Frontier Justice

By Darrell Lester

As everyone knows, the phenomenon of college football had its humble beginnings in 1869 when Princeton and Rutgers squared off November 6 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. For many years, the domicile remained in the East in the firm grasp of the Ivy League, namely Yale, Harvard, Princeton, et al. The movement of organized football began to spread across the nation, first to the Midwest, then the Pacific coast, the South and finally, Texas.

Before the advent of college football in Texas (University of Texas organized in 1893), football was played by the town clubs, the Y’s and other organizations. It was played mostly on sandlots, without the benefit of common rules, boundaries and goals. How did it come to Texas, or for that matter anywhere? One explanation was the missionaries from the eastern Seminary schools who brought their love for the game to the frontier outposts of the South, the West, and Southwest.

Texas Christian University (TCU) was among the first of the church schools to field a team in Texas, in 1897.

In 1897 TCU was known as AddRan College, named for its founders Addison & Randolph Clark.

This is the story of how football at TCU almost never began, and once it did begin, almost came to a bloody end a little more than one year later. Let me introduce the cast. The storytellers include:

1. James V. McClintic, the first Congressman from Oklahoma’s 7th District (1915-1935) and later the Executive Assistant to the Governor of Oklahoma.

2. Colby D Hall, TCU Dean of the University from 1913 to 1943, and a close confidant of the founders as a student, professor and dean.
In 1947, he wrote the book *The History of Texas Christian University, A college of the cattle Frontier.*


First let me explain how football nearly never happened at TCU. In the early years when TCU was located in Waco, Texas, the commitment to Christian principles was the foremost guiding light for the University. Addison Clark was a product of the civil war. Ramrod straight, rock solid he felt strongly that a man grew from hard work and not from play. Football or other athletic endeavors were play. Clear the field not for play but for crops.

Addison had a son known as little Addie who he loved very much. Returning to the frontier from college in Michigan, he quickly convinced his father that the game was good and worthy of Add Ran College. A wisp of a man, he moved his father to view the game through his eyes, and not the eyes of a frontier disciplinarian. College football moved closer to Waco.

While Addison was mellowing, there was still one more hurdle.

The Board of Trustees was adamantly opposed. Even though they fielded a team in 1897, the Board of Trustees still had reservations about continuing this rogue sport and forbade the activity to be played off of campus.

Sometime between the 1897 season and the beginning of the 1898 season, the trustees relented to having away games. Was it calm discussion that caused the change or was it the enthusiasm for the game.

In one case enthusiasm won out. McClintic, a trustee at the school, was not a fan of the bloody game and adamantly opposed his son playing.

Nevertheless, in 1897, his son, James V. lined up in the RHB position for the Frogs.

Dean Colby Hall (himself a member of that team) writes in his book the following conversion of a member of the Board of Trustees. “Each individual Trustee had his own views, but one is particularly telling. Trustee G. V. McClintic from Groesbeck, who had all but forbidden his son Jim, one of the stars, to play the rough game. The father came to a game down in the old Padgitt’s Park, against the University of Texas. He sat doggedly on the topmost seat in the grandstand, grimly
determined not to enjoy the rough stuff. As the game progressed, the father slipped down a row or two, then another and another, until long before the second half, he was on the front row yelling like a “Comanche Indian.”

So we had football at AddRan College. So how did we almost end it just over a year later? It is a story told by each of our story tellers—with each one telling a slightly different version.

In 1935 TCU and SMU were on the fast track to the Game of the Century. Both undefeated they would meet November 30, 1935 in a winner take all for the Rose Bowl. They had never seen anything like it in the Southwest. On the way both teams dispatched team after team. All other teams laid in the wake of two of the top teams in the country.

In this wake TCU on a cool November day manhandled the University of Texas team 28-0. This prompted a letter from the aforementioned J. V. McClintic. On official State of Oklahoma Stationary (He was then serving as the Governor’s aide) he wrote to the captain of the TCU football team.

