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Reflecting on SMU's famed Pony Express

Dickerson, James made a powerful tandem

By Bo Carter

Out of the Wild West (well, actually, Sealy and Houston, Texas) rode the fabled Pony Express.

In this case, it wasn't a circuit rider being chased by bandits and wild animals, but the modern-day Pony Express of SMU running backs Eric Dickerson and Craig James still gallop in the minds and hearts of the Mustang faithful.

Their co-honor as *2010 Legends at the Doak Walker Award* banquet in Dallas (held recently to honor Stanford's Toby Gerhart as the nation's top runner) brought back memories for many SMU and Southwest Conference-philies.

It is hard to believe it has been 28 years since the SMU Pony Express closed a storied career under head coaches Ron Meyer and later Bobby Collins.

They put together a combined mark of 31-14-1 from 1979-82, a 7-3 win over Pittsburgh and QB Dan Marino in the 1982 AT&T Cotton Bowl to close 11-0-1, a 46-45 loss in the 1980 Holiday Bowl to Brigham Young in what many have called the most exciting postseason game in NCAA FBS history, and the most victories over four seasons for SMU since the early 1950s (in the legendary Kyle Rote era). No SMU senior class has come close to that legacy, though Coach June Jones guided the 2009 Mustangs to a 8-5 record and first postseason contest since 1984.

Few will argue that Dickerson/James might have been the best 1-2 punch in the history of college football for four years in the same backfield. Plus, James, who was a highly-recruited baseball player out of Houston Stratford HS, set several punting records at SMU and virtually did everything but pop popcorn during his Mustang career.

Most amazingly, they set a two-back standard for career rushing (8,192 yards -4,450 by Dickerson and 3,742 by James) that was unequalled in the 82-season history of the SWC from 1914-95. At the time, the “Sealy Flash” (Dickerson) and “Stratford Comet” (James) were Nos. 1 and 3 in all-time conference rushing sandwiched around Texas' 1977 Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell.

NO COMPLAINING

Even more impressive was the fact that there were “enough footballs” to go around for the splendid duo. Few, if any, heard cries of “not enough carries” by either All-America standout, or their equal fame might have tainted their *Heisman Trophy* chances (captured in 1982 by Herschel Walker of Georgia and in 1981 by Southern California's Marcus Allen in that Golden Age of college rushers).

Dickerson and James were the ultimate compliments.

Besides eclipsing Campbell's then-SWC career rushing mark (4,444

yards) by six yards, Dickerson tied 1948 Heisman Trophy recipient Doak Walker of the Ponies with 48 career touchdowns - a mark thought to be unbreakable for 30-plus years by college grid aficionados. He still landed third place in the '82 Heisman tabulations behind Walker and flashy Stanford quarterback John Elway.

And for the true trivia buffs out there, SMU's Charles Waggoner was a just-as-highly-regarded rusher when the Pony Express assembled for the '79 campaign, but the Dallas Carter HS phenom was injured as a yearling and never lived up to Dickerson-James dual standards.

Then-coach Meyer (1979-81) and later Collins (1982) used the option and power sweep to perfection ahead of the two backs, which seemed adept at breaking long runs from any point on the field.

James, in fact, put on a SMU bowl rushing “show” unseen before, after or since for the Express in the 1980 Holiday Bowl against freewheeling BYU. James rushed for 225 yards on 23 carries for a 9.9 average as the Cougars finally outslugged SMU in the 91-point bonanza, and he also made the longest pass reception - 96 yards - in SWC annals.

A COUPLE OF PRETTY SALTY NFL CAREERS

Dickerson was phenomenal in the NFL, rushing for 10,000 yards in just 91 contests (the fastest ever to that milestone).

He had a league-record 390 carries for 1,808 rushing yards and 18 TDs in his first season with the Rams - the most ever for an NFL rookie.

Somehow, Dickerson put up higher numbers with the Rams in 1984 with a then-NFL-high 2,105 rushing yards and 5.6 average. Those on-field numbers helped the Pony Expressman become the highest paid running back in that era in the league at \$1.4 million in 1990. From 1983-89 he rushed for 1,000-plus yards in a record seven consecutive campaigns.

All told, Dickerson rolled up 13,259 yards on 2,996 attempts over 146 regular season games, 90 touchdowns, a 4.4 average, and six Pro Bowls from 1993-93 with the Rams, Indianapolis Colts, L.A. Raiders, and Atlanta Falcons. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1999—his first year of eligibility.

Dickerson's SMU backfield mate had a pretty solid pro career himself. James, who initially played for the USFL's Washington Federals, started all 14 games in 1983 with 823 yards rushing. He was injured most of '84 and eased over to the Patriots, where he gained 2,469 yards from 1985-88, led New England in rushing in 1985 with 1,227 yards, helped the Pats make Super Bowl XX, and made a ton of future contacts for his network broadcasting career, which has spanned 20 years.

One of his first trial “gigs” was as public address man for the 1989 SMU spring game, and he was a natural. Dickerson also has dabbled in both college and pro football broadcasting and has been a television sports anchor and analyst in the Los Angeles area.

We all know the controversy surrounding James these days, and the devastating penalties that SMU suffered after Dickerson and James left the program.

But those are other stories for other days.

In a separate story, another IFRA member, Keith Whitmire added the following statistics to his story on the outstanding players.

