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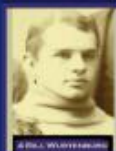
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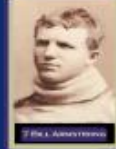
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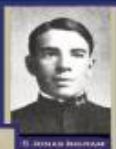
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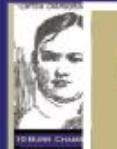
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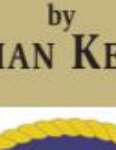
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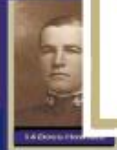
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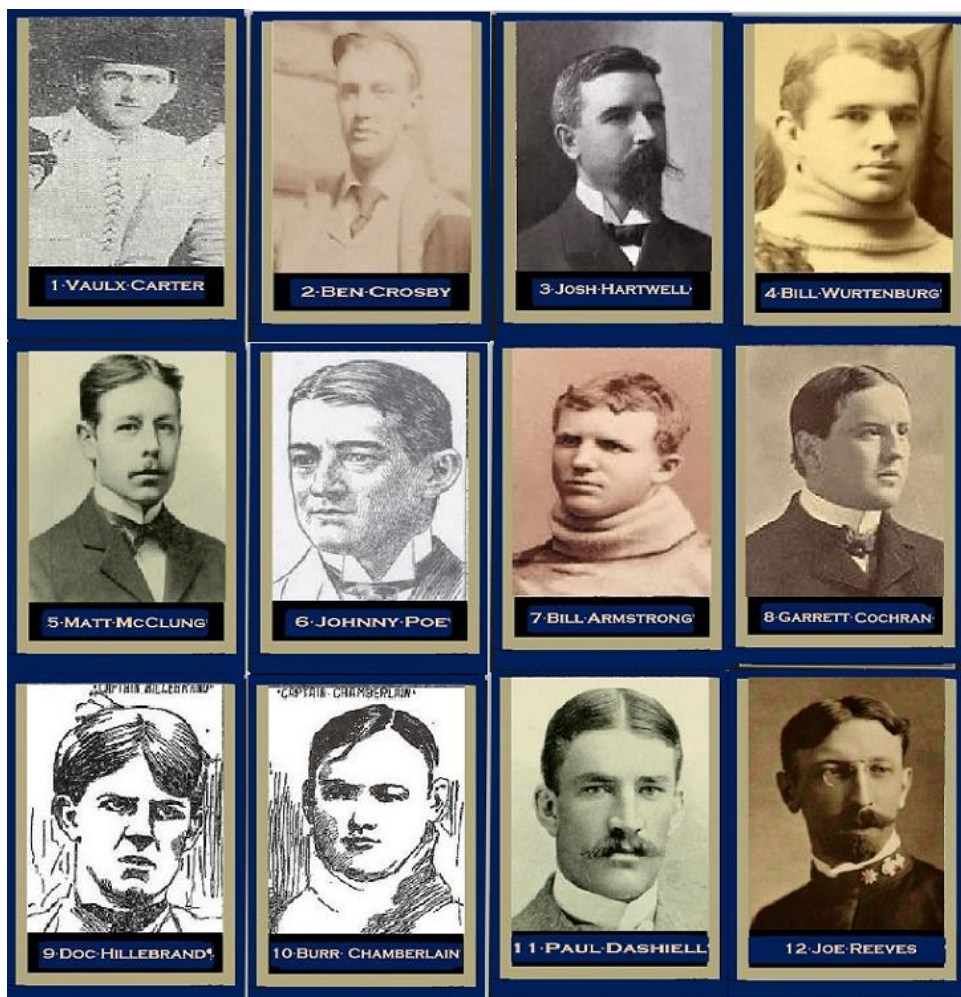


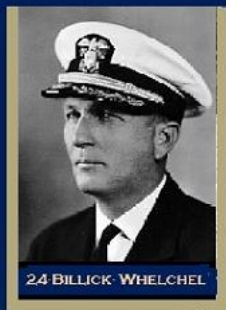
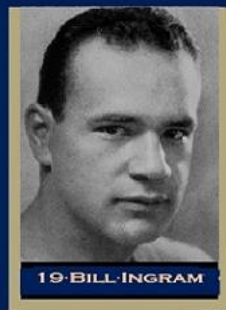
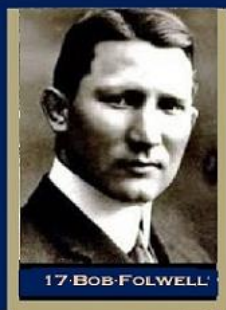
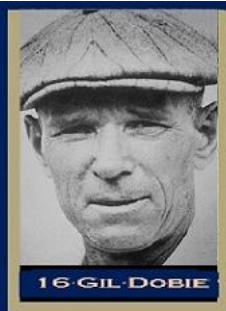
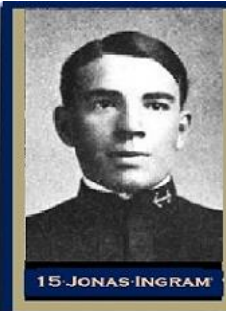
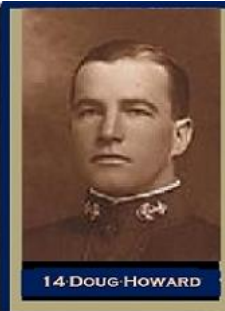
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# Great Moments in Navy Football

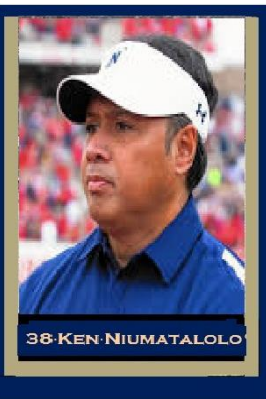
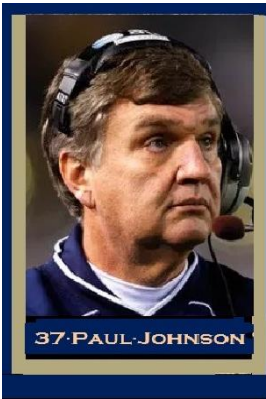
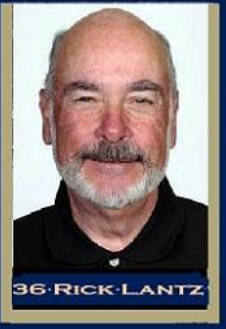
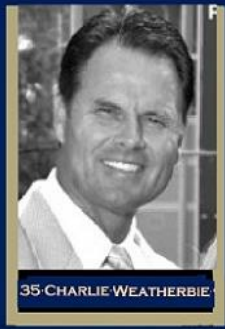
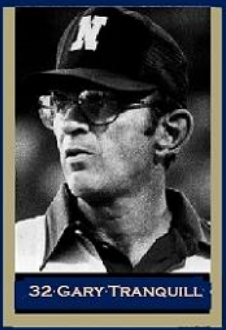
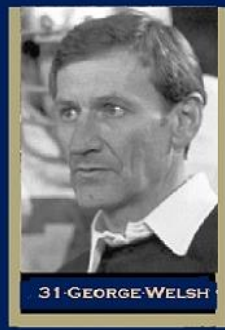
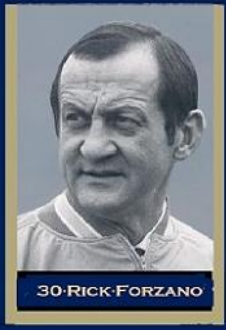
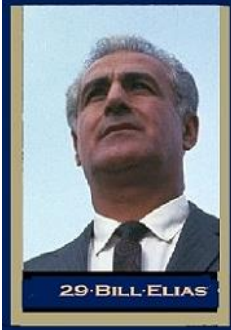
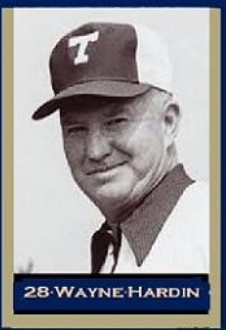
by  
BRIAN KELLY













# Great Moments

In

# Navy Football

From the beginning of football all the way to Navy's 2018 team

Up to Navy 2019 team. This book is written for those of us who love the US Naval Academy and especially the Navy's Midshipmen Football Team. You'll like all the stories from the Academy's founding on Oct 10, 1845 as the Naval School by Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft just under 180 years ago, to the beginning of American football in 1869, to the first Navy football game in 1879... and all through the great Navy football teams of the 20th century to today with a revitalized Navy Football Team under coach Ken Niumatalolo.

You will learn that like no other football team, the US Navy Midshipmen are fierce and passionate competitors. From the stadium to the classroom to the research lab, the US Navy Midshipmen always play to win.

You will learn that Navy's first official football game was in 1879 even before American football had been completely defined. They tied the Baltimore Athletic Club. It was not until 1890 that Navy played Army. They beat the Army 24-0 in this first game and Army has never forgotten it. Army and Navy have been beating each other up each year ever since 1890 at their annual Army-Navy Game. To both teams a victory against the other in the Army-Navy Game is more important than even a great season.

You'll also learn that First Classman J.H. Robinson was the first to get football going at Navy, but back then it was more like a combo of soccer and rugby and it was used more for training and not for competition. First Classman William John Maxwell is credited with getting the current football program started at Navy. Just one game was played to a 0-0 tie v Baltimore's Athletic Club in 1889 but over thirteen-hundred-games have been played since.

From here, the book moves you one great Navy coach at time through the immortals such as Frank Berrien, Bill Ingram, Paul Dashiell, Doug Howard, Eddie Erdelatz, Wayne Hardin, Paul Johnson, and then on to today's great coach, Ken Niumatalolo.

The history of Navy Football as told here is just fascinating. This book captures the many great moments and the contributions of each of the 38 coaches and standout players such as Navy's two Heisman winners, Joe Bellino, and Roger Staubach. Of course, there are other greats such as Ed Sprinkle, Bob Hoernschemeyer, Mike Wahle, and Phil McConkey.

In this book, we look at every game in every season and we take the reader through great chapters about all the Navy teams with great stories and accounts of 138 seasons worth of great games (1323 games) with many great moments.

This book is your finest source for a great read on your favorite service academy college football team (Navy's Midshipmen). It is the closest thing to an all-encompassing, full-blown Navy football encyclopedia-- blow by blow history with tales of the great moments. We capture all the action and all the memorable moments of Navy football. This book is for your reading pleasure, but it also can be a great reference tool for you when you want to see how a particular Navy game in any year happened to turn out.

If you are a Navy Football fan. you will not want to put this book down.

## Brian Kelly



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Editor: Brian P. Kelly  
Author Brian W. Kelly

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# Navy Football Seasons by Year/Coach.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy Coach</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy Coach</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1879	No coach	0-0-1	1924	Bob Folwell	2-6
1880	<i>No team</i>		1925	Jack Owsley	5-2-1
1881	<i>No team</i>		1926	Bill Ingram	9-0-1
1882	Vaulx Carter	1-0	1927	Bill Ingram	6-3
1883	No coach	0-1	1928	Bill Ingram	5-3-1
1884	No coach	1-0	1929	Bill Ingram	6-2-2
1885	No coach	1-2	1930	Bill Ingram	6-5
1886	No coach	3-3	1931	Rip Miller	5-5-1
1887	No coach	3-1	1932	Rip Miller	2-6-1
1888	No coach	1-4	1933	Rip Miller	5-4
1889	No coach	4-1-1	1934	Tom Hamilton	8-1
1890	No coach	5-1-1	1935	Tom Hamilton	5-4
1891	No coach	5-2	1936	Tom Hamilton	6-3
1892	Ben Crosby	5-2	1937	Hank Hardwick	4-4-1
1893	Josh Hartwell	5-3	1938	Hank Hardwick	4-3-2
1894	Bill Wurtenburg	4-1-2	1939	Swede Larson	3-5-1
1895	Matt McClung	5-2	1940	Swede Larson	6-2-1
1896	Johnny Poe	5-3	1941	Swede Larson	7-1-1
1897	Bill Armstrong	8-1	1942	Billick Whelchel	5-4
1898	Bill Armstrong	7-1	1943	Billick Whelchel	8-1
1899	Bill Armstrong	5-3	1944	Oscar Hagberg	6-3
1900	Garrett Cochran	6-3	1945	Oscar Hagberg	7-1-1
1901	Doc Hillebrand	6-4-1	1946	Tom Hamilton	1-8
1902	Doc Hillebrand	2-7-1	1947	Tom Hamilton	1-7-1
1903	Burr Chamberlain	4-7-1	1948	George Sauer	0-8-1
1904	Paul Dashiell	7-2-1	1949	George Sauer	3-5-1
1905	Paul Dashiell	10-1-1	1950	Eddie Erdelatz	3-6
1906	Paul Dashiell	8-2-2	1951	Eddie Erdelatz	2-6-1
1907	Joe Reeves	9-2-1	1952	Eddie Erdelatz	6-2-1
1908	Frank Berrien	9-2-1	1953	Eddie Erdelatz	4-3-2
1909	Frank Berrien	4-3-1	1954	Eddie Erdelatz	8-2
1910	Frank Berrien	8-0-1	1955	Eddie Erdelatz	6-2-1
1911	Doug Howard	6-0-3	1956	Eddie Erdelatz	6-1-2
1912	Doug Howard	6-3	1957	Eddie Erdelatz	9-1-1
1913	Doug Howard	7-1-1	1958	Eddie Erdelatz	6-3
1914	Doug Howard	6-3	1959	Wayne Hardin	5-4-1
1915	Jonas Ingram	3-5-1	1960	Wayne Hardin	9-2
1916	Jonas Ingram	6-3-1	1961	Wayne Hardin	7-3
1917	Gil Dobie	7-1	1962	Wayne Hardin	5-5
1918	Gil Dobie	4-1	1963	Wayne Hardin	9-2
1919	Gil Dobie	6-1	1964	Wayne Hardin	3-6-1
1920	Bob Folwell	6-2	1965	Bill Elias	4-4-2
1921	Bob Folwell	6-1	1966	Bill Elias	4-6
1922	Bob Folwell	5-2	1967	Bill Elias	5-4-1
1923	Bob Folwell	5-1-3	1968	Bill Elias	2-8

1969	Rick Forzano	1-9	1995	Charlie Weatherbie	5-6
1970	Rick Forzano	2-9	1996	Charlie Weatherbie	9-3
1971	Rick Forzano	3-8	1997	Charlie Weatherbie	7-4
1972	Rick Forzano	4-7	1998	Charlie Weatherbie	3-8
1973	George Welsh	4-7	1999	Charlie Weatherbie	5-7
1974	George Welsh	4-7	2000	Charlie Weatherbie	1-10
1975	George Welsh	7-4	2001	Charlie Weatherbie	0-10
1976	George Welsh	4-7	2001	Rick Lantz	
1977	George Welsh	5-6	2002	Paul Johnson	2-10
1978	George Welsh	9-3	2003	Paul Johnson	8-5
1979	George Welsh	7-4	2004	Paul Johnson	10-2
1980	George Welsh	8-4	2005	Paul Johnson	8-4
1981	George Welsh	7-4-1	2006	Paul Johnson	9-4
1982	Gary Tranquill	6-5	2007	Paul Johnson	8-5
1983	Gary Tranquill	3-8	2007	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5
1984	Gary Tranquill	4-6-1	2008	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5
1985	Gary Tranquill	4-7	2009	Ken Niumatalolo	10-4
1986	Gary Tranquill	3-8	2010	Ken Niumatalolo	9-4
1987	Elliot Uzelac	2-9	2011	Ken Niumatalolo	5-7
1988	Elliot Uzelac	3-8	2012	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5
1989	Elliot Uzelac	3-8	2013	Ken Niumatalolo	9-4
1990	George Chaump	5-6	2014	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5
1991	George Chaump	1-10	2015	Ken Niumatalolo	11-2
1992	George Chaump	1-10	2016	Ken Niumatalolo	9-5
1993	George Chaump	4-7	2017	Ken Niumatalolo	7-6
1994	George Chaump	3-8	2018	Ken Niumatalolo	2-7

**Navy almost always played as an independent Team.** In 1978, the team formally joined the NCAA FBS Division for Independent Schools (not a conference). In 2014, Navy became a single-sport member of the American Athletic Conference beginning play in the 2015 season.

**Total Games** 1,323

Seasons 140

**Total Wins** 708

**Total Losses** 558

**Total Ties** 57 \* Prior to Overtime Rules

**Stats from 1879 Through August 2017**







# Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I received in putting this book together, along with the 184 other books from the past.

My printed acknowledgments were once so large that book readers needed to navigate too many pages to get to page one of the text. To permit me more flexibility, I put my acknowledgment list online at [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com). The list of acknowledgments continues to grow. Believe it or not, it once cost about a dollar more to print each book.

Thank you all on the big list in the sky and God bless you all for your help.

Please check out [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com) to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book. Thank you all!

In this book, I received some extra special help from many avid football friends including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Brent Evans, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Robert Garry Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly and Diane Kelly. Another recent angel, always there to help is Jim Faller.



## References

I learned how to write creatively in Grade School at St. Boniface. I even enjoyed reading some of my own stuff as a toddler.

At Meyers High School and King's College and Wilkes-University, I learned how to research, write bibliographies and footnote every non-original thought I might have ever had. I learned to hate *ibid*, and *op. cit.*, and I hated assuring that I had all citations written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to such details took my desire to write creatively and diminished it with busy work.

As a highly published author, I know it is necessary for the world to stop plagiarism so authors and publishers can get paid properly, but for an honest writer, it sure is annoying. I wrote many proposals while with IBM and whenever I needed to cite something, I cited it in place, because my readers, IT Managers, could care less about tracing the vagaries of citations and their varied formats.

I always hated to use stilted footnotes, or produce a lengthy, perfectly formatted bibliography. I bet most bibliographies are flawed because even the experts on such drivel do not like the tedium.

I wrote 184 books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available. Academicians knowing all the rules of citation are not my audience. In this book, if you are a lover of Navy football, you are my intended group of readers

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the Great Moments in Navy Football, I tried to bluff my way into trying to make you think that I knew everything before I began to write anything in this book. I spent as much time researching as writing. I might even call myself an expert of sorts now about the Navy Midshipmen. This team literally is America's team. As the first Service Academy to play College football, everybody in America has at one time watched and enjoyed Navy football, especially when Navy is having winning seasons, and more especially when Navy is beating Army.

Without any pain on your part you can read this book from cover to cover to enjoy the stories about the many *Great Moments in Navy Football*.

It took me about two months to write this book. If I were to have made sure that a thought of mine was not a thought somebody else ever had, this book never would have been completed or the citations pages would more than likely exceed the prose. Everybody takes credit for everything in sports writing—at least that's what I have found.

I used Navy Media Guide season summaries and recaps from whatever source I could to get the scores of all the games. I verified facts when possible. There is little opinion where facts are presented. There are many web sites that have great information and facts. Ironically most internet stories are the same exact stories. Who's got the original? While I was writing the book, I wrote down a bunch of Internet references and at one time, I listed them right here en masse in this section. They were the least read pages. No more. Unless I am citing a reference in a section of the book, you will not see the URL.

I have no favorite source for information to put in my books. However, I continually hunt for articles written by students to amplify the text I present.

While I was writing this book, because I was not sure that my citations within the text would be enough, and I was not producing a bibliography, I copied URLs into some of the book text in those cases in which I had read articles or had downloaded material and had brought articles or pieces of articles into this book. Hopefully, this will satisfy any request for additional citations. If there is anything, which needs a specific citation, I would be pleased to change the text. Just contact me. Your stuff is your stuff.

Many of the facts in this book are also put forth in the Navy Football Media Guide, freely available on the Internet. Our thanks for the use of this material for the accurate production of this book. This, however, is a unique book as you will find. It is not a copy of anything.

This book is a great source about Navy football where you can find a ton of information about your favorite Navy team.

Enjoy



## Preface:

This book is all about the great moments in Navy football over the years. Whether the team was playing as the Midshipmen, the Mids, or unofficially as the Middies, it never seemed to matter to the fans or the players. We have the football history right as we begin this book.

In addition to the Midshipmen nickname, the Navy also has a real live mascot—Bill the Goat, that always points to the opponent's end zone



The goat gets special treatment especially at the annual Army-Navy game. It is rumored that Bill the Goat often challenges the VIP status that admirals and other dignitaries are granted. Instead of riding a 'goat' wagon, bill is often escorted in limousines, luxury vans and fancy floats to the stadium. When Bill is introduced to the crowd, he receives great fanfare, that ranks just behind the cheers showered upon the Midshipmen players.

It isn't by accident. In 1893, a live goat named El Cid made his debut as a mascot at the fourth Army–Navy Game. El Cid was a gift to the Brigade of Midshipmen from officers of the USS New York. With the goat, Navy gained a 6-3 win over Army that year, so he was adopted as part of the team.

There have been other mascots in those years, including a gorilla -- the very first mascot, two cats, a bulldog, and a carrier pigeon. However, the goat has served without interruption since 1904.

The U.S. sports media uses the term "Navy" as a synonym for the Academy and the football team. We like that and for this book, Navy, it is!

Along the way to today, we study the founding of Naval Academy in Annapolis Md. then we look at the preliminaries before Navy football officially began, and then we delve right into the storied Navy Football Program--its struggles; its greatness; and its long-lasting impact on American life. This takes us to the football careers of many great college football coaches and players from the Navy team as it engaged tough competition over the years.

As a Pennsylvanian, I admit I wrote a similar book about Penn State Football but only after I had fulfilled the family Irish wish and had written about Notre Dame Football. ND & Navy have a special relationship about which we will share stories in this book. But, I still recall as a kid with our Admiral Black and White TV, my dad calling us to order for the annual Army-Navy-Game, which was always enjoyable. It was always appropriate to watch the game on our *Admiral* TV.

I picked Navy as my next book because the Midshipmen have a long and bold tradition of playing great football. I think Air Force Football may be my next sports book. With many immortal coaches on the roster over the years, unlike Army and other great college football powers, other than Paul Johnson and Ken Niumatalolo there is no one coach that the navy highlights as their best. However, they do give us something to think about ourselves.

Vaulx Carter, for example, might get the nod because he is the program's first coach, and is the all-time leader in win percentage, with a perfect 1.000. Of course he only coached one season, and the team played just one game, but he did retire with a 1-0 record.

Of coaches who have served in more than one game, Gil Dobie has the highest win percentage with .850 after completing a record of 17-3. George Sauer is not considered one of the best because he has the lowest win percentage of any non-interim coach, amassing a percentage of .222 and a record of 3-13-2.

Before the current coach, coach George Welsh was the all-time leader in seasons coached at Navy with nine. He also led in number of games coached (102). Ken Niumatalolo, the current Navy Coach overtook Welsh in 2014 for the most games won at Navy, with 57. In 2014, Niumatalolo overtook Paul Johnson, his predecessor, for the most bowl games coached, with seven, as well as the greatest number of bowl games won

I credit Navy with two national championships, but they were so long ago, they may be in dispute. Navy has other records such as 19 players and three coaches in the College Football Hall of Fame they won a consensus college football national championship in 1926 according to the Board and Houlgate poll systems. Without a polling group vouching for them, I credit Navy's 1910 team, which was undefeated and unscored upon (the lone tie was a 0-0 game) as another National championship and so let's use two as the proper number. In addition to highlighting games, in this book, we also highlight great coaches and great players of Navy's past.

Supporters who love Navy Football as played by the US Naval Academy will read this book and get an immediate burst of emotions such as warmth and love for their favorite team. You will love this book because it has it all – every great season and every great game. Go Navy!

This book walks you through the whole Navy football journey. We examine players, coaches, and successes from the early teams to today. This period began in 1789 with the first Navy game against the Baltimore Athletic Club. (tie 0-0). Like all new teams, you can imagine the struggle of playing on a college football team when getting the right equipment was one of the biggest issues.

At the front of this book, you saw the 38 great Army coaches (including one interim coach) listed within the football seasons in which they coached--from season 1 in 1789 season to 138. There were a few seasons early on that were skipped. In other words, the seasons are examined chronologically, and the coaches and certain games and certain players are highlighted within the seasons in which the games were played. I sure hope you enjoy this unique approach.

As noted, before Ken Niumatalolo put together ten and then more consecutive coaching seasons, George Welsh was the Navy leader for seasons coached at nine. Few of Army's many coaches to that point took the team for more than a couple years. Yet, they still produced some powerful teams with powerful players. Until the last few years, Navy consistently dominated Army in the annual Army-Navy Game and those bragging rights are more important than money.

## **Navy is a long-time football power**

One hundred thirty-eight, going on One forty-one is a long time to be playing football. Navy has a history of being recognized as one of the finest teams in the nation. For many years, the teams were ready to win a national championship or at least, almost, at the drop of the next hat. Though it has been over ninety years since the last recognized championship, Navy is still tough, and nobody can deny that. Nobody, even the vaunted ND Fighting Irish pushes Navy around.

You will be impressed as you look at the highlights of the games and the coaches and players as to how many Admirals contributed to the many great Midshipmen football seasons. There's a lot of great reading in this book for sure.

With the current coach who has brought in great teams since taking the reins in 2007, would it not be wonderful for Navy, the major defender of our Nation at sea, to bring home another football championship sometime soon

Your author would like you to know that when football season closes in the second week of January each year, there is now a great football item—this book—that is available all 52 weeks of the year and in fact all 365 days each year. It does not rely on the stadium gates being open for you to get a great dose of Navy Football. Just begin reading right here.

It is now available for you to add to your Navy Football experience. and your book collection. Once you get this book, it is yours forever unless, of course you give it away to one of the many who will be in awe, and who will accept it gladly. For those who love to use gadgets



to read, this book is also available electronically on sources such as Kindle.

We open the book with the first story set shortly after the beginning of college football as a sport in America. It then moves on to the first official game with the first official coach and all the way to Coach Ken Niumatalolo's great record. It tells a story about all the football seasons and the great coaches and great players and great moments from the first coached game in 1879 to today.

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves Navy's storied football program and wants to know more about the most revered athletes to have competed in one of the finest football programs of all time.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's Great Moments in Navy Football will quickly appear at the top of Americas most enjoyable must-read books about sports. Enjoy!

### **Who is Brian W. Kelly?**

Brian W. Kelly is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 185th published book. Brian is an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics and he has also written several hundred articles on topics of interest to Americans.

Most of his early works involved high technology. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as The Wine Diet and Thank you, IBM. His books are always well received.

Brian's books are highlighted at [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com). Quantities from 20 to 1000 of any book can be made available from [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com). You will see most of Brian's works by taking the following link [www.amazon.com/author/brianwkelly](http://www.amazon.com/author/brianwkelly). At this site, you can buy one book if you choose or a million, more or less.

The Best!

Sincerely,

Brian W. Kelly, Author  
Brian P. Kelly, Editor in Chief  
I am Brian Kelly's eldest son.

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# About the Author



Brian Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) Program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of technical industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Brian was a certified Army Instructor before retiring. He is the author of 185 books and hundreds of magazine articles. He has been a frequent speaker at technical conferences throughout the United States.

Brian was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. He loves Navy Football and can't wait to see the Midshipmen finish the 2019 season with a win v Army in the Army-Navy Game and then on to a great 2020 season. God bless the Navy Midshipmen!!!



# Chapter 1 Introduction to Navy Football

## Navy's 140th year coming in 2020!

(without counting a few years when no games were played)



Coach Niumatalolo On the Sidelines with his Team

The Navy Midshipmen football team represents the United States Naval Academy in college football. Navy is currently a Division I ACC member of the NCAA. The Midshipmen currently play their home games in Annapolis Maryland at the **Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium**. It has a current seating capacity of 34,000.

Navy is currently coached by Ken Niumatalolo, who is in his 10<sup>th</sup> season as head coach. Navy is a two-time national champion, winning the title in 1910, and 1926. You'll hear that a lot in this book. Navy also has a total of six undefeated seasons.

With the exception of eight seasons in the very early years of the program. (1879, and 1883-1889), Navy always had the benefit of an Academy sponsored paid coach. Navy was always an independent. For a better affiliation, in 1978, the Midshipmen joined the NCAA FBS (no conference) grouping to make it easier to be part of the

NCAA bowl structure. In 2014, they joined the ACC and played their first ACC game in 2015.

Officially the Navy Midshipmen recognize a long and great football history that dates back to 1879. If you are from Army or Air Force or some other rival school, you have to be kind. Such rivals know that Navy was born great and then got greater as the program prospered under a number of fine coaches.

Some had been joking after the fantastic 2016 Army victory over Navy that the new Army goal is to out-Navy, Navy. But then Army again beat Navy—though by just one point in 2017. We'll see this year but one thing for sure. The Midshipmen can taste the win already.

## **Navy Midshipmen: Can Perry Dazzle Full Season?**

Unlike rival Army, the Navy Midshipmen were blessed in 2018 with an abundance of experience at quarterback, with camp focused on junior Malcolm Perry. But when ND came to town in San Diego on Oct 27, Perry was a slot back.

After a bye week that followed a close-call victory against Pittsburgh, Notre Dame stayed unbeaten (8-0) and on a path toward a possible College Football Playoff berth with a 44-22 victory in front of an announced sellout crowd of 63,626 at SDCCU Stadium. ND by the way got its twelfth victory of the season on Nov 24, giving them an unblemished regular season record.

In 2017, after a 5-1 start last season, the Mids went on to lose their next-three games, leaving head coach Ken Niumatalolo searching for a spark. The longtime Navy head coach found it in dynamic slot back Perry, who came to Navy as a high school quarterback. Now, as the Army-Navy game is all there is left of 2018, and it will not have been played before this book hits the streets (I hope), Navy sits at an unexpected 3-9.

2017 starting quarterback Zach Abey, has now been relegated to receiver and goal-line TD run-attempts. In 2017, he was nursing a sore shoulder when Niumatalolo opted to try Perry under center against



visiting SMU. The move paid off in a big, very big way. Without completing a pass in the game, the versatile Perry ran for a career-high 282 yards on 33 carries with four touchdowns, as Navy held off the Mustangs 43-40.

Perry brings his own electricity to the power game. Arguably, he is the most electric player in service academy football this season, Perry began the season as the full-time starter at QB in 2018 for the Mids, while Abey has moved to wide receiver and special duties as noted.

The biggest question surrounding Perry was whether the 5-foot-9, 185-pounder from Clarksville, Tenn. Could stay healthy for a full 13-game regular season (Navy gets an extra game due to NCAA rules for playing at Hawaii) as he absorbs the pounding quarterbacks take running the triple option.

However, Perry suffered a foot injury early in the third quarter of Navy's 49-7 whipping of Virginia in the 2017 Military Bowl and was hampered in spring practice while still recovering. Abey took over for Perry and went on to be named MVP of the bowl game after rushing for 88 yards and five touchdowns. Navy has talent but bad luck so far in 2018.

Niumatalolo said during American Athletic Conference media days last month that he expects to play multiple quarterbacks, which will also likely include senior Garret Lewis. Lewis was the QB for the whole ND game. With Perry, Abey and Lewis in short-yardage situations, Niumatalolo and offensive coordinator Ivin Jasper have plenty of options to keep foes guessing. Army will be guessing a lot just like ND did on Oct 27.

This book that you are reading celebrates The United States Naval Academy USNA; its founding; its struggles; its greatness; and its long-lasting impact on freedom and American life. People like me, who love Navy, will love this book. Navy haters, such as those from the USMA, will want their own copy just for additional ammo. Yet, it won't help them! Hah!

We begin the rest of the Navy football story in Chapter 2 with the founding of USNA Annapolis over 270 years ago and we continue in subsequent chapters, right into the founding of the full Navy football

program in 1879 after the Midshipmen had been toying with a rugby form of American football on campus for years just for fun.

The first nighttime football game was played in Mansfield, Pennsylvania on September 28, 1892 between Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary and ended at halftime in a 0–0 tie. The Army-Navy game of 1893 saw the first documented use of a football helmet by a player in a game. Joseph M. Reeves had a crude leather helmet made by a shoemaker in Annapolis and wore it in the game after being warned by his doctor that he risked death if he continued to play football after suffering an earlier kick to the head.

Football is a great contagion. Rather than not play, Reeves figured out a way to protect his head. Over the years, more injury-preventive devices were created and used by players and teams. Improvements are made every day. Reeves became an admiral in the United States Navy, and he was an early and important supporter of U.S. Naval Aviation.

In defining the format of the book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss the great moments in Navy football history, and there are many great moments. No book can claim to be able to capture them all, as it would be a never-ending story, but we sure do try.

## **Naval Academy has produced 2 Heisman winners**

We have already discussed Navy's national football prominence over their almost 140-year history. While the United States Naval Academy has slipped during the drought from its one-time lofty status as one of college football's consistently top programs, there's no denying the successful past of Navy football that produced national championship football teams and players that were recognized as college football's best. With Paul Johnson and Ken Niumatalolo taking over in the more recent past, Navy is again a force with which to be reckoned.

Throughout the college football landscape there is traditionally a long list of programs that have produced waves of great teams and All-Americans. While unknowing pundits might hesitate to put Navy in

that category, only ten schools such as Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma and USC, Army, Auburn, Florida, Florida State, Michigan, & Nebraska, have produced more Heisman Trophy winners than the Midshipmen.

For example, Navy's Bo Bellino at running back and Roger Staubach at quarterback are two of the best football players ever. Their greatness on the field is a tribute to the great teams and great coach Wayne Hardin, for whom they played at the Naval Academy.

**USNA Heisman Winners—Joe Bellino 1963, Roger Staubach 1963 below:**



**USNA Plaque Honoring Heisman Trophy Winners Joe Bellino & Roger Staubach**

## Joe Bellino

Joe Bellino, the “Winchester Rifle” is the first Naval Academy football player to win the Heisman Trophy.

Born and raised in Winchester, Mass., Bellino was a three-sport star for Winchester High. He was good enough in baseball to be offered a contract out of high school by the Pittsburgh Pirates, but he chose to

play football for Navy despite offers from Notre Dame and several Big Ten schools.

After a year in prep school, Bellino became an instant star for the Midshipmen. In his three years at Navy, he scored 31 touchdowns, rushed for 1,664 yards on 330 carries, returned 37 kicks for 833 more yards and altogether set 15 Naval Academy football records.



In 1960, Bellino rushed for 834 yards and 15 touchdowns and scored another three TDs via pass receptions. He was a unanimous All-America selection and also the winner of the Maxwell Award. He won the Heisman handily over Richie Lucas of Penn State, totaling 1,929 points to Lucas' 613.

In addition to his football exploits, Bellino was an outstanding catcher and outfielder on Navy baseball teams. He hit .428 in 22 games in 1959 and led the Eastern Intercollegiate League in stolen bases. He had a .320 average in 1960 and was the baseball team captain in 1961.

Bellino's number 27 jersey was retired after the 1960 season. He had a three-year stint with the Boston Patriots after he had completed his

four-year service obligation. He then stayed in the Navy Reserves and reached the rank of Captain.

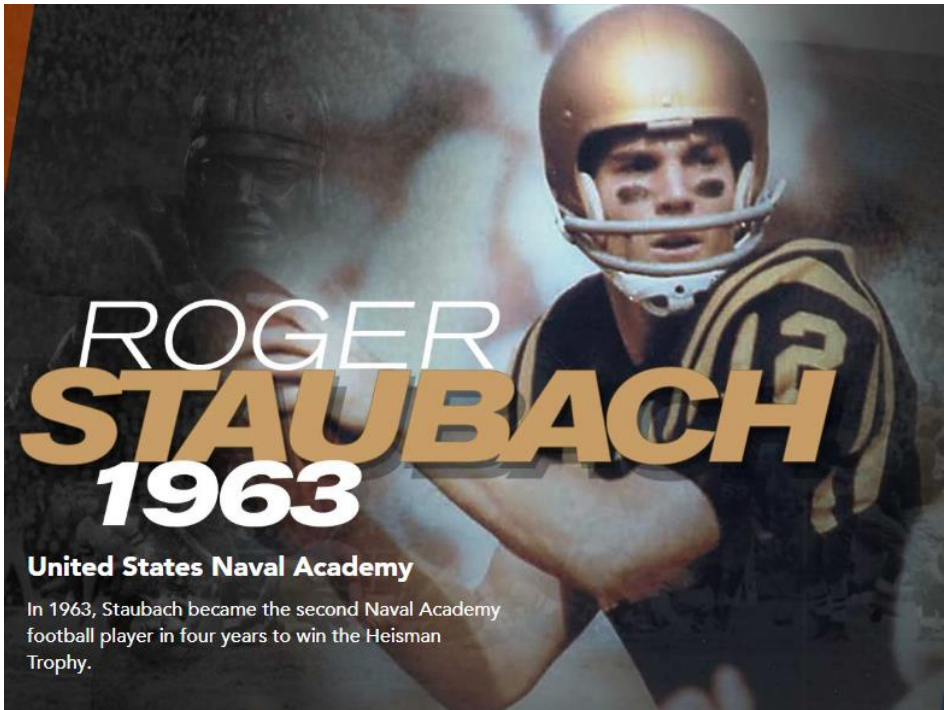
Bellino was a 1977 inductee into the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame and was a charter inductee into the Maryland Football Shrine in 1984.

Bellino is semi-retired after working for 40 years in the auto leasing and auction industry. His son, John, is a 1989 graduate of the Naval Academy, and his daughter, Therese, is a public-school teacher in Cambridge, Mass.

## Roger Staubach

“ROGER THE DODGER”

In 1963, Staubach became the second Naval Academy football player in four years to win the Heisman Trophy.



Known as “Roger the Dodger,” all he did as a junior quarterback was lead Navy to a ranking of second in the country and a berth in the Cotton Bowl, where he set Bowl records for pass completions (21-of-31) and yards passing (228). The Midshipmen posted wins over West Virginia, Michigan, Notre Dame and Maryland that season. He completed 106 passes in 161 attempts for 1,474 yards, while earning consensus All-America honors, as well as the Maxwell Trophy and Walter Camp Memorial Trophy.

At one time, Staubach, who was hampered by injuries in his senior season of 1964, had set 28 Naval Academy records in football. He also had some outstanding performances as a varsity baseball player and a brief but significant moment as a varsity basketball player. He lettered in baseball three-straight years (1963-65) as an outfielder and pitcher. In 1963, he hit .420, and in 1965 he was the team captain. He also won a letter in basketball in 1962-63.

Staubach was the recipient of the Thompson Trophy Cup at the Academy for three-consecutive years and was the 1965 winner of the Naval Academy Athletic Association Sword. He was the first sophomore to win the Thompson Trophy Cup and is its only three-time winner. He was only the fourth midshipman since 1900 to win both the Thompson Trophy Cup and NAAA Sword.

After four years in the U. S. Navy, including a tour in Vietnam, Staubach joined the Dallas Cowboys and led that team to unprecedented heights. Again, displaying the daring play he had shown at Navy, Staubach directed the Cowboys to 23 fourth-quarter comeback wins, 14 in the final two minutes of a game or in overtime. He played 11 seasons with the Cowboys and led them to the Super Bowl four times, including world championships in 1972 and 1978. The Cowboys were 90-31 with Staubach as their starting quarterback.

Among his awards were the NFL Players Association Most Valuable Player and The Sporting News NFL Player of the Year in 1971, Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl VI (1972), Washington Touchdown Club NFC Player of the Year in 1976 and 1978, NFC Pro Bowl selection five times, the Vince Lombardi Sportsman of the Year Award in 1975, NFL Players’ Association NFC Offensive Player of the Year (1978), and the Byron “Whizzer” White Humanitarian Award in 1979.



Staubach was named Walter Camp Foundation Man of the Year in 1985, was selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985, his first year of eligibility.

The football locker room in Ricketts Hall was named in his honor in 1996 and in 2008, Staubach received the National Football Foundation's Gold Medal, the highest honor one can receive from that organization. Staubach has also been honored as a "Distinguished Graduate" of the United States Naval Academy.

He recently was named to the Walter Camp All-Century Team, was elected into the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame, spearheaded a successful movement to land North Texas and the Dallas Cowboys the Super Bowl in 2011 and was named to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium All-Stadium Team.

Staubach is a member of the Board of Directors at Jones Lang LaSalle. He was inducted into the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame in 1981.

## Navy Starts Cheering at the Pep Rallies

### NAVY SPIRIT - CHEER, DANCE AND MASCOTS



There are some that might take issue with the big brag that the Army/Navy football game is the most electric college football environment they've ever seen but they are few and far between. Like clockwork every December, the game takes place and there is a big item on the line for both teams. It is spelled P-R-I-D-E.

The Pep rally at Navy may not be of Notre Dame lore, but with the similar uniforms by the two teams, once the Navy Rally begins, there are those who might think they are at Notre Dame. The Corps of Cadets and the Brigade of Midshipman along with the rest of the fans form an engaged crowd that is deeply invested in their teams success. “Cheering the Midshipman on to victory was an incredible experience, and it was an honor to be a part of such a special tradition.”

Few rivals in college football history can compete with the intense rivalry between West Point and the Naval Academy. Each year, in early December, the students from USNA and USMA come together, as foes. At USNA, this week of rivalry is known as Army-Navy Week. This week is known for crazy pranks, thousands of pushups, and spirit missions in the middle of the night - all to raise the energy to beat Army in the football game on the coming Saturday. The team records do not matter in this game.

Navy Spirit (Cheer, Dance and Mascots) are a huge part of this intense week - participating in pep rallies, supporting the Patriot Games, visits to the Pentagon, an exciting performance at the Army Navy Gala, and of course, the GAME! The last few years Navy Spirit has also had the privilege of participating in the College Game Day experience.

There is a great video on the Internet. It shows Navy Spirit at the Army-Navy Game:

<https://www.facebook.com/USNACheerleading/videos/vb.167646943393623/530555680436079/?type=2&theater>

Navy Spirit (Cheer, Dance and Mascots) also supports the Army-Navy men's and women's basketball games! Navy faces Army twice during the basketball season, once at West Point and once at USNA. Cheering the midshipman on in Alumni Hall is absolutely thrilling. The one promise made is that these games are always exciting!

A daughter of an USNA alumni, tells how she had been to upwards of fifteen Army vs. Navy games before even attending the Academy. Despite this nothing could have prepared her for the absolutely electric energy on the field. “Singing Navy Blue and Gold at the end of the game surrounded by the football team and all our fellow midshipman



is truly my most treasured memory from my time here at the Naval Academy"

The game doesn't have the same national championship implications it once did. The rise of the National Football League has a lot to do with that, as elite young athletes now are choosing major colleges as a path to the professional game rather than one of the service academies as a path to serving their country.

And there is nothing wrong with that.

## **A bit more about Navy-Army Game**

Yes ,I know I did not say it correctly! Hah! I hope the Navy audience for this book appreciates that.

The U.S. Armed Forces have fought for centuries to allow all Americans the right to choose whatever profession they desire.

So, most of the players in whatever version of the rivalry are more likely to end up at Fort Leavenworth than with the 49ers—a choice they've proudly made.

Still, the Army/Navy contest has produced its share of extremely talented players, including Heisman Trophy winners Roger Staubach (Navy, 1963), Joe Bellino (Navy, 1960), Pete Dawkins (Army, 1958), Glenn Davis (Army, 1946) and Felix "Doc" Blanchard (Army, 1945).

Entering each afternoon's matchup wherever it might be held, there was a time when the Midshipmen led the series 55-49-7 and they had won the nine of the most recent contests. Of course since that day, Navy has won more, and Army came back and broke the streak.

So, when you see a special tribute to Army/Navy Games in sections and chapters of this book, it is because outside sources whoever they may be have looked back at arguably the 10 greatest games in the history of this historic rivalry featuring players who all eventually will end up on the same US military team. In this book, we make a point of rooting for the Navy in the Army-Navy Game. Go Navy.



## Chapter 2 The Founding of the United States Naval Academy



Entrance to the Beautiful USNA Campus

### The Naval Academy Short Story: Courtesy of USNA

Don't enlist just because I say you should. But, you should! Unless you are an old fart like me who already put in his time—like me!

When the founders of the United States Naval Academy were looking for a suitable location, it was reported that then Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft decided to move the naval school to "the healthy and secluded" location of Annapolis in order to rescue midshipmen from "the temptations and distractions that necessarily connect with a large and populous city." The Philadelphia Naval Asylum School was its predecessor. Four of the original seven faculty members came from Philadelphia. Other small naval schools in New York City, Norfolk, Va., and Boston, Mass. also existed in the early days of the United States.

The United States Navy was born during the American Revolution when the need for a naval force to match the Royal Navy became clear. But during the period immediately following the Revolution, the Continental Navy was demobilized in 1785 by an economy-minded Congress.

The dormancy of American sea power lasted barely a decade when, in 1794, President George Washington persuaded the Congress to authorize a new naval force to combat the growing menace of piracy on the high seas.

The first vessels of the new U.S. Navy were launched in 1797; among them were the *United States*, the *Constellation*, and the *Constitution*. In 1825, President John Quincy Adams urged Congress to establish a Naval Academy "for the formation of scientific and accomplished officers." His proposal, however, was not acted upon until 20 years later.

On September 13, 1842, the American Brig *Somers* set sail from the Brooklyn Navy Yard on one of the most significant cruises in American naval history. It was a school ship for the training of teenage naval apprentice volunteers who would hopefully be inspired to make the Navy a career.

However, discipline deteriorated on the *Somers* and it was determined by a court of inquiry aboard ship that Midshipman Philip Spencer and his two chief confederates, Boatswains Mate Samuel Cromwell and Seaman Elisha Small, were guilty of a "determined attempt to commit a mutiny."

The three were hanged at the yardarm and the incident cast doubt over the wisdom of sending midshipmen directly aboard ship to learn by doing. News of the *Somers* mutiny shocked the country.

Through the efforts of the Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft, the Naval School was established without Congressional funding, at a 10-acre Army post named Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland, on October 10, 1845, with a class of 50 midshipmen and seven professors. The curriculum included mathematics and navigation, gunnery and steam, chemistry, English, natural philosophy, and French.

In 1850 the Naval School became the United States Naval Academy. A new curriculum went into effect requiring midshipmen to study at the Academy for four years and to train aboard ships each summer. That format is the basis of a far more advanced and sophisticated curriculum at the Naval Academy today. As the U.S. Navy grew over the years, the Academy expanded. The campus of 10 acres increased to 338. The original student body of 50 midshipmen grew to a brigade size of 4,000. Modern granite buildings replaced the old wooden structures of Fort Severn.

Congress authorized the Naval Academy to begin awarding Bachelor of Science degrees in 1933. The Academy later replaced a fixed curriculum taken by all midshipmen with the present core curriculum plus 18 major fields of study, a wide variety of elective courses and advanced study and research opportunities.

Since then, the development of the United States Naval Academy has reflected the history of the country. As America has changed culturally and technologically so has the Naval Academy. In just a few decades, the Navy moved from a fleet of sail and steam-powered ships to a high-tech fleet with nuclear-powered submarines and surface ships and supersonic aircraft. The academy has changed, too, giving midshipmen state-of-the-art academic and professional training they need to be effective naval officers in their future careers.

The Naval Academy first accepted women as midshipmen in 1976, when Congress authorized the admission of women to all of the service academies. Women comprise over 20 percent of entering plebes --or freshmen-- and they pursue the same academic and professional training as do their male classmates

## **More on USNA**

As noted, the United States Naval Academy, located in Annapolis, Maryland, is a premier training institution offering a comprehensive 4-year midshipmen course. It was established in 1845 by George Bancroft, the then-Secretary of the U.S. Navy.

To date, more than 60,000 young men and women have graduated from the academy. Many of these graduates have worked up their way to earn a special place in the nation's pride and history.

The academy offers the latest academic and professional training, keeping abreast with the cutting-edge technologies utilized in naval warfare. Apart from the strenuous physical training and exhaustive curriculum, the academy strives to instill the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty into its graduates. The stress is on overall physical, mental, moral and ethical development. All students are treated equally, irrespective of their race, religion, or sex.

The training program begins with Plebe Summer, which is the initial training program designed to familiarize the new arrivals with the naval life. Here, the students are taken through a routine consisting of military indoctrination, physical education, basic seamanship and sailing, small arms training, first aid, and computer training. The four-year immersion program involves comprehensive classroom and field training.

The professional courses include naval science, engineering, navigation and weapons systems. These courses are designed to give the trainee a working knowledge of modern naval operations and technology. Additionally, courses in leadership, ethics and military law provide the necessary leadership skills and sense of responsibility, which are the absolute qualities needed for an upper-class midshipman and a commissioned officer.

Leadership skills are further groomed by the academy's athletic program. The trainees are encouraged to participate in a variety of athletic events to make them fit and fine.

The strenuous physical training of the Naval Academy is complemented by its quality academic education. The faculty consists of 600 highly qualified members, derived from both the Navy and civilian background. The curriculum includes courses in engineering, science, mathematics, humanities, and social science.

