Football Days

Memories of the Game and of the Men behind the Ball © 1900

By William H. Edwards

This anecdote will be a good one for Parke Davis’ friends to read, for how he ever stayed out of that talk-fest is a mystery—maybe he did.

Now that Yost and Sanford have retired we will let Parke continue.

"A few years ago everybody except Dartmouth men laughed at the football which, bounding along the ground at Princeton suddenly jumped over the cross bar and gave to Princeton a goal from the field which carried with it the victory. But did you ever hear that in the preceding season, in a game between two Southern Pennsylvania colleges, a ball went awry from a drop kick, striking in the chest a policeman who had strayed upon the field? The ball rebounded and cleanly caromed between the goal post for a goal from the field. Years ago Lafayette and Pennsylvania State College were waging a close game at Easton. Suddenly, and without being noticed, Morton F. Jones, Lafayette’s famous center-rush in those days, left the field of play to change his head gear. The ball was snapped in play and a fleet Penn State halfback broke through Lafayette’s line, and, armed with the ball, dodged the second barriers and threatened by a dashing sprint to score in the extreme corner of the field. As he reached the 10-yard line, to the amazement of all, Jones dashed out of the side line crowd upon the field between the 10-yard line and his goal, thereby intercepting the State halfback, tackling him so sharply that the latter dropped the ball. Jones picked it up and ran it back 40 yards. There was no rule at that time which prevented the play, and so Penn-State ultimately was defeated.

Jones not only was a hero, but his exploit long remained a mystery to many who endeavored to figure out how he could have been 25 yards
ahead of the ball and between the runner and his own goal line."

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*          *          *

IFRA member Ron Smith’s latest book (on college athletic reform), *PAY FOR PLAY: A HISTORY OF BIG-TIME COLLEGE ATHLETIC REFORM*, will be published by the University of Illinois Press this fall.

The book traces attempts at college athletic reform from 1855 through the early twenty-first century, while analyzing the different roles played by students, faculty, conferences, university presidents, the NCAA, the federal legislature, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

*PAY FOR PLAY* tackles critically important questions about eligibility, compensation, recruiting, sponsorship, and rules enforcement. It discusses reasons for reform such as to combat corruption, to level the playing field, and to make sports more accessible to minorities and women.

I have tried to explain why attempts at change have often failed as institutions and the NCAA have difficulty balancing the principles of amateurism with the need to draw income from the various sports, especially football.

The book also contains a lengthy timeline of major reform efforts since 1855.

The book may be ordered from the University of Illinois Press:

Phone: 800-621-2736
FAX: 800-621-8476
Online: [www.press.illinois.edu](http://www.press.illinois.edu)
Mail: Customer Service, Chicago Distribution Center, 110-30 South Langley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628

*          *          *

Thanks to IFRA member, Richard Topp for making us aware of this game. He sent a PDF of the game for another reason and this event was “discovered” when reading the paper’s dateline.

THE MUSKOGEE TIMES – DEMOCRAT, OCTOBER 7 (1916)

BIGGEST SCORE YET

Edmond, Okla. Oct. 7. – Football authorities of Oklahoma Central Normal here believe the score rolled up against Oklahoma Methodist university (sic) here yesterday 183 to 0 is the largest on record. During the game twenty-seven touchdowns were made by Central Normal.

TCFH Editor’s note: By the end of the games played on the date shown above; a new record for most point scored by as school in a game was established by Georgia Tech in its defeated Cumberland, Tenn., 222-0.

Worth noting: Georgia Tech has 29 total touchdowns; Oklahoma Central Normal, 27 (source: Stars of an Earlier Autumn)
The College Football Historian

* * *

(Sandusky Register, Oct. 18, 1967)

JIM MURRAY

Truth Is Told
On Flip Side

Football coaches have a new wrinkle — a recording. You dial a number and get a lot of canned comments on the hopes or performances of his team.

We would like to bring you today the, so to speak, flip side of that record — what the quote really means. On the left is the quote; in parenthesis is the common English meaning: "They sprang some new offensive and defensive alignments on us." — ("They blocked and tackled.")

"We never lost our poise." — ("Our guys were nonchalant when we started and still nonchalant when the score was 63-0 against us. What we really never lost was our indifference.")

"He'll give you 150 per cent on every play." — ("If you don't mind, I'd rather have Dick Bass giving 50 per cent — we'd come out way ahead.")

"We made too many mistakes out there." — ("Like scheduling them in the first place. We got a good, game athletic director. Compared to our schedule, the Christians vs. the lions was a tossup.")

"I'll have to see the films." ("Who am I kidding? I don't even want to see that game in stills.")"We didn't win, but we weren't out-hit."—("Too bad it wasn't the Golden Gloves.")

"This team has a lot of desire." — ("What it desires is more ability.")

"You can't single out any one boy because it's hard to see the game down on the field."— ("Particularly if your team is flat on its back all day.")

"We have to plug up some holes in our defense." — ("Eleven, to be exact.")

"I know one thing — this is a hungry team." — ("If you don't think so, ask the chef. They ate a whole herd last week.")

"We didn't recruit that boy because he didn't fit our Image." — ("Besides, he broke the rope and got away. Anyway, for him to get our signals, our quarterback would have to learn to growl.")

"Our quarterback is exceptional at reading a defense." —("I'd feel better if he could read a book — it would be easier to keep him eligible.")

"*I told our boys they put their pants on one leg at a time, same as
we do." — ("No, they don’t. They cut the back of them with a razor so they’ll fit over those 25-inch calves. What I should say about those studs is they put their pants on one hoof at a time.")

"Do we pay any attention to polls? Not any more than anyone else." — ("Not any more than President Johnson, for instance.")

"I expect a clean, hard-fought game." — ("Personally, I’d rather watch a broken beer-bottle fight. When you get down on their 5-yard-line the most legal thing they do is bite.")