The captain happened to be my father, Darrell G. Lester. In his letter, he found great satisfaction from the “double licking” from the Texas team of many years ago. He went on to tell the story of a teammates dilemma at the “double licking” they took in 1898.

I quote from the letter.

Wyatt Watts was cowboy from Limestone County, Texas. Before the college was moved to Ft Worth it was located at Waco. The student body was small and it was a right squeeze to find a sufficient amount of talent to fill all the positions. We were in need of a guard when Watts matriculated in the Business School conducted by Prof Easley. He was large in frame, and had never seen a football much less had any experience. It was an easy matter to get a suit on him, yet when this was accomplished we like to have lost him on the first day of practice as a youngster by the name of G. A. Foote tackled him near the ankles giving Watts a terrible jolt. He came pretty near quitting right there.

Anyhow, he filled the gap and made the team. When we went to Austin to play the State University, he and myself were assigned to the same room. As he began dressing for the game you can imagine my surprise when I saw him take a pistol out of his grip and stick the barrel between his belt and undershirt with the thought of putting his shirt on next. I finally explained to him that it was not our desire to kill...
anybody and further that he couldn’t carry that pistol and keep it in place through the rough and tumble of skirmishes. He thought he could and called attention to the many years it had been his constant companion. Anyhow I talked him out of it, and then later when the team was pretty badly handled in a physical tussle, I remember that there were some three or four Texas players piled up on him, and when we returned to the hotel I am sure that no person ever got such a balling out as myself. He stating that if it hadn’t been for me that he would have had at least a half dozen of those and saved the team a double licking. (I have left out the cuss words he used.)

Colby Hall and Kern Tips both include this story in their books. In both cases, the antagonist is a lad named Bull. To Colby Hall he was Edwin Bull. To Kern Tips, he was Ed (Cowboy) Bull. Colby Hall ends his story with the gunless Bull heading to the game with no mention of the aftermath tongue lashing. Kern Tips ended his story by saying “Cowboy was heard to say after the game that he should have obeyed his first impulse.”

Who was the antagonist? The TCU lettermen’s Association lists W H Watts as a letterman for the year 1898. There is no Ed Bull on the list of TCU lettermen. Jim V. McClintic played pivotal roles in both getting football started and TCU and not letting Wyatt Watts put people in harms way. So this begs two questions: Was Jim V. McClintock the father of TCU football?

Until the late 1900’s the TCU mascot was known as Addie the Frog. Was the mascot named after little Addie?

The original letter from Jim McClintic hangs today in my son’s office in Lincoln, Nebraska. It is well worth reading if you ever have the opportunity.

There have been 56 known players in Division I-A (FBS) history who have played for their head-coaching fathers in college, including 22 quarterbacks and five active pairings, according to a survey of I-A sports information departments (most schools responded, we checked others as best we could). The count includes CU head coach Dan Hawkins and his oldest son, Cody.

The most famous and perhaps best head coach father (HCF) and quarterback son (QBS) tandem in NCAA history is Jim
and Kevin Sweeney at Fresno State. Kevin played for his father from 1982-86, when he became the first player in NCAA history to throw for 10,000 career passing yards (Jim was FSU’s head coach for 19 years, retiring No. 17 on the all-time win list with 200 in his 32-year coaching career). The most famous “near-miss” happened at Stanford, where John Elway played quarterback from 1979-82 and his father, Jack, took over as head coach from 1984-88. And at Marshall, when they were a I-AA powerhouse just before moving up to I-A, Todd Donnan started at QB for his father, Jim, in 1993-94.

**STARTING FROSH.** Cody started the first game of his redshirt frosh year, which made him the ninth known son to start at quarterback for his head coach father in I-A/FBS history, and just the third freshman to do so. Kevin Sweeney started the first two games of his true freshman season at Fresno State in 1982, but was injured in the second game and granted a medical hardship for the season; he came back to start as a redshirt frosh through his senior season.

