In Search of a National Champion

By Richard Billingsley

The sophisticated game of college football we know today scarcely resembles that first game played in 1869. Those games were brutal by some accounts, and one dimensional by today’s standards. In the early years teams just lined up and used brute strength to move the ball forward. Today we have complex offensive and defensive schemes that make the mental part of the game just as important as the physical. But the simplicity of the game in the pioneer era of the sport was not without controversy.

Like determining a national champion for instance.

In 1869 there were two games played, Rutgers beat Princeton 6-4 and in a rematch Princeton beat Rutgers 8-0. So, who do you think should have been crowned as the inaugural national champion? As you can see, things are not always as simple as they seem.

The popularity of college football spread widely in the early 1900’s. What began in 1869 with two teams grew to almost 90 major teams by 1920. The NCAA was founded in 1906 to regulate the sport and points for scores, size of field, and penalties etc were all standardized by 1912. But the NCAA failed to address the one issue that burned in the hearts and minds of players, alumni, and fans of all ages...the question of “who is #1”. Perhaps if they had addressed it 130 years ago we would not have the controversy we have today. Instead we have a plethora of polls and ranking systems which don’t always agree.

The History of Polls

The first widely recognized college football poll did not originate until 1926. It was a mathematical rating system
University of Illinois. Later, an onslaught of pollsters came onto the scene, all prepared to crown college football’s best. The list was staggering; 1927 Deke Houlgate; 1929, Dick Dunkel; 1930, William Boand; 1932 Paul Williamson; 1934 Edward Litkenhouse; and in 1935, Richard Poling. Mathematical systems were considered to be the “norm” for determining national championships in those days. But all of that changed in 1936 when the Associated Press (AP) began publishing a poll voted on by a national board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Because of their national distribution, the AP poll instantly became gospel. The United Press International (UPI) joined the hoopla in 1950. Their theory I suppose was that coaches know more about football than writers and broadcasters.

It was bound to happen sooner or later, but it wasn’t until 1954 that the AP and UPI disagreed on who the national champion should be. The AP chose Ohio State and the UPI favored UCLA. Both teams were undefeated as was Oklahoma. Ever since that fateful day when the two “biggies” couldn’t agree, the controversy of “Who’s Number One” has raged on from the Golden Dome to the Tiger Den, from the Coliseum to the Swamp, from Happy Valley to Death Valley, and everywhere in between. Eventually everyone got in on the action, from the New York Times, Football News, Sports Illustrated, Sporting News, Sears, and McDonalds. Heck fire, there are more polls than bowls and God knows we’ve got more than we need of both. Over the years there have been many fine rating systems developed, and with the advent of the internet you may easily access all of them simply by clicking a button. Check out David Wilson’s Library of College Football Polls at:

www.cae.wisc.edu/~dwilson/rsfc/rate/index.html

This past summer college football lost a great pollster, historian and wonderful human being. Herman Matthews died on August 22, 2008 at his home in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Herman was part of the BCS from 1999-2001, but politely resigned as the BCS moved towards a no margin of victory status. The Matthews Grid Ratings were a staple in college football from 1966-2007.

He appeared regularly in the Football News and later provided...
rankings for the Scripps-Howard news service.

* * * * *

Jay Langhammer reviews...

The Maisel Report (Triumph Books), written by Ivan Maisel, reviews college football's most overrated & underrated players, coaches, teams and traditions.

Since 1987, he has covered college football for Sports Illustrated, Newsday, the Dallas Morning News and ESPN.com (over the last six years). The book's format is similar to baseball and pro football books done recently by Jayson Stark and Sal Paolantonio, which also address the overrated & underrated issues.

Maisel's first few chapters focus on school football programs, conferences and rivalries. Next comes his review of overrated & underrated Heisman Trophy winners. His most overrated Heisman pick was Charles Woodson of Michigan (instead of Tennessee's Peyton Manning). My personal pick would have been Paul Hornung of Notre Dame, who Maisel had in the number two slot. Among Heisman winners in his overrated top ten were George Rogers, Tim Brown, Gino Torretta, Andre Ware and Tim Tebow. Moving next to the national champions category, Maisel went with the 1966 Notre Dame team as most overrated and the 2003 USC team as the most underrated champion. He also covers the most overrated/underrated moments, coaches, stadiums & campuses plus traditions, fight songs and mascots. One of the most interesting categories was his selection of the most overrated and underrated players from the 19 winningest college programs (plus Army, for historical reasons).