Record-breaking running back duos
NCAA FBS rushing yardage record holders:

Career

8,193 – Eric Dickerson (4,450) and Craig James (3,743), SMU, 1979-82

Season

3,042 – Reggie Bush (1,740) and LenDale White (1,302), USC, 2005 (13 games)

Game

487 – Darren McFadden (321) and Felix Jones (166), Arkansas vs. South Carolina, Oct. 4, 2007.

* * *

**ND's 'Watch-Charms'
Guard' Was A Man Among
Men**

The July issue of The College Football Historian included a reprint of a brief 1931 news article headlined, "Metzger, Famed Irish Guard, Is Now a Milkman." Here, as they say, is "the rest of the story."

By Jim Lefebvre

www.NDFootballHistory.com

If there was one thing Michael Metzger was comfortable around, it was dairy cows.

After all, he had grown up dirt-poor on a farm near Junction City, Ohio. He wanted to go places in life, so as a young man he headed west to Chicago around the turn of the 20th century. There, he used his farm background and a tireless work ethic to achieve a series of promotions with the Bowman Dairy Co., the largest dairy serving Chicagoland. He eventually earned a sizeable chunk of ownership in the company.

Michael and wife Emma raised their six children—three boys, three girls -- in a fine home on North Ashland Avenue. The Metzgers were able to send their sons to prestigious Loyola Academy. From there, oldest son Walter attended the University of Notre Dame, and middle son Lou headed off to Georgetown. After college, they joined their father in working for Bowman.

Their youngest son, Bertram, had a passion for sports. He loved to

compete, loved to be challenged. There was only one problem – he was literally the “runt of the litter,” with barely 140 pounds on his 5-foot-9 frame.

Not only that, he played in the line. But size didn’t keep Metzger from competing – successfully – against fellows much bigger. In 1925, he helped Loyola Academy win its first football championship in the rugged Chicago Catholic League.

After high school, Bert Metzger also headed to Notre Dame, where Knute Rockne had established a football juggernaut, with the 1924 national championship on the shelf and a beautiful new stadium on the drawing board. Talented football players from across the nation were drawn to South Bend, and the chances for a 5-9, 140-something lineman to gain playing time were slim indeed.

But Bert Metzger had something special – an irrepressible drive to excel. Combined with supreme quickness, agility, finesse and footwork, it allowed him to constantly overachieve. He made the varsity of the Fighting Irish as a sophomore in 1928, then played a major role for Notre Dame’s undefeated national champions in 1929 and 1930.

“It was (line coach) Hunk Anderson who saw the potential in my Dad,” says Bert Metzger Jr., himself a 1955 Notre Dame grad and now a retired attorney in Seattle. “Hunk really pushed for him, and told Rockne ‘This man can play.’”

Bert Metzger got involved in wrestling at Notre Dame, and his son said that was a key to his success in football. “It taught him how to twist and turn bodies, to get an advantage over the other person. Footwork and positioning were essential.

“Plus, he was tough as nails mentally. The guy lining up against him never expected what he would get from him,” said Bert Jr.

Rockne, who loved finesse and quickness, would have several undersized players in key positions. The members of his famous backfield, The Four Horsemen, were quite small for the period. He took to calling Bert Metzger his “watch-charm guard.” Rockne would later call Metzger the best guard he had ever seen.

Metzger’s six linemates along the Notre Dame line of 1930 averaged 191 pounds; Metzger rarely reached 150.

As a senior in 1930, Metzger was a consensus first-team All-American selection, providing the blocking and tackling that helped ND to its second straight national championship. In 1929 and 1930 combined, the Irish outscored their opponents, 410-112. They played in front of some of the largest crowds in college football history at Chicago’s Soldier Field in 1929, then christened Notre Dame Stadium in 1930.

And, sadly, Metzger played on the last team coached by Rockne, who died in a March 31, 1931 airplane crash.

Metzger did a little coaching in the fall of 1931, then joined the “family business,” starting out at Bowman Dairy as his father and brothers did, delivering milk in a horse-drawn wagon. Reporters of the day were apparently unaware of the family background.

“It was the Depression,” Bert Jr. reminds us. “They were darn fortunate to have work, let alone a business they could advance in.”

Bert Metzger advanced to an executive position within the company, as a division manager overseeing several plants. And though his football days were over, they were never forgotten. In 1982, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

“He didn’t talk much about football, but certainly his days at Notre Dame were some of the most wonderful moments of his life,” says son Bert Jr.. “He was treated as a celebrity whenever he returned to ND, but he was very modest. To us he was just Dad. He was always there when you needed him.”

A big man, indeed.

Jim Lefebvre is editor of ***Forever Irish*** (www.NDFootballHistory.com) and author of the award-winning book, ***Loyal Sons: The Story of The Four Horsemen and Notre Dame Football's 1924 Champions*** (Great Day Press, 2008).