"May the better team win." — ("No, I’d much rather MY team won and if we’re better than them, someone slipped me the wrong set of movies.")

http://www/pophistorydig.com/?p=785

PopHistoryDig.com, December 21, 2008.

“Slingin’ Sammy Baugh” 1930s-1950s
By Jack Doyle

Passing From the “T”

Sammy Baugh began his career with the Redskins as a tailback, playing from the single-wing and double-wing formations. Baugh was responsible for passing and punting, while another back, Riley Smith, handled the play-calling duties. But all that began to change in the 1940s when the Redskins and other teams began to adopt the T-formation. In this formation, the quarterback became a more central figure, taking responsibility for both play-calling and passing, giving the quarterback full control of the offense. And this is where Baugh excelled – making the forward pass a more a designed-in part of the game, played from the line scrimmage. With the “T” formation and passing now part of the planned attack, Baugh helped bring a more exciting form of play to the pro game. From 1940 to 1949, Sammy Baugh led the league in passing five times. Together with his passing championship from his rookie season, Baugh would claim six career passing titles; a feat only equaled by Steve Young of the San Francisco 49ers in the 1990s.

Baugh would direct the team to four division titles and two NFL championships in 1937 and 1942. In a career spanning 162 games, he threw 1,693 completed passes in 2,995 attempts, a 56.5 percent completion rate. He totaled some 21,886 passing yards and 187 touchdowns. At the time of Baugh’s retirement, he held a number of NFL and Washington Redskin records, some of which still stand at this writing.

Baugh played his entire 16-year career with the Washington Redskins through the 1952 season. But in Washington, he also had a few bad games, the most notorious of which was the 73-0 drubbing by
the Chicago Bears for the 1940 championship. He was pulled out of the game to spare him embarrassment, after completing 9 of 16 passes for a total of 91 yards with 2 interceptions. But two years later, Baugh and the Redskins took some satisfaction in stopping Chicago’s perfect season, then at 11-0 until Washington beat them 14-6 in the championship game. In 1945, Baugh compiled his best statistical season, completing 128 of 182 attempts for 1,669 yards and a 70.3 percent completion average – an NFL record that stood for decades before being surpassed in 1982 by Ken Anderson of the Cincinnati Bengals who posted a completion rate of 70.6 percent. One of Baugh’s most impressive games came fittingly on “Sammy Baugh Day” in 1947 when he threw six touchdown passes against the Chicago Cardinals. But by all accounts, Baugh worked hard at his craft, as it was said that in practice he liked to complete 100 consecutive passes before leaving for the day, and missing one, he’d start again.

**All-Around Player**

In his professional football career, Sammy Baugh was an all-around athlete. In an era when players played both offense and defense, before the days of free substitution, Sammy Baugh played defensive safety, and did well at the position. He was not shy of contact either, taking down the toughest runners of the day, including the likes of Bronco Nagurski. “He had that tough, prairie strength,” says NFL historian Steve Sabol. “He was a leathery kind of guy.”

Baugh’s agility and quarterback sense made him an excellent aerial defender, and he shares a defensive record to this day of making four interceptions in one game. In 1940, he intercepted 11 passes in just 10 games, which *Washington Post* columnist Thomas Boswell has singled out as especially noteworthy. “How good is that?,” says Boswell, adding that “no NFL player has intercepted 11 passes since 1981 and the last man to have more than an interception per game was Night Train Lane in 1952.” In 1943, Sammy was one of the few players to win a rare pro football “triple crown” distinction in offensive, defensive, and special teams categories — passing, punting, and interceptions. In 1943 he completed 133 of 239 attempted passes for 1,754 yards and 23 touchdowns. In punting, his 50 kicks averaged 45.9 yards for a total 2,295 yards. And he also led the league that year in interceptions with eleven. Baugh is the only player ever to lead the league in offensive, defensive and special teams categories. As a passer, he was known for his ability to accurately connect with his receivers over long and short distances in the face of onrushing defensive linemen. In nine seasons — 1937, 1940, 1942, 1943 and 1945-49 — he led the NFL in completion percentage. Sammy also passed for six touchdowns in a single game on two occasions – once
in October 1943 and again in November 1947.

After retiring as a player in 1952, Baugh returned to his 7,600-acre ranch in Rotan, Texas, about 95 miles south of Lubbock. Although ranching would become a major part of his life thereafter, he also stayed involved with football. In 1955, Baugh began five years of college coaching at Hardin-Simmons College at Abilene, Texas. He was also a coach of freshman football at Oklahoma State University and a backfield coach at the University of Tulsa. In 1960 and 1961 he was head coach of the New York Titans of the new American Football League – the team that would later become the New York Jets. In 1964, he became head coach of the Houston Oilers, posting a 4-10 record and decided he needed to focus on his West Texas cattle operation. In November 1993, during a pre-game ceremony at a TCU football game, the university retired Baugh’s No. 45 college jersey. His No. 33 Washington Redskins jersey was also retired, and is the only one the Washington organization has retired to date. And each year since 1959, the Sammy Baugh Trophy has been awarded to the nation’s top collegiate passer.

But Sammy Baugh, despite his one year of film acting, or even his stardom as a football player, was never much into being a celebrity. After retiring from football, he stayed out the limelight for the most part, and lived a pretty modest life in west Texas. Washington Post columnist Thomas Boswell would later write that every decade or so, reporters would journey to Texas to seek Sammy out for an update. “They always found him a gentleman,” said Boswell, a fellow who told stories punctuated by a single “hell” or “damn,” but otherwise, was a model of restraint.

Although there was a flurry of activity around him in 1994 when the NFL selected him to its 75th anniversary all-time team. In September of that year he “stole the show,” according to some, with his “hysterical frankness and salty language” on the TNT cable TV special, 75 Seasons: The Story of the NFL.