Apart from the general subjects, the students can choose a subject for a major. The students excelling in the academic studies have the opportunity for enrolling in special scholarship and honors programs.

The United States Naval Academy boasts state-of-the-art facilities and equipment such as a propulsion lab, wind tunnels, towing tanks, sub-critical nuclear reactor, oceanographic research vessel, Cassegrain reflector telescope, and a 12-meter satellite earth station.

The Naval Academy is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools. Additionally, six of the engineering majors are professionally accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). A highlight of the four-year training program is the eight weeks of annual summer training. Starting with the initial Plebe Summer program, the summer trainings are held at the end of each academic year, proceeding through Third class, Second class and finally First class.

Specialized trainings on ships, submarines, and naval crafts are given, along with simulations of naval operations. The final summer program gives an opportunity for the trainees to test their leadership skills. They are posted in any Navy or Marine Corps operational unit as junior officers. Here, the trainees can choose their areas of specialization such as surface warship, submarine, aircraft carrier, or aviation squadron.

On completion of the 4-year training program, the graduates are commissioned as an ensign in the Navy or a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.





## Chapter 3 The Naval Academy Mission

The Naval Academy has a unique clarity of purpose, expressed in our mission:

United States Naval Academy Graduation



United States Naval Academy Graduation

### The mission is simple:

"To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to graduate leaders who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government."



Our mission forms the basis for everything we do at the Academy. It also encourages a sense of spirit and pride found at few other schools.



## Chapter 4 Historic Navy Fields & Stadiums

### Worden Field was not the first Navy Field



The First Navy Football Team from 1879

Worden Field was not the last field used for regular home games either. Moreover, for big games such as Army and Notre Dame, often Navy would find a much larger field such as Franklin Field or Soldier Field or the Polo Grounds to accommodate a much larger crowd,



The first football field used for a Navy game was a temporary field drawn on part of the superintendent's cow pasture. The Naval Academy hosted a Baltimore Athletic Club Football Squad for the first and only engagement of the year and with the Baltimore Team.

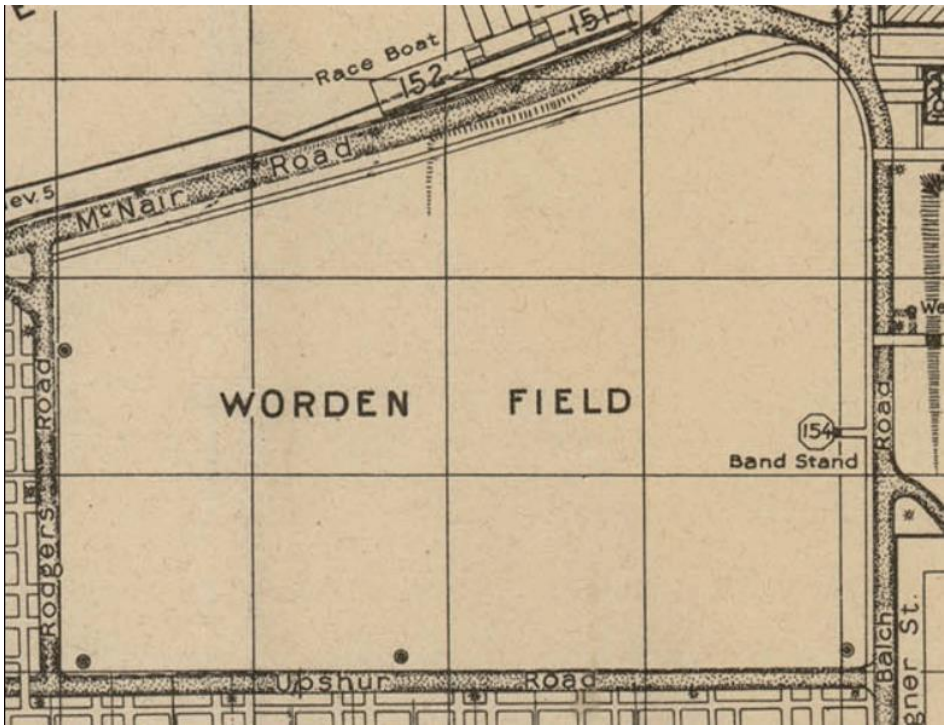
In all subsequent writeups of Navy games, the field is listed as #unknown until 1891 when Navy began to list Worden Field as its regular home field.



A picture of Worden Field. You can see the faint color of football lines on the grass

As you can see in the picture, Worden Field is a large grass field located on the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. First mentioned in 1890, the field served as the home stadium for the academy's Midshipmen football team from that year through 1923, replaced by Thompson Stadium in 1924. Since the early 1900s, the field has hosted all of the academy's various yearly parades and many of its drills. It has progressively grown smaller, due to the addition of buildings and roads within the academy.

The field is bordered on all four sides by small academy roads. On two of its sides, it is surrounded by officers' quarters and is bounded by a parking lot and the Severn River on its other two borders. It has rows of bleachers located along its south side and has long contained a small gazebo on its east side. A small historical marker is located on the southwest corner; it is used regularly for drills and important parades. Check out the map on the next page.



## Thompson Stadium

As Navy became a more popular name in College Football, more fans wanted to see games featuring the Midshipmen. After Worden Field, the greatest advantage of which was that it costs basically nothing, and it cost nothing to maintain, there was a better option available for the Mids.

Robert Means Thompson Stadium was that answer. It was an American football stadium in the Eastern United States, located on the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

It was constructed in 1914. However, it was not until 1924 that it became the home stadium of the Navy Midshipmen and was where all, but special games were played until 1958. From 1924 through 1958, Thompson Stadium was the place to be for Navy fans on Saturday Afternoon.

It was named after alumnus Robert Means Thompson (1849–1930). He created or led several athletically-based organizations at the academy until his death. It was succeeded by the larger Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in 1959, the current venue of Navy football.

Before its conversion to a football stadium, the Thompson Stadium site was an unused area on the south end campus, near the water of Annapolis Harbor. Work on the stadium began in 1914 and was finished later the same year but not used for football til 1924.

Navy was becoming a college football powerhouse and in fact, the 1926 Navy team was named as the national champion under Board and Houlgate Systems with a 9-0-1 record.

The seating capacity of Thompson was 12,000, and it underwent few changes during its entire use. It was surrounded by a regulation quarter-mile (402 m) running track, and only had a single seating section, along the southwest sideline. The field had a northwest-southeast alignment, at an elevation slightly above sea level.

During the 1940s, the Naval Academy began to look for options to construct a new, larger football stadium. The school's directors collected money to build the stadium, for which much support was given by the public, due to the lack of seating at Thompson Stadium. Construction on the new stadium began in 1958 and it opened in September 1959. The use of Thompson Stadium ended for varsity games, but it remained a mainstay until the early 1980s, when it was replaced by Lejeune Hall, the venue for USNA water sports.

From its origins until 1931, Thompson Stadium went without a name, and was referred to on maps as simply "Football Field." That year on May 30, the stadium was formally dedicated as the Robert Means Thompson Stadium, for the benefactor and alumnus of the Naval Academy.

Born in March 1849, Thompson graduated from the Naval Academy as part of the class of 1868. He was commissioned as an officer in the Navy in 1869 but retired two years later to pursue a career in law. After leaving the navy, Thompson became active in helping with the athletics program at the academy, donating the Thompson Cup, an award given to the academy's athlete with the greatest improvement

throughout the course of the season. In addition, he served as the head of several Naval Academy organizations and founded the Naval Academy Athletic Association.

Looking back in summary, we see that the Naval Academy's football team played their first game 139 years ago in 1879, an away game against the Baltimore Athletic Club, which ended in a scoreless tie.

The Navy football team, not yet known as the "midshipmen," did not have an official stadium. For the duration of the 1880s, during which the squads obtained a record of thirteen wins, twelve losses, and two ties, the football squads most likely played home games on an unused #unknown, drill or parade field.

From the beginning of the 1890s until 1924, a period in which the Navy squads finished with an overall record of 202–82–23 (.695), the football team used Worden Field, a large multi-use athletic field for their home games.

## Army–Navy Game

This game was first played at Thompson Stadium at Annapolis in 1942 and the following year it was played at Michie Stadium, but just once, in 1943 during World War II,. Neither Army nor Navy have played at an on-campus facility since very early in the rivalry, since neither teams' home stadiums are large enough to accommodate the crowds and media that usually attend these great rivalry games. Their rivalry game is normally played at a neutral site between the campuses on the East Coast, most often in Philadelphia in early December.

Here is a list for your convenience from Wikipedia and other sources on the Internet of stadiums in which Navy played Army from the first game ever.

## Total games by venue and geography

Venue	Games	Army victories	Navy victories	Tie games	First game	Most recent game
<u>John F. Kennedy Stadium</u>	41	16	22	3	1936	1979
<u>Franklin Field</u>	18	11	7	0	1899	1935
<u>Veterans Stadium</u>	17	11	5	1	1980	2001
<u>Lincoln Financial Field</u>	11	1	10	0	2003	2017
<u>Polo Grounds</u>	9	5	3	1	1913	1927
<u>Giants Stadium</u>	4	1	3	0	1989	2002
<u>M&amp;T Bank Stadium</u>	4	1	3	0	2000	2016
<u>The Plain</u>	2	0	2	0	1890	1892



Venue	Games	Army victories	Navy victories	Tie games	First game	Most recent game
<u>Worden Field</u>	2	1	1	0	1891	1893
<u>Municipal Stadium (Baltimore)</u>	2	2	0	0	1924	1944
<u>Yankee Stadium</u>	2	2	0	0	1930	1931
<u>Osborne Field</u>	1	0	0	1	1905	1905
<u>Soldier Field</u>	1	0	0	1	1926	1926
<u>Thompson Stadium</u>	1	0	1	0	1942	1942
<u>Michie Stadium</u>	1	0	1	0	1943	1943
<u>Rose Bowl</u>	1	0	1	0	1983	1983

Venue	Games	Army victories	Navy victories	Tie games	First game	Most recent game
<u>FedExField</u>	1	0	1	0	2011	2011

## Chapter 5 The Evolution of Modern American Football



### Lots of playing before playing became official

The official agreed upon date for the first American-style college football game is November 6, 1869. If you can find a replay of this game someplace in the heavens, however, you would find it would not look much like football as we know it. But, it was not completely soccer or rugby either.

Before this game, teams were playing a rugby style similar to that played in Britain in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. At the time in the US, a derivative known as association football was also played. In both games, a football is kicked at a goal or run over a line. These styles were based on the varieties of English public-school football games. Over time, as noted, the style of "football" play in America continued to evolve.

On November 6, 1869, the first football game in America featured Rutgers and Princeton. Before the teams were even on the field it was

being plugged as the first college football game of all time. Penn State did not get a Rugby team until the early 1960's. Nobody at Penn State in 1869, from what I could find, was even thinking about the game of football.

The first game of intercollegiate football was a sporting battle between two neighboring schools on a plot of ground where the present-day Rutgers gymnasium now stands in New Brunswick, N.J. Rutgers won that first game, 6-4.

There were two teams of 25 men each and the rules were rugby-like, but different enough to make it very interesting and enjoyable.

Like today's football, there were many surprises; strategies needed to be employed; determination exhibited, and of course the players required physical prowess.



**1<sup>st</sup> Game Rutgers 6 Princeton 4 College Field, New Brunswick, NJ**

At 3 p.m. the 50 combatants as well as 100 spectators gathered on the field. Most sat on a low wooden fence and watched the athletes discard their hats, coats and vests. The players used their suspenders as belts. To give a unique look, Rutgers wore scarlet-colored scarfs, which they converted into turbans. This contrasted them with the bareheaded boys from Princeton.

Two members of each team remained more or less stationary near the opponent's goal in the hopes of being able to slip over and score from unguarded positions. Thus, the present day "sleeper" was conceived. The remaining 23 players were divided into groups of 11 and 12. While the 11 "fielders" lined up in their own territory as defenders, the 12 "bulldogs" carried the battle.

Each score counted as a "game" and 10 games completed the contest. Following each score, the teams changed direction. The ball could be advanced only by kicking or batting it with the feet, hands, heads or sides.

Rutgers put a challenge forward that three games were to be played that year. The first was played at New Brunswick and won by Rutgers. Princeton won the second game but cries of "over-emphasis" prevented the third game in football's first year when faculties of both institutions protested on the grounds that the games were interfering with student studies.

This is an excerpt of the Rutgers account of the game on its web site. A person named Herbert gave this detailed account of the play in the first game:

"Though smaller on the average, the Rutgers players, as it developed, had ample speed and fine football sense. Receiving the ball, our men formed a perfect interference around it and with short, skillful kicks and dribbles drove it down the field. Taken by surprise, the Princeton men fought valiantly, but in five minutes we had gotten the ball through to our captains on the enemy's goal and S.G. Gano, '71 and G.R. Dixon, '73, neatly kicked it over. None thought of it, so far as I know, but we had without previous plan or thought evolved the play that became famous a few years later as 'the flying wedge'."

"Next period Rutgers bucked, or received the ball, hoping to repeat the flying wedge," Herbert's account continues. "But the first time we formed it Big Mike came charging full upon us. It was our turn for surprise. The Princeton battering ram made no attempt to reach the ball but, forerunner of the interference-breaking ends of today, threw himself into our mass play, bursting us apart, and bowing us over. Time and again Rutgers formed the wedge and charged; as often Big Mike broke it up. And finally, on one of these incredible break-ups a

Princeton bulldog with a long accurate, perhaps lucky kick, sent the ball between the posts for the second score.

It was at this point that a Rutgers professor could stand it no longer. Waving his umbrella at the participants, he shrieked, "You will come to no Christian end!"

Herbert's account of the game continues: "The fifth and sixth goals went to Rutgers. The stars of the latter period of play, in the memory of the players after the lapse of many years, were "Big

Mike" and Large (former State Senator George H. Large of Flemington, another Princeton player) ...

The University of Notre Dame did not get into the football act until the late 1880's. At this time, the rules of rugby kept changing to accommodate the infatuation for the Americanized style of "football" play that would ultimately become the American game of football.

### **Walter Camp: the father of American football?**



Walter Camp was a very well-known rugby player from Yale. In today's world, he would have been characterized as a rugby hero. It was his love of the game, his knowledge of the game as it was played, and his innovative mind that caused him to take the evolution of football even further. He pioneered the changes to the rules of rugby that slowly transformed the sport into the new game of American Football.

The rule changes that were introduced to the rugby and association style (like soccer)

of play were mostly those authored by Camp, who was also a Hopkins School graduate. For his original efforts, Walter Camp today is considered to be the "Father of American Football". Among the important changes brought to the game were the introduction of a line of scrimmage; down-and-distance rules; and the legalization of interference (blocking).

There was no such thing in those days as a forward pass and so the legalization of interference in 1880 football permitted blocking for runners. The forward pass would add another dimension to the game that made it much different than rugby or association football.

Soon after the early football changes, in the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth centuries, more game-play type developments were introduced by college coaches. The list is like a who's who of early American College Football. Coaches, such as Eddie Cochems, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Parke H. Davis, Knute Rockne, John Heisman, and Glenn "Pop" Warner helped introduce and then take advantage of the newly introduced forward pass. College football as well as professional football, were introduced prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Fans were lured into watching again and again once they saw the game played.

College football especially grew in popularity despite the existence of pro-football. It became the dominant version of the sport of football in the United States. It was this way for the entire first half of the 20th century. Bowl games made the idea of football even more exciting in the college ranks. Rivalries grew and continued, and the fans loved it! This great football tradition brought a national audience to college football games that still dominates the sports world today.

This book has little to do with pro-football or any other sport. However, there is no denying that the greatest college football players more often than not eventually found their fortunes in professional football. Pro football can be traced back to the season that Notre Dame brought forth a real football team after a two-year lapse from its last half-Rugby season in 1889. It was 1892 when William "Pudge" Heffelfinger signed a \$500 contract to play for the Allegheny Athletic Association against the Pittsburgh Athletic Club.

Twenty-eight years later, the American Professional Football Association was formed. This league changed its name to the National

Football League (NFL) just two years later. Eventually, the NFL became the major league of American football. Originally, just a sport played in Midwestern industrial towns in the United States, professional football eventually became a national phenomenon. We all know this because from August to February, in America, many of us are glued to our TV sets or chained to our seats in some of the most intriguing pro-football stadiums in America.

## Rules and Penalties

The big problem players from different teams and different geographies had when playing early American-style football in college was that the style of play was not standardized. The rulebooks were not yet written or were at best incomplete and disputable.

A rule over here, for example, would be a penalty over there. And, so in the 1870's there was a lot of work to try to make all games to be played by the same rules. There were minor rule changes such as team size was reduced from 25 to 20 but of course over the years, this and all other rules continued to evolve. For years, there was no such thing as a running touchdown. The only means of scoring was to bat or kick the ball through the opposing team's goal.

Early rugby rules were the default. The field size was rugby style at 140 yards by 70 yards v 120 X 53 1/3 (including end zones) in today's football game. There was plenty of room to huff and puff and almost get lost. There were no breaks per se for long periods. Instead of fifteen-minute quarters, the game was more like Rugby and Soccer with 45-minute halves played continuously.

In 1873 to put some order to the game, Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers, and Yale got together in a hotel in New York City and wrote down the first set of intercollegiate football rules. They changed a few things along the way, but the end-product was a much more standard way of playing football games. Rather than use the home team's rules, all teams then were able to play by the same rules



## Harvard did not to comply with American rules

For its own reasons, Harvard chose not to attend the rules conference. Instead, it played all of its games using the Harvard code of rules. Harvard therefore had a difficult time scheduling the season's games. In 1874, to get a game, Harvard agreed to play McGill University from Montreal Canada. They had rules that even Harvard had never seen. For example, any player could pick up the ball and run with it, anytime he wished.

Another McGill rule was that they would count tries (the act of grounding the football past the opponent's goal line. Since there was no end zone, which technically makes a football field of today 120 yards long, a touchdown gave no points. Instead, it provided the chance to kick a free goal from the field. If the kick were missed, the touchdown did not count.

In 1874 McGill and Harvard played a two-game series. Each team could play 11 men per side. This was in deep contrast to the even earlier days of college football before standard rules when games were played with 25, 20, 15, or 11 men on a side.

The first game was played with a round ball using what were known as the "Boston" rules (Harvard). The next day, the teams played using the McGill rules, which included McGill's oval ball which was much like an American football, and it featured the ability to pick up the ball and run with it. Harvard enjoyed this experience especially the idea of "the try" which had not been used in American football. Eventually, the try evolved into the American idea of a touchdown and points were given when a try was successful.

Not all the rules lasted the duration, and some were very strange by today's standards. One of the most perplexing rules was that a man could run with the ball only while an opponent chose to pursue him. When a tackler abandoned the ball-carrier, the latter had to stop, and was forced to kick, pass or even throw away what was called "his burden."

McGill has a great account of this match on their web site. Type *McGill web site football against Harvard* into your search engine.

Their players wore no protective pads. Woolen jerseys covered the torso, while white trousers encased the players' legs. Some trousers were short, and some were long. It did not seem to matter for the game. A number of the men wore what they called black "football turbans" which were the ancestors of the modern helmet; others chose to wear white canvas hats.

The Harvard players wore undershirts made of gauze. Think about that for a while. They also wore what were called *full length gymnasium costumes*. They also wore light baseball shoes. Most of the team wore handkerchiefs, which were knotted about their heads.

The gauze undershirts were a trick. There was strategy in this choice of top uniform. When a player was first tackled, the gauze would be demolished, and the next opponent would have nothing to grab other than "slippery human flesh." Harvard won this game by a score of 3-0

The next go at playing by the rules was when Harvard took on Tufts University on June 4, 1875. This was the first American college football game played using rules similar to the McGill/Harvard contest. Tufts won this game. Despite the loss, Harvard continued pushing McGill style football and challenged Yale.

The Bulldog team accepted under a compromise rule set that included some Yale soccer rules and Harvard rugby rules. They used 15 players per team. It was November 13, 1875 for this first meeting of Harvard v Yale. Harvard won 4-0. Walter Camp attended the game and the following year he played in the game as a Yale Bulldog.

Camp was determined to avenge Yale's defeat. Onlookers from Princeton, who saw this Harvard / Yale game loved it so much, they brought it back to Princeton where it was quickly adopted as the preferred version of football.

Once Walter Camp caught onto the rugby-style rules, history says he became a fixture at the Massasoit House conventions. Here the rules of the game were debated and changed appropriately. From these meetings, Camp's rule changes as well as others were adopted.

Having eleven players instead of fifteen aided in opening the game and it emphasized speed over strength. When Camp attended in 1878, this

motion was rejected but it passed in the 1880 meeting. The line of scrimmage and the snap from center to the quarterback also passed in 1880. Originally the snap occurred by a kick from the center, but this was later modified so the ball would be snapped with the hands either as a pass back (long snap) or a direct snap from the center.

It was Camp's new scrimmage rules, however, which according to many, revolutionized the game, though it was not always to increase speed. In fact, Princeton was known to use line of scrimmage plays to slow the game, making incremental progress towards the end zone much like today during each down.

Camp's original idea was to increase scoring, but in fact the rule was often misused to maintain control of the ball for the entire game. The negative effect was that there were many slow and unexciting contests. This too would be fixed with the idea of the first down coming into play.

In 1882, at the rules meeting, Camp proposed that a team be given three downs to advance the ball five yards. These rules were called the down and distance rules. Along with the notion of the line of scrimmage, these rules transformed the game of rugby into the distinct sport of American football.

Among other significant rule changes, in 1881, the field size was reduced to its modern dimensions of 120 by 53  $\frac{1}{3}$  yards (109.7 by 48.8 meters). Camp was central to these significant rule changes that ultimately defined American football. Camp's next quest was to address scoring anomalies. His first cut was to give four points for a touchdown and two points for kicks after touchdowns; two points for safeties, and five points for field goals. The notion of the foot in football /rugby explains Camp's rationale.

In 1887, game time was fixed at two halves of 45 minutes each. Additionally, college games would have two paid officials known as a referee and an umpire, for each game. In 1888, the rules permitted tackling below the waist and then in 1889, the officials were given whistles and stopwatches to better control the game.

An innovation that many list as most significant to making American football uniquely American was the legalization of blocking

opponents, which back then was called "interference." This tactic had been highly illegal under the rugby-style rules and in rugby today, it continues to be illegal.

The more those who know soccer and football find rugby to be more like soccer.

Though *offsides* is a penalty infraction today, *offsides* in the 1880's in rugby was very much the same as *offsides* in soccer. The prohibition of blocking in a rugby game is in fact because of the game's strict enforcement of its *offsides* rule. Similar to soccer, this rule prohibits any player on the team with possession of the ball to loiter between the ball and the goal. Blocking continues as a basic element of modern American football, with many complex schemes having been developed and implemented over the years, including zone blocking and pass blocking.

Camp stayed active in rule making for most of his life. He had the honor of personally selecting an annual All-American team every year from 1889 through 1924. Camp passed away in 1925. The Walter Camp Football Foundation continues to select All-American teams in his honor.

With many rule changes as noted, as American style rugby became more defined as American football, more and more colleges adopted football as part of their sports programs. Most of the schools were from the Eastern US. It was not until 1879 that the University of Michigan became the first school west of Pennsylvania to establish a bona-fide American-style college football team.

Back then, football teams played whenever they could in the fall or the spring. For example, Michigan's first game was in late spring, near the end of what we would call the academic year. On May 30, 1879 Michigan beat Racine College 1–0 in a game played in Chicago. In 1887, Michigan and Notre Dame played their first football game, which did not benefit from Camp's rules.

## The first night time game

It was not until September 28, 1892 that the first nighttime football game was played. Mansfield State Normal played Wyoming Seminary in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. These schools are close to where I live. The game ended at a "declared" half-time in a 0–0 tie. It had become too dark to play.

Wyoming Seminary was not a college and to this day it is not a college. I live about five miles from the school. It is a private college preparatory school located in the Wyoming Valley of Northeastern Pennsylvania. During the time period in which the game was played, it was common for a college and high school to play each other in football—a practice that of course has long since been discontinued.

The reason that it got too dark to play, ironically was not because the game began at dusk. Mansfield had brought in a lighting system that was far too inadequate for game play. This historical game lasted only 20 minutes and there were only 10 plays. Both sides agreed to end at half-time with the score at 0-0. Though it may seem humorous today, for safety reasons, the game was declared ended in a 0-0 tie after several players had an unfortunate run-in with a light pole.

Mansfield and Wyoming Seminary are thus enshrined in football history as having played in the first night game ever in "college football." History and football buffs get together once a year to celebrate the game in what they call "Fabulous 1890's Weekend." This historic game is reenacted exactly as it occurred play by play just as the actual game is recorded in history. Fans who watch the game are sometimes known to correct players (actually actors) when they deviate from the original scripted plays. Now, that shows both a love of the game and a love of history.

Mansfield and Wyoming Seminary's game added additional fame to both schools when the 100th anniversary of the game just happened to occur on Monday, September 28, 1992. Monday Night Football celebrated "100 years of night football" with its regularly scheduled game between the Los Angeles Raiders and the Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium. The Chiefs won 27–7 in front of 77,486 fans. How about that?

More football history was recorded when Army played Navy in 1893. In this game, we have the first documented use of a football helmet by a player in a game. Joseph M. Reeves had been kicked in the head in a prior football game. He was warned by his doctor that he risked death if he continued to play football. We all know how tough the Midshipmen and Black Nights (Cadets) are regardless of who they may be playing. Rather than end his football playing days prematurely, Reeves discussed his need with a shoemaker in Annapolis who crafted a leather helmet for the player to wear for the rest of the season.

## Football conferences

Things were happening very quickly in the new sport of football. Organization and rules became the mantra for this fledgling sport. It was being defined while it was being played. Formal college football conferences were just around the corner. In fact, the Southeastern Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference both got started in 1894.

## The forward pass

None of Camp's rules for American Football included the most innovative notion of them all – the forward pass. Many believe that the first forward pass in football occurred on October 26, 1895 in a game between Georgia and North Carolina. Out of desperation, the ball was thrown by the North Carolina back Joel Whitaker instead of having been punted. George Stephens, a teammate caught the ball.

Despite what most may think or surmise, it was Camp again when he was a player at Yale, who executed the first game-time forward pass for a touchdown. During the Yale-Princeton game, while Camp was being tackled, he threw a football forward to Yale's Oliver Thompson, who sprinted to a touchdown. The Princeton Tigers naturally protested and there appeared to be no precedent for a referee decision. Like many things in football including a game-beginning coin-toss, the referee in this instance tossed a coin, and then he made his decision to allow the touchdown.

## Hidden ball trick

Dome one-time tricks have not survived football. For example, on November 9, 1895 Auburn Coach John Heisman executed a hidden ball trick. Quarterback Reynolds Tichenor was able to gain Auburn's only touchdown in a 6 to 9 loss to Vanderbilt. This also was the first game in the south that was decided by a field goal.

The trick was simple but would be illegal today. When the ball was snapped, it went to a halfback. The play was closely masked and well screened. The halfback then thrust the ball under the back of the quarterback's (Tichenor) jersey. Then the halfback would crash into the line. After the play, Tichenor "simply trotted away to a touchdown."

## The end of college football?

Football was never a game for the faint of heart. You had to be tough physically and tough mentally to compete. Way back in 1906, for example complaints were many about the violence in American Football. It got so bad that universities on the West Coast, led by California and Stanford, replaced the sport with rugby union. At the time, the future of American college football, a very popular sport enjoyed by fans nationwide was in doubt. The schools that eliminated football and replaced it with rugby union believed football would be gone and rugby union would eventually be adopted nationwide.

Soon other schools followed this travesty and made the switch. Eventually, due to the perception that West Coast football was an inferior game played by inferior men when compared to the rough and tumble East Coast, manhood prevailed in the West over the inclination to make the game mild. The many tough East Coast and Midwest teams had shrugged off the loss of the few teams out West and they had continued to play American style football.

And, so the available pool of rugby union "football" teams to play remained small. The Western colleges therefore had to schedule games against local club teams and they reached out to rugby union powers

in Australia, New Zealand, and especially, due to its proximity, Canada.

The famous Stanford and California game continued as rugby. To make it seem important. The winner was invited by the British Columbia Rugby Union to a tournament in Vancouver over the Christmas holidays. The winner of that tournament was rewarded with the Cooper Keith Trophy. Nobody in America cared. Eventually the West Coast came back to football.

Nonetheless the situation of injury and death in football persisted and though there was a lot of pushback, it came to a head in 1905 when there were 19 fatalities nationwide. President Theodore Roosevelt, a tough guy himself, is reported as having threatened to shut down the game nationwide if drastic changes were not made. Sports historians however, dispute that Roosevelt ever intervened.

What is certified, however, is that on October 9, 1905, the President held a meeting of football representatives from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. The topic was eliminating and reducing injuries and the President according to the record, never threatened to ban football. The fact is that Roosevelt lacked the authority to abolish football but more importantly, he was a big fan and wanted the game to continue. The little Roosevelts also loved the sport and were playing football at the college and secondary levels at the time.

Meanwhile, there were more rule changes such as the notion of reducing the number of scrimmage plays to earn a first down from four to three in an attempt to reduce injuries. The LA Times reported an increase in punts in an experimental game and thus considered the game much safer than regular play. Football lovers did not accept the new rule because it was not "conducive to the sport."

Because nobody wanted players injured or killed in a game, on December 28, 1905, 62 schools met in New York City to discuss major rule changes to make the game safer. From this meeting, the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States, later named the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), was formed.



## The forward pass is legalized

One rule change that was introduced in 1906 was devised to open up the game and thus reduce injury. This new rule introduced the legal forward pass. Though it was underutilized for years, this proved to be one of the most important rule changes in the establishment of the modern game.

Because of these 1905-1906 reforms, mass formation plays in which many players joined together became illegal when forward passes became legal. Bradbury Robinson, playing for visionary coach Eddie Cochems at St. Louis University, is recorded as throwing the first legal pass in a September 5, 1906, game against Carroll College at Waukesha.

Later changes were in the minutia category, but they added discipline and safety to the game without destroying its rugged character. For example, in 1910, came the new requirement that at least seven offensive players be on the line of scrimmage at the time of the snap, that there be no pushing or pulling, and that interlocking interference (arms linked or hands on belts and uniforms) was not allowed. These changes accomplished their intended purpose of greatly reducing the potential for collision injuries.

As noted previously, great coaches emerged in the ranks who took advantage of these sweeping changes. Amos Alonzo Stagg, for example, introduced such innovations as the huddle, the tackling dummy, and the pre-snap shift. Other coaches, such as Pop Warner and Notre Dame's Knute Rockne, introduced new strategies that still remain part of the game.

Many other rules changes and coaching innovations came about before 1940. They all had a profound impact on the game, mostly in opening up the passing game, but also in making the game safer to play without diminishing its quality.

For example, in 1914, the first roughing-the-passer penalty was implemented. In 1918, the rules on eligible receivers were loosened to allow eligible players to catch the ball anywhere on the field. The previously more restrictive rules allowed passes only in certain areas of the field.

Scoring rules also changed which brought the scoring into the modern era. For example, field goals were lowered from five to three points in 1909 and touchdowns were raised from four to six points in 1912.



**Jim Thorpe, Circa 1915**

## **Star Players:**

Star players emerged in both the collegiate and professional ranks including Jim Thorpe, Red Grange, and Bronko Nagurski were other stars. These three in particular, were able to move from college to the fledgling NFL and they helped turn it into a successful league.

Notable sportswriter Grantland Rice helped popularize the sport of football with his poetic descriptions of games and colorful nicknames for the game's biggest players, including Notre Dame's "Four Horsemen" backfield and Fordham University's linemen, known as the "Seven Blocks of Granite".

Legends existed all during the formation of football. There was Stagg, Halas, Warner, Thorpe, Heisman, Grange, Rockne and The Four Horsemen.

## **The Heisman**

In 1935, New York City's Downtown Athletic Club awarded its first Heisman Trophy to University of Chicago halfback Jay Berwanger. He was also the first ever NFL Draft pick in 1936. The trophy continues to this day to recognize the nation's "most outstanding" college football

player. It has become one of the most coveted awards in all of American sports.



**Jay Berwanger, 1<sup>st</sup> Heisman Winner**

New formations and play sets continued to be developed by innovative coaches and their staffs. Emory Bellard from the University of Texas developed a three-back option style offense known as the wishbone. Bear Bryant of Alabama became a preacher of the wishbone.

The strategic opposite of the wishbone is called the spread offense. Some teams have managed to adapt with the times to keep winning consistently. In the rankings of the most victorious programs, Michigan, Texas, and Notre Dame are ranked first, second, and third in total wins.

And so that is as far as we will take it in this chapter about the early evolution of football. With so many conferences and sports associations as well as pro, college, high school, and mini sports, something tells me we have not yet seen our last rule change.



# Chapter 6 Navy Launches First Football Team

1879	No coach	
1880-1881	No team	
1882	Vaulx Carter	Coach #1
1881-1891	No Coaches	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Record</u>
1879	No coach	0-0-1	Indep	
1880	No team	-	-	-
1881	No team	-	-	-
1882	Vaulx Carter	1-0	Indep	1-0
1883	No coach	0-1	Indep	0-1
1884	No coach	1-0	Indep	1-0
1885	No coach	1-2	Indep	1-2
1886	No coach	3-3	Indep	3-3
1887	No coach	3-1	Indep	3-1
1888	No coach	1-4	Indep	1-4
1889	No coach	4-1-1	Indep	4-1-1
1890	No coach	5-1-1	Indep	5-1-1
1891	No coach	5-2	Indep	5-2



1890 First Army Navy Game (Only game this season) Notice no protective gear

The 1789 season was unique in many ways. First of all, it was Navy's first football season. Second, it was a player who arranged the game to begin Navy's many seasons of football, and Third, it was one of the few seasons in which the Army-Navy game was not played. At the

time, Army had no football team and did not get a team to play football until 1890, and in this season, Army played just one game—Navy. Army's football program began on November 29, 1890, when Navy played in the only game of Army's short season.

## A short history of Army-Navy bouts

On December 8, 2018 the teams played their 119th Army-Navy game. From 1890 to 2018, the game was not played just six times. The first five non-game seasons were from 1894-1898. According to Military.com, the suspension came about because the rivalry was so intense that the 1893 game between the two almost ended with a duel between Army and Navy officers. The Secretary of Navy and the Secretary of War banned the two teams from playing each other and the ban lasted five years.

In 1909, the game was not played because Army had canceled its remaining games after Cadet Eugene Byrne died from an injury sustained in an October game against Harvard. Twice during World War I, in 1917 and 1918, games were canceled on orders from the War Department. And in 1928 and 1929, the academies could not reconcile player eligibility standards.

The football program began on November 29, 1890, when Navy challenged the Cadets to a game of the relatively new sport. Navy defeated Army at West Point that year, but Army avenged the loss in and beat the Midshipmen in Annapolis the following year.

The academies continue to clash every December in what is traditionally the last regular-season Division I college-football game. The 2016 Army-Navy Game marked Army's overcoming its fourteenth consecutive loss to Navy, defeating the Midshipmen in a great game W (21-17). Army won again in 2017 in a one-point game. In 2018, the Navy played another tough game but lost for the third time in a row, L (10-17). We'll see in 2019 if Navy can make amends.

From 1944 to 1950, Army had a phenomenal run which included all wins against Navy--57 wins, 3 losses and 4 ties. During this time span, Army won three national championships. It was Army's heyday and nobody in the country could beat them consistently.

As noted, on November 29th, 1890, over 125 years ago, Army hosted Navy at West Point on the Plain in their very first football game. Navy beat Army 24-0 that day. Army did not take too long to learn how to win. The Cadets came back the next year with a 32-to-16 win.

Before it had lived for five years, the classic rivalry almost died an early death in 1894, when, for mostly stupid reasons, such as the prospects of an officer's duel, both academies were forbidden to play anything but HOME games.

One of the greatest football fans of the ages was Teddy Roosevelt. At the time, TR was Assistant Secretary of the Navy. After an appeal to bring back the games that was made to Theodore Roosevelt, the game was re-instated in 1899. Some bureaucrat in Washington had taken five good years away from the rivalry.

Since 1899, with just a few interruptions as noted above, it's been "game on" ever since.

Few may know this but in the pre-Super Bowl era, Army-Navy was widely considered to be THE game to watch. I can remember cozying up on the 363 High Street couch with my dad in his favorite chair watching the Army-Navy game in the 1950's on our 1956 B/W Admiral Console TV.

Usually played on neutral ground in Philadelphia, the game quickly became a magnet for Presidents. Harry Truman was a frequent fan, and John F. Kennedy attended in 1962.

In the period of mourning following his assassination, the very next year, it was Jacqueline Kennedy who urged that the game go on, as her late husband was a great fan.

Navy won 21-to-15, in a game also remembered for featuring the very first instant replay ... a CBS Sports innovation, as it happens. Sadly enough, that game cannot be replayed now as it was erased long ago.

After 119 games in the series, Navy currently leads the series with 60 wins to Army's 52, with seven ties. In the 2016 game, another

president was in attendance. This was president elect Donald Trump. He was in the crowd for the 117th match.



President-elect Donald Trump waved to the crowd and pumped his fist as he arrived in the first quarter of the Saturday December 10, 2016 edition of The Army-Navy game

Navy had won 14 straight contests in the rivalry, but Army's underdog Black Knights prevailed 21-17, in a fourth-quarter comeback that came weeks after Trump's stunning victory over Hillary Clinton.

Trump spent the first half of the game in the box of David Urban, a West Point graduate and one of his Republican advisers in battleground Pennsylvania, and the second half in the box of retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, a graduate of Annapolis.

## **The 1890 Army-Navy-Game was the first Army Navy Game**

This game which, since 1890, comes almost like clockwork in late November or early December, does not have the same national championship implications it once did during some of the many seasons of Navy football. Some think that the rise of the National Football League has a lot to do with that, as elite young athletes now are choosing major colleges as a path to the professional game rather than one of the service academies as a path to serving their country.



And there is nothing wrong with that.

The U.S. Armed Forces have fought for centuries to allow all Americans the right to choose whatever profession they desire.

So, most of the players in the 119<sup>th</sup> version of the rivalry played in 2018 were more likely to end up at Naval Station Norfolk than with the 49ers—a choice they've proudly made.

Still, the contest has produced its share of extremely talented players, including Heisman Trophy winners Roger Staubach (Navy, 1963), Joe Bellino (Navy, 1960), Pete Dawkins (Army, 1958), Glenn Davis (Army, 1946) and Felix "Doc" Blanchard (Army, 1945).

As we go through each season, we will pick ten in which we amplify the abbreviated coverage of arguably the 10 greatest games in the history of this historic rivalry featuring players who all eventually will end up on the same team.



USNA Navy Midshipmen 1890 Football Team That Beat Army

In their inaugural season, the Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1890 college football season. Navy's record was 5-1-1 including the win against Army. In its first season fielding a team in intercollegiate football, Army compiled a 0-1-0 record with just one game played.

Navy had been playing organized football in 1879. On an intramural and “fooling around” basis, footballs had been tossed around on Navy’s campus for a number of years before the first season (one game) in 1789. After Navy had been playing for a number of years, the Army-Navy match was a natural. In this historical game, the Army team lost to the Navy team, L (0-24). Navy’s Midshipmen were the only players to score in the kickoff game to a long-time series of great Army–Navy Games.

Even though it was just a first for Army, there was a lot of pre-game publicity. In fact, a week before the game, the New York Times reported that the planned match "is beginning to assume almost national proportions."

During the game, Army's quarterback Kirby Walker was knocked out of the game four times, the last time being carried off the field and to the hospital in an unconscious state. As you can see in the picture beginning this chapter, in those days there was no protective headgear.

After the victory, Navy Cadets in Annapolis "fired twenty-four great guns, and then paraded the streets with horns." If the score were reversed, Army would have been doing some powerful celebrating also. As it is, the Cadets would have to wait just one more year in order to get back at Navy for the loss.

### **1879 Navy Midshipmen Football No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Military Academy in the 1789 college football season. It was their first season of intercollegiate football. There was no coach. The team played as an independent (no conference) and had a one-game record of 0-1-1. First-classman William John Maxwell and several friends got the team together to play the Baltimore Athletic Club and Maxwell served in the Captain role, which for a coach-less team meant he was the de-facto Coach.

The Naval Academy's football program is one of the nation's oldest, with its history dating back to 1879. Army did not get into football for twelve more years in 1890. The tale of how Navy began its football

program is told in many sources across the Internet. All of the sources that I have read basically tell the same story.

There were two separate efforts to establish a Naval Academy football team in 1879. The first was guided by first-classman J.H. Robinson, who developed it as a training regimen to help keep the school's baseball team in shape. Because American Football rules were still being formed at the time, the team played the sport under rules that made it much closer to soccer, where the players were permitted only to kick the ball in order to advance it.

The second effort, headed by first-classman William John Maxwell was more successful in its efforts. Maxwell met with two of his friends, Tunstall Smith and Henry Woods, who played for the Baltimore Athletic Club and officially challenged their team to a game with the Naval Academy.[6] A team was formed from academy first-classmen, which Maxwell led as a manager, trainer, and captain.

The team would wake up and practice before reveille and following drill and meals. The squad received encouragement from some of the faculty, who allowed them to eat a late dinner and skip final drill for additional practicing. This was against the direct orders of the school superintendent, who had banned football and similar activities.

The year's sole contest was played on December 11 against the Baltimore Athletic Club. The opposition's team was reportedly composed of players from Princeton, Yale, Pennsylvania, and Johns Hopkins.

The Naval Academy hosted the Baltimore team on a temporary field drawn on part of the superintendent's cow pasture. Rules decided upon between the teams established that the game was to be played under rugby rules. The Baltimore American and Chronicle, which covered the contest, described it well.

The game, played under rugby rules, was a battle from beginning to end—a regular knock down and drag out fight. Both sides became immediately excited and the audience was aroused to the highest pitch of enthusiasm by the spirited contest. The ball oscillated backward and forward over the ground without any material result.

The scrimmages were something awful to witness—living, kicking, scrambling masses of humanity surging to and from, each individual after the leather oval. If a Baltimorean got the ball and started for a run, he was unfailingly caught by one of the brawny Cadets and dashed to earth with five or six men falling on him.



THE NAVAL ACADEMY FOOTBALL TAILOR

The 1879 team introduced a white canvas jacket uniform (shown being tailored, c. 1892) which is believed to be the first in college football

The game was closely fought and was finally declared a scoreless tie by the referee about an hour after it began. Navy reportedly never gained possession of the ball. However, the Naval Academy managed to keep the Baltimore Athletic Club from ever being in a scoring position. On three separate occasions, Navy forced Baltimore back into its own end zone for a safety; these were not worth any points until 1882, however, so they offered Navy no benefit. The

American and Chronicle reported that Maxwell, Craven, and Sample of Navy gave the strongest performances, but were also reckless in their play and were repeatedly penalized for jumping offside or kicking the ball out of play, a form of delay of game.

Sometime after the game, Walter Camp, known as the "Father of American Football", credited Maxwell as the inventor of the first football uniform. After he was informed that the Baltimore team, he was playing outweighed his by an average of ten pounds, Maxwell looked for a way to make the teams more evenly matched.

Using his knowledge of sailing, he decided to design a sleeveless canvas jacket which would make his players "difficult to grasp when they began to sweat". He presented the design to the academy's tailor, who created the double-lined jackets which "were laced down the front and drawn tightly to fit snugly around a player's body". The weighted suits were worn by the team, which was confused by the "strangle, heavy, newfangled getups".

This was technically Navy's first season fielding a team in intercollegiate football, the Midshipmen compiled a 0-1-0 record with just this one game played in 1789.

1880 Navy Midshipmen Football No Team, No Coach

1881 Navy Midshipmen Football No Team, No Coach

1882 Navy Midshipmen Coach Vaulx Carter

#### WINNING FAME.

**A Nashville Youth Receives High Compliment in New York.**

•Young Vaulx Carter, youngest son of the late Samuel J. and Anne Vaulx Carter, who was born in this city, is achieving eminence in the East. His working model of the projected Nicaragua ship canal has been accepted as the best. Harper's Weekly devotes a page to the project, and at the introduction of an elaborate article based on the model says: "Visitors to the American Institute Fair must have been struck by an object exhibited there for a few days, which, at a moment when the American Eagle is jealously scrutinizing the attitude of the French Government with regard to the abortive and distracting Panama Canal, assumes no small degree of interest and importance. This was the working model of the projected Nicaragua Inter-Oceanic Ship Canal, designed and constructed by Mr. Vaulx Carter, who has been awarded the contract for the work by the canal company, in open competition with several skilled engineers; his design having been selected both on account of its intrinsic merit and its applicability to the difficulties of the situation. Mr. Carter is a young man of Southern birth, but he has resided for the greater part of his life in Brooklyn. He was educated at Swarthmore College, and at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis. While at the latter place he became permanently lame, and since then he has devoted himself to drawing, engineering and designing, for the last of which he has a decided natural taste. Mr. Carter holds at present the position of Instructor in Mechanical Drawing and Mechanics at the Technical Institute, New York, and this interesting and ingenious model, which is now on its tour of the principal cities of the United States, is the product of his spare time.

William Vaulx Carter was a Brigadier General, United States Army. His biography was provided courtesy of Russell C. Jacobs, Aug. 2007

He led a long life. William Vaulx Carter (1883-1971)

Born in Fort Lowell, Arizona on January 30, 1883. Commissioned in the Cavalry from West Point in 1904. Aide to his father, Brigadier General W. H. Carter in 1907. Duty with the 7th Cavalry in the Philippines October 1913-November 1915. Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Bingham School, Asheville, North Carolina 1916-1917.

Transferred to the Adjutant General Department in 1922. Adjutant General of the Hawaiian Coast Artillery Brigade 1931-1935, then at III Corps Area 1935-1940. Brigadier General in October 1940. Assistant Adjutant General of the Army October 1940 until retirement in August 1942. Died on January 26, 1971.

The son of William Harding Carter, he was born on January 30, 1883 and graduated from West Point in 1904.

His son, William Harding Carter, Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, was killed in an automobile accident in Canada on May 18, 1941 and is buried with the General.

He served as Secretary of Service Schools, 1917-19.

He retired from active duty in 1942 and died on January 28, 1971. He is buried in Section 1 of Arlington National Cemetery among other family members.

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Military Academy in their second college football season in 1882. It was their second season of intercollegiate football. There was a coach for the first time. The team played as an independent (no conference) and had a one-game record of 1-0-0.

## **Navy's First Football Season with a Coach**

The team was coached by player-coach Vaulx Carter, and was entirely student-operated. It was captained by squad member Alex Jackson. The team played just a single game, an 8 to 0 (8-0) shutout of Johns Hopkins, which was the school's first ever win. The squad was entirely student operated and was not supported by the Naval Academy's



faculty. The season would mark the beginning of eight season rivalry between the Midshipmen and Johns Hopkins.

On Nov 30, the Mids took on the Clifton Athletic Club in an unknown field in Annapolis and prevailed W (8-0)

There is a lot of information written about this lone game in 1882.

The 1882 season began when second-year cadet Vaulx Carter formed a team, which he led as both a player and the coach. Alex Jackson was appointed captain of the squad. Carter scheduled a single game for the season, which was played on Thanksgiving Day against the Baltimore-based Clifton Football Club. The Clifton team was made up of players from Johns Hopkins University, who were unable to play for their school due to their administrator's negative views towards the sport. Navy's team itself played without official permission; the first year the team received approval was in 1885, when, according to Morris Allison Bealle, "some of the faculty actually gave in and admitted that football might, at that, be or become an interesting diversion".

It snowed heavily before the game, to the point where players for both teams had to clear layers of snow off of the field, making large piles of snow along the sides of the playing ground. The field was 110 yards by 53 yards, with goalposts 25 feet (7.6 m) apart and 20 feet (6.1 m) high. The first half of the game went scoreless; the Baltimore American reported that "the visitors pushed Navy every place but over the goal line in the first half". During play, the ball was kicked over the seawall a number of times, once going so far out it had to be retrieved by boat before play could continue. The American described the second half in detail.

After ten minutes interval the ball was again put in play, this time being kicked off by the Cliftons. The rest period had apparently stiffened the Cliftons, for the Academy making a vigorous spurt got the ball thru them, and Street, following it up well, scored a touchdown for the Academy.

The try at goal failed, but the ball, instead of going to the Cliftons behind the line, fell into the field and into the hands of one of the Academy team. By a quick decisive run, he again got the ball over the Cliftons goal line and scored a touchdown.

