Researching Archives and College Football History

By Ronald A. Smith
Penn State University

He would never do that, would he? The paragon of all college football coaches, the coach with the highest winning percentage of all time, and the pride of Notre Dame would not break his contracts at Notre Dame to coach at either the University of Iowa or Columbia University. Certainly, you might think, Knute Rockne would not do that any more than he and his athletic department would refuse to pay the doctor bills for “win one for the Gipper” George Gipp following his death.

But, it is true. One only needs to dig deeply enough in college archives to uncover the misty path of the history of intercollegiate football. The fact is that Rockne signed a contract and then backed out of the contract with the University of Iowa in 1924 to remain at Notre Dame, signing a 10 year contract. The next year he decided to go to Columbia, signed a multi-year contract, but broke it to continue at Notre Dame.

This information can be found at the University of Notre Dame library—but it will take some archival digging. Similarly the archives contain an account of a two-year debate over medical payments, between Rockne, the Notre Dame president, and a medical doctor who was brought in at Gipp’s death-bed scene.

You remember, it was the one played by Ronald Reagan in the 1940 movie, “Knute Rockne—All American.” That scene is not in the archives.

Not all coaches have death-bed scenes, but nearly all have been paid, and many quite handsomely since the beginning of the twentieth century. Those salaries can often be found in college archives. For instance, Bear Bryant was making a
salary of $17,500 in 1961 at the University of Alabama. The president of Alabama, Frank Rose, said of him in a letter to another administrator: “He is the only man in my 11 years as president who has refused to accept a salary increase. . . .”

Another coach, Glenn “Pop” Warner, had little trouble accepting pay increase or moving from job to job.

His football coaching career included stints at Iowa State, Georgia, Cornell, Carlisle Indian School, Pittsburgh, Stanford, and Temple. The archives at Stanford University reveal an interesting accommodation in 1922 for Warner, who at the time had two years remaining on his Pittsburgh contract. Stanford offered Warner $10,000 for only coaching the Stanford football team during two spring practices, contingent upon becoming head coach in 1924. The salary was to be an exceptionally high one of $7,500 plus $2,500 for expenses, with an additional $2,500 if Stanford went to the Rose Bowl. He accepted.

If you are interested in research on college football, you can be assured that you can do so for the rest of your life and not exhaust the sources. For instance, to research the history of football at Harvard or Yale almost certainly would take over a year in each institution’s archives. The search can be exhilarating if you have the patience to sort through folder after folder and box after box of materials related to intercollegiate football.

After having searched material on intercollegiate athletics in nearly 40 archives, I have yet to find an archivist who was not helpful.

Archivists are accessible, and so are the materials.

Prior to any archival search, you should have a clear concept of the historical questions you would like to attempt to answer. The history of college football has many unanswered questions or problems to explore. Several come to mind:

1) Who has controlled college football historically—students, faculty, presidents, governing boards, AD’s, alumni, boosters, or commercial interests? How has that control been manifested?

2) What has been the state and federal government’s involvement in college football?

3) What was the role of football in the creation of the NCAA as the chief inter-institutional governing agency?

4) What has been the effect of football being the chief revenue producer in college athletic programs since the 1890s?

4) How did radio and television influence the
5) commercialization of college football?

6) How did the entry of African-Americans into college sport influence the direction taken by college football?

7) How did football coaches come to dominate intercollegiate athletic programs?

8) What has been the process of rationalization of individual football programs to produce winners?

9) How did football influence the creation and development of athletic programs?

10) What has been the history of the development of athletic scholarships on individual campuses?

11) How has football stadium building symbolized the development of intercollegiate athletics?

12) How has the internal institutional control of football by administrations and faculty differed from the external control of football by special athletic corporations?

13) What is the historical relationship of football coaching salaries to those of the president and faculty?

14) How has the institutional governing board set athletic policy, and what have the results meant to the institution's football program?

15) How have football programs been financed over the years?

16) How have faculty reacted to the development of football at specific institutions?

