or fancy carriages to cheer for their favorite team.

Early footballers prided themselves on their superb physical conditioning that allowed them to handle the walloping contact of the sport. Walter Camp once said that his Yale team of 1876 was remarkable for two things, "our toughness and our tackling. No wonder we were tough, for it had been a general killing off and survival of the fittest, both through the medium of our mining and also the ground upon which we practiced. Our training consisted of an hour practice in an afternoon and a three-mile run in the gymnasium every evening at nine o'clock. . . Such was the enthusiasm of our captain. . . that we believed that we were making ourselves models of strength and endurance."

On the field, players could push or pull their teammates along, even carry them forward. Ball carriers

were permitted to crawl with the ball until held down. During such critical times, many fights broke out, slowing the game down and making it less interesting for fans to watch. Witnesses' descriptions suggest that these skirmishes looked something like a combination of wrestling, boxing, and a barroom brawl. One English spectator, after watching a game, allowed that football "is quite different than soccer and Rugby. In soccer, you kick the ball. In Rugby, you kick the man when you can't kick the ball. In American football, you kick the man."

Referees dared not declare a play finished until the tackled ball carrier fell to the ground and hollered "Down! " They had no rules to deter blind-sided hits or brawling, partly because they could not see into the thickness of the fray.

End of part 1 of 3

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The 1924 College Football Playoff

By Paul Batesel

Another college football season had wound down, and fans, as usual, are short changed in post-season games.

The BCS game for the National Championship is often well played and occasionally thrilling.

It did not take long for football's once-lustrous reputation as a gentleman sport to become tarnished. John L. Sullivan, the heavyweight boxing champion from 1882 until 1892, commented: "Football. There's murder in that game. Prizefighting doesn't compare in roughness or danger with football. In the ring, at least you know what you're doing. You know what your opponent is trying to do. He's right there in front of you. There only one of him. But in football--there 11 guys trying to do you in!"

Rough as these games were, no player substitutions were allowed. Young men were expected to play both offense and defense for the sake of honor, never leaving the field except when seriously injured.

But that game—and the other thirty-odd bowl games—are hardly a substitute for a real on-the-field national championship playoff.

Roughly the same amount of time and the same number of games could produce a tournament leading to an authentic national champion.

In *The 1924 College Football Playoffs*, I “play out” a national championship for that season. [<http://1924collegefootballplayoff.pbworks.com/>]

In 1919 colleges that had closed football programs during World War I reinstated them; the early 1920's saw a number of football stadiums being built. On the other hand, the Great Depression almost wiped out college football programs—and in some cases the colleges themselves.

And once the Sugar, Cotton and Orange Bowls joined the Rose Bowl in the mid-1930's, the dynamic of post-season play changed. So 1924

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Final College Football Researchers Association (CFRA) Poll

Poll Conducted by Brad Matthews

Much like all other college football polls across the nation, the *College Football Researchers Association (CFRA)* has elected the University of Alabama as its 2009 college football national champion. We would like to congratulate the Crimson Tide for their amazing season which earned them the first CFRA national championship since 1992.

However, it is worth noting that the Tide's margin of victory is much narrower than in most other polls.

seemed to be a good year in which to institute a playoff.

I had a lot of fun trying to solve the issues a playoff would have raised and looking at the proceedings from different perspectives.

I want to thank all the reference librarians and school officials who furnished information about players; I especially want to thank fellow football researchers whose work I borrowed.

Boise State was able to garner 40% of the first-place votes cast leaving them only 4 points behind the Tide when all the ballots were counted. This is a major departure from the AP poll which has just been released and ranked Boise a meager # 4. Other interesting aspects of this final poll include the fact that we once again have a tie in our rankings, as both Utah and

Georgia Tech shares the 14 spot. Finally, the CFRA once again demonstrated its great respect for mid-major teams by ranking all five of the non-BCS ranked teams (Boise State, TCU, BYU, Utah, and Central Michigan) higher than the associated press.

Here are this year's final **CFRA rankings**.