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[as is]

Researched by Tex Noel, Editor TCFH

From ATHLETICS AT PRINCETON—A HISTORY

© 1902

Of the team of 1872, the Lit. says: "Though football is confined to a small portion of the year, and though each graduating class seems to take away our best players, yet the interest in it, year by year, rather increases than diminishes, and the present '25': at least will, we think, compare favorably and we doubt not, would cope successfully with any of their predecessors." The team well deserved praise, not only for its skill in the game, but its importance advance in the organization. The rules governing the game at Princeton had hitherto been mainly traditional and were allowed to be varied at pleasure. But this year definite rules were adopted, as follows:

- I. The grounds shall be 500 feet in length by 300 feet in breadth.
 - II. The goal post shall be 25 feet apart.
 - III. The number for match games shall be 25 to the side.
 - IV. To a game, 4 of 7 goals are necessary.
 - V. The winner of the toss shall have the choice of goals.
 - VI. No player shall throw or carry the ball.
 - VII. Any player catching a ball, after it had been kicked or knocked, and before it touches the ground, shall be entitled to a free kick.
 - VIII. Any ball passing the boundary lines shall be kicked or knocked in with full force. If passing the side limits, by the player first touching the ball; if passing goal limits, by a player of the side defending the goal.
 - IX. No holding shall be allowed, except when a player has ball in his possession, not caught on a fly.
 - X. No tripping shall be allowed, nor shall any player use his hands to push an adversary.
- **A year later the IFA, the Intercollegiate Football Association made-up Yale, Rutgers and Princeton, met October 19, 1873 and unanimously passed the following:**

- I. The grounds shall be 400 feet in length by 250 feet broad.
- II. The distance between the goal post of each shall be 25 feet apart.
- III. The number for match games shall be 20 to the side.
- IV. To win a game, 6 goals are necessary, but that side shall be considered the victors which, when the game is called, shall have secured the greatest number of goals, provided that the number be two or more. To a secure goal, the ball must pass between the posts.
- V. No player shall throw or carry the ball. Any violation of this regulation shall constitute a foul and the player so offending shall throw the ball, perpendicularly in to the air, to a height of at least twelve feet, and the ball shall not be in play until it has touched the ground.
- VI. When a ball passes out of bounds, it is a foul, and the player causing it shall advance at right angles to the boundary line, fifteen paces from the point where the ball went, and shall proceed as in Rule V.
- VII. No tripping shall be allowed, nor shall any player use his hands to push an adversary.

- VIII. The winners of the toss shall have the choice of first goal, and the sides shall change goals at every successive inning. In stating the ball it shall be fairly kicked, not babied, from a point 150 feet in front of the starter's goal.
- IX. Until the ball is kicked, no player on either side shall be in advance of a line parallel to the line of his goals, and distance from it 150 feet.
- X. There shall be two judges, one from each of the contesting colleges, and one referee; all to be chosen by the captains.
- XI. No player shall wear spikes or iron plates on his shoes.
- XII. In all match games a No. 6 ball shall be used, furnished by the challenging side, and to become the property of the victors.

The Princeton style of play and system of coaching in football

At Princeton the football players are trained to play straight football and little attention is given to the trick players. But the straight football of today involves many intricate plays and a complex system of signals. From 1876-1883, there were practically no signals, no prearranged plays; chance ruled the game. Whoever could grab the ball, ran with it; whoever got the chance to

kicked it. But the ball was not passed to a certain man for a run for a kick.

From 1885 to 1888, a simple system of signals was used. For example, the following is a list of signals used in 1885;

- *Hold your man*, meant a kick;
- *Guard your man*, meant a run;
- *Hold hard*, meant a drop kick;
- *Watch out*, meant a run by the quarter back;
- *Play hard*, meant a run by the end;
- *Mind what you are doing*, meant that the quarter back would delay pass until the rushers got through, then pass the ball to one of the ends;
- *Play up*, meant a run by the half back, through centre and guard;
- *Get down the field*, meant a run by the guard.

These certainly were not very intricate nor difficult to memorize. The plays were simple and one or two men took part in each; for the rule that all players in advance of the ball were off side and consequently out of the play prevented complex formations

and plays devised to conceal the runner. The runner was given the ball and was expected to gain ground by dodging the opposite end, or darting through a quick opening through the line. In this he was aided by the rules which allowed no tackling below the waist.

Excepting the kicking, the line of play in which Princeton was perhaps at this time most proficient, was the passing game, which was developed to such an extent that frequently the ball would change hands four or five times before a down. A runner with the ball, who having a chance to pass it, failed to do so, was severely reprimanded. Speed, agility and the development of what might be called football instinct, "to follow the ball," were the main features of the game at this period.

* * *

Bo Carter presents this month's Birthdays and dates of death of the College Football Hall of Famers.

August

- 1 (1929) Joe Palumbo, Beaver, Pa.
- 2 (1901) Charley Caldwell, Bristol, Va.
- 2 (1905) Billy Nicks, Griffin, Ga.
- 2 (1933) Matt Hazeltine, Ross, Calif.
- 2 (1937) Billy Cannon, Philadelphia, Miss.
- 2-(d – 1992) Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 3 (1898) Gordon Locke, Denison, Iowa