Tim Salem started all 11 games of his true frosh year at Minnesota in 1980; he lettered that year, but played sparingly thereafter. There is one other active HCF-QBS combo, that being at North Texas where Riley Dodge is playing for his father, Todd.

The list (#—denotes active):

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<th>School</th>
<th>Head Coach</th>
<th>Son (Position)</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>Earl “Red” Blaik</td>
<td>*Robert (QB)</td>
<td>1949-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ball State</td>
<td>Bill Lynch</td>
<td>Joey (QB)</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>Dan Hawkins</td>
<td>*Cody (QB)</td>
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<td>*Kevin (QB)</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Bob Comings</td>
<td>*Bobby Jr. (QB)</td>
<td>1977-78</td>
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<td>*Darrell (QB)</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
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<td>Matt (QB)</td>
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<td>Miami, Fla.</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>Jason (QB)</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Tim Brewster</td>
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<td>#North Texas</td>
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<td>Riley (QB)</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Cleve Bryant</td>
<td>*Rodney (QB)</td>
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<td>Jay (QB)</td>
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<td>Tom Craft</td>
<td>Kevin (QB)</td>
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<td>Rusty Russell</td>
<td>*H.N. (QB)</td>
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<td>Glenn III (QB)</td>
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<td>USC</td>
<td>Larry Smith</td>
<td>Corby (QB)</td>
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Western Michigan Bill Cubit  *Ryan (QB)  2003-06

-------------Non-Quarterbacks-------------

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<td>Alabama-Birmingham</td>
<td>Watson Brown</td>
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<td>Bill Lynch</td>
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<td>1998-01</td>
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<td>Baylor</td>
<td>Bill Beal</td>
<td>*Phil (S)</td>
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<td>BYU</td>
<td>LaVell Edwards</td>
<td>*Jimmy (WR)</td>
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<td>Chicago, U of</td>
<td>Amos Alonzo Stagg</td>
<td>Amos Alonzo Jr.</td>
<td>1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Doug Dickey</td>
<td>Don (DB)</td>
<td>1975-76</td>
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<td>Houston</td>
<td>Art Briles</td>
<td>Kendal (WR/QB)</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Lee Corso</td>
<td>*Steve (SE)</td>
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<td>*Brian (OL)</td>
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<td>*Sean (P)</td>
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<td>%Billy Brewer</td>
<td>Brett (P)</td>
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<td>Rickey Bustle</td>
<td>Brad (OG)</td>
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<td>Louisiana-Monroe</td>
<td>Pat Collins</td>
<td>*Mike (C)</td>
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<td>Tommy West</td>
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<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>Ara Parseghian</td>
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<td>Bob Simmons</td>
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<td>*Shane (LS/WR)</td>
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<td>*Aaron (PK)</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Bobby Bowden</td>
<td>*Tommy (WR)</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Bobby Bowden</td>
<td>Terry (RB)</td>
<td>1975</td>
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*—denotes started/first-team (at some point when father was head coach at the time; in some cases, they became the starter after the father moved on).%—The elder Brewer moved on to Mississippi in 1983 and son followed.
Return of the ’49ers
The story behind the 1948 football team’s memorable march to Rose Bowl victory.

By William Weinbaum

Several players also cite their quarterback’s humor in the huddle for its calming influence. “Burson was always funny,” says guard Bob Nowicki.

Perricone, a short-yardage specialist whose late runs were crucial, says Burson called plays for him on the final drive by saying, “Hi diddle diddle, Perricone up the middle.”

On the drive’s first play, Tunnicliff fumbled and Cal recovered, but Tunnicliff was ruled down before losing the ball. The next play, Aschenbrenner, a halfback, completed Northwestern’s only pass of the game in four attempts, an 18-yard reception by end Don Stonesifer.