Once you have defined your historical problems and have read basic secondary sources for background (including institutional histories), you should be ready to go to specific archives to peruse the primary sources. Some suggestions prior to your visit might be made.

Call (rather than write) the archives, asking specific questions about the availability of materials on college football in the archives and whether there are any restrictions about looking at them.

A few private colleges have rules such as no material may be looked at more recently than 50 years ago.)

Try to be specific and ask if there are “Athletic Committee Minutes,” “Presidential Correspondence,” “Board of Trustees Minutes,” “Athletic Director Materials,” “Faculty Minutes,” or “Football Files.”

After you have found that the archival material noted appears to be valuable for your historical
problem, ask about such mundane, but important things as: “What days and what time is the archives open?” “Where is the archives located?” “Is it possible to use a typewriter, or are electrical outlets available for your lap-top computer?” and “What is the cost of photo duplicating materials?’

Then, indicate, if possible, when you will be arriving and how long you plan to do research at the archives.

Archivists enjoy working with people who appear to know what they are doing and are pleasant over the phone and in person.

When you arrive at the archives, try to meet the archivist or an individual who knows most about the materials you are interested in.

Most archivists know an amazing amount about their holdings, and often have an interest in college sport and the development of their institutions. They will be able to direct you to indices of their materials and other finding aids. You will probably want to keep a file (I use 3 x 5 index cards) of the specific holdings such as “Presidential Papers” or “Trustees Minutes,” recording on each what boxes and folders or volume numbers you eventually have searched. After an initial search of sources, you will want to ask for specific material to be brought to your desk for perusal. Three or four boxes generally will do for starters.

Some archives limit you to one box at a time. Make sure that the material in the boxes and folders remain exactly as they were when you received them. If you wish to photo copy material, ask the archivist what the procedure is, as most archives have different policies.

Where should you start in looking at college football history? My own preference is the “Presidential Papers.” That may seem strange, but from the late 1800s on, nearly all important intercollegiate problems, especially football matters, found their way to the president's office. These would be concerns from faculty, coaches, students, athletic directors, special committees, alumni, booster clubs, governing boards, and commercial entities. “Presidential Papers” are particularly valuable because they are usually the best indexed of all papers. One can look in the presidential finding guide for such subject areas as “Athletics,” “Athletic Committees,” “Football,” or “'Pop’ Warner.” Of course, not all material will be found in Presidential Papers.” I would look for archival materials under the general subject areas as “Athletics” or “Football.” Some archives have boxes of material on intercollegiate athletics, generally indexed under specific sports. You will also find material under specific coaches, faculty members, athletic directors, or other administrators. I nearly always look at the minutes of the governing board where important policy (and sometimes
administrative) decisions are made regarding athletics. If you are interested in football coaches, governing boards are particularly involved in their selection and firing—more so than any other individual in the institution with the possible exception of the president. Other sources of material that I have found valuable are: faculty minutes, athletic committee minutes, athletic association minutes, athletic reports, conference proceedings, college newspapers, yearbooks, alumni magazines, unpublished histories, reminiscences, theses and dissertations, and photo collections.

A number of college archives have athletic and specific football collections which are remarkable in breadth or in depth or both. Several of these should be noted to show the variety of collections within archives:

**Walter Camp Papers.** The Walter Camp Papers at Yale University Archives are probably the most outstanding collection on intercollegiate athletics and football in America. They are also the best indexed and most available because they have been microfilmed. Walter Camp, the “father” of American football, was involved in the game from 1876 when he was a freshman running back until 1925 when he died while attending a NCAA convention. The Camp collection of 72 boxes consists of 32 boxes of correspondence organized by author’s name, 30 boxes of his writings, two boxes of photographs, seven boxes of family papers, and the microfilm of 20,000 newspaper and magazine articles (including three reels of microfilm on football).

There are at least 12 boxes of material solely on football. The index itself, edited by Robert Anthony in 1982, is 119 pages in length. The complete microfilm of 48 reels may be purchased from the Yale University Archives and includes the Anthony index.

