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With this issue of *The College Football Historian*, we start our second year collectively known as the **Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association—83 members strong!!**

2008 Armed Forces Bell Helicopter Bowl Mirrored Recent Traditions of Football Powers

By Bo Carter, NFF

Air Force and Houston have established themselves as national college football powers in spite of probably playing just half as many seasons as tradition NCAA FBS universities.

Amazingly, AFA and UH had played 18 bowl games each before the Cougars' 34-28 triumph on Dec. 31, 2008, at Ft. Worth's Amon Carter Stadium during the 18th game of the 2008-09 bowl season.

In just 54 seasons of intercollegiate football, the Falcons had appeared in 18 bowl

games (now 8-10-1 after the narrow loss in Ft. Worth). Houston has played 63 years with 19 postseason contests (same record now at 8-10-1) and a tradition which includes over 60 first team All-America selections, 1989 Heisman Trophy recipient QB Andre Ware, and almost 100 alumni in the NFL ranks since 1946.

At that current rate the Academy could sport as many as 33 bowl appearances in its first 100 years of football while UH is on pace for 29 bowls by its 100th season. These numbers compare favorably with three-century football traditionalists such as Arkansas, Georgia, LSU, Michigan State, Missouri, and others. In many cases, the Air Force and Houston percentages are even higher.

AFA has similar numbers in 36 standouts receiving some All-America mentions, 39 first team *College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America* honorees and a New Year's Day bowl appearance (1959 Cotton in Dallas) in just the fourth year of the program.

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That 9-0-2 squad under legendary head coach Ben Martin remains as the only unbeaten campaign in Falcons' history, though the 1984 and 1998 teams each closed at 12-1 and near national championships.

UH has the added distinction of winning conference titles in three different leagues – the Missouri Valley and Southwest Conferences as well as Conference USA (most recently in 2006). The Cougars were within a win of hosting the 2008 Conference USA championship before falling to cross town rival and circuit foe Rice 56-42 in last November's finale.

It may be the grits or sleeping in their own beds until a few days before bowl kickoffs, but Houston teams have fared well in postseason contests in Texas. From 1969-74 the Coogs competed in four Bluebonnet Bowls at their then-home turf in the Astrodome and then trekked to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas for Classics in 1977, '79 and '80. Some of UH's most memorable victories came in the 1969 Bluebonnet (36-7 over Auburn), '77 Cotton (30-21 over Maryland) and '80 Cotton (17-14 over Nebraska).

Air Force is no stranger to the Lone Star State in December and January, either. The Falcons tied TCU 0-0 in the 1959 Cotton Bowl to stay undefeated while AFA

toppled Texas 24-16 in the 1985 Bluebonnet Bowl. The Falcons dropped a 42-36 shootout to California in the 2007 Armed Forces Bell Helicopter Bowl and played at Amon Carter Stadium for the third time in 12 months Tuesday after falling at TCU in November.

Besides the team achievements, both the Falcons and Cougars sports loads of individual honors over the last 6-7 decades. Air Force already features National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame standouts Chad Hennings (a DFW Metroplex hero with the NFL Dallas Cowboys), fellow All-America lineman Brock Strom and veteran head coach Buck Shaw (34-year mentor at five colleges).

Houston can cite the Heisman-winning QB Ware, the late 1976 Rotary Lombardi Award recipient Wilson Whitley and ultra-successful head coach Bill Yeoman (1962-86) among the College Hall of Fame heroes and sports several future honorees.

The current editions for Air Force and Houston contained many of the modern-day stars of college football. Falcons' quarterback Tim Jefferson garnered Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year laurels (first Falcon so honored) while senior DE Jake Paulson nailed down first team All-MWC laurels.

UH sported three 2008 major award winners from *Conference USA* in **Offensive Player of the Year** QB Case Keenum and **Defensive Player of the Year** DE Phillip Hunt along with *C-USA Freshman of the Year* RB Bryce Beall. The Cougars and Falcons sport enough young talent to keep league and national contention for years to come.