Baugh had married his college sweetheart, Edmonia Smith, of Sweetwater, Texas in 1938. They had five children, followed by 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His wife died in 1990, and he lost a son in 2006. But Baugh himself lived to the age of 94, when he died of kidney failure and pneumonia. The doctor said his body just wore out.

“Changed The Game”

Sammy Baugh was inducted to the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1963, a charter member, along with George Halas, Bronko Nagurski, Red Grange, Jim Thorpe, Curly Lambeau and about ten others. But only
Halas and Baugh were selected unanimously. Sammy’s Hall of Fame profile calls him a “premier passer” who influenced the game’s great offensive revolution. “When Baugh first started with the Redskins,” says the profile, “pro football was largely a grind-it-out ground game. The forward pass was something to be used with caution. By the time Baugh was through, the forward pass was a primary offensive weapon. Obviously, such a change could not be totally brought about by one individual. But Baugh was the catalyst that changed the game. No one had seen a passer who could throw with such accuracy.”

Putting some perspective on this accomplishment, *Washington Post* sports columnist Thomas Boswell observes: “What Babe Ruth’s home runs did for baseball in the early 1920s, Baugh’s bombs did for the NFL in the late ’30s.” In 1936, the season before Baugh arrived; the average NFL team scored 11.9 points a game and completed 5.6 passes.

“The NFL completion percentage was 36.5. The entire sport threw only 67 scoring passes. As a rookie, starting only five games, Sammy Baugh broke the NFL completion record with 81. By 1940, he was completing 62.7 percent of his passes.” Before Baugh came,” says Boswell, “only one man ever passed for 1,000 yards in a season. By 1947, Baugh completed 210 passes for 2,938 yards... If Ruth [in baseball] quadrupled the prevailing view of how many home runs were possible in a season, then Baugh tripled the notion of how much yardage a team could gain through the air.” Baugh was a trendsetter, who influenced other great quarterbacks of his day, including Sid Luckman in 1942 and Otto Graham in 1946, who also helped move the game into its modern era.

For those who saw him play, Sammy Baugh remains one of the game’s best. Said legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice in 1942: “Sammy happens to be just about the most valuable football player of all time, according to most pro coaches I’ve talked to.” In the 1990s, sportswriter Dan Jenkins a Fort Worth, Texas native who saw Baugh play at Texas Christian University and as a pro, called him “the greatest quarterback who ever lived, college or pro.” Steve Sabol, president of NFL Films and a noted football historian told the *Washington Post*’s Michael Wilbon about an experience he had as a young boy seeing Sammy play:

“I was 9 years old and my father took me to Shibe Park in Philadelphia to see the Eagles play the Redskins. It was 1951. My dad said: ‘See the man wearing Number“
The College Football Historian

33? That’s Sammy Baugh.’ That’s all he said.”

“It was like pointing out the Empire State Building, the Washington Monument or Niagara Falls. That’s Sammy Baugh.’ That’s all that needed to be said to anyone who followed pro football in the 1940s and early 1950s.”

** Dates of birth/death College Football Hall of Famers for October **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (1900)</td>
<td>Mal Aldrich</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Fall River</td>
<td>Mass.</td>
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<td>1 (1911)</td>
<td>Herman Hickman</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Johnson City</td>
<td>Tenn.</td>
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<td>2 (1909)</td>
<td>Joe Kendall</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Owensboro</td>
<td>Ky.</td>
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<td>2 (1922)</td>
<td>Bill Swiacki</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Southbridge</td>
<td>Mass.</td>
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<td>2 (1939)</td>
<td>Bob Schloredt</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Deadwood</td>
<td>S.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (1948)</td>
<td>Chuck Dicus</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Odessa</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<td>3 (1902)</td>
<td>Lynn “Pappy” Waldorf</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Clifton Springs</td>
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<td>3 (d – 1936)</td>
<td>John Heisman</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>New York City</td>
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<td>4 (1917)</td>
<td>Bowden Wyatt</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
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<td>Roger Harring</td>
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<td>Green Bay</td>
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<td>4 (1934)</td>
<td>Sam Huff</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Edna</td>
<td>W.Va.</td>
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<td>Bill Corbus</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
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<td>5 (1921)</td>
<td>Bill Willis</td>
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<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>5 (1937)</td>
<td>Barry Switzer</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Crossett</td>
<td>Ark.</td>
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<td>5 (1958)</td>
<td>Ken Margerum</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Fountain Valley</td>
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<td>5 (d – 1979)</td>
<td>Ken Strong</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>New York, N.Y.</td>
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<td>6 (1902)</td>
<td>George Pfann</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Marion</td>
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<td>6 (1925)</td>
<td>Bob Fenimore</td>
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<td>Les Richter</td>
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<td>6 (1963)</td>
<td>Napoleon McCallum</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<td>7 (1878)</td>
<td>Andy Kerr</td>
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<td>Cheyenne</td>
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<td>Vaughn Mancha</td>
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<td>Wallace Wade</td>
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<td>Durham, N.C.</td>
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<td>D.X. Bible</td>
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<td>Lawrence “Biff” Jones</td>
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<td>Cotton Warburton</td>
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<td>San Diego, Calif.</td>
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<td>8 (1956)</td>
<td>Johnnie Johnson</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>LaGrange, Texas</td>
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<td>Walter Steffen</td>
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<td>Hank Lauricella</td>
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<td>Harahan, La.</td>
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<td>Mike Singletary</td>
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<td>Walter Gordon</td>
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<td>Atlanta, Ga.</td>
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<td>Frank Sinkwich</td>
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<td>Dwayne Nix</td>
<td>1946</td>
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<td>Dutch Clark</td>
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<td>Fowler</td>
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<td>LaVell Edwards</td>
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<td>Orem</td>
<td>Utah</td>
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<td>11 (1961)</td>
<td>Steve Young</td>
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<td>Salt Lake City</td>
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<td>11 (1965)</td>
<td>Chris Spielman</td>
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<td>Massillon</td>
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<td>Truxton Hare</td>
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<td>Harry Stuhldreher</td>
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<td>Billy Joe</td>
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<td>D.D. Lewis</td>
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<td>Chris Gilbert</td>
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<td>Charlie McClendon</td>
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<td>Don Coryell</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
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The College Football Historian