Perricone then gained 14 yards and later also succeeded on a fourth-down run. Following a hard-fought short gain for Aschenbrenner, Northwestern had the ball on the Cal 43.

Wildcat history was about to change forever with a call that drew on the military discipline of its participants and dramatic flair befitting Northwestern’s acting program.

Wildcats’ Wily Winning Play

The ‘Cats had practiced but rarely used a trick play in which the snap went through Burson directly to one of the halfbacks, with the other halfback in motion and the fullback decoying as if he’d receive a pitch from Burson. The key was for each man in the backfield and on the line to flawlessly engage in the deception and delay the defense from recognizing who had the ball and where the play was going, and then to execute their blocks.

“We had to be in the three-point stance and not telegraph anything,” says
Tunnicliff, the right halfback at the time.

Tunnicliff had already been called upon 10 times, averaging six yards a carry.

Now came the “secret play” with the ball going to him for an 11th time.

Aschenbrenner, the left halfback who had 11 carries for 119 yards and also excelled as the punter and a kick returner, says, “I was really winded, and we were closer to the sideline on my side — he [Burson] called Tunny, and I was happy. It was a good call.”

Tunnicliff told the L.A. Times: “When Don Burson called it in the huddle, I could have kissed him.”

The ball was snapped through Burson’s legs to Tunnicliff, Nemeth recalls.

“[He] took the ball and put it behind him and stood there for a moment and the play made off as if it was going around the left end, and the defense started to follow ’em, and we on the line took a step in that direction, which drew ’em, and Tunnicliff took off around the right end, and the line just swung around this way and set up a wall, so to speak, before they could recover, and he went right down the line.

“There were some pretty good blocks,” says Nemeth. “Some of the players didn’t realize he broke loose.”

”Big Bill Forman left his feet,” back Johnny Miller says, “and that block was the key to the win.”

As Forman recalls, “I was a left tackle lining up outside the right end. The ball was snapped and I took two or three steps to the right and headed directly toward the goal line where a man was standing, and it was a very simple maneuver — I took him out,” he says with a laugh. “That’s what I remember.”

As Tunnicliff sprinted toward the goal line, “I knew Cal’s Frank Brunk would hit me — he jumped on my back at the 7-yard line,” Tunnicliff says of the defender who significantly
outweighed him. “My reaction was, I’m going to get to that goal line if I have to carry the whole stadium.”

Tunnicliff’s touchdown gave the ’Cats a 20-14 lead with under three minutes left.

“I didn’t realize Tunnicliff had broken free and scored,” says Keddie, “I thought maybe it’d been mishandled. I was scared to death from the roar of the crowd.”

“I don’t think that California was looking for any sort of razzle-dazzle from the Northwestern team,” Forman says. “We played a very conservative running game.”

But Waldorf, the future College Hall of Fame coach, said in news accounts, “We practiced against the Tunnicliff play, but it happened anyway.”

Cal mounted a serious last-ditch drive of its own. “If Pee Wee Day hadn’t intercepted [inside the 10-yard line],” Aschenbrenner says, “they could’ve won, as their fullback [Brunk] was raising hell.”

Fittingly, the defense saved the day to wrap up a season in which only Michigan scored more than 16 points against Northwestern. Not to be overlooked, says Fatso Day, was the second line of defense. “We had great linebackers: Ray Wietecha played with the Giants for years and George Sundheim, who was as good a tackler as I’ve ever seen and could hit harder than anybody, and of course, Sarkisian.”

Three players, says Perricone, made the ’49 Rose Bowl champs special. “Frank Aschenbrenner, Alex Sarkisian and Art Murakowski — they were all older, profound leaders, unbelievable football players. … The rest of us were journeymen compared with those three.”

The Chicago Tribune paid tribute to Northwestern’s relentless ground attack that compiled 273 yards: “... remember the terrific running of the Wildcat backs, those lads were not
stopping until stopped, period.”

Aschenbrenner was named MVP of the game and later inducted into the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame. He lives in Arizona and says he rarely misses attending a Rose Bowl.