Maisel's 240 page book is very well researched and covers as many as 10 selections in a number of categories. I was surprised at how many of his choices I agreed with. The Maisel Report is available at all major bookstores and online.


College Football, 1884

Major college football is big business. Each autumn weekend millions of fans pack stadiums
around the country to root for their favorite team. Millions more watch on television. A major college football program, such as Ohio State, Notre Dame or Texas, generates big bucks - an average of over 29 million dollars annually with some topping 50 million dollars a year.

It all started shortly after the Civil War when students at a few eastern colleges combined elements from rugby and soccer to make a new game they called football. Students at Princeton led the way in 1867 by establishing the first rules for the game. The first intercollegiate game was played in 1869 between Princeton and Rutgers. The game was taken up by the Ivy League schools and by 1873 an agreed upon set of rules was established. Football was on its way to becoming the dominate college sport.

Amos Alonzo Stagg contributed much to the development of the sport and remains a football legend. He entered Yale in 1884 as a divinity student which qualified him for a reduction in tuition from $50.00 to $39.80 per semester. He was a natural athlete whose skill on the baseball diamond was a major factor in his admission.

He joined the fledgling football team and after graduation in 1888 became football coach at Springfield College (Mass.). In 1892 he became athletic director and football coach at the University of Chicago, remaining there for the next 41 years. His age forced him to retire, but he was not done coaching. In 1933 he became a coach at the College of the Pacific and left that post in 1947 at the age of 85. But wait, he's not done yet, for in that same year he becomes an assistant coach at Susquehanna University (Pa.) and does not go into final retirement until 1952 at the age of 90.

During his long career, Coach Stagg helped codify the rules of football and introduced several innovative plays such as the lateral pass and the man in motion. He was elected to the Football Hall of Fame as a player and a coach in its inaugural year.

"There were no coaches, trainers, rubbers, or even a water boy."

Amos Stagg published his memoirs of early football in 1927. We join his story after his admission to Yale:

"The recruiting officers already were at work, it will be seen, and not always so unobjectionably, apparently, for in 1881 the intercollegiate convention had agreed to bar players whose college expenses were paid.

Months before, I had written President Noah Porter, of Yale, and in due time he had answered
me personally in his own hand. ‘To good scholars the college has given from the Ellsworth Fund $175 a year,’ President Porter wrote. ‘Beyond this the college, as such, can do little or nothing; but opportunities for self-help present themselves and are soon discovered by those who keep their eyes open to discern them.’

I arrived at Yale in September, 1884, and turned out for the squad. The college bought its first athletic field that year ...Paying good money for a playground caused talk and revived faculty criticism of the attention being given to athletics.

Prof. E. L. Richards, who promoted the present Yale gym, dug into the records on his own initiative, proved that disciplinary cases had decreased sharply and progressively since 1875, and silenced the conservatives.

The old gym was a primitive thing where freshmen were marshaled in street dress and forced to swing Indian clubs and dumbbells. No bath followed and the drill probably did as much harm as good. One of the joys of growing to sophomore stature was escaping the gym...

There were no coaches, trainers, rubbers, or even a water boy. Occasional graduated players were drifting back to advise the football team, but the captain still was a captain, not a coach’s foreman. He chose the team, ran it, and was not always above playing favorites.

Once elected, he was answerable to no one. Walter Camp was in business in New Haven and interested in the team, of course. Once under Camp’s captaincy the Yale squad came near dissolving in mid-season over a quarrel between the forwards and the backs. Camp and his fellow backs favored the newer running mass style of play. The rush line was unanimous naturally for the old open, kicking, passing, individual running game in which they could be as spectacular as the backs.