1. **Alabama (6)**- 246 points
2. **Boise State (4)**- 242 points
3. **Texas**- 224 points
4. **Florida**- 220 points
5. **TCU**- 215 points
6. **Ohio State**- 193 points
7. **Cincinnati**- 181 points
8. **Iowa**- 177 points
9. **Penn State**- 176 points
10. **Virginia Tech**- 150 points
11. **Brigham Young**- 143 points
12. **Oregon**- 125 points
13. **Pittsburgh**- 112 points

Editor's Note: Brad has informed us that he is seeking interested IFRA members that would be interested in voting in his weekly poll during the 2010 season. He will have more information in a future

14. **Utah**- 106 points
14. **Georgia Tech**- 106 points
16. **Wisconsin**- 101 points
17. **Nebraska**- 98 points
18. **LSU**- 86 points
19. **Central Michigan**- 67 points
20. **Miami (FL)**- 47 points
21. **Ole Miss**- 35 points
22. **Southern Cal**- 34 points
23. **Clemson**- 32 points
24. **West Virginia**- 27 points
25. **Oregon State**- 22 points

Others Receiving Votes: Texas Tech 17, Oklahoma 12, Stanford 9, Navy 9, Georgia 9, Rutgers 8, Florida State 6, Oklahoma State 4, Middle Tennessee State 3, Arizona 3, Auburn 2, Houston 2, Villanova 1

issue of *TCFH* as the 2010 season draws closer.

Brad will further explain as he is only interested in seeing if our members would be interested in taking part in his poll—stay tuned.

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Here are a few features of the new rules practically decided upon by the Intercollegiate Football Rules Committee:

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1—Removal of the five-yard restriction on man receiving the ball from the snapper-back

2—Seven men on the line of scrimmage

3—Prohibition of flying tackle

4—Division of the game into four periods, with short intermissions between first and second and third and fourth

5—No pushing or pulling the man with the ball, and the same limitations as to use of the hands by teammates as applies to the opponents

6—Onside kicks not legal unless the ball goes at least 20 yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

And to go along with the above, here's another story that appeared a year later in the same publication.

In Memory of

Chris Henry, 26, West Virginia...**John "Jack" Zilly**, 88, Notre Dame...**Steve Williams**, Oklahoma...Broadcaster **Dave Diles**, 78, was on ABC-TV with the "Prudential College Football Scoreboard Show,"... Cleveland *Plain Dealer* sports writer Richard J. "**Dick**" **Zunt**, 78...**Mike Weaver**, 47, standout lineman at Georgia in the 1980...**Tommy Taylor**, 81, longtime college football official...**George Michael**, 70, longtime sports broadcaster in the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore area and host of *The*

Outing 1911

The Unexpected in Football

By Edward Lyell Fox

Some recognized unexpected plays, however, are these: long runs, resulting from fumbles, intercepted forward passes, returned kick-offs and punts, and from regular formations; field goals and trick kick-offs (onside kicks might be mentioned, but that play is seldom worked successfully); a sudden hole in the line through which the defense streams, and crises that the last minutes bring.

* * *

Sports Machine program.

Worth Noting

Inducted into the State of Missouri Sports Hall of Fame: former Mizou players **Kellen Winslow Sr.**, Tight End and **Bruce Van Dyke**, Guard and Northwest Missouri State University coach, **Mel Tjeerdsma**...TCU head coach **Gary Patterson** was named by the FWAA as Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year. He also received National Coach of the Year accolades from the Walter Camp Football Foundation,

Associated Press and Sporting News addition to being named *The College Football Historian-10-*

the recipient of the Bobby Dodd Award, George Munger Award and Woody Hayes Award.

- The **Paul Bear Bryant Awards** committee of the *American Heart Association* has announced that former University of Georgia Head Coach and Athletic Director, **Vince Dooley** has been named the 2010 recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award recognizes excellence in coaching on and off the field.

- Former University of Texas head coach **Darrell Royal** has been named the 2010 recipient of AFCA's *Amos Alonzo Stagg Award*.

The Award

The Amos Alonzo Stagg Award is given to the "individual, group or institution whose services have been outstanding in the advancement of the best interests of football." Its purpose is "to perpetuate the example and influence of Amos Alonzo Stagg."

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From our subscribers:

➤ **ATTENTION AUTHORS OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOOKS...**

If you would like to have additional promotion for your efforts, IFRA member David DeLauss who has the website, the College Football Data Warehouse, would like to hear from you.

Members can go <http://www.cfbdatawarehouse.com/index.php> to visit the site.

Interested members of IFRA can contact David or if you have any questions, email him at: collegefan101@hotmail.com.

Please include the following as it will be added to a template; which will list each author, title of his books and how to order them.

Title:

Author:

Year Published:

Book Summary:

Publisher and address:

Order Info:

➤ **Missing 1A/Bowl Subdivision Scores:**

George Macor writes: The 2008 and 2009 **NCAA football record books** did not include the prior season scores. I have made files for the 2007 and 2008 seasons in an excel format. They are available to anyone interested. My email is: macorirish@aol.com

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❖ **Players that played on a Bowl Subdivision National Champion and later played for a Championship Subdivision #1**

New **IFRA** member Al Muskewitz asks this question:

I cover Jacksonville State for our paper. It recently picked up a quarterback from Alabama. It also picked up the last two years

a player from that year's national champion -- LSU and Florida.