For the coach who left Northwestern for Cal, this was the first of three straight Rose Bowls, all tight losses for his Bears.

“Waldorf came into the locker room after the game to congratulate us and he said, ‘I knew that today I could not lose,’” says Sawle.

The celebration for the victors continued after they left the West Coast. “Oh God, that was a blast,” Sawle says of the train trip home. “A two-day, two-night party. It was part of the experience and a great way to wind down.”

Northwestern’s marching band was supposed to arrive in Chicago ahead of the returning players, but its train, which took a Northern route, was caught in a snowstorm in Cheyenne, Wyo. Instead of the band welcoming back the team, players greeted the 144-member band after its unscheduled snow-driven holiday out West.

60th and Beyond

“Before we went there (to the Rose Bowl), we were told, ‘You’ll remember this your whole life,’” says Day, “and you do, and it’s a lot more pleasant because we won the game.”

With a beaming smile and a fragile scrapbook, Day brought several members of his family to this October’s 60th anniversary gathering.

The retellings and reminiscences render crumbling pages irrelevant as those who were there and others far younger share in the lore of the ’49 Rose Bowl champions.

“This reunion’s better than the last one,” Sawle says. “The stories get better. The time is precious.”

As Forman holds court with sons and grandsons in the reunion hotel lobby, one of
his boys proudly wears a T-shirt with a black and white photo of Forman airborne, parallel to the Rose Bowl turf, about to take out the defender on Tunnicliff’s game-winning touchdown.

At another end of the lobby, Sawle says to Keddie, “Do you ever look at the pictures of all of that and pinch yourself? I do. It was all so wonderful.”

William Weinbaum is a New York City–based producer for ESPN-TV and contributor to ESPN.com.

For additional reading on Northwestern’s 1949 Rose Bowl team, click on the following links:

http://www.northwestern.edu/magazine/fall2008/feature/rosebowl.html

http://www.northwestern.edu/magazine/fall2008/feature/rosebowl_sidebar/trivia.html

http://www.northwestern.edu/magazine/fall2008/feature/rosebowl_sidebar/tunnicliff.html

* * * * *

In Memory of...Ken "Dude" McLean, 65, Texas A&M...Mel Kaufman, 50, Cal Poly...Pasquale "Pat" Bisceglia Jr., 78, captain of Notre Dame’s 1956 team and a 17-year assistant coach at WPI...Austin College (Texas) football linebacker Zach Swirczynski, 20...Brad Van Pelt, 57 Michigan State...Derrell Palmer, TCU...Michael Merola, Georgia...Marty Pierson, 87, Delaware; later an assistant coach for the Blue Hens...Fred Graham, 74, longtime sports information director at North Texas...Dick Price, retired director of athletics at Norfolk State, died...Marcus Manny, 23, kicker for Tabor (Kan.)...Ed Cason, former Texas A&M-Commerce football player...George McAfee, Duke, 90.

In Honor of...Terry Hoage was inducted into the State of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame...Wyoming has added football standouts Sean Fleming and Gene Huey have been added to its
Athletics Hall of Fame 2009 class... NAIA Hall of Fame inductees include longtime NACDA executive director Mike Cleary (meritorious service), football legend Jerry Tolley (meritorious service), football legend Robert Shoup, and current Carson- Newman head coach Ken Sparks.

Anyone interested in sending in their choices of 7 players and 3 coaches and we can see how close the IFRA membership is their selections to the players who are actually voted in...this will be repeated when the Divisional Players and Coaches nominees are released.

*Names of those who voted will be listed separately; thus the selections will remain anonymous.

IFRA congratulations the players and coaches on being nominated to the College Football Hall of Fame

First-time ballot members are indicated with an asterisk (*). First-time ballot members include both first-year nominees and candidates who have been previously nominated but did not pass through the District Screening Committee process until this year.

FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION PLAYER CANDIDATES

Player - School, Position (Years)

1. Billy Ray Adams-Mississippi, Fullback (1959-61)
2. Trev Alberts-Nebraska, Linebacker (1990-93)
3. Charles Alexander*-LSU, Running Back (1975-78)
4. Otis Armstrong-Purdue, Running Back (1970-72)
5. Pervis Atkins-New Mexico State, Running Back (1958-60)
6. Steve Bartkowski-California, Quarterback (1972-74)
7. Bob Berry-Oregon, Quarterback (1962-64)
8. Brian Bosworth*-Oklahoma, Linebacker (1984-86)
11. Dave Butz-Purdue, Defensive Tackle (1970-72)
12. Dennis Byrd*-North Carolina State, Defensive Tackle (1964-67)
14. Ronnie Caveness-Arkansas, Center (1962-64)
15. Chuck Cecil-Arizona, Defensive Back (1984-87)
16. Ray Childress-Texas A&M, Defensive Lineman (1981-84)
17. Marco Coleman*-Georgia Tech, Linebacker (1989-91)
18. Gary Collins-Maryland, Wide Receiver (1958-61)
19. Randy Cross-UCLA, Offensive Guard (1973-75)
20. Randall Cunningham-Nevada-Las Vegas, Punter (1982-84)
21. Sam Cunningham-Southern California, Running Back (1970-72)
22. Eric Dickerson-Southern Methodist, Running Back (1979-82)
23. Bobby Douglass-Kansas, Quarterback (1966-68)
25. Ed Dyas-Auburn, Fullback (1958-60)
26. Luther Elliss-Utah, Defensive Lineman (1991-94)
27. Bill Enyart-Oregon State, Fullback (1966-68)
28. Dave Foley*-Ohio State, Offensive Tackle (1966-68)
29. Tony Franklin*-Texas A&M, Placekicker (1975-78)
33. Curtis Greer-Michigan, Defensive Tackle (1976-79)
34. Major Harris-West Virginia, Quarterback (1987-89)
35. Mark Herrmann-Purdue, Quarterback (1977-80)
37. Desmond Howard*-Michigan, Wide Receiver (1989-91)
38. Gordon Hudson*-Brigham Young, Tight End (1980-83)
41. Tim Krumrie-Wisconsin, Defensive Lineman (1979-83)
42. Woodrow Lowe-Alabama, Linebacker (1972-75)
43. Robert Lytle-Michigan, Running Back (1974-76)
44. Bobby Majors-Tennessee, Defensive Back (1969-71)
45. Ken Margerum*-Stanford, Wide Receiver (1977-80)
46. Paul Martha-Pittsburgh, Running Back (1961-63)
47. Russell Maryland*-Miami (Fla.), Defensive Tackle (1986-90)
48. Pat McInally-Harvard, Tight End (1972-74)
49. Marlin McKeever-Southern California, Tight End (1958-60)
50. Steve McMichael-Texas, Defensive Tackle (1976-79)
52. Ken Norton, Jr.-UCLA,
Linebacker (1984-87)
53. Tom Nowatzke-Indiana, Fullback (1961-64)
54. Jonathan Ogden*-UCLA, Offensive Tackle (1992-95)
55. Jim Otis-Ohio State, Fullback (1967-69)
56. Ken Rice*-Auburn, Defensive Tackle (1958-60)
57. Ron Rivera-California, Linebacker (1980-83)
58. Deion Sanders-Florida State, Defensive Back (1985-88)
59. Jake Scott-Georgia, Defensive Back (1967-68)
60. Larry Seivers-Tennessee, Wide Receiver (1974-76)
61. Sterling Sharpe-South Carolina, Wide Receiver (1984-87)
62. Will Shields-Nebraska, Offensive Guard (1989-92)