17 (1957) Steve McMichael, Houston, Texas
17-(d – 1971) Eddie Rogers, Minneapolis, Minn.
17-(d – 1987) Peter Pund, Darien, Conn.
18 (1902) Charlie Berry, Phillipsburg, N.J.
18 (1914) Joe Routt, Chapel Hill, Texas
18 (1939) Mike Ditka, Carnegie, Pa.
18-(d - 1895) Winchester Osgood, In Combat in Cuba
19 (1911) Max Starcevich, Centerville, Iowa
19 (1963) Jim Dombrowski, Williamsville, N.Y.
19-(d – 1941) Hector Cowan, Stamford, N.Y.
20 (1965) Chad Hennings, Elberton, Iowa
22 (1923) Pete Pihos, Orlando, Fla.
22-(d – 1975) Dan McMillan, USC/Cal, Location Unknown
23 (1869) John Heisman, Cleveland, Ohio
23 (1894) Edward Mylin, Leaman Place, Pa.
23 (1914) Bruiser Kinard, Pelahatchie, Miss.
23 (1951) Tom Brahaney, Midland, Texas
23 (1962) Doug Flutie, Manchester, Md.
24 (1932) J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma City, Okla.
24 (1932) Johnny Lattner, Chicago, Ill.
24 (1962) Jay Novacek, Martin, S.D.
25 (1878) Bill Reid, San Francisco, Calif.
25 (1921) Bob Steuber, Wenonah, N.J.
25 (1954) Giff Nielsen, Provo, Utah
25 (1964) Pat Swilling, Toccoa, Ga.
25-(d – 1980) Herb Stein, Rocky River, Ohio
26 (1911) Sid Gillman, Minneapolis, Minn.
26 (1913) Sam Francis, Dunbar, Neb.
26 (1929) Jim Weatherall, Graham, Okla.
26 (1963) Tony Casillas, Tulsa, Okla.
26-(d - 1990) Harry Wilson, Rochester, N.Y.
27 (1927) Kyle Rote, Bellevue, Texas
27-(d – 1924) Percy Haughton, New York City
29 (1881) John DeWitt, Phillipsburg, N.J.
29 (1923) Barney Poole, Gloster, Miss.
30 (1888) Leroy Mercer, Kennett Square, Pa.
30 (1931) Ad Rutschman, Hillsboro, Ore.
30 (1950) Jim LeClair, St. Paul, Minn.
30 (1958) Joe Delaney, Henderson, Texas
31 (1880) Charlie Daly, Roxbury, Mass.
31 (1897) Wilbur Henry, Mansfield, Ohio

*          *          *

The 1969 Red River Shootout

By Sam Negus

This story originally appeared in Sam’s Blog, Prolate Spheroid (http://pigskinhistory.blogspot.com/); Dedicated to the history of the college game.

It took the Texas Longhorns just nine seconds to open the scoring in a home romp over an overmatched Navy team in Austin on Saturday October 4th 1969. Darrell Royal’s boys had not lost since a trip to Lubbock in September 1968. Senior quarterback James Street had not lost any of his ten games as a starter. Texas was already 2-0 after
easy victories by a combined score of 66-7 at Cal and versus Texas Tech, two squads who would both finish the year 5-5. Standout halfback Jim Bertelsen fired off a 43-yard touchdown run on UT’s first play from scrimmage. As he burst from behind his blocker into the Midshipmen secondary a defensive back had the inside angle for a tackle but Bertelsen stepped on the gas and disappeared. From that point on the game was only a matter of numbers.

Royal pulled his starters from the game permanently after only nineteen minutes. The Horns’ first string offense had been on the field only a totally of 6:29 but posted four touchdowns - all on the ground. Street ran for a score himself and threw only a single pass, which he completed to his favorite (and virtually only) target Cotton Speyrer. Texas’ other first team halfback Ted Koy also ran for two scores.

That was Texas football under Darrell Royal. An all-America selection as defensive back and quarter back at Oklahoma, Royal played for Bud Wilkinson from 1946 to 1949. He was present at the start of Wilkinson’s incredible run as head coach in Norman. The Sooners dominated not just Texas, but everybody during the 1950s. Of all things Texans dislike, being dominated generally and by Oklahomans in particular ranks first. A desperate University of Texas turned to an erstwhile rival in 1956 and hired Royal as head football coach. The Longhorns never looked back. Royal never had a losing season in two decades and delivered eleven Southwest conference championships and three AP titles. His best years were powered by the success of an original formation he coauthored with his offensive assistant Emory Bellard.

The wishbone, like all offensive innovations, seems simple in retrospect. But when Royal implemented it early in the 1968 season in a desperation move with his team losing badly in Lubbock, Texas Tech had no answer. A triple option four-man backfield could rack up huge rushing numbers with a combination of complex inside blocking schemes, multiple fake handoffs and manpower mismatches. Defenses used to seeing much less complicated running schemes simply could not account for every runner, allowing the quarterback to hand the ball off to whichever back had no man reading him. The wishbone became the standard college offense by the late seventies and eventually, as is always the case, defenses caught up and made the formation obsolete.

But in 1969 James Street was the first and only wishbone quarterback in the game and no defensive coordinator knew what to do about the Longhorns.

The Navy game was Royal’s 100th win at Texas. Heading into the Red River Shootout against Chuck Fairbanks’ sixth ranked Oklahoma Sooners the 3-0 second ranked
Longhorns led the nation in rush yards per game, having racked up a combined 1,091 on 211 carries.