Camp was particularly fearful of a muddy field for the Thanksgiving Day game with Princeton, with Eaton and Fred Remington, heavy ends, and insisted on drilling the line in mass formations. The line revolted. That night Camp summoned the squad to his room in Durfee Hall, told them that the responsibility was his, that he either would run the team or get off, resigned and left the room. Ten minutes of heated debate followed. The rush line was as little convinced as ever, but so disturbed at the threatened loss of Camp’s leadership that they coaxed him back. Camp led the eleven against Princeton and won, but Yale played the old open game.
Camp resigned another time. There were no training rules or training table, but the squad had pledged themselves not to leave the campus for ten days before the Princeton game, and to be in bed by eleven each night.

Catching Johnny Moorehead sneaking back from the theater one night late, Camp called every man out of bed and quit on the spot. Moorehead offered his own resignation instead, and Camp reconsidered. As Moorehead played in the Princeton game, he seems to have been restored to grace.

At Princeton as early as 1879 the students had so criticized the football squad for smoking that the players gradually gave up tobacco during the season.

* * * *

WHICH TEAM IS THE BEST?
NCAA DIVISION I-AA (1978-2007)

By Patrick M. Premo

In the previous issue, we saw 1969 North Dakota St. capture the College Division (1958-1974) all-time best crown. 1969 North Dakota St. then battled the NAIA

In those years at Princeton the team customarily practiced at noon and jog-trotted half a mile to a mile at sundown. A full three-quarters of-an-hour period of continuous playing against the scrubs was Yale's daily practice, and injuries were disregarded. There was no freshman rule, but no particular attempt was made to interest the incoming class. Two or three dependable substitutes were all that a team thought of needing. The freshman who made the varsity was either a natural player or had played in prep school. The bulk of the newcomers never had seen the game. If they turned out, they were expected to teach themselves.

References:
Amos Stagg's account appears in: Stagg, Amos Alonzo, Touchdown! (1927); Hill, Dean, Football thru the Years (1940).

I Champ from 1970-1996, 1976 Texas A&I, but lost 28-34. 1976 Texas A&I continued to advance in the Champions Round. This issue will feature NCAA Division I-AA teams from 1978 through 2007. As I stated previously, I am using Tex Noel's rankings to pair these champions, with the proviso that no individual school is represented more than once in each tournament.

THE FIELD:

1. 1996 Marshall
16. 1988 Furman
ROUND ONE:

1994 Youngstown St. could not hold off 1981 Idaho St., losing 32-46. 1984 Montana St. and 2003 Delaware staged a very exciting game. With time running out, Delaware scored a touchdown to tie the game at 41 all, but then missed the extra point that would have won it. In overtime, Delaware won the coin toss and deferred to Montana St. which scored a touchdown. Delaware could not score, thus allowing 1984 Montana St. to pull off a mild upset, defeating 2003 Delaware 48-41. 2006 Appalachian St. had little trouble with 2002 Western Kentucky, winning 31-21. 1995 Montana had a very close game with 2004 James Madison, but eked out a 42-37 win. 1987 NE Louisiana could not stop 1978 Florida A&M, but gave them a tough game before losing 38-41. 1982 Eastern Kentucky defeated 1983 Southern Illinois, 42-35, by scoring a late touchdown to win in a slight upset. The first major upset of this tournament came when the fifteen seed, 1980 Boise St., stunned the number 2 seed, 1999 Georgia Southern, by kicking a game winning field goal as time ran out and won 35-33.

ROUND TWO:

1981 Idaho St. gave 1996 Marshall all it could handle and seemed to have the game in the bag, but Marshall intercepted a pass near the end of the game and ran it back to score the go-ahead and winning touchdown, 34-29. 1984 Montana St. could not pull off another upset as 2006 Appalachian St. won a very close game, 34-31. 1978 Florida A&M delivered an upset of 1994 Montana 43-42. 1982 Eastern Kentucky ended the Cinderella run of 1980 Boise St., easily winning, 35-21.

ROUND THREE:

1996 Marshall defeated 2006 Appalachian St., 45-35, in a game that was not as close as the score seemed; Appalachian St.
scored a late and rather meaningless touchdown. In another game that was not as close as the score indicated, 1982 Eastern Kentucky seed 1978 Florida A&M, 32-24, and advanced to the Championship game against 1996 Marshall.