64. Chris Spielman-Ohio State, Linebacker (1984-87)
65. Larry Station-Iowa, Linebacker (1982-85)
66. Pat Swilling-Georgia Tech, Defensive End (1982-85)
67. Darryl Talley-West Virginia, Linebacker (1979-82)
68. Lawrence Taylor-North Carolina, Linebacker (1977-80)
69. Marvin Terrell-Mississippi, Off./Def. Guard (1957-59)
70. Pat Tillman-Arizona State, Linebacker (1994-97)
71. Gino Torretta-Miami (Fla.), Quarterback (1989-92)
72. Don Trull-Baylor, Quarterback (1961-63)
73. Curt Warner-Penn State, Running Back (1979-82)
74. Alfred Williams-Colorado, Linebacker (1987-90)
75. Clarence Williams-Washington State, Running Back (1962-64)
76. Grant Wistrom-Nebraska, Defensive End (1994-97)

FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION COACH CANDIDATES

(Coach - School (Years) - Overall Record (Winning Percentage))

1. William "Lone Star" Dietz-Washington State (1915-17), Purdue (1921), Louisiana Tech (1922-23), Wyoming (1924-26), Haskell Indian Institute (Kan.) (1929-32), Albright (Pa.) (1937-42) - 96-62-7 (.603)

2. Wayne Hardin-Navy (1959-64), Temple (1970-82), 118-74-5 (.612)


4. Billy Jack Murphy-Memphis (1958-71), 91-44-1 (.673)


* * *

Editor’s Note: Recently, I received this question…and not knowing the answer, I sent an email to IFRA member Bo Carter, who has worked as assistant and then SID at Mississippi State.

Because of its historical significance, I decided to share it with the IFRA membership

(As it was received)...I've never been able to figure out the reason for the pattern that the SEC use to use for its conference schedule. For example, AL played FL in '30 and 31 but not again until '48, for 4 in-a-row then not again till '64. The same holds for all the teams. If you shed some light on this or point me in the right direction.

Bo explained it this way: The explanation the SEC gave for years and years was that geographical rivals took precedent on the schedule, and, for whatever reasons, in the 1950s and 1960s, they linked some teams such as Mississippi State and Florida, Ole Miss and Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Florida, and Auburn and Tulane, etc., as distance rivals in addition to the nearby rivals. They made several changes in 1964 when Georgia Tech and Tulane dropped out of the SEC, but Alabama did not play Georgia for many of the same years from 1930-58; same for Auburn and Vanderbilt and LSU and Vanderbilt and Tennessee and Mississippi State (for whatever reasons).

'Bama and the G-Dawgs were in different geographical areas and did not play very often from 1932-64 when Georgia Tech and Tulane left the SEC. I think Alabama and Georgia Tech were on one another's permanent schedules after World War II before GT left the SEC.
Unable to find the *final 2008 Mid-Major Poll* anywhere online, I decided to contact **The Sports Network**, which sponsored the poll. Here’s the email from its FCS Executive Director.

Tex:

Mid-major football at the FCS/I-AA level pretty much ceased to exist with the 2008 season. There is only one league left that still plays true non-scholarship football (our definition of mid-major), the Pioneer Football League. The Metro Atlantic Athletic Association quit sponsoring football in 2008. They were down to three schools after Duquesne went to the Northeast Conference and then La Salle dropped its program. Iona played as an independent this year and dropped football at the end of the season and Marist played as an independent and will join the PFL this year. The NEC had decided to allow scholarships a couple of years back and is heading towards 40 scholarships, so it is no longer a mid-major. The NEC is also being phased into the playoff structure and will have an auto bid when the playoffs expand to 20 teams in 2010. The Ivy League and Patriot League are really different animals with need-based aid and equivalencies that are not that much different from scholarships.

All that being said, we did not sponsor a mid-major poll in 2008 and did not choose a mid-major All-America team. We also ended the Sports Network Cup, which went to the winner of the mid-major poll and was symbolic of the mid-major champion.

David Coulson

FCS Executive Director

The Sports Network

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