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- 3 (1932) Jackie Parker, Knoxville Tenn.
3 (1934) Don Holleder, Rochester, N.Y.
3 (1938) Maxie Baughan, Forkland, Ala.
3-(d – 1972) Vince Pazzetti, Bethlehem, Pa.
3-(d – 1977) Ralph Baker, Portland, Ore.
4 (1908) Frank Carideo, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.
4-(d – 1981) Jack Green, Nashville, Tenn.
5 (1940) Roman Gabriel, Wilmington, N.C.
5 (1946) Gary Beban, San Francisco, Calif.
5 (1952) Freddie Scott, Grady, Ark.
5-(d – 1978) Dutch Clark, Canon City, Colo.
5-(d – 1986) Les Lautenschlaeger, New Orleans, La.
6 (1902) Harry Wilson, Mingo Junction, Ohio
6 (1906) Ken Strong, West Haven, Conn.
6 (1907) Jerry Dalrymple, Arkadelphia, Ark.
6 (1920) Steve Lach, Altoona, Pa.
7 (1928) Ron Schipper, Zeeland, Mich.
7 (1945) Alan Page, Canton, Ohio
7-(d – 1962) Vince Stevenson, Philadelphia, Pa.
8-(d – 1987) Myles Lane, New York City
8-(d – 1988) Alan Ameche, Houston, Texas
9 (1899) Ed McGinley, Chester, Pa.
9 (1955) Doug Williams, Zachary, La.
9-(d – 1970) John McEwan, New York, N.Y.
9-(d – 1972) Joe Skladany, Pittsburgh, Pa.
9-(d – 1990) – Max Starceovich, Silverdale, Wash.
9-(d – 1999) Riley Smith, Mobile, Ala.
10 (1961) Billy Ray Smith, Fayetteville, Ark.
10 (1970) Gino Torretta, Pinole, Calif.
12 (1915) Alex Wojciechowicz, South River, N.J.
12 (1930) Jack Scarbath, Baltimore, Md.
14-(d – 1958) Henry “Red” Sanders, Los Angeles, Calif.
14-(d – 1966) Duke Slater, Chicago, Ill.
14-(d – 1985) Murray Shelton, Columbia, Md.
14-(d – 1999) John Pingel, Palm Beach, Fla.
14-(d – 2002) Kyle Rote, Baltimore, Md.
15 (1929) Doug Porter, Memphis, Tenn.
15-(d – 1981) Lynn “Pappy” Waldorf, Berkeley, Calif.
16 (1862) Amos Alonzo Stagg, West Orange, N.J.
16 (1913) Bobby Wilson, Nacogdoches, Texas
16 (1921) Dick Wildung, Scotland, S.D.
16 (1924) Art Weiner, Newark, N.J.
16 (1930) Frank Gifford, Santa Monica, Calif.
16 (1935) Bill Glass, Texarkana, Texas
16 (1946) Ron Yary, Chicago, Ill.
16-(d – 1943) Albert Benbrook, Dallas, Texas
16-(d – 1947) Clint Wycoff, Buffalo, N.Y.
16-(d – 1951) Jimmy Leech, Hamden, Conn.
17 (1905) Raymond “Rags” Matthews, Ft. Worth, Texas
18 (1890) Everett Bacon, Westbrook, Conn.
18 (1943) Cosmo Iacavazzi, Scranton, Pa.
18 (1951) Greg Pruitt, Houston, Texas
18-(d - 1977) John Cain, Memphis, Tenn.
18-(d – 1994) John Weller, Princeton, N.J.
19 (1946) Bob Johnson, Gary, Ind.
19-(d - 1979) Walter Gilbert, Auburn, Ala.
19-(d – 1982) Fritz Crisler, Ann Arbor, Mich.
19-(d – 1985) Bobby Reynolds (Neb.), Lincoln, Neb.
20 (1908) Beattie Feathers, Bristol, Va.
20 (1917) Ed Molinski, Scranton, Pa.
20 (1927) John Rauch, Philadelphia, Pa.
20-(d – 1946) Fielding Yost, Ann Arbor, Mich.
20-(d – 1998) Fred Sington, Birmingham, Ala.
21 (1928) Bud McFadin, Rankin, Texas
21 (1945) Willie Lanier, Clover, Va.
21 (1954) Archie Griffin, Columbus, Ohio
21 (1959) Jim McMahon, Jersey City, N.J.
22 (1878) Henry Seibels, Montgomery, Ala.
22 (1880) Bill Roper, Philadelphia, Pa.
22 (1899) Don Lourie, Decatur, Ala.
22 (1909) Mel Hein, Redding, Calif.
23 (1874) Bill Hickok, Harrisburg, Pa.
23 (1885) Howard Jones, Excello, Ohio
24 (1887) Albert Benbrook, Chicago, Ill.
24 (1893) Paul Des Jardien, Coffeyville, Kan.
24-(d – 1967) Mike McKeever, Montebello, Calif.
24-(d – 1973) Gaylord Stinchcomb, Findlay, Ohio
24-(d – 1978) Ernie Rentner, Glencoe, Ill.
24-(d – 1989) Dan Hill, Durham, N.C.
25 (1900) Chuck Carney, Chicago, Ill.
25 (1965) Cornelius Bennett, Birmingham, Ala.
26 (1876) Gary Cochran, Driftwood, Pa.

26 (1912) Aaron Rosenberg, Brooklyn, N.Y.
26 (1918) Harry Smith, Russellville, Mo.
26 (1928) Jerry Claiborne, Hopkinsville, Ky.
26 (1933) George Welsh, Coaldale, Pa.
26 (1952) Donnie Shell, Whitmire, S.C.
27 (1908) Frank Leahy, O'Neill, Neb.
27-(d – 1958) Bobby Marshall, Minneapolis, Minn.
28 (1945) Jim Lynch, Lima, Ohio
28-(d – 1967) Bruce Smith (Minn.), Alexandria, Minn.
29 (1896) George McLaren, Pittsburgh, Pa.
29 (1924) Clyde Scott, Dixie, La.
29 (1939) Bob Ferguson, Columbus, Ohio
29 (1950) Tommy Casanova, New Orleans, La.
29-(d – 1933) Frank Cavanaugh, Marshfield, Mass.
29-(d – 2001) Eric Tipton, Newport News, Va.
30 (1915) George Cafego, Whipple, W.Va.
30 (1940) Lance Alworth, Houston, Texas
30 (1955) Marvin Powell, Ft. Bragg, N.C.
30-(d – 1976) Merle Gulick, Ajijic, Mexico
30-(d – 1977) Ernby Pinckert, Los Angeles, Calif.
31 (1906) Bill Spears, Jasper, Tenn.
31 (1918) Kenny Washington, Los Angeles, Calif.
31 (1952) Gary Johnson, Shreveport, La.