**Amos Alonzo Stagg Papers.** The Papers of Amos Alonzo Stagg are housed in the University of Chicago Archives. Stagg coached football and other sports at Chicago from 1892 until he retired under duress in Chicago at the age of 70 in 1933.

His papers consist of about 100 boxes and include such items as a letter from Stagg asking President Harper if he could do something “to get captain Henry to make himself eligible for the football team” to Stagg pleading with President Hutchins to let him continue to coach football after becoming 70 years of age.

**President Charles W. Eliot Papers.** President Eliot was head of Harvard during the most important years of the development of college football. He became president the month before the first intercollegiate football game between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869 and continued in that position until 1909, three years after the NCAA was officially formed.

He was involved in many of the
controversial aspects of college football including the questions of brutality and ethics, and his comments on the game including the statement that presidents “cannot reform football [or] abolish it.” The effectively indexed Eliot holdings at the Harvard University Archives include nearly 300 boxes.

**Walter Byers Papers.** The Walter Byers Papers consist of over 40 file drawers (not yet completely organized or indexed) of the first executive secretary of the National Collegiate Athletic Association from 1951 until his retirement in 1987. Probably no other collection exists which would reveal the important forces moving intercollegiate football in that time period. Of interest would be questions of eligibility rules, the dynamics of television contracts, pressures to create the various divisions within the NCAA, and enforcement of NCAA rules. It is housed in the library of the NCAA headquarters, recently located at 6201 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211.

**Frederick Jackson Turner Papers.** University of Wisconsin historian Frederick Jackson Turner was involved in the Big Ten fight to ban or to reform intercollegiate football in 1905-06. His papers, housed at both the University of Wisconsin-Madison Archives and the nearby State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives, are not large collections but reveal his role and that of other faculty members in attempts to ban the sport. He once pleaded with a fellow faculty member: “Don’t band on us on the foot-ball issue.

With your help we can wipe it out once and for all.”

**William and Mary Oral History Project.** At William and Mary College, possibly the best oral history project on intercollegiate athletics was carried out in the 1970s relative to the William and Mary football scandal of 1951 in which the football coach was forced to resign, the president resigned, as did a dean and several faculty members. The audio taping interviews of many individuals involved in the scandal show not only the cheating of the football (and basketball) coach, but the role played by the governing board, president, alumni, and faculty. The collection at the William and Mary Archives consists of the tapes and also transcripts from about 15 interviews.

**President Grady Grummage Papers.** Grady Grummage was president of Arizona State University from 1933 to 1959, a time when ASU changed from a small college to a major athletic institution. His papers include such items as correspondence of the Board of Athletic Control, development of athletic scholarships in the important 1946-1959 period, the building of Sun Devil Stadium, and
Western Athletic Conference materials from 1928 through 1962.

**President Ray L. Wilbur Papers.**
President Wilbur was head of Stanford from the 1910s to the 1940s, and his collection contains about 150 boxes. Among the valuable holdings are correspondence related to the hiring of “Pop” Warner, the involvement of Stanford in the Rose Bowl, the 1910s-20s conflicts between Stanford and California over football, and the athletic relations among the western big-three of California, Southern California, and Stanford.

**IPTAY Records.** The Clemson University boosters club founded in 1933, IPTAY (I Pay Ten A Year), is possibly the most well known of university booster clubs in terms of total giving and influence over athletic policy. The financial records from 1935 through 1977 are included in the Clemson University Special Collections.

**President Frank Graham Files.**
Frank Graham was president of the University of North Carolina from 1933 to 1948, a period of great turmoil over the recruitment and subsidization of football players and other athletes. The “Graham Plan” was developed and instituted (1935-37) to end athletic scholarships in the Southern Conference even though Graham was warned not to charge on with his reform mission like “Don Quixote on the windmill.”

The Graham files show alumni resistance and the failure of the plan and are found in his massive collection at the University of North Carolina Archives.

While the above show some of the significant collections in a variety of college archives, almost every college in America has an archives. Many of those will contain an abundance of materials on the history of football, the dominant sport on most college campuses since the late 1800s. One challenge is to mine the archives and to bring the history of college football to life.