Cadet George Washington Street, of Wisconsin, was identified as the first person ever to score a touchdown for the Naval Academy. The Baltimore Sun stated that William Ambrose O'Malley, of Pennsylvania, was the cadet who caught Street's blocked kick and scored the second touchdown. The Sun also covered, in detail, the uniforms the squads wore; Johns Hopkins sported blue, black, and white striped uniforms, while the Naval Academy wore maroon and white uniforms. Both teams also nailed strips of leather to the bottom of their shoes to help deal with slipping.

### **1883 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1883 college football season. It was their fourth season of intercollegiate football. This squad was the first to have the approval of the academy's staff, and the one game is regarded by many as the first official game played by the Midshipmen. This season continued a seven-season, eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins. There was no coach this year while Frank Hill served as team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 0-1-0.

The Naval Academy team played its only game of the 1883 season against a squad from Johns Hopkins University. Previously, the Navy team was operated entirely by students. The game was played at the Naval Academy on November 29, 1883, Thanksgiving Day, most likely on an unused drill field or parade field. This "0 to 2" shutout-loss to Johns Hopkins, was the school's first ever loss. The game "began in heat and discussion", with the "skillful and light weight" Johns Hopkins controlling the "endurance and muscle" of the Naval Academy's team.

However, tensions in the game quickly escalated. During the middle of the game, "matters grew so hot" that Johns Hopkins players were preparing to stop playing. Johns Hopkins scored two single-point



safeties and shutout Navy, winning 2–0. The game as the pundits proclaimed say "ended in quarrel and wrangle".

#### **1884 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1884 college football season. It was their fourth season of intercollegiate football. This season continued as part of a seven-season, eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins. There was no coach again this year while Jim Kittrell served as team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had an unblemished one-game season record of 1-0. This was the final season that a Naval Academy team would go unbeaten and untied.

The season like the last began and ended with one game. The sole game of Navy's 1884 season was what had become the annual competition against rival Johns Hopkins, the third consecutive playing of the series. In what was the final season where the rivalry was the only game of the year, Navy defeated Johns Hopkins 9–6.

The game, played on November 27, was hosted by the Academy, likely on an unused drill or parade field. In an unusual agreement between the two schools, the contest was played entirely under rugby rules. In the first half, Hopkins scored twice, on a touchdown from Mr. Bonsall and on a two-point safety. Navy scored twice in the second half of the game, when halfback Julius Dashiell, brother of Hopkins' Paul Dashiell, kicked a five-point goal and rusher David W. Taylor scored a touchdown to secure a victory. The game was somewhat marred by one of the players suffering a broken collarbone and another spraining an ankle.

#### **1885 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1886 college football season. It was their fifth season of intercollegiate football. This was the fifth year in which the team competed. This season continued as part of a seven-season, eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins. There was no coach again this year while Cornelius Billings served as team captain. [They were coached by Harry Nelly in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen.] As an independent football

entity, the team had a record of 1-2. This was the first season Navy played more than one game.

On Nov 24 in the season opener, in an unknown field in Annapolis, the Midshipmen defeated St. John's College W (46–10) . The next game on Nov 26 was against rival John Hopkins in a carved-out field for the game on Navy's campus, The Midshipmen lost L (8-12) in a close match. On Nov 28, Navy lost their second game Princeton reserve team Unknown location in Annapolis, MD L 10–0

The Naval Academy scheduled three games for the 1885 season, breaking from the tradition of playing only Johns Hopkins. According to Morris Allison Bealle, "Football at Annapolis had shed its swaddling clothes when the autumn of 1885 rolled around. Some of the faculty actually gave in and admitted that football might, at that, be or become an interesting diversion" so the squad was allowed to schedule three games.

As noted, the first game was played against St. John's College, also located in Annapolis. The game kicked off a brief rivalry with St. John's, which would conclude in 1911 with Navy winning eighteen of twenty-one contests. The 1885 match was a 46–10 blowout victory over St. John's. The second game of the season was the annual Thanksgiving Day match against Johns Hopkins. After winning the previous year, Navy fell to Johns Hopkins 12–8.

The season concluded with the Naval Academy challenging the Princeton freshman team, a game which ended in a 10–0 shutout loss for Navy.[7]

### **1886 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1886 college football season. It was their sixth season of intercollegiate football. This 6-game season continued as part of a seven-season, eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins. There was no coach again this year while Clarence Stone served as team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 3-3-0. This was the first season that a Naval Academy team would play more than three games,

All games were played on makeshift fields that were available on the Navy's Annapolis campus.

On Nov 10, in the season opener, Navy beat St. John's College W (12-0). Then on Nov 13, the Midshipmen defeated Johns Hopkins W (6-0). On November 19, the Midshipmen lost to St. John's College L (0-4) On Nov 25 in a second game v Johns Hopkins, the Midshipmen prevailed W (15-14). Then, on Nov 27, the Princeton reserve team beat Navy L (0-30). In the last game of the season on Dec 4, Gallaudet defeated Navy L 16-0.

## Season Details:

Against St. Johns, one of the first contests in what would become a heated rivalry, Navy won the game with relative ease, 12-0. The following game was against Johns Hopkins, played on November 13. The contest was an irregularity in the schools' rivalry; all previous and most following games were played on Thanksgiving Day, as a part of the Naval Academy's Thanksgiving athletic carnival.

Although the score was close, a 6-0 win for the Naval Academy, Hopkins was never a threat to the cadets. After this point, the Academy's luck shifted. The squad was upset 4-0 in a rematch with St. Johns, and barely defeated Johns Hopkins in a 15-14 contest, played as a part of the athletic carnival. The Baltimore American covered the Johns Hopkins game in detail:

Early in the first half, by much rushing, forcing, snapbacks and vigorous bullyragging Riggs, the huge Hopkins quarterback, crashed over the goal line for 4 points. Paul Dashiell converted. Riggs repeated his performance, but Dashiell missed conversion. Navy then adopted the Hopkins rushing tactics and Stone went over for the first score.

With Hopkins backed up against her own goal line, Dashiell broke through the entire Navy team for a touchdown. Goal was missed, and the score was 14 to 6 against Navy. With the game fast coming to a close The Tars formed a closely-knit ball with the halfback in center.

Navy hit pay dirt but the referee found something illegal and called the ball back, much to the consternation of the Cadet

rooters. But on the next play George Hayward kicked a field goal, making the score 14 to 11. Just before the game ended a double pass, Bill Cloke to captain Clarence Stone, carried to ball over the Hopkins goal for the 4 points that won the game.

Just two days after the second Hopkins game, on November 27, the Naval Academy challenged the Princeton Tigers reserve squad and was easily shutout, 30–0. The Academy never came close to scoring on the reserves. The Naval Academy hosted Gallaudet in its final game of the season sometime in December, a contest that the visitors won in a shutout, 16–0.

### **1887 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1887 college football season. It was their seventh season of intercollegiate football. This 4-game season continued as part of a seven-season, eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins. There was no coach again this year while George Hayward served as team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 3-1-0.

All games were played on makeshift fields that were available on the Navy's Annapolis campus.

The season opened on Nov 5 as Navy beat St. John's College on the Annapolis Campus W (4-0). On Nov 12, the Midshipmen beat St. John's College again W 24–0. On Thanksgiving, Nov 24, Navy beat Johns Hopkins at Annapolis, Maryland W 8–0. In the season finale, on Nov 26, the Princeton Reserves beat the Navy L (5-22).

The Johns Hopkins game was played at the Academy grounds in Annapolis, Maryland, and was described by The Sun (New York) as "a veritable slugging match" and "one of the roughest games of football" ever seen there. In the final game of the 1887 season, the Midshipmen lost to the Princeton Tigers "B" team in the final game of the season.

### **1888 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1888 college football season. It was their eighth season of intercollegiate football. This 5-game season continued as part

of a seven-season, eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins. There was no coach again this year while George Fermier served as team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 1-4-0.

All games were played on makeshift fields that were available on the Navy's Annapolis campus.

The season opener on Oct 27, found Navy losing a close one to St. John's College L (4–6). This was followed on Nov 3, by a victory over Gallaudet L(4–0.) Next was a close loss on Nov 29 v Johns Hopkins L (12–25). Then, on Dec 1 Penn beat the Midshipmen L (9–20). Navy lost its season finale on Dec 9 to St. John's College L ( 6–22).

#### **1889 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1889 college football season. It was their ninth season of intercollegiate football. There was no coach again this year while Albertus Caitlin as team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 4-1-1.

All games were played on makeshift fields that were available on the Navy's Annapolis campus.

On Oct 26, Navy beat St. John's College W 20–10. Then on Nov 9, the Midshipmen defeated Johns Hopkins in their classic football rivalry by a big score W (36–0). On Nov 9 Navy and Dickinson played to a tie game T (0–0). The next game was Lehigh on Nov 28, and the Midshipmen suffered their first loss of the season L (6–26). On Dec 7, for the first time the Midshipmen played and beat Virginia W (26–6). On Christmas day, Navy beat the Washington All-Stars W (24–0) to wrap up the 1889 season.

#### **1890 Navy Midshipmen No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1890 college football season. It was their tenth season of intercollegiate football. There was no coach again this year while Charles Emrich was team captain. [They were coached by George Chaump in his first of three seasons as head coach of the

Midshipmen.] As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-1-1.

Navy achieved a nice 5–1–1 record and outscored its opponents 204 to 49. The season as noted below featured the inaugural meeting in the Army–Navy Game, which ended in a W (24–0) victory for Navy. After the victory, Navy cadets in Annapolis "fired twenty-four great guns, and then paraded the streets with horns.

All games were played on makeshift fields that were available on the Navy's Annapolis campus. The 1890 season results are as follows

On Oct 25, Navy shellacked St. John's College W (45–0). The next game against Georgetown on Nov 1 was a runaway with the midshipmen winning in a blowout W (70-4). At Annapolis again on Nov 8, the midshipmen beat Dickinson W 32–6. This was followed on Nov 12 by a tie v the Columbia Athletic Club T (6-6). On Nov 27, the Midshipmen lost their only game of the season v Lehigh L (4–24). Then in the first ever edition of the classic Army-Navy game, played on Nov 29, at Army on The Plain in West Point, NY, Navy prevailed W (24–0) Then on Dec 7, Navy gained a victory over Gallaudet W(24–0).

### **1891 Navy Midshipmen Final Year with No Coach**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1891 college football season. It was their eleventh season of intercollegiate football. There was no coach again this year while Charles Macklin was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-2.

The season opened on Oct 24 with a nice win v St. John's College at Worden Field, Annapolis, MD W (28–6). On Oct 31, Navy beat Rutgers W (21–12). Then, on Nov 7, the Midshipmen grabbed a close win v Gallaudet W (6–0). On Nov 11, the Midshipmen beat Georgetown W (16–4)

Three days later on Nov 14, Navy crushed Dickinson W (34-4) . On Nov 21, in a tough close game, Lehigh defeated the Midshipmen L (0–4) . In the second “annual” Army-Navy Game on Nov 28 at Army, the Cadets prevailed L 16–32.

## Chapter 7 Navy Football Seasons from 1892-1902

Crosby	Coach # 2
Hartwell	Coach # 3
Wurtenburg	Coach # 4
McClung	Coach # 5
Poe	Coach # 6
Armstrong	Coach # 7
Cochran	Coach # 8
Hillebrand	Coach # 9

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Record</u>
1892	Ben Crosby	5-2	Indep	5-2
1893	Josh Hartwell	5-3	Indep	5-3
1894	Bill Wurtenburg	4-1-2	Indep	4-1-2
1895	Matt McClung	5-2	Indep	5-2
1896	Johnny Poe	5-3	Indep	5-3
1897	Bill Armstrong	8-1	Indep	8-1
1898	Bill Armstrong	7-1	Indep	7-1
1899	Bill Armstrong	5-3	Indep	5-3
1900	Garrett Cochran	6-3	Indep	6-3
1901	Doc Hillebrand	6-4-1	Indep	6-4-1
1902	Doc Hillebrand	2-7-1	Indep	2-7-1

### 1892 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ben Crosby

His full name was Benjamin Lewis Crosby. He was born March 22, 1868 and after a short life, he passed away on December 29, 1892 of typhoid fever. He played football, coached, and was a law student.

Crosby was born in Halcott Centre, New York, and he attended Yale University beginning in 1889. He was a very popular student and sportsman. He was a two-year starter on the football team, (football looked a lot like Rugby and soccer back then). He was also a backup on the crew team.

During his junior year, he was replaced on the football team by freshman Frank Hinkey and he never got back his starting position. Nonetheless he still loved the game of football. The remainder of his time at Yale was successful academically and when he graduated, he enrolled at the New York Law School after graduation.

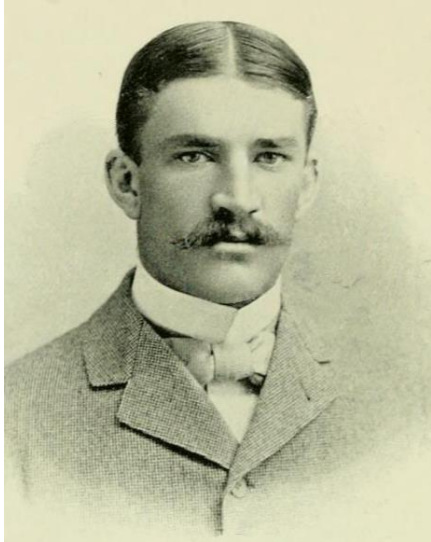
The young man was invited in 1892 to serve as head coach of the United States Naval Academy football program. He took the job. He

was known for holding unusually rigorous practicing strategies. His team was quite successful at 5–2 record. His one season culminated in an upset victory over rival Army in the Army–Navy Game. So, he was an immediate Navy hero.

## The Navy Season

He received commendation for the victory, including a gift of a personalized trophy. When football was over, he went back to New York to continue his studies. However, he fell ill and was hospitalized after an illness he contracted while coaching worsened shortly after his arrival. He died from typhoid fever in late December, at the age of 24. He had a lot to offer Navy and wherever he might have ventured had he lived a normal length life.

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1892 college football season.



<< Ben Crosby This was their second season with a coach and Navy would always have a coach for every season henceforth. It was their twelfth season of intercollegiate football. Martin Trench was team captain. They were coached by Ben Crosby in his first year of one as head coach of the Midshipmen. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-2.

Instead of makeshift fields from this year onward, before the new stadium was built, home games were played at the named Worden Field. Since few colleges and athletic clubs in the 1890's could afford real football fields, having Worden Field was a big plus for Navy. Navy began playing a number of Ivy League schools such as Penn and Princeton as well as some "Little Ivies," such as Lafayette 7 Lehigh.

The season opener was October 12-- a loss played against a tough Penn Team at Worden Field L (0–16). Loss # 2 came on Oct 15 at home v Princeton L 0–28. The first win of the season was on Oct 22 v



Lafayette at home W (22–4). Navy evened its record on Oct 29 v Franklin & Marshall W (24–0). Rutgers was next on Nov 5 as the Midshipmen hammered the Scarlet Knights W (48–12).

Navy beat Georgetown on Nov 19, W (40–0). In the annual season finale v Army, aka, the Army Navy Game, on Nov 26, at the Plain in West Point, NY, the Midshipmen defeated the Cadets. (Army–Navy Game)W (12-4)

### **1893 Navy Midshipmen Coach John Hartwell**

John Augustus "Josh" Hartwell was born September 27, 1869 and he passed away at 71 on November 30, 1940. He played football, coached, was a military officer and a physician.

Hartwell was a Yalee, where he played end for Walter Camp's Bulldogs football team from 1888 to 1891. In 1891, Hartwell's prowess earned him an All-American for a season in which Yale was unbeaten, untied, unscored against, and later recognized as a national champion by a number of selectors.

He held both PhD and MD degrees from Yale, and began a career as a surgeon in New York City. He continued with football as a coach, serving as head football coach at Lehigh University in 1892, the United States Naval Academy in 1893, NYU in 1894, and then at Yale in 1895. He had a fine overall record of 21–12–2. Hartwell's 1895 Yale squad went 13–0–2 and was later he was recognized as a national champion by Parke H. Davis.

In 1918, Hartwell was commissioned a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. In WWI, he served in France. From 1910 until his retirement in 1938, he was a professor of clinical surgery at Cornell University Medical College. Hartwell was a pioneer of thoracic surgery and an early champion of safe and effective contraception. He was a well-known outdoorsman throughout his life and a friend and caregiver to Theodore Roosevelt. His record at Navy is shown below:

## Navy Football 1893



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1893 college football season. This was their third season with a coach. It was their thirteenth season of intercollegiate football. Art Kavanagh was team captain. They were coached by John A. Hartwell in his first of one season as head coach of the Midshipmen. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-3.

All games including the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

On October 11 in the home opener at Worden Field on the Naval Academy Campus in Annapolis, MD, Penn shut-out the Midshipmen L (0-34). Then, on Oct 14, Navy beat Dickinson W (26-0). On Oct 20, the Navy team beat Virginia W (28-0). Lehigh came in a week later on Oct 28 and defeated the Midshipmen L (6-12).

On Nov 4, Navy defeated Georgetown W (22-10). Then, on Nov 18, the Midshipmen got the best of Franklin & Marshall W (34-6). On Nov 22, Virginia defeated Navy L (0-12). Wrapping up a so-so-season, at Worden Field at home, Navy won the annual Army-Navy Game in a close match W (6-4)



1893 Navy Football Team

#### 1894 Navy Midshipmen Coach William Wurtenburg



William Charles "Bill" Wurtenburg was born on Christmas Eve -- December 24, 1863 and he passed away on March 26, 1957). He was a college football player and coach. He grew up in Western New York to German parents and attended the prestigious Phillips Exeter Academy, where he played football.

He enrolled at Yale University in 1886 and soon earned a spot on the school's football team. He played for Yale from 1886 through 1889, and again in 1891; two of those teams were later recognized as national champions. He was a fine player. His 35-yard run in a close game in 1887 against rival Harvard earned him some recognition. He received his medical degree from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1893.

Then he was hired by the United States Naval Academy to coach their football team. He led the squad to a 4–1–2 record for the season, including a 1–1–1 record against rival schools. He then accepted a coaching job at Dartmouth College, and distinguished himself as a fine coach.

After ending his coaching career, Wurtenburg spent several years acting as a referee for Yale's football team. His final contribution to football was publishing a book about Yale football in the early 20th century. Around 1904, Wurtenburg began pursuing a career as a physician. He set up a medical office near his house in New Haven, Connecticut, and became an ear, nose and throat specialist. Wurtenburg maintained his medical office until at least 1920. He died in 1957 at the age of 93, in New Haven.

## Navy in 1894

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1894 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fourteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by William Wurtenburg in his first of one season as head coach of the Midshipmen. Mike McCormick was team captain. As an

independent football entity, the team had a record of 4-1-2.



All games including the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1894 season began against the Elizabeth Athletic Club in Worden

Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The game was tied. T (6–6). Next was Oct. 21 with Georgetown being defeated W (12–0). On Oct 24 Navy beat Carlisle W (8–0) Then on Oct 27 v a tough Penn Team, Navy was defeated L (0–12)

On Nov 3, Navy beat Lehigh W (10–0). Then on Nov 10, Penn State tied the Midshipmen T (6–6). There was no Army Navy Game this year and none for five years after an argument between an Army general and a Navy admiral almost resulted in a duel following the 1893 game. The grunts paid the price of no contact. And, so this year the season finale was on Nov 24 as Navy beat Baltimore City College W (30–6).

### **1895 Navy Midshipmen Coach Matthew McClung**

Matthew McClung Jr. was the fifth head football coach for the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen located in Annapolis, Maryland and he held that position for the 1895 season. His coaching record at United States Naval Academy was 5 wins, 2 losses, and 0 ties. As of the conclusion of the 2007 season, this ranks him 28th at United States Naval Academy in total wins and ninth at United States Naval Academy in winning percentage (.714).

He was an alumnus of Lehigh University, graduating in mining engineering in the class of 1894. He passed away in Illinois in 1908

## **Navy Football 1895**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1895 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Matthew McClung in his first and last season as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ed Macauley was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-2.

All games including the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1895 season began with a victory against the Elizabeth Athletic Club in Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The score was W (6–0). On Oct 12, Navy beat the New Jersey Athletic Club W (34–0). Then, on Oct 19, the Midshipmen shellacked Franklin & Marshall W (68–0)



### <<< McClung

At home on Oct 26, Navy beat Carlisle W (34-0). Then, on Nov 2, in the lowest scoring game that was not a tie, the Navy beat Virginia W (1-0). On Nov 9, the Orange Athletic Club beat Navy L (6-10). In the season Finale, Lehigh beat the Midshipmen L (4-6).

### 1896 Navy Midshipmen Coach Johnnie Poe

Johnnie Poe was a football player and a coach. He was a player at Princeton and dropped out, but he reenrolled and started at quarterback, moving to halfback midway through the season. After readmission, he played much better than in his freshman year. He finished second on the team for touchdowns scored. However, he was once again forced to leave the university for scholastic reasons. He then got around as best he could. He coached two seasons at Virginia, worked as a steamboat operator, selling real estate, and he was head coach of the fledgling Navy Football Team.

Additionally in his football life, he served as an assistant coach at Princeton. He liked Princeton and would often return as an assistant coach, including the National Championship season of 1903. It was while serving as an assistant coach that Poe is credited with saying "If you won't be beat, you can't be beat," which became the team motto for many seasons.

## Navy Football in 1896

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1896 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Johnny Poe in his first and last season as head coach of the Midshipmen. Joe Powell was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-3.

All games including the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1896 season began with a loss to the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) a very tough competitor at the time in football history. The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The score was L (0-8). On Oct 10, Navy walloped Franklin & Marshall W (49-0) On Oct 17, Navy shellacked St. John's College W (68-0). Then on Oct 24, the Penn reserve team edged out Navy in a close match L (0-6).

On Oct 31, Navy pounded Rutgers W (40-6). On Nov 7, Navy defeated Lehigh (W (24-10). On Nov 23, the Navy beat the White Squadron W (11-5). In the final game of 1896, on Nov 26, Lafayette defeated the Midshipmen L (6-18) to wrap up the season.

### 1897 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Armstrong

Richard "Bill" Armstrong was born July 16, 1873 and he passed away on August 4, 1938). He was the seventh head college football coach for the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen located in Annapolis, Maryland. Armstrong held the head coaching position for three seasons, from 1897 until 1899.

Like most of the early coaches at Navy, because of the toughness of the Navy students who played football, and because most men were not as tough as a Navy officer, he had a fine coaching record at United States Naval Academy. It was 20 wins, 5 losses, and 0 ties. Armstrong had a name to go along with his personal toughness after growing up from his birth in Connecticut in 1873.

He became head coach for the College of William & Mary's football team for one short season (1896) in which he had a 0–2 record. He concluded his coaching career at Hampton University in 1912 when he coached for one season and finished with a 4–1 record.

Armstrong married Rosa Fairfax Lee in Hampton on April 21, 1906. He later worked in the oyster growing, farming and real estate professions. He died at Hampton in 1938.

## 1897 Navy Football

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1897 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventeenth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Armstrong in his first of three fine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Johnny Halligan was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 8-1, shut out seven opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 111 to 34. The Army–Navy Game was canceled due to Presidential cabinet order. It was Army's finest complete season to-date.



### << Coach Bill Armstrong

All games including the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1897 season began with a loss to Princeton L (0-28). It was the last loss of 1897 for the Midshipmen. The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 16, Navy beat Penn for the first time, W (22-0). On Oct 23, Navy beat the Princeton second team in a close match W (6-0). In another close



match, on Oct 30, Navy beat Penn State W (4-0).

On Nov 6 in a forfeit, Navy won v Rutgers W (1-0). On Nov 13, Navy beat Virginia W (4-0). In the first game ever v Maryland, Navy shut out the Terrapins W (38-0). Then, Navy beat Lehigh W (28-6). In the final game of the year, Navy on Nov 28, beat the White Squadron W (8-0).

### **1898 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Armstrong**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1898 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Armstrong in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Charles Fischer was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 7-1, shut out three opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 130 to 56. The Army–Navy Game was again canceled due to Presidential cabinet order.

All games including the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1898 season began with a nice win against Bucknell W (11-0). The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 15, Navy suffered its first and last loss of the season to Princeton W (0-30). For the second year in a row, Princeton would be the only mar on the Midshipmen's schedule.

On Oct 22, Navy beat Penn State W (16–11). Then on Oct 29, the Midshipmen shut out Lafayette W (18–0). On Nov 5, the Navy thumped the Columbia Athletic Club W (52–5).

On Nov 12, in a tight game, Navy beat Lehigh W (6–5). On Nov 19 at Virginia's Madison Hall Field in Charlottesville, VA, the Midshipmen beat Virginia W (6–0). In the final game on Nov 24, Navy beat VMI to wrap up the season with a bow, W (21–5).

### **1899 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Armstrong**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1899 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's nineteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Armstrong in his third and final season as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ward Wortman was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team had a record of 5-3, shut out five opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 94-27. It was Navy's finest complete season to-date.

All games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1899 season began with a tough loss against Princeton L (0-5). The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 14, Navy beat Georgetown W (12-0), On Oct 21, Navy nipped Penn State W (6-0). On Oct 28, Navy lost to Lafayette L (0-5). Then, on Nov 4, the Midshipmen rebounded and shut out North Carolina W (12-0)

On Nov 11, Navy shut out Trinity (CT) W (35-0). Then, on Nov 18 at Lehigh, the Midshipmen won by shutout W (24-0). The Army Navy Day suspension was canceled by the Armed Services and the game resumed on Dec 2, 1899 vs. Army in a game played at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Army had five additional years to mature and beat Navy L (5-17).

### **1900 Navy Midshipmen Coach Garrett Cochran**

Navy coach Garrett Cochran was born August 26, 1876 and he passed away on July 8, 1918. He was a football player and a coach. He played his college ball as an end at Princeton University from 1894 to 1897. He was a fine player, twice named to the College Football All-America Team.

He first served as the head football coach at the University of California, Berkeley (1898-1899), and then he came to Navy at the United States Naval Academy (1900) for just one year. Then he returned to Princeton University in 1902. His record as a coach in total was 29-5-3.

Like many young men, for World War I, Cochran enlisted in the United States Army and he served in France as a lieutenant in the field artillery. He developed pneumonia and was a casualty on a ship returning to the United States on July 8, 1918. He was so notable in football that he was posthumously inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

## 1900 Navy Football

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1900 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twentieth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Garrett Cochran in his first of one season as head coach of the Midshipmen. Orié Fowler was team captain. As an independent football entity, the team compiled a 6–3 record, outscored its opponents 106 to 51, and shut out five of its nine opponents.

All games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.



### << Garrett Cochran

The 1900 season began with a tough win against the University of Maryland. W (6-0). The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 13, in a close match Princeton defeated Navy L (0-5). On Oct 20, Navy beat Georgetown W (6-0). Then on Oct 24, the Midshipmen beat a tough Lehigh team W (15-0).

On Nov 3, Navy beat Washington & Jefferson W (18-0). Then on Nov 10, the Navy shellacked Penn State W (44-0). On Nov 17, back to the Ivy league, Columbia defeated Navy L (0-11). On Nov 21,

Navy lost to a tough Penn team L (6–28). As the season closer, Navy played Army in the annual Army Navy Game on Dec 1 at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA. Navy Triumphed W 11–7

### 1901 Navy Midshipmen Coach Art Hillebrand

Arthur Ralph Thomas "Doc" Hillebrand was born on March 9, 1877 and he passed away on December 14, 1941. He was a football and



baseball player and coach. He played as a tackle for Princeton University and was the head football coach at the United States Naval Academy from 1901 to 1902 and also at his alma mater, Princeton, from 1903 to 1905. He compiled an overall career college football coaching record of 35–15–2.

#### << Art Hillebrand

In addition to football, he was good enough to be the head baseball coach at Navy and Princeton during the same years. His career college baseball coaching mark was 65–31. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as player in 1970.

He is in this book because he coached Navy Football in 1901 and 1902. He served as the ninth head football at the United States Naval Academy located in Annapolis, Maryland . He held the position for two seasons, from 1901 until 1902. His coaching record at Navy was 8–11–2.

## Navy Football 1901

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1901 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were

coached by Art Hillebrand in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Neil Nichols was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6–4–1 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 113 to 81.

All games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1901 season began with a tie v Georgetown T (0-0). The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The next game was listed as Oct 5 but was some other date when Navy beat St. John's College W (28-2). On Oct 12, in their first contest v Yale, a polished Ivy League team the Midshipmen came up short L (0-24). On Oct 19, Navy beat Lehigh W (18-0). The next Ivy league game v Penn, the Midshipmen prevailed W (6-5).

On Oct 26, Penn State beat the Navy for the first time L (6–11). Then on Nov 2, in a close game, Navy came back to its winning ways v Dickinson W (12–6). V the Carlisle Indians, a very tough team, the Navy prevailed W (16-5). On Nov 9. On Nov 16, Navy beat Washington & Jefferson W (17–11). In a very tight match on Nov 23, Columbia edged out the Midshipmen in a tough battle L (5–6). In the season finale, the ultimate Army-Navy Game, the Army defeated the Navy in a tight contest at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA L (5–11).

## **Best Army Navy Game #5**

The 1901 game marked the first time a U.S. President attended the annual Army-Navy gridiron battle.

Less than three months after taking office following the assassination of then-President William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt traveled to Philadelphia to watch the Cadets top the Midshipmen, 11-5.

Army's Charles Daly was the day's biggest standout.

He kicked a field goal, and, with his team down 5-3, returned a kickoff 95 yards to open the second half. The defenses took over from there, and the Cadets won for the second time in three seasons.



President Roosevelt at 1901 Army Navy Game (Roosevelt loved Football)  
I know it is tough to see

### **1902 Navy Midshipmen Coach Art Hillebrand**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1902 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Art Hillebrand in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Charles Belknap was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen had a big problem winning and compiled their worst record in years, 2-7-1. They were outscored by opponents by a combined score of 99 to 35.

All games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1902 season began with a close loss on Sept 27, to Georgetown L (0-4). The game was played at Worden Field on the campus of the

Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 4, the month/day of my wedding anniversary, Princeton beat the Navy L (0–11). Lehigh then tied the Navy on Oct 11, T (5-5). This was followed by a rare win v a powerful Penn team W (10-6). Then came another close one on Oct 25 v Dickinson in which the Midshipmen were beaten barely L (0-6).

Penn State got its claim to Navy in this down year with a L (0-6) takedown on Nov 1. On Nov, Navy squeaked a win from Lafayette W (12-11). That would be the last win of the season for the Midshipmen.

On Nov 15, Bucknell loaded one onto the Navy L (0-23) followed by a close loss on Nov 19 to Columbia L (0-5). This brought Navy to the only game that matters every year—its battle with Army. The game took place on November 29 vs. Army in Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA (Army–Navy Game) and Navy did not rescue this poor season with a win v Army but instead lost L (8–22).





## Chapter 8 Coaches Chamberlain, Dashiell, Reeves, Berrien—1903-1910

<b>Chamberlain</b>	<b>Coach #10</b>
<b>Dashiell</b>	<b>Coach #11</b>
<b>Reeves</b>	<b>Coach #12</b>
<b>Berrien</b>	<b>Coach #13</b>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Record</u>
1903	Burr Chamberlain	4-7-1	Indep	4-7-1
1904	Paul Dashiell	7-2-1	Indep	7-2-1
1905	Paul Dashiell	10-1-1	Indep	10-1-1
1906	Paul Dashiell	8-2-2	Indep	8-2-2
1907	Joe Reeves	9-2-1	Indep	9-2-1
1908	Frank Berrien	9-2-1	Indep	9-2-1
1909	Frank Berrien	4-3-1	Indep	4-3-1
1910	Frank Berrien	8-0-1	Indep	8-0-1

### 1903 Navy Midshipmen Coach Burr Chamberlain

**Burr Clark "B. C." Chamberlain** was born August 21, 1877 and he passed away on November 11, 1933). He was a national football player and coach. His college playing days were at Yale University from 1896 to 1898 where he specialized at the center and tackle positions. He was a fine player being named an All-American.

Besides Navy, Chamberlain served as the head football for one season at Stanford University in 1899 and of course he stayed a season at the United States Naval Academy in 1903 season. His full compilation of games at these two institutions resulted in a career head coaching record of 6-12-3. That was not all. He also coached football at the United States Military Academy, the University of Virginia, and his alma mater, Yale.

Chamberlain was from Dalton, Massachusetts. He passed away young from a heart attack at his home in Bronxville, New York on November 11, 1933. He is part of Navy football history

## Navy Football 1903

\*CAPTAIN CHAMBERLAIN\*



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1903 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Burr Chamberlain in his first and only season as head coach of the Midshipmen.

Charles Soule was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen had a big problem winning and compiled their worst record in years, 4-7-1. They shut out four opponents (including a

scoreless tie with Baltimore Medical College), and were outscored by all opponents by a combined score of 130 to 77

All games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1903 season began with a nice win v Gallaudet on Oct 10 W (18-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 14, Navy beat Virginia W (6-5) and then on Oct 17, the Midshipmen got a shutout win against Dickinson W 5-0. On Oct 21, the Baltimore Medical College played Navy to a scoreless tie T (0-0)

From here, the Midshipmen lost three games in a row beginning with October 24-Lafayette L (5-6), Oct 31 Penn State L (0-17), and Oct 28 Georgetown L 5-12. On Nov 4, the Navy beat the New York Naval Militia at home W 28-0. The, on Nov 7, Washington & Jefferson beat the Midshipmen L (0-16)

On Nov 14, Bucknell beat Navy L (5-23). Then VPI shut out the Midshipmen L (0-11). On Nov 28, in the annual Army-Navy Game, Army got the best of Navy L (5-40) in a game played at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA.

## Great Navy Players Charles Belknap Jr



<< Ensign Charles Belknap Jr. circa 1903

Navy football player and Lieutenant Commander Charles K. Belknap Jr. was born September 6, 1880 and passed away December 29, 1954). was the commander of the USS Ammen (DD-35) in 1913. He worked as a censor for the United States Navy in 1917. Biography

Belknap was all American in 1902 and was inducted into the Navy Football Hall of Fame

In the Dec. 1, 1900, Army-Navy game in Philadelphia, Navy 11, Army 7. Emory Land scored on a naked reverse and Byron Long won a pulsating race for a blocked punt on the game's final play to lead Navy to the upset. The Mids led 11-5 with 10 seconds to play when Army's Quinn Gray blocked **Charles Belknap's punt**. Gray led the pursuit of the ball and had he won the race, would've scored the game-winning touchdown.

He attended the United States Naval Academy from 1899 to 1903 and was a star football player who made the Hall of fame. He married Gladys Goodrich on October 26, 1909 in Pomfret, Connecticut.

Belknap was the commander of the destroyer USS Ammen (DD-35) in 1913 and attended the Naval War College from 1915 to 1916. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander on August 29, 1916. World War I

After the United States' declaration of war on Germany in April 1917, Belknap worked as a censor for the United States Navy.[1] Due to a

shortage of experienced officers, he received a temporary promotion to commander on January 1, 1918.

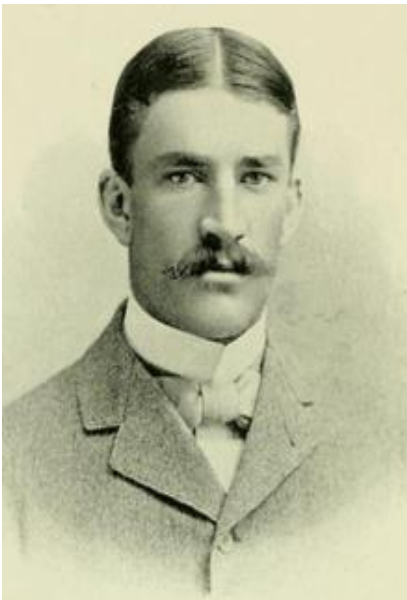
On January 9, 1918, shortly after his promotion to commander, Belknap was appointed director of the newly formed Naval Overseas Transportation Service (NOTS). In this position, Belknap was responsible for Navy cargo ships and all auxiliary vessels not assigned to the fleet or the various naval districts.

In 1919 Belknap received the Navy Cross from the Navy and also the Distinguished Service Medal from the Army for his service with the Naval Overseas Transportation Service during World War I. He was one of a very few individuals to receive both the Navy Cross and the Army Distinguished Service Medal. He was also entitled to the Victory Medal.

-- End of tribute--

#### **1904 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Dashiell**

Paul Dashiell deserves to be on every Navy football fan's list of "the great ones."



As you know, from 1897 through 1899, Bill Armstrong guided the Mids to 20 wins against only five losses. However, over the next four seasons under three different coaches, the Midshipmen did not do as well, slipping to a collective record of 18-21-3. As the 1904 season began, someone needed to reset – and firmly establish – expectations for the program.

Of course he had to be hired first. Paul Dashiell became that man.

With Dashiell at the helm, Navy rebounded with a 7-2-1 record. The Midshipmen allowed only 3.8 points per game, recording six shutouts along the way. Navy allowed

nine points in three games, and its “worst” defensive performance of the whole season came in the finale against Army. Still the Middies conceded just 11 whole points... but since Navy got shut out, that was more than enough that year for Army to prevail and of course, gloat. Nevertheless, it did not take much time for Dashiell to have restored something, which was missing the previous four seasons. Heading into 1905, Navy had a right to think it could do even better. Dashiell made sure of that.

That’s exactly what Navy did. They improved and reached a milestone that seemed impossible at the end of 1903.

Reading along and knowing how poorly the teams executed the prior four years, and then reading about 2004, if you thought Navy’s defense was outstanding in 1904 with that 3.8-points-allowed-per-game average, the Midshipmen were legitimately (and more to the point, precisely) twice as good in 1905. Dashiell’s defense conceded only 1.9 points per game, never allowing more than six points in a game and recording eight shutouts.

There was just one little issue or shall we say, one wonder of the 1905 season in that Navy did not turn in a 12-0 record. Nevertheless, the double-digit-win season that Michigan and Yost turned into an ordinary event in the first decade of the 20th century became Navy’s proud possession in 1905. The Midshipmen stormed to a 10-1-1 record. The Midshipmen had just one defeat – that being a 6-5 loss to Swarthmore on October 28.

Though the Mids found that game and its outcome hard to accept, they dusted off their cleats and came right back. The team and Dashiell need to take credit for their demeanor. Everyone in the locker room turned the page. Navy fought past Penn State, 11-5, the next week after the setback, and by getting through that game, the team’s confidence was fully restored.

The Midshipmen won their next three games by a composite score of 68-6 to reach the 10-win mark. The team could not beat Army in the finale, but the Midshipmen did not lose, either. It was a 6-6 tie. No, it was not everything the Navy wanted, but Army was forced to acknowledge the considerable improvements its opponent had made in the intervening year between meetings. That’s for sure.

With 10 wins in a season, Navy as expected, became a target in the 1906 season. Dashiell came back for what would be his final season – both in Annapolis and as a college head coach. Bearing that bulls-eye was not supposed to be easy, and it wasn't.

Yet, again, all things considered, Navy handled the season with great resilience and determination. The Midshipmen did lose twice, but even then, their defense could not have been better, allowing only three points in each defeat. (The scores of both losses were 5-0, so obviously, the defense did not allow either safety against Princeton and Penn State.)

Shall we say, improbably but genuinely, Navy's defense managed to become still better in 1906. The offense – which had averaged over 20 points in 1905 – regressed and averaged under 13 points per game. The Middies endured two scoreless ties in 1906, and the offense labored through six games in which it did not score a touchdown. The Mids scored fewer than six points in each of those six contests.

Given that record of offensive futility, a rational person would have expected a crash-and-burn season, a “come down to earth” narrative after the soaring successes of 1905. Yet, Navy went 8-2-2 in 1906. The defense, as mentioned above, improved upon an already remarkable standard of excellence.

Yes, the Navy defense did not allow a single touchdown in that entire 1906 season. Two field goals were all the defense allowed, since the rest of the scoring done by opponents consisted of four safeties given up by the offense unit. Six points—only six points were allowed by the defense. Eight were permitted by the offense or special teams. That's how six games with virtually no offensive production can be overcome.

The lasting point of satisfaction for Dashiell and Midshipmen everywhere is that when the time came to face Army for a third time, Navy got it right. The stadium was almost not large enough to contain all of the Navy smiles. After losing in 1904 and tying in 1905, Dashiell wanted a win. Navy fans wanted a win and both Dashiell and the fans deserved a win.

However, the notion about “deserving” anything in life is that you have to work hard enough and well enough to put yourself in position to deserve anything. The Midshipmen did just that, blanking the Cadets, 10-0, to give Dashiell the perfect send-off for his career. Dashiell put the “D” in Annapolis, and as a result, he lost only five of his 34 games as Navy’s head coach. What a record!

The postscript to Dashiell’s career at Navy is that the program was on very sound footing when he left. Joe Reeves went 9-2-1 in 1907, and Frank Berrien went 9-2-1 in 1908. Paul Dashiell had taken a drifting ship and righted its course. He turned Navy into a powerhouse, winning 10 games in a season at a time when few college programs ever managed that feat. Navy became the little engine that could because Paul Dashiell had a big enough heart to carry the load.

Make sure folks if ever you choose to compile a list of great Navy coaches and achievements, Paul Dashiell and the teams of 1904 through 1906 certainly ought to be in that number. Fir sure!

## Navy 1904 Season

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1904 college football season. It was the Naval Academy’s twenty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Paul Dashiell in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Lou Farley was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen snapped out of their losing streak and began a nice win streak under Dashiell. Navy compiled a 7–2–1 record, shut out six opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 149 to 38.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1903 season began with a nice win v VMI on Oct 6 W (12-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 12, the Navy defeated the Marine Officers in a shutout rout. W (68–0). On Oct 15, Navy defeated an always-tough Princeton squad by one point, W (10–9).

Then, on Oct 19, the Midshipmen shut-out St. John's College W (23-0). On Oct 22, Dickinson played Navy to a scoreless tie T (0-0).

On Oct 29, Swarthmore defeated Navy L (0-9). Next was Penn State on Nov 5. Navy beat the Nittany Lions W (20-9). On Nov 12, at Virginia's, Madison Hall Field in Charlottesville, VA W (5-0). On Nov 19, at home, Navy beat VPI W (11-0). On Nov 26 Army defeated Navy at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, PA in the annual Army-Navy Game L (0-11).

## Great Navy Player William F. Halsey



William Frederick Halsey, Jr. 30 October 1882 - 16 August 1959.

William Frederick Halsey was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on 30 October 1882, son of the late Captain William F. Halsey, US Navy, and Mrs. (Anne Masters Brewster) Halsey. He attended kindergarten in Coronado, California, public schools in Vallejo, California, Pingry School, St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and the Naval Academy

Preparatory School in Annapolis, Maryland.

Appointed to the US Naval Academy by President William McKinley in 1900, he was a member of the "Lucky Bag" staff, won his letter in football, playing fullback on the team, was president of the Athletic Association, and as First Classman had his name engraved on the Thompson Trophy Cup as the Midshipman who had done most



during the year for the promotion of athletics. Halsey is a member of the Navy Football Athletics Hall of Fame

Graduated in February 1904, he served the two years at sea then required by law before he was commissioned Ensign, 2 February 1906. He was promoted to Lieutenant, both grades, 2 February 1909, to Lieutenant Commander, August 29, 1916, received temporary promotion to Commander during the World War, was commissioned in that rank 3 June 1921.

His subsequent promotions were as follows: Captain, 10 February 1927 Rear Admiral, 1 March 1938; Vice Admiral, 13 June 1940; and Admiral, 18 November 1942. On 28 November 1945, he was nominated to be a Fleet Admiral of the US Navy, his nomination confirmed by the Senate on 14 December 1945, and on 11 December 1945 he took the oath as Fleet Admiral, becoming the fourth officer to hold that rank. He was transferred to the Retired List of the Navy, at his own request, on 1 March 1947.

He commanded the aircraft carrier Saratoga from July 1935 until June 1937, and the succeeding year had command of the Naval Air Station, Pensacola. On June 28, 1938, with rank of Rear Admiral, he was assigned duty as Commander, Carrier Division TWO, USS Yorktown, flagship, and on 31 May 1939, was transferred to duty as Commander, Carrier Division ONE, Aircraft, Battle Force, USS Saratoga, flagship. On June 13, 1940, with the rank of Vice Admiral, he was designated Commander, Aircraft, Battle Force, with additional duty as Commander, Carrier Division TWO, his flag again in the Yorktown. He was serving in that command, with his flag in the USS Enterprise, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, 7 December 1941.

The Enterprise was returning to Pearl Harbor from delivering planes at Wake Island when the news of the attack was received, and planes were launched in a fruitless search for the fleeing enemy. Early in February 1942, in the first offensive war in the Central Pacific, his force, consisting of the Enterprise, the carrier Yorktown, four heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and ten destroyers, made a foray into the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, bombing and bombarding Wotje, Maleolap, Kwajalein, Roe, Jaluit, Makin, Taroa and Gugewe. Later that month, with the Enterprise, two cruisers and seven destroyers, he

shelled and bombed Wake Island, which had been in enemy hands since 22 December 1941, and proceeded on to bomb Marcus Island.

For distinguished service in the Gilbert and Marshall raids, Admiral Halsey was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the citation states: "For distinguished service in a duty of great responsibility as Commander of the Marshall Raiding Force, United States Pacific Fleet, and especially for his brilliant and audacious attack against the Marshall and Gilbert Islands on January 31, 1942. By his great skill and determination, this drive inflicted heavy damage to enemy ships and planes."

He also received the Ribbon for the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS Enterprise, the first carrier to be so honored. The citation follows:



On June 16, 1944, he assumed command of the Third Fleet, and was also designated Commander, Western Pacific Task Forces. Beginning in August 1944, his forces left a trail of enemy ruin and destruction in the Palaus, Philippines, Formosa, Okinawa and the South China Sea, inflicting greater loss upon the Japanese Fleet than had ever been suffered by any fleet.

On September 13, 1944, he made urgent recommendation for the revision of the campaign plans and for the early landing at Leyte, which resulted as the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt later announced, "in a complete change in the campaign plans for the Philippine invasion." During the period August 24, 1944, to January 26, 1945, when the THIRD Fleet was engaged in supporting the Western Carolines and Philippine Islands operations, 4,370 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 82 enemy combatant ships were

sunk, and 372 enemy auxiliaries and miscellaneous shipping were sunk (excluding small craft), against the loss in combat of 449 planes and the light carrier Princeton.

He was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a Third Distinguished Service Medal. In the final phases of the War in the Pacific, Admiral Halsey's THIRD Fleet participated in the latter stages of the Okinawa campaign. Subsequent to the Okinawa operations, the fast carrier task forces of his Fleet, comprising the greatest mass of sea power ever assembled, proceeded northward toward Japan and in July 1945 struck at Tokyo and then attacked Honshu and Hokkaido. Moving southward, the THIRD Fleet, joined by units of the British Pacific Fleet, with Fleet Admiral Halsey in overall command, on July 17, made the first combined American-British bombardment of the Japanese homeland, and later that month the same force made extended air strikes in the Inland Sea area and on the Japanese naval base at Kure, returning to harass Tokyo for the third time in three weeks.

On 29 August 1945, when Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, arrived from Guam to break out his flag in the USS South Dakota, Fleet Admiral (then Admiral) Halsey, Commander THIRD Fleet, flying his four-star flag in the USS Missouri, entered Tokyo Bay and anchored off Yokosuka naval base. The following day General of the Army Douglas MacArthur arrived at Atsuzi Airfield to set up General Headquarters for Yokohama, and on 1 September 1945 (Eastern War Time), aboard the Missouri in Tokyo Bay, was signed the formal surrender of the Japanese Imperial Government.

Late in September 1945, fifty-four ships of the THIRD Fleet of which the USS South Dakota had been flagship since 5 September 1945, were ordered to return to the west coast of the United States for participation in the annual Navy Day celebration, 27 October. On 22 November 1945, in the harbor at San Pedro, California, Fleet Admiral Halsey hauled down his flag from the South Dakota, relinquishing command of the THIRD Fleet which had exemplified his slogan of "Hit hard, hit fast, hit often."

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1905 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Paul Dashiell in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Douglas Legate Howard was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Dashiell. Navy compiled a 10-1-1 record this year. They were a powerhouse shutting out six opponents and outscoring all opponents by a combined score of 243 to 23.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1905 season began with a nice win v VMI on Oct 7 W (34-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 11, Navy shut-out St. John's College W 29-0. On Oct 14 Navy beat Dickinson at home W 6-0. Then, the Midshipmen defeated Western Maryland on Oct 18 W 29-0. Three days later on Oct 21, at home, Navy shut-out North Carolina W 38-0. On Oct 25. The Blue and Gold beat Maryland Agricultural at home W 17-0.