Coaches Troy Calhoun (17-9 with back-to-back bowl appearances in his first two years as Falcons' a 31-7 cushion and then held on by its fingertips to win 31-28 despite a fourth quarter rally by the Coogs. That also is the only other meeting historically between the schools.

The Cougars' comeback victory in Fort Worth marked the 17th time that teams had played in rematches of regular-season games in bowls (first was in 1943 and '44 Sugar Bowl when LSU and Texas A&M tussled twice in the same season), and the team which lost the first encounter has come back to go 13-4 in bowls - including the two 2008 rematches between Navy and Wake Forest and UH and AFA.

Return of the '49ers

The story behind the 1948 football team's memorable

mentor) and UH's Kevin Sumlin (8-5 in his head coaching debut season) are two of the nation's up-and-comers. Sumlin joined Yeoman in '62 and current Baylor coach Art Briles in 2003 as the only UH head coaches to go bowling in their initial campaigns.

The added attraction is that the teams had met once in 2008 in the Metroplex at SMU's Ford Stadium with Hurricane Ike bearing down on the Texas Gulf Coast on Sept. 13. Air Force built

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march to Rose Bowl victory.

By William Weinbaum

(Part 2 of 3)

Upstart 'Cats Low-key in California

By edict of Voigts, the Northwestern players were to avoid their press clippings, pro or con. "He didn't want us to spend any time reading the newspapers because of all the negativity toward little old Northwestern," says tackle Bill Forman.

Regardless, their portrayal as the underdogs was neither a secret nor without effect. “That did an awful lot to get our motors running,” says tackle Steve Sawle.

Forman says the team’s big-game experiences had the players very upbeat to begin with and Voigts reinforced that as New Year’s Day drew near. “He was perhaps more relaxed in California for that game than I had seen him in other situations,” Forman says. “He was very cool and confident, and he expressed that to us.”

Predictions of a mismatch didn’t deter paying customers. According to the Dec. 22, 1948, L.A. Times, 3,000 people waited in line all night to buy tickets. The newspaper also said Northwestern had 3,000 alumni on the West Coast, and “all want to be inside the Rose Bowl.”

Voigts instructed his team not to speak with the press, but that didn’t stop stories from flowing freely leading up to the game.

The L.A. Times ran a comparison of the ‘Cats’ set of twin brothers from Mason City, Iowa: guard “Fatso” Day and safety Loran “Pee Wee” Day — Fatso outweighed Pee Wee to 185; Fatso was a lefty, but Pee Wee was a righty; and Pee Wee was married, but Fatso was a bachelor.

Newspapers also kept track of the players away from practices and the team hotel, the luxurious Huntington. “They followed us around a great deal, and I won’t comment on what they caught us doing,” says Forman amid guffaws. But he adds, seconds later, “They published pictures of some of the men having a beer in a bar. I thought that was kind of a low blow at the time and I still do.”

Perricone explains, “We had an afternoon off. We were in the Brown Derby having a beer, not carousing. We were out a total of an hour-and-a-half, and it was reported much bigger.”

The out-of-towners received celebrity treatment in other ways. “We went to a play none on the West Coast, with 18 players from Illinois and 10 from Indiana.

One development, however, gave Northwestern a comfort of home. “We were proud of wearing dark jerseys that day because of the flip of a coin,” Perricone says, “and we always seemed to play better when we wore dark jerseys.”

When the Wildcats entered the stadium filled with 93,000 fans, the atmosphere was “pretty electrifying,” says Nemeth. Forman says what comes to mind first about that moment and the whole day is the size and deafening noise of the crowd.

As for the challenge Northwestern faced, Fatso Day says, “We weren’t a bit afraid. They [the Bears] thought they had a shoo-in, I think.” Merely by playing, the Day brothers made history. Pee Wee, who died in 2003, and Fatso are the only pair of twins to compete

in a Rose Bowl, according to the *Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association*.

Pee Wee had a first-quarter interception, the first of two for him and four for the Wildcats. Tom Worthington had the other two — no other team or game in Rose Bowl history has had two players with two interceptions.