THIRD PLACE:


CHAMPIONSHIP:

1982 Eastern Kentucky’s luck ran out as the number one seed, 1996 Marshall, dominated and won 42-27.

CHAMPIONS ROUND:

1976 Texas A&I, the NAIA Division I champ, was a slight underdog against 1996 Marshall, the NCAA Division I-AA winner. The game pretty much played out that way as Texas was finally dethroned, 38-42, by 1996 Marshall who now advances in the Champions Round.

NEXT MONTH:

In the next couple of issues we shall feature the Major College teams from 1883 through 2007.

Since I am using Tex’s ratings, he has requested that I conduct two tournaments: 1883-1936 teams and then 1936-2007 teams. The winners of each of those tournaments will then play to determine the best Major College Team of all-time.

And the winner of that tournament will take on 1996 Marshall, the NCAA 1-AA champion, to determine the best college team of all-time, regardless of division.

See you then!

EPILOGUE:

Remember, if you were to conduct these tournaments again using my FAST-ACTION COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOARD GAME, your results will most likely vary. Just as in real life, when two teams play one another twice (or more) in the same season, the results are not always the same. [NOTE: As I mentioned in the last issue, after 40 years of designing and distributing sports board games, I have decided to discontinue operations. Annual updates will no longer be prepared. My web site features a half-price close-out sale (except the computer games) that will be on a first-come, first serve basis. Some games are in very short supply; in fact, the Major League Baseball game is already sold out. My web site address is: members.tripod.com/newaction. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at pmpremo@gmail.com.]
In honor of...

Recent Respective Schools Hall of Fame or Ring of Honor inductees:

**Miami (Fla.)**—RB Edgerrin James, QB Jim Kelly, DT Cortez Kennedy, C Jim Otto and QB Gino Torretta...

**Texas A&M**—R. C. Slocum, its winningest football coach...

**Rutgers**—DB Ron Allen...

**Baylor**—Ray Crockett and former AD Tom Stanton...

**Kansas State**—retired head coach Bill Snyder and

**New Mexico State**—Pervis Atkins, Denis Manns and Walt Williams

Retired Numbers...

**SMU** had retired the uniform number of Don Meredith...

**Princeton** will honor 1951 Heisman Trophy winner and NFF Hall of Famer Dick Kazmaier.

Coaches Receiving Awards...

- John Gagliardi (St. John’s, Minn.) was named the 2009 recipient of AFCA’s Amos Alonzo Stagg Award

- New Georgia State head football coach, standout center at Georgia Tech and television commentator Bill Curry has been named as winner of the 2008 President Gerald R. Ford Legends Award

Team Notables...

- Southern California won its 400th victory at Los Angeles Coliseum against Arizona State, on Oct. 11.

- Western Michigan captured its 500th victory, Saturday Oct 4

- Oklahoma recently became the first college football team to score 30,000 points all-time.

- West Virginia honored its 1988 Fiesta Bowl team, the only Mountaineer team to play for a national championship, prior to its game against Rutgers.

- TCU celebrated its 40th annual Frog Club Hall of Fame Class with additions of football standouts W.C. Nix, Dr. John Richards and the remaining members of the 1938 TCU national championship squad not already admitted to the school’s Hall of Fame. Six members of the ’38 squad attended the celebration.

In Memory of...

- Charles Walemon "Cotton" Price, 90, quarterback of the 1939
national champion Texas A&M...Dick Lynch, 72, linebacker at Notre Dame...Bert Robinson, 86, San Jose State HB...Wally Hilgenberg, 66, lineman at Iowa...Plato Gus Andros, 86, guard at Oklahoma...Dom Rosselli, 93, former assistant football coach for 21 seasons at Youngstown State...Bill "Moose" Matthews, 73, former assistant AD at Virginia Tech from 1964-86...Craig Fertig, 66, Southern California QB great...John Godfrey, 87, head coach at Whittier (Calif.) from 1960-79.*Larry Birleffi, 90, former voice of the Wyoming Cowboys.