In the only loss of the season on Oct 28 Swarthmore defeated the Midshipmen in a close game L (5-6). Then, on Nov 4, Navy beat Penn State at home W (11-5). On Nov 11, Navy defeated Bucknell at home, W 34-0. Then at home on Nov 18, at Worden Field, Navy beat Virginia W 22-0. On Nov 25, the Midshipmen beat VPI at home W (12-6). Then, in the annual classic, the Navy and the Army tied T (6-6) in their match on December 2 at University Field in Princeton, NJ in the Army-Navy Game.

### **1906 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Dashiell**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1906 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Paul Dashiell in his third and last year as head coach of the Midshipmen. Herbert Spencer was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Dashiell. Navy compiled an 8-2-2 record, shut out nine

opponents (including scoreless ties with Bucknell and Dickinson), and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 149 to 14.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1906 season began with a tie on Oct 6 v VMI (0-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 10, Navy beat Maryland Agricultural at home W (12-0). On Oct 13, Princeton defeated the Navy squad L (0-5). Then, on Oct 17, Navy beat St. John's College in a shutout W (34-0). On Oct 20, Navy beat Lehigh W (12-0). Then, on Oct 27, Navy tied Bucknell T (0-0).

On Nov 3 Penn State beat Navy L (0-5). Then, on Nov 10, Navy edged out Swarthmore at home W (5-4). The following week at home, the Midshipmen pounded North Carolina for a shutout win W (40-0). In the second last game of the season, on Nov 24, Navy beat VPI at Worden Field in a low-scoring shutout W (5-0). On December 1 v Army in Franklin Field, Philadelphia, in the annual Army-Navy Game, Navy got back its winning charm against Army W (10-0).

### **1907 Navy Midshipmen Coach Joseph Reeves**

In Chapter 1, we first mentioned Joseph Reeves who in his football playing days had a leather helmet built for him as another head injury might cause his death. Rather than avoid further play, he wore the helmet religiously. He was a real bull.

After he served as a great Navy football coach, eventually, "the Bull" became a United States Navy Admiral. Nicknamed "Bull," he became known as the "Father of Carrier Aviation" for his role in integrating aircraft carriers into the US Navy Fleet as a major part of the Navy's attack capabilities. He was quite a man.

Born Joseph Mason Reeves in Tampico, Illinois, he received an appointment in 1890 to attend the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, where he became a football hero. As noted above, while there, he is credited by some sources with the invention of the modern football helmet, in which he had a shoemaker create for him after he was told by a Navy doctor that a kick to his head could result in death.



## &lt;&lt; Joe Reeves

After graduating from the Naval Academy with an officer's commission, he was assigned to the cruiser USS San Francisco. He served in the battleship USS Oregon during the Spanish-American War, taking part in the action against the Spanish Navy at Santiago, Cuba in July 1898. After the Spanish-American War, he served in San Francisco, California and on the battleships USS Wisconsin and USS Ohio, in addition to shore duty at Newport, Rhode Island and Annapolis, Maryland, where he was an instructor in the Naval Academy's

Department of Physics and Chemistry from 1906 until 1908.

In 1907 he served as the Academy's Head Football Coach, guiding the team to a nice 9-2-1 record and more importantly, a 6-0 victory over Army. After serving as an ordnance officer on board the battleship USS New Hampshire, he served as ordnance officer in the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He followed this with assignment to the Board of Inspection and Survey and a tour as Commanding Officer, Naval Coal Depot, Tiburon, California.

In April 1913, at the rank of commander, he assumed command of the collier USS Jupiter, the US Navy's first electrically propelled vessel. Detached from Jupiter in April 1914, he commanded the cruiser USS St. Louis and various other ships until June 1915 when he was assigned to the battleship USS Oregon as its Commanding Officer. In June 1916 he commanded the battleship USS Maine and held that position throughout World War I. After the war, he served as Naval

Attaché at Rome, Italy and in April 1921 he assumed command of USS Pittsburgh.

He was promoted to the rank of captain at the Mare Island Navy Yard at the end of that year, and from 1922 to 1923 he commanded the battleship USS North Dakota. From there he attended the US Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island and spent a year as a member of its staff. After graduating from the Naval War College, he decided to enter the new world of Naval Aviation and in 1925 he qualified as a Naval Aviation Observer as opposed to a Naval Aviator (i.e., a pilot).

Reeves then assumed the post of Commander, Aircraft Squadron, Battle Fleet. Though a captain by rank, his position as squadron commander permitted him to fly a commodore's pennant. His flagship was the experimental carrier USS Langley (his former ship, USS Jupiter), modified for aviation operations. The wooden flight-deck was installed over the Langley's existing deck structures, giving the vessel the nickname of "Covered Wagon." Reeves was always in demand.

From June 1929 until June 1930 he served on the Navy's General Board and fifteen months later, he became Senior Member of the Board of Inspection and Survey, Pacific Coast Section. Another tour at Mare Island followed and in June 1933, he became Commander, Battleships, Battle Force, with the rank of vice admiral. The following July, he was assigned as Commander, Battle Force, US Fleet, with the rank of admiral. On February 26, 1934 he was designated Commander-in-Chief, US Fleet. He held this command until June 1936, when he was ordered to Washington, DC to serve on the General Board, and remained in that position until November 23, 1936, and he chose to retire seven days later.

### **Navy Football 1907**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1907 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Joseph M. Reeves in his first and only year as head coach of the Midshipmen. Arch Douglas was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Reeves. Navy compiled a 9–2–1 record, shut out eight opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of

118 to 34. Arch Douglas made Walter Camp's third-team All-America, the second Southerner ever to have done so

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1907 season began with a Navy win on Oct 2 v St. John's College W(26-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 5, Navy beat Dickinson at home W (15-0). On Oct 9, Navy shut out Maryland at home W (12-0). The following week Oct 12, Vanderbilt came to Worden Field and tied the Midshipmen T (6-6). On Oct 16, Navy beat St. John's College W (12-0)

In their first ever meeting, Ivy League member Harvard beat Navy on Oct 19 at Worden Field • Annapolis, MD L (0-6). Then, on Oct 26, Navy beat Lafayette at home W (17-0). On Nov 2, Navy shut out West Virginia at home W (6-0). On Nov 9 Swarthmore defeated the Naval Academy squad L 0-18. On Nov 16, Navy edged out Penn State W (6-4). On Nov 23, at home, Navy defeated VPI, W (12-0). On Nov 30, v Army at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, PA, Navy won the Army-Navy Game W (6-0).

### **1908 Navy Midshipmen Coach Frank Berrien**

Frank Berrien graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1900. He retired as a U.S. Navy Rear Admiral.

F. D. Berrien was the 13th head college football coach for the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen located in Annapolis, Maryland and he held that position for three seasons, from 1908 until 1910. His coaching record at United States Naval Academy was 21 wins, 5 losses, and 3 ties. As of the conclusion of the 2007 season, this ranks him tenth at United States Naval Academy in total wins and fifth at United States Naval Academy in winning percentage (.776).

As captain of the USS Nicholson he fought in the Action of 17 November 1917 and was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the highest U.S. Navy award. It out ranked the Navy Cross until 1942. Besides being a great sailor/soldier, he was one heck of a football coach.



The Action of 17 November 1917 was a naval battle of the First World War. The action was fought between a German U-boat and two United States Navy destroyers in the North Atlantic Ocean. Picture of Frank Berrien below



## 1908 Navy Football

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1908 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-eighth season of intercollegiate football.

They were coached by Frank Berrien in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Percy Northcroft was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued

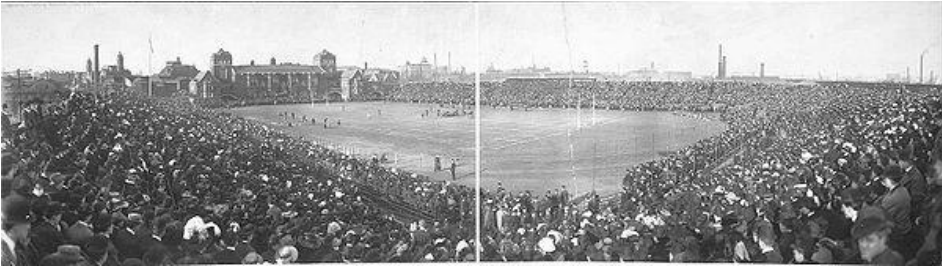
their win streak under Coach Berrien. Navy compiled a 9–2–1 record, shut out seven opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 218 to 38. The Midshipmen had become a college football powerhouse.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1908 season began with a Navy win on Oct 3 v Rutgers University W(18-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 4, Navy beat St. John's College at home in Worden Field, W (22–0). Then on Oct 10, the Navy defeated Dickinson at home W (22–0). On Oct 14, Navy put a whoop on Maryland with a huge shutout win W (57–0). On Oct 17,

Navy beat Lehigh at home W (16–0). Then, in a fight v an Ivy league powerhouse on Oct 24—Harvard at home, the Navy brought home a tie T (6-6).

On Oct 28, Navy beat George Washington at home, W (17–0). Wrapping up October 1908, the Navy was defeated by the powerful Carlisle Indians at home L (6–16). Then in a first match with Villanova at home on Nov 7, Navy prevailed W (30–6). On Nov 14, the Navy defeated Penn State at home in a close shutout W (5–0). Wrapping up the season. On Nov 21, Navy beat VPI at home W (15–4). In the season finale on Nov 28, in the most important game of the year for the Naval Academy and for the Cadets, Navy fell just a bit short v Army L (4-6). The game was played in a familiar but high-capacity venue, Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA.



1908 Army Navy Game at Franklin Field

### 1909 Navy Midshipmen Coach Frank Berrien

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1909 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's twenty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Frank Berrien in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. George Meyer was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Berrien. Navy compiled a 4–3–1 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 99 to 42.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1909 season began with a Navy win on Oct 2 v St. John's College W(16-6). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The week after the opener, the Midshipmen worked hard at home to defeat a rugged Rutgers squad

on Oct 9, W (12–3). The first loss of the season came on Oct 16, from Villanova at home in a close match, L ( 6–11). On Oct 23 Virginia added another loss to the Navy record, L (0–5)

On Oct 30, at home, Princeton defeated Navy in a close match L (3–5). On Nov 6, Washington & Jefferson at Worden Field, played the Navy to a no-score tie T (0–0). Then, on Nov 13, Navy defeated the Western Reserve at home W 17–6. With no Army-Navy game played this year, on Nov 20 Navy whopped Davidson at Worden Field in Annapolis, MD by a big score W (45–6).

**1910 Navy Midshipmen Coach Frank Berrien**  
National Champions via some system not claimed by Navy

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1910 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirtieth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Frank Berrien in his third of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. T. Starr King was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Berrien. Navy compiled an undefeated 8–0–1 record and were not scored upon, having defeated all nine opponents by a combined score of 99 to 0 .

Two players from the 1910 Navy team received first-team honors on the 1910 College Football All-America Team. Guard John Brown received first-team honors from The New York Sun, New York Herald, and Pittsburgh Leader. Jack Dalton received first-team honors from The New York Times. Brown and Dalton were both later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The 1910 season was Navy's third with Lt. Frank D. Berrien as head coach. Despite the undefeated season, the Navy announced on December 2 that Berrien would be assigned to duties outside the Naval Academy and would not return as the head football coach for 1911.

With an 8-0-1 record for the year—a great undefeated and one 0-0 tie season, in later years, there would have been a rating group such as Houlgate who would have slotted the Navy as the National Champions.

At the end of the 1910 season, Jack Dalton, the halfback who scored Navy's only points against Army, was selected to serve as captain of the 1911 team.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1910 season began with a Navy shutout win on Oct 1 v St. John's College W(16-6). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 8, Rutgers tied Navy T (0-0). Then, on Oct 15, Navy beat Washington & Jefferson W (15-0). On Oct 22 in a close game, Navy beat VPI at home W (3-0). On Oct 29, Navy beat the Western Reserve W (17-0).

On Nov 5, Navy shut out Lehigh at home W (30-0). Then the Navy defeated Carlisle on Nov 12 W (6-0). This was followed on Nov 19 by a win against NYU at home W (9-0) On Nov 26 Navy played Army at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA in the annual Army-Navy Game. After initially missing seven attempts at a field goal, Navy eventually won the classic game by a 3 to 0 score on a kick by Jack Dalton

## Chapter 9 Coaches Howard, Ingram, Dobie, & Folwell—1911-1924

Howard            Coach #14  
 Ingram            Coach #15  
 Dobie             Coach # 16  
 Folwell           Coach # 17

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Record</u>
1911	Doug Howard	6-0-3	Indep	6-0-3
1912	Doug Howard	6-3	Indep	6-3
1913	Doug Howard	7-1-1	Indep	7-1-1
1914	Doug Howard	6-3	Indep	6-3
1915	Jonas Ingram	3-5-1	Indep	3-5-1
1916	Jonas Ingram	6-3-1	Indep	6-3-1
1917	Gil Dobie	7-1	Indep	7-1
1918	Gil Dobie	4-1	Indep	4-1
1919	Gil Dobie	6-1	Indep	6-1
1920	Bob Folwell	6-2	Indep	6-2
1921	Bob Folwell	6-1	Indep	6-1
1922	Bob Folwell	5-2	Indep	5-2
1923	Bob Folwell	5-1-3	Indep	5-1-3
1924	Bob Folwell	2-6	Indep	2-6



1911 Navy National Championship Team

### 1911 Navy Midshipmen Coach Doug Howard

Douglas Legate Howard -- born on 11 February 1885 in Annapolis, Md., the eldest son of Lt. (later Adm.) and Mrs. Thomas B. [Anne J.] Howard -- he entered the United States Naval Academy in 1902, where he played on the football team through the 1902, 1903, and 1904 seasons, becoming the team's captain in 1905. Howard graduated from the Naval Academy in 1906. He later married Ruth Bowyer, a union that produced two children, John M. B. and Anne C.

Howard became the assistant coach of the Naval Academy's football team (1906–1911), being ordered to the institute for that purpose on temporary detached duty from his regular tours of duty with the fleet. He became the Naval Academy's head coach (1912–1914), leading the team to a total record of 25–7–4. His leadership inspired his students, and their class of 1914 dedicated the Naval Academy's annual, *The Lucky Bag*, to Howard.

He received the Navy Cross for his distinguished service as the commanding officer of Drayton (Destroyer No. 23), Rowan (Destroyer No. 64), and Bell (Destroyer No. 95) during World War I, "vigorously and unremittingly" escorting Allied convoys through waters "infested" with German U-boats and mines. He was detached from Bell in April 1919 and ordered to duty as the Director of Athletics at the Naval Academy (1920–1922) until January 1923, when he was ordered to battleship Texas (BB-35) as her navigation officer.

In July of that year, he was transferred to Seattle (CA-11) as her executive officer, and then (1925–June 1928) returned to duty at the Naval Academy. Howard followed that assignment by commanding Destroyer Division (DesDiv) 27 of the Scouting Fleet until April 1930, and later took command of DesDiv 33. He completed instruction at the Naval War College at Newport, R.I. (July 1930–June 1931), and the following year attended the Army War College at Washington, D.C.

Capt. Howard served in the Office of Naval Intelligence from July 1932 until he retired in 1933. He served as the Dean of St. John's College at Annapolis and worked as the president of the Annapolis Banking and Trust Company.

Howard died suddenly at Annapolis on 14 December 1936. Cmdr. William N. Thomas, Chaplain Corps, officiated at Howard's funeral service at the Naval Academy Chapel and his interment in the Naval Academy Cemetery.

### The 1911 Season



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1911 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Douglas Legate Howard in his first of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Jack Dalton was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Howard. Navy compiled an undefeated 6–0–3 record, shut out seven opponents, and defeated its opponents by a combined score of 116 to 11.

Fullback Jack Dalton was the team captain and also a consensus first-team selection for the All-America team. Three other Navy players received first-team honors from one or more selectors: tackle John Brown received first-team honors from Ted Coy; guard Ray Wakeman received first-team honors from Henry L. Williams; and guard George Howe received first-team honors from The New York Globe. Brown and Dalton were both later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1911 season began with a Navy win on Oct 7 v Johns Hopkins W(27-5). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.



Navy v John Hopkins 1911

On Oct 11 St. John's College played Navy at home and were shut out W (21–0). Next on Oct 14, Navy shut out Washington & Jefferson at home W (16–0). Then, on Oct 21, Princeton played Navy to a tie T (0–0). For the second week in a row, on Oct 28, Navy played to a tie against the Western Reserve.

On Nov 4, Navy beat North Carolina A&M at home W (17-6). Then on Nov 11, Navy shut out West Virginia at home W (32–0). On Nov 18, Penn State came to Annapolis and played Navy to its third no-score tie T (0-0) for the year. Then, like clockwork, on Nov 25, the annual Army Navy game was back in Franklin Field with Navy prevailing W (3-0)

As noted above, the annual Army–Navy Game was played on November 25 at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. For the second consecutive year, the game was a low-scoring affair; Navy won 3–0 on a field goal by Jack Dalton.[3]





National Champion Navy Team 1911

### 1912 Navy Midshipmen Coach Doug Howard

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1912 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Douglas Legate Howard in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Pete Rhodes was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Howard. Navy compiled an undefeated 6–3 record, shut out four opponents, and defeated its opponents by a combined score of 126 to 61.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1912 season began with a Navy win on Oct 5 v Johns Hopkins W(7-3). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 12, Lehigh defeated the Midshipmen L (0–14). Then on Oct 19 Swarthmore defeated Navy

L (6–21). On Oct 26, Navy beat Pittsburgh at home W (13–6). Then, on Nov 1, Navy shut-out Western Reserve at home W (7–0).

On Nov 9, Bucknell gave Navy its third loss of the season (L 7–17). On Nov 16, the Midshipmen came back to beat North Carolina A&M at home in a blowout shutout W (41–0). In another blowout shutout, the next week, Navy beat NYU at home W (39–0). On Nov 30, Navy took on Army again in the annual classic in Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA. Navy prevailed in a close shutout W (6–0)

### **1913 Navy Midshipmen Coach Doug Howard**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1913 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Douglas Legate Howard in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Harvey Overesch was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Howard. Navy compiled a 7-1-1 record, shut out three opponents, and defeated its opponents by a combined score of 174 to 83.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1913 Navy Football Season began with a tie-on Oct 4 v Pittsburgh T (0-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 11, Navy beat Georgetown in a shutout W (23–0). On Nov 18, in the third shutout in a row, Navy manhandled Dickinson W (29-0). The fourth in a row on the shutouts came with a huge final score against Maryland W (76-0)

On Nov 1, Navy shut out Lehigh W (39-0). Then on Nov8, the Midshipmen pounded Bucknell W (70-7). The sixth shutout of the year came on Nov 15 against Penn State at home W (10–0). Then, at home on Nov 22, the Navy got its seventh shutout of the season as it shellacked NYU W (48-0). On Nov 29, in the Army-Navy Classic, the Navy was not as dominant as the Cadets beat the Midshipmen L (9-22) at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY.

### **1914 Navy Midshipmen Coach Doug Howard**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1914 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Douglas Legate Howard in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Harvey Overesch was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak under Coach Howard. Navy compiled a 6–3 record, shut out three opponents, and defeated its opponents by a combined score of 174 to 83.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1914 Navy Football Season began with a win v Georgetown on Oct 3 W (13-0). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 10, Pittsburgh defeated Navy L (6–13). On Oct 17, Penn defeated the Navy at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA L (6–13). Then, on Oct 24, Navy shellacked Western Reserve at home W (48-0).

On Oct 31, Navy beat North Carolina A&M W (16–14). On Nov 7, Navy beat Fordham in a shutout W (21–0). Then, on Nov 14, Navy beat Colby at home W (31–21). On Nov 21, the Midshipmen defeated Ursinus at home W 33–2. Then, in the annual Army Navy Classic at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA the Army beat the Navy in a shutout L (0–20).

### **Great Navy Player K. P. Gilchrist**

K.P. Gilchrist, Leeton, Missouri---Gillie was our veteran, our battle-scarred captain, who bossed our football team, from the time they entered the dressing room until the whistle blew and time was up. Gillie drove our team and drove it well; he was the man for the job.

The first thing that one learns with some surprise about Gillie is that contrary to the case of most of our football men, he stands well up in

the class. He has attained this class standing just as he has attained his athletic ability, by constant, persistent, consistent, hard work. He is above all a plodder.



Not essentially savvy, he has left many men naturally brighter and naturally better equipped way behind him. He is an excellent example of the man who made good use of his one talent and finds it multiplied by his efforts. He never goes into anything half-heartedly.

He believes that whatever is worthwhile putting his time on is worth doing well, and to this his success may be attributed. He goes into anything with the determination to win, and he usually does.

Gillie isn't strong on the Mexican athletics, but once in a while he gets started and he has a wealth of novel experiences to dispense which puts the ordinary bull artist quite out of the running. From what has been said, it will be inferred that he is a rather serious-minded chap.

He is deep, smiling seldom. He will work hard for any enterprise in which he is interested and the ship he gets will receive a worker, and if he doesn't make his division the best on the ship it will be the first time Gillie has failed in getting the best results out of his material.

"Theoretically speaking, from a hypothetical standpoint."

"You git that bird; I'll git thissun."

Hinder (8th Co.); Bird (5th Co.); Football (4, 3, 2, 1); Football N\*\*\*; Captain (1); Baltimore Sun's All-American (1913); Lacrosse (3, 2, 1);

LNT; Heavyweight Boxing Champion (4); Treasurer of Athletic Association (2); Athletic Representative (4, 3).

### 1915 Navy Midshipmen Coach Jonas Ingram

Admiral Jonas Howard Ingram (15 October 1886-9 September 1952) was an officer in the United States Navy during World War I and World War II. He commanded the United States Atlantic Fleet during World War II and was a recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions in 1914 in Veracruz, Mexico.

As a youth, Ingram attended Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, then entered the United States Naval Academy at the age of 17. During Ingram's time at the Academy, he was a member of the school's rowing, track and football teams, leading the latter team to the Midshipmen's first victory in six years over their bitter rivals from Army by scoring the lone touchdown in the 1906 clash. His athletic exploits helped earn him the Academy's prestigious Athletic Sword.



### << Coach Jonas Ingram

Following his graduation in 1907, Ingram served in several cruisers, destroyers, and battleships. As turret officer of the battleship Arkansas (BB-33), he established a world's record for firing 12-inch guns. On 22 April 1914 he landed at Veracruz, Mexico with the Arkansas battalion and was later awarded the Medal of Honor for "distinguished conduct in battle" and "skillful and efficient handling of the artillery and machineguns".

Ingram served as head football coach at the Naval Academy from 1915 to 1917. During World War I he was on the staff of the Commander, Division 9, Atlantic Fleet, and received the Navy Cross for distinguished service.

Earning the rank of Commander in 1924, he was placed in charge of the USS Stoddert (DD-302) before returning to the U.S. Naval Academy to serve as both athletic director and football director from 1926 to 1930. Ingram moved on to command the battleship Pennsylvania for a period of time after that, before serving as director of U.S. Navy public relations.

Prior to his promotion to Captain in 1935, Ingram served as an aide to the Secretary of the Navy, then returned to the sea as commander of Destroyer Squadron Six. Upon his return to land, he then ran the New York Navy Yard in Brooklyn, New York before returning to command the battleship Tennessee.

In the early years of World War II, Ingram's performance in important assignments won him a series of promotions and citations, starting with Rear Admiral on January 10, 1941. In February 1942, he received a third star upon assuming command of Cruiser Division 2. Seven months later he took command of the 4th Fleet and was responsible for protecting vital Allied shipping in the U-boat infested South Atlantic.

He received the Distinguished Service Medal for his work in this post and on 15 November 1944 became Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet with the rank of Admiral. His efforts in this post helped him win a gold star in lieu of a second Distinguished Service Medal for taking "a major part in the flow of United States troops across the Atlantic... and in the successful combating of the German submarine menace."

Retiring from active duty on April 1, 1947 after 44 years of service, Ingram was named commissioner of the All-America Football Conference. Serving until resigning in 1949, Ingram went on to serve as a vice president for the Reynolds Metal Company.

In August 1952, he suffered a heart attack while serving as the superintendent of summer schools at Culver Academies, then was stricken again with another attack on September 9 in San Diego, California before dying the following night.

For distinguished conduct in battle, engagement of Vera Cruz, 22 April 1914. During the second day's fighting the service performed by

him was eminent and conspicuous. He was conspicuous for skillful and efficient handling of the artillery and machineguns of the Arkansas battalion, for which he was specially commended in reports.

Born on October 15, 1886, he was a 1907 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He earned the Medal of Honor for services at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in April 1914. Later in his career he commanded all Allied Forces in the South Atlantic throughout World War II.

JH Ingram USNA PHOTO

United States Naval Academy Photo

He died at San Diego, California, on September 10, 1952 and was buried in Section 30 of Arlington National Cemetery. His wife, Jean Fletcher Ingram (1892-1954), is buried with him.

## 1915 Season

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1915 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Jonas Ingram in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Arthur Miles was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen ended their win streak under Coach Ingram in this his first year as coach. the team compiled a 3–5–1 record and was outscored by a combined score of 118 to 99.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1915 Navy Football Season began with a shutout loss to Georgetown on Oct 2 L (0-9). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 9 Pitt pounded the Navy squad L (12-47). On Oct 16, Penn played Navy to a tie T (7-7). On Oct 23, Navy beat VPI at home in a shutout W (20-0). On Oct 30. North Carolina A&M defeated Navy L (12-14)

On Nov 6, Navy beat Bucknell at home W 13-3. Then on Nov 13, Navy beat Colby at home W (28-14). On Nov 20 Ursinus got the best of Navy at Worden Field L (7-10). Then, in the classic once a year rivalry, the Army beat the Navy on Nov 27 at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY L (0-14)

## 1916 Navy Midshipmen Coach Jonas Ingram

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1916 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Jonas Ingram in his second of just two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Clarence Ward was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen began a new win streak this year under Coach Ingram. Navy compiled a 6–3–1 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 199 to 76.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1916 Navy Football Season began with a tie with Dickinson on Sept 30, 1916. T (0-0) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 7, at home, Navy beat Georgetown W (13-7). On Oct 11, the Midshipmen defeated Maryland State W (14-7). Then on Oct 14, Pittsburgh edged out the Naval Academy in a one-pointer L (19-20). Next. West Virginia lost to Navy in a two-score game W (12-7). This was followed by a nice Navy win on Oct 28 against Georgia at home in Worden Field, W (27-3)

On Nov 4, Washington & Lee got the best of Navy at home in a shutout loss L (0-10). Then on Nov 11 in a thumping shootout at North Carolina A&M, Navy emerged victorious in a W (50-0) onslaught. Then, in another pummeling, Navy whacked Villanova at home in Worden Field W (57-7). Wrapping up the 1916 season in the classic Army-Navy series, Navy lost another on November 25 vs. Army at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY L (7-15).





Army Navy National Championship Game 1916

**1917 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gil Dobie**



Coach Gil Dobie (center) with the football players

Coach Gil Dobie was a great coach at Navy and elsewhere. He was the head football coach at North Dakota State, Washington, Navy, Cornell and Boston College. A star quarterback and end at the University of Minnesota, he led the Golden Gophers to the Big Ten title during the 1900 season, before beginning a distinguished career coaching college football.

He was undefeated through his first 11 seasons as a college football coach. His greatest success came at the University of Washington in Seattle, coaching the team that would later become known as the Huskies. During his nine-year coaching tenure at Washington he never lost a football game, compiling a record of 58 wins, zero losses and three ties. From 1908 to 1916, he was instrumental in creating one of college football's most impressive records of all time, coaching Washington in 61 of 63 straight games without a loss.

The 63-game unbeaten streak by Washington, established a National Collegiate Football Association (NCAA) record that still remains unchallenged in the modern era of college football. He also set a University of Washington school record winning 39 consecutive games between 1908 and 1914, the second longest winning streak in college football history. From 1917 to 1919 he coached at the Naval Academy, where he recorded 17 wins against only three losses. He served as president of the American Football Coaches Association in 1917.

In 1920 he abruptly resigned from Navy after turning down a three-year contract extension, to accept the head coaching position at Cornell University. Over the next 16 seasons he led the Big Red to 82 victories, including national championships in 1921, 1922 and 1923. He spent his final years as the head coach at Boston College winning 16 games, losing six and tying five.

He finished his coaching career after 33 years with an overall record of 180 wins, 45 losses and 15 ties, including 14 undefeated seasons and a winning percentage of .781. In 1951 he was inducted as a charter member into the College Football Hall of Fame and as a charter member in the Husky Hall of Fame in 1979. He was also inducted into the North Dakota State, Navy, Cornell and Boston College Halls of Fame.

## **Navy 1917 Season**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1917 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Gil Dobie in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ernest Von Heimberg was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Dobie. Navy compiled a 7–1 record, shut out four opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 442 to 23. The Midshipmen were tough to handle and tough to beat.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

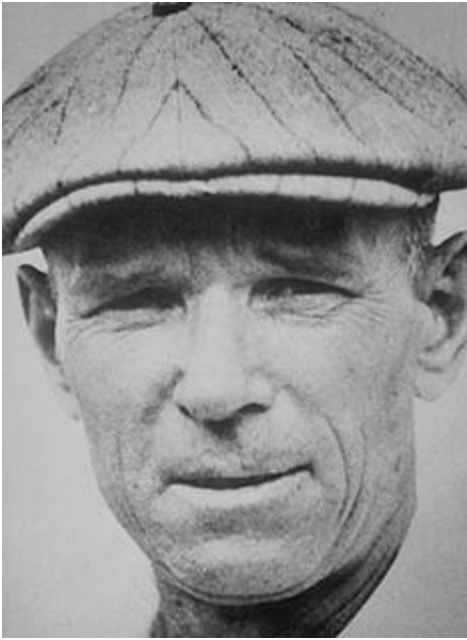
The 1917 Navy Football Season began with a win v Davidson on Sept 29, 1916. W (27-6)) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 6, a never-say-die West Virginia squad met a never-say-die Navy squad and squeaked out a win L (0–7). Then, on Oct 13, the Navy got it all back and more v Maryland State W (62–0). On Oct 20, the tough Carlisle Indians had it taken from them in a W (61–0) rout at home.

On Oct 27, in a first-of game, Navy whooped Haverford W (89-0). Then on Nov 3 v Western Reserve, the Navy never took it out of gear in a big win W (95–0). Then, on Nov 10, Navy managed to win by more decent scores against Georgetown at home in Worden Field • Annapolis, MD W (28–7). On Nov 18, Villanova felt the wrath of a phenomenally talented Navy team W (80–3). How's that for an offense—not too long after the forward pass was legalized.

### **1918 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gil Dobie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1918 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Gil Dobie in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Bill Ingram was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Dobie. Navy compiled a 4–1 record, shut out two

opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 283 to 20.



<<< Coach Gil Dobie

The United States was in WWI at the time and the Naval Academy was producing officers for the war effort. The Navy continued to play during the war as the players were also students on their way to becoming Navy Officers. This year, with just five opponents, it is clear that with US men going off to war that it was tough for a lot of colleges and universities during the war to field football teams. In fact, the ceremonious Army-Navy Game was not conducted this year because of the war. Other than Naval Training schools (NTS),

Ursinus was the only college team that played this year.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1918 Navy Football Season began with a win v Newport NTS on Oct 26, 1918 W (47-7) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Nov 2, Navy shut out St. Helena NTS W 66-0. Then, on Nov 9, Navy took on and defeated Hampton Roads NTS W (37-6). On Nov 16, Navy shellacked Ursinus by a huge score W (127-0). Then, on Nov 23 in the last scheduled game of the season, without the Army-Navy classic, Navy lost to the powerhouse team from the Great Lakes Navy base L (6-7).

### **1919 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gil Dobie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1919 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's thirty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were

coached by Gil Dobie in his third and last of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Eddie Ewin was team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Dobie. Navy compiled a 7–1 record, shut out five opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 298 to 18.

This year, since the War ended on November 11, 1918, the football seasons for most colleges and university were put back on schedule. After the war broke out in 1914, there was plenty to study about sports and war. Tony Mason and Eliza Reidy wrote the following in their 2010 study *Sport and the Military: The British Armed Forces 1880-1960*.

“It was not long before officers came to appreciate the game’s military benefits in “improving fitness, relieving boredom, providing distraction from the horrors of war, and building morale, officer-men relations and esprit de corps...in 1914, sports such as football were not officially part of military life but with the war came change, and sports, with football pre-eminent, “became formally integrated into the military system, both as ‘recreational training’ and an officially sanctioned form of leisure for other ranks”. After the war, sports became an integral part of life in the US, first for young men and then for young women.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1919 Navy Football Season began with a nice win v NC State on Oct 4, 1919. W (47-7) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 11, Navy defeated Johns Hopkins in a blowout game at home W (66–0). Next came Bucknell, an old foe. They were beaten by Navy on Oct 25 at home W (21–6). On Nov 1, Navy beat West Virginia Wesleyan at home W (20–6).

On Nov 8, Navy suffered its first defeat since the War to Georgetown L 0–6. Then, on Nov 15, an under matched Colby team were shellacked at home by the Navy squad W (121–0). On Nov 29 the Army-Navy game renewed. After cancellation in 1917 and 1918 due to World War I, the annual Army–Navy Game was played on November

29 at the Polo Grounds in New York City. Navy won W(6-0). Then, on Dec 5, for the first time since the Army-Navy series began a different team match ended the season for Navy. The sailors from the USS Utah were beaten by the Naval Academy Team W (15-0).

## Best Army Navy Game # 7

After a two-year hiatus for World War I, the Army-Navy game returned to the football field in 1919.



President Wilson attended the 1919 Army-Navy Game

Each team entered the contest without a loss, as the Midshipmen were 5-0-3 and the Cadets were 6-0-1.

Navy finished the day with seven times more yards than Army but could not get into the end zone. However, Clyde King booted a pair of field goals to give the Midshipmen a 6-0 victory on a rainy day in a turnover-free game. It would mark the fourth time in 10 years that Navy had won the game by just kicking field goals.



The Midshipmen finished the season 6-1, while the Cadets ended up 6-3.

## Great Navy Player Fred Denfeld



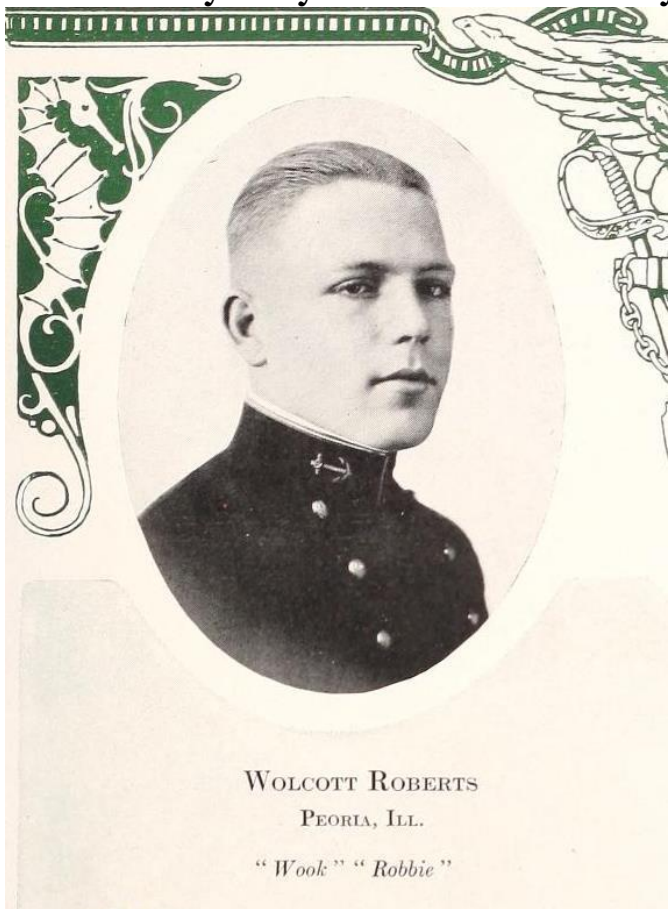
Denfeld was a great guard for Navy. While playing guard for the Naval Academy, Denfeld was selected as a First-Team All-American by football pioneer Walter Camp in 1919.

Denfeld became a plank owner of the fledgling American Professional Football Association (renamed the National Football League) when he joined the Rock Island Independents in 1920 and earned First-Team All-Pro honors.

He returned to his hometown of Duluth, Minnesota to serve as the player/coach of an independent professional team sponsored by the Knights of Columbus named the Kaycees (sometimes listed as KCs).

He then played semi-pro football in Michigan before heading back to the Kaycees for one more year after they had been admitted to the NFL as the Kelley Duluths. In later life, he rejoined the Navy during WWII and was made an “honorary alumnus” of the Minnesota Vikings.

## Great Navy Player Walcott “Wooky” Roberts 1919



WOLCOTT ROBERTS

PEORIA, ILL.

“Wook” “Robbie”

Roberts was a great running back for Navy. Besides have a great nickname, Navy’s “Wooky” was selected as an All-American in 1919 after distinguishing himself on the gridiron as a terrific broken field runner and threat on punt returns.

In 1922, Wookie became a member of the Canton Bulldogs team that went on to win the NFL Championship that season and again in

1923. In 1924, he remained with the team when it merged with Cleveland Indians and won another NFL Championship. He became a Frankford Yellow Jackets in 1926 and added yet another championship trophy. Beat Army 1919.

### 1920 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bob Folwell

Robert Cook Folwell Jr. (February 17, 1885 – January 8, 1928) was an American style football player and coach. He served as the head coach at Lafayette College (1909–1911), Washington & Jefferson College (1912–1915), the University of Pennsylvania (1916–1919), and the United States Naval Academy (1920–1924), compiling a career college football record of 106–29–9.



Folwell then moved to the professional ranks, coaching the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) in 1925, the Philadelphia Quakers of the American Football League in 1926, and the Atlantic City Roses of the Eastern League of Professional Football in 1927.

Folwell was born in the Mullica Hill section of Harrison Township, New Jersey in 1885. He attended Haverford Grammar School, where he made prep football All-American. He married Elizabeth Pennock in 1913 and had three sons: Robert III, George P. and William Nathan. He attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he set several school football records that stand to this day. He also starred as a wrestler. He won the Intercollegiate Wrestling Association's 175-pound title in 1907.

### **College coaching career:**

Folwell coached Lafayette College from 1908 through 1911, amassing a 19–2–1 record. He coached at Washington & Jefferson also. After hearing rumors that Folwell was unhappy at Lafayette, Robert "Mother" Murphy personally recruited him to coach for Washington & Jefferson College, where he coached from 1912 to 1915 and post a 36–5–3 record and was named coach of the year in 1913.

In Folwell's first season, Washington & Jefferson held the legendary scorer Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indians to a scoreless tie. In 1913, the team posted a 10–0–1 record and were the highest scoring team in the nation. That season featured a scoreless tie of Yale, a 100–0 defeat of Grove City College, and a 17–0 victory over Penn State that broke the Nittany Lions' 19-game winning streak, earning the entire school a day off to celebrate.

Sportswriter Walter S. Trumbull of The New York Sun suggested that the Michigan Aggies, Washington & Jefferson, Chicago University, and Notre Dame were the new "Big 4 of College Football" instead of the traditional grouping of Princeton, Yale, Harvard, and Penn.

Folwell's 1914 squad lost at Harvard in front of 15,000 fans by a score of 10–9. If not for an errant kick that hit the crossbar, W&J would have won the same and at least a share of the mythical national championship. That squad saved face by becoming only the seventh

team to ever defeat Yale, with a decisive 13–7 victory. The game received national press coverage, and the team received a personal note of congratulations by Theodore Roosevelt.

Folwell then coached at University of Pennsylvania from 1916 to 1919, where he posted a 27–10–2 record.

At Navy, Folwell was the 17th head football coach at the United States Naval Academy and he held that position for five seasons, from 1920 until 1924. His coaching record with a very respectable 24–12–3.

### **Professional coaching career and death**

Folwell was the first head coach for the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL), in 1925. The following season he took the same position for the Philadelphia Quakers of the first American Football League and led the team to the championship of the short-lived league.

He also coached the Atlantic City Roses of the Eastern League of Professional Football in 1927, but was forced to retire to his farm in New Jersey after one season. A hip infection, which began while he was coaching the Philadelphia Quakers, worsened, forcing him to walk with a cane.

In January 1928, he had a hip operation at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.[1] The surgery was initially successful, but he took a turn for the worse and died January 8, 1928.

### **1920 Navy Season**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1920 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fortieth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bob Folwell in his first of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Folwell was the first coach to handle the team for more than four years. Eddie Ewin was again the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Folwell. Navy compiled a 6–2 record, shut out three opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 164 to 43.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1920 Navy Football Season began with a loss v NC State on Oct 2, 1920. L (7-14). The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 9, Navy beat Lafayette at home W 12-7. On Oct 16, Navy beat Bucknell at home W (7-2). Then on Oct 23 at home, Princeton beat the Midshipmen L (0-14)

On Nov 3, Navy trounced Western Reserve at home W (95-0). Then, on Nov 6, Navy defeated Georgetown W (21-6). On Nov 13, the Midshipmen shellacked South Carolina with a shutout win W (63-0). Against Army on Nov 27, the Navy edged out the Army W (7-0) in the annual classic at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY.

### 1921 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bob Folwell



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1921 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bob Folwell in his second of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Folwell was the first coach to handle the team for more than four years. Emery Lawson was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Folwell. Navy compiled a 6-1 record, shut out six opponents, and outscored all opponents by a

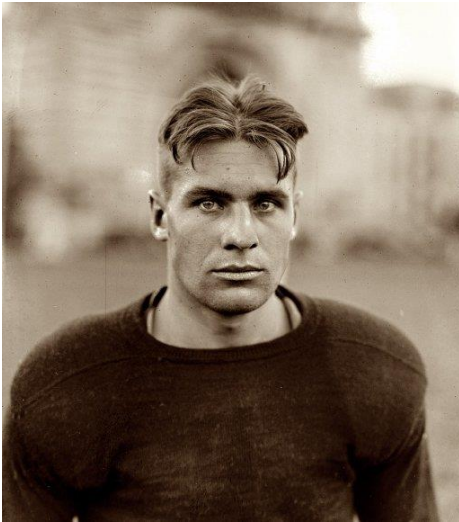
combined score of 147-13.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1921 Navy Football Season began with a shutout pounding of NC State on Oct 1, 1921. W (40-0) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 8, Navy walloped Western Reserve at home W (53-0). Then, on Oct 15 Navy defeated Princeton at home W (13-0). On Oct 29, Navy shut out Bethany (WV) at home W (21-0).

On Nov 5, Navy shut out Bucknell in a close match W 6-0. In a venue change game to accommodate fans, on Nov 12. Penn State defeated Navy L (7-13) in Franklin Field, Philadelphia, PA. Then came the annual army Navy classic game on November 26, 1921. In this game, played at Polo Grounds in New York, NY, Navy won W (7-0).

## Great Navy Player Stephen Barchet, HB



Steve Barchet was born April 4, 1901; passed away November 30, 1964. He is a hall of fame Navy Football Player. Like many Navy players and coaches, he held a high rank in the Navy. He was a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy.

He attended the United States Naval Academy where he played college football as a halfback for the Navy Midshipmen USNA football team. He was selected by Walter Camp as a third-team All-

American in both 1921 and winner of the Thompson Trophy in 1922. After graduating from the Naval Academy, Barchet served in the United States Navy, attaining the rank of rear admiral. He is buried at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland with his wife Louise Elizabeth Lankford.

-- End of tribute --

### **1922 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bob Folwell**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1922 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bob Folwell in his third of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Vincent Conroy was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Folwell. Navy compiled a 5–2 record, shut out four opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 185 to 37

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

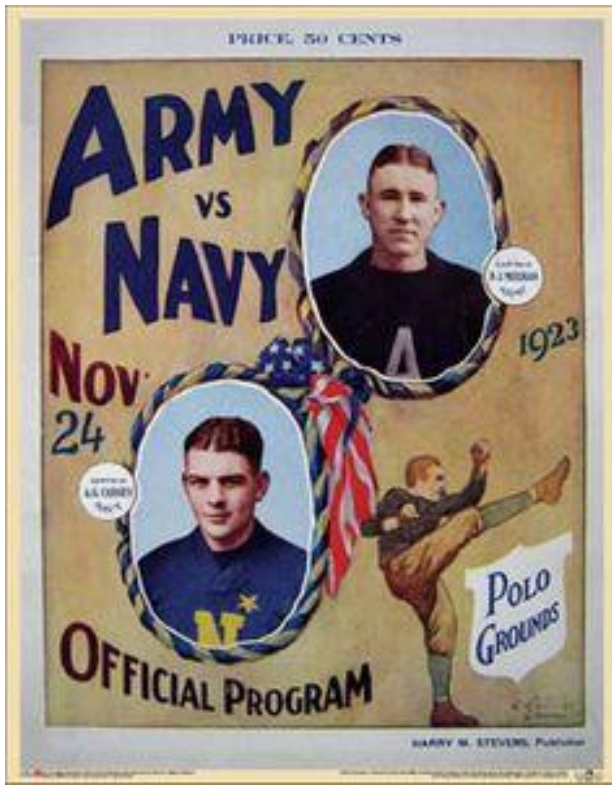
The 1922 Navy Football Season began with a shutout pounding of Western Reserve on Oct 7, 1922. W (71-0) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 14, Navy beat Bucknell at home W (14–7). On Oct 21, Navy beat Georgia Tech at home W (13–0). Then, on Oct 28 at Penn in Franklin Field, Philadelphia, PA, where the Quakers beat Navy L (7–13)

On Nov 3, Navy beat Penn State at American League Park in Washington, DC W (14–0). On Nov 11, in a big blowout against St. Xavier, Navy prevailed W 52–0. In the annual Army Navy Classic, the game was played on Nov 25 at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, PA. Navy lost by three points L (14–17)

### **1923 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bob Folwell**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1923 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bob Folwell in his fourth of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Arthur Carney (No relationship to Ed Norton—I checked) was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen continued their win streak this year under Coach Folwell. Navy compiled a 5–1–3 record, shut out three opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 168 to 62.

All home games except the Army-Navy game were played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.



The 1923 Navy Football Season began with a nice win against William and Mary on Sept 29, 1923. W (39-10) The opener was played at Worden Field on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 6, Navy beat Dickinson W 13-7. Then, on Oct 13, the Navy beat West Virginia Wesleyan at home W (26-7). The first loss of the season was on Oct 20 against Penn State in New Beaver Field, located in State College, PA L (3-21). On Oct 27

Princeton played navy to a T (3-3) tie in Municipal Stadium, • Baltimore, MD.

On Nov 3, Navy beat Colgate W (9-0) at home. Then on Nov 10, Navy shellacked St. Xavier at home W (61-0). In the final regular season game on Nov 24, the annual classic Army-Navy game was played to a tie at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY T (0-0). Navy's one-loss record got them invited to the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1924. They played Washington to a tie in the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, CA T (14-14) before 45,000 fans.

### 1924 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bob Folwell

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1924 college football season. It was the Naval

Academy's forty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bob Folwell in his fifth and last of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Edmund Taylor was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen ended their win streak this year under Coach Folwell. Navy compiled a 2–6 record and outscored opponents by a combined score of 84 to 69.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1924 Navy Football Season began with a nice win against William and Mary on Oct 4, 1924. W (14-7) The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 11 Marquette defeated Navy at home L (3–21). On Oct 18, Princeton beat Navy at Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ L (14–17). On Oct 25, 1924, Navy lost to West Virginia Wesleyan L (7-10).

On Nov 1 at home, Penn State beat Navy L (0–6). Then on Nov 8, the Navy pounded Vermont at home W (53–0). The fifth loss of the season was on Nov 15 when Navy played Bucknell L (0–6). The last game was the classic between Army and Navy, played at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD on Nov 19, 1924 L (0–12).

## **Great Navy Players Arthur G Carney**

Arthur Carney graduated from the US Naval Academy after a fine career as captain of the football squad and having been a designated 1923 All American Football Player

Hailing from New York, Carney was an All-American guard and the captain of the 1923 Navy team. As it so happened, his best friend from high school, Dennis Mulligan, was named captain of the Army squad.

The teams of the two boyhood friends battled to a stalemate resulting in the only scoreless game in the history of the rivalry. Carney would also lead his team in a hard-fought tie against the Washington Huskies in the Rose Bowl. Carney went on to play with the New York Giants in 1925 and 1926.