In the opening quarter, the ‘Cats struck first.

Aschenbrenner took quarterback Don Burson’s handoff on what started as a simple off-tackle run to the right. By the time he stopped, the speedy halfback had a 73-yard touchdown, setting a record that stood for 44 years as the longest run in any Rose Bowl.

(Before that play, Northwestern’s longest rush of the season was Perricone’s 50-yard jaunt in the opener at UCLA, so something about playing in California apparently gave added oomph to the Wildcats’ offense.)

“I broke the linebacker’s tackle after running left,” says Aschenbrenner, who gives most of the credit to his blockers. “I was surprised at how it opened up.”

Nemeth was among the key blockers. “It just happened so quickly. Things fell in place, and when Frank broke loose, he just took off,” says Nemeth.

“One of the things I think about most often from that game is Frank’s TD,” says fellow halfback Tunnick. “I led his interference, but he cut back. ... The last guy who could’ve caught him didn’t see me.”

“It was nice to come in and nail that guy because he could’ve nailed Frank.”

The fans were stunned. “There was total silence from this gigantic crowd,” says Forman. “And the silence was overwhelming. No one could believe we scored first.”

After the touchdown, Nemeth says, “We got in the

huddle and one player said, ‘Hey boys, this is gonna be easy. Well, it wasn’t. It never was. We got behind.’”

On the Bears’ next play from scrimmage, All-America fullback Jackie Jensen, considered by many the best athlete ever at Cal answered with a 67-yard scoring run to make it 7-7.

Controversial Touchdown

Northwestern’s own All-America at fullback, Art Murakowski, got the call with the ‘Cats on Cal’s 1-yard line in the second quarter. “I said, ‘Come through between Rudy [Cernoch, a tackle] and me. We’ll move everybody out, he will be able to score,’” Keddie recalls saying in the huddle. “I promised we’d take him into the end zone.”

Get into the end zone, Murakowski did, but he fumbled and Cal recovered. The question was — and is — whether Murakowski still had the ball as he got over the goal line. The play remains one of the most controversial in Rose Bowl history.

“I was two feet from it, and he scored, no doubt about it,” says Sawle. “He had possession when he crossed.”

“I was right in the middle of the pile,” Nemeth says. “When Art took the ball and hit the line, it looked to me like he’d just crossed. He fumbled too late for it to be called.”

Field judge Jay Berwanger, winner of the first Heisman Trophy in 1935, saw it the same way and ruled it a touchdown for Northwestern, which missed the extra point but took a 13-7 lead.

“California was not in agreement,” Nemeth says, “and I don’t blame ’em. Art was hit hard, and the ball flew out. There was a lot of doubt.”

To this day, the Bears rue Northwestern’s “phantom” score and the judgment of the legendary Berwanger. “We know Murakowski fumbled the ball before he got to the goal line, and the photo clearly shows that,”

Cal’s Frank Brunk, a fullback and defensive back said in an interview this June with CalSportsDigest.com. “I would just like to hear someone from Northwestern admit it.”

Forman counters, “The camera doesn’t lie, but it has to be at a proper angle to determine how far Murakowski actually ran. There were camera angles that showed it (the touchdown) couldn’t possibly happen, and some that showed that it did possibly happen.”

“Art’s feet were not in the end zone,” stated the [Jan. 2, 1949, Los Angeles Times](#) about its Page One photo of the play in question. “Because of the angle, it is possible part of his body may have been — but the Cals will yelp about this one for a long time to come.”

According to CalSportsDigest.com, several Bears continue to lobby the Pac-10 Conference (formerly the PCC) and the Rose Bowl committee to put an asterisk in the record book next to

the game's final score, because of the disputed touchdown.

But Forman, who lives in California, says, "I had friends who played for UC-Berkeley, and for years they'd always give me the business, saying we didn't really beat them. But in the last few years they came around to admit we did beat them."

Early in the second half, things really seemed to look up for the 'Cats when Cal's golden boy was sidelined. "We thought we had it made when Jackie Jensen left the game, hurt his leg," says Day. "But they brought in somebody who played a great game."