Bertelsen’s 216 yards on 30 carries with 3 TDS for a 7.2 yard average ranked second in the Southwest conference. Texas’ total offense was also second in the conference despite standing dead last in passing offense with a worthless combined 12 completions in only 27 tries for 119 yards, zero TDs and three picks. Street was 6 of 17 on the year for only 59 yards and no scores. And the Longhorns were unstoppable. That was the wishbone.

Royal didn’t mind winning games convincingly, but he worried that his players might not be ready for OU. Royal acknowledged: “Winning big has plusses and minuses…. I worry that we haven’t been in one of those old country gut checks.”

This is probably one of the better problems for coaches to face, as Royal readily admitted: “A coach has got to have problems, and I like mine better this year than last.”

Texas’ problem was stamina and game readiness, so Royal increased the usual tempo and intensity of his game-week practices, attempting to simulate the fury of a Cotton Bowl clash. He hoped his players would be equal to the fever-pitch atmosphere, but felt confident enough to jokingly tell reports: “If you can’t get up for this one, you must be dead.”

The Longhorns need to be up. Oklahoma had problems of their own, but Fairbanks’ Sooners were no slouches. The Wilkinson steamroller had sputtered somewhat in its later years, with two almost unthinkable campaigns in 1960-61 of a combined 8-11. When Bud finally retired in 1963 he handed off to his long standing assistant Gomer Jones. The job of following a legend is a hard one in any circumstance, but Jones never wanted the limelight. He could stand the heat for only two seasons in which OU went a disappointing 9-11-1. In 1966 things barely improved when new head coach Jim McKenzie went 6-4 before unexpectedly dying. His first year assistant Chuck Fairbanks was left holding the baby and in a very difficult and increasingly desperate environment engineered two conference championships in 1967 and 68. Only a loss to Texas in a 10-1 season kept Fairbanks from delivering a national title his first season. By 1969 Oklahoma sat where Texas had been in the late fifties with Royal’s first teams.

Fairbanks’ Sooners were good and could win conference titles, but they were not doing what OU coaches are hired to do – beat Texas and win national championships. To do that, Oklahoma always needed to augment recruiting classes by cherry picking the best talent from south of the Red River.
Fairbanks was able to do just that with the help of an assistant coach he hired to fill his former role after the 1966 season. The son of a prohibition era bootlegger former Arkansas standout Barry Switzer was as brash and country as they come. He made an immediate impact on the OU staff as a highly productive recruiter and superb offensive coordinator. In 1967 every school in the Southwest conference wanted Abilene prep star Jack Mildren. At the time conference recruiting regulations limited SWC coaches to two home visits. The Big Eight had no such rule and Switzer, OU’s West Texas recruiter, visited the Mildrens several times. The coach said later:

“You can’t get to know a kid in two visits. You’re doing all the talking and he’s still looking at his shoes.” Switzer was always a joker with the press, a charmer with parents and school dignitaries, and an absolute hard-ass with his players. He told a reporter before the 1969 Texas games:

“[Mildren] is not a picture passer and he doesn’t look fast. He’s not a super athlete by any means. In fact he’s a little pigeon toed and ... clumsy.”

But Switzer knew what he had in Mildren. In the 1967 Oil Bowl, the annual post-season clash between all-State prep selections from Oklahoma and Texas, the OU commit rubbed his decision in the faces of football fans from his home state by hitting 12 of 12 for 250 yards in the first half alone. That was the only time Mildren would represent the state of Texas on the gridiron. As a sophomore starter in 1969 he led the Sooners to a 2-0 start heading into Dallas for his first Red River Shootout. Mildren started as well in college as he had finished in High School. His first varsity play from scrimmage went for a 67 yard touchdown.

Oklahoma had all the balance Texas seemed to lack. The Sooners, like most teams of the era, ran a backfield-heavy offense lineup with rarely more than one man wide. Their base offense was a diamond formation that in addition to the era’s standard power runs also favored toss-sweeps and passing plays to men coming out of the backfield. That allowed a lot more passing yards than Royal’s system.

Of course it helped that opposing defenses were keying in on all-American senior halfback Steve Owens. The tenacious back made over 4,000 yards in three seasons, invariably carrying the ball around 30 times a game. Owens’ work load would be unthinkable today. In one famous trip to Stillwater Owens carried the ball 36 times in the second half alone! He made yards after contact with apparent ease and frequently did work all on his own without sufficient forward blocking. Offense would not be OU’s problem.

In two big wins, 48-21 at Wisconsin and 37-8 vs. Pitt, OU had given up over 400 rush yards. Their starting defense was senior-heavy in the
back field but made up of sophomores and juniors in the front seven. The OU middle had looked particularly suspect. That was bad news heading into a game against the nation’s leading rushing attack, and one that did almost everything between the tackles at that. Mildren admitted to reporters that he suspected his breakfast would taste quite awful on the morning of Saturday October 11th.

As events unfolded Mildren’s breakfast could hardly have settled before his Sooners led 14-0.

Fairbanks committed to playing Texas at its own game. He loaded the box with an eight man front, daring Street to throw downfield and prove he could do better than 6 of 17 for 59 yards in three games. On offense, OU ran right up the middle, riding Owens’ power and vision. The eventual 1969 Heisman winner gained 123 yards on the day, 53 in the first quarter alone. Mildren capped a sixty yard drive answering a Texas three-and-out with a nine-yard end around TD run after only four minutes. Five minutes later Owens dived over a pile for a one yard score after a short 17-yard drive that followed an interception return. OU linebacker Steve Aycock reeled in a risky Street pass into the flat for excellent field position and the Sooners appeared to be cruising.

For once Texas was making nothing on the ground. OU’s defense refused to live up to its underwhelming billing, holding the Horns just 158 yard rushing on the day. The Sooners made a more impressive 198 team yards on ground in reply and also finished with a slight edge in first downs at 20-18. But in the end Royal’s Longhorns squeezed out a comeback win in a manner that characterized the now mythologized “cult of ‘69” Texas team. Like so many championship teams Royal’s boys did what they had to do when they had to do it, and they were lucky.

