Bring back the arbitrary college football polls!

Sure, the old championship polls were bogus -- but the current system is just as bogus, and it doesn't even give fans anything to argue about.

By: Allen Barra

Nov. 29, 2001 | Everyone, I guess, assumes that the way things were when they were growing up is the norm, the way things ought to be. I'm that way, too, at least about college football. To many of my friends in the Northeast, college football means the Yale-Harvard game or Princeton–Cornell, or the game they turn on before dinner is ready on Thanksgiving. For people in the West, it's Cal-Stanford or USC-UCLA, or again, whatever precedes the turkey. If they watch the college championship on or near Jan. 2, it isn't because they have followed the teams all season or even know who is playing; they simply regard it as the less professional version of the Super Bowl.

In the world they grew up in, college football is a mere appendage to the pro game, one that has a bit of snob appeal because it's played on college campuses (though this has lessened over the last couple of decades as some kind of college education has become accessible to nearly everyone). Those of us who have lived in other parts of the country know different. In the South, for instance, it wasn't necessary to have gone to a college in order to root for one school (say, Alabama) and hate another (say, Auburn). It wasn't even necessary to have gone to college at all. The grassroots appeal of college football is more like something you'd experience if you lived in Brooklyn in the '50s and rooted for the Dodgers.
Unlike the National Football League, college football had genuine local appeal and a deep history of lore to draw on. Until about the late '60s -- I'm just guessing here, but I'm basing this guess on the many people I've discussed this with -- college football was still regarded as the real game to which pro football was only a sideshow. As the greatest of college football writers, Dan Jenkins, once pointed out, until the early '70s the most famous football player at any given time -- Red Grange, Bronco Nagurski, Frank Gifford, Paul Hornung, Joe Namath, O.J. Simpson, Roger Staubach, whoever -- was either a college player or a pro star who was already a household name on graduation day.

Today, if I asked a real football fan who the last five Heisman trophy winners were, do you think he'd be able to name them? Do you follow football, and can you name them? Can you name the last three? I can't.

I'm not sure exactly when college football started to lose its distinctive flavor and succumbed to being the NFL's minor league; it probably happened so slowly that most of us didn't see it. But the process is certainly complete by now. For decades I have been hearing people (mostly my friends in the Northeast) complain about how college football needed a playoff system like the pros rather than "popularity polls" to determine a national champion. College football still doesn't have anything like a playoff system, but it has moved slightly closer to one -- and now I'm hearing people yearn for the good old days of polls and bowls.

I'm not going to say the football was better in the '60s, but fans certainly talked about it more. In fact, they argued all season long about who should be and should have been No. 1 and then they argued the same points right into the next season and sometimes for many years after. A case in point would be the famous Notre Dame-Michigan State 10-10 tie in 1966. Fighting Irish coach Ara Parseghian, whose team was ranked No. 1, chose to run out the clock on No. 2 MSU and let the polls decide who would be ranked No. 1 at the end of the season. Back then, Notre Dame didn't even go to bowl games. The Big Ten Conference wouldn't let its champ go to the Rose Bowl two years in a row, and the wire service pollsters, the AP and UPI, wouldn't wait till after the bowl games to vote, so Notre Dame finished the regular season No. 1 and won the mythical championship of college football. I'm not saying that that was a satisfying way for the champion to be chosen, but I am saying that 35 years later people talk and argue and debate that game -- especially in Alabama, where Bear Bryant's defending national champ Crimson Tide went 11-0 and still finished No. 3 in the final vote -- more than they ever will about the championship game that ends this season. And I'll bet good money that fans from every major college team, from Florida to Pennsylvania to Nebraska to Texas to California to Washington, all have similar stories centered around some legendary game.

What have we really gained from the elaborate series of bowls, conference championships, and the combination of coaches' votes and computer rankings that now purport to settle the national championship issue? For one thing, the ultimate game is now played closer to the pro playoffs, which diminishes its college appeal; for another, it makes the other bowls, most played on New Year's Day,
seem anticlimactic even before the climax (part of the fun used to be going back to work on Jan. 2 or so and listening to everyone sort through what happened, waiting for the final vote or discussing and arguing about the final vote). And just how, exactly, does the modern system offer a fairer possibility for national champions than the old? Last week I saw the Colorado Buffaloes pull off one of the most spectacular upsets in recent college football by beating Nebraska, 62-36. (For the record, I recall a lot of No. 1 teams losing this late in the year, but I sure can't recall one giving up 62 points.) What did that game do to the national title picture? Let's review.

First, previously No. 1 Nebraska gets knocked out. Well, OK, they lost, they don't deserve to be No. 1 anymore (Miami, with a 10-0 record, moved up). But the team with the best record (11-1), the team that was voted No. 1 through most of the season, doesn't even get to play in its conference championship game. That one is reserved for Texas (10-1) and Colorado (9-2). These are both very good teams, but no one thinks they have really proved over the course of season that they were better or more deserving than Nebraska, but that's the way it goes with conference championships. If you lose a game, just make sure it isn't close to the end of the season.

What do these conference championships even bring to the party so far as choosing a No. 1 team is concerned? You have one team that is, say, 10-1 or 11-0 and at the end of the regular season all that team has won is a chance to play a team from the other half of its conference (the eastern or western "champ"), a team that might have finished, say 9-2 or maybe 8-3, for the whole bundle. Mind, it doesn't matter if you've already beaten that team during the season; this is the playoffs, so you have to do it again.

What this does, of course, is devalue the regular season, which is what all playoffs do but which is particularly upsetting when the season consists of 11 or 12 games, and the only logical result of this is to give an inferior team a chance -- and often a second chance -- to win something that its regular season performance manifestly did not earn it. Unfortunately, it also gives the conferences and the TV networks a chance at another huge payday. I am mystified that anyone sees this system as inherently fairer than the one it replaced, but it's probably here to stay in a sport that once ruled but which is content to be a huge college dog wagged by a tiny pro tail.