* * *

From Bob Kirlin...

Was Alabama of 1961 college football's greatest team? Well, compared to a team of today, they would be outweighed by at least one hundred pounds per man. They were an all-white segregated team who would not play an integrated opponent. And they did not play two-platoon football since the rules did not allow it. Have you ever thought about the disadvantages of a one-platoon football team, trying to play against a two-platoon team?


And how would they win? By forfeit. These Southern teams would not play against integrated opponents. Suppose you had a national championship game and one team didn’t show up!


Then once again Dodd took his team to a bowl game. It was back to the Sugar Bowl for the fourth time, to play Pittsburgh, winner of the Lambert Trophy as Eastern Champion. Though outgained by as good margin, 311 yards to 142, and having failed to complete one of its three passes it launched, Tech won the game, 7-0, to maintain its perfect bowl record in six appearances under Dodd. A pass interference penalty
called against Bobby Grier of Pittsburgh, the first Negro to play in the Sugar Bowl, led to the only touchdown of the game. It gave Tech, which had recovered a fumble on Pitt’s 33-yard line before throwing the pass, the ball on the 1-yard line, and quarterback Wade Mitchell carried it over.

Because of Greer’s presence on the Pitt team, the Governor of Georgia had called on the state board of regents to bar Tech from playing in the Sugar Bowl game. After the governor had been burned in effigy by rioting Tech students, the regents permitted the Engineers to go through with their commitment but took steps to prevent any state team in the future from taking part in games in the South where segregation customs were not carried out.

In conclusion, Bob said "The above was inspired by the College Football Historian/Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association issue Volume one, Number four: Best All-Time NCAA College Football Team by Mo Johnson, SEC Sportsfan.com stating that 1961 Alabama was the best NCAA college football team.

* * * *

THIS MONTH’S HISTORICAL INSIGHT...
College Football’s version of: *Been there, saw that, wrote this about it!*

The Funny side of football

By George Jean Nathan

FELL WITH ALL HIS WEIGHT ON WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE THE BALL, BUT WHAT IN REALITY WAS THE HEAD OF HIS TEAM-MATE.

"Ned" Torney, one of the best football players at Cornell in the

Consecutive Community College/Junior College Record for Consecutive Losses

College of Marin a community college in California established the National Junior/Community College record for consecutive defeats, with its 42-27 setback to West Valley College. The game was played Oct. 4.

A 35-31 loss to San Jose City College made it 50 losses in-a-row, tying the standard of Coahoma Community College of Clarksdale, Miss which was winless between 1978-84.
late nineties, was extremely nearsighted.

During a fierce scrimmage in a game in the season of 1899, he ran madly down the field and fell with all his weight on what he believed to be the ball but what in reality was the head of Frank Porter, his team-mate, encased in a leather head-guard. Porter's nose was broken and as a result of Torney's falling on the "ball" the Cornell team lost an able player for several weeks.

On another occasion, during a game with Lafayette, Torney, after receiving the ball, became confused and started at top speed for his own goal line.

The Lafayette players, naturally allowed him to keep on, making feeble attempts to tackle him in order to urge him all the faster. "Tar" Young, one of Torney's fellow players, dashed after him when he saw what the nearsighted man was about to do and a beautiful race resulted between the Cornell man who was trying his level best to score a touchdown against his own team and the other Cornell man who was trying to stop him.

Two yards from the goal line, Young finally caught up with Torney, tackled him, and then told him what he had been about to do.

* * *

Outing, by J. Parmly Paret
1898 December (as is)

PRINCETON, 6; YALE, 0.

The annual game between Yale and Princeton was held this year at Princeton, November 12th, at the new Brokaw Field, and resulted in a victory for Princeton by 6 to 0, exactly the same score as that of Yale on her home grounds last year.