## Chapter 10 Coaches Owsley, Ingram. Miller & Hamilton--1925-1936

Owsley	Coach # 18
Ingram	Coach # 19
Miller	Coach # 20
Hamilton	Coach # 21

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	Conf	Record
1925	Jack Owsley	5-2-1	Indep	5-2-1
1926	Bill Ingram	9-0-1	Indep	9-0-1
1927	Bill Ingram	6-3	Indep	6-3
1928	Bill Ingram	5-3-1	Indep	5-3-1
1929	Bill Ingram	6-2-2	Indep	5-3-1
1930	Bill Ingram	6-5	Indep	6-5
1931	Rip Miller	5-5-1	Indep	5-5-1
1932	Rip Miller	2-6-1	Indep	2-6-1
1933	Rip Miller	5-4	Indep	5-4
1934	Tom Hamilton	8-1	Indep	8-1
1935	Tom Hamilton	5-4	Indep	5-4
1936	Tom Hamilton	6-3	Indep	6-3



1926 Navy National Championship Team

### 1925 Navy Midshipmen Coach Jack Owsley

In December 1924, Owsley interviewed at Annapolis, Maryland, to become the head football coach at United States Naval Academy. He

got the job and was hired by Navy in January 1925. Owsley became the 18th head coach for the Navy Midshipmen football team. His coaching record at Navy was 5–2–1.



<< Jack Owsley's Passport Picture

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1925 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Jack Owsley in his first and only season as head coach of the Midshipmen. August Lentz was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 5–2–1

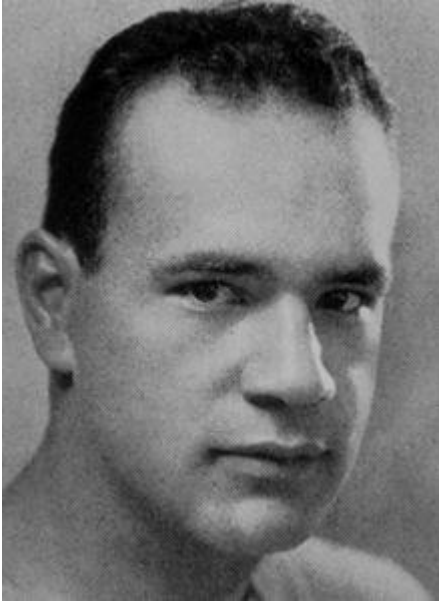
record, shut out four opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 134 to 81.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy.

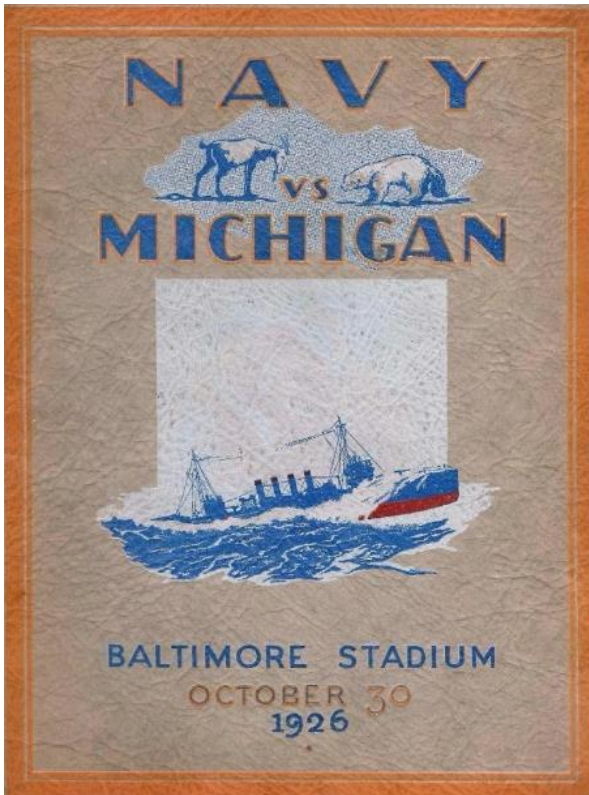
The 1925 Navy Football Season began with a nice shut-out win against William and Mary on Oct 3, 1925. W (25-0) The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 10, Navy defeated Marquette at home W (19–0). On Oct 18 Princeton played the Navy to a tie at Municipal Stadium, Baltimore, MD T (10–10). On Oct 24, Navy shut-out Washington College at home, W (37–0). In its first trip to Michigan, a known powerhouse for the day, Navy got blasted on Oct 31 in Ferry Field, Ann Arbor, MI L (0–54)

On Nov 7, Navy defeated Western Maryland at home W (27-0). On Nov 14, Navy edged out Bucknell at home W (13–7). In the yearly classic called the Army-Navy Game, Army got the best of Navy at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY, L (3–10).

## 1926 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Ingram



Coach Bill Ingram of Navy was born June 16, 1898 in Feffersonville, Indiana. He died very young at age 44 on June 2 in Los Gatos California. He played football for Navy from 1916 to 1918. He had a very successful coaching career (75-42) from 1922 to 1934, coaching at William & Mary, 1922, Indiana, 1923-1925, Navy 1926-1930, and California from 1931 to 1934. He was the coach of the 1926 Navy National Championship Team. In 1973, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a coach in 1973. He died in his sleep while serving as a Major in the Marine Corps.



<< Official Program

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1926 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Ingram in his first of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. August Lentz was the team captain.

As an independent football entity, the

Midshipmen finished the season undefeated with a record of nine wins, zero losses and one tie (9–0–1). Although Alabama and Stanford have been named the 1926 national champion by most selectors, the 1926 Navy team was named as the national champion under Board and Houlgate Systems.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1926 Navy Football Season began with a hard-fought win against Purdue on Oct 2, 1926. W (17-13). The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 9, Navy beat Drake at home W (24–7). On Oct 9, Navy shut-out Richmond at home W (26–0). Then on Oct 16v Princeton at Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ, Navy prevailed W (27–13). On Oct 23, Navy beat Colgate at home W (13–7). Then, on Oct 30 Navy beat Michigan at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD W (10–0).

The game was played October 30, 1926 at Baltimore Stadium in Baltimore. Navy beat Michigan 10-0, the only loss of the year for Michigan, while Navy went 9-0-1, and was declared by many to be the National Champions.

The 1926 Michigan Wolverines were led by All Americans Bennie Oosterbaan (End) and Benny Friedman (QB). The team was coached by Fielding Yost. Michigan finished 1st in the Big Ten and ranked #3 overall.

The 1926 Naval Academy were led by All American Tackles Frank Wickhorst and D. Thomas Eddy. The team was coached by Bill Ingram. As noted, it was a great year for Navy—one of its best. Navy finished the year 9-0-1, with a season ending tie with Army. They were ranked #1 in the country by many, although Stanford went 10-0-1 and also received national championship recognition.

On Nov 6, Navy routed West Virginia Wesleyan at home W (53–7). Then, on Nov 13, Navy beat Georgetown in a close game at home W (10–7). On Nov 20 at home, Navy beat Loyola W (35–13). In the annual classic Army Navy Game, with Navy undefeated and Army's

only loss to Notre Dame, the was a game of the century that ultimately would decide the National Championship. Played on Nov 27 at Soldier Field in Chicago, IL, this year's Army-Navy Game resulted in a tie T (21-21).



1926 Army Navy Game at Soldier Field

## About the 1926 Army Navy Game

### THE GREATEST ARMY-NAVY GAME

Thanks to Ray Schmidt

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<https://forwhattheygave.com/2007/12/11/1926-football-team/>

There was a time — more difficult to remember with each passing season — when the results of the annual gridiron showdown between the teams of West Point and Annapolis (that’s Army and Navy) were followed by football fans across the country, and often carried significance in the race for mythical national honors. Yet even more so, the game and its surrounding pageantry represented the best moments of college football. No other rivalry in college football consistently created such anticipation at the host cities, and then actually came through with the color, the excitement, and the spectacle that was unmatched — with even a good football game on occasion.

From this long-running series there is one game that stands above the others as the greatest Army-Navy clash ever, and one of the best in the annals of all college football history. In the early 1940s, Esquire magazine conducted a poll and named the game “the greatest in history” to that time, while the long-time prominent coach, Clark Shaughnessy, selected it as one of the 12 greatest games of all-time. Shaughnessy described it as one game “seldom matched for brilliant and courageous individual play, and for daring and spectacular team strategy.” It was of course the legendary 1926 Army-Navy showdown.

In those times, the service academies alternated years in selecting the site for their annual game, and during the 1920s bids were frequently received from several cities — usually always along the Eastern Seaboard. In late 1924, a group from Chicago — supported by U.S. Representatives Fred Britten and Martin Madden of Illinois — entered the bidding to host the 1925 Army-Navy game. The other cities seeking the game included Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore, and two different groups from New York (one representing the Polo Grounds and the other the relatively new Yankee Stadium). Chicago was under a handicap because of its distance from the two schools, and West Point officials (who would be selecting the 1925 site) were on record as opposing any site that would keep the Corps of Cadets away from the school overnight — a position endorsed by War Secretary John W. Weeks.

The 1925 game was ultimately awarded to the Polo Grounds — despite Yankee Stadium’s larger seating capacity — but Chicago businessmen were soon preparing another bid for the 1926 game which would be selected by Naval Academy officials. Again, the Midwest city was challenged by New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, but this time it was better prepared. The Chicago group announced its willingness to raise \$100,000 for each academy’s athletic fund, in addition to the approximately \$600,000 which would be required to cover the expenses of bringing the teams and students to the game. Yet the Eastern cities continued in the role of the favorites.

Political pressure upon the academies intensified, as Midwest congressmen and service men’s organizations turned up the heat. No stone was left unturned — in December 1925 the Chicago Herald-Examiner ran an editorial stating that an Army-Navy game in Chicago would “arouse in youthful civilian minds a new understanding of love of country and eager appreciation of what education at West Point and Annapolis means” — this at a time when many leaders of America were urging the need for much better preparedness and training for the nation’s youth, given the recent experiences of World War I. In case patriotism didn’t strike the right chord, the editorial declared that, “Those great schools are not the exclusive property of the East.”

In the end, political pressure and big money carried the day — along with a stadium that could seat in excess of 100,000 ticket-buying fans — and so Annapolis officials awarded the 1926 game to Chicago.

The Midwest city had built mammoth Grant Park Stadium on the banks of Lake Michigan just south of the downtown area in 1925. Some football games had been played there that first season — including Northwestern’s famous 3-2 win over Michigan in the mud — yet for 1926 the stadium was being renamed as “Soldier Field” in memory of World War I military personnel, and the Army-Navy game was selected as the formal dedication event.

Soldier Field was a U-shaped arena with a seating capacity of nearly 100,000, with many of the seats at the north end well beyond the gridiron itself. In anticipation of a large ticket demand for the Army-Navy clash, the Chicago Park Board was having temporary bleachers installed to close the open north end of the stadium — with no concern that these seats would be 30-40 yards beyond the goal posts.



After holding out the seats for the two visiting student bodies and numerous dignitaries, there remained 40,000 decent seats which were priced at either \$15 or \$10 each, with the binocular-type seats priced lower. A full house scaled at these prices would produce gate receipts of approximately \$800,000.

To say the least, the demand for tickets was overwhelming, as over 600,000 ticket requests were received for the 100,000 seats available on sale. Placed in charge of the ticket sales was Colonel H.C. Carbaugh — a 65-year old Army veteran who normally served as supervisor of the Civil Service Department for Chicago's South Park Board. Members of the public seeking tickets at times became so aggressive that it was necessary for Carbaugh to have body guards while at work, and police were assigned to protect the entrances to the Park's Administration Building.

Of course, it wouldn't be Chicago without some hint of corruption, and it came to light when U.S. Representative John J. Gorman from Chicago charged that the South Park Board was violating an earlier agreement with the Chicago-area congressmen by only providing them with a hundred tickets each. Gorman added that rumors abounded that each of the park commissioners was receiving 1200 tickets. E. J. Kelly, president of the South Park commissioners, replied that everything possible was being done to distribute the tickets fairly and no attention was being given to the complaints of the congressmen.

Two days before the game Navy's traveling party arrived aboard a special train via the Pennsylvania Railroad Coach Bill Ingram spurned a practice session at Soldier Field, and instead took his Middies to a workout on a secluded grassy island in the Sherman Park lagoon while guards protected all the bridge ways leading over the water. The Army team arrived soon afterward on the Michigan Central line, and Coach Biff Jones then drilled his charges at Soldier Field before the team headed for its accommodations at the South Shore Country Club.

The day before the game the visiting student bodies from the two academies were treated to a luncheon at Marshall Field's giant department store in downtown Chicago, after which the Cadets and midshipmen staged a big parade south on Michigan Avenue as they marched to Soldier Field for the formal dedication ceremony.



Meanwhile, there was also a full slate of luncheons and parties planned to entertain the service personnel throughout the weekend.

Helping to fuel the already overheated college football fans of Chicago was the fact that the two teams were among the nation's elite for 1926 — Navy coming in with a record of 9-0-0 and Army at 7-1-0, with only a narrow 7-0 defeat to Notre Dame marring the Cadets record. The Army team was slightly favored, and its powerhouse included such great players as Chris Cagle, "Lighthorse" Harry Wilson, Chuck Born, Gar Davidson, and Red Murrell; while Navy countered with standouts such as Tom Hamilton, Frank Wickhorst, Tom Eddy, and Whitey Lloyd.

When time for the kickoff finally arrived on November 27, 1926 — amidst concerns over the many counterfeit tickets which had been found in circulation — Soldier Field was jammed with approximately 110,000 fans, with thousands more standing atop every nearby building, water tower, and bridge that afforded any hopes of a glimpse of the action. A New York Times writer surveyed the scene from the rim of Soldier Field and reported that, "Looking off over the top of the stadium, there was nothing to see but people."

It was later stated that over 18,000 automobiles had been parked around the stadium, while Chicago taxi companies reported that they had made approximately 20,000 separate trips out to the arena. The massive crush of people and cars required the city to assign 1,350 police officers to direct traffic and maintain order. James Bennett of the Chicago Tribune described it as "a multitude that was worthy of the game."

It was a cold day along the Chicago lakefront, and, except for the sun breaking through on one occasion, the game was played under a gray and heavily clouded sky. Snow banks surrounded the field from an earlier storm that had required 300 men to work the entire night before the game shoveling off the seats of the stadium. Around the rim of the stadium were large American flags which rippled in the wintry breezes off Lake Michigan.

Army kicked off to open the game, and surprisingly, Coach Jones of the Cadets had a half dozen of his first-string players on the sideline. After the teams exchanged punts, the offensive fireworks began.

Starting from its 45-yard line, Navy began to mix an array of short passes with its running attack. After several plays moved the ball to Army's 34, Jim Schuber of Navy faked an end sweep but instead rifled a long pass that Hank Hardwick plucked out of the air at the eight-yard line before being dragged down at the one. Two plays later Howard Caldwell blasted in for the touchdown, and Tom Hamilton's drop-kick made it 7-0, Navy.

Again, the teams returned to an exchange of possessions although Navy clearly held the upper hand, and writer Walter Eckersall later declared that "the Middies appeared unbeatable in the first quarter." Late in the period Navy began a drive from its 43-yard line and, after a penalty set them back to the 32, Hamilton connected on a pass to Schuber that was good for 23 yards. After a couple more plays, Coach Jones rushed the rest of his Army first string into the game just before the quarter ended with the Middies at the Army 22. Several plays later Schuber blasted in from one yard out for the TD, and Hamilton's PAT made it 14-0.

Later in the second quarter Army finally got its offense on track behind the hard running of Chris Cagle and Harry Wilson. Starting from their 37-yard line after a punt, the Cadets got rolling as Wilson broke off a dazzling change of pace run of 23 yards to the Navy 40.

Two plays later, Cagle swept around right end on a 21-yard gallop, and on the next snap Wilson slashed through the left side of the line and sailed 17 yards to Army's first touchdown. Wilson's placekick made it 14-7.

The next time Army had the ball it was unable to move, and so Red Murrell dropped back to his 20, from where he boomed a towering punt that came down to the Middies' Howard Ransford on the Navy 25. Attempting a running catch, Ransford fumbled the ball and the bouncing pigskin caromed off the foot of Army's Skip Harbold and toward the Navy goal line. Catching up with the ball near the 15, Harbold picked it up and rumbled toward paydirt, and despite falling down at the one, the weary cadet managed to squirm into the end zone for the touchdown. Wilson's PAT made it 14-14, and the wild first half soon came to a close.

After the gigantic throng had been entertained by a mock battle between students of the two schools, the second half got underway as Army started from its 26 after Cagle's 20-yard runback of the kickoff. Several plays later Wilson swept around left end for a gain of 15 yards to the Navy 44, and on the next snap Cagle broke up the middle and dashed all the way for the touchdown that put Army ahead 21-14 after Wilson's PAT.

Despite the stunning comeback by the Cadets, the Middies returned to the attack. Both of the high-powered offenses fought back and forth until late in the third quarter when Navy started from its 43-yard line after a punt. Slowly the Middies headed up the field as the action moved into the fourth quarter. Hamilton completed two key passes to Alan Shapley on the drive, and Ransford chipped in a critical gain of eight yards for a first down at Army's 15. The 12-play drive was capped off in sensational fashion when Shapley swept around right end on a fourth down and three play for an eight-yard touchdown run. With the entire stadium holding its breath, Hamilton calmly drop-kicked the extra point to tie it at 21-21.

With just over seven minutes left to play, the surrounding gloom and darkness had gathered to the point where it was increasingly difficult for fans and writers in the press box to distinguish the players on the field. Still, Army mounted one last attempt at the win, starting from its 27-yard line after the following kickoff. On the second play of the series Wilson broke through left tackle for a 28-yard dash into Navy territory, and then he and Murrell alternated in pounding the Middies' line. Finally, checked just inside the 20, Wilson dropped back to attempt a place-kick from the 26. The ball was spotted directly in front of the goal posts, but incredibly Wilson's kick sailed just wide.

The final couple minutes were played in "almost total darkness," as the electric lights over the stadium's entrance tunnels and on the Scoreboard twinkled in the gloom. On the last play of the game Hamilton attempted a desperate pass for Navy, but the aerial was intercepted by (and here's where the darkness contributed to the confusion) either Wilson, Cagle, or Chuck Harding — depending on which game account you choose to accept. The runback was finally halted deep in Navy territory, and so the monumental battle ended in a 21-21 tie.

Combined with Notre Dame's shocking 19-0 loss to Carnegie Tech that same day, undefeated Navy's hard-earned tie gave its supporters plenty of ammunition to debate Stanford for the mythical national championship. Yet more significant was the 1926 game's place in football history. Walter Eckersall described it as "one of the greatest football games ever played," and it remains so to his day. No single game in college football history has ever so completely combined the color, spectacle, national media coverage, public popularity, and top-flight level of play as the Army-Navy battle of 1926 at Soldier Field. Robert Kelley of the New York Times defined the game's significance when he wrote that day: "Football had the greatest pageant, its high spot of color, and so did sport in the United States."  
<http://www.la84.org/SportsLibrary/CFHSN/CFHSNv17/CFHSNv17n2e.pdf>

## Listed as Best Army Navy Game # 2

The Nov. 27, 1926 meeting between Army and Navy took place in Chicago and marked the day the stadium there was christened "Soldier Field."

The fans in attendance also saw a heckuva game.

The contest opened with a bit of gamesmanship from Cadets' coach Biff Jones.

A graduate of West Point, Jones theorized that if he started his second-teamers, the Midshipmen would get a false sense of security and not know what hit them the starters were inserted.

The plan nearly backfired, as Navy jumped out to a 14-0 lead on touchdown runs by Henry Caldwell and James Schuber.

However, Army clawed back in it, and ultimately took a 21-14 lead following a 44-yard touchdown run by Chris Cagle that concluded the third quarter.

Midshipmen Alan Shapley responded with an 8-yard touchdown run to give the game its final score.

Navy went on to win the national championship.

Go Navy!

### **1927 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Ingram**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1927 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Ingram in his second of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ned Hannigan was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6–3 record, shut out two opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 192 to 84.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1927 Navy Football Season began with a nice win against Davis & Elkins on Oct 1, 1927. W (35-6). The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 8, Navy shut-out Drake at home W (27–0). Then, a week later, on October 15, Notre Dame defeated a high-riding Navy squad at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD L (6–19).

This was the first of many games between Navy and Notre Dame. The Notre Dame football squad traveled to Baltimore, Md. for its first game against the United States Naval Academy. Little did Knute Rockne or his team know at the time, but that contest marked the beginning of one of the longest and most respectful rivalries in college football. The attendance clocked in at 45,101.

On Oct 22, Navy defeated Duke at home W (32–6). Then, on Oct 29, an always-tough Penn team almost escaped the power of Navy Football but did not. Navy prevailed at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA W (12–6).

On Nov 5, Navy shut out West Virginia Wesleyan at home W (26–0). Always tough at home or away, Michigan did all it needed to do to

beat the Navy at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, MI L (12–27) before 83,650 when it was not as big as the Big House is today. On Nov 19, at home, Navy defeated Loyola W (33–6). Then, in the major classic game of the era, the Army-Navy Game, Army pulled the game out to beat Navy on November 26, 1927 at the Polo Grounds in New York, NY L (9–14)

### **1928 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Ingram**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1928 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Ingram in his third of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ed Burke was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 5–3–1 record, shut out five opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 121 to 21.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1928 Navy Football Season began with a close loss against Davis & Elkins on Sept 29, 1928 L (0-2). The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 6 in the first Navy BC game, Navy lost L (0–6). Then, on Oct 13 vs. Knute Rockne's Notre Dame in Soldier Field • Chicago, IL, the Irish beat the Navy L 0–7 before 120,000 fans. Then on Oct 20, Navy shut out while edging out Duke at home W 6–0. Next at Penn playing in Franklin Field on Oct 27 in Philadelphia, PA, Navy prevailed W (6–0).

On Nov 3, Navy pounded West Virginia Wesleyan W (37-0) at home. On Nov 10 vs. Michigan in a game at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD, Navy and Michigan played to a tie T (6–6). At home on Nov 17, the Navy shellacked Loyola at home W (57–0). Then on Nov 24, vs. Princeton at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, Navy prevailed W (27–13). For those keeping track of the end of the season waiting for results from the annual Army-Navy game, you will be disappointed.

The annual Army–Navy Game was canceled due to disagreement over player eligibility standards. We make note of this as a big deal. Considering the Commanders of both academies were both under the command of the President, whose name was Calvin Coolidge. We all know that if it were a Roosevelt, who loved football, this would not have happened. We know that a solution would have been imposed. But, not playing this game gave an incentive for both teams to end their petty squabbling and so far to 2018 at least, the games have continued unabated.

### **1929 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Ingram**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1929 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's forty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Ingram in his fourth of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ed Burke again was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6–2–2 record, shut out four opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 233 to 59.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1929 Navy Football Season began with a major trouncing of Denison (W (47-0) on Sept 28, 1929. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 5, Navy defeated William & Mary at home W 15–0. Then, theoretically travelling to Notre Dame, but playing in Municipal Stadium in Baltimore on Oct 12, the Navy sustained a loss at the hands of the Irish L (7–14) before 64,681 attentive fans. On Oct 19, Navy beat an always-tough Duke squad at home in Annapolis, Maryland, W (45–13). On Oct 18 at Princeton in a game played in Palmer Stadium, Princeton, New Jersey, the teams played to a tie T (13–13).

Penn played its games at Franklin Field which was also convenient for the Navy. On Nov 2 at Penn, Navy put up a good battle but lost to the Quakers L (2–7). Then, on Nov 9, Georgetown played tough to a tie at home T (0-0) On Nov 16, Navy lambasted a willing Wake Forest

squad in Thompson Stadium, W (61–0). Then, on Nov 23, Navy defeated West Virginia Wesleyan by a convincing margin W 30–6. In the last game of the 1928 season, Navy beat Dartmouth in Franklin Field, Philadelphia W (13–6).

### **1930 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Ingram**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1930 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fiftieth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Bill Ingram in his fifth and last of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Lyle Koepkewas the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6–5 record, shut out four opponents, and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 148 to 117.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1930 Navy Football Season began with a win over William and Mary (W (19-6) on Oct 4, 1930. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 11 at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, IN, the Fighting Irish defeated the Midshipmen L (2–26). At home on Oct 18, Duke defeated Navy L (0–18). Then on Oct 25 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ, Navy prevailed W (31–0)

On Nov 1 at home, Navy beat West Virginia Wesleyan W (37–14). On Nov 8, in their first game v Ohio State, the Buckeyes got the shutout win over the Midshipmen, at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD L (0–27) before 45,000 fans. On Nov 15, SMU defeated Navy at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD, L 7–20. Then, on Nov 22 the Navy defeated Maryland at home W (6–0)

On Nov 29, at home, Navy defeated George Washington W (20–0). Then, on Dec 6 at Penn in a game played at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, Navy prevailed W 26–0. Then, in the classic annual Army-Navy Game, on Dec 13, Navy lost to Army at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, NY L (0–6).



### 1931 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rip Miller



Rip Miller was quite a football guy. He began by playing for Notre Dame for coach Knute Rockne. He was one of the "Seven Mules", which all good backfields depend on their linemen. In 1924, they were:

- Joe Bach, tackle
- Chuck Collins, end
- Ed Hunsinger, end
- Noble Kizer, guard
- Rip Miller, tackle
- Adam Walsh, center
- John Weibel, guard

That year was when Knute Rockne directed the Irish to the Rose Bowl and national title. That team was one of the greatest in Notre Dame history, capturing their first national title at the end of a 10-0 season.

The 1924 season had ended for Notre Dame, back home, the team gathered to determine who was responsible for the smashing success - the Four Horsemen or the Seven Mules on the line. A vote was taken: --The Mules 7, Horsemen 4. Rip Miller's vote went with the Mules, of course, because he was the hard-nosed mixer, an aggressive tackle with incredible quickness.

"There were two kinds of people in Canton then," he would chuckle, "the quick and the dead." The quick played football." Miller was as quick with his brains as he was with his feet. He was presented Notre Dame's top scholar-athlete award.

In 1931, Miller was named head coach at Navy and guided the Midshipmen in their first victory ever over the Irish - a 7-0 triumph in 1933. The following season, Miller relinquished the head coaching duties to Tom Hamilton, preferring to stay on as Navy's line coach. In 1948, Miller was named assistant director of athletics, a position he held until he retired July 1, 1974, ending 48 years' service at the Naval

Academy.

In 1966, he was in the Football Hall of Fame when he was the OT at Norte Dame from 1922-1924. He was the last surviving member of the Mules.

On October 13, 1995 the Academy's Turf Field was dedicated to the late Rip Miller.

### **1931 Navy Team**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1931 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Rip Miller in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. For the second year, Lyle Koepkewas the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 5–5–1 record, shut out three opponents, but outscored all opponents by a combined score of 95 to 78.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1931 Navy Football Season began with a win over William and Mary (W (13-6) on Oct 3, 1931. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 10, Maryland defeated Navy at Griffith Stadium in Washington, DC L (0–6). Then, on Oct 17 at home, Navy beat Delaware W (12–7). On Oct 4 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in NJ, Navy beat the Princeton Tigers W (15–0). On Oct 31 at home, West Virginia Wesleyan played Navy to a tie T (0–0)

On Nov 7 at Ohio State in Ohio Stadium Columbus, OH, the Buckeyes defeated Navy L (0–20) before 60,640. On Nov 14, in a home game against Notre Dame played at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD, the Irish beat the Navy L (0–20) before 56,861 On Nov at SMU in Ownby Stadium Dallas, TX, Navy was defeated L (6–130. Then on Nov 28, at home Navy beat Wooster W (19–6. On Dec 5 at Penn played in Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, Navy beat out the Quakers in a close game. In the annual Army-Navy

classic, Army beat Navy at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, NY L (7–17).

### **1932 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rip Miller**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1932 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Edgar "Rip" Miller in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Jim Reedy was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a record and were outscored by opponents by a combined score of 80 to 67. This was one of Navy's worst years.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1932 Navy Football Season began at home with a loss to William and Mary L (0-6) on Oct 1, 1932. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 8, Navy beat Washington and Lee at home W (33–0). On Oct Navy lost to Ohio L (0–14). Then, on Oct 22 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ, the teams played to a scoreless tie T (0–0). On Oct 29 at Penn played at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA, Navy lost another L (0–14).

On Nov 5, at home, in a close match, Columbia beat Navy L (6–7). On Nov 12 in Municipal Stadium, Baltimore, MD, the Midshipmen beat Maryland W 28–7. In a home game played at the Municipal Stadium, in Cleveland Ohio, Navy was beaten by Notre Dame L (0-12) before 61,122 fans. In the annual Army-Navy classic game, Army got the best of Navy in Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA L (0–20).

### **1933 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rip Miller**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1933 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Edgar "Rip" Miller in his third and last of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Hugh Murray was the team captain.

As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 5–4 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 90 to 86. Navy had gotten past its poor 1932 record and was back in the winners' column.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1932-33 Navy Football Season began at home with a win against William and Mary W (12-0) on Sept 30, 1933. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 7, at home, Navy beat Mercer W (25–6). Then, on Oct 14, the Pittsburgh Panthers defeated the Navy at Pitt Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA L (6–34). On Oct 21 at home, Navy beat Virginia W (13–7). On Oct 28 v Penn in a game played at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA. Navy triumphed by a score of W (13–0).

On Nov 4, Navy recorded its first victory ever vs. Notre Dame at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD in a close shutout match W (7–0) before 34,579. On Nov 11 at Columbia in Baker Field, New York, NY, Navy lost a close match L (7–14). On Nov 18 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium Princeton, NJ, the Tigers beat Navy L (0–13). Then in the classic end-of-season Army-Navy game, Navy again lost to Army on Nov 25 at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA L (7–12).

### **1934 Navy Midshipmen Coach Tom Hamilton**

US Navy Rear Admiral, College Football Coach. Hamilton graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1927. The Naval Academy football team won the 1926 national championship, with Hamilton as the quarterback being an integral part of the team. The only blemish on the 9-0-1 record was a tie with Army in which Hamilton drop kicked an extra point to tie the game with .30 seconds left.

At the time it was considered the greatest game ever played. In 1929 he was designated a Naval Aviator after completing the training at Pensacola Naval Air Station. Hamilton became Navy's head coach in 1934 and remained until 1936 and then again became coach again in 1946 and 1947. The following year he became the Athletic Director for

the Academy. In 1949 he left the Academy to become the athletic director at Pittsburgh for 1948 and 1949.

He became the coach at Pittsburgh for the year 1951 and coached three games in 1954. Hamilton was the Commissioner of the Pac-8 Conference from 1959 to 1971 and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1965. During World War II Hamilton served on the Enterprise initially as the flight deck officer and later as the Executive Officer and in mid-1944 became the Commanding Officer.

He served ashore much of the war in flight training capacities. In May of 1942 the Navy implemented the most effective and productive program even devised for military aviation, known as "V-Five." The program was the idea of then Commander Hamilton. The goal was to produce combat pilots to wage war in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. However, it's greatest effect was the most thorough and complete unarmed training the Department of the Navy had ever seen.

Hamilton received the Theodore Roosevelt Award from the NCAA, the Stagg Award from the American Football Coaches Association, and the Gold Medal from the National Football Foundation, the Corbett Award from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

### **1934 Navy Team**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1934 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Tom Hamilton in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Dick Burns was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled an 8–1 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 138 to 70.

Navy had not only gotten past its poor 1932 record but this year, it made itself known again as a college football power.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.



## &lt;&lt; Coach Tom Hamilton

The 1934 Navy Football Season began at home with a nice win against William and Mary W (20-7) on Sept 29, 1934. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On October 6, Navy beat Virginia at Griffith Stadium Washington, DC W (21-6). On Oct 13, at home, Navy beat Maryland W (16-13). On Oct 20 Navy beat Columbia at Baker Field, New York, NY W 18-7. At Penn on Oct 27, Navy got its

guns together and beat a powerful Penn Team at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA W (17-0).

On Nov 3 at home, Washington & Lee was defeated by the Navy W (26-0). For the second year in a Row, Navy pulled out all the stopes to beat Notre Dame on Nov 10 at Municipal Stadium Cleveland OH W (10-6) before 54,571. In a tough match at home, Pittsburgh beat Navy L (7-31) for the only Navy loss of the entire season. That was the part of the season in which Army was not playing Navy. In the annual classic, Navy had a change of football luck as it managed a close victory for the first time in ten years (two ties) against the Army W (3-0). The game was played in a big stadium as usual—on Dec 1—Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA W (3-0). Go Navy!

**1935 Navy Midshipmen Coach Tom Hamilton**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1935 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Tom Hamilton in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Louis Robertshaw was the team captain. As

an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 5–4 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 136 to 89.



1935 Navy Early Season Football Practice

This was not a championship record; but it was a winning record of which Navy was proud.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1935 Navy Football Season began at home with a nice shutout win against William and Mary W (30-0) on Sept 28, 1935. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 5, at home, Navy beat Mercer in a shutout W (27–0). Then, on Oct 10, at home, Navy beat Virginia W (26–7). For the first time in formal collegiate football play, on Oct 19, Navy played Yale and lost the first bout L (6-7). The game was played at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, CT. On Oct 26, licking its wounds from two straight defeats, Notre Dame came into Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD with a purpose, and the Irish defeated the Navy L (0–14) before a crowd of 57,810.

On Nov 2 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ, the Tigers defeated Navy L (0–26). On Nov 9 at Penn, in a game played at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, Navy beat the Quakers W (13–0). On Nov 16 at home, Navy beat Columbia W 28–7. In the season nightcap, the game of games, Army came back after a one-year loss,

and defeated the Navy at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, by more points than normal in the annual match between the service academies, L (6–28).

## Great Navy Player Fred “Buzz” Borries

Fred "Buzz" Borries (December 13, 1911 – January 3, 1969) was an American college football player who played halfback for the Navy Midshipmen football team of the U.S. Naval Academy from 1932 to 1934.

Borries was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and attended Lapeer High School in Louisville.

As a junior halfback for the Navy Midshipmen in 1933, he scored the Midshipmen's sole touchdown to give Navy a 7-0 victory over the Notre Dame Fighting Irish; it was Navy's first victory in the Navy–Notre rivalry series in seven years. In 1934, he helped Navy score its first victory over the Army Black Knights football team since 1921. Against Army, Borries carried the ball 36 times and set up Slade Cutter's field goal for Navy to win 3-0. He was recognized as a consensus first-team All-American following his 1934 senior season and received the Naval Academy Athletic Association sword during graduation ceremonies.

The sword is presented to the midshipman of the graduating class declared by the Association's Athletic Committee to have personally excelled in athletics during his years of varsity competition.

After graduating the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935, Borries was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Nine years later, Borries was a commander serving aboard the U.S. Navy Casablanca class escort aircraft carrier the USS Gambier Bay (CVE-73) as the ship's Air Officer during World War II.

As the carrier's Air Officer in charge of Flight Operations, he was able to launch all of the ship's Grumman FM2 "Wildcat" fighters and Grumman TBM "Avenger" torpedo bombers of VC-10 Squadron while the ship was under heavy fire from Japanese navy battleships and cruisers during the Battle off Samar in Leyte Gulf.



After the Gambier Bay was sunk by enemy shellfire, Borries took charge of a group of the ship's life rafts and was credited with saving the lives of 200 of this fellow crew members during their 45 hours adrift in the waters of the Pacific. Borries was later awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic conduct under enemy fire during the battle, his leadership while adrift, and saving the lives of his crew members.

Borries was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1960.

### **1936 Navy Midshipmen Coach Tom Hamilton**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1936 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Tom Hamilton in his third and last of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Rivers Morrell was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6–3 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 115 to 74. The Navy had a tough team and finished the season ranked 18th in the first year of the AP Poll. Football had well entered the national stage.

6-3 admittedly was not a championship record; but it was a winning record and it was a good record and much better than the 5-4 record from 1935, of which Navy was also proud.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1936 Navy Football Season began at home with a nice win against William and Mary W (18-6) on Sept 26, 1936. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 3, at home Navy beat Davidson W (19–6). Then, on Oct 10 at home, Navy beat Virginia W (35–14). On Oct 17 at home for the first time vs. Yale in a game played at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD, Navy was beaten by the Yalees, L (7–12). On Oct at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ, Navy lost to the Tigers in a close shutout match L (0–7). On Oct 31 at the ranked team

in the #20 slot, Penn, at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, Navy lost by a hair, L (6–16).

On Nov 7, in another of consecutive ND games over the ages, Navy put the whole package together and defeated the # 13 ranked Fighting Irish in a close shutout match W (3-0) at Municipal Stadium • Baltimore, MD (Rivalry) W 3–0 before an attendance of 51,126  
On November 14 Navy beat Harvard in Harvard Stadium Allston, MA W (20–13). Then to wrap up a fine but tough season, Navy beat Army in the annual classic played at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA W 7–0.

## Chapter 11 Coaches Hardwick, Larson, Wheelchel, Hagberg, Hamilton, 1937-47

Hardwick	Coach # 22
Larson	Coach # 23
Wheelchel	Coach # 24
Hagberg	Coach # 25
Hamilton	Coach # 21 (2nd stint)

Year	Coach	Record	Conf	Record
1937	Hank Hardwick	4-4-1	Indep	4-4-1
1938	Hank Hardwick	4-3-2	Indep	4-3-2
1939	Swede Larson	3-5-1	Indep	3-5-1
1940	Swede Larson	6-2-1	Indep	6-2-1
1941	Swede Larson	7-1-1	Indep	7-1-1
1942	Billick Wheelchel	5-4	Indep	5-4
1943	Billick Wheelchel	8-1	Indep	8-1
1944	Oscar Hagberg	6-3	Indep	8-1
1945	Oscar Hagberg	7-1-1	Indep	7-1-1
1946	Tom Hamilton	1-8	Indep	1-8
1947	Tom Hamilton	1-7-1	Indep	1-7-1



Navy Football 1938

### 1937 Navy Midshipmen Coach Hank Hardwick



<< Harry Judson  
"Hank" Hardwick

He was the 22nd head football coach for the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen located in Annapolis, Maryland and he held that position for two seasons, from 1937 until 1938. His coaching record at United States Naval Academy was 8 wins, 7 losses, and 3 ties.

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1937 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Hank Hardwick in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ray Dubois was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 4–4–1 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 150 to 74. a 6–3 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 115 to 74.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1937 Navy Football Season began at home with a shellacking shutout win against William and Mary W (45-0) on Sept 25, 1937. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On October 2, Navy defeated The Citadel at home W 32–0. On Oct 9 at home, Navy defeated Virginia W 40–13. Then, on Oct 16 at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD, Harvard played Navy to a scoreless tie T (0–0). On

Oct 23, at Notre Dame, Navy played the Irish tough but lost in a close match in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN L (7-9) before 45,000

On Oct 30 at Penn in Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, Navy lost L (7-14). On Nov 6 at home, Columbia was beaten by the Navy W (13-6). As the season was winding down, Navy lost its 2nd-last game to Princeton on Nov 20 at Palmer Stadium Princeton, NJ L (6-26). Then in the annual classic, Navy fell short against Army L (0-6) at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA.

### **1938 Navy Midshipmen Coach Hank Hardwick**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1938 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Hank Hardwick in his second and last of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Lucien Powell was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 4-3-2 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 126 to 60

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1938 Navy Football Season began at home with a shutout win against William and Mary W (26-0) on Sept 24, 1938. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 1, Navy then beat VMI at home W (26-0). On Oct 8 at home, Navy shut-out Virginia W (33-0). On Oct at Ivy League Yale in a game played in the Yale Bowl New Haven, CT, the Bulldogs beat Navy L (7-9). Then on Oct 22, Princeton tied the Midshipmen at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD T (13-13)

On Oct 29 at Penn played in Franklin Field, Philadelphia, PA, the Quakers tied the Midshipmen T (0-0). On Nov 5 at home, #4 ranked Notre Dame shut-out the Midshipmen at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD L 0-15 before 58,271. On Nov 12, Navy beat Columbia at Baker Field in New York, NY W (14-9). Then, on Nov 26, Navy's two-game bad-luck streak v Army continued as the cadets beat the Midshipmen at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game) L (7-14).

### **1939 Navy Midshipmen Coach Hank Hardwick**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1939 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's fifty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. Coached by Swede Larson in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Allan Bergner was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 3–5–1 losing record and were outscored by their opponents by a combined score of 107 to 88

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1939 Navy Football Season began at home with a win against William and Mary W (31-6) on Sept 30, 1939. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 7, Navy defeated Virginia at home W (14–12). In a home game on Oct 14 Dartmouth played Navy to a scoreless tie T (0-0) at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD. Then, at home, on Oct 21, #2 ranked Notre Dame defeated Navy in a close game L(7-14) Municipal Stadium Cleveland, OH before 78,257 fans. On Oct 28, at home, in the first battle against Clemson, the Tigers beat the Midshipmen L (7–15).

On Oct 29 at Penn, played at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, the Quakers beat the Midshipmen L (6–13). On Nov 11 at home, Columbia beat Navy L (13–19). Then, on Nov 25 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium, Navy lost L (0–28). In the season finale in the classic Army-Navy Game, Navy broke Army's streak and defeated the Cadets on Dec 2 at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA W (10–0).

### **1940 Navy Midshipmen Coach Swede Larson**

**AS PLAYER, COACH AND LEADER, HE WAS MARINES' GIFT TO NAVY 3 December 2000 ---From Arlington Cemetery:**

History reserved an extraordinary niche for Emery "Swede" Larson, who enlisted in the Marines, graduated from the Naval Academy, but remained loyal to the cause of the corps ... on the battlefield and football field. Semper Fi.



He was the only Marine to both play and coach at Navy. And he came away a winner every time. Six-for-6 in games won against Army. Turn the pages of the dusty history books. No coach in more than a century of Naval Academy football ever achieved such success.

Larson had been an enlisted man who received an appointment to the Naval Academy because of his academic and athletic achievements. Every graduate who came out of the academy, via the Marine Corps, holds him in special regard. Larson

made it on his own.

Eight days after the Japanese tried to eradicate Pearl Harbor, he coached his last game. Football, fun and frivolity were shelved. In the Navy locker room in Philadelphia, with only a few brief words, he put the outbreak of World War II in personal focus when he said, "This will be the last football game for me for a while. There's a bigger game coming up and I'm going to be in it."

Then it was off to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and preparation for a life-or-death scrimmage in war zones that could only be measured by the sacrifices he witnessed, the valor and resolve displayed by the men he was leading.

The following is a brief but powerful letter, giving insight to the man himself, that he wrote aboard ship while heading for invasion action:

### **At Sea**

**5/17/1943**

**Dear Sons:**

On leaving home to join the Marines in 1917, Dad gave me the following written advice, which I have always carried with me. I pass it on to you as the best guide possible for your conduct and approach to a full life.

Be cheerful. Be patient. Obey. Be a man. Trust in God and talk often . A message of hope, kind of the prayer of a father intent on seeing that his sons followed the straight and narrow and, when called upon for a decision, would make all the right ones. Larson never let down his team, his family or his country.

The Marines didn't pick any soft-landing spots for Larson. He went to the Aleutian Islands to establish a defensive deterrent. It was, in the language of football, known as protecting the flanks.

Then it was on to other campaigns ... those dots in the jungle known as Tarawa, Kwajalein and the Marshall Islands. Far different venues than leading Navy against Army. In his football career, he had taken one of the poorest of academy teams and given it instant respectability.

Navy came out of its slumber under Larson.

He was first a Marine, then a football coach. "It was kind of understood my father was going to be the Navy coach," says a son, Emery Jr. "Football was an adjunct to his regular duties at Annapolis, where he was in charge of the Marine Corps Special Service Branch, arranging parades and stationing the Marine guards.

"We lived inside Gate 7, and it was a great experience being a boy and knowing Dick Duden, Vito Vitucci, Al Camerson and Gene Flathmann. I watched a lot of practices and enjoyed knowing the assistant coaches: Rip Miller, Keith Molesworth and Oscar Hagberg."

Young Larson went to Annapolis High, then to Lawrenceville Prep and then to Yale, where he played four years of varsity football during seasons interrupted by World War II. He was serving aboard the USS Idaho when he was given the news his father had had a heart attack at the Atlanta Naval Hospital that became fatal. "Swede" was only 47 and about to be promoted to general.

In his service career, from a raw recruit, the elder Larson mixed football and the military. For two years, he was involved in the Nicaraguan campaign, then was with the Sixth Marines in Shanghai as bullets and bombs flew overhead.

Underneath the canopy of fire, the Marines persisted in playing a football game. Larson had coached the team from the USS



Pennsylvania to fleet marine titles in 1935-36, and the Naval Academy wisely realized he was an untapped talent who had never been far away from the game. He was transferred to Annapolis to await another assignment.

It wasn't going to be a joy ride, but Larson responded with surprising results. Navy became a Top 10 team, ready to dominate the Ivy League and give Army three straight beatings from 1939 to 1941. Six successive times Army fell, going back to when Larson played for the academy from 1919 to 1921. When his son was asked to describe his father, man and coach, he replied: "He had a great, commanding presence and an uncanny ability to lead. When he concluded his days at Annapolis, the alumni gave him a blanket with a large 'N' and six stars denoting the six times he had beaten Army as a player and coach.

That never happened before or since."

Larson is buried only 100 yards from John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery. Let his epitaph be written: He never lost to Army.

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1940 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixtieth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Swede Larson in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Dick Foster was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6-2-1 record and outscored their opponents by a combined score of 106 to 46.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1940 Navy Football Season began at home with a win against William and Mary W (19-7) on Sept 28, 1940. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 5, Navy beat Cincinnati at home W (14-0). Then, on Oct 12 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in Princeton, Navy defeated the Tigers W (12-6). On Oct 19 at home, Navy shut-out Drake W (19-0). Then, Navy grabbed a shutout victory from Yale at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, CT W (21-0)/



On Nov 2, #15 Penn beat #14 Navy at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA L (0–20). On Nov 9, #7 Notre Dame beat Navy L (7-13) at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD before 61,579. On Nov 16, Columbia played Navy to a tie (0-0) at Baker Field in New York, NY. In the annual Army-Navy Game classic, Navy won its second in a row over Army in on Nov 30 in Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA W (14–0).

## Great Navy Player Allen Bergner

Rear Adm. Allen Alfred Bergner was born in Kankakee, Ill., on May 29, 1916. He attended Kankakee High School; Onarga Military Academy; Northwestern University; and St. John's College in Annapolis, prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy in 1936.

As a midshipman, he was captain of the Navy football team in 1939, captain of the Navy wrestling team in 1940 and graduated on June 6, 1940 as an ensign. His first tour of duty was on board USS West Virginia (BB-48) and he was attached to that battleship when it was sunk on Dec. 7, 1941 as a result of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Later that month, he reported to USS Tambor (SS-198) and in 1943, he joined the staff of commander, Submarine Division 61 as engineer; He next became the executive officer and navigator on board USS Oar (SS-206).



He took command of USS S-47 (SS-148) in December 1944 and in October, 1945 he commanded USS Saury (SS-189).

His next tour of duty was under instruction in Naval Engineering at the Postgraduate School in Annapolis, Md. From June 1948 to June, 1 1949, he was an instructor in the department of Marine Engineering at the Naval Academy. He served as executive officer of USS Diodon (SS 349) and in April, 1950, he became commanding officer of USS Pomodon (SS-486). From June, 1952 to July, 1954, he was an instructor at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va. Adm.

Bergner was next assigned as operations officer on the staff of commander, Submarine Squadron Six. In August, 1955, he reported as commander, Submarine Division 62.

Between August, 1956 and July, 1958, he served as prospective commanding officer instructor and assistant officer in charge, Submarine School, New London, Conn. Completing the course in Naval Warfare at the Naval War College in 1959, he remained there as planning officer in the Command and Staff Department until June, 1961.

He commanded the USS Orion (AS-18) until August, 1962 and then served as assistant chief of staff for readiness to commander, Antisubmarine Warfare Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. In June 1964, he assumed command of Submarine Squadron Six and in August, 1965, he reported as director of the liaison and special studies division, office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

In November 1967, he became commander of Naval Training Center, San Diego. In October 1969, he assumed command of Service Group Three and for exceptionally meritorious service as commander, Task

Force 73 and commander, Service Group Three, from October, 1969 to October, 1970 he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In November 1970, he became Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Education and Training, Navy Department and in August, 1971, he reported as chief of Naval Technical Training, headquartered at Millington, Memphis, Tenn. He remained here until his retirement from military service on July 1, 1972. In addition to his Legion of Merit, Adm. Bergner received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat 'V'; the Navy Commendation Medal; the American Defense Service Medal, fleet clasp; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze star; Korean Service Medal; United Nation Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He also received the submarine combat insignia with six stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device. Adm. Bergner retired to the east coast of Virginia.