Bob Swick, <bobswick@snet.net>
The Last Dinner for a Rutgers Captain

By: Steve Green, Rutgers historian

The December 2, 1924 Targum (school paper for Rutgers University)...reported 1869 and 1870 team captain William J. Leggett would join famed coach and statistician Parke H. Davis and the New Brunswick mayor John Morrison as speakers at the annual football dinner in two days.

Invitations were also sent to the eight surviving members of the original 1869 team and George Large, Bloomfield Littell and George Pace appeared at what would be their captain’s last Rutgers football dinner, attended by 400.

The December 4, 1924 Rutgers football dinner would be Reverend Leggett’s last. According to the December 28, 1924 Sunday Times of New Brunswick, “Mrs. William J. Leggettt, wife of a retired clergyman, was killed today when she fell down the cellar stairs of her home.” Ten months later William J. Leggett passed away in Nyack, NY.

The news arrived in the October 29, 1925 Daily Home News that Dr. Reverend William J. Leggett, distinguished clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church, had died October 26, two weeks after his 77th birthday, at his Nyack, NY home. At the October 31 Rutgers-Penn Military (aka Widener University) game, “Tribute was paid Dr. William Leggett, Rutgers first football captain before the game, when the student body rose and sang ‘On The Banks,’” according to the November 1, 1925 Targum.

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A TALE OF TWO 1869 FOOT-BALL GAMES

BY: MELVIN I. SMITH

There were several foot-ball games played in the USA during the season of 1869/70, covering the period August 1, 1869–July 31, 1870. I will follow the acceptance of two of these games through history. On November 6, 1869, Rutgers College beat the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) in the kicking game
of association football. On November 20, 1869, the Germantown Cricket Foot-Ball Club beat the Young America Cricket Foot-Ball Club in a carrying game of early rugby.

A quick summary of foot-ball activity outside the United States around the 1869/70 season follows. The British Isles were in the process of separating the carrying game (now rugby) from the kicking game (association football). The association game is now called soccer in the USA. During the year of 2013, there were celebrations of the 150TH anniversary of the passage of the 1863 London Football Association code. The rugby game attendees walked out after the fifth meeting in December 1863 (1) and the separation of the carrying game of foot-ball from the kicking game became official. The carrying game or rugby rules would not be formalized until a London meeting in January 1871.

To summarize foot-ball activity in the States around 1869/70, I will first cover the association football game and then the early rugby game, played by three different groups; the colleges, independent clubs and high schools.

At the college varsity or senior level of the association football game, there were two November 1869 games played by the Rutgers and Princeton colleges. Rutgers won the first game 6 Innings (goals) to 4 Innings (2) and Princeton won the second game a week later, 8 to 0. At a college junior level, teams of Alumni of the defunct Woodward College of Cincinnati met for their 15TH annual kicking game of foot-ball on Sept. 30, 1869. Captain McAlpin's team won over Captain Debeck's team by an 8 to 5 score (3).

References to intramural games were recorded at several American colleges. The Brown University 1872 Sophomores beat their 1873 Freshmen team 3 goals to 0 on September 18, 1869. The University of Michigan 1873 Frosh beat their Sophs 4 goals to 3 goals on April 23, 1870. The 1871 junior class of Princeton College beat both the 1873 Freshmen and 1872 Sophomore classes. The University of Vermont 1873 Frosh beat the 1872 Sophs on October 13, 1869.

There were some instances of independent clubs playing kicking games. A team from the Boston, MA, Ancient and Honorable Artillery beat the Portland, ME, Mechanic Blues and Artillery, 1 goal to 0. It was played on Oct. 5, 1869 in Portland with an attendance of 400 (4). On Aug. 22, 1869, the Robert E. Lee Base-Ball Club and the Lone Star Base-Ball Club may have played a game of foot-ball at the New Orleans Fairgrounds. There were 25 men-a-side. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Branch #1 in New Orleans, LA, beat a team of other local branches of the Hibernians on July 10, 1870. This game was played at the Oakland Riding Course in New Orleans.

One high school has been found playing a kicking game of football in November 1869 in Illinois. A team of 16 Springfield High School players were to meet a team of 24 players selected from the City Ward Schools in a best 3 out of 5 games (goals). The out-come of this game has not been found, but back in 1863 the high school had won over the City Wards Schools, 3 games (goals) to 0 (5).
Harvard University was the only American college playing a carrying game in America. There are no records of any outside or even intramural games noted this particular season. There have been only two Independent Clubs found playing a carrying game. The afore mentioned Germantown Club beat the Young America Club 1 goal,16 rouges to 0 (6) on Nov. 20, 1869.

In the High School carrying game group, I have not been able to find the score of the intramural game played at the Cambridge Latin High School in Cambridge, MA. It was played in September. The Boston Public Latin School and the Boston English High School were located in the same building in Boston at this time and had played carrying games of foot-ball from the late 1850s through 1868. In 1868, the Latin School had beaten the English High School by a score of 1 game (goal) to 0 on Oct. 5, 1868 (7).

Let us now look at the newspaper coverage of two foot-ball games in 1869. The Rutgers–Princeton game had very small write-ups but was found in several newspapers. The biggest coverage was written by the New York Evening Post (2). This article even listed which team won the numbered innings (goals):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>1ST</th>
<th>3RD</th>
<th>5TH</th>
<th>6TH</th>
<th>9TH</th>
<th>10TH</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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For the Cricket Clubs' Foot-Ball game, there were two separate articles in one newspaper, the Philadelphia Inquirer. The November 18, 1869 (8) article is almost a half column long and includes a list of 22 rules under which the game was to be played. The article states the rules were 'chiefly from those of Rugby School, England'. Rules #10 and #13 note the ball can be carried. The November 20TH article (6) describes the game and gives the score of 1 goal,16 rouges to 0. The Germantown Cricket FBC won over the Young America Cricket FBC. The Nov. 20TH article states, 'rules adopted were mainly those of the English schools'.