Brunk, Jensen's roommate, replaced him and churned up yardage to set up a go-ahead score with 1:40 left in the third quarter.

Fourth-quarter Desperation

Trailing 14-13, the 'Cats' chances came down to a desperate drive from their

own 12-yard line late in the fourth quarter. It's what remains the game's most vivid memory, says Aschenbrenner. "I think most everybody had given up on us."

Whenever it faced adversity, says Sawle, memories of experiences far more threatening unified and emboldened the team. "Tunnick was missing a finger from a combat injury [as a tank driver in Germany]. A lot of guys had been shot at. It brought us all together in a way, that bond."

- **Additional reading and video on the 1949 Northwestern Rose Bowl experience can be found at: www.northwestern.edu/magazine/fall2008/feature/rose_bowl.html.**

Northwestern's trip to the 1949 Rose Bowl will conclude in the March issue of TCFH.

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Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award

The Davey O'Brien Legends Award recognizes a college or professional quarterback who has made a significant contribution to the game of football, distinguished himself as an extraordinary leader and demonstrated exemplary conduct on and off the football field.

The award was established in 2001 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Davey O'Brien Foundation.

Winners include: Roger Staubach, (2001); Bart Starr, (2002); Terry Bradshaw, (2003); Archie Manning, (2004); Len Dawson, (2005); Paul Hornung, (2006); Steve Spurrier, (2007) and with Joe Theisman being named the 2008 winner.

Annual DAVEY O'BRIEN NATIONAL QUARTERBACK AWARD®

2008–Sam Bradford, Oklahoma
2007–Tim Tebow, Florida
2006–Troy Smith, Ohio State
2005–Vince Young, Texas
2004–Jason White, Oklahoma
2003–Jason White, Oklahoma
2002–Brad Banks, Iowa
2001–Eric Crouch, Nebraska
2000–Chris Weinke, Florida State

1999–Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech
1998–Michael Bishop, Kansas State
1997–Peyton Manning, Tennessee
1996–Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1995–Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1994–Kerry Collins, Penn State
1993–Charlie Ward, Florida State
1992–Gino Torretta, Miami
1991–Ty Detmer, BYU
1990–Ty Detmer, BYU
1989–Andre Ware, Houston
1988–Troy Aikman, UCLA
1987–Don McPherson, Syracuse
1986–Vinny Testaverde, Miami
1985–Chuck Long, Iowa
1984–Doug Flutie, Boston College
1983–Steve Young, BYU
1982–Todd Blackledge, Penn State
1981–Jim McMahon, BYU

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WHICH TEAM IS THE BEST? MAJOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL (1883-2007) PART III

By Patrick M. Premo

The previous two articles concerning top Major College Football teams focused on 1883-1936 and 1936-2007. This article will provide the exciting conclusion and will crown the best Major College Football team in US history. In addition, I will also stage contests between the number two finishers, the number three placed teams, and the number four finishers. Thus we will have, in order, the eight best teams in the history of Major College Football,

at least based upon these tournaments. And, of course, the Penn-Nebraska winner will then take on **1996 Marshall** to see which team is the all-time best, regardless of division. As I stated in the past, I am using Tex Noel's rankings to pair these champions, *with the proviso that no individual school is represented more than once in each tournament.*

Starting with the fourth-place finishers in the two Major College Football tournaments, here are the games, all held at neutral sites, to determine the final rankings.

FOURTH-PLACE FINISHERS:

1886 Yale versus 2001 Miami, FL. Both of these teams boasted terrific defenses, and the resultant game proved just that. Miami could only manage a field goal and touchdown, but Yale only scored two field goals. Thus, 2001 Miami, FL, won 10-6 over 1886 Yale in a low scoring thriller.