#### **1941 Navy Midshipmen Coach Billick Whelchel**

John Esten "Billick" Whelchel (April 1, 1898 – November 5, 1973) was an officer in the United States Navy with the rank of Vice admiral. He was a big football guy. He was an American-style football player, coach, and college athletics administrator. He served as the head football coach at the United States Naval Academy from 1942 to 1943, compiling a record of 13–5. In 1949, he was the head coach for the National Football League's Washington Redskins, where he compiled a record 3–3–1.

#### **Navy in 1941**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1941 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Swede Larson in his third of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Bob Froude was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 7–1–1 record, shut out five opponents and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 192 to 34.



### <<<Coach Wheelchel

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1941 Navy Football Season began at home with a shutout win against William and Mary W (34-0) on Sept 27, 1941. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 4, at home, Navy beat West Virginia W 40-0. On Oct 11, Navy beat Lafayette at home W (41-2).

Then on Oct 18, #7 ranked Navy beat Cornell at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD W (14-0) before 45,000. Then, on Oct 25 at Harvard in a game played in Harvard Stadium Allston, MA, #5 ranked Navy played the Crimson to a scoreless tie T (0-0) before 40,000.

On Nov 1, #11 Navy defeated #8 Penn in Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA W (13-6) before 73,391. On Nov 8, at home, #6 Navy was defeated by #7 Notre Dame at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD L (13-20) before 62,074. On Nov 22, #12 Navy defeated Princeton at Palmer Stadium in Princeton, NJ W (23-0) before 42,000. Then, in the annual Army-Navy classic game, #11 Navy beat Army W (14-6) at Municipal Stadium • Philadelphia, PA before 99,000.

### 1942 Navy Midshipmen Coach Billick Wheelchel

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1942 college football season. It was the Naval

Academy's sixty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Billick Whelchel in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Alan Cameron was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled 5–4 record, shut out five opponents and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 82 to 58

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1942 Navy Football Season began at home with a loss against William and Mary L (0-3) on Sept 26, 1942. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 3, Navy shutout Virginia at home W (35–0). On Oct 10, Navy lost to Princeton at Yankee Stadium Bronx, NY, L (0–10). On Oct 17, the Midshipmen beat Yale at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD W (13–6). On Oct 24, v #6 Georgia Tech, at home, Navy was defeated L (0–21)

On Oct 31 vs. # 4 Notre Dame, at Municipal Stadium Cleveland, OH, the Irish beat the Midshipmen L (0–9) before 66,699. On Nov 7 at # 9 Penn, Navy won at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA, W (7–0). Then on Nov 14, Navy beat Columbia at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD W (13–9). Two weeks later, in the classic Army-Navy Game at home on Nov 28 at Thompson Stadium in Annapolis, MD, Navy beat Army W (14–0).

### **1943 Navy Midshipmen Coach Billick Whelchel**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1943 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Billick Whelchel in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Albert Channel was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled an 8–1 record, shut out three opponents and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 237 to 80. Navy was ranked #4 in the final AP Poll.

## Great Navy Player



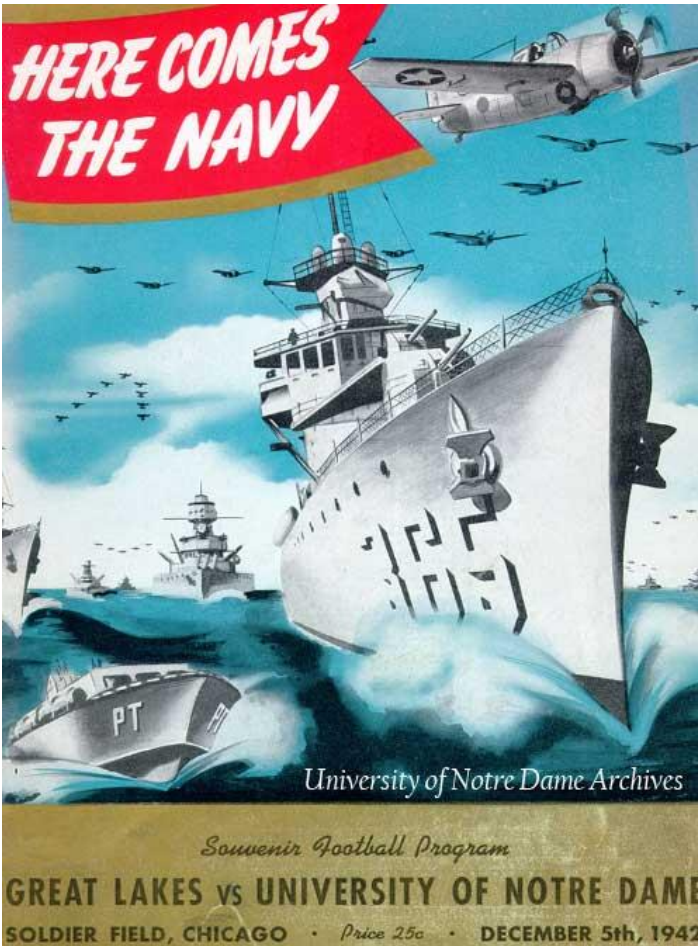
Ed Sprinkle was a great defensive end for the Naval academy who after graduation signed up with the professional Chicago Bears where he played great football from 1944-1955.

As a pro, the four-time Pro Bowler was known as the "meanest man in football," Sprinkle terrorized quarterbacks for 12 seasons with the Bears. According to a New York Times obituary, in the 1946 NFL Championship Game, he sidelined three New York Giants -- a quarterback and two running backs - with two broken noses and a shoulder separation. Bears owner and coach George Halas honored

Sprinkle with the jersey No. 7, which Halas had worn as a player.

Sprinkle, and a number of other pros of the era were often accused of "dirty play" and un-sportsman-like conduct. Sprinkle had a readymade excuse. He claimed that his aggressive play was similar to that found all over the NFL throughout the 1950s. He said: "We were meaner in the 1950s because there were fewer positions and we fought harder for them. It was a different era." The former Navy great, prior to his NFL career, won three letters in football and two in basketball and earned All-Border Conference while at Hardin-Simmons University in the early 1940s. He also earned all-Eastern honors in 1943 while attending the United States Naval Academy. Following his pro career, Sprinkle entered business in the Chicago area. He died on July 28, 2014. The Professional Football Researchers Association named Sprinkle to the PRFA Hall of Very Good Class of 2007.





All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

During WWII, the 1943 Navy Football Season began at home with a win against North Carolina Pre-Flight W (31-0) on Sept 25, 1943. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the

Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On October 2, Navy beat Cornell at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD W (46-7). On Oct 9 #4 ranked Navy beat #5 Duke at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD W (14-13). Then, on Oct 16, #3 Navy beat Penn State at home W(14-6). Then, on Oct 24, #3 Navy beat Georgia Tech at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD W 28-14. On Oct 30 vs. No. 1 Notre Dame, #3 Navy lost its only game of the year to the National Champion Frank Leahy-led Irish L (6-33) at Municipal Stadium • Cleveland, OH (Rivalry) before 77,900

On Nov 6, #7 ranked Navy beat # 5 ranked Penn at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA W (24-7). On Nov 13, at Columbia, #3 ranked Navy won at Baker Field New York, NY W (61-0). Then, on Nov 27 at #7 Army, the #6 Navy team beat Army at the Army's home field



Michie Stadium in West Point, NY (Army–Navy Game) W (13–0). During this phase of WW II, the service academies played football in their own home fields.

## **This Army Navy Game**

### **Army Navy Game #1 Best Game**

Army came into this contest 8-0, having outscored opponents by a combined score of 481-28. But, the Cadets also came in with something to prove, having lost to Navy, 13-0, a year earlier.

Making that 1943 result even worse for Army was that the game took place in West Point.

The top-ranked Cadets got their revenge, dominating the No. 2 Midshipmen, 23-7, despite throwing five interceptions and fumbling three times.

Competing two weeks before the Battle of the Bulge and featuring a backfield that included future Heisman Trophy winners Glenn Davis and Doc Blanchard, Army outrushed its rivals, 181-71.

And after the contest, the team received a telegram from Gen. Douglas MacArthur, halfway around the world and full of pride.

"The greatest of all Army teams—STOP—We have stopped the war to celebrate your magnificent success. MacArthur."



**1944 Navy Midshipmen Coach Oscar Hagberg**

Oscar Emil Hagberg (December 18, 1908 – August 2, 1992) was a fine football player and coach and United States Navy officer. He served as the 25th head football coach at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. In this capacity he held that position for two seasons, from 1944 until 1945. His coaching record at Navy was 13–4–1.

Hagberg was born December 18, 1908 in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. He played college football as an end and fullback at Navy from 1928 to 1930. Hagberg was the ends coach for the Midshipmen in 1933, 1934, and 1939.[4]

In his naval career he saw service in submarines and commanded two boats during World War II, USS S-16 and USS Albacore.[5]



<<< Oscar Hagberg

### 1944 Navy Team

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1944 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Oscar Hagberg in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Ben Chase was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6–3 record, shut out three opponents and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 236 to 88. Navy was

again ranked #4 in the final AP Poll.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

During WWII, the 1944 Navy Football Season began at home with a tough loss against North Carolina Pre-Flight L (14-21) on Sept 30, 1944. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 7, Navy defeated Penn State at home W (55–14). Then, on Oct 14, the #6 ranked

Midshipmen beat Duke at Municipal Stadium in • Baltimore MD W (7–0). On Oct 21, # 9 ranked Navy lost to #8 Georgia Tech at Grant Field in Atlanta L (15-17). Then, on Oct 28, #12 Navy shutout #7 ranked Penn at Franklin Field in Philadelphia W 26–0.

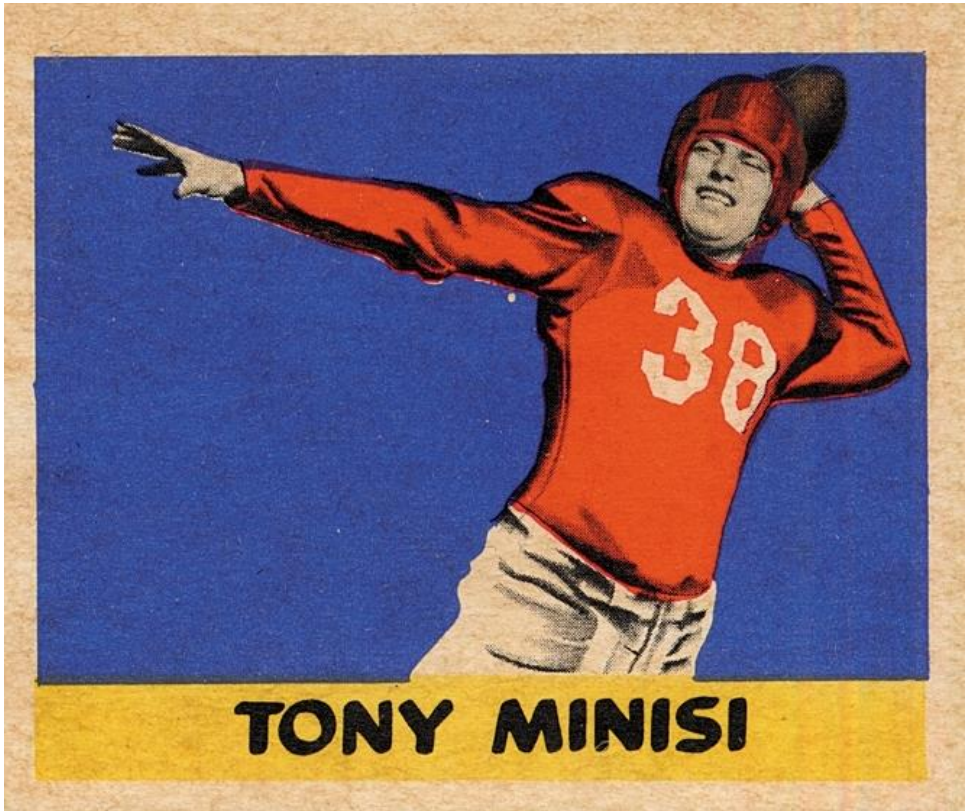
On Nov 4, #6 ranked Navy got the best of #2 ranked Notre Dame at Municipal Stadium in • Baltimore W (32–13) before 60,938. On Nov 11, #3 ranked Navy shutout Cornell at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore W (48–0). Then, on Nov 18 against the tough #14 Purdue Boilermakers, the #3 ranked Navy Team was the victor W (32-0) at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore W 32–0 . In the annual Army-Navy Game Classic, both Army and Navy were having great seasons. Army was 9-0 and ranked #1 and Navy was ranked #2 with a 6-2 record, losses against two top teams. On Dec, the two service teams played while the big war was going on in full bloom. Army defeated Navy at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore . L 7–23

Army and Navy were both well stocked with talent from the war effort. As history shows, Army's football team reached its pinnacle of success during the Second World War under coach Earl Blaik when Army won three consecutive national championships in 1944, 1945 and 1946, and produced three Heisman trophy winners: Doc Blanchard (1945), Glenn Davis (1946) and Pete Dawkins (1958). It was nothing to be ashamed of for sure in this time to lose to an Army team. Army was the best. And going into the game in 1944, Navy was slotted at second best. Go USA.

## **Great Navy Player Tony Minisi 1944**

Tony Minisi was quite a halfback when the war ended. He spent one year playing halfback for the Midshipman when he transferred from the University of Pennsylvania in 1945 as a sophomore.

The end of World War II meant that the country no longer was in need of his service, so he rejoined the Penn Quakers where he continued a productive career that would earn him a spot in the College Hall of Fame. He was drafted by the New York Giants in the first round but left after his rookie year to study law.



## Great Navy Player Robert Jenkins

No picture available

Robert Thomas "Trigger Tom" Jenkins who was born August 16, 1923 and died November 23, 2001 was a football player for the US Naval Academy and a halfback at University of Alabama. While at Navy he was a consensus All-American in 1944

Jenkins lettered in football at the University of Alabama under coach Frank Thomas in 1942. In 1943 he moved on to United States Naval Academy where he lettered in football during the 1943, 1944, and 1945 seasons. In 1944, as a 6-foot 1-inch, 195-pound halfback, he was recognized as a consensus first-team All-American, having received first-team honors from several publications and organizations including the United Press and Collier's Weekly (Grantland Rice).



The three other members of the 1944 consensus All-American backfield were Les Horvath, Doc Blanchard, and Glen Davis, who all won the Heisman Trophy in 1944, 1945, and 1946 respectively. While at Navy the media heaped colorful praise of his playing ability by writing he was a “human dynamo,” “190 lbs. fluid force,” and “the piston-legged personification of power.” A knee injury in 1945 ended his football playing career. Jenkins was selected as the sixth pick in the 17th round (170th overall) by the Washington Redskins in the 1945 National Football League draft.

## Great Navy Player Clyde “Smackover” Scott



Although his nickname sounds like it was earned by pounding the ball up the middle, “Smackover” actually referred to Scott’s hometown in Arkansas. He was quite a fullback when love interfered with his Navy football career.

He had been fullback for Navy for two years when the reigning Miss Arkansas paid Annapolis a visit in 1946. The smitten Scott resigned from the Naval Academy to marry the beauty queen and return to their native state. He enrolled at the University of Arkansas where he became a football and track star, going on to win Olympic silver medal

for the 110-meter hurdles. The eighth overall pick in the 1948 NFL draft, he played a combined four seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles and Detroit Lions before a knee injury cut his career short.

### **1945 Navy Midshipmen Coach Oscar Hagberg**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1945 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Oscar Hagberg in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Dick Duden was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen, a 7–1–1 record, shut out three opponents and outscored all opponents by a combined score of 220 to 65. Navy was ranked #3 in the final AP Poll.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

World War II ended just before the season began on Sept 2, 1945. The 1945 Navy Football Season began at home with a convincing shutout rout against Villanova W (49-0) on Sept 29, 1945. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 6 at Duke in Duke Stadium Durham, North Carolina, the Midshipmen defeated the Blue Devils W 21–0. Then, on Oct 13, #2 Navy beat Penn State at home W (28–0). On Oct 20, \$2 Navy beat Georgia Tech at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore MD. W (20–6). On Oct 27 at #7 Penn in Franklin Field Philadelphia, the #3 Navy Squad prevailed W 14–7.

Never willing to give up the ship even for #3 Navy, # 2 Notre Dame put the only blemish on the Midshipmen's record with a loss-scoring tie at Municipal Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio (Rivalry)T (6–6) before 82,020 excited fans. On Nov 10, #4 ranked Navy beat # 7 ranked Michigan at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore W (33–7) before 56,880. On Nov 17, #2 Navy beat Wisconsin at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore W (36–7). With such a sterling record, the only reason Navy was not in first place was because the pundits had slotted Army in the coveted position. And, so, the Dec 1 Army-Navy Game featured the #1 ranked Army Squad against the # 2 ranked Navy Squad in a

fame played at Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia PA. Army prevailed L (13–32).

I suspect all of us Navy fans are wondering what would have happened if Army had taken a year off. The clear and unequivocal Answer is that Navy would have a few more National Championships and a few more Heisman's on its record.

## Great Navy Player Bob Kelly



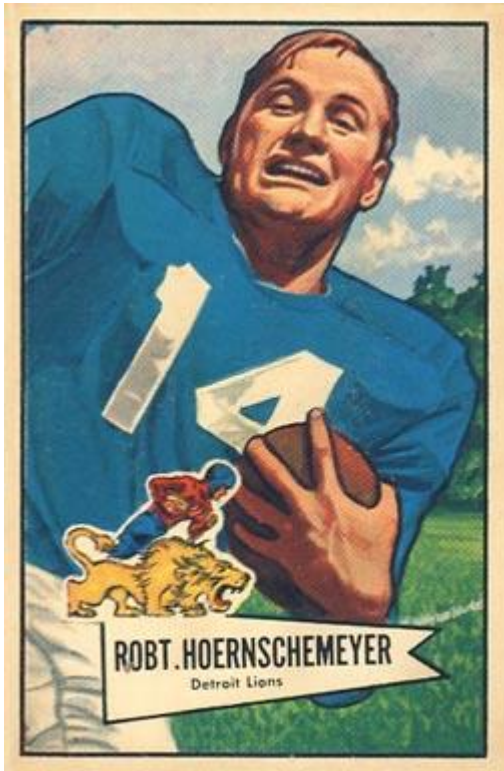
From Notre Dame with love. Bob Kelly was another World War II era transfer, Kelly had been a star halfback at Notre Dame when he arrived in Annapolis in 1945.

At the conclusion of an injury-riddled season, his father used his influence as a member of Congress to have his resignation from the Navy approved. Drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1947, he played two seasons with the Los Angeles Dons and one with the Baltimore Colts in the AAFC before the NFL merger.



## Great Navy Player Bob Hoernschemeyer

Bob Hoernschemeyer was a great running back (RB) for Navy in the 1945 era. He also made his mark on pro teams after college -- Chicago Rockets (1946-47), Brooklyn Dodgers (1947-48), Chicago Hornets (1949), and the Detroit Lions (1950-55).



Long before the forward pass became such a big part of football, Hoernschemeyer (pronounced Hunch-meyer) made it a big part of at least one game as football lore goes. He began his college career at Indiana and though an RB, he threw six touchdown passes in a 1943 win over Nebraska. Not a bad performance for a guy who later became one of the NFL's top rushers.

In between, he enlisted in the Navy and played for the academy in 1945. After a stint in the All-America Football Conference, he went to two Pro Bowls and won a pair of NFL championships with the Detroit

Lions. He was a great athlete regardless of sport. For example, he was also good enough at baseball to draw a contract offer from the New York Yankees.

And, so as he was called, Robert J. "Hunchy" Hoernschemeyer who played at 5' 11" 192 pounds, was born in Indiana on September 24, 1925, and he died on June 17, 1980, in Detroit, MI

There is no question that he was a key member of the great Detroit Lions teams of the early 1950's. Hunchy first demonstrated his tremendous versatility as a 17-year-old freshman for Bo McMillin's wartime Indiana team by leading the Big Nine in total offense, breaking records previously set by two legends -- Tom Harmon and Otto Graham.

After a stint in the Navy, where he was no slouch, he joined the old All-America Football Conference and played single wing tailback for the Chicago Rockets and Brooklyn Dodgers. An excellent runner and quality passer, he even did some kicking during his stay in the AAFC.

In 1950, the AAFC was absorbed by the NFL. A number of "other league" stars were available to NFL teams. Hoernschemeyer's old college coach, Bo McMillin was putting together the nucleus of the Lions' championship teams of the era. In addition to Hunchy, the roster included Leon Hart, Cloyce Box, and Les Bingaman. The great Lions' backfield had Hoernschemeyer, Bobby Layne, Doak Walker, and Pat Harder. It was a versatile group, with each member excelling at several skills.

Among Hunchy's contributions was his ability to pass from his halfback position. During his six seasons in the Lions' backfield, he connected for ten touchdowns on only 26 pass attempts. As the first effective option passer from the T-formation, he paved the way for Frank Gifford and Paul Hornung.

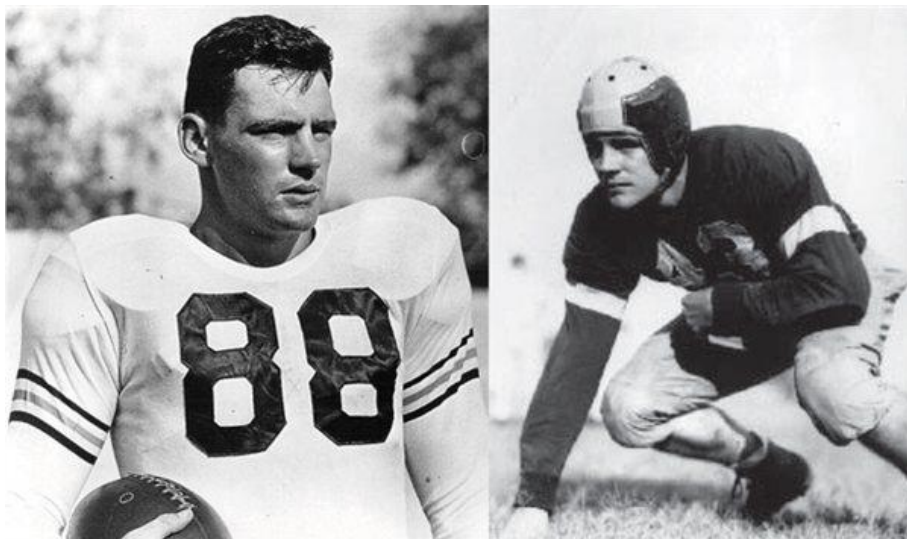
Hoernschemeyer led Detroit in rushing from 1950 thru 1954, and was particularly noted for his dependability on third down. But "the best third- down back in football" was more than a plugger.

In 1950, he broke off a 96-yard touchdown run against the New York Yanks that still ranks as the third longest in NFL history. The next year, he rambled for 85 yards and a TD against Green Bay. He was quite an athlete.

## **Great Navy Player Dick Duden**

Duden was a tough guy playing both ways for the Naval Academy in the mid 1940's during the war years.

A gentle giant off the field, Duden was noted for his physical play on it as a two-way end. One of best all-around athletes in Naval Academy history, he was captain of the 1945 football team that would have been undefeated had they not faced perhaps the best team ever fielded by Army.



He served four years as a surface warfare officer before being signed by the New York Giants in 1949. Only one season into his NFL career he was recalled to active duty due to the outbreak of hostilities on the Korean peninsula. He returned to Annapolis in 1951 as a member of the coaching staff and remained there until he retired in 1973. Beat Army 1943.

#### **1946 Navy Midshipmen Coach Tom Hamilton**

Information about Coach Hamilton is provided in the section highlighting his first stint of duty in 1934 with Navy as its football coach

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1946 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Tom Hamilton in his first season of his second tour of duty as head coach of the Midshipmen. This tour lasted two years. Dick Duden was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 1-8 record and were outscored by their opponents by a combined score of 186 to 105.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

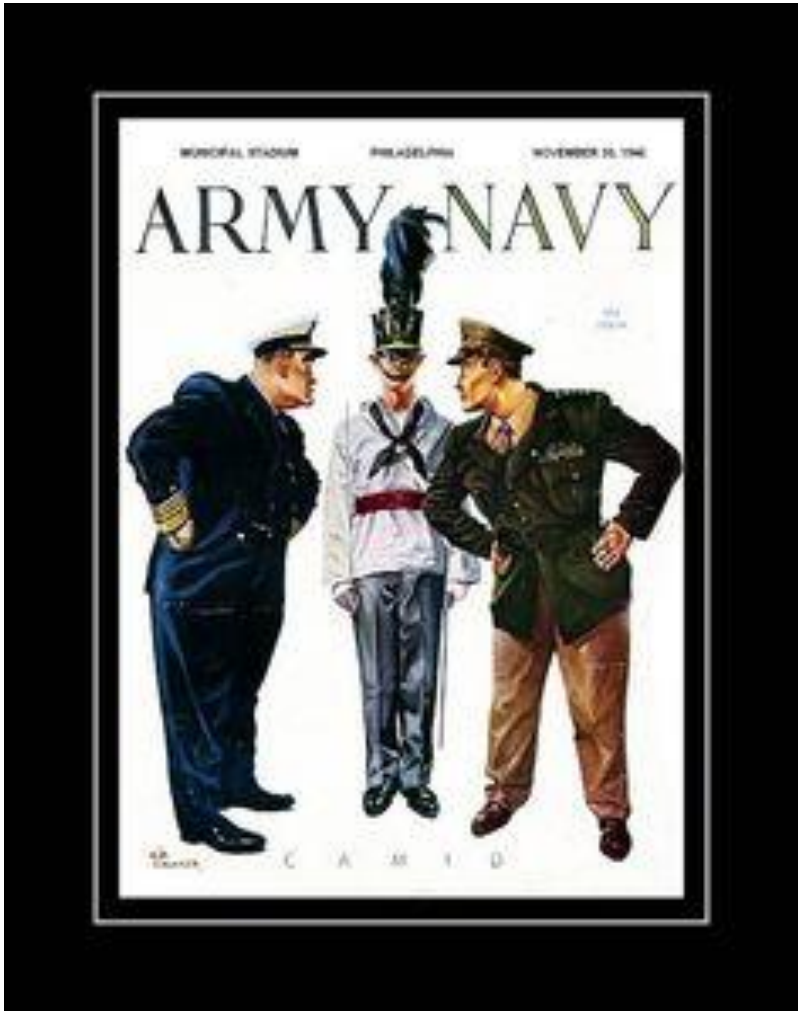
World War II was over for a bit over a year before the 1946 season began. The 1946 Navy Football Season began at home with a close victory against Villanova W (7-0) on Sept 28, 1946. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Unexplained, it was the Navy's last victory of the season.

On Oct 5 at Columbia in Baker Field New York, Navy was defeated L (14-23). On Oct 12 v Duke, at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, Navy lost its second game of the season. (L (6-21). On Oct19 at home v North Carolina, Navy lost at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore L (14-21). Then, on Oct 26 at #6 Penn, the Midshipmen lost at Franklin Field in Philadelphia L (19-32).

On Nov 2, Navy was no longer a match for the Irish of #2 ranked Notre Dame and lost L (0-28) at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore L (0-28) before 63,909. On Nov 9 at # 8 Georgia Tech, Navy was defeated in Grant Field Atlanta, GA L (20-28). Then, on Nov 16 in a close home game, Navy lost to Penn State L(7-12). In the season closer in the annual Army-Navy Classic Game, at home, Navy was defeated by #1 Army L 18-21 on Nov 30, at Municipal Stadium • Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game) L 18-21

The irony of the Army Navy game is that this was a very poor year for Navy and yet, Hamilton's squad almost won the game with just a three- point differential to the National Champions.

I must admit that as I researched the great Navy teams of the 1940's, I was surprised that Tom Hamilton, a great coach from 1936 who came back to coach in 1946 delivered such poor records in 1946 and 1947. I can't explain it, nor have I found any good explanations. The games were definitely close but bad luck was everywhere for Hamilton in both of these latter seasons.



Clearly, the Navy likes Tom Hamilton as he was a great Admiral, so well they should like him, but one wonders if the ten years that was added to his age in his second run as coach of the Midshipmen had something to do with his poor record. Yet, if we were not looking at wins and losses, we would say he had a fine season. I won't dwell on it. Instead I choose to thank Admiral Hamilton for his great service overall and his service during the war effort when it counted the most.

**1947 Navy Midshipmen Coach Tom Hamilton**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1947 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were coached by Tom Hamilton in his second and last season of his second tour of duty as head coach of the Midshipmen. This tour lasted two years. Dick Scott was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 1–7–1 record and were outscored by their opponents by a combined score of 165 to 86.

All home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

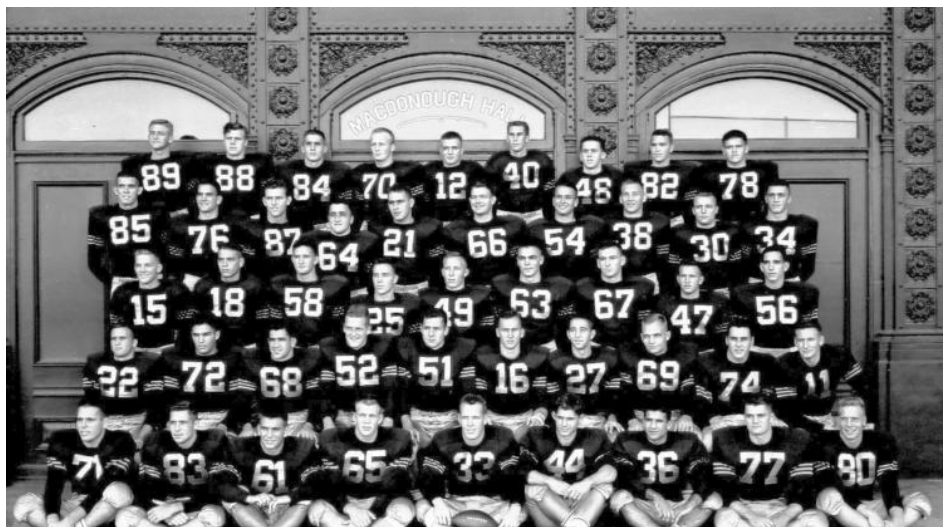
The 1947 Navy Football Season began at home with a close loss against California at California in California Memorial Stadium Berkeley, CA L (7–14) on Sept 27, 1947. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 4, Navy lost at home to Columbia L (6–13). On Oct 11 v #13 Duke at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD the Midshipmen tied the Blue Devils T (14–14). On Oct 18, in the only win of the year, at Cornell's Schoellkopf Field in Ithaca, NY, Navy won W (38–19). Then, on Oct 25, playing #8 Penn at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA, the Midshipmen lost the game L (0–21)

At home on Nov 1 v #1 Notre Dame in Municipal Stadium in Cleveland, OH, the Irish defeated the Navy L (0–27) before 84,070. Then, on Nov 8, Navy lost to Georgia Tech at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD L (14–16). Then, on Nov 15 v # 8 Penn State at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD, Navy lost L (7–20). Then, against an Army team that no longer had all the choice soldiers working on its team, at # 12, on Nov 29, Army defeated Navy in the end of season Army-Navy Game at Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia, PA L (0–21)

## Chapter 12 Coaches George Sauer & Eddie Erdelatz--1948 - 1958

Sauer            Coach # 26  
Erdelatz        Coach # 27

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1948	George Sauer	0-8-1	Indep	0-8-1
1949	George Sauer	3-5-1	Indep	3-5-1
1950	Eddie Erdelatz	3-6	Indep	3-6
1951	Eddie Erdelatz	2-6-1	Indep	2-6-1
1952	Eddie Erdelatz	6-2-1	Indep	6-2-1
1953	Eddie Erdelatz	4-3-2	Indep	4-3-2
1954	Eddie Erdelatz	8-2	Indep	8-2
1955	Eddie Erdelatz	6-2-1	Indep	6-2-1
1956	Eddie Erdelatz	6-1-2	Indep	6-1-2
1957	Eddie Erdelatz	9-1-1	Indep	9-1-1
1958	Eddie Erdelatz	6-3	Indep	6-3



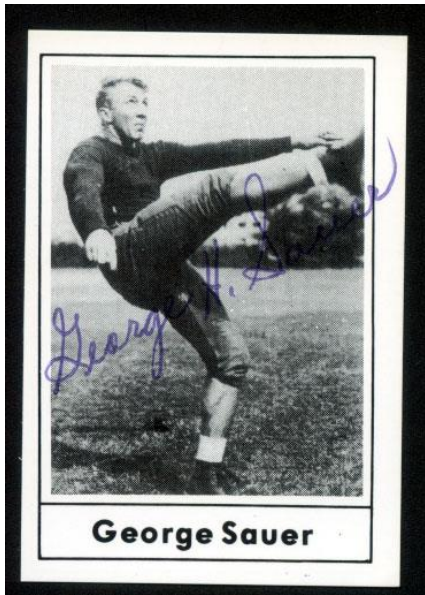
1955 Navy Sugar Bowl Squad

### 1948 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Sauer

He was quite a coach. George Henry Sauer was born on December 11, 1910 in Stratton, Nebraska. George's parents, Ludwig (Louis) and Katherine Sauer were natives of Norka, Russia.



George and Louis Sauer descend from Johannes Sauer (born about 1744), Ludwig Sauer (born 1790), Johann Nicolaus Sauer (born 1835) and Conrad Sauer (born 1863).



When George was 5, the family moved to Lincoln where they settled in the North Bottoms neighborhood. Louis went into the trash collection business.

George Sauer was a member of the Lincoln High School Class of 1929. A great high school athlete in all sports, Sauer played on three state championship football teams (32 wins, 1 loss, 1 tie record) and on two state championship track teams. As an all-around excellent player who could run, kick and pass, he often left the competition wondering what he would do next.

**Photograph on left of George Sauer Sr. courtesy of Jerry Krieger.**



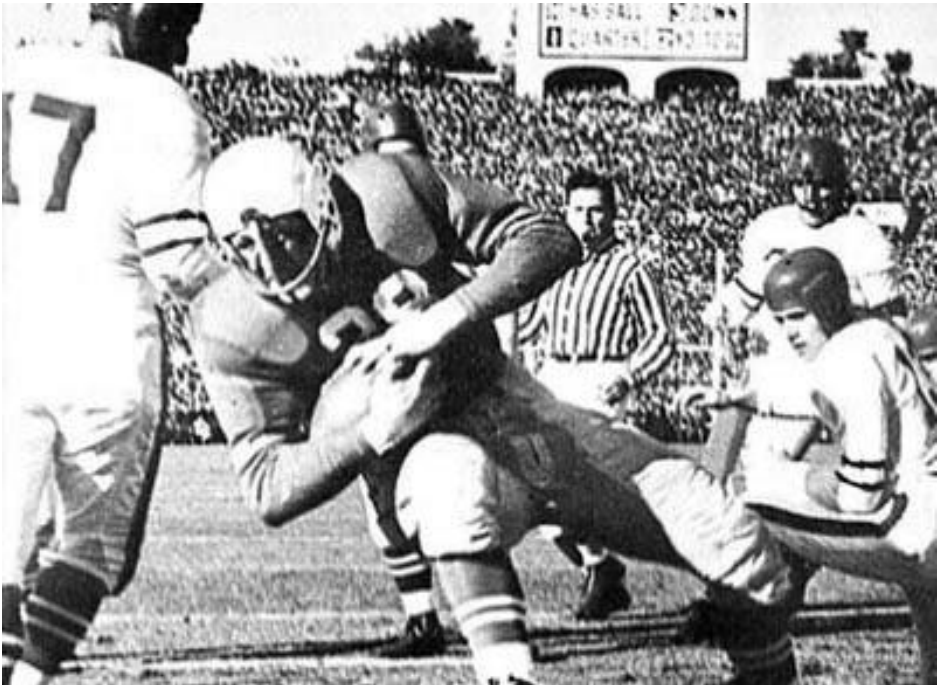
After high school, Sauer attended the University of Nebraska where he was one of most revered Cornhusker players during the hard hit 1930's. As an all-around excellent player who could run, kick and pass he often left the competition wondering what he would do next. Sauer quickly became an emulated football hero. Ed Schwartzkopf, a future Nebraska University player recalled that at the time:



"Everybody wanted to be George Sauer."

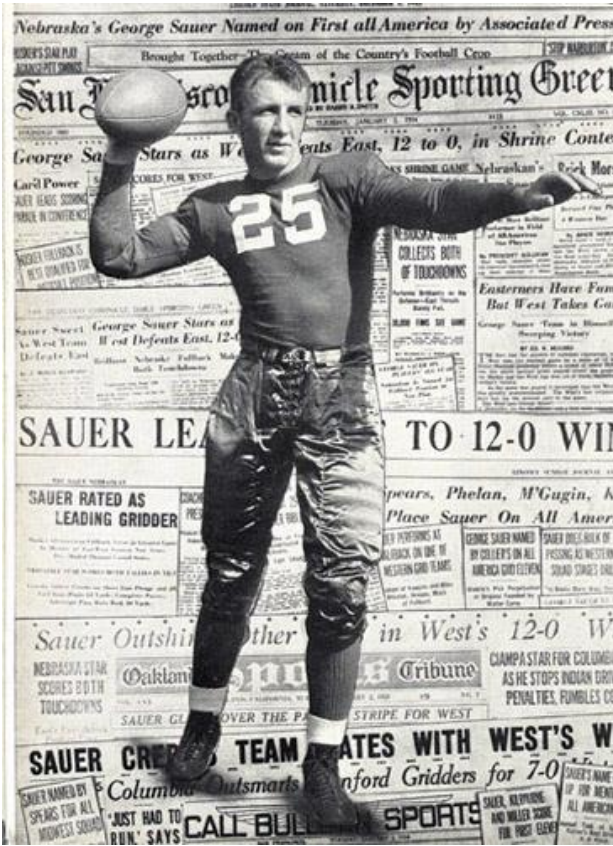
Nebraskan kids idolized the Lincoln native often pressing their mothers to sew George's famous number 25 onto their sweaters. Sauer had a loyal following within the team as well. Coach D.X. Bible glowed when speaking of him:

"He was probably my best all-around athlete. He was great at carrying the ball and he was one of the best on defense. He simply rolled up his sleeves and met the ball carrier head on."



Sauer led Nebraska to Big Six championships in the 1931, 1932 and 1933 conference seasons during which Nebraska was undefeated and the fullback was all-conference.

In 1932 Sauer was central to the Husker's stellar record of eight wins and only one loss. That solitary loss was to undefeated Pittsburgh. The Husker defensive line, led by Sauer, held off the steel-town squad until the slashing Panthers scored the game's only touchdown in the fourth quarter. Games against big teams like the Panthers were bringing national attention to the Huskers.



Players, like Sauer, did not go unnoticed. At the end of his senior season he led the voting for players in the New Year's Day All-Star game. Sauer distinguished himself by intercepting passes and scoring the only touchdowns of the game. After the game, news writer Lawrence Perry commented that Sauer, "stands clearly as the premier ball carrier in the nation."

While Sauer was best known as an All-America football player, he played four sports at Nebraska:

football, basketball, baseball and track.

After his college career ended, Sauer was signed by the National Football League's Green Bay Packers in 1934 where he played running back for three seasons. Sauer retired from the Packers after winning the league championship in 1936.

After leaving the NFL, Sauer served as the head football coach at the University of New Hampshire from 1937 to 1941.

Sauer interrupted his sports career to serve in World War II, obtaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Sauer returned to civilian life to use his considerable football skills and knowledge as the head football coach at the University of Kansas. His 1946 and 1947 teams shared the Big Six title and he took the Jayhawks to the Orange Bowl game in Miami.

Sauer moved on to the United States Naval Academy (1948-1949) where he became the first civilian coach in over a decade. He resigned from Navy after two of his assistants were treated unfairly.

From the Naval Academy he went on to Baylor University (1950-1955) where he was named Southwest Conference Coach of the Year in 1950. After six years as head coach, he moved up to the role of Athletic Director.

### **1948 Navy Team**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1948 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Sauer in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Pete Williams and Scott Emerson were the team captains. This was the first time Navy had more than one captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 0–8–1 record and were outscored by their opponents by a combined score of 227 to 77. This was Navy's first winless season since 1883. It was the third season of a six-season dark period in which Navy had a tough time winning football games.

No home games this year were played at Thompson Field which is located on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1948 Navy Football Season began at home with a loss against California at Municipal Stadium Baltimore MD. L (7–21) on Sept 25, 1948. On Oct 2 Navy lost to Cornell at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore L (7–13). On Oct 9 Duke beat Navy at Duke Stadium Durham, North Carolina L 0-21). On Oct 16 #12 Missouri beat Navy L (14-35) at Municipal Stadium • Baltimore. Then on Oct 23, Navy lost L (14-20) to #7 Penn at Franklin Field Philadelphia. On Oct 30, Frank Leahy's #2 Notre Dame defeated Navy L (7-41) at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore before 63,314

On Nov 6, #2 Michigan shut out Navy at Michigan Stadium • Ann Arbor, Michigan L (0–35) in the Big House before 85,808. On Nov 13 at Columbia's Baker Field New York, Navy lost L (0–13). In its best game of the year, in the Army Navy classic played against #3 Army, Navy tied the Cadets at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia T (21–21).

**1949 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Sauer**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1949 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's sixty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Sauer in his second and last of two seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Phil Ryan was the team captain. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 3–5–1 record and were outscored by their opponents by a combined score of 238 to 151. Navy won three more games than in 1948 but their winning season drought was not over yet.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1949 Navy Football Season began with a loss against USC at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum • Los Angeles, CA L (20–42) on Sept 24, 1949 before 62,787. On Oct 1 at home, Navy beat Princeton at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD, (W 28–7). Then, on Oct 8, at home, #14 Duke was beaten by the Navy W (28–14). Navy lost at #18 Wisconsin on Oct 15 in Camp Randall Stadium Madison, WI L (13–48) before 45,000. Then, on Oct 22 at #14 Penn, the Quakers won L (7-28) at Franklin Field • Philadelphia PA L 7–28.

On Oct 29, Frank Leahy's #1 ranked Notre Dame team shut out Navy at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD L (0–40) before 62,000. On Nov 5 at Tulane, Navy tied the Green Wave at Tulane Stadium New Orleans, LA T (21–21). Navy then beat Columbia on Nov 12 at home W (34-0). In the annual season ending classic Army Navy Game, #4 Army shellacked the Navy L (0-38) on Nov 26 at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA.

**1950 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz****Erdelatz was a great coach**

He was at all levels of football and like most coaches, the pros came last.



Though it seems as though Al Davis ran the Oakland Raiders forever, there were men that came before him. In fact, Davis took over the Raiders head coaching position in 1963, replacing William “Red” Conkright. Conkright in fact, had previously been a Raiders assistant who ended up replacing head coach, Marty Feldman, after he led the Raiders to a 2-15 record over a 17-game period in 1961-62.

But Feldman himself, had also previously been a Raiders assistant. The Raiders first head coach was named Eddie Erdelatz, formerly of the

Naval Academy, and the man who led the not-so-mighty Raiders through their inaugural season of 1960.

Eddie Erdelatz was a three-year end at St. Mary’s College, beginning in 1932. After completing his collegiate playing career, he moved into the coaching ranks, taking over the lines for St. Mary’s in 1936. Erdelatz bounced around to different coaching positions in Northern California for several years before joining the Navy during World War II. After the war, and a three-year stint as an assistant at the Naval Academy, Erdelatz put in three years as defensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers of the A.A.F.C.

Eddie Erdelatz got his first shot as a head coach when he traveled back East to take over a miserable Navy team in 1950. Over a period of nine seasons, Erdelatz turned a moribund Naval Academy squad into a respectable, winning program that posted victories in the Sugar Bowl (1955) and Cotton Bowl (1958). Things however were not right for Erdelatz towards the end, and he left the Navy team after the ’58 season and took a restful year away from football in 1959.

The American Football League formed in 1960, and after their late addition to the league, the Oakland Raiders brought the former Bay Area star, Eddie Erdelatz, out of retirement. He signed on as the first head coach of the Oakland Raiders, and once again, Eddie Erdelatz was back in football.

The professional game proved to be more of a challenge to Erdelatz and his Raiders brethren. In addition to not having the deep pockets that were so important in Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles, the Raiders were several months behind the other teams in starting their organization. The result was evident on the field. While the Raiders had several players that would eventually have long and productive careers in the AFL such as Wayne Hawkins, Jim Otto, Tom Flores and Babe Parilli, they did not have the depth of talent to succeed in the new league. The Raiders finished their first season with a disappointing 6-8 record.

Despite some off-season re-tooling, the Raiders began the 1961 season by losing their first two games by a combined score of 99-0. The catastrophic losses proved to be the death toll for Erdelatz, and he was fired on September 18, 1961. While he attempted to get back into football with other teams, the Raiders job was Erdelatz's last in the game. He began working in the financial industry in 1962.

Eddie Erdelatz underwent surgery to remove a malignant tumor from his stomach in 1966, but doctors learned that the cancer had already metastasized. He died two weeks later, on October 27, 1966.

### **The 1950 Navy Season with coach Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1950 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventieth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his first of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Erdelatz would be the first coach to ever last nine seasons with Navy. Tom Bakke was the team captain.

As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 3-6 record and were outscored by their opponents by a combined score of 176 to 122. Navy had their fifth losing season in a row and their winning drought was not yet over.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1948 Navy Football Season began with a loss against Maryland at Byrd Stadium • College Park, Maryland L (21–35) on Sept 20, 1950 before 43,836. On Oct 7, Northwestern beat Navy at Municipal Stadium Baltimore L (0–22 ) before 12,000. On Oct 14 at Princeton's Palmer Stadium in Princeton, the Tigers beat the Midshipmen L (14–20). Then, on Oct 21 USC came to Municipal Stadium in Baltimore to be beaten in a Navy home game W (27–14) before 24,300. Then, on Oct 28 at Penn, the Quakers beat Navy L (7–30) at Franklin Field Philadelphia.

On Nov 4 Notre Dame beat Navy at Municipal Stadium in Cleveland L (10–19) before 71,074. Then, Tulane shutout Navy L (0-27) on Nov 11 at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore. Navy beat Columbia W (29-7) on Nov 18 at Baker Field • New York. Then, on Dec 2 vs. #2 Army, the Cadets beat the Midshipmen in the annual Army-Navy Game in Municipal Stadium Philadelphia W (14–2).

### **1951 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1951 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-first season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his second of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 2-5-1 record. Navy had its sixth losing season in a row and their winning drought would be complete after this year.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1951 Navy Football Season began with a tie against Yale at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Connecticut T (7-7) on Sept 29, 1950. On Oct 6, at home, Princeton beat Navy L (20–24). Then, on Oct 13 at Rice in Rice Stadium Houston, the Owls beat Navy L (14–21). On Oct

20 at Northwestern's Dyche Stadium in Evanston, Illinois, the Huskies beat Navy L (7-16). At Penn on Oct 27 in a game played at Franklin Field Philadelphia, the Quakers beat the Midshipmen L (0-14)

On November 3, #13 Notre Dame beat Navy at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore L (0-19) before 44,237. On Nov 10, Navy lost to Maryland at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore L (21-40) before 38,000. Then, on Nov 17, Navy beat Columbia at Baker Field New York W (21-7). At the end of every season Army and Navy play in an exciting game. This year's December 1 game was played at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game) Navy got the best of Army W (42-7).

### **1952 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1952 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-second season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his third of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6-2-1 record Navy had its first winning season in seven years . Its losing ways were finished as Erdelatz would have winning seasons for his next seven seasons.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1952 Navy Football Season began with a shutout win against Yale at home in Municipal Stadium Baltimore W (31-0) on Sept 27, 1950. On Oct 4 at Cornell's Schoellkopf Field in Ithaca, New York, Navy won W (31-7). Then, on Oct 11 at home, Navy beat William & Mary W 14-0. Then, on Oct 18 Maryland beat Navy at Byrd Stadium College Park, Maryland L (7-38) before 44,746. Then, on Oct at Penn, the Quakers played the Midshipmen to a tie T (7-7) at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.

On Nov 1 vs. # 13 Notre Dame in Municipal Stadium Cleveland, the Fighting Irish defeated the Midshipmen L (6-17) before 61,927. Then, on Nov 8 at Duke, the Blue Devils were defeated by Navy at Duke



Stadium in Durham, North Carolina W (16–6). Navy shut out Columbia on Nov 15 at home W (28-0). On Nov 29 vs. Army, Navy won in a low-scoring shutout at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game) W (7–0).