The author has used several references written in both American and foreign countries to decide whether the game was basically a kicking or carrying game. It came down to discussions about the differences of the Rugby School try and the rouge of the Eton School field game. The complicated formations written in the early rugby game can be read in a set of rules listed for 1862 and found in the rugbyfootballhistory.com internet web pages (9).

Notes on the Eton School scoring of rouges can be found in Adrian Harvey's book, Football: The First Hundred Years (10). He states, 'scoring the rouge allows a bully in front of the goal sticks. The bully is akin to the Rugby scrum in which the players lower their heads and try to push the ball through the opposing party's boundary.' In another reference written in the USA in 1866, 'the ball becomes rougeable and must be touched by an attacking player to become the rouge' (11).

Moving along in time from 1869, contemporary newspapers are followed until historians began to write about foot-ball games in the late 1880s. Harvard played the first accepted Rugby game with McGill
University of Montreal in May of 1874. In possibly one of the all-time biggest upsets in American football history, Harvard lost to Tufts College in the first all American intercollegiate rugby game on June 4, 1875 (12). Representatives of Yale and Princeton were in attendance and soon decided to switch from their association football game to Harvard's rugby game.

Harvard had been playing a carrying game of football since 1858 (13). If small Tufts College could beat Harvard at their carrying foot-ball game, then the door would certainly be open for Yale and Princeton to do the same. Yale lost its first rugby game with Harvard in the 'concessionary' carrying game played on November 13, 1875 (14), and Princeton lost its first rugby game played with Yale on November 30, 1876 (15).

In 1882, when the series-of-downs rule was passed and the fields were covered with 5-yard parallel and perpendicular lines (16), several newspapers began to state there were three forms of foot-ball being played in America. Harvard seemed to be the only college to acknowledge this in November 1882 (17). New York City English rugbyists could not stop Walter Camp and the delegates of the Intercollegiate Football Association from passing the downs rules on October 14, 1882 (18). The new game was called the Intercollegiate Football game by several contemporary newspapers. Henry Chadwick in his 1884 and 1887 books discuss the three forms of football called the association game, the rugby game and the intercollegiate game (19 & 20).

When Walter Camp began to write articles in the Outing Magazine in 1886 and 1887, he called America's new game the Rugby Football game, not the Intercollegiate Game called by the newspapers. Walter camp and his followers would write about America's game as beginning in 1876 with Yale's first victory over Harvard in a rugby game. Mr. Camp had entered Yale in 1876 and Eugene V. Baker was the captain of that team. Richard M. Hurd, a member of Yale's class of 1888, wrote 'A History of Yale Athletics'. In his 1888 book, he lists all previous Yale's foot-ball games from 1872 (21).

In the early 1890s, discussions began at Yale about who was considered the Father of Football; Eugene V. Baker or Walter C. Camp (22). Yale's Class of 1877 would celebrate Eugene V. Baker as the Father of Football in 1893. There were also newspaper articles extolling David S. Schaff, captain of Yale's first varsity association football team in 1872. Walter Camp was also celebrated for all his rule changes and historical writings on the subject of foot-ball. During 1893, consensus of opinion would declare Walter C. Camp as the Father of American Football.

The American Intercollegiate Association began the publication of the Spalding Football Guides in the 1880s. Walter Camp headed the rules committee. He added the section, 'Games Since Introduction of Rugby Foot Ball' in 1893 (23). Camp would use the information written by Richard Hurd, but would leave out all games before 1876. Yale had won the Nov. 18, 1876 game with Harvard by the score of 1 goal to 3 touchdowns (24). Games were added annually to this section of the Spalding Football Guides from 1894 through the 1911 edition.
Princeton University published an athletics book written by graduates of the school in 1901. A very
detailed account of the November 6, 1869 game with Rutgers is written (25). Harvard makes the
statement about the association football game played with Haverford College on April 1, 1905 as the
first American Intercollegiate Soccer Game in America (26). Parke H. Davis, a graduate of Princeton,
writes a series of three comprehensive articles in a Trenton, NJ, newspaper on October 17, 24 & 31,
1909 (27). In them, the November 6, 1869 game is called the 'First Intercollegiate Football Game in
America' for the first time.

A very interesting document is written by John Sayles Watterson in 1981 (28). He discusses the
correspondences and relationships between the big three American college leaders of Harvard, Yale and
Princeton during the crisis of the football game around 1910. The heavy hand of Yale's position as the
leader in the rules committee may have also been questioned. Princeton's president, Woodrow Wilson,
stood up and was counted in their discussions. Along with Harvard, they would join the new
Intercollegiate Athletic Association (later NCAA) before Yale and would accept newer regulations not
pushed by Yale.

Parke H. Davis had joined the rules committee in 1909 and began to push the acceptance of the history
of football to include Princeton's and Yale's association football games played between 1869 and 1876.
His very comprehensive book was published in 1911 (29). He called the 1869-1876 period as the
'pioneer period'. Beginning with the 1912 edition of the Spalding Football Guide, the section called,
'Scores of Intercollegiate Series' added games and scores back to 1873 with a discussion of the first
game being played by Rutgers and Princeton on November 6, 1869 (30). So an unassuming foot-ball
game written in a few newspapers in 1869 had risen to the top in American gridiron football history. A
50-year celebration followed in 1919 and there was a big 100TH anniversary celebration of this game in
1969. The association football (soccer) community were not included in the celebrations.

The first three intercollegiate rugby games played in America occurred between Harvard and McGill,
Harvard and Tufts and Harvard and Yale from May 1874 through November 1875. Walter Camp had not
come on the scene until 1876, so he was not involved in these games. In 1893, he may have selected the
Nov. 18, 1876 Yale's victory over Harvard as the beginning of his positive involvements in the 'rugby
football' game to help with his being recognized as the Father of American Football. So Harvard's three
rugby games were also not accepted in America's gridiron football history until Parke Davis included
them in the Spalding Football Guide of 1912.