After two series that ended in a punt and a pick, trailing by fourteen, Street knew there was only one way to beat OU. He had to answer Fairbanks’ challenge and complete passes. He settled himself and did just that. On the first play of UT’s third possession Street hit Speyrer for a 35 yard strike and two plays later found the same receiver for a 24 yard touch down. On the Horns’ fourth possession he hit Bertelsen underneath and the halfback converted the catch for a 55 yard gain to the OU twenty. Bertelsen did the rest of the work, out racing OU safety Joe Pearce for 19 before converting himself from the one.

Street was well on his way to a relatively impressive 9 of 18 for 215 yard passing performance and just like that Texas had leveled at 14-14.

The teams remained neck and neck in the third period. Texas opened with a 54 yard drive that resulted in a 27 yard field goal from the hilariously named Happy Feller, who despite only having attempted one
The previous three-pointer led the Southwest conference in scoring solely by virtue of converting PATs after UT’s many touchdowns. OU answered with a field goal from Bruce Derr after Vince LaRose picked of a James Street pass and ran the ball into a crowd of Longhorns before deftly handing off to Pearce who ran it back to the 24 before Street himself pushed the safety out of bounds.

With the two teams going blow for blow, each answering the strength of the other, a single moment seemed likely to change the game. Texas took a 20-17 lead early in the fourth period on a second Feller kick after a drive that began with another Street completion to Speyrer, this time for 49 yards, stalled. The teams then traded punts and OU had more than seven minutes remaining to retake the lead when safety Glenn King fielded UT’s kick at the OU 23.

King said after the game: “I was in the right position to field the ball, but that was about it. I took my eye off [it] for a split second. I was thinking about running with the ball before I caught it. I wanted to get us in good field position.”

King only succeeded in getting the Horns into good position. He spilled the kick and Texas cover man Bob McKay quickly covered it. Steve Worster, Bertelsen and Koy’s less flashy but highly efficient colleague dove in from the one to cap a short drive and put Texas ahead 27-17 with barely six minutes to play. The decisive moment had come and gone. Oklahoma never crossed their thirty yard line in the remaining minutes.

King acknowledged after the game: “Being from Texas makes losing to them hurt all the more. I had special reason, too. Texas didn’t offer me a scholarship... and I wanted to get them back for that. I guess that’s why I messed up... I was too keyed up.”

Oklahoma had given everything on the day. Despite losing by ten it had been a close contest. The Red River Shootout turned out to be their best effort of the year. OU finished just 6-4, losing by thirty to eventual Big Eight champion Nebraska. Texas, on the other hand, went from strength to strength. The nation’s leading rushing offense blew out every opponent until their season finale showdown in Fayetteville vs. second ranked, unbeaten Arkansas. Once again, James Street threw winning completions when Texas needed him to, and once again Speyrer was on the other end. Royal’s charmed Horns posted one of College Football’s all-time great comeback wins with one of the all-time great clutch plays. Unbeaten Texas was voted national champion and went on to defeat Ara Parseghian’s 8-1-Fighting Irish in the 1970 Cotton Bowl. James Street started 19 games as Texas’s first wishbone quarterback. He won all of them.

The 1969 Red River Shootout was everything that makes the OU-Texas series one of the game’s great...
rivalries. Though Texas’ victory was the eleventh win for the Horns in twelve years Cotton Bowl games was always a hard fought, close affair. OU dominated the fifties and Texas the sixties, but overall, this series is as even as they come. Since 1950 the record is a dead heat. It is also important to remember that for most of its history the series was an inter-conference rivalry. OU has seven national titles since 1950 under three coaches. Texas has four under two. In the modern era OU and Texas are two of the game’s half-dozen great powers and yet every year they voluntarily risked a loss against the other purely for spirit of competition.

So in this 40th anniversary season of the great 1969 national championship winning Longhorns and the irrepressible Steven Owens’ hard won Heisman Trophy, here’s to OU-Texas. May the sacred Crimson-Burnt Orange line never be crossed!

*          *          *

In Memory of

L.B. “Tex” Williams, Auburn stat crew and former member of the school’s media relations department...Ron Kramer, Michigan, 75...Former Sugar Bowl Executive Director Mickey Holmes; 72...Former Boston University AD John B. Simpson; 85....Former LSU All-American Michael Mangham, 71... Former Houston All-Southwest Conference lineman Val Belcher, 57. . .Former Delaware All-American running back Gardy Kahoe, 60. . .Former South Carolina wide receiver Kenny McKinley has passed away at 23... Former Kentucky quarterback George Blanda, 83;.. former Colorado State All-American offensive lineman Anthony Cesario has passed away at 34...D. Donald Cokely, 59, University of Alabama... Josh Rake, a freshman at North Texas, 20... sportswriter Maury Allen, 78.

Halls of Fame

Ricky Williams, Bill Wyman, Mike Perrin, inducted into Men’s Athletics Hall of Honor at the University of Texas-Austin...at Howard Payne University, Vance Gibson, football coach and athletic director; George Hines, SID; and Adam King, player...Former Middle Tennessee head coach Ed Bunio...Texas Sports Hall of Fame Drew Pearson, WR, Tulsa; defensive tackle John Randle, DT, (Trinity Valley CC) and Texas A&I; Charley Johnson, QB, New Mexico State and Emmitt Thomas, RB, Florida...Jerry Shay will enter the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame this year...Ike Forte, Greg Koch, Kevin Scanlon, Terry Don Phillips, Jim Williams and Milan Creighton, the University of Arkansas Hall of Honor...Indiana University Hall of Fame Chuck Bennett and Van Waiters and coach, Lee Corso.

*          *          *
New IFRA Member, Barry Strassler (author of Gallaudet University Football Centennial).

While I never played football at Gallaudet (too light, too slow, too unathletic), I served as the football manager, scouted a few games, and did some recruiting. And also played a game against Gallaudet!