### **1953 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1953 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-third season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his fourth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 4-3-2 record. Navy had no conference affiliation. They finished the season with a winning record.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1953 #13 ranked Navy Football Season began with a tie against William and Mary at home T (6-6) on Sept 26, 1953. This opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 3, Navy got over the tie and shellacked Dartmouth at home W 55–7. Still in a mood to pound visiting teams, Navy defeated Cornell on Oct 10, at Municipal Stadium in Baltimore, MD W (26–6). Princeton was doing its best on Oct 17, but #14 Navy was too tough, and the Midshipmen blasted Princeton at Palmer Stadium Princeton, New Jersey W (65–7). Then, on Oct 24, in a close match, Penn barely got the best of #10 Navy at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, PA L (6–9).

Number 1 Notre Dame left no prisoners behind on Oct 31 as the Fighting Irish pounded #20 ranked Navy at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, IN L (7–38) before 58,154. On Nov 7 Duke tied Navy at Municipal Stadium Baltimore, MD T (0–0). Then, on Nov 14 at Columbia in Baker Field New York, NY, Navy got the win W (14–6). In the season finale vs Army, the Navy fought hard but were defeated by #18 Army L (7-20) on Nov 28 at Municipal Stadium • Philadelphia, PA (Army–Navy Game).

## Great Navy Players Stephen S. Eisenhower



Eisenhower was born in Sheffield, PA. Steve graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1954, where he was a two-time All-America football player. He was elected to the Academic All-America Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

Steve had a distinguished career in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring in 1975. He then served as a civilian consultant working with Naval Air until 1996. Steve was survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara; their two children, Susan (Frederick) Kessell and Gregory (Elizabeth)

Eisenhower and two grandchildren.

Donations may be made to USNA Foundation for the Athletic Excellence Fund, 25 Maryland Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401.

### 1954 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1954 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his fifth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled an 8-2 record. Navy had no conference affiliation. They finished the season ranked # 5 in the nation. Their losing days were well behind them.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1954 unranked Navy Football Team began its season with a shutout win against William and Mary at home W (27-0) on Sept 25, 1954. This opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Navy then traveled to Dartmouth's Memorial Field Hanover, NH on Oct 2 and they defeated the Big Green W 42-7. In its first match against Stanford, #19 Navy defeated the Cardinal on Oct 9 at Stanford Stadium in Stanford, CA W (25-0) On Oct 9, Pittsburgh defeated the # 9 Midshipmen at Pitt Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA L (19-21)

On Oct 23 at Penn, Navy pounded the Quakers at Franklin Field • Philadelphia, PA W (52-6). On Oct 30, #6 Notre Dame escaped with a close win v #15 Navy at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, MD L (0-6) before 60,000. Then, on Nov 6, Navy walloped Duke in Foreman Field Norfolk, VA (Oyster Bowl) W (40-7). On Nov 13, #10 Navy shellacked Columbia at home W (51-6). Then, in the season finale, v Army, on Nov 27, #6 Navy got the win at Municipal Stadium • Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game) W (27-20).

Navy played in a bowl game this year on January 1, 1955 vs. #5 Ole Miss at Tulane Stadium New Orleans, LA (Sugar Bowl). The Navy shut out the Green Wave W (21-0) before 82,000

## Great Navy Player Ron Beagle



Ron Beagle was a 1986 College Football Hall of Fame inductee from the U.S. Naval Academy, who played great football for the Academy in the 1950's. He was 81 years old when he passed away.

Beagle was a tremendous blocker, played defense and caught passes for Navy, starring in a time when end was an all-around, 60-minute position.

The two-time First-Team All-America (1954, 1955) selection led the Midshipmen to a 21-0 victory in the 1955 Sugar Bowl over Ole Miss. Beagle received the 1954 Maxwell Award as the college player of the year after catching 30 passes for 451 yards and four touchdowns.

During Beagle's three varsity seasons, Navy finished in the top 20 in both major wire-service final polls in 1954 and 1955, including a No. 5 finish after their 1955 Sugar Bowl victory. He caught 64 career passes, mostly from George Welsh (a College Football Hall of Famer as a coach), for 849 yards and eight touchdowns.

A 17th-round selection by the Chicago Cardinals in the 1956 NFL Draft, Beagle opted to answer the call of duty instead of playing professional football and served four years in the U.S. Marines. After the Marines, he embarked on a successful career with Butler-Johnson Corp., a wholesale distributor of premium surfacing solutions in Sacramento.

Beagle was born Feb. 7, 1934, in Hartford, Conn. He and 1981 College Football Hall of Fame inductee Roger Staubach played football for the same high school (Purcell in Cincinnati), played college football at Navy, won the Maxwell Trophy, made the All-America team and were inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

-- End of tribute--

### **1955 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1955 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his sixth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. They began the season

ranked 8th in the pre-season AP Poll As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled an 6-2-1 record. Navy had no conference affiliation. They finished the season ranked # 18 in the nation.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1955 #9 ranked Navy Football Team began its season with a close shutout win against William and Mary at home W (7-0) on Sept 24, 1954. This opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. On Oct 1 at South Carolina, #15 Navy defeated the Gamecocks at Carolina Stadium in Columbia, South Carolina W (26-0). Then, on Oct 8, #12 Navy beat Pittsburgh at home in a game played at Memorial Stadium Baltimore W (21-0). Then, on Oct 15 at Penn State the #8 Navy defeated the Nittany Lions at New Beaver Field in University Park, PA, W (34-14). On Oct 22 at Penn, the #4 Navy team beat the Quakers at Franklin Field Philadelphia W (33-0).

On Oct 29, #4 Navy lost to #9 Notre Dame at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana L (7-21) before 59,475, Duke tied the #9 Navy squad the next week on Nov 5 at home in Memorial Stadium • Baltimore T (7-7). Then, on Nov 12, #13 Navy pounded Columbia at Baker Field New York W (47-0). At the end of the season, it was Army as usual in a tough game as usual. This time, in the Army-Navy classic Army got the best of the navy in a battle of the trenches L (6-14) played at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game).

## Great Navy Player Tom Forrestal QB

Eddie Erdelatz thought the world of Navy Hall of Famer Tom Forrestal as a Quarterback. B Thomas Patrick "Tom" Forrestal, Jr., who was born October 23, 1936 is a former football player who grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended St. Ignatius High School there. He then enrolled at the United States Naval Academy and played top-notch college football at the quarterback position for the Navy Midshipmen football team from 1955 to 1957. He was selected by the

International News Service as a first-team player on its 1957 College Football All-America Team. No Picture but ship below USS Forrestal.



**1956 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1956 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his seventh of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. They began the season ranked in the pre-season AP Poll As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled an 6-1-2 record. They lost just one game. It was to Tulane. Navy had no conference affiliation. They finished the season ranked # 16 in the nation.

Several home games except the Army-Navy game and those so marked below were played at Thompson Field on the campus of the Naval Academy.

The 1956 unranked Navy Football Team began its season with a nice win against William and Mary at home W (39-14) on Sept 29, 1954.

This opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

On Oct 6, Navy beat Cornell at Schoellkopf Field • Ithaca, New York W (14–0). In the third game of the season, Navy left its guard down and they were beaten in an away game in New Orleans. On Oct 13 Tulane beat the Navy in a tough contest at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans L (6–21). On Oct 20 at home, Navy beat Cincinnati W (13-7). Then on Oct 27, Navy powered over Penn at Penn playing a home game at Franklin Field Philadelphia W (54–6).

On Nov 3, in a rare victory at home or away, Navy took on and defeated the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore W (33–7) before 57,773. Still smiling from the ND win, the following week on Nov 10, Navy could not get a win as Duke tied the #12 Midshipmen T (7-7) in a game played at Duke Stadium in Durham, North Carolina. On Nov 17, #15 Navy beat Virginia at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore W (34–7). Then in the game of games for the Service Academies, Army tied #13 Navy on Dec 1 at Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game)T (7–7).

### **1957 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1957 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his eighth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. No captain was listed for Navy. They began the season ranked in the pre-season AP Poll. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 9-1-1 record. They lost just one game and tied one. The Loss was to North Carolina by one TD. Navy had no conference affiliation. They finished the season ranked # 5 in the nation and #1 of all independent schools.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

The Navy Football Team began its season with a nice win at Boston College at Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill MA W (46-6) on Sept 29, 1954.

On Sept 28, #5 Navy beat William & Mary at home in Thompson W (33-6). At North Carolina on Oct 5, #6 Navy beat the Tar Heels at Kenan Memorial Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC L (7-13) On Oct 12 at California in California Memorial Stadium, Berkeley, CA, Navy prevailed W 21-6. Then, on Oct 19 vs. Georgia, #15 #15 Navy beat the Yellow Jackets at Foreman Field in Norfolk, Virginia (Oyster Bowl) W (27-14). Then, at Penn on Oct in a game played at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA, #16 Navy beat the Quakers W (35-7)

On Nov 2, #16 Navy defeated #5 Notre Dame at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, IN W (20-6) before 58,922. Then, on Nov 9, #16 Duke played the #7 Navy Squad to a tie T (6-6) at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, MD. On Nov 16, #9 Navy walloped George Washington W (52-0) at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, MD. Then in the season finale, on Nov 30, # 10 Army was defeated by # 8 Navy in Municipal Stadium • Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game) W (14-0). And that was 1957.

#9 Navy did so well they played in the Cotton Bowl against #8 Rice on January 1, 1958. The game was played at the Cotton Bowl Field in Dallas, TX and Navy won the game W (20-7) before 75,504

### **1958 Navy Midshipmen Coach Eddie Erdelatz**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1958 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Eddie Erdelatz in his ninth and last of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. They began the season ranked #7 in the pre-season AP Poll. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 6-3 record.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

The 1958 Navy Football Team began its season with a close win against William and Mary W (14-0) on September 27, 1958. The opener was played at Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.



On Oct 4, #15 Navy defeated Boston University in Nickerson Field, Boston, MA W (28–14). #12 Navy beat #14 Michigan on Oct 11 in Michigan Stadium (The Big House) Ann Arbor, MI W (20–14) before 80,756. On Oct 18, #6 Navy lost to Tulane in a close game at Foreman Field Norfolk, Virginia (Oyster Bowl) L (6–14). Then, on Oct 25 at Penn, #18 Navy defeated the Quakers in Franklin Field • Philadelphia, PA W (50–8)

On Nov 1, #15 Navy lost to Notre Dame in Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, MD L (20–40) before 57,773. On Nov 8 vs. Maryland, Navy beat the Terrapins in Memorial Stadium Baltimore, MD W (40–14) before 30,035. On Nov 15 at George Washington in Griffith Stadium Washington, DC, Navy won W (28–8). Then in the (Army–Navy Game) on Nov 29 vs. #5 Army at Municipal Stadium • Philadelphia, PA, the Navy was defeated L (6–22)

## **Eddie Erdelatz retired from Navy in 1958**

The Eddie Erdelatz era (1950–1958) ended after the 1958 season.

In 1950, Eddie Erdelatz came back to Navy, where just several years previously he served as an assistant coach from 1945–1947. Erdelatz took over a football program that was dying. The Midshipmen had won just four games over the previous five seasons.

Though he did not begin with a fire as head coach, in 1950, Erdelatz was able to win the all-important game—an upset of arch-rival Army. The Cadets were undefeated at 8-0 and had not lost a game in 28 contests. Decreasing the odds of a Navy victory even further. Army also had defeated Navy five times in the prior six games.

Although the Navy team had only a 2–6 record, an outstanding defensive effort resulted in a 14–2 victory for the Midshipmen.



Coach Erdelatz

After two years at Navy, Erdelatz's record was not so good at 5–12–1, but he had a new team and a new attitude, and he would never again have a losing season in his final seven seasons, finishing 5–3–1 in his games against Army. In 1954, the team finished 8–2, losing close games to Pittsburgh and Notre Dame.

Erdelatz called this squad, "A Team Called Desire" and then went on to shut out Ole Miss in the 1955 Sugar Bowl. Three years later, the Midshipmen were successful in the Cotton Bowl, where they beat Rice, 20–7. This win came one year after Navy's bid to play in a bowl game was rejected despite having only one loss.

After the bowl victory over Rice, Erdelatz was courted by other schools and almost accepted the task of replacing Bear Bryant at Texas A&M University. After the 1958 season, he was viewed as a strong candidate for the NFL's San Francisco 49ers head coaching job, but he began spring practice the following year at Navy. On April 8, 1959, Erdelatz tendered his resignation as head coach of the Midshipmen, citing a number of factors, including the desire for an easier schedule. Erdelatz was a fine coach.

# Chapter 13 Coaches Hardin & Elias 1959-1968

Hardin            Coach # 28  
Elias             Coach # 29

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1959	Wayne Hardin	5-4-1	Indep	5-4-1
1960	Wayne Hardin	9-2	Indep	9-2
1961	Wayne Hardin	7-3	Indep	7-3
1962	Wayne Hardin	5-5	Indep	5-5
1963	Wayne Hardin	9-2	Indep	9-2
1964	Wayne Hardin	3-6-1	Indep	3-6-1
1965	Bill Elias	4-4-2	Indep	4-4-2
1966	Bill Elias	4-6	Indep	4-6
1967	Bill Elias	5-4-1	Indep	5-4-1
1968	Bill Elias	2-8	Indep	2-8



Coach Hardin on the Sidelines Coaching

## 1959 Navy Midshipmen Coach Wayne Hardin



Wayne Hardin was very much alive when he was delivering victory after victory for years for Navy fans and supporters. Wayne Hardin, a Hall of Fame football coach who built standout programs at the United States Naval Academy and Temple University, leading Navy to victory over Army five times in a row and Temple to its first bowl-game win, died eventually in Abington, Pa. He was 91.

He died after having a stroke on Tuesday, his daughter Sheri Hardin said.

During his more than 20 years as a college coach, Hardin developed consistent winners using a multifaceted approach, even when he had stellar quarterbacks.

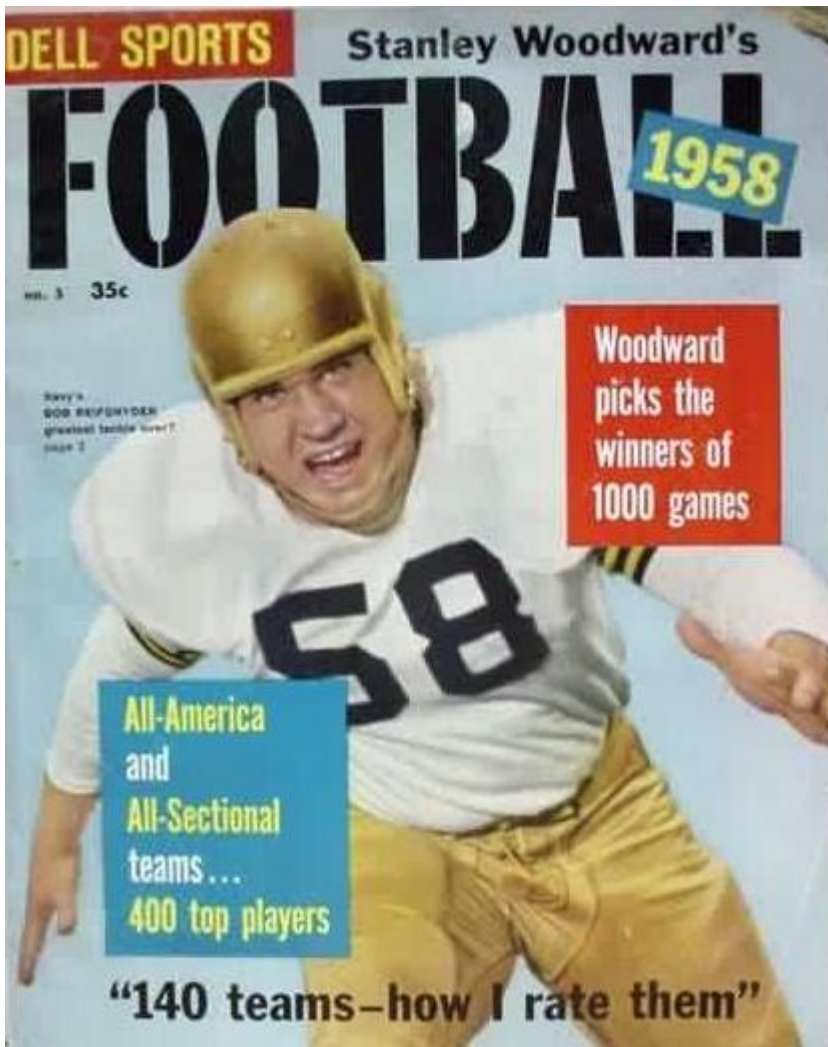
“What we want to achieve more than anything else is balance,” he told *The New York Times* in 1979.

Bill Belichick, the New England Patriots’ head coach, whose father was an assistant coach under Hardin at Navy, said that Hardin had been “very influential in my development as a coach.” Belichick said that he had also copied many of Hardin’s methods and philosophies.

“I admired his brilliant game plans that he developed for opponents with superior personnel,” Belichick, who has won five Super Bowls as a head coach, told Navy football’s website after Hardin’s death.

A great coach is simply a great coach and great coaches often can recognize the greatest of coaches long before the general public knows they exist.

## Great Navy Players Bob Reifsnyder



Reifsnyder could play anywhere, literally.

In the senior year of a stellar Navy football career during which he was named All-American and won the Maxwell Award for being the best player in the country, defensive end Reifsnnyder tore his Achilles tendon and received a medical discharge.

He then became the first Naval Academy graduate to be selected in the NFL draft when he was taken in the fourth round by the Los Angeles Rams in 1959.

The Rams traded him to the New York Giants where he spent the entire season on injured reserve. He joined the Los Angeles Chargers as a free agent but was again traded to a New York team, the Titans. Already slowed by his earlier leg injury, he hung up his cleats for good after he broke his hand midway through his second season with the Titans.

## **The 1959 Navy Season**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1959 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's seventy-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Wayne Hardin in his first of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. They began the season ranked #7 in the pre-season AP Poll. As an independent football entity, the Midshipmen compiled a 5-4-1 record.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the brand-new Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium instead of Thompson Stadium on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

The 1959 Navy Football Team began its season with a nice win against Boston College W (24-8) on September 19, 1959. The opener Was played at Alumni Stadium in Boston, MA.

In the first game at the new stadium, on Sept 26 #13 Navy beat William & Mary at home. The game was the first played in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, MD W (29-2). Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium opened this year and is still the main stadium for the Navy. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus

of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Opened in 1959, it serves as the home stadium of the Navy Midshipmen for college football and lacrosse, and the professional Chesapeake Bayhawks of Major League Lacrosse. The stadium is also the host of the Military Bowl.

On Oct 3, #15 Navy lost at SMU in the Cotton Bowl Stadium Dallas, TX L (7–20). Then on October 10 vs. #12 Syracuse at Foreman Field Norfolk, VA (Oyster Bowl), the Midshipmen lost L (6–32). On Oct 16 at Miami (FL) in the Orange Bowl Stadium Miami, FL, Navy lost L (8–23). On Oct 24 at Penn. The Quakers played the Midshipmen to a tie T (22-22) at Franklin Field Philadelphia, PA.

On Oct 31 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN, the Irish defeated the Midshipmen in a close battle L (22–25) before 58,652. Then, on Nov 7 vs. Maryland at home in Memorial Stadium Baltimore, MD . Navy beat the Terrapins W (22–14). On Nov 14, at home Navy beat George Washington W (16-8) On Nov 28 vs. Army in the classic (Army–Navy Game), Navy pounded the Army W (43-12) at Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia, PA.

## About the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy

Since Air Force would now and forever be involved in the Navy football schedule, it is the right time to acknowledge the existence of the Commander in Chief's Trophy. We pause below to explain it.

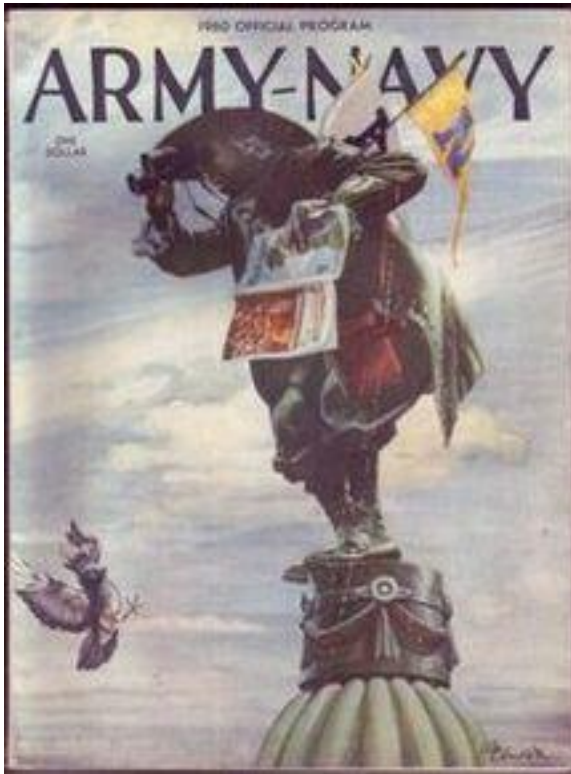
The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is awarded to each season's winner of the American college football triangular series among the teams of the U.S. Military Academy (Army Black Knights), the U.S. Naval Academy (Navy Midshipmen), and U.S. Air Force Academy (Air Force Falcons).

The Navy–Air Force game is traditionally played on the first Saturday in October, the Army–Air Force game on the first Saturday in November, and the Army–Navy Game on the second Saturday in December. In the event of a tie, the award is shared, but the previous winner retains possession of the trophy. Along with the Florida Cup, the Michigan MAC Trophy, and the Beehive Boot, the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is one of the few three-way rivalries that awards a trophy to the winner.

Through 2017, the Air Force Falcons hold the most trophy victories at 20 and the Navy Midshipmen have won 15. The Army Black Knights trail with only seven; their last came just a year ago in 2017. The trophy has been shared on four occasions, last in 1993.

The first Navy v Air Force game came in 1960.

### 1960 Navy Midshipmen Coach Wayne Hardin



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1960 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eightieth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Wayne Hardin in his second of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The offense scored 262 points while the defense allowed 103 points. Led by head coach Wayne Hardin, the Midshipmen finished the season with nine wins (9-2) and an appearance in the Orange Bowl. The Midshipmen were

Lambert Trophy co-champions with undefeated Yale, captained by Mike Pyle. Senior halfback Joe Bellino was awarded the Heisman Trophy and the Maxwell Award.

Navy upset third-ranked Washington in Seattle, which vaulted them up eleven places in the rankings, to sixth. They played Air Force for the first time this season, a 35–3 win in mid-October. They finished ranked #4 in AP.



Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

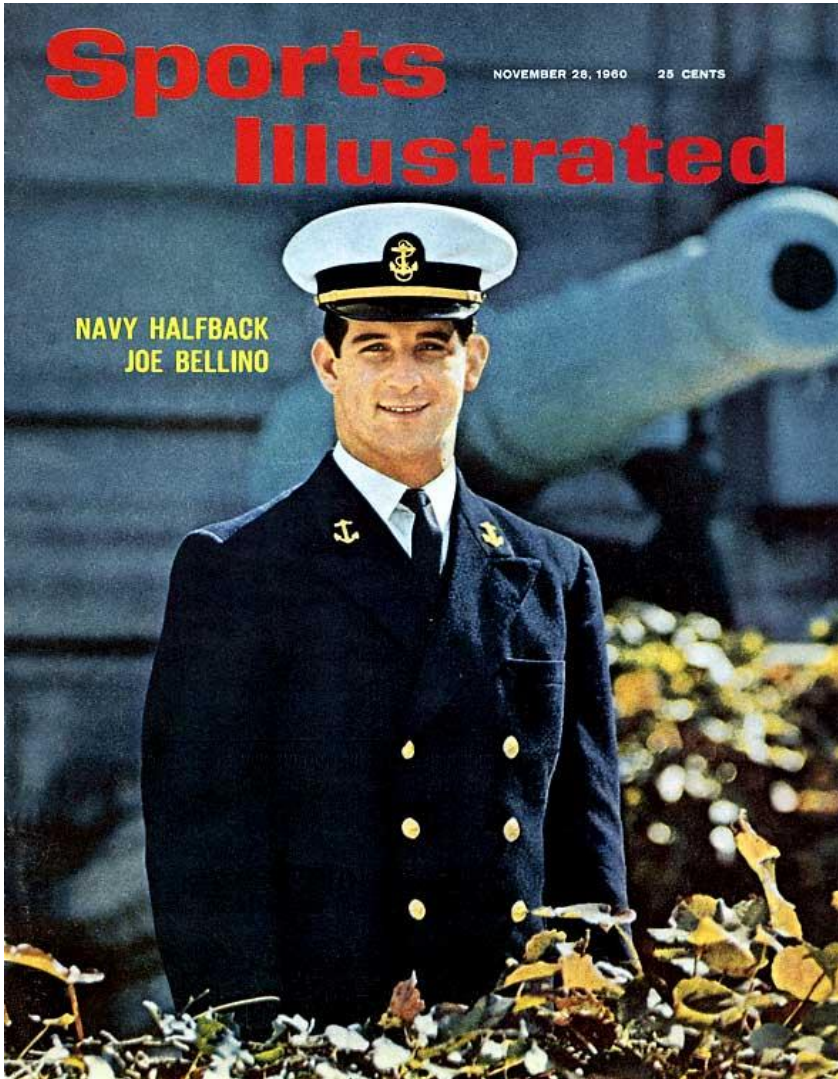
The 1960 Navy Football Team began its season with a nice win against Boston College W (22-7) on September 17, 1959. The opener was played at Alumni Stadium in Boston, MA.

On Sept 24, Navy beat Villanova at home W (41-7). Then, on Oct 1 at #3 Washington, the #17 ranked Midshipmen beat the Huskies in Husky Stadium Seattle, Washington W (15–14) before 57,379. On Oct 8, #6 ranked Navy beat SMU at Foreman Field in Norfolk, Virginia (Oyster Bowl) W (26–7). In the first game of a long series with Air Force, on Oct 15, Navy beat the Air Force at home W (35–3). On Oct 22 at Penn, # 4 ranked Navy shut out the Quakers at Franklin Field Philadelphia, Pennsylvania W 27–0. On Oct 29 at home vs. Notre Dame, # 4 Navy defeated the Irish W (14-7) at Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On Nov 5 at #15 Duke, the #4 Navy squad lost to the Blue Devils at Duke Stadium Durham, North Carolina L (10–19). Then, on Nov 12 #8 Navy beat Virginia at home W (41–6). In the classic (Army–Navy Game). #7 Navy got the best of Army W (17-12) on November 26 at vs. Army at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#4 Navy made it to the Orange Bowl and got their first loss in post-season activity against #5 Missouri in their January 2, 1961 contest played in the Orange Bowl Stadium in Miami, Florida L (14-21) before 71,218.

## Great Navy Player Joe Bellino



The winner of the 1960 Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award as a halfback for Navy, Bellino was drafted in the seventeenth round of the 1961 NFL draft by the Washington Redskins and the nineteenth round of the AFL draft by the Boston Patriots. The “Winchester Rifle” spent the next several years on active duty including an eventful stint in Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile crisis, which he discussed with Naval History magazine in a recent interview.

He managed to play a few games with the semi-pro Providence Steamrollers to stay in shape while stationed in Newport. After Both the Redskins and Patriots pursued him when he resigned from the Navy in 1965, he decided to join the Patriots because they had offered him a contract while the Redskins had only invited him to training camp.

He spent three years with the Boston club primarily as a kick and punt returner before injuries forced him to leave football for a successful career in the business world and Navy Reserves. 1957, 1959 and 1960.

Joe Bellino has lived the American Dream with three successful careers: athletics, the military and business. His seminal moment was winning the 1960 Heisman Trophy as a U.S. Naval Academy college football star. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy with tours in Cuba and Vietnam, played pro football for three years with the Boston Patriots, and today is the director of national accounts for one of the world's largest auto auction companies. Along the way, Bellino served 29 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve, retiring as a captain. Bellino among other things, is an American hero.

Here are a few Bellino *questions posed to the all-time Navy Great*.

How has college football changed from when you won the 1960 Heisman Trophy? In college, you were a running back, you caught and threw passes, punted, returned kicks and played defense.

BELLINO responds:

When I played at Navy, we were always in the top 10 in the country, as was Army. That was because the rules then included single-platoon football, and now it's two-platoon football – offense and defense. We only dressed about 33 players in any game; maybe 20 guys were on the field most of the time, so I very seldom left the field. Also, we only needed then about 15 blue-chip [top-rated] athletes at the Naval Academy, and now colleges need about 50 blue-chip athletes to compete.

Q: What are your memories of playing in Army-Navy games, college football's 114-year-old rivalry?

BELLINO: I was fortunate to win two of the three games, in which I played, and the one we lost was to Army's Pete Dawkins in his Heisman Trophy year [1958], when Army was ranked number one in the country. They were always great games.

A memory was intercepting a pass at the end zone near the end of my senior year's game, when we were ahead 17-12, to solidify the win. John Cox, our publicity director, said after the game, "Hey, Joe, that interception won you the Heisman Trophy."

I smiled and said, "John, that interception prevented me from being the goat of the game," because just prior to that interception, I had fumbled the ball at our own 17- yard line, and Army was going in for a score.

Q: The 2012 Army-Navy game produced the midshipmen's 11th straight win and a heart-breaking loss for the cadets. What are your thoughts on that game?

BELLINO: At times I feel like maybe it's time for Army to win a game. It's really not a good way to end a college sports career, not having defeated the other Service Academy. I know for me, having won my last game against Army, it's something that keeps bouncing back year after year when you meet other graduates of West Point, so it's one-upmanship. All I can say is good for Navy, bad for Army. I was on the field [after the 2012 game] and witnessed the sadness in the Army players' eyes.

Q: After graduating from Annapolis, where were you assigned?

BELLINO: I was on active duty for four years, spending two years on a destroyer out of Norfolk, Va. I was also very active in the [1962] Cuban Missile Crisis, with my ship being down there in one of the fortifications of our Guantanamo Bay facilities.

After two years aboard the destroyer, I went to minesweeping school and became executive officer of a minesweeper that was homeported in Japan, and during the next two years we had three deployments to Vietnam. It was there, when I was bouncing around the South China Sea, that I got a telegram from the Patriots offering me a chance to go to pro football camp.

Q What can you tell us about playing pro football with the Boston Patriots?

BELLINO: That was the summer of '65, and I accepted a contract at Patriot camp, resigned my active commission from the Navy, but stayed in the Reserves.

I played with the Patriots for three years; but unfortunately, the first two years I had a broken ankle. My last year, I was healthy and did very well on punt returns and was also a wide receiver and running back. In my third year, I was picked up by the Cincinnati Bengals in the expansion draft, but at age 30 I was not keen on moving my young family to Cincinnati.

Q; You share Boston and U.S. Navy backgrounds with President John F. Kennedy. What was your relationship with JFK?

BELLINO: My relationship with him started the day I was notified at the Naval Academy that I had won the Heisman Trophy. A sportswriter said, "Joe, you just won the Heisman Trophy to go with the Maxwell, Associated Press, and Chevrolet Player of the Year awards. Is there anything else you would like to accomplish this year?"

I said, "Another guy from Massachusetts did pretty well this year, President-elect Kennedy, so I would like to meet him." The next day, The Washington Post headline was "Bellino wins Heisman Trophy; now wants to meet President-elect Kennedy."

A day later, I got a telegram from JFK saying, "Congratulations, I will send a limousine to the Naval Academy next Saturday, and I want you and all the other boys from Massachusetts to come and have lunch with me at my residence in Georgetown." So we did, and I have a treasured picture from that day.

The next time I met [JFK] was that summer when, as an ensign at the Naval Academy on special duty, they designated me to deliver our class of 1961 yearbook to the president as commander in chief. I went to the White House and presented him our yearbook and spent an hour with him in the Oval Office.

Q Didn't you also have a friendship with Bob Hope, who loved the military?

BELLINO: At the end of my Naval Academy career, Bob had a show called the "Bob Hope Sports Spectacular" where he awarded "The Outstanding College Football Player" and other sports awards. After the rehearsal, he invited me to his home, and there he asked me to call his son to wish him a happy birthday.

That was the beginning of the relationship that lasted years, where I always got invited to his golf tournament and he always called me when he came to Boston. He was my friend, and yes, he was partial to the military.

Q What are the traits that make great leaders?

BELLINO: Preparation, understanding the mission and your job, knowing your people and making sure that they are trained well. Besides JFK, what other great leaders have you encountered?

BELLINO: Bill Belichick, whom I have known since he was 5 years old when his dad, Steve, was my assistant coach at the Naval Academy, falls into that category. By knowing the weaknesses and strengths of his own team – and accentuating the strengths – Bill changes his game plan depending on who he is playing. The key is making people believe their leader will help them win the game by being prepared, having a plan and executing the plan.

Q Are you interested in military history?

BELLINO: Not so much history as the changing technical aspects. The Navy is shrinking in size, so it is not a matter of how many ships and how many men you have in the field; [rather,] it's the equipment they have and the intelligence, which has become such an important part of fighting a battle now, making sure that you know where the enemies are. It is no longer about the most men and the most weapons.

John Ingoldsby conducted this interview. He is a leading writer on the intersection of sports and the military and is president of IIR Sports & Entertainment Inc. (IIRsports.com), a public relations and media firm in Boston.

Originally published in the March 2014 issue of *Armchair General*.

## #5 Best Army Navy Game Ever

1960, Bellino Clinches the Heisman

The 1960 game saw Navy senior Joe Bellino clinch the Heisman Trophy by accounting for 192 all-purpose yards (including defense and special teams) in a 17-12 victory by the Midshipmen.

Nicknamed "The Slasher" by legendary sports writer Red Smith, Bellino carried 20 times for 85 yards, catch a pair of passes for 16 yards and return two kickoffs for 46 yards. He also intercepted a pass and took at 45 yards.

That said, Navy nearly lost a heartbreaker, as the Cadets came back from a 17-0 deficit to cut the Midshipmen's lead to five points after a pair of touchdowns by Al Rushatz.

Army had the ball on the Navy 32 with 1:50 remaining in the contest when Bellino intercepted Tom Blanda's pass in the end zone to seal the win—and the Heisman.

### 1961 Navy Midshipmen Coach Wayne Hardin

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1961 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Wayne Hardin in his third of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Led by head coach Wayne Hardin, the Midshipmen finished the season with seven wins (7-3).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1961 Navy Football Team began its season with a L (10-20) loss against Penn State on September 23, 1961. The opener was played at Beaver Stadium in University Park, PA.

On Sept 30, Navy defeated William & Mary at home W 44–6. On Oct 6, Navy beat Miami (FL) at Orange Bowl Stadium in Miami, FL W (17–6). Then, on Oct at Cornell, Navy beat the Big Red at Schoellkopf Field in Ithaca, NY W (31–7). On Oct 20 at Detroit, Navy prevailed at the University of Detroit Stadium • Detroit, MI W (37-19). On Oct 28 at Pittsburgh, the Panthers beat the Midshipmen at Pitt Stadium Pittsburgh, PA L (14–28).

On Nov 4 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN, Navy beat the Fighting Irish W (13–10) before 59,075. Then, on Nov 11 vs. Duke, the Blue Devils beat the Midshipmen at Foreman Field Norfolk, VA (Oyster Bowl) L (9–30). On Nov 18, Navy beat Virginia at home W (13–3). Then in the Classic (Army–Navy Game) on Dec 2 vs. Army in Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA, Navy won the game W (13–7).

#### **1962 Navy Midshipmen Coach Wayne Hardin**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1962 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Wayne Hardin in his fourth of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Led by head coach Wayne Hardin, the Midshipmen finished the season with five wins (5-5).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1962 Navy Football Team began its season with a L (7-41) loss against Penn State on September 22, 1962. The opener was played at Beaver Stadium in University Park, PA.

On Sept 29, Navy beat William & Mary at home W (20–16). On Oct 6 at Minnesota, the Golden Gophers shut out Navy at Memorial Stadium Minneapolis, MN L (0–21) before 64,364. On Oct 13 at home. Navy shutout Cornell W (41–0). Then, on Oct 13, Navy beat Boston College at Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, MA W (26–6). On



October 27 vs. Pittsburgh at Foreman Field in Norfolk, VA (Oyster Bowl). Navy Beat the Panthers W (32–9)

Then, on November 3 at home vs. Notre Dame in Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Rivalry), Navy lost L (12–20) before 35,000. On Nov 10 at Syracuse in Archbold Stadium Syracuse, NY, the Orangemen beat Navy L (6–34). On Nov 17 at USC in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Los Angeles, CA, the Trojans beat the Midshipmen L (6–13) before 51,701. Then, on Dec 1 in the classic Army-Navy Game Navy defeated Army in Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA W (34–14)

### **1963 Navy Midshipmen Coach Wayne Hardin**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1963 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Wayne Hardin in his fifth of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 9 wins (9-2).

Three years after Joe Bellino got the Heisman under Coach Hardin, Quarterback Roger Staubach won the Heisman Trophy and the Maxwell Award. He led the Midshipmen to a 3-6-1 regular season record. Without Roger Staubach, Navy fell hard after such a great 1963 Coach Hardin resigned after the season ended.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The #9 ranked 1963 Navy Football Team began its season with a W (51-7) win against West Virginia on September 21, 1963. The opener was played at Mountaineer Field in Morgantown, WV.

On Sept 28 #5 Navy shutout William & Mary at home W (28–0). On Oct 5, #6 ranked Navy beat the Wolverines at Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, MI W (26–13) before 55,877. Then on Oct 11 at SMU #4 Navy prevailed at Cotton Bowl Stadium Dallas TX L (28–32) before 37,000. On Oct 19 vs VMI, Navy won the game at Foreman Field Norfolk,

VA (Oyster Bowl) W (21–12). Then, on Oct 26, at home, # 10 Navy beat # 3 Pittsburgh W (24–12).

Then, on Nov 2 at Notre Dame #4 Navy beat the Fighting Irish at Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN W (35–14) before 59,362. On Nov 9, at home, #4 Navy defeated Maryland W (42–7). Then #2 Navy beat Duke at Wallace Wade Stadium • Durham, NC W (38–25). In the season finale in the Army-Navy Game Classic, on December 7 vs. Army, #2 Navy beat the Army W (21-15) at Municipal Stadium Philadelphia, PA W 21–15.

Being the #2 ranked team in the country, Navy played #1 ranked Texas on January 1, 1964. The Longhorns defeated the Midshipmen at Cotton Bowl Stadium Dallas, TX in the (Cotton Bowl Game) Texas won the game L (6–28) before 75,300

## **Great Navy Players Roger Staubach, QB, Navy**

Before joining the Dallas Cowboys, the 1963 Heisman Trophy winner served four years on active duty which included a tour in Vietnam at his request.

The leadership and scrambling ability that “Roger the Dodger” cultivated at the Naval Academy would help him quarterback the Cowboys to four Super Bowls and turn them into a dynasty. An NFL MVP, Super Bowl MVP and six-time Pro Bowl selection, the ultra-competitive Staubach even elicited respect from opposing players and fans. He remains one of the greatest NFL players of all time and a Navy legend. 1961, 1962 and 1963.

Staubach did all his great work for Navy in his junior year when he got the Heisman Trophy. He also did some fine work for his Pro team: the Dallas Cowboys from 1969 to 1979. Even fans of non-Cowboys teams like Roger Staubach because he was a fine man besides a great football player.



There is a skinny as in everything that a pundit can write about. At the college level, Staubach starred at Navy. Heck, he won the Heisman Trophy in 1963.

The Dallas Cowboys took him in the 1964 draft, but as a result of his Navy service obligations and a tour of duty in Vietnam, he could not begin his NFL career until 1969.

He had a great record, 85-29 in the big leagues as a starter, and his NFL resume includes two Super Bowl titles, a Super Bowl MVP,

six Pro Bowls and enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. I know that I cannot top that, and I bet you can't either.

Roger Staubach, in full Roger Thomas Staubach, byname Roger the Dodger, was born February 5, 1942 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Yes, of course he was an American collegiate and professional gridiron football quarterback. That's why we are talking about him plus he played for Navy.

He was an important factor in the establishment of the National Football League (NFL) Dallas Cowboys as a dominant team in the 1970s.

Regarding Navy, as the QB great coach Wayne Hardin picked in 1963, to run the Navy offense, Staubach played his college football at the U.S. Naval Academy (1962–65). He was a quarterback and he gained 4,253 yards (3,571 yards by passing) and he scored 18 touchdowns. He was named All-American and he won the Heisman Trophy as a junior as the best collegiate player in 1963.

Though Vietnam was blazing, he served in the U.S. Navy (1965–69) following graduation from the academy.

During Staubach's career with the Cowboys (1969–79), they were in the playoffs every year but one (1974) and played in four Super Bowl games, winning in the 1971 and 1977 seasons.

Staubach did not regret his Navy career, instead he led the league in passer rating in four seasons (1971, 1973, 1978–79). In his career, Staubach, known as “Captain Comeback,” rallied the Cowboys to victory in 14 games in which, with two minutes to play, they were either tied or losing.

His wholesome image and professional demeanor, together with those of his coach, Tom Landry, were a major part of the Cowboy's characterization as “America's Team” in the 1970s. Dallas was not then the most unliked team in the NFL.

Staubach announced his retirement from football in 1979 and was briefly a sports announcer. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985. He later received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2018).

Much of this was provided by the Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica.

#### **1964 Navy Midshipmen Coach Wayne Hardin**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1964 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Wayne Hardin in his sixth and last of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 3 wins (3-6-1). It was Coach Hardin's only losing season at Navy.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium

located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1964 Navy Football Team began its season with a W (21-8) win against Penn State on September 19, 1964. The opener was played at Beaver Stadium University Park, Pennsylvania.

On Sept 26 #10 Navy beat William & Mary at home, W (35-6). On Oct 3 at #8 Michigan, #6 Navy was shutout at Michigan Stadium (The Big House) in Ann Arbor, Michigan L (0-21) before 70,608. On Oct 9 vs. Georgia Tech in Gator Bowl Stadium Jacksonville, Florida, the Yellow Jackets defeated the Midshipmen. On Oct 17 at California in Memorial Stadium Berkeley, California, Cal defeated Navy L (13-27). On Oct 24 at Pittsburgh, in Pitt Stadium • Pittsburgh, Navy and Pitt played to a tie T (14-14)

On Oct 31 vs #2 Notre Dame in JFK Stadium Philadelphia, the Irish walloped the Midshipmen L (0-40) before 66,752. On Nov 7 at Maryland in Byrd Stadium College Park, Maryland, the Terrapins beat the Midshipmen L 22-27. On Nov 14, at home, Navy beat Duke W (27-14). In the game that counts the most each Navy football year, the Midshipmen lost a close game against Army on November 28 in JFK Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game) L (8-11).

## **Wayne Hardin, A Great Navy Coach**

Wayne Hardin left Navy after his only bad season perhaps—but he was a winner for sure. Hardin was great at Navy and then he spent 13 seasons as head coach for Temple, leading them to an 80-52-3 record from 1970-82. He became an inductee of the College Football Hall of Fame (2013), and he remains Temple's all-time winningest coach. He was always a fine man and a fine coach.



Before becoming the coach at North Broad, Hardin was an assistant coach at Navy in 1955. He took over as head coach in 1959 and he spent six seasons at the helm, where he had a nice record of 38-22-2. We just finished discussing his Navy Legacy but that is not all he left behind. His Navy teams produced two Heisman Trophy winners while he was at Navy - Joe Bellino in 1960 and Roger Staubach in 1963. What a legacy. There were no other Heisman's at Navy over its well over 100 years.

When Hardin passed away in April 2017, he had many eulogies from many people. There were many who have their own legacy and many who that Wayne Hardin for teaching them how to achieve a legacy. One of those is New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick. Belichick had a close relationship with Hardin, whose father Steve served as an assistant under Hardin.

*"I spent many hours in Coach Hardin's home when he coached at Navy and was extremely close with his family," said Belichick, "I learned so much from watching Coach Hardin coach the Navy teams and I continued to follow his career at Temple and I admired his brilliant game plans that he developed for opponents with superior personnel."*

Hardin coached some great players in addition to Staubach and Bellino. Steve Joachim won the 1974 Maxwell Award, and Joe Klecko, Randy Grossman, Kevin Ross and Bill Singletary all played in

the NFL. He also led Navy to the 1963 National Championship game against Texas.

*"The Naval Academy is heartbroken over the loss of one of our icons," said Naval Academy Director of Athletics Chet Gladchuk. "He was not only a great coach, but a special person that had the respect of everyone who played for him and knew him as a great leader. Coach Hardin set the bar in how we measure excellence at the Naval Academy. He has remained close to the Naval Academy and many of his former players through the course of his retirement. We have shared some special moments with him over the years when we have invited back some of his greatest Navy teams. He will truly be missed, but Wayne Hardin will never ever be forgotten by the Navy family."*

Between Navy and Temple, Hardin's career coaching record was 118-74-5. He was inducted into Temple's Hall of Fame in 1994, and in an era where the coaching carousel is never ending, it's hard to imagine another coach supplanting him as Temple's all-time leader in wins. He was a great coach and his leaving Navy after just six years truly was a big loss for the Naval Academy. He had helped Navy be accustomed to great seasons. It was not the same when Coach Wayne Hardin had left the campus.

### **1965 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Elias**

William T. Elias (March 15, 1923 – June 28, 1998) was a fine football coach. He served as the head coach at George Washington University, the University of Virginia, and the United States Naval Academy. Elias compiled a career college football record of 36–48–5.

William "Bill" Elias attended Martins Ferry High School in Martins Ferry, Ohio. He starred on the football and basketball teams and then went on to college at the University of Maryland. He was a guard on the football team in 1945 and 1946 but did not earn a varsity letter.

Elias tried his hand at coaching first at Richmond High School in Richmond, Indiana from 1950 to 1952. In his last two seasons there, he led two undefeated teams to consecutive North Central Conference championships and set the longest Indiana interscholastic winning streak at 22 games. In 1956, Elias was promoted from an assistant position to head backfield coach at Purdue. In 1960, he received his first collegiate head coaching position at George Washington, where he compiled a 5–3–1 record. From 1961 to 1964, he coached at

Virginia, where he compiled a 16–23–1 record. From 1965 to 1968, he coached at Navy, where he compiled a 15–22–3 record.

In 1969 Elias was hired as an assistant coach for the Boston Patriots of the American Football League (AFL).



<< Bill Elias

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1965 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Bill Elias in his first of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 4 wins (4-4-2).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1965 Navy Football Team began its season with a L (6-14) loss against Syracuse at home on September 18, 1965. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 25 at Stanford, the cardinal tied the Midshipmen T (7-7) at Stanford Stadium Stanford, California, On Oct 2 at Oklahoma, Navy won the match in Oklahoma Memorial Stadium Norman, Oklahoma W 10–0 before 56,148. On Oct 9, Navy defeated William & Mary at home W (42-14). Then, on Oct 16 vs. Pittsburgh in DC Stadium, Washington, D.C, the Midshipmen defeated the Panthers W (12–0). On Oct 23 at Georgia Tech, Navy suffered a loss at Grant Field in Atlanta GA L (16–37). Then, on Oct 30, playing in Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana against the # 4 Fighting Irish, Navy could not keep up and lost the game L ( 3–29) before 59,206



On Nov 6 at home, Navy beat Maryland W (19–7). On Nov 13 at Penn State in Beaver Stadium University Park, Pennsylvania, the Nittany Lions beat Navy L (6–14). Then on November 27 vs. Army in a game played at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game), the game found no victor as its conclusion was another tie T (7–7).