During all the time from 1869 to the present, I have not found any information about the November 20,
1869, cricket football club game. This game was played 14 months before the first accepted rugby rules
were written in London in January 1871. Many historians may not have wanted to include this game
because it also had other facets of rules than association football or rugby football. All early college
soccer and rugby research in America seems to have become moribund during the period from 1869 and
1917. Most of these games are still listed by colleges under the American gridiron football game. The last rugby games are listed as substitutes of gridiron football during 1917/18.

When the Olympic committee selected to include the rugby game for 1920, there were some interesting statements written in the San Francisco newspapers of 1919. There were questions why the Olympics could accept a game such as rugby. It was not even considered a real sport because it was only one of the early versions of our American gridiron football game. Of course, now we know those great west coast California rugby players won the gold for America in both 1920 and 1924 by playing a sport that was not considered 'real'.

The Nov. 20, 1869, Germantown-Young America game is now listed in the rugbyfootballhistory.com web pages.

2. New York Evening Post, Nov. 8, 1869, p. 3.
8. Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 18, 1869, p. 3.
9. rugbyfootballhistory.com; click on 'Laws'; click on 'Codify the Customs', 1862 rules.
11. Beadle's Dime Hand-Books for Young People: Cricket and Foot-Ball, 1866, New York City. It includes discussion of football including 14 association football rules; followed by discussions of the Rugby Game and the Eton Field Game.


26. Harvard University, Timeline of Tradition, Apr. 1, 1905, First Intercollegiate Soccer Match.


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Record of teams that were ranked No. 1 during the history of the BCS Poll

By Jeff Bovee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Opps Rec (-HtH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Florida St.</td>
<td>(6-0-0)--1.00000</td>
<td>(39.83-18.33)</td>
<td>(54-16-0)--0.77143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>(5-0-0)--1.00000</td>
<td>(35.00-15.00)</td>
<td>(37-19-0)--0.66071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>(3-0-0)--1.00000</td>
<td>(43.00-22.33)</td>
<td>(25-11-0)--0.69444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>(3-0-0)--1.00000</td>
<td>(38.67-19.33)</td>
<td>(19-16-0)--0.54286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>(1-0-0)--1.00000</td>
<td>(28.00-24.00)</td>
<td>(3-7-0)--0.30000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>(12-1-0)--0.92308[1]</td>
<td>(44.08-19.31)</td>
<td>(85-56-0)--0.60284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>(6-1-0)--0.85714</td>
<td>(37.14-23.57)</td>
<td>(64-20-0)--0.76190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>(6-1-0)--0.85714</td>
<td>(32.79-15.29)</td>
<td>(45-37-0)--0.54878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>(11-3-0)--0.78571</td>
<td>(35.56-16.67)</td>
<td>(116-50-0)--0.69880</td>
</tr>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>(7-2-0)--0.77778</td>
<td>(35.56-16.67)</td>
<td>(71-35-0)--0.66981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One of the greatest football coaches of all time was Vince Lombardi. What he accomplished was legendary. In 1958 the former Army line coach became head coach of the Green Bay Packers, a team that had done nothing and was going nowhere. In nine seasons with the Packers, Lombardi led that former losing team to six conference titles and five championships, including victories in the first two Super Bowls. They said he accomplished a miracle. Reporters quoting him as saying: "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." But Lombardi never said that. What he said was that winning wasn't everything, but not desiring to win above all else was.

Football is an interesting sport. It requires teamwork, thinking, and physical courage. But more than that, I think it helps to instill the desire to win, and demonstrates that when you really want to do something badly enough, you can do it, even if it seems impossible. Let me tell you about another winning football coach and how he got his team to win against pretty near impossible odds.
Knute Rockne was the greatest of Notre Dame coaches, but in the 1928 season he was desperate. His 1928 team had been decimated by injuries. It had already lost two of its first six games. Three teams, all powerhouses, lay ahead. My alma mater, West Point or Army as it is known in sports, was the first of these three, and Army had had an undefeated season up to that point. You can well imagine that Army was the out and out favorite. On top of this disturbing situation for Rockne, stories were going around that Rockne himself had “lost it” – that he was no longer the coach he once was. Rockne knew that if his Irish could upset Army, this notion would be largely dispelled. He wanted to win badly. What happened wasn’t an accident. We know this because despite the odds against it, he actually told his neighbor that Notre Dame would win the game with Army before the game was played. Considering the known facts, that was quite a prediction.

How could Rockne make such a prediction? Notre Dame might not be able to win on talent, but Rockne knew that one other thing that can’t be defined usually counts for a lot more. Rockne not only desired to win, he knew how to instill this desire in others. In doing this he would deliver what would later become known as the most famous inspirational talk in sports history.

The game was played at Yankee Stadium before 85,000 fans. Some say it was before the game that the event occurred. Others say it was at half-time. It really doesn’t make that much difference when this happened. That it did happen is what is important. Rockne huddled his players in the locker room. It is said that they sat on the cold cement floor on old army blankets, surplus from World War I. The blankets were uncomfortable and barely retarded the chill from the cement floor. Rockne waited patiently until the room was silent and then began to speak slowly and softly. This was pretty unusual and captured immediate attention, because Rockne was known for his fiery half-time speeches. He began talking about George Gipp, a player who had played for Notre Dame eight years earlier. Gipp had died during his senior year at Notre Dame.

Gipp had had an incredible four-year, 32 game college football career. Known as “The Gipper,” he had scored 21 touchdowns during which the Fighting Irish had won 27, lost 2 and tied 3 games. On defense, Gipp was equally outstanding. Some called him invincible. Not a single pass was completed in his protective zone during his entire four years of play. During Gipp’s final 20 games, Notre Dame’s record was 19-0-1, with the team scoring an incredible 560 points to their opponents' miserable 97.