How’s that? Gallaudet had spring practices in 1967 and the coach wanted to have a game with the alumni. Because it was arranged at the last minute, only 12 former players could be rounded up; I was the 13th alumni player.

I didn’t start the game but entered the game in the 2nd quarter and stayed on the field right to the end. Most of the varsity players sat out the spring practice and so, it was against inexperienced players and those that never played football and a couple of veterans that were trying out at new positions. We led 18-12 but ran out of gas in the 4th quarter and lost 24-18.

That was the extent of my unofficial one-game "career" with Gallaudet, with one tackle and a goal line pancake block on a touchdown drive to my credit!

I continue to stand proud of Gallaudet’s football heritage; one of the nation’s oldest collegiate football programs; the nation’s only all-deaf football team. We continue to win our share of games despite dealing with a situation that no other college teams face - recruiting. We have to look everywhere, in these 50 states for deaf players in high schools whereas typical NCAA-III program has a pool of 300-500 high schools within a reasonable driving distance. No one tells us who the deaf players are - and we are forced to look harder and harder.

Still, we are able to recruit a decent crew every year.

And also, there is that stigma - no one likes to lose to a "deaf team" - and so they play harder against us than they would against other teams. There have been cases of angry opposing coaches yelling at their players - "how could you lose to a deaf team?". I have stayed with the Gallaudet football program since my graduation in 1966. I keep in touch with former players and past coaches and with the current coaching staff.

I keep track of deaf players on other college football teams and I compile the annual Deaf All-American high school football honors among 30 schools for the deaf that field football teams, and selecting the #1 team among these schools.

Fans everywhere may root for Notre Dame, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Florida - etc. Gallaudet is my team and each Gallaudet win is an ultimate thrill for me.
This time of the year, many colleges began preparation for an annual event—Homecoming.

October 15, 1910 - The University of Illinois staged the first official homecoming game. Illinois beat Chicago 3-0, as more than 1,500 graduates took part in the inaugural homecoming activities.

—credit The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame.

*          *          *

NUMBER OF EARLY AMERICAN SOCCER, RUGBY & FOOTBALL TEAMS

By Mel Smith

The following table lists the number of teams in America playing the early kicking game/association football (SOCCER), the carrying game/Boston rules game/early rugby game (RUGBY) and the ball-possession/collegiate game (FOOTBALL) into the 1880s.

They are totaled by colleges (Coll), high schools (HS) and independent clubs (Clubs) for each playing season beginning 1840/41 through 1888/89. The number includes a team which actually played a game or one was played but the score has not been found. If a team was written about before 1861, it is being counted.

All division levels of play are included. If a College, HS or Club sponsored more than one team, they are still called only one team.

A season is defined to be from August 1 through July 31 of the next year.

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Inventions in Football

By J. W. Heisman
Coach of Georgia School of Technology

NO single individual ever perfected, alone and unaided, any science or any art, and no one man in the history of the game of football is to be credited with all its discoveries and improvements.

Until recent years it was, however, quite customary in the East to regard all new plays and formations as having originated there. This was almost as great an error as to assume that they were all hit upon by one man. True, Yale was the author of the "Tackle Over" formation, and Princeton of the "Revolving Wedge," and Harvard of the "Flying Wedge," and Pennsylvania of the "Guards Back," and flying interference, but Stagg at Chicago, Williams at Minnesota, Yost at Michigan and hosts of other Western and Southern coaches were the original inventors of a great many improvements, some of major and some of minor importance, that the East seldom had a chance to learn about; because, firstly, Eastern experts had few opportunities to observe football outside their own sections, and, secondly, they took no interest in Western and Southern football even if they had the opportunity to observe.

I have been asked to detail what my specific share has been in the work of advancing and developing the
present great college game being assumed, I imagine that after five years of active varsity playing and sixteen consecutive years of coaching at five different institutions in four different states. I must have been something of an originator or I could not have hoped for such success as to warrant my being willing, or even allowed, to continue in the profession for so long. Certain it is, at any rate, that to continue holding good positions as a football coach one must win, and to win one must have originality, ability to invent, and to adapt one's team and game to new rules and changing conditions as readily and as rapidly as they appear.

THE DOUBLE PASS
The Oberlin College team of 1892 was the first I ever coached, and though we won every game played, including one with Michigan, I cannot claim credit for anything for that year except a double pass from tackle to half-back. If anywhere else this form of play had ever been sprung before then, I had neither seen nor heard of it. Previous to that time the only double pass used had been from half-back to half-back.

THE DIRECT SNAP-UP IN 1893
While I, in common with all coaches of long experience, have invented and experimented with scores of plays that could be recalled I have no space to treat, or even mention any, except those that have not merely stood the test of time, but which have also been adopted by practically all teams.

In 1893 while coaching Buchtel College I hit upon the idea of having the center rush snap or toss the ball directly up to the quarter, instead of rolling it back on the ground on its lacing or snapping it end over end, as was the method employed throughout the East—even in 1894 yet. My method of putting the ball in play has been universally adopted as incontrovertibly the best.

At this time, too, the idea of the center rush making a fake snap and holding the ball under him, tight up in his crotch, first occurred to me.

The quarter would fake to receive it from the center and fake to pass it to the backs, who would fake out to the open field, while in reality the guard would take the ball out of the center's hands by reaching down behind and under him, then hand it slyly to the end-rush who would shoot down the boundary line after the opponents had all been drawn away from it to the open field by following the fake interference this play was freely copied, and was the direct forerunner of Pennsylvania's famous Delayed Pass near the boundary line in 1896, which play has been the forefather of all the present forms of delayed passes.

THE HIDDEN BALL
The hidden-ball trick which the Carlisle Indians played successfully on Harvard about 1898 or 1899 first originated with me, I believe; though I take no great pride in the matter as I used the play but one year,
coming to the conclusion that it was a play open to question from the standpoint of pure and clean sportsmanship.