I have had published several other books on intercollegiate athletic history, with a football bent. They include:

3) **PLAY-BY-PLAY: RADIO, TELEVISION, AND BIG-TIME COLLEGE SPORT** (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001)

--Ronald A. Smith

**Editor’s Note:** A fifth book by Ronald Smith will be published later this year and once it has been released, watch for an announcement of its availability in a future issue of *TCFH.*
IFRA member Kent Stephens is seeking assistance on All-America selections

1) I'm seeking anyone who may have the first and second offensive line players from the 1993 Sporting News; all of the 1994 NEA All-America team and the second team for the 1999-2001-02-03-04-05-06 Walter Camp Foundation and 2004 Sports Illustrated selections.

2) I'm curious to learn from members their attitude toward internet All-America teams. Should they be considered as major All-America selectors as are AP, FWAA, AFCA, etc? Presently I am aware of the following "cyber space" teams: CBS, Sports Illustrated, ESPN, Rivals, Scouts, and College Football News. Who exactly selects these teams? Do we know when they all started?

My initial thoughts are that media outlets such as CBS, ESPN and Sports Illustrated should be considered as major. The others I'm not so sure about.

Please express your thoughts to Kent Stephens at the College Football Hall of Fame kent.stephens@collegefootball.org.

Is it Possible for Iowa to be in Two Conferences at the Same Time?

I am looking for some assistance from the IFRA Membership.

Would anyone have verifiable proof that Iowa was in the old Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association (1907-1995)? This league eventually became the Big 8 Conference.

In addition, I also need to find someone who can show proof that the University of Iowa held dual membership from in that league in covering the 1907-1908-1909-1910 seasons.

The fact that Iowa had joined the Western Conference (Big Ten) in 1900 makes some believe that Iowa could not have been in two conferences simultaneously.

Frankly, I've always seen and believed that Iowa had dual membership in the Western Conference and MVIAA because things were different 100 years ago than they are today.

In addition, if any member would be interested in being added to the mailing list to receive a complimentary subscription to my publication, THE KICKOFF please emailed me at: kickoffzone@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Jim Gumm
Sports Editor
"The Kickoff"
Mel Smith informs the membership...If anyone is interested in early British Isles soccer & rugby games, I would highly recommend Dr. Adrian Harvey's book, *Football: The First Hundred Years: The Untold Story*; (2005); Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, London & New York. Since early American football is influenced so much by the British during the 1800s, it gives a better insight to America’s beginnings in the two basic forms of football, the kicking and carrying games, before 1869.

Baugh was link to golden eras

By Jerry Byrd (NWLA.com sportswriter)

Originally published, Friday, 19 December 2008; used by permission of the writer.

“Slinging” Sammy Baugh, who died Wednesday at the age of 94 in a Rotan, Texas, hospital, was the last link to several “golden eras” in college and pro football. One was the days when Shreveport’s Centenary College was the football giant-killer of the Southwest.

Dan Jenkins, a former sportswriter and football historian, said, “Sam was the greatest passer, punter and signal caller that ever played the game. Other than that, he didn’t do much.”

Baugh was a member of the first class of inductees into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951, and was the only living member for the last 10 years of his life. He was also the last surviving member of the first class inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

As his nickname suggests, Baugh is best remembered as a great passer. But he was also a great punter, setting the National Football League record with a career average of 45.1 yards. For years, Tommy Davis, who played at Fair Park High and LSU, was second with 44.7.

Baugh averaged 51.4 yards per punt in 1940, still the NFL record for one season.

At TCU, during a 3-2 Sugar Bowl victory over LSU, Baugh punted 14 times for a 48-yard average, placing many kicks inside the Tigers’ five-yard line. The victory capped a 12-1 season and was the first of two national titles for TCU in four years.

But Baugh’s performance in a 27-7 win over Centenary in 1935, two weeks after I was born, may have been even more impressive at the time.

Centenary had lost only two games in the three previous seasons. During that span, the Gents had two victories and a scoreless tie against the Texas Longhorns, one victory and a scoreless tie against LSU, three consecutive wins over...
Ole Miss, three wins and a scoreless tie against Texas A&M, two wins over Baylor and two ties against the Arkansas Razorbacks.