Gipp was Notre Dame’s first All American, the greatest player of his time, and Rockne’s present team knew all about him. Unfortunately, during his senior year Gipp contracted a strep infection. In his last game, Notre Dame trailed Northwestern. Rockne kept Gipp out of the game because of the throat infection. Notre Dame fans demanded that their hero enter the fray. They chanted: “Gipp! Gipp!” over and over again. Gipp himself begged to be put into the game. Rockne finally relented and let the pleading Gipp onto the field despite his throat ailment and a
painful shoulder injury that he had also incurred. Without fanfare, Gipp immediately made a
touchdown. He remained in the game, probably in great pain, until the Notre Dame victory was
certain. Only then did he take himself out. But his throat infection was worse than Rockne or
anyone else imagined. Two weeks later he was forced to enter the hospital. The infection was
now coupled with pneumonia.

From there, it was all downhill. Doctors tried everything, but they could do nothing. The mighty
Gipp was failing. Rockne had been frequently at Gipp's bedside. Rockne told his team that he
had kept Gipp's last words to himself, but that now was the time for them and told them the
following story.

"The day before he died George Gipp asked me to wait until the situation seemed hopeless -
then ask a Notre Dame team to go out and beat the opponent for him. This is the day, and you
are the team," Rockne said. Then he added, “These were Gipp's last words to me:

‘I've got to go, Rock. It's all right. I'm not afraid. Sometime, Rock, when the team is up against it,
when things are wrong and the breaks are beating the boys - tell them to go in there with all
they've got and win just one for the Gipper. I don't know where I'll be then, Rock. But I'll know
about it, and I'll be happy.’"

"There was no one in the room that wasn't crying," line coach Ed Healey said later. "There was
a moment of silence, and then all of a sudden those players ran out of the dressing room and
almost tore the hinges off the door. They were all ready to kill someone."

Notre Dame was behind by six points when Notre Dame player Jack Chevigny made a one-yard
plunge over Army's goal line to tie the score at 6-6. He immediately shook off the Army players
who had tried to stop him and shouted so that everyone could hear: "That's one for the
Gipper!"

In the fourth period Chevigny was spear-heading Notre Dame’s drive to the game-winning score
when he was tackled so hard that he was badly injured and had to be taken out of the game.
Even so, he refused to leave the field. He huddled on the bench. Now things were even more
difficult for the Irish. They were at the Cadet's 32-yard line when left halfback Butch Niemiec
took the ball, and threw a pass over an Army defender. It wasn’t a great pass, but he managed
to put it in range of his receiver, Johnny O'Brien. O'Brien plucked the ball from the air on Army’s
10-yard line, and without stopping, clutched the ball to his chest. He miraculously snaked past
two Army tacklers and dove into the end zone. It was a clean touchdown.

O'Brien had never been and never became a starter in his entire football career. He was not on
the first team. He was not a great player. Rockne put him in when Chevigny was injured
because there was no one else. It didn’t make any difference. Notre Dame now led Army 12-6.
But the Cadets hadn’t suddenly become pushovers. They were still a top-ranked team, and they
wanted to win badly, too. Could Notre Dame hold onto its lead?

With less than two minutes to go, the West Point cadets charged through the Notre Dame
defense, after a spectacular 55-yard kickoff return by Army All-American Chris Cagle. Cagle,
who had played the entire game, collapsed at the 10-yard line from the effort. He had given it
his all, and was carried from the field in a semi-consciousness state due to extreme exhaustion.
This was a story of two teams, one a top-ranked team in the nation, the other, much less
talented, playing on raw determination to win. But both teams were fighting with every ounce
of strength they possessed.

Cagle’s teammate Dick Hutchinson, who later became an Air Force colonel, took the ball and
got it first to the Irish four and then on a second play to the Notre Dame one-yard line. But the
clock was ticking, and it was over. Time ran out before the Cadets could run another play. Notre
Dame fulfilled Rockne’s pre-game prediction. Against all odds and sober calculations it had
"won one for the Gipper." 1, 2, 3

Desiring to Win Makes the Difference

Those who win against the odds in football or in anything else in life have one thing in common.
They put everything they have into whatever their enterprise. They risk all. Not just financial
resources, but time, effort, and physical and emotional blood. And every such leader of this
kind of organization pours his soul into his or her enterprise. There is no other way of becoming
successful and winning. There is no such thing as coming in second best in many circumstances.
You either end up in first place, or you fail.

Let’s be absolutely clear about this. If you want to win in a difficult situation. I will positively
guarantee you that it will not be easy. You are going to encounter obstacles along the way that
you never even dreamed of. At times you are going to wish you had never even thought about
getting involved. You are going to get tired, you are going to wonder whether it is really worth
it. You are going to long for the old, easy times. You are going to doubt yourself, your abilities,
and those who work with and for you. You are going to wonder whether anyone can succeed
under the difficulties you face. You will be tempted to quit and go back to the old, easier ways.

I can’t guarantee that you will always succeed. No one can do that. But I can guarantee this. If
you learn and apply the lessons of a Vince Lombardi or a Knute Rockne, you will have given
yourself the best possible chances at success, regardless of the task or project and the odds
against your succeeding. The great Rockne knew that there are some things of the spirit and
psyche that are more important than mere “facts.” Like Rockne, you can fight to win and you
can win, too, and I don’t care about the odds and neither should you.
Once more the two arms of the service met before invited guests on the grounds of the University of Pennsylvania, and after a contest in which Daly, the former Harvard captain, was the bright particular star, West Point won by the score of 11–5.

Daly kicked a drop-kick for West Point in the first half, scoring five points, and in the second half received the kick-off on his five-yard line and ran the entire length of the field for a touchdown, which was easily converted and gave the Army their additional 6 points.