Kick-off Fundraiser for FAN, Inc. Scheduled for Friday 10/8/2010 at U of M

- **Ann Arbor, Michigan** – On Friday, October 8, 2010 at 11:30 AM (EDT), FAN, Inc. (Foundation for Athletes in Need) will host its kick-off fundraising luncheon and golf outing. Hosted by Jim Brandstatter, former OT under “Bo” Schembechler and local TV and radio personality, the event will be held at the University of Michigan Golf Course, located at 500 E Stadium Blvd. in Ann Arbor, MI.

- **About FAN, Inc.** – The Foundation for Athletes in Need is a non-profit, grassroots organization with the goal of providing financial assistance to struggling former collegiate athletes for the purpose of defraying medical expenses. Athletes who are experiencing hardship, in part, due to ongoing debilitations that have resulted from injuries incurred during their participation in an NCAA sanctioned activity are the people targeted for help by the organization. Our goal is to assist under- and uninsured individuals in obtaining relevant, professional services. We will move forward in a proactive outreach to involve athletic departments, letter-winner clubs, alumni associations, relative media outlets and the NCAA.

- **Luncheon and Auction**

An open Board Meeting will start at 10:30 am, and a free delicious buffet luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. until noon. Several engaging speakers will briefly share stories about their own motivation and passion for involvement and commitment to FAN, Inc. A silent and live auction-as well as door prizes-will featured. Donations will be accepted to defray costs.

- **Tee Times**

Tee times start at 2 p.m. The cost to play golf is yet to be determined. Golf prizes for those playing will be awarded. (Luncheon attendees are not committed to play golf.)

- **FAN, Inc.'s Founder, Steve Strinko Sounds Off**

Steve Strinko, Founder and Director of FAN, Inc., has spearheaded this organization in response to his own experience in collegiate sports as well as the need he sees to serve former NCAA injured athletes. Steve states FAN, Inc's mission is, "To provide financial assistance to qualified former student athletes who are experiencing hardships related to an injury incurred while participating in an NCAA sanctioned activity."

Those currently involved in FAN, Inc. as active Board members, Advisory Board members, and financial supporters of FAN, Inc. include former NCAA athletes, collegiate alumni, Michigan alumni, sports fans, athletic department personnel, coaches, players, former coaches, athletic trainers, journalists and equipment managers.

All parties interested in FAN, Inc. and/or the kick-off fundraiser should contact Steve Strinko at 786-399-2877 or email at: sstrinko@yahoo.com.

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Linfield College Seeks to keep Consecutive Winning Seasons Streak Alive

**By Tex Noel, Editor
TCFH**

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The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF), announced its recipients of four of the NFF's 2010 Major Awards, winners of the 2010 *Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football*, *John L. Toner*, *Chris Schenkel* and *Outstanding Football Official* awards.

- **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL**
DR. JOSEPH KEARNEY*
Longtime Athletics Administrator
- **JOHN L. TONER AWARD**
ROBERT E. MULCAHY III
Former Director of Athletics,
Rutgers University
- **CHRIS SCHENKEL AWARD**
JOE STARKEY
Sports Broadcaster, University of California
- **OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL OFFICIAL**
ROGERS REDDING
SEC Coordinator of Officiating

*Deceased

The 2010 season in just days away from kicking off; many things are on the minds of players, coaches and teams; as college football enters its 142nd seasons, countless records have been established over those many autumns; only to see them fall years later.

For a pair of NCAA III schools, each has established marks

that more than likely go unequaled; despite how good a team or players become.

First there is Mount Union. For the past 15 and 16 of the last 17 falls, the Purple Raiders have scored at will over their opponents—as they have scored at least 500 or more points every season since 1995. No school has even come close to equally the number of seasons.

More on these accomplishments in September issue of TCFH.

Now, let's take a look at another school...far away in the Pacific Northwest, Linfield College.

Over the course of the past 54 seasons; with more than their share of close games...this team remains as the sport's tribute to longevity.

Just three times over a 26 year span that began in 1971 would see the team come close to finishing with a .500 record.

All three seasons: 1971-87-96 the Wildcats arose to the occasion and won a game or two that would ensure a winning season. (Each year the Wildcats finished just

above the even mark with 5-4-0 slates.)

The NAIA post-season began the same year of the streak, 1956; but only two teams would qualify for the games till 1958—and then four, but Linfield wasn't among the elite until 1961.

In its first post-season action following the 1961 campaign, the school advanced to the **NAIA Championship Game**, before falling to one the best small college elevens of all time, Pittsburg State Kansas.

This team was also the only NAIA school ever to also be named College Division Champion.

With the beginning of divisional play in 1973 (NCAA II and NCAA III), the poll and championship on a regular bases was discontinued.

However, additional research has uncovered a final College Division Poll for the 1974 and 1975 seasons. The latter ranking had another NAIA School as its #1—Texas A&I. LC would advance to the NAIA Championship Game twice more; both losses.