I played it, however, in 1895 with my Alabama Polytechnic Institute team, and remember that we scored a touchdown with it against Vanderbilt University. I could trace its appearance at Carlisle but it would be uninteresting and is unnecessary.

**THE FULL BACKING UP ON DEFENSE**

Until so late as 1894 no one had ever heard of a man playing any different position on defense from what he played on offense: if he was a halfback on offense that's what he played on defense, and that ended it. But in that year, while coaching at Oberlin College again, I became impressed with the senselessness of my left half-back, a very fast but very light man, battering himself to pieces helping to repel the heavy onslaughts while my full-back—a big, strong, husky fellow stood away back practically doing nothing for nearly all the time that opponents had the ball. So I put the little fellow at full-back's place and rested him up whenever we lost the ball, and had my big full-back come up close and help back up the line. The plan worked like a charm and spread like Mohammedanism in the eighth century—only that as it was the quarter-back who was usually the lightest man on a team; it was and is usually he who trades places with the full-back on defense.

**THE ON-SIDE KICK**

I have often been credited with being the original discoverer of the on-side kick and the forward pass. I do not think there is any dispute as to my having been the first to suggest the forward pass as a means of opening up the game, but I distinctly am not the man who first thought of an on-side kick. That honor belongs to George Woodruff, who brought out the play about 1893. As he played it then, and as many teams played it for years afterwards, the kick was made by the quarter-back, standing in his usual position, and the regular backs—all onside—were the ones deputed to recover it.

What I did—and that not till several years later—was to invent a new way of performing the play, and my way is probably the father of the many new and complex ways in which the play is performed today.

My method consisted of the quarter passing the ball to a half-back as usual, who with the full ran across to the opposite side and transferred the ball to the other half-back as he passed him; then kept on going.

This latter halfback, standing still in his tracks, kicked the ball in the opposite direction from the way the full and first half were going, and the end and quarter recovered it—they having run back of the kicker then out to the side while the pass was being made. This was in effect a "delayed kick," and was a vast improvement over the old quarter-
back kick in that it pulled
opponents after the fake
interference and away from the spot
where the ball was eventually to
land.

The play opened up a much wider
vista as to the strategic possibilities
of the on-side kick, which have
since been developed to the full.

THE FORWARD PASS
It was in 1901, 1902 and 1903 that
the cry for a more open style of play
began to become prolonged and
insistent.

All sorts of suggestions to open up
the game appeared in print, some
good, some bad. In 1903 after the
season I wrote Mr. Walter Camp of
the Rules Committee and suggested,
that if the committee really wished
to open up the game no easier or
more certain way of doing it could
be devised than by allowing forward
passing. This opinion I also confided
at the time to several of my friends
and other football experts.

Nothing came of it that year and the
"howl" grew louder. In December,
1904, I wrote Mr. Camp again and
to the same effect. In December,
1905, I wrote him again and to the
same effect—and then came the
forward pass. It came with
limitations and governing
conditions, of course, whereas my
suggestion was general only. I
meant it merely as a hint, and the
hint Mr. Camp was broad enough to
grasp, and when he brought forth
the "proposition" it was evident to
me he had been giving my general
suggestion much careful detailed
consideration.

* * *

(1961 Season)...Kansas Club
Retains Top AP Rating

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unbeaten and untied Pittsburg
(Kan.) State, 40-0 victor over
Washburn last week, retained its
No. 1 rating in The Associated Press'
weekly small college football poll.

The Gorillas, who have outscored
their opponents 230 to 6 in winning
7 straight games, drew 6 of the 8
first-place ballots and 71 of a
possible 80 points.

Baldwin Wallace won its fifth
straight last week and advanced
from third to second.
Hofstra, Northwest Louisiana and
West Chester (Pa.) dropped out of
the top ten and were replaced by
Florida A&M (No. 7), Mississippi
Southern (No. 8) and Lamar Tech
and Linfield, (Ore.), tied for 10th.

The top ten (points figured on a
basis of 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 from
first through tenth places (first place
votes in parentheses) :

1. Pittsburgh (sic) (Kan.) (6) 71
2. Baldwin Wallace 55
3. S.E Louisiana 46
4. Northern Michigan 40
5. Whittier 33
6. Fresno State 27  
7. Florida A&M 20  
8. Mississippi Southern 16  
9. Lenoir  
10. (Tie) Lamar Tech (1) 10  
10. (Tie) Linfield (1) 10

**IFRA has 264 members...pass the word.**

[The Syracuse Herald Nov. 22, 1920]

**The Herald Lighting Post of Sportsdom**

**By Skid**

Benny Boynton of Waco, Tex., sometimes called the “Babe” Ruth of football, has ended his career for Williams college, (sic) standing forth as the best run scorer of the year, with 143 points to his credit.

But Boynton may shine for three more years in the collegiate football world because of his plans to enter West Point, where he would be a welcome addition.

West Point does not take any notice of previous college records in choosing football candidates. Syracuse and other big universities bar her men who have played three full years on a college team.

But West Point knows no such rule.

If Boynton enters the army college next fall, he will rank as a freshman and will be forced to play with the Plebes for a year. Then he will have three more years of varsity football. And Army is rooting for Boynton to carry out his decision of seeking an army commission.

Boynton’s record this year gives him 22 touchdowns and 11 goals after touchdowns. He is one of the leading candidates for All-American quarterback.

*If Boynton does enter West Point it will not be the first time that a star athlete has uniform.*

* * *

October 22, 1891: Herbert Hoover called a meeting of Stanford students to start a football team, for which he served as student manager in 1892. The first coach was Walter Camp, who later became known as the "Father of American Football."

Hoover, of course, became president of the United States.

* * *

**Four-Time All-America Selections**

- Marshall Newell, (Harvard, Tackle) 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893
- Frank Hinkey, (Yale, End) 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894
- Gordon Brown, (Yale, Guard) 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900