In an era when college players rarely threw 10 passes in a game, Baugh threw as many as 40 in some games, leading the nation in passing in his last two years. He was a two-time All-America halfback at TCU and a nine-time All-Pro quarterback with the Redskins.

TCU won 29 games in a three-year stretch. Centenary won 26 and lost only two in a three-year stretch. The 1933 Gents were unscored-on until their ninth game, a 7-6 victory over Ole Miss.

In addition to his passing and punting, he was a great defensive back, leading the NFL in interceptions. In one game, he threw four touchdown passes and intercepted four passes.

* * *

**Worth Noting**

Running Back **Billy Cannon** has been named the LSU Alumni Association’s Alumnus of the Year. Former SMU running backs **Eric Dickerson and Craig James**, known in college as the *Pony Express*, received the Doak Walker Legends Award.

**Halls of Fame**

Ron Simmons (Florida State), the state of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame...Pervis Atkins (New Mexico State), the state of New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame on March 4...Northern Arizona AD Jim Fallis, the University of Northern Colorado Athletics Hall of Fame.

**Inaugural Class of the HBCU Hall of Fame**

- Walter Payton, RB, Jackson State (1971-74)
- Jerry Rice, WR, Mississippi Valley State (1981-84)
- Deacon Jones, DT, South Carolina State/Mississippi Valley State (1958-60)
- Buck Buchanan, DE, Grambling State (1959-63)
- Willie Galimore, RB, Florida A&M (1953-56)
- Ben Stevenson, RB, Tuskegee (1923-1930)
- Paul Younger, RB-DB Grambling State (1945-1948)
- Eddie Robinson, Head Coach, Grambling State (1941-97)
- Alonzo Gaither, Head Coach, Florida A&M (1945 to 1969)
- Bill Nunn Jr., a former NFL scout and journalist for the Pittsburgh Courier

* * *

**Obituaries**

Merlin Olsen, Utah State 69...Former Bates College (Maine) athletics director and head coach Robert Hatch, 85...Long-time college football coach (Boston College, Duke and Wake Forest) Sam Timer, at age 82...Irv Etler, Xavier, 74... Ole Miss
Nashville’s First Football Game Played in 1885

By Bill Traughber

An historical sporting event occurred in Nashville on a brisk Thanksgiving Day in 1885.

According to a Nashville newspaper, The Daily American, the first-ever football game played south of the Ohio River was played in Nashville.

This event was held at the Sulphur Springs Baseball Park. The field would later be known as Athletic Park and Sulphur Dell.

The ballpark was the home of the Nashville Americans baseball club, which just concluded its first professional season in the original Southern League (1885-1899). It has been believed that the first football game in Nashville was also played at Athletic Park on Thanksgiving Day, 1890. That game was played between Vanderbilt and Peabody College.

It was Vanderbilt’s first football game and they won that contest, 40-0. Nashville history books have recognized this game as Nashville’s first. But a recent discovery has learned of another football game in Nashville five years earlier.

The Nashville Football Club and the Nashville Athletic Club were participants of this historic gridiron match. The NAC reportedly wore “Tight fitting canvass jackets, blue stockings and belt, with black and white skull caps.” The Nashville Football Club distinguished themselves in similar attire, but wore white pants with orange and white colors.

Football was a relatively new sport in the South at this time with schools in the East the dominant participants. The first officially recognized intercollegiate game involving a team from the South was played in 1890. The University of Virginia lost to Princeton, 116-0.