Then, after once again, failing to make the playoffs in 1981, the school would win not only its first title in 1982, but in every other season through 1986.

Like other NAIA schools
Linfield applied and was
accepted into membership
with the NCAA.

Seven seasons after becoming
a NCAA III school, Linfield
once again would hoist the
championship trophy—(in
2004)--in just its third
appearance in the playoffs.

LINFIELD COLLEGE's 54 CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASONS

Season	W	L	T	Post Season	Final Poll Rank	Decade WLT
1956*	6	1	2			
1957	8	1	0			
1958	7	1	1			
1959	5	3	1			26-6-4
1960	7	2	0			
1961	10	1	0	L- CG	3	
1962	8	0	1		8	
1963	8	1	0		18	
1964	8	1	1	L- SF	4	
1965	8	2	0	L -CG	9	
1966	7	2	0			
1967	8	1	0			
1968	6	2	1			
1969	6	3	0			76-15-3
1970**	8	1	0		8	
1971	5	4	0			
1972	6	3	0			
1973^	7	2	0		11	
1974	9	1	0	L -SF	3	
1975	6	3	0			
1976	7	3	0		16	
1977	8	1	0	L- SF	3	
1978	9	1	0	L -CG	3	
1979	6	3	1		14	71-22-1
1980	9	1	0	L -FR	3	
1981	8	2	0		14	
1982	12	0	0	W- NC	2	
1983	6	2	1		14	
1984	12	0	0	W -NC	1	
1985	8	2	0		5	
1986	12	0	0	W- NC	1	

1987	5	4	0			
1988	7	2	0		20	
1989	6	3	0		25	85-16-1
1990	7	2	0		18	
1991	8	3	0	L- QF	9	
1992	12	1	0		2	
1993	6	3	1		12	
1994	8	2	0	L -FR	1	
1995	6	3	0		21	
1996	5	4	0			
1997	6	3	0		19	
1998+	7	2	0			
1999	6	3	0			71-26-1
2000	9	1	0		7	
2001	7	2	0			
2002	10	1	0	L -QF	7	
2003	11	1	0	L -QF	3	
2004	13	0	0	W- NC	1	
2005	10	1	0	L- QF	1	
2006	6	3	0			
2007	6	3	0			
2008	6	3	0			
2009	12	1	0	L -SF	3	90-16-0

54 Yrs 419 100 10 (Games: 529.....Win%: .802)
 Avg. 7.76 1.85 0.19 [APR: 8.50]

DIVISIONAL HISTORY: *NAIA **NAIA I ^NAIA II + NCAA III

Seeking Voters in weekly College Football Poll

By Brad Matthews

Hello, my name is Brad Matthews, and on behalf of the members of the **College Football Researchers Association (CFRA)** poll, I would like to invite all members and readers of *The College Football Historian*/IFRA members to join our weekly college football poll this fall.

The **College Football Researchers Association** was originally founded by the late Anthony Cusher of Reeder, North Dakota in 1982. It was an organization modeled after the Professional Football Researchers Association (PFRA) consisting of college football fans and writers dedicated to researching and analyzing the history of the game.

The CFRA retrospectively elected national champions from the years of 1919-1981 based on a poll created by Harry Carson Frye and also voted on present-day national champions during the years of 1982-1992. They published their results in a monthly bulletin produced by Robert Kirlin of Spokane, Washington until after the '92 season when the association ceased operations and several successor organizations, operating under different names, were created.

Last September, under the coordination of myself and others and with the permission and involvement of past members, the College Football Researchers Association was reorganized, and a group of both new and original CFRA voters was assembled to recreate this influential poll.

Basically, the CFRA poll functions like any other weekly college football poll with each of its voters submitting a top 25 ballot after each Saturday's games. The polls are then posted each Monday morning on our organization's website: www.cfrapoll.com.

This poll gained a lot popularity and participation throughout the 2009

Marshall College's 1920 Season

By Woody Woodrum

season, as we even had a press release about our national championship selection published by the IFRA and other college football publications.

Now, we are looking to further expand the poll by adding other avid college football fans who would like to participate. **If you would like to become a CFRA voter, please e-mail me at bmatthews85@gmail.com and I will get you put on our mailing list and give you information on how to submit your weekly poll.**

It would also be great if you could provide me with your name, location, and brief description of your college football interests and involvement so that I know a little bit about each of the voters. We will probably allow for new voters to join throughout the first few weeks of the season, but there will be a deadline about when additional participants can be added.

One thing I would like to stress: the CFRA published a monthly newsletter similar to what is done with TCFH; the CFRA Poll will include just a weekly poll; and is not another college football research organization.

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Editor's note: *The July issue of TCFH had Marshall's 1919 season allowing 249 points; this story corrects that information!*

In the shutout for the season story, Marshall's year was 1920, not 1919, and the Herd was out-scored 0-247 (not 249).

The amazing thing is Marshall did not play football in 1918, due to the world-wide flu epidemic - all students were sent home in October from then Marshall College, and many men headed overseas for W.

The 1917 team had slipped to 1-7-1 under Carl Shipley in his only season as head coach after Boyd "Fox" Chambers left Marshall for the University of Cincinnati. Chambers, the coach who used the "Tower Play" in 1915 to avoid shutouts against WVU (6-92, but betting line had Herd getting shutout; the game is both the biggest win for the Mountaineers and worst ever loss for Thundering Herd) and at Ohio (7-21).