THIRD-PLACE FINISHERS:

1889 Princeton versus 1944 Army. In a very exciting game, 1944 Army prevailed over 1889 Princeton by the score of 21-20.

SECOND-PLACE FINISHERS:

1917 Georgia Tech versus 2005 Texas. 1917 Georgia Tech scored 21 points, but 2005 Texas put up 28 to secure the victory.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - FIRST-PLACE FINISHERS:

1895 Penn versus 1995 Nebraska. It was ironic that these two teams played exactly 100 years apart, but what more fitting than old school versus new school? In a high scoring game, 1995 Nebraska outscored 1895 Penn 38-28.

Thus, based solely upon these tournaments, the top eight schools in Major College Football history are as follows:

1. 1995 Nebraska
2. 1895 Penn
3. 2005 Texas
4. 1917 Georgia Tech
5. 1944 Army
6. 1889 Princeton
7. 2001 Miami, FL
8. 1886 Yale

Of course, if I were to run this tournament again, the results might very well be different. Or you might choose different teams from each era – and undoubtedly after many exciting games, you would more-than-likely end up with different teams in your top eight.

- **RECAP OF ALL DIVISION WINNERS:**

NCCAA DIVISION: 2006
NORTH GREENVILLE
MID-MAJOR DIVISION: 2004
MONMOUTH, NJ
HBCU DIVISION: 1961
FLORIDIA A&M
NAIA DIVISION II: 1974 **TEXAS LUTHERAN**
NAIA DIVISION I: 1976 **TEXAS A&I**
COLLEGE DIVISION (1958-1974): 1969 **NORTH DAKOTA ST.**
NCAA DIVISION III: 1997
MOUNT UNION
NCAA DIVISION II: 1998 **NW MISSOURI ST.**
NCAA DIVISION I-AA: 1996
MARSHALL

EPILOGUE:

Remember, if you were to conduct any of these tournaments again using my **FAST-ACTION COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOARD GAME**, your results will most likely vary. Just as in real life, when two teams play one another twice (or more) in the same season, the results are not always the same. *[NOTE: As I have mentioned in the past, after 40 years of designing and distributing sports board games, I have decided to discontinue operations. Initially, I was not going to prepare any more annual updates, but due to*

MAJOR COLLEGE (INCLUDING NCAA DIVISION I-A): 1995
NEBRASKA

CHAMPIONS ROUND:

And lest we forget, 1996 Marshall has been waiting in the wings, just itching to take on 1995 Nebraska. Both these teams were high scoring machines. 1996 Marshall put up 24 points against 1995 Nebraska, but it was not nearly enough as **1995 Nebraska** scored 41 of their own to claim the all-time College Football Champion, regardless of division.

I hope you have enjoyed these tournaments during the past year as much as I have enjoyed running them. And please don't forget, it is only a game!

overwhelming demand I have decided to continue updating my games until I find an acceptable buyer for my game business. In fact, the 2008 college football season is now available - all the top teams from all the major divisions are included. My web site features a half-price close-out sale (except for the computer games) that will be on a first-come, first serve basis. Some games are in very short supply; in fact, the Major League Baseball game is already sold out and Pro Basketball is nearly gone. I am also offering FREE games with purchases. My web site address is: members.tripod.com/newaction.

Payments with PayPal are welcomed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at pmpremo@gmail.com.]

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This story originally appeared on the secsportfan.com website, which is IFRA member/webmaster Mo Johnson, owns and operates—thanks, Mo for allowing this story appear in TCFH.

Best SEC Football Coach in History: General Robert "Bob" Neyland vs. Paul "Bear" Bryant

By David Jones

(Lengthy but if you want to compare the 2 greatest SEC coaches, read on.)

Background

Robert Neyland coached at Tennessee for a total of 21 years twice interrupted. He coached from 1926-34, 1936-1940, and 1946-52.

Paul "Bear" Bryant coached a total of 38 years at 4 different schools; He was at Maryland in 1945, Kentucky 1946-53, Texas A&M 1954-57, and Alabama 1958-82.

Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky,

and Maryland were among the 21 team Southern Conference when Neyland became head coach at Tennessee in 1926. Duke joined in 1929 to make it 22 teams. The 13 team SEC started in 1933. Sewanee left after 1940, Georgia Tech after 1963, and Tulane after 1965. Maryland was in the Southern Conference when Bryant coached there. Texas A&M was in the SWC.