Arthur Poe, the right end of the Tigers, was the bright, particular star of the game, and the only score of the game was due to his quickness and a fumble by one of the Yale backs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Princeton</th>
<th>Positions</th>
<th>Yale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poe</td>
<td>right—end—left</td>
<td>Eddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillebrand</td>
<td>right—tackle—left</td>
<td>Stillman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>right—guard—left</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth</td>
<td>center</td>
<td>Cutten</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The College Football Historian

Geer . . . . . . . . . . . . . left—tackle—right . . . . . . . . . . . . . Chamberlain
Crowdis . . . . . . . . . . . . . left—guard—right . . . . . . . . . . . . . Marshall
Palmer . . . . . . . . . . . . . left—end—right . . . . . . . . . . . . . Coy
Duncan . . . . . . . . . . . quarter-back . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . De Saulles
Kafer . . . . . . . . . . . right—half-back—left . . . . . . . . . . . . . Durston
Beardsley. . . . . . . . . . left—half-back—right . . . . . . . Benjamin
Ayres. . . . . . . . . . . full-back . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . McBride

Princeton substituted Mills for Crowdis, Hutchinson for Duncan, Black for Beardsley, and Wheeler for Kafer.

Yale substituted Ely for De Saulles, Townsend for Durston, and Corwin for Benjamin.

* * *

Bo Carter Reports on the first decade (1998-2007) of the BCS Poll

Florida, Michigan, Texas, and Virginia Tech appeared in at least one BCS Standings every year since 1998. Florida State made each year’s Standings from 1998-2005 before not being included on any 2006 or ‘07 worksheets.

Texas is the first school to be included in 60 different surveys and has appeared in 69 of the first 76 standings (91 percent). Florida is next with 68 appearances through the 2007 season.

Top 12 Schools by Appearance (Through Dec. 2, 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Appearance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hawai‘i, Rutgers, Tulsa, and Wake Forest all made their first appearances in the Standings in 2006 to bring the total representation to 72 schools.

Cincinnati, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, and USF in 2007 raised the tally to 77 of 119 current total FBS members.

Oklahoma has been one of most active “latecomers” to the Standings. After not being among the Top 15 in either 1998 or ‘99, the Sooners have been in 60 polls since Oct. 2000 and have been No. 1 on a record 18 occasions. They are tied for fourth in total BCS standings’ appearances with Virginia Tech.

**Appearances at No. 1 (through 2007):** Oklahoma 18; Southern California 15; Ohio State 14; Florida State 7; Miami (Fla.) 7; Nebraska 5; Tennessee 5, LSU 2, Missouri 1, Texas 1; UCLA 1 – total of 11 schools.

**All-time appearances at No. 2 (through 2007):** Miami (Fla.) 9; Oklahoma 9; Ohio State 7; Southern California 7; Texas 7; Florida State 5; Michigan 5; Virginia Tech 5; UCLA 4; LSU 3; Tennessee 3; Boston College 2; Florida 2; Nebraska 2; Oregon 2, Penn State 2; USF 1; Kansas 1, West Virginia 1 – 19 schools.


**No. 1 By Conferences (memberships at the time of standings through 2007)** – ACC, 7; Big East, 7; Big Ten, 14; Big 12, 25; Pac-10, 16; SEC, 7.

**Total Appearances by Conference (through 2007):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Total Appearances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big East</td>
<td>111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Ten</td>
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<td>C-USA</td>
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<td>MAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWC</td>
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<td>SEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAC</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Schools Represented by Conferences (through 2007):**


**Florida State**
1999: 10/25; 11/1; 11/8; 11/15; 11/22; 11/29; 12/5
The Lynn “Pappy” Waldorff Award will be awarded for the first time in 2008; honoring the Walk-on Player of the Year.

Five members of IFRA are part of the 88-man selection committee.

The winner will be announced in a future issue of The College Football Historian.

Greatest Football Players of the first half of the 20th Century*

*Selected by the Associated Press in 1950

Jim Thorpe (Carlisle), Red Grange (Illinois), Bronko Nagurski (Minnesota), Ernie Nevers (Stanford), Sammy Baugh (TCU), Don Hutson (Alabama), George Gipp (Notre Dame), Charlie Trippi, (Georgia), Sid Luckman (Columbia), Steve Van Buren (LSU), Willie Heston (Michigan), and Chick Harley (Ohio State).