Both teams played better than usual. There were fewer misplays and the general work was of a higher order. The Navy scored 5 points, but could not offset the brilliant work of Daly.
High School Researcher Looking for Assistance

One of our subscribers, Tim Hudak, is writing a book on high school football and is seeking assistance from the IFRA membership.

If you can assist Tim with this, please contact at the email below.

I am any of the IFRA members might have some information I need.

Are you familiar with the National Sports News Service – NSNS? It was started by Art Johlfs in Minnesota in the 1920s and was the first to rank high school football teams at the national level – he later retroactively named national champions back to 1910. I would like to get a hold of his original rankings for use in my new book, especially to clear up a few questionable rankings in the 1960s. Retired sportswriter Doug Huff (lives in West Virginia) is supposed to have the originals, but I have not been able to get in touch with him of late (I have known him since 2005 from seeing him at various big-time high school football games in Ohio, but he does not seem to answer his e-mails.) Another gentleman by the name of Barry Sollenberger of the Arizona Interscholastic Association also had the NSNS list, but he passed away a few years ago.

If any of the IFRA members have contact with Doug Huff, or know where I can obtain copies of the original NSNS rankings, I would greatly appreciate it. (Note: There are “copies” of the NSNS rankings on one or two high school sites on the internet, but these are not the originals and I need the originals to clarify the perceived discrepancies, which may in fact be on these copies.)

Also, the Imperial Sports Syndicate named some high school national champions in the 1960s (and perhaps other years as well) – any info on that organization.

Finally, any members in Austin or Miami who might be interested in doing a little microfilm work for me at the local library – 2-3 hours?

Any help greatly appreciated.

Tim/tlhudak@roadrunner.com

Underdawg Reggie Thomas, <reggie@theunderdawg.com>
Defensive Play Better or Offensive Play Is Less Effective, Statistics For Leading Football Games Reveal

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 4—The season's football scoring statistics for 100 leading colleges representing all sections of the country reveal one of the two things: Either that defensive play has improved since 1922 or offensive play has become somewhat less effective.

The elevens of these institutions participated in 814 games, and piled up a grand total of 12,684 points. This would make the average per team for the season approximately 197 as compared with the 133 of last year and would make the average per game 15 1-2 as compared with the 19 of one year ago.

Further indications of the greater effectiveness of the defense, or less effectiveness of the offense, may be seen in the actual records of leading teams. (sic)

Last year California with a total of 393 points was the highest scoring team, and Cornell, with 330 was in second place. This year Gil Dobie's Ithacans, although having scored ten less points than in 1922, led the country with a total of 320.

Ranking second to Cornell this year is West Virginia, with a point total of 296; University of Colorado is third with 280; Notre Dame fourth with 275; Holy Cross fifth with 270. Other colleges scoring more than 200 points include, in order: Rutgers, Texas, Syracuse, Army, Colgate, Yale, V.M.I, Maryland, University of Washington and Dartmouth.

The low scoring or better, no scoring record for the year in the list considered is held jointly by City College of New York. Villa Nova and Rhode Island State, none of which tallied a point during the season.

University of Kansas boasts the best defensive record. Its goal line was not crossed during the year and but six points, the results of two field goals, were registered against.
California, against which seven points were scored a touchdown and the point following touchdown, is second on the defensive list Michigan which yielded 12 points; Boston College which yielded 14 and Syracuse which yielded 19, follow in order.

In contrast to the records of these capable defensive elevens are the records teams which showed little defensive strength. Lebanon Valley, on which 270 points were scored, showed the worst defensive record.

Wyoming which yielded 265 points, Washington College of St Louis which yielded 220, Susquehanna 191, Boston University 181, Villa Nova 172 and Tennessee and Springfield 167 each, wore others in the often-scored upon group.

Among the high scores for a single game was that made by Cornell when it ran up 84 on Susquehanna. West Virginia 81 points against Marshall. Notre Dame’s 74 against Kalamazoo, William and Mary’s 75 against Guilford and Army’s 73 against Lebanon Valley, were the other noteworthy high scoring games.

Of the 814 games involved 44 resulted in ties and 20 of these were scoreless ties. Unusual in this array was the 23-23 tie played by Colgate and Ohio State.

Nine games resulted in one point advantages to the winning team. In each instance the winner scored the point following touchdown while the loser failed on its attempt.

Points accruing from safeties figured prominently in deciding the winners, notably in Lafayette’s 8 to 6 victory over Pennsylvania. Ames 2 to 0 win over Missouri and Missouri’s 4 to 2 defeat of Kansas Aggies and one against Missouri, proved the only scoring plays.

Five field goals also proved the means by which games were won or lost. Blewitt, of California; Arnold, of Virginia, and Rutherford, of V.P.I. each kicked three in a single game, while Malory of Yale registered two against Princeton and two against Harvard.

****

Annual All-College Scoring Leader, 1937-2013

By Tex Noel, Executive Director, Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association
The just recently completed college football season saw the number of teams surpass the 500+Point Plateau; as 55 teams from all levels made-up total.

Since 1979, at least one college has surpassed this mark; a record 35 straight seasons—totaling 499 accomplishments.

In order to fully understand what has happened in the nearly four decades of 500+ Point Scoring; one would only look at the years of 1885-1976. In exclusively over this period shows only 45 times would a collegiate eleven tallied at least 500 points.

Scoring became an official college football statistic—in 1937—like rushing, passing, total offense/defense and additional annual trends that record the best of the best on the gridiron.

Between 1927-43 college football would suffer it longest drought of teams failing to score a minimum of 500 points—zero.

In future issues of TCFH will present the annual leaders of team allowing the least number of points scored; also a 1937-2013 compilation of teams scoring the least and allowing the most points.

Also, in the works, will be annual leaders for the 1883-1936 era of college football.