Except where the percent of games tied is listed separately, ties count as ½ win and ½ loss when calculating winning percentages.

Overall Record

Games won, lost, and tied (winning percentage) in number of seasons:

*Neyland Career (at Tennessee):
173-31-13 (82.9%) in 21 seasons
Neyland in Southern: 61-2-5
(93.4%) in 7 seasons
Neyland in SEC: 112-29-8
(77.9%) in 14 seasons
*Bryant Career: 323-85-17
(78.0%) in 38 seasons
Bryant at Maryland and in
Southern: 6-2-1 (72,2%) in 1
season
Bryant at Texas A&M and in
SWC: 25-14-2 (63.4%) in 4
seasons
Bryant in SEC: 292-69-15
(79.7%) in 33 seasons
Bryant at Kentucky: 60-23-6

(70.8%) in 8 seasons
Bryant at Alabama: 232-46-9
(82.4%) in 25 seasons

Portion of Games Won, Lost, and Tied:

Neyland Career: 79.7%, 14.3%, 6.0%
Bryant Career: 76.0%, 20.0%, 4.0%
Bryant at Alabama: 80.8%, 16.0%, 3.1%

*Neyland's winning percentage is best among SEC head coaches, minimum 10 years (7th among all NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision coaches). Bryant's is 3rd (15th). Bryant's win total is best among SEC head coaches (3rd NCAA FBS). Neyland's is 11th (40th).

Overall Outstanding Seasons

Neyland Career (21 years):

6 undefeated seasons (1 perfect with no ties / 5 with one tie each)
6 one-loss seasons (no ties)
0 losing seasons (Two .500 seasons)

Bryant Career (38 years):

4 undefeated seasons (3 perfect with no ties / 1 with one tie)
11 one-loss seasons (9 with no ties / 2 with one tie each)
1 losing season (first year at Texas A&M)

Bryant at Alabama (25 years):

3 undefeated seasons (all perfect with no ties)
10 one-loss seasons (8 with no ties / 2 with one tie each)
0 losing seasons

In Neyland's first 7 years, 1926-1932, he lost one game in 1926, one game in 1930 and had one tie each of the other 5 years for a cumulative record of 61-2-5 (93.4%). The 3 consecutive and 5 out of 6 undefeated seasons is unmatched in the history of any current SEC team.

National Championships Claimed

Neyland (4) – 1938, 1940, 1950, 1951

Bryant (6) – 1961, 1964-65, 1973, 1978-79

AP Polls (Beginning 1936)

Neyland Career (12 years)

1st – 1
Total Top 5 – 5
6-10th – 2
11th – 20th – 2
Unranked – 3

Bryant Career (38 years)

1st – 5
Total Top 5 – 13
6th-10th – 9
11-20th – 6
Unranked – 10

Bryant at Alabama (25 years)

1st – 5
Total Top 5 – 12
6th-10th – 7
11-20th – 2
Unranked – 4

Bowls

There were fewer bowls in the earlier years. Alabama is 1st in bowl appearances. Tennessee is tied for 2nd. Neyland has fewer appearances because he coached in the earlier era. During the time when their careers overlapped (1946-1952), Neyland and Bryant each coached in 4 bowl games.

Neyland: 4-4 in 8 appearances
Bryant: 15-12-2 in 29 appearances

Conference Record

Neyland Career: 103-17-10
(83.1%) in 21 seasons
Neyland in Southern: 41-2-5
(90.6%) in 7 seasons
Neyland in SEC: 62-15-5 (78.7%)
in 14 seasons

Bryant Career: 185-51-10
(77.6%) in 38 seasons
Bryant in Southern: 3-2 (60%) in
1 season
Bryant in SWC: 14-9-1 (60.4%) in
4 seasons
Bryant in SEC: 168-40-9 (79.5%)
in 33 seasons
Bryant in SEC at Kentucky: 22-
18-4 (54.5%) in 8 seasons
Bryant in SEC at Alabama: 146-