Okey "Blondie" Taylor would lift Dayton "Runt" Carter on his shoulders in end zone and Bradley Workman, who had two brothers who played at The Ohio State University, threw the TD pass. Walter Camp upheld the scores on protest from the WVU and OU camps as touchdowns but changed the rules for 1916. Chambers, who also was basketball coach, baseball coach and athletic director at Marshall from 1908-1917, was 32-27-4 at Marshall, still fifth-most wins by a head coach in Marshall history, and is one of ten head coaches at Marshall (of 27) with a

winning percentage above .500 for his career.

In 1919, Marshall was led by Archer Reilly, who played one game for the Pittsburgh Pirates at third base on June 1, 1917 and was teaching at Marshall College after attending Marshall and Ohio State. In his only season, Reilly led the Herd to an 8-0 season in which the Big Green (as Marshall was known as at this point) outscored its opponents 303 to 13, pitching six shutouts and allowing just seven points to Greenbrier Military Academy in 29-7 win and six points to Muskingum in 19-6 win.

Other wins were 79-0 over Morris Harvey College, then Marshall's biggest rival in the village of Barboursville. The now University of Charleston moved from the suburbs of Huntington to the capital city in Charleston in the 1930s. Marshall beat Transylvania University 20-0, Broadus College (today's Alderson-Broadus) by 27-0, beat Greenbrier in a rematch 62-0, Davis & Elkins College 33-0 and Kentucky Wesleyan College 33-0.

Back Doug Freutel averaged 17.0 points per game (102 points in six games played due to injuries, best scoring average in school history for single season), including a still MU record 38 points against Greenbrier Military in the game on the Marshall campus.

Forward one season and the Herd was now coached by Herbert Cramer. His one season is the worst in Marshall history as Marshall was

not only 0-8, but became the first intercollegiate team in West Virginia college football history to be shutout the entire season, 0-247. The Herd opened at Army, and the Black Knights of the Hudson took a 0-38 win. Marshall returned home for the rest of the slate, as its 1,000-seat on-campus facility was one of the tops in the state.

Kentucky Wesleyan got revenge for being shutout in 1919 by winning 0-13. Ohio University was next and the Bobcats left town with a 0-55 blowout. Davis and Elkins (0-16), the Ironton (Ohio) YMCA team (0-13) - thought to be the one chance to win and/or at least score - Rio Grande (Ohio) College (0-28) and Muskingum (0-37) left town with wins.

The annual Thanksgiving Day/Homecoming Game was set for Nov. 25 with long-time rival Morris Harvey was a disaster, as Marshall lost to the Golden Eagles 0-47 to end the season without a touchdown. It should have been a year to celebrate, as Marshall College handed out its first four-year degrees in the spring of 1920.

Up to that point, Marshall had been a "Normal" school, a post-graduate

- *in Memory of...***Milt Morin**...**Robert Davis Jr.**, Georgia Tech; 83...**Tom Pagna**, former assistant at Notre Dame; 78...former Baylor player **Anthony**

program to produce secondary school teachers for high schools (grades 7-12) since 1867, with a "Lab" school on campus that allowed grades 7-12 to attend high school on the Marshall College campus and to be a preparatory lab for teachers.

Many players began playing sports, especially football and baseball, for Marshall College as early at the tenth grade until the two were separated when Marshall helped to found the West Virginia Athletic Conference in 1925 (Marshall High School would wear green and white and were called the "Generals" through the 1960s).

1920 captain Frank "Red" Christ holds the Marshall record for letters in football, garnering seven in his three years of high school and four years of college. His coach for 1920, Herbert Cramer, lasted just the one season however. Soon, local sports star Kemper Shelton would return the Herd to winning in 1921 with a 5-2-1 mark and 5-4 in 1922.

* * *

Arline; 26...**Dennis Byrd**, Former N.C. State...**George Steinbrenner**, former player at Williams College graduate assistant at Ohio State and assistant coach at Baldwin-Wallace, Purdue

The College Football Historian-18-

- and Northwestern; 80...former St. John's left-handed QB **Bob Sheppard**; 99...**Gene Goodreault**, Boston College, 92...**Ray Dalton**, who played football at Tennessee from 1960-62... **Gary Moore**, who starred at Tennessee from 1976-79... Oberlin director of athletics and coach **Joe**

- **Halls of Fame...***(State of) Nebraska Hall of Fame:* defensive tackle **Ndamukong Suh, Dan Alexander, Steve Lindquist, Todd Millikan, Ed Periard, Bob Pickens, Carlos Polk and Chris Spachman.** From smaller Nebraska colleges, new Hall of Fame members will be **Mike Sallier** of Doane College and **Noland Urban** of Nebraska Wesleyan...**Yankton College's 1970 football team, Y-Club Hall of Fame.** *Gridiron Greats of the (State of) Michigan Hall of Fame* **Joe Schmidt, Lloyd Carr, Mike Lucci, John Greene, Dave Brandon, Lem Barney, Mike Ditka, Walt**

Gurtis, 84...New York Post award-winning sportswriter **Vic Ziegel**, 72...Former Oklahoma linebacker **Daryl Hunt**, 53...**John Caine**, former Oregon and San Jose State athletics director, recently passed away at age 85...**Jack Tatum**, Pittsburg, Calif., he was 61...**Harry Galbreath**, Tennessee (1984-87) has died. He was 45...**Bob Fenimore**, Oklahoma A&M, 84...former Florida safety **John Curtis IV**, 24.