### Annual Leaders of Team Scoring the Most Points, 1936-2013

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Sources: 1—Richard Topp, All-Time Scorebook...2—Tex Noel, Lighting-up the Scoreboard/files
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**College Football Universe:** [http://www.collegefootballuniverseblog.com](http://www.collegefootballuniverseblog.com) Justin Burnet

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<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Hugh Gallameau</td>
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<td>463...1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Bill McColl</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Don McPherson</td>
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<td>463...1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Walter Gordon</td>
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<td>463...1976</td>
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</tbody>
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**April**

1 (1889) John Dalton, ????, Neb.
1 (1884) Hugo Bezdek, Prague, Bohemia
1 (1898) Joe Alexander, Silver Creek, N.Y.
1 (1929) Bo Schembechler, Barberton, Ohio
1-(d – 1965) Frank Wickhorst, Oakland, Calif.
2 (1871) Marshall Newell, Clifton, N.J.
2 (1880) Harold Weekes, Oyster Bay, N.Y.
2 (1917) Hugh Gallameau, Detroit, Mich.
2 (1930) Bill McColl, San Diego, Calif.
2 (1965) Don McPherson, Brooklyn, N.Y.
3 (1903) Andy Gustafson, Aurora, Ill.

3 (1926) Joe Steffy, Chattanooga, Tenn.
3 (1934) Jim Parker, Macon, Ga.
4 (1891) Bob Butler, Glen Ridge, N.J.
4 (1907) Bill Banker, Lake Charles, La.
4 (1917) Chet Gladchuk, Bridgeport, Conn.
4-(d - 1978) Jack Hubbard, Torrington, Conn.
4-(d – 1989) Harvey Jablonsky, San Antonio, Texas
5 (1871) Pop Warner, Springville, N.Y.
5 (1951) Brad Van Pelt, Owosso, Mich.
5-(d – 1993) Skip McCain, Princess Anne, Md.
5-(d – 1996) Frank Hoffman, Potomac, Md.
6 (1901) Pooley Hubert, Meridian, Miss.
6 (1934) Aurealius Thomas, Muskogee, Okla.
6 (1944) John Huarte, Anaheim, Calif.
7 (1859) Walter Camp, New Britain, Conn.
7-(d – 1986) Bert Metzger, Hinsdale, Ill.
8 (1924) Jim Martin, Cleveland, Ohio
8 (1955) Ricky Bell, Houston, Texas
8 (1967) Anthony Thompson, Terre Haute, Ind.
9 (1871) John Minds, Clearfield County, Pa.
9 (1898) Paul Robeson, Princeton, N.J.
9 (1921) Vince Banonis, Detroit, Mich.
9 (1966) Tracy Rocker, Atlanta, Ga.
9-(d – 1983) Jess Neely, Weslaco, Texas
10 (1909) Clarke Hinkle, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
10 (1918) Jim Daniell, Pittsburgh, Pa.
10 (1938) Don Meredith, Mt. Vernon, Texas
11 (1903) Jake Gaither, Dayton, Tenn.
11 (1916) Sam Chapman, Tiburon, Calif.
11 (1916) Danny Fortmann, Pearl River, N.Y.
11 (1941) Joe Romig, Salt Lake City, Utah
11 (1962) Terry Hoage, Ames, Iowa
11-(d – 1987) Bill Morton, Hanover, N.H.
11-(d - 2008) Bob Pellegrini, Marmora, N.J.
12 (1870) Winchester Osgood, Port Bananas, Fla.
12 (1944) Mike Garrett, Los Angeles, Calif.
13 (1897) Jimmy Leech, Collierville, Va.
14 (1876) Eddie Rogers, Libby, Minn.
14 (1926) Harry Gilmer, Birmingham, Ala.
16 (1972) Jim Ballard, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
16-(d -1981) Lee Tressel, Berea, Ohio
17 (1905) Herb Joesting, Little Falls, Minn.
17 (1941) Bill Redell, Red Bluff, Calif.
18 (1913) Pug Lund, Rice Lake, Wis.
18 (1931) Harley Sewell, St. Jo, Texas
18-(d – 2005) Sam Mills, Charlotte, N.C.
19 (1883) Germany Schulz, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
19 (1892) Ernie Godfrey, Dover, Ohio
19 (1907) Jack Cannon, Columbus, Ohio
19 (1925) Chuck Klausing, Wimberley, Ohio
19 (1936) Jack Pardue, Exira, Iowa
20 (1893) Murray Shelton, Dunkirk, N.Y.
20 (1915) Eric Tipton, Petersburg, Va.
20 (1926) Hub Bechtol, Amarillo, Texas
20 (1930) Harry Agganis, Lynn, Mass.
20 (1945) Steve Spurrier, Miami Beach, Fla.
21 (1935) Jim Young, Franklin Lakes, N.J.
21-(d – 2005) Cliff Montgomery, Mineola, N.Y.
22 (1902) Eddie Cameron, Manor, Pa.
22 (1907) Barton “Botchy” Koch, Temple, Texas
23 (1916) Bud Wilkinson, Minneapolis, Minn.
24 (1915) Ed Franco, Jersey City, N.J.
24 (1921) Weldon Humble, Nixon, Texas
25 (1954) Randy Cross, Brooklyn, N.Y.
25-(d – 1973) Bud Sprague, New York City
26 (1927) John Ralston, Oakland, Calif.
26-(d - 2011) Jim Mandich, Miami, Fla.
27 (1887) Bishop Frank Juhan, Macon, Ga.
28 (1947) Bill Enyart, Pawhuska, Okla.
28 (1955) Wilson Whitley, Brenham, Texas

29 (1914) Darrell Lester, Jacksboro, Texas
29 (1920) David Nelson, Detroit, Mich.
30 (1871) Fielding Yost, Fairview, W.Va.
30 (1887) Doc Fenton, Scranton, Pa.
30 (1895) Bernie Moore, Jonesboro, Tenn.
30 (1918) Augie Lio, East Boston, Mass.
30 (1935) Jon Arnett, Los Angeles, Calif.
30 (1941) Jerry Stovall, West Monroe, La.
30-(d--2012) Billy Neighbors, Huntsville, Ala.