22-5 (85.8%) in 25 seasons

Conference Outstanding Seasons

Neyland Career (21 Years)
11 seasons undefeated in
conference (6 with tie)
2 seasons with SEC losing record

Neyland in SEC (14 Years)
6 seasons undefeated in
conference (one with tie)
2 seasons with SEC losing record

Bryant Career (38 Years)
12 seasons undefeated in
conference (each perfect with no
tie, 1 in SWC)
5 seasons with losing record in
conference (4 SEC, 1 SWC)
Bryant in SEC (33 Years)
11 seasons undefeated in SEC
(each perfect with no tie, all at
Alabama)
4 seasons with SEC losing record
(3 at Kentucky)

Conference Championships

Neyland (21 years)
Total – 7
2 Southern – 1927 (1/3), 1932
(1/3)
5 SEC – 1938, 1939 (1/3), 1940,
1946 (1/2), 1951 (1/2)

Bryant Career (38 years)
Total – 15
14 SEC – 1950 (KY), 1961 (1/2),
1964, 1965, 1966 (1/2), 1971-
75, 1977-79, 1981(1/2)
1 SWC – 1956

In 1950, Kentucky won the
conference with a 5-1 record,

despite the loss being to Tennessee who was 4-1. Tennessee finished 4th in the AP, then defeated #3 Texas in the Cotton Bowl. Kentucky finished 7th in the AP, then defeated #1 Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl. So, while counting conference titles is an indicator of success, the method used to determine champions, especially in the earlier years, should be considered. The Southern Conference had as many as 22 teams. Some years, the champion played as few as 4 conference games – other years as many as 8 so scheduling was a big factor.

Among current SEC teams, Alabama's 5 straight conference championships is matched only by Vanderbilt who won 5 straight (the first one shared) from 1903-1907 in the SIAA (a larger conference).

Bryant vs. Neyland, Head-to-Head (record indicated is for entire season)

1946 Tennessee (9-2) defeated Kentucky (7-3) 7-0 at Tennessee

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Bo Carter's Top 10 List of Favorite Events in College Football History *(with apologies to David Letterman)...as of Jan. 30, 2009*

1-Knute Rockne hired as head coach at Notre Dame.

1947 Tennessee (5-5) defeated Kentucky (8-3) 13-6 at Kentucky

1948 Tennessee (4-4-2) tied Kentucky (5-3-2) 0-0 at Tennessee

1949 Tennessee (7-2-1) defeated Kentucky (9-3) 6-0 at Kentucky

1950 Tennessee (11-1) defeated Kentucky (11-1) 7-0 at Tennessee

1951 Tennessee (10-1) defeated Kentucky (8-4) 28-0 at Kentucky

1952 Tennessee (8-2-1) tied Kentucky (5-4-2) 14-14 at Tennessee

Total: Neyland 5, Bryant at Kentucky, 0, 2 ties

Neyland vs. Alabama

12-5-2 (68.4%)

Bryant vs. Tennessee

17-13-4 (55.9%)

0-5-2 (14.3%) at Kentucky

0-1-0 (0%) at Texas A&M (Gator Bowl)

16-7-2 (68%) at Alabama

2-Dan McGugin hired as head coach at Vanderbilt.

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3-Kicking tee is outlawed for college PATs and field goals.

4-Mississippi State upsets Alabama to end Tide's 28-game winning streak in 1980.

5-Texas upsets USC in Rose Bowl for 2005 season BCS title.

6-Kansas State knocks off Oklahoma in 2003 Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship.

7-Oklahoma downs Florida State for 2000 BCS crown.

8-Southwest Conference has five-way tie for first place in 1994.

9-Vanderbilt edges West Virginia 16-6 (first college football game ever attended) in Nashville.

10-Kansas State edges Texas Tech 21-14 in first Big 12 Conference game in 1996.

OK who is next: send Tex your selections...for inclusion in future issues.

* * * *

In Honor of...