The Daily American gave this partial explanation the rules of the 1885 game to its readers:

The game was opened with an egg shaped leather ball fourteen inches long and about eight in diameter. The grounds were laid off 120 yards by 90, with goal posts at each end. The object of the game was to force the ball behind the goal post, faced, and to defend the goal to the rear. The game was played in two innings of thirty minutes each, with an intermission of ten minutes.
The newspaper further reported about the lone referee, J.E. Fleming, who was chosen by mutual consent, a coin toss and the kickoff. More descriptive reporting by *The Daily American* follows:

*The game began with a rush on a call of time by the referee, and a melee followed, the ball passing under and above the struggling sides in the violence of opposing forces, and when the ball touched the ground it was bounced on by the nearest man and a bunch of players fell on him.*

*The ball was then placed on the ground midway the two lines of rushers, seven facing each other as close against the ball as possible. One man of the side to whom possession of the ball was accorded at this juncture placed his foot upon the ball, snapping it to the quarterback who threw it to one of the half-backs further to the rear and at each end of the line of players, who upon receiving it either kicked it or ran with it towards the opponent’s goal.*

The newspaper continued to explain the rules before finally revealing that the Nashville Football Club won the game. The reader would have to follow the details of the story to the near end to learn the final score was 6-4. The names of the players were mentioned by last name only. This tradition of sports writing would continue into the 20th century.

An estimated 500 Nashvillians, including “A sprinkling of women,” were at the ballpark to witness the game. The game was originally scheduled for 2:30 pm, but began 45 minutes late due to the teams being photographed. It was reported that Mr. Fleming was very upset over the delay.

Nashville’s other daily newspaper, *The Daily Union*, gave this detailed account of the action. The Nashville Football Club are referred as the Tigers:

* Aroni, for the Tigers, kicked the ball off from the center field to McDonald, who returned it well, leaving a rush line to be formed at the half-way line. Very even playing ensued until Drouillard, getting the ball heeled back to him by the center rusher, passed the ball back cleverly to More, who started off like a deer, and after a beautiful dodging run, he grounded the ball safely behind the goal line, almost inline with the goal post, but was unfortunate enough, in tumbling over the ball, to have his head knocked against a piece of iron, which stunned him completely, which stunned him completely for a few minutes. However, he gathered himself together, and brought out the ball for Aroni, who kicked a beautiful goal, leaving the game 6 to 0 for the Tigers.*

In this early era of football, a touchdown was worth four points, a field goal four points and the conversion kick counted two points. More must have clumsily hit the goal post in scoring the first touchdown of the game.

Later in the first half (or inning) the Nashville Athletic Club scored its
single touchdown as told by The Daily Union:

A rush line was formed, from which McDonald, getting the ball, used his Herculean arms to such advantage in brushing off his opponents that he touched the ball behind, leaving Erwin to take the kick, but he failed to raise the leather from the ground, and the rushers on the Tiger side charged and carried the game well down the field.

To translate, McDonald scored a touchdown making the score 6-4. But, Erwin failed in his attempt to kick the tying conversion. The second half would be scoreless giving Nashville’s first football game a victory for the Nashville Football Club.

Proceeds from the game benefited the House of Industry, a home for female orphans at 24 North Vine Street (now Seventh Avenue).

The Daily Union continued by praising some of the standout players in the game. They said, “Fogg stood out, neck and shoulders, the best man on the field. He ran and tackled in suburb fashion and his kicking, though never brilliant, was always sure.”

“Burch and Drouillard both displayed great skill in passing and a thorough knowledge of the game, but must learn to be quicker.”

The unknown writer for The Daily Union also complimented McDonald of the Athletic team, well, sort of. “For the Athletic club McDonald was perhaps the best man on their side, although if, instead of rushing into the arms of his opponents and trusting to his strength to get through, he would use his pace and run round them, he would show to better advantage.”

Editor’s Note: This story is from Bill’s forthcoming book, Nashville Sports History: Stories From the Stands. The paperback book is 127 pages and retails for $19.99 and can be purchased on www.historypress.