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IFRA Remembers

Special Thanks got the NFF for providing a number of the obituaries in its Chalk Talk release.

➢ Obituaries

-Ronnie B. Peters, 76 Glenville State College; where he was a member of the undefeated team that finished 6-0-1 in 1958.

-J.D. Covington played at West Texas State and was on the 1951 Sun Bowl team. He was 85.


-Former Nichols College (Mass.) athletics director and head coach. He was 82... Former Tulsa offensive lineman Ted Connolly; he was 82. Former Defiance (Ohio) football player Joe Furko; he was 72. Former Philander Smith (Ark.) football coach Virgil Hodges; he was 77... Former North Texas football player E. Kirk Drew, he was 84.
Navy football player Will McKamey, who has been hospitalized since collapsing at practice three days ago, has died while in a coma. He was 19.

Francis "Hank" Lauricella, University of Tennessee. He was 83. He was a Unanimous All-American in 1951; the same year he was runner-up in the selection for the Heisman Trophy.

Tom Mikula, who played (1943-44, 46-47) and was later an assistant coach at William & Mary. -Dr. Robert F. Wolff, Ed.D., 80, Kutztown State Teachers College (now Kutztown University of Pennsylvania) where he played on both sides of the ball and later served as an assistant coach at the school. Rev. Theodore B. Thomas Jr., South Carolina State College. He was 80 years old.

-Former LSU and Nicholls State defensive tackle Harold Marchand passed away; he was 62... Tommy O'Connell, who helped lead Illinois to the 1951 Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl victory against Stanford, passed; he was 83... Lonnie White, who played for USC (as a receiver and kick returner); before becoming a Sportswriter for the Los Angeles Times sportswriter. He was 49.

-Former Boise State and UNLV football player Rick Sanders; he was 57. Former Maine football player Dom Cusano died March 9. He was 26. Former Michigan State player T.J. Turner; he was 35. Former Georgia Tech kicker Tommy Wells. He was 74... Former Omaha University football player Rudy Rotella; he was 84... Bob Cheyne, the voice of the Arkansas Razorbacks for 22 seasons from 1948 to 1969 and Arkansas’ first sports information director. He was 86... William Fanning Jr., who played for Bakersfield College (Calif.), St. Mary's (Calif.) and Army; he was 81

-Bob Ford, a former football player at Memphis and assistant coach at Memphis, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi State and Arkansas; he was 80. Jim Jeffery, a member of Auburn's 1957 national championship team. He was 74... Former Missouri quarterback, Quincy (Ill.) and Truman State (Mo.) head coach and longtime assistant coach Ron Taylor. He was 74... Former North Carolina State team captain Gary Moser died March 6. He was 65. Former Iowa football player Paul Eno; he was 89.

-Former Old Dominion tailback Johnny Brown passed away March 2. He was 94. Longtime Northern Colorado assistant coach, Buck Rollins. Former Colgate offensive lineman Brian Crockett; he was 22. Jamie Hosford, a former running back at Grand Valley State (Mich.). He was 58... Former Missouri State football player Dick Birmingham; he was 80. Former Tennessee-Martin player Ted Welch passed away March 8. He was 80... Edward Healy, a former player at Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He was 34. Former Boise State player and College Football Hall of Famer Randy Trautman; he was 53.

- Former Temple, Long Beach State and Northeastern athletics director Dave O'Brien; he was 57. Former Villanova offensive lineman Vincent Carlesimo. He was 96... Former Mississippi football player Henry Laws; he was died Feb. 25. He was 81... Former Clemson and Newberry (S.C.) player Bryce Lever; he was 90. Former Miami (Fla.) defensive back JoJo Nicolas; he was 24. Former Michigan football player and Delaware assistant coach Irv “Whiz” Wisniewski; he was 89.
- Former “Voice of the Longhorns” Wally Pryor, who served as Texas’ public address announcer for almost 40 years; he was 86. Former Oklahoma lineman J.W. Cole; he was 86... Nebraska-Kearney team physician, Doc Stevenson. He was 87... Former Saint John’s (Minn.) football player Stephen Glady, a member of the 1963 and 1965 NCAA Division III championship teams; he was 69.

- Walter Clark Gaston, Jr. he was 72. Richard (Dick) Anthony Birmingham, Southern Missouri State; he was 80. Theodore (Ted) William Connolly, Santa Clara; he was 82.

➢ Honored

- Joe Greene (North Texas) was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Fritz Pollard Alliance.

- NC State Athletics Department will commemorate the careers of standout players Russell Wilson and Mario Williams by honoring their jerseys.

➢ Hall of Fame

- Capt. Jim Houston Sr. (Ohio State) was inducted into the OSU Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Alumni Society’s Hall of Fame.

- Willie Totten (Mississippi Valley State) and coach Marino Casem (Alabama State, Alcorn State, Southern) were inducted into the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

- Texas A&M’s longtime athletic media relations director Alan Cannon will be inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame.

- College Football Hall of Famer Chris Gilbert (Texas) was elected to the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame along with Jacob Green (Texas A&M), Chuck Hixson (SMU) and David Klingler (Houston).

- Former Auburn quarterback Dameyune Craig was elected to the Mobile (Ala.) Sports Hall of Fame... Former Conference Commissioner Jim Lessig and former Northern Illinois head coach Joe Novak were elected to the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame.

➢ Worth Noting

SEC Commissioner, Mike Slive announced he will return as SEC commissioner in 2014-15.

Blog on College Football tom@tuxedo-press.com  Contact: Tom Benjey