School and/or Conference honors:

Ray Nagel, AD and Jack Johnson from the Warriors' 1932-34, Paul Laper, Niagara; Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel and Steve Morgan, Toledo; Northwestern has named Chris Hinton and honorary inductee director of athletics Rick Taylor; Aaron Smith, Northern Colorado; Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice (North Carolina) and Sam Huff (West Virginia) alongside Georgia

Southern All-America RB Adrian Peterson have been selected for the inaugural Southern Conference Hall of Fame; Ball State added 1985-95 head coach Paul Schudel and all-star kicker Kenny Stucker; Virginia State's Ronald Davis and Leo Miles, Sr. (posthumous) were recently named to the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's (CIAA) John B. McLendon, Jr. Hall of Fame.

- Calvin Hill, former Yale standout, named the 2009 **PriceWaterhouse Coopers** Doak Walker Award Legends Award recipient.

In Memory of...

Former Southern California LB Eric Scoggins; SMU player Harold Clements II; Gregory

Sisler, Ashland College (Ohio); Dante Lavelli, Ohio State; Austin Denny, Tennessee; Shane Dronett, Texas; Jermaine Swearington, Sul Ross State (Texas); John Gordy, 73, Ray Hawkins, both former Tennessee players; Bill Herchman, Texas Tech; Georgia; Jim Wilson; Rev.

Darren Bruce, former football team chaplain for Tulane and Clemson; Pete Goering, 60, award-winning sports editor and managing editor of the Topeka Capital Journal; Jeep Davis, 74, an Ohio State graduate and former assistant coach at Cornell.

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Dating Magazine
1901

University Football. The Season of 1900 Reviewed

Every season in recent years has furnished its surprises—the present one no more than some which have preceded it.

THE season of 1900 had one distinguishing feature above all others since 1896. It settled beyond a doubt the unquestioned superiority of one team over all its rivals of the year. In 1896, Princeton's position was just as clearly established; in 1897, 1898 and 1899 the margins of difference were much less pronounced.

The Yale eleven is, with little question, the mightiest football combination ever formed. For physical prowess the previous record was held by Princeton's

giant team of 1889, in which Janeway, Riggs, Cowan, George, Cash *et al.* figured. There have *al.* figured.

There have, perhaps, been more highly finished elevens in point of technical skill—Yale in 1891, Princeton in 1896, Harvard in 1898—but for overwhelming physical strength to enforce first-class football knowledge, and an unusual degree of football brains, the laurel wreath goes to the Yale eleven of 1900.

Under magnificent leadership and with the advantages of thorough coaching and the wisest training, her splendid material developed, at the proper time, into about the best football team on record. She has been building these three years on solid foundations for just the very results she obtained on November 17 and 24.

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DAVIS WANTS FUMBLE RULE TO BE CHANGED

Parke H. Davis, a former member of the Football Rules Committee advocates a rule prohibiting a man from picking up a fumbled ball. He advocates a radical change in the existing rules to eliminate the chance of a touchdown as the immediate result of a fumble.

"This feature of football is uncouth, unfair and a relic of a long bygone era," argues Mr. Davis. "The proper disposition of this fluke play is to change the rules so that the ball shall be put down for scrimmage at the point where a fumble is recovered by the side recovering the fumble and no run allowed.

If the fumble is recovered behind an opponent's goal line the ball shall be put in play at the point where it was fumbled."

wwwtech.mit.edu/archives/VOL_044/TECH_V044_S0241_P004.pdf+parke+H+davis&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=17&gl=us

Were you aware of this?

- **Chris Gilbert, [Texas, 1966-68]**

1st running back to rush for at least 1000 yards in 3 consecutive seasons

1966, 206-1080 (5th National Rank)

1967, 205-1019 (9th)

1968, 184-1132

{1966-68: 595-3231}

- **Tony Dorsett, [Pittsburgh, 1973-76]**

1st running back to rush for at least 1000 yards in 4 consecutive seasons

1973, 288-1586 (2nd National Rank)

1974, 220-1004

1975, 228-1544 (3rd)

1976, 338-1948 (1st)

{1973-76: 1074-6082}