* * *

College Football Hall of Famers For the Month of March: Dates of Birth and Death

Compiled by Bo Carter

1 (1883) Tom Shevlin, Muskegon, Mich.
1 (1884) Vince Stevenson, Livingston, Ky.
1 (1961) Mike Rozier, Camden, N.J.
1-(d – 1959) Albie Booth, New York City
2 (1934) Howard “Hopalong” Cassady, Columbus, Ohio
3 (1890) Art Howe, South Orange, N.J.
3 (1917) Carl Hinkle, Hendersonville, Tenn.
3 (1952) Randy Gradishar, Warren, Ohio
3-(d – 1966) Calvin Roberts, St. Louis Park, Minn.
4 (1888) Knute Rockne, Voss, Norway
4-(d - 1989) Harvey Jablonsky, San Antonio, Texas
4-(d - 2009) George McAfee, Durham, N.C.
5 (1875) Frank O’Neill, Syracuse, N.Y.
5 (1918) Paul Christman, St. Louis, Mo.
5 (1921) Dave Schreiner, Lancaster, Wis.
5 (1922) Bob Odell, Corning, Iowa
5-(d - 1974) Fred Crawford, Tallahassee, Fla.
ONCE more has Harvard won the Football Championship of the East.

Her unbroken series of successes and her decisive defeat of Yale, long the undisputed leader of the football world, have given her this championship. As to what the Crimson might have accomplished against such a team as Carlisle, for instance, can only be conjectured.

The Indians, with all their ill-balanced strength, completely demolished the brilliant Dartmouth team, up to that time a strong contender for Eastern laurels; Glen Warner’s squad have always been a grand up setter of football dreams.

Weak in defensive play, but invincible in offensive strength, they might perhaps have shattered the magnificent Harvard machine as they shattered Dartmouth.

Incidentally there may have been other clubs, even more obscure, who could have stopped Brickley and Mahan. But whatever might and might not have been, none of these casualties actually happened.

Wherefore Coach Haughton’s club emerges from the dust and strife of a dozen battle-scarred gridirons without a peer in the East.

From the banks of Lake Michigan, however, echoes the far-off triumph of the University of Chicago with her fresh won title of Western Champion. Football has flourished mightily in the valley of the Mississippi, and its followers claim, not without reason, that the crack Western clubs might contend on an equality with the best the Eastern universities could offer.

Unfortunately there is no sure way of deciding this question, as the games played between representative clubs of West and East are few and inconclusive. A similar condition once prevailed in baseball, in the years before the rival pennant winners of the two Major Leagues clashed for the championship of the world. The famous series of October has settled all that, and there is no longer any doubt of the greatest baseball club.

Some day the college football schedule will doubtless be rearranged along common sense lines. The present haphazard chaos will be swept away, and then winning the championship of the football world will be an accomplished fact. Meantime Harvard and Chicago must rest content to divide the honors.

The Atlanta stockholders have elected as president J. W. Heisman, football coach, theatrical man and magazine
writer, formerly of the University of Pennsylvania. (*Sporting Life*, 1907)

* * *

- **It's New (s) to me (us)**

That in 1896 Fielding Yost (he was yet have earned his famous nickname of 'Hurry-up”) played for the West Virginia…with his outstanding play attracted the attention of a rival coach. The Mountaineers played—and lost to Lafayette in three consecutive days—in as many cities—as Yost would later play for the Leopards.

Coaching Lafayette was Parke H. Davis, the “father of college football statistics.”

Was anyone aware that Fielding H. Yost (April 30, 1871) *was older than his coach…*Parke H. Davis (July 16, 1871)?

* * *

**Winningest Teams, 1900-1936**

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<td>Michigan</td>
<td>1900-09</td>
<td>82-8-3</td>
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<td>Stanford</td>
<td>1900-09</td>
<td>39-7-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Played 7 of 10 Seasons in Pre-1937 era**

1. Alabama 1930-36
   56-6-3 .885
2. Pittsburgh 1930-36
   53-8-6 .836
3. Duke 1930-36
   53-13-4 .786
4. Tennessee 1930-36
   52-13-4 .783

* * *

**American Golfer, 1921**

**Revising Football**

OUTSIDE of possibly one or two slight changes, football will need no revision when the Rules Committee meets early in March.

There would be no complaint to speak of if the goal after touchdown was abolished, as this play has very little meaning one way or another in the way of coming upon true scoring values.