Kowalczyk, Lomas Brown, Tom Matte, Pat Summerall, Lynn Chandnois, Bob Chappuis and Tom Nowatzke...*(State of) Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Allen Brown (Ole Miss) and Mississippi State's Frank Dowsing...Texas Tech Athletics Hall of Fame Montae Reagor, Marcus Coleman and Herschel Ramsey...* *North Texas, 1950 Gulf Coast Conference Championship team and induct former football players Patrick Cobbs, Kevin Galbreath and Ben Moturi...* *Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, John Cooper.*

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CONSECUTIVE SEASONS RANKED #1 ASSOCIATED PRESS COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLLS IN AT LEAST ONE WEEKLY POLL

By George Macor

COLLEGE	TOTAL	SEASONS
MIAMI-FLA	7	1986-1992
NOTRE DAME	5	1946-1950
OKLAHOMA	5	1954-1958
TEXAS	5	1961-1965
NOTRE DAME	4	1964-1967
NEBRASKA	4	1994-1997
PITTSBURGH	3	1937-1939
ALABAMA	3	1964-1966
OHIO STATE	3	1968-1970
OHIO STATE	3	1973-1975
OKLAHOMA	3	1974-1976
ALABAMA	3	1978-1980
OKLAHOMA	3	1985-1987
NOTRE DAME	3	1988-1990
SOUTHERN CAL	3	2003-2005

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The Small College Football History website is now available for viewing. Should you see any worth historical accomplishments; please forward them to Tex Noel! [<http://www.best-all-time.com/small-college-football-history.html>]

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Glenn “Pop” Warner’s 1908 All-Eastern and All-Western Teams and Polls

	All-Eastern Teams	
	<i>First Eleven</i>	<i>Second Eleven</i>
Ends	Scarlett, Pennsylvania	Schildmiller, Dartmouth
	Coy, Yale	Burch, Yale
Tackles	Fish, Harvard	Horr, Syracuse
	Northcroft, Annapolis	Seigling, Princeton
Guards	Andrus, Yale	Rich, Dartmouth
	O'Rourke, Cornell	Goebel, Yale
Center	Nourse, Harvard	Philon, West Point
Quarter	Lange, Annapolis	Miller, Pennsylvania
Halfbacks	Tibbott, Princeton	Mainer, Pennsylvania
	Corbett, Harvard	Thorpe, Carlisle
Fullback	Hollenback, Penn	Walders, Cornell
	All-Western Teams	
	<i>First Eleven</i>	<i>Second Eleven</i>
Ends	Page, Chicago	Rogers, Wisconsin
	Schommer, Chicago	Roppert, Ames,
Tackles	Osthoff, Wisconsin	Boyle, Wisconsin
	Wham, Illinois	Chaloupka, Nebraska
Guards	Messmer, Wisconsin	Van Hook, Illinois
	Reed, Kansas	Seidel, Iowa
Center	Schulz, Michigan	Safford, Minnesota
Quarter	Steffen, Chicago	Gray, Oberlin
Halfbacks	Iddings, Chicago	Alderdice, Michigan
	Johnson, Minnesota	Myers, Kansas
Fullback	Wilco, Wisconsin	Lambert, Ames

	East			West			
1	Harvard	7	Brown	1	Chicago	7	Michigan
2	Pennsylvania	8	West Point	2	Wisconsin	8	Ohio State

3	Yale	9	Annapolis	3	Kansas	9	Ames
4	Dartmouth	10	Princeton	4	Illinois	10	Indiana
5	Carlisle	11	Syracuse	5	Minnesota	11	Purdue
6	Cornell	12	Penn State	6	Nebraska	12	Iowa

* * *

In an email, a question was asked about the early rule of kick-back following a score.

Three IFRA members weighed-in with their findings

It's a Kick-Back...Not a Kick-off

- **Mel Smith** writes: In Parke H. Davis' 1911 book, *'Football: The American Intercollegiate Game'*. On page 470, first article under the Convention of Oct. 17, 1883; Amendment adopted: 'Section 1 of rule 5: "A side having touched the ball down in their opponents' goal, may try at a goal either by a place kick or punt-out" altered so as to read "shall try at goal", the object being to prevent teams from deliberately missing goals in order to make another touchdown, which was possible under prior rules.'
- **Michael Steele** writes: I am not a football rules expert but I well recall in my background reading for the *Norte Dame*

Football Encyclopedia that this was, indeed, the case in the formative years of college football. Norte Dame football started in 1887...I would say that this was the rule into the early years of the 20th century. Many things changed after the 1905 season (forward pass, etc).

Many of the really whopping, lopsided scores were in this period—1887-1905 or so...and having the ball kicked back right after a TD meant that one side could just rack up the score if the defense couldn't stop them. I don't know precisely when the rule changed—one would think that the drawback to it would be apparent to anyone...but they stuck with it for at least a decade, probably longer.

Walter Camp, of course, was the grand master of all things football for half a century or more...and perhaps a good bio of him would reveal the precise date.

- *About them Dawgs* by **Patrick Garbin** (Chapter 5, page 41)...In Georgia's 1920 Game

vs Auburn, a 33-3 win, Auburn's offense was hapless...choosing to never receive a kick but to kick off each time instead.

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- *Should any IFRA member also be on the LinkedIn connections site; we have a a group there—come join us. It's called the IFRA Group.*

*We now have **248 members** of IFRA—always accepting more; as a lot of our recent members have joined us via the IFRA Group.*