My question is has there been a player who has won a I-A (FBS/BCS) AND a I-AA (FCS) national championship in their careers? I know there's thousands of kids we're talking about here and it's probably a needle in the haystack, but I'm taking a shot.

If member knows the answer this question, please email him at amuskewitz@annistonstar.com; and put **dual national championships** in the subject line.

Thanks for whatever help and research you do.

Al Muskewitz
Anniston Star sports

* * *

Rutgers defeated Columbia, 5-4 in 9 innings

By Tex Noel, Editor, TCFH

Before you think I have submitted this to the wrong publication, this was how the score was released in the November 1873 issue of *The Targum*, school paper at Rutgers University.

It what amounts to a scoring summary, the paper had revealed the following.

The second game of the series arranged, and the first with Columbia was played on the Rutgers' grounds, Saturday, Nov. 1st. Game was called at 2:30 P.M., Columbia having won the toss.

In modifying the summary it showed:

Inning	Won by	Time
1 st	Columbia	11 min.
2 nd	Rutgers	7 min.
3 rd	Columbia	1 hour 6 min.
4 th	Rutgers	80 min.
5 th	Columbia	4 min.
6 th	Rutgers	26 min.

7th Rutgers 7 min.
 8th Rutgers 21 min.
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9th Columbia 9 min.

Rutgers 5, Columbia 4 (number of goals)

This was Rutgers' lone triumph during the 1873 season; as it dropped a 3-goal to 1 game to open the season against Yale; then losing the rematch to Columbia, two weeks later, by a single goal, 3-4.

For Columbia, in its fifth season playing college football, this was the only setback in a 2-1 season. Two weeks before playing Rutgers, the team had defeated Stevens Tech, 2-goals to 1—giving Tech its lone setback in a 3-1 season.

The second game was won by Columbia in the season finale, on Nov. 15 4-goals to 3-goals.

Of the 13 teams that played *Association Football* during the 1873/74 season according to the book **Evolvements of Early American Foot Ball** *Through the 1890/91 season*, 11 had some

scoring listed—the number of goals scored and allowed.

Playing in at least two games, the Top 5 goal scoring teams were Stevens as the leader with 12, followed by Columbia, 10; Rutgers 9 and Virginia Military 7. Defensively, champion Princeton blanked both its opponents; while Virginia allowed 1, followed by Stevens Tech, 3 and Yale, 4 and with Columbia allow 9 goals.

Football: Facts and Figures

[©1945 by Dr. L.H. Baker] states that this season—1873—that six goals were necessary to win, but if the game was called the winner of the greatest number, providing it was more than 2 goals, would be the victor. (Page 541)

Back in 1873 there were no time limits on how long a college football game could be played; only darkness and a referee's decision could determine the victor.

The two teams met in 1872, battling to a scoreless tie—in a game that took three hours to be played.

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played the Amherst eleven, at Amherst, in the intercollegiate foot ball series.

At the beginning of the second half Tufts protested the game on a

Sporting Life, 1885

FOOT BALL NOTES

- At Springfield, Mass., Oct. 24, the Tufts College eleven

decision of Mr. Ferine, the referee, the score standing 22 to 10 in their favor.

The game will be replayed.

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- A meeting of the trustees of Princeton College will be held November 10, when it will be decided whether the famous Princeton-Yale foot ball game may take place on *the* Polo

Ground, New York, on Thanksgiving Day.

- The Harvard football team has disbanded. The members concluded that until the faculty changed its views it would be useless to keep the team in training.
- The Intercollegiate Foot Ball Association held a meeting at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, N. Y., Oct. 10. Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Wesleyan colleges were represented.

Winningest Major College Football Teams in Every Decade

Team	Decade	W	L	T	Pct.
Princeton	1869-79*	23	3	2	0.857
Yale	1880-89	86	2	3	0.962
Yale	1890-99	116	7	5	0.926
Michigan	1900-09	82	8	3	0.898
Washington	1910-19	52	8	3	0.907
Notre Dame	1920-29	83	11	3	0.871
Alabama	1930-39	79	11	5	0.858
Notre Dame	1940-49	82	9	6	0.877
Oklahoma	1950-59	93	10	2	0.895
Alabama	1960-69	90	16	4	0.836
Oklahoma	1970-79	102	13	3	0.877
Nebraska	1980-89	103	20	0	0.837
Florida State	1990-99	109	13	1	0.890
Boise State	2000-09	112	17	0	0.868+

**No games played in 1871...
+ Major College since 1986
Played all 10 seasons:
Texas: 2000-09 [110-19-0*

0.852]