The point that will come up for lengthy discussion will be Percy Haughton’s suggestion that a forward pass blocked or grounded
back of the scrimmage line be treated as a free ball, just as, for example, a blocked kick is treated.

If this change would affect the value of the forward pass it would do more harm than good unless it helped to cut down wild and promiscuous tossing that frequently slows up a game.

Football last season made a tremendous hit, with players and spectators alike. It proved to be an ideal game for the schoolboy and the collegian. It also proved to be an ideal game for the public that insisted each Saturday in packing each stadium and bowl to the limit.

When a small college from Kentucky with only a few hundred students can come to the Harvard Stadium and draw forth 42,000 spectators and give these 42,000 a thrilling afternoon, you have a game that is hard to improve.

* * *

The following originally appeared in November 22, 1954 19th Hole: The Readers Take Over of Sports Illustrated.

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RIVAL PIONEERS

Sirs:

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's contribution to the HOTBOX (SI, Oct. 25) includes this statement:"Walter Camp selected his first mythical team in 1889..." referring to the first All-American football team. Mr. Hoover has apparently accepted what may be called the "Camp Legend" and is not aware of the following facts:

1) The selections for 1889 and 1890 were first published in Week's Sport, a periodical conducted by Caspar Whitney. No credit line of authorship is given.

2) Under Caspar Whitney's credit line, teams for 1891-1896 first appeared in Harper's Weekly. In the issue of Dec. 12, 1891, the Week's Sport selections for 1889 and 1896 were repeated with no mention of Camp as author or collaborator.

3) Beginning with the 1894 issue, the Official Football Guide, which was edited by Walter Camp, listed the 1889-1896 teams with authorship credit being specifically given to Caspar Whitney.

4) The first team known to have carried a Walter Camp credit line was a team (with second and third teams) for 1897 which appeared in Whitney's "Amateur Sport" department of Harper's while Whitney was on a world sports tour.

5) Whitney's last selection for Harper's were teams for 1898 and 1899.
6) Camp made selections for *Collier's Weekly*, beginning with teams (first, second and third) for 1898 and annually thereafter, including teams for 1924 except that he selected no teams of college players for 1917.

7) In the *Collier's* issue of Jan. 14, 1899 Camp listed the 1889-1896 teams. In the issue of Jan. 28, 1899 Camp said: "In giving the list of All-American teams for a number of years in a recent issue it was my intention to state that the selections were those of Mr. Caspar Whitney in *Harper's Weekly*." *(Name withheld!)*

Both Walter Camp and Editor Whitney pioneered in the selection of annual All-America teams, but generally avoided crediting the other for his share in the work. *(The)* Reader himself an authority on early All-America teams, is correct in stating that Camp gave Whitney (whom he succeeded as editor of the *Official Football Guide*) credit for the '89-96 selections. But Camp also claimed in the 1899 *Guide* that the idea of annual All-America selections was his own? **ED.**

*          *          *

**Sporting Life/1887**

**Foot Ball Notes**

Pennsylvania is as yet the only college which has responded to the call of President McCosh, of Princeton, for a college convention to reform foot ball.

*          *          *

**From the National Football Foundation**

**BCS and Post Season numbers**

- Alabama (57 bowl appearances), Texas (49), Tennessee (48), Southern California (48), and Nebraska (46) remain the Top Five all-time for bowl appearances with Georgia just behind with 45 postseason visits.
- National leaders in current consecutive bowl games are Florida State 28, Florida 19, Virginia Tech 17, Georgia 13, Georgia Tech 13, Texas 12, Boston College 11, and Oklahoma 11. Nebraska still holds the all-time record with 35 straight trips, which occurred from 1969-2003.
- A total of 43 different schools have participated in the 52 BCS games since the 1998 season.
- Conference records in the 52 BCS bowls from the 1998-2009 seasons are SEC 13-5 (.722), Pac-10 9-5 (.643), WAC 2-1 (.667, both wins by Boise State), Big East 6-6 (.500), Big Ten 10-11 (.476), Big 12 7-10 (.412), ACC 2-10 (.167), and Independents (Notre Dame) 0-3 (.000).