### 1966 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Elias



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1966 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Bill Elias in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 4 wins (4-6).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1966 Navy Football Team began its season with a W (27-7) win against Boston College at home on September 17, 1966. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 24 at SMU, Navy was defeated in the Cotton Bowl Stadium Dallas, TX L (3-21) before 58,000. On Oct 1 at Air Force in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO. Navy lost L (7–15). On Oct 8 at Syracuse in Archbold Stadium • Syracuse, NY, the Orangemen

triumphed over Navy L (14–28). Then, on Oct 15 at Pittsburgh in Pitt Stadium • Pittsburgh, PA, Navy prevailed W 24-7. On Oct 22 at home, Navy beat William & Mary W (21–0)

On Oct 29 vs. Notre Dame in JFK Stadium, Philadelphia, PA, the Midshipmen lost to the Irish L (7–31) before 70,101. On Nov 5 at home, Navy lost to Duke L (7–9). Then, on Nov 12 at Vanderbilt's Dudley Field in Nashville, TN, Navy beat the Commodores W (30–14). Wrapping up the 1966 season on Nov 26 vs. Army in JFK Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Army–Navy Game), Navy was defeated L (7–20)

### **1967 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Elias**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1967 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Bill Elias in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 5 wins (5-4-1).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1967 Navy Football Team began its season with a W (23-22) win against Penn State at home before 20,101 on September 23, 1967. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 30 at Rice in Rice Stadium Houston, TX, the Owls defeated Navy L (7–21). Then, on Oct 7 at Michigan in Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, MI. Navy beat the Wolverines W 26–21 before 72,361. On Oct 14 at home, Navy beat Syracuse W (27–14). Then, on Oct 21 at home, William & Mary defeated the Navy L 16–27. On Oct 28 at Pittsburgh's Pitt Stadium • Pittsburgh, PA, the Midshipmen beat the Panthers W (22–21)

On Nov 4 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN the Fighting Irish beat Navy L (14–43) before 59075. Then, on Nov 5 Duke beat Navy at Foreman Field Norfolk, VA (Oyster Bowl) L (16–35). On Nov 18, at home, Vanderbilt tied Navy T (35–35). Then, in the classic Army-Navy Game, Navy defeated army on Dec 2 at JFK Stadium Philadelphia, PA W (19–14).

### 1968 Navy Midshipmen Coach Bill Elias

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1968 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Bill Elias in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with just 2 wins (2-8-0).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.



Bill Elias, the Coach of the Navy football team with the Captain of the Navy football team, Bill Dow

The 1968 Navy Football Team began its season with a L (6-31) loss against Penn State on September 21 at Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania before 49,273.

On Sept 28, Navy lost to Boston College at home L (15-49). Then, on October 5 at Michigan, Navy lost to the Wolverines at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Michigan L (9-32) before 56,501. On Oct 12, Air Force beat Navy at Soldier Field in Chicago L (20-26). Then, on Oct 19, Navy beat Pittsburgh at home W (17-16). At home on Oct 26, Virginia beat Navy L (0-24).

On Nov 2 vs. Notre Dame at JFK Stadium Philadelphia the Irish beat the Midshipmen L (14-45) before 63,738. Then, on Nov 9 at Georgia Tech in Grant Field Atlanta, the Midshipmen beat the Yellow Jackets W (35-15). On Nov 16 at Syracuse's Archbold Stadium in Syracuse, New York, Navy lost to the Orangemen L (6-44). On Nov 30 in the classic Army v Navy Game, the Cadets beat the Midshipmen at JFK Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game) in a close game L (14-21)

## Chapter 14 Coaches Rick Forzano & George Welsh 1969-1981

Forzano      Coach # 30  
 Welsh        Coach # 31

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1969	Rick Forzano	1-9	Indep	1-9
1970	Rick Forzano	2-9	Indep	2-9
1971	Rick Forzano	3-8	Indep	3-8
1972	Rick Forzano	4-7	Indep	4-7
1973	George Welsh	4-7	Indep	4-7
1974	George Welsh	4-7	Indep	4-7
1975	George Welsh	7-4	Indep	7-4
1976	George Welsh	4-7	Indep	4-7
1977	George Welsh	5-6	Indep	5-6
1978	George Welsh	9-3	Indep	9-3
1979	George Welsh	7-4	Indep	7-4
1980	George Welsh	8-4	Indep	8-4
1981	George Welsh	7-4-1	Indep	7-4-1



Rick Forzano Navy Head Coach (middle) 1969 with Jeff Krstich & Dan Pike

**1969 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rick Forzano**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1969 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's eighty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Rick Forzano in his first of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with just 1-win wins (1-9-0).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1969 Navy Football Team began its season with a L (22-45) loss at home against Penn State on September 20 before 28,796. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 27 at Boston College's Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, BC beat Navy L (14–21). On Oct 4 at Texas in Memorial Stadium Austin, Texas, the Longhorns beat Navy L (17–56) before 63,500. On Oct 11 at Pittsburgh in Pitt Stadium, Pittsburgh PA, the Panthers beat Navy L 19–46. On Oct 18 at Rutgers in Rutgers Stadium Piscataway, New Jersey, Navy lost L (6–20). On Oct 25 at home, Navy beat Virginia for its only win of the year W (10-0).

On Nov 1 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Fighting Irish shut-out the Navy L (0–47) before 59,075. On Nov 7, at Miami (FL) in the Orange Bowl Stadium Miami FL, the Hurricanes beat the Midshipmen L (10–30). Then, on Nov 15 at home, Syracuse beat Navy, L 0–15. On Nov vs. Army at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game), Army beat Navy L (0–27).

**1970 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rick Forzano**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1970 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninetieth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Rick Forzano in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with just 2 wins (2-

9). Navy won its first game v Colgate and its last game v Army and lost nine games in-between. Tough season.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1970 Navy Football Team began its season with a W (48-22) Win at home against Colgate on September 12. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 19 at Penn State’s Beaver Stadium University Park, Pennsylvania PSU defeated the Navy L (7–55) before 48,566. On Sept 26, at home, Boston College beat the Navy L (14–28). Then, on Oct 3 at Washington in Husky Stadium in Seattle WA, the Huskies beat the Midshipmen L (7–56) before 55,292. On Oct 10 at home, Pittsburgh defeated Navy L (8–10). Then, on Oct 17 vs. Air Force at RFK Stadium Washington, D.C. the Falcons defeated Navy L (3–26). Then, on Oct 24 at Syracuse in Archbold Stadium Syracuse, New York, the Orangemen defeated the Midshipmen L (8–23)

On Oct 31, Notre Dame beat Navy in JFK Stadium Philadelphia, PA L (7–56) before 45,226. On Nov 7 at Georgia Tech in Grant Field • Atlanta GA, the Yellow Jackets beat Navy L (8–30). Then on Nov 14 at home, Villanova beat Navy L (10–14). Saving the season for Navy was this November 28 victory over Army W (11-7) in a game played at JFK Stadium Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game) W (11–7)

### **1971 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rick Forzano**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1971 college football season. It was the Naval Academy’s ninety-first season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Rick Forzano in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with just 2 wins (2-9).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium

located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1971 Navy Football Team began its season on September 11, 1971 with a W (10-6) win at Virginia in Scott Stadium Charlottesville, Virginia.

On Sept 18 at home, Penn State beat Navy L (3-56) before 26,855. On Sept 25 at Boston College, the Eagles beat Navy in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts L (6-49). Then, on Oct 2 at Michigan, the Wolverines shutout the Midshipmen at Michigan Stadium (the Big House) Ann Arbor, Michigan L (0-46) before 68,168. On Oct 9 at Pittsburgh in Pitt Stadium Pittsburgh PA, the Panthers edged out the Midshipmen L (35-3). Then, on Oct 15 at Miami (FL) in the Orange Bowl Stadium, the Hurricanes beat the Midshipmen L (16-31). At home on Oct 23, Navy nosed out Duke W (15-14).

On Oct 30 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Fighting Irish shut out the Midshipmen L (0-21) before 59,075. On Nov 6, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech defeated the Midshipmen of Navy at Grant Field Atlanta L (21-34). Then, on Nov 13, at home, Navy defeated Syracuse W (17-14). Then to cap off the season, Navy was nosed out by Army in the classic held on Nov 27 in JFK Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game) L (23-24)

### **1972 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rick Forzano**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1972 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-second season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Rick Forzano in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 4 wins (4-7). Navy kept winning more each year for Coach Forzano but none of his four seasons were great. The coach resigned after this season.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.



The 1972 Navy Football Team began its season on September 16, 1972 with a W (13-9) win at home against William and Mary. The opener was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 23 at Penn State in Beaver Stadium University Park, Pennsylvania, the Nittany Lions beat the Midshipmen L (10-21) before 50,547. On Sept 30 at home, Navy beat Boston College W (27-20) Michigan then beat Navy on Oct 2 at the Huge Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, Michigan L (7-35) before crowd of 81,131.

On Oct 14 at Syracuse's Archbold Stadium Syracuse, New York. The Orangemen defeated the Midshipmen L (14-30). On Oct 21 at Air Force in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado (for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Navy won W (21-17). Then, on Oct 28 Duke edged out Navy at Foreman Field Norfolk, Virginia (Oyster Bowl)L (16-17)

On Nov 4, Notre Dame beat Navy at home playing in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA L (23-42) before 43,089. Then, on Nov 11 at home, Navy beat Pittsburgh W (28-13). On Nov 18, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech beat Navy at Grant Field Atlanta, GA L (7-30). Playing for the Commander in Chief's Trophy with a win already in the bank from Oct 21 v Air Force, on Dec 2 at JFK Stadium Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the Army-Navy Game, the Army won L (15-23).

Since Army beat Air Force W (17-14), Army won the Commander in Chief's Trophy in 1972, the first year all three teams played each other.

## **Rick Forzano leaves Navy**

On Feb. 1, 1973, Rick Forzano resigned as head football coach at the United States Naval Academy today to become an assistant coach under Don McCafferty with the Detroit Lions.

Forzano, 44 years old, had posted a 10-33 won-lost record in four seasons at Navy. The enduring power of Navy coaches for years was

not their overall record but how well they did against Army. Forzano's Middies lost three of four games to Army during his tenure.

It was Forzano's second stint at Navy, where he served as an assistant under Wayne Hardin from 1959 to 1963. During that time, the Middies went to two postseason games, losing to Missouri in the Orange Bowl and to Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

Forzano previously coached in the National Football League, at St. Louis (1966–67) and at Cincinnati (1968). On the college level, Forzano was an assistant at Wooster in 1956, and then served as backfield coach at his alma mater, Kent State, in 1957–58. McCafferty was an assistant at Kent State at the same time.

## Navy Appoints New Coach George Welsh



This piece was written in 2017 when Virginia and Navy were competing in the Military Bowl. There is no better way to show the coaching prowess of Navy Coach Bill Welsh than by using this great article by Bill Wagner. A sincere “Thank You” to capgaznews.com.

Bill Wagner is the Contact Reporter (bwagner@capgaznews.com)

When Navy versus Virginia was announced as the 2017 Military Bowl matchup, football fans of both schools immediately thought of one name: George Welsh.

Welsh is the tie that binds these two institutions, having served as head coach at Navy and Virginia during his distinguished 38-year career in college football. He is still revered in both Annapolis and Charlottesville for transforming downtrodden programs into winners.

Welsh was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2004 because of the tremendous job he performed in rebuilding the Midshipmen and reviving the Cavaliers. He compiled a 55-46-1 record

with three bowl berths in nine seasons at Navy then amassed a 134-86-3 mark with 12 postseason appearances in 19 seasons at Virginia.

Until recently, Welsh was the all-time winningest football coach at both Navy and Virginia, and he will always remain a legendary figure at the two schools.



<< George Welsh

Military Bowl organizers would have loved to honor Welsh in some way to celebrate his connection to the participants in this year's game, being held Dec. 28 at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

However, the 84-year-old Welsh recently underwent a hip replacement and is still recovering from that surgery at his Charlottesville home. In a short telephone interview with The Capital on Friday morning, Welsh expressed pleasure that his two former schools were playing in the postseason and regret that he could not be in attendance.

"I would love to go, but it's too much of a risk," Welsh told The Capital in a brief interview on Friday. "I think it will be a good game and I'm certainly not choosing sides. I wish nothing but the best for Navy and Virginia. I'm happy to see both programs doing well these days."

Navy and Virginia have not met on the football field since 1994 when Welsh was still striding the sidelines. This will be the 40th game in series history with Welsh taking part in 15 of those. He went 4-1 against Virginia while at Navy then was 7-3 versus the Midshipmen after taking over the Cavaliers.

All three losses to Navy came from 1983 through 1986 when Welsh was still turning around the moribund program at Virginia. It became somewhat of a mismatch after Welsh got things rolling in Charlottesville as the series closed with the Cavaliers outscoring the Midshipmen 211-34 over the course of five straight victories that included two shutouts.

#### ALL-TIME GREAT

Welsh came out of Coaldale, Pennsylvania, so named because it was founded as a company town of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation

company. Welsh was a two-sport standout recruited by a pair of Ivy League schools in Columbia and Yale, but his father was a Navy fan and pushed him toward the service academy.

Welsh would become one of Navy's all-time greats as a three-year varsity letterman and two-year starting quarterback under renowned head coach Eddie Erdelatz. In 1954, the 162-pound field general was the heart and soul of what became known as "The Team Named Desire," leading Navy to an 8-2 record and stunning upset of Mississippi in the Sugar Bowl.

"That '54 team was one of the best in Navy history. Maybe not as good as the (Roger) Staubach teams, but almost. Because I was no Staubach," the unassuming Welsh remarked many times.

As a senior in 1955, Welsh led the nation in total offense and passing yards while setting eight school records en route to finishing third in the Heisman Trophy voting behind eventual winner Howard Cassady.

When Welsh was a young officer in 1960 and '61, he was assigned to the Naval Academy and served as a volunteer assistant for head coach Wayne Hardin. Sandy Welsh, who had met her husband on a blind date when he was a midshipman, remembers him saying "I could be very good at this," in reference to coaching football.

Welsh would serve eight years in the Navy, rising to the rank of lieutenant before being discharged in 1963. He considered law school before choosing coaching as a profession, joining the staff of head coach Rip Engle at Penn State.

In the early years, Welsh developed a close friendship with fellow assistant Joe Paterno, who would succeed Engle as head coach in 1966. After 10 years in State College, Welsh returned to Annapolis when his alma mater came calling. Captain J.O. "Bo" Coppedge, the longtime Naval Academy athletic director, had considered Welsh before hiring Rick Forzano in 1969. He would not make the same mistake in 1972 after Forzano left to become an assistant with the Detroit Lions.

## REBUILDING THE MIDSHIPMEN

Navy had managed only two winning seasons since going 9-3 under Hardin when future Admiral Tom Lynch was captain in 1963. There were six straight losing seasons under Forzano and predecessor Bill Elias as the emergence of professional football and the ongoing Vietnam War made it very difficult to recruit.

After going 4-7 in his first year, Welsh directed a dramatic turnaround that produced a 7-4 record in 1975 when future College Football Hall of Famer Chet Moeller was the defensive captain. Alumni and fans were ecstatic about the sudden change in fortunes, but there would be two more losing seasons before Welsh really got things going.

Navy broke through in 1978, finishing 9-3 and earning a berth in the Holiday Bowl. It was the first postseason appearance since 1964 for Navy, which beat Brigham Young behind the play of offensive captain Phil McConkey.

“It took five years to get my head above water,” Welsh told William Gildea of the Washington Post during a 1989 interview for a retrospective story to commemorate his 100th career coaching victory.

The Midshipmen went 33-15-1 with three bowl berths during the final four years of the Welsh era. Naturally, administrators around the college football world took note of what Welsh had done to restore Navy to national prominence.

Beginning in 1978, there were constant rumors that other schools were after Welsh with LSU and Stanford among the most notable suitors. Welsh, who posted a stellar 7-1-1 record against archrival Army, admitted this week that he interviewed with several major colleges, but things never went further.

“There was interest, but the offers never came,” he said. “The bottom line was that I wasn’t ready to leave Navy at that time. I was still developing as a head coach and I wanted to make sure I put the Navy program on solid ground.”

Because Welsh had seemingly eschewed stronger football schools, Coppedge was relatively unconcerned when Virginia reached out in 1981. “Get in line,” Coppedge told Virginia athletic director Dick Schultz when contacted for permission to speak with Welsh.

“Bo and I were good friends and he just kind of chuckled and said, ‘go ahead and try.’ I think Bo figured if George had turned down LSU and Stanford there was no way he would go to Virginia,” Schultz said.

Schultz, who retired to Colorado Springs after serving as chairman of the United States Olympic Committee, told The Capital how he identified Welsh as the man to lead Virginia football out of the wilderness.

The Cavaliers had compiled an embarrassing record of 33-121-11 in the Atlantic Coast Conference and never been to a bowl when Schultz decided to address the sad situation. Virginia had finished above .500 just twice from 1953 to 1981, leading many at the university to believe success in football was hopeless.

“When I was hired as athletic director in 1980, the president told me not to worry about football, that the alumni and boosters were content with being good at basketball,” recalled Schultz, who had been a head coach on the hardwood at Iowa and elsewhere during his career.

“I was a basketball guy, but I knew that football was the cornerstone of any athletic program. I was determined to get things turned around.” Schultz had been on the job for only one year when he fired head coach Dick Bestwick following a miserable 1-10 campaign. He had spent the entire season evaluating the program and formulating what it would take to win in Charlottesville. Previous head coaches had complained about the entrance requirements at Virginia so Schultz knew he needed to find someone who would not make that an excuse.

“I thought about who I could hire that would not be deterred by the honor code and academic standards. I figured anyone who could succeed at a service academy could do the same at Virginia, and the closer I looked at George Welsh the more I believed he would be the perfect fit,” Schultz said.

After obtaining permission from Coppedge, Schultz set up a private meeting with Welsh at a hotel near BWI Airport. They hit it off immediately and engaged in a lengthy, productive conversation. “George asked to take time to think about it and speak with his family,” Schultz said. “I knew there was a chance when he decided to take a deeper look at the job.”

Eventually, Welsh called Schultz and delivered a direct, succinct message.

“I’m coming to Virginia and you’re getting one hell of a football coach,” Schultz vividly remembers Welsh saying.

## LOSING A GREAT COACH

Schultz and Welsh had hoped to keep the hiring hush-hush until after Navy played in the 1981 Liberty Bowl against Ohio State. However, word leaked, and Welsh was forced to come clean when contacted by several newspapers.

On December 15, the Washington Post reported that Welsh and Virginia had agreed to a multi-year contract and the formal announcement would be made the next day during a press conference in Charlottesville. Welsh told reporter David DuPree that he informed the Navy players of his decision during an evening meeting in Ricketts Hall.

“I told the squad that there’s a time to stay and a time to leave and, for me, I feel it’s time to leave,” he said. “The meeting lasted 15 minutes and I did all the talking. There weren’t any questions. Besides, what could they say? I’m going to see them all again Thursday anyway.”

There was not much Navy could do to keep Welsh, whose reported annual salary of \$70,000 at Virginia signified a major raise. Coppedge is believed to have offered a plot in the Naval Academy cemetery, which is exclusive territory.

“In private conversations, Captain Bo told George that he would buy him a tombstone on the hill if he decided to stay,” was the recollection of Bob Caldwell, who was the Naval Academy Deputy Director of Athletics in 1981.

In reality, it was a combination of money and ambition that ultimately led Welsh to leave Navy for Virginia. Retired four-star Admiral Leon “Bud” Edney confirmed that the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act declared that no employee of the Naval Academy could receive a salary greater than the highest paid professor, which was around \$45,000 in those days.

“George was very loyal to the Naval Academy, but we just could not meet Virginia’s salary offer at that time,” said Edney, who was Commandant of Midshipmen and head of the Naval Academy Athletic Association Board of Directors in 1981. “We certainly wanted to keep George and exhausted every possibility to do so.”

Edney believes the cost of college education for four children was a key factor in Welsh’s decision. Virginia offered free tuition as part of its deal and Matt Welsh wound up graduating from the school that employed his father.

“I personally believed that George’s children were approaching college and he made the decision based largely on having the means to educate them,” Edney said. “I know a lot of people were quite upset about losing such a great coach who had made Navy football respectable again. I certainly was not mad at George for leaving. He was a graduate who served the Navy very well throughout his life.”

Welsh would later tell *The Washington Post* that he also felt like he had put in the proper amount of service to the United States Navy.

“I had worked in a military organization for four years as a midshipman, seven years as a commissioned officer and nine years as a coach,” Welsh said. “That was my 20, I figured. I’d paid the government back.”

Speaking to *The Capital* on Friday, Welsh related that he also had a strong desire to compete among the upper echelon of college football. Virginia was a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference and therefore presented a very real avenue to a national championship.

“I thought if I was ever going to find out if I could succeed at the highest level, I need to do it now,” he said. “Money was part of the equation, but the big factor in my mind was that I wanted to compete at the highest level. I was 48 years old and just thought the time was right and the opportunity was a good one.”

## CREATING A LASTING LEGACY

Virginia had hit rock bottom during Bestwick’s tenure, going 16-49-1 in six seasons. Welsh took over a program so bad its team was mockingly referred to as the “Cadavaliers.”

Bestwick had told Schultz that he couldn’t get top prospects because of the academic demands. Welsh would not accept that Virginia should lose recruits to North Carolina and Virginia Tech, embracing the school’s elite academic reputation as his primary selling point.

“George was the No. 1 choice right from the start. For Virginia to be successful in football you needed someone who could work within the framework of the university. George was willing to do that,” Schultz said. “George enjoyed a fantastic tenure at Virginia. It wound up being a win-win for everyone.”

Welsh brought to Virginia the same philosophy he had employed at Navy, running the program by the Blue Angels maxim of “you fight like you train, so train like you fight.” Welsh led the Cavaliers to a 6-5 record in just his second season and the breakthrough came the following year.

In 1984, Virginia went 8-2-2 and earned a berth in the Peach Bowl, the first postseason appearance in program history. The Cavaliers were a model of consistency from there on out, winning at least seven games every year from 1987 through 1999.



“George’s forte as a coach was his ability to evaluate personnel and put players in the right places,” said Gary Tranquill, an assistant to Welsh at both Navy and Virginia.

Welsh was always known for his methodical preparation, detailed practice schedules, knowledge of Xs and Os and ability to stay current with the latest offensive innovations.

“George is constantly changing, constantly looking for new ideas and methods,” Paterno told *The Washington Post*.

Welsh directed Virginia to a pair of firsts in 1989 — an ACC Championship and a 10-win season. He produced 20 first team All-Americans and had eight players selected in the first round of the NFL Draft.

Welsh brought almost his entire staff from Navy to Virginia — good, young assistants such as Tom O’Brien, Frank Spaziani, Bob Pechtel and Ken Mack. He brought in Tony Wittlesey and Art Markos, whom he had known from his days at Penn State.

“I had a great staff and that really helped with the transition. It was a young, energetic group of assistants and they were all very good recruiters,” Welsh said.

Welsh admits he made one mistake when deciding to accept the Virginia job. He never bothered to tour the football facilities, which were significantly sub-standard and antiquated. It was directly a result of the success Welsh enjoyed that Virginia was able to upgrade its facilities, completing an \$86 million expansion and renovation of Scott Stadium one year before he retired. Nowadays, the Cavaliers routinely utilize the George Welsh Indoor Practice Facility.

“I’m pretty proud of what we were able to accomplish at Virginia,” Welsh said. “We changed the culture of the football program and made it something valuable to the university.”

## RIDING OFF INTO THE SUNSET

Associated Press writer Hank Kurz Jr. reported that a “tearful George Welsh” announced his retirement as Virginia football coach on Monday, Dec. 11, 2000. Welsh, the winningest coach in ACC history at the time, had declined a lucrative two-year contract extension citing fatigue and health.

Welsh, who was 67 years old at the time, mentioned that he underwent back surgery during the offseason for three straight years.

“Without a doubt, this has been the most difficult decision of my coaching career,” he said. “I admit I changed my mind on this many times. By this past weekend, it was clear to me that I should retire. What one has to do as a head football coach at this level to be really good is very draining.”

Virginia finished 6-6 in Welsh’s final season after losing to Georgia in the Oahu Bowl. John Casteen, the school president at the time, called the task of replacing Welsh “gargantuan.” O’Brien, who spent a total of 22 seasons (seven at Navy, 15 at Virginia) as Welsh’s assistant before getting his first head coaching job at Boston College, was mentioned by numerous news outlets as the leading candidate.

O’Brien, a 1971 Naval Academy graduate, spent the bulk of his time under Welsh as an offensive line coach. He was the first assistant ever given the title of offensive coordinator by Welsh.

Boston College had become a strong program under O’Brien, who was not willing to give up the security he had in Chestnut Hill to start over as head coach at Virginia.

“I had a good thing going at BC. Besides, who wants to follow George Welsh?” said O’Brien, who is also retired from coaching and now works as the color analyst for Navy football radio broadcasts.

It just so happened that Boston College was playing Arizona State in the Aloha Bowl in 2000, just a day after Virginia played Georgia in the Oahu Bowl. Welsh had announced his retirement while the head coaches at Georgia (Jim Donnan) and Arizona State (Bruce Snyder) had both been fired.

“I remember there were four coaches in Hawaii that year and I was the only one that still had a job,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien learned a lesson about following Welsh from Tranquill, who had succeeded his former boss at Navy. Tranquill led the Midshipmen to a 6-5 record in 1982 with the players Welsh had left behind. An upset of second-ranked South Carolina in 1984 was another highlight, but Navy endured four straight losing seasons and Tranquill was fired after going 3-8 in 1986.

“It’s always hard to follow someone who had considerable success,” said Tranquill, who had a 20-34-1 record at Navy in five years at Navy. “We were okay the first year, but things went downhill. I don’t make any excuses, but the schedule was quite difficult.”

Indeed, Navy played a litany of major conference schools in those days such as Arkansas, Mississippi State, Syracuse, Virginia, and Pittsburgh in addition to the annual meeting with Notre Dame.

Linebacker Andy Ponseigo, co-captain of the 1983 team and one of Navy's all-time greats, remembers Tranquill as a "very knowledgeable football coach." Ponseigo said the Midshipmen were respectable throughout Tranquill's tenure and lost a lot of close games to top tier opponents they probably should not have been playing.

"All the players loved Coach Welsh and we were definitely disappointed to see him go. Naturally, there was some anxiety about who was going to be the next head coach," said Ponseigo, who led Navy in tackles for three straight seasons. "A lot of people were concerned about what would happen without Coach Welsh, but I thought Coach Tranquill did a pretty good job. He knew the game and we all respected him."

Navy's program fell on extended hard times with Elliot Uzelac, George Chaump and Charlie Weatherbie also unable to reverse the program's fortunes on a consistent basis. Paul Johnson was the head coach that finally turned around the Midshipmen.

Ken Niumatalolo replaced Johnson and has taken Navy to another level, overtaking Welsh as the school's all-time winningest coach along the way. Welsh has never met Niumatalolo but has high praise for his performance in compiling an 83-48 record in 10 seasons at the helm. Welsh has not been back to Annapolis since participating in the 30-year reunion of the Liberty Bowl team in 2011. Ponseigo, who recorded 152 tackles as a sophomore in 1981, will never forget the gruff, no-nonsense Welsh meeting a group of his former players for a few beers at McGarvey's Saloon in downtown Annapolis.

"Coach Welsh didn't interact with the players very much when he was at Navy so none of us had ever spent any time with him in that type of atmosphere," Ponseigo said. "It was pretty neat to just hang out with our old coach and get to know him a bit better as a person."

### **1973 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1973 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-third season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his first of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 4 wins (4-7).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1973 Navy Football Team began its season on September 15, 1973 with a W (37-6) win at home against VMI. The opener was played at Alumni Memorial Field in Lexington, VA



Great Navy Coach George Welsh on the sidelines coaching

On Sept 22, at home, Penn State shut out Navy L (0–39) before 28,383. On Sept 29 at Michigan in Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, MI. Navy lost to the Wolverines L (0–14) before 88,042 in the Big House. On Oct 6 at Boston College in a game played at Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, MA, BC beat Navy L (7–44). Then, on Oct 13 at home, Navy beat Syracuse W (23-14). On Oct 20 at home, Navy walloped Air Force W (42-6). On Oct 27, Pittsburgh beat Navy at Pitt Stadium Pittsburgh, PA L (17–22) before 33,136.

On Nov 3 at Notre Dame, the Fighting Irish beat the Midshipmen in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN L (7–44) before 59,075. On Nov 10 Tulane beat Navy at Tulane Stadium New Orleans, LA L (15–17). Then, on Nov 17, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech beat the Midshipmen of Navy in the Gator Bowl Stadium Jacksonville, FL L (22–26). On Dec 1, in the big game for the Commander in Chief's trophy, Navy clobbered Army W (51-0) at JFK Stadium Philadelphia, in the Army–Navy Game. With wins v both Service Academies, Navy proudly accepted the Commander in Chief Trophy for 1973.

#### **1974 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1974 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his second of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 4 wins (4-7).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1974 Navy Football Team began its season on September 14, 1974 with a W (35-28) win at home against Virginia. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 21 at Penn State in Beaver Stadium University Park, Pennsylvania Navy beat the Nittany Lions W (7–6) before 42,000. On Sept 28 at Michigan's Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, Michigan L (0–52) in an even larger Big House with attendance of 104,232. On Oct 5, at home Boston College beat Navy L (0–37). Then, on Oct 12 at Syracuse's Archbold Stadium Syracuse, New York, the Orangemen defeated the Midshipmen L (9–17). On Oct 21, Air Force edged out the Navy at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado L (16–19). On Oct 26 at home, Pittsburgh edged out Navy L (11–13)

On Nov 2 vs. Notre Dame, in a game played at Veterans Stadium Philadelphia PA, defeated Navy L (6–14) before 48,634. Then, on Nov

9 at home, Navy defeated The Citadel W (28–21). On Nov 16, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech shut out Navy L (0-22) at Grant Field Atlanta, GA. Then, in the season finale for a share of the Commander in Chief's Trophy, Navy beat Army W (19-0) on Nov 30 at JFK Stadium Philadelphia, Pennsylvania W(19–0) Because of a tie record among the service academies, Navy kept the Commander in Chief's Trophy

### **1975 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1975 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his third of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 7 wins (7-4).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1975 Navy Football Team began its season on September 13, 1975 with a W (42-14) win away against Virginia. The opener was played at Scott Stadium • Charlottesville, Virginia

On Sept 20 at home, Navy shellacked Connecticut W (55–7). Then, on Sept 27 at Washington in Husky Stadium Seattle, the Huskies beat the Midshipmen L (13–14) before 53,000. On Oct 4, my wedding Anniversary, vs. Air Force in RFK Stadium Washington, D.C. Navy picked up all the chips W (17–0). On Oct 11, at home, Navy beat Syracuse W (10–6). Then, on Oct 18 at Boston College's Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, BC beat Navy L (3–17). Then, on Oct 25 at Pittsburgh's Pitt Stadium in Pittsburgh PA , the Midshipmen defeated the Panthers W (17–0) before 41,986.

On Nov 1 at Notre Dame's Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Fighting Irish defeated the Midshipmen L (10–31) before a crowd of 59,075. At Miami (FL) on Nov 7, Navy nosed out the Hurricanes in the Orange Bowl Stadium Miami, Florida W 17–16. Then on Nov 15, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech beat Navy in Grant Field Atlanta. GA L (13–14). Looking for the big win in the

(Commander-in-Chief's Trophy/Army–Navy Game) on November 29, 1975, Navy won it all W (30-6) vs. Army in JFK Stadium • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in so doing they won the big Trophy.

## Great Navy Player Phil McConkey

Phil McConkey was a great Wide Receiver for the Naval Academy from 1975-1978. After Navy, McConkey was welcomed into pro football and played for the New York Giants (1984-85, 1986-88), Green Bay Packers (1986), Phoenix Cardinals (1989), and the San Diego Chargers (1989).



At Navy, he was a receiver and return specialist for the Midshipmen from 1975-78. McConkey served in the Navy for five years after graduation. Bill Parcells signed him to the New York Giants as a 27-year-old rookie after a tip from Steve Belichick, a longtime Navy assistant coach who also happened to be the father of one of Parcells' assistants at the time.

McConkey had a six-year NFL career highlighted by the Giants' victory in Super Bowl XXI. He caught a TD pass and broke a 25-yard punt return in the Giants' 39-20 win over the Denver Broncos. McConkey caught 67 passes over his NFL career, but was more

effective as a return man, logging more than 3,000 total yards (1,832 on punts, 1,324 on kickoffs).

In his mind, Phil McConkey will always be "that skinny little kid from Buffalo" driven to prove himself to the world.

"The competitiveness never goes away," said McConkey, still 5 feet 10 and 160 pounds. "I grew up with an enormous chip on my shoulder because, at every level, I was told I was too small to play football. I had something to prove so, on every play, I went full throttle."

At Navy, he starred as a wide receiver and kick returner, setting school records and leading the Midshipmen to victory in the 1978 Holiday Bowl. There, he caught a 65-yard touchdown pass against Brigham Young and was named Most Valuable Player. After a five-year hitch as a helicopter pilot transporting nuclear weapons, McConkey returned to football. At 27, he signed with the New York Giants despite those who thought him too small and too old. The odds, he knew, were long.

"I had no chance, but every day I went a zillion miles an hour," he said. "The first day of practice, coach Bill Parcells said, 'Son, you better slow your motor, or you'll burn yourself out.' Hey, I didn't know any other way."

In the 1986 season, McConkey, a role player, helped the Giants reach Super Bowl XXI, where he left his mark. Against Denver, he (1) returned a punt 25 yards to set up a New York field goal, (2) caught a 44-yard pass that led to a touchdown and (3) made a 6-yard touchdown reception off a deflected pass. New York defeated the Broncos, 39-20.

In hindsight, he said, "I was in the right place at the right time — and I seized the moment. These days, I'll break out my [Super Bowl] ring when I speak to groups of kids."

His message?

"If I can do it, you can do it," he tells them. "Society wants to put us all in a box because of our heritage or how we look or talk. Many succumb to those stereotypes and never get a chance to spread their



wings. Don't be typecast. I'm an example of what you can do if you want it badly enough, so follow your passions and chase your dreams."

### **1976 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1976 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his fourth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 4 wins (4-7).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1976 Navy Football Team began its season on September 11, 1976 with a L (3-13) loss at home against Rutgers. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 18 at Connecticut in Memorial Stadium Storrs, CT, the Navy prevailed W (21–3). Then, on Sept 25 at Michigan in Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, MI, Navy lost L (14–70) before 101,040. On Oct 2, at home, Boston College defeated Navy L (13–17). Then on Oct 9 at Air Force in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO, the Falcons beat the Midshipmen L (3–13).

On Oct 16, at home, William & Mary defeated Navy L (13–21). Then, on Oct 23, Pittsburgh shutout Navy L (0–45) before 26,346. Then, on Oct 30 at home vs. Notre Dame in a game played at Municipal Stadium Cleveland, OH, ND edged out Navy L 21–27

On Nov 6, Navy beat Syracuse at Archbold Stadium Syracuse, NY W (27–10). Then, on Nov 13, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech were licked by the Navy W (34-28). At the end of the season. On November 27, 1976, Navy beat Army in JFK Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Commander-in-Chief's Trophy/Army–Navy Game) W (38–10). Because the service academies had mixed results, Navy kept the trophy.

**1977 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1977 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his fifth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 5 wins (5-6).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1977 Navy Football Team began its season on September 10, 1977 with a W (21-2) win at home against The Citadel. The opener was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 17 at home, the Navy defeated Connecticut W (38-7). Then, at Michigan on Sept 25, the Wolverines beat the Midshipmen in Michigan Stadium Ann Arbor, MI L (7-14) before a huge crowd of 101,800 in the Big House. On Oct 1 at Duke, Navy was beaten at Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, NC L (16-28). On Oct 8, Navy beat the Air Force at home W (10-7). On Oct 15, Pittsburgh beat Navy at Pitt Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA L (17-3). On Oct 22, at home, Navy pounded William & Mary W (42-17). Then, on Oct 29 at Notre Dame, in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN, the Fighting Irish pounded Navy L 10-43 before 59,075.

On Nov 5, at home, Syracuse beat Navy L (34-45). On Nov 12, at home, the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech were beaten by Navy W (20-16). In the final game of the season and the most important for Navy, on Nov 26 Army beat Navy L (14-7)

**1978 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1978 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were

led by George Welsh in his sixth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 9 wins (9-3).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1978 Navy Football Team began its season on September 16, 1978 with a W (32-0) shutout win against Virginia. The opener was played at Scott Stadium Charlottesville, VA

On Sept 23 at Connecticut in Memorial Stadium • Storrs, CT, Navy prevailed W (30–0). On Sept 30 at Boston College in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, MA, Navy beat the Eagles W 19–8. At Air Force on Oct 7 in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO, Navy beat the Falcons W (37–8). On Oct 14 at home, Navy beat Duke W (31-8) On Oct 21 at home Navy beat William & Mary W (9-0). At home on Oct 28, Navy beat Pittsburgh W (21-11) before 32,909.

With seven wins in a row, Navy took an undefeated season into Municipal Stadium in Cleveland, OH to play rival Notre Dame before 63,780 fans. Unfortunately, Navy lost the game L (7-27). On Nov 11 at Syracuse's Archbold Stadium Syracuse, Navy was edged out L (17–20). On Nov 18 at Florida State in Doak Campbell Stadium • Tallahassee, FL, the Seminoles defeated Navy L (6–38) before 45,795.

Army was sitting in third place with an 8-0 record plus one tie when the Army Navy game hit its schedule. Navy was not in the rankings, On December 2 in the classic game, a game that does not have to ever resemble the season, Navy picked up all the moxie it needed and shut out the vaunted Cadets / Black Knights at JFK Stadium Philadelphia, PA W (28-0). Navy therefore won the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy after its wins v Airforce and then Army.

Navy got an invitation to the Holiday Bowl on December 22, 1978 v BYU. The game was played at San Diego Stadium San Diego, CA (Holiday Bowl) and Navy prevailed over the Cougars W 23–16 before 52,500 fans.

**1979 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1979 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's ninety-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his seventh of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 7 wins (7-4).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1979 Navy Football Team began its season on September 15, 1979 with a W (26-7) win at home against The Citadel. The opener was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 22 at home, Navy beat Connecticut W (21-10) On Sept 29 at Illinois Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Illinois Navy beat the Fighting Illini W (13-12). On Oct 6, at home, Navy beat Air Force W (13-9) W 13-9. On Oct 13, Navy beat William & Mary at Foreman Field Norfolk, Virginia (Oyster Bowl) W (24-7). On Oct 20, at home, #20 Navy beat Virginia W (17-10). Then, on Oct at #12 Pittsburgh, the 6-0 #17 ranked Navy squad lost to the Panthers at Pitt Stadium • Pittsburgh L (7-24) before 51,332.

On Nov 3 at #13 Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana , ND defeated Navy L (0-14) before 59,075. On Nov 10, at home, Syracuse beat Navy L (14-30). On Nov 17 at Georgia Tech in Grant Field Atlanta GA, Navy lost to the Yellow Jackets L (14-24). On Dec 1, v Army, Navy at John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia Navy won the (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (31-7)

**1980 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1980 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundredth season of intercollegiate football. They

were led by George Welsh in his eighth of nine seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 8 wins (8-4). Navy accepted a bid to the Garden State Bowl.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1980 Navy Football Team began its season on September 13, 1980 with a L (3-6) loss against Virginia at Scott Stadium Charlottesville, Virginia

On Sept 20. Navy beat Kent State at home W (31-3). On Sept 27, Navy beat William & Mary at home W (45–6). On Oct 4, Navy beat Boston College at home W (21–0). Then, on Oct 11 Air Force beat Navy at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado L (0–21). On Oct 18 at home, Navy bet Villanova W (24–15). Then on October 25, Navy beat Washington at Husky Stadium Seattle WAW W (24–10) before 48,841.

Then, on Nov 1 Navy lost to Notre Dame at Giants Stadium East Rutherford, New Jersey (Rivalry) L (0–33) before 76,891. On Nov 8 at Syracuse in the brand-new Carrier Dome Syracuse, New York, Navy beat the Orangemen W (6–3). On Nov 15 at Georgia Tech’s Grant Field Atlanta, GA Navy beat the Yellow Jackets W 19–8. Then on November 29, Navy beat Army at Veterans Stadium Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy) W (33–6) With a split decision, the shared victories gave the Trophy to Navy for another year.

In the Bowl season, Navy made the Garden State Bowl and on Dec 14, played Houston at Giants Stadium East Rutherford, New Jersey (Garden State Bowl) and lost to Houston L (0–35) before 41,417

### **1981 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Welsh**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1981 college football season. It was the Naval Academy’s One Hundred first season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Welsh in his ninth and last of nine seasons as head

coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 7 wins (7-4-1). Navy accepted a bid to the Liberty Bowl.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1981 Navy Football Team began its season on September 12, at home in 1981 with a W (17-7) win against The Citadel. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD before 18135.

At home, on Sept 19, Navy beat Eastern Kentucky W (24–0). Then, on Sept 26 at Michigan in Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Wolverines beat the Midshipmen L (16–21) before a massive crowd of 105,213 at the Big House. On Oct 3, Yale beat Navy in the Yale Bowl Stadium New Haven, Connecticut L (19–23).

On Oct 10 at home, Navy beat Air Force W 30–13. At Boston College on October 17, Navy beat the Eagles in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, W (25–10). Next Navy beat William & Mary at home on Oct 24 W 27–0

On Oct 31 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Fighting Irish beat the Midshipmen L (0–38) before 59,075. On Nov 7 at home, Navy beat Syracuse W (35–23). Then, on Nov 14 at Georgia Tech in Grant Field Atlanta GA, the Midshipmen defeated the Yellow Jackets W (20–14). In the annual Army-Navy Game Classic, on December 1 v Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy, Navy tied Army T (3–3). Because Navy had beaten Air Force on Oct 10, they were awarded the Trophy

In the Liberty Bowl game on December 30, 1981, against Ohio State in a game played at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis, Tennessee, Ohio State edged out Navy L (28–31) before 43,216

## Best Navy Players Andy Ponsiego

With 500 tackles to his credit it was getting so there were not enough fingers to count them all and then some. Navy Line Backer Ponsiego, they say, never planned on being as good as he was. He never dreamed a coach close to both, Gary Tranquill, would judge Ponsiego's football instincts as a collegian slightly superior to millionaire Tom Cousineau's.

Playing for Navy, Ponsiego will have to wait five years for Ponsiego to fulfill his service obligation. Seven years if he stays on course and decides to fly. Not many NFL coaches are thrilled by 29-year-old rookies; not many USFL teams might be around by then. It makes it tough for Navy to field great teams but then again, nobody expects to be so great.

"I would love to play professional ball," he admits. "I think about that a lot. But I'm in a situation now where I can't. There's no turning back. So why think about what you could have done? Just go ahead and live for what you've got now."

Had he stayed healthy, Ponsiego still preferred a college education, financed by football, instead of a baseball bonus out of high school. His parents stressed a college whose education would provide the safest cushion should his football experience also be limited. He signed a letter of intent with Colorado; he attended Navy.

In reality, he never thought he'd be able to play pro football. He came with modest goals: to run under some kicks on special teams the first two years, make the traveling squad, possibly play some from scrimmage. And at least graduate.

His second season, Ponsiego set a Navy record with 152 tackles; his third season, he broke that by 17; senior season, a leg injury kept him out of the Princeton game, but he recovered and made 19 tackles against Notre Dame.

"He's got a sense you can't teach," Tranquill says. "Lots of linebackers see a blur once the play starts. He can sort things out and get where the ball is."

What a player!





# Chapter 15 Coaches Tranquill & Uzelac 1982—1989

Gary Tranquill  
Elliot Uzelac

Coach # 32  
Coach # 33

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1982	Gary Tranquill	6-5	Indep	6-5
1983	Gary Tranquill	3-8	Indep	3-8
1984	Gary Tranquill	4-6-1	Indep	4-6-1
1985	Gary Tranquill	4-7	Indep	4-7
1986	Gary Tranquill	3-8	Indep	3-8
1987	Elliot Uzelac	2-9	Indep	2-9
1988	Elliot Uzelac	3-8	Indep	3-8
1989	Elliot Uzelac	3-8	Indep	3-8

1982 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gary Tranquill

## Tranquill's Contract Not Renewed by Navy

Thank you to the Washington Post  
by Dave Sell of The Washington Post.  
December 8, 1986



<< Gary Tranquill

Sorry about the non-sequitur.  
Tranquill would be out five  
years after we report the games  
herein.

Barely 24 hours after a seventh  
consecutive defeat ended a most  
disappointing 3-8 season, Gary  
Tranquill was told last night that  
he would not be asked back as  
Navy's football coach.

Navy Athletic Director J.O. (Bo)  
Coppedge met for more than an  
hour yesterday with the Naval

Academy Athletic Association Board of Control, which voted not to  
renew Tranquill's contract, ending his five-year tour as head football  
coach.

"We believe Gary Tranquill to be a fine football coach and a super person, but after careful evaluation, we have decided our football program needs new direction," Coppedge said in a statement. "Coach Tranquill has been most loyal to us over the past five years, and we are grateful to him for the high personal standards he brought to this school."

Coppedge said the search for a new coach would begin immediately, but that there was no timetable for selecting a replacement.

The Midshipmen lost seven straight games to end a season that had started with grand hopes.

"I don't think I was really surprised," Tranquill said from his home last night.

"I think in the last two years, with some of the things in the press [reports last year that he would resign], when you look at the overview, it's unsettled," he said. "Sometimes you do need a fresh start. When you have four straight losing seasons, it's always a problem." Tranquill, 46, compiled a 20-34-1 record in five seasons. His first team, in 1982, had a winning record of 6-5, but after that were seasons of 3-8, 4-6-1, 4-7 and this year's 3-8.

Tranquill -- whose wife Shirley coaches the women's gymnastics team and son Chris is a junior at the Academy -- has not decided what he wants to do next.

"I would like to coach, and I still think I can coach," said Tranquill. "I guess any time you get fired, in terms of being a head coach, you're not real marketable. A lot have gone back to being assistants."

The 1986 team had more than 30 seniors and was considered more talented than the 1985 team, which lost five games by a total of 15 points. Yet after a 3-1 start, the Midshipmen did not win again, as players consistently blamed themselves and questioned their commitment. Last week, Tranquill said a lack of leadership on the team was one problem.

"There are teams that jell and there are teams that don't," said running backs coach Bill Haushalter. "This team, for whatever reason, did not."

The Midshipmen this season lost badly on a couple of occasions, never seeming able to stem a tide of turnovers and big plays. Particularly troubling were losses to NCAA Division I-AA schools Delaware and Penn.

Although Tranquill won three of five games against Army, Saturday the Midshipmen lost to the Cadets, 27-7, in Philadelphia. "I don't feel like [a win Saturday] would have made any difference," Tranquill said. The strict academic and military demands on Midshipmen are a major reason service academy teams have struggled in the past.

"It's hard to put your finger on why we lost," said Haushalter, who has been at Navy 14 years. "But I don't think we ever tried to rationalize it by saying something we all know. . . . Things are tougher here. When you're playing teams who you should have a 50 percent chance of beating in weeks when you can't even meet with kids [because of exams] it's tough. When that happens three times a year, it's difficult. But we know that, and whoever takes the job will have to understand that."

Quarterbacks coach Jerry Franks was not surprised by the move but had praise for Tranquill. "Gary Tranquill is as fine a person as there is in the coaching profession," said Franks. "Obviously, I'm disappointed in the fact that he won't be returning."

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1982 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred second season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Gary Tranquill in his first of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen finished the season with 6 wins (6-5). This would be Coach Gary Tranquill's only winning season at Navy.

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1982 Navy Football Team began its season on September 11, at home in 1982 with a W (30-16) win against Virginia. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 18 at Arkansas War Memorial Stadium Little Rock, AR, the Midshipmen lost to the Razorbacks L (17–29) before 54,706. On Sept 25 at home Boston College defeated Navy L (0–31). At Duke on October 2, the Midshipmen beat the Blue Devils at Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, NC, W (27–21) Then, on Oct 9 at Air Force’s Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO, the Falcons nosed out the Midshipmen L (21–24). At home on Oct v William & Mary, Navy prevailed W (39–3). Then, on Oct 23, at home, Navy beat The Citadel W 28–3 before 29,249.

On Oct 30, in a home match, Navy lost to Notre Dame in Giants Stadium East Rutherford, NJ L (10–27) before 72,201. On Nov 6 at Syracuse in the Carrier Dome Syracuse, NY, the Midshipmen edged out the Orangemen W (20–18). On Nov 13, South Carolina beat Navy at Williams-Brice Stadium Columbia, SC L (14–17). Then, on Dec 4 Navy defeated Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA ( in the Army–Navy Game for the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy)W 24–7. Because Navy lost in the close game on Oct 9, Air Force won the Trophy this year.

### **1983 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gary Tranquill**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1983 college football season. It was the Naval Academy’s One Hundred third of intercollegiate football. They were led by Gary Tranquill in his second of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen began to slip this year and the slide would continue for over ten years. They finished the season with just 3 wins (3-8).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1983 Navy Football Team began its season on September 11, with a loss to Virginia in Scott Stadium Charlottesville, VA L (16–27). in 1982.

On Sept 17, Navy lost to Mississippi State at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Jackson, MS L (10–38). At home on Sept 24, Navy beat Lehigh W 30–0. On Oct 1 Washington beat Navy at Husky Stadium Seattle, WA L (10–27) before 59,912. At home, on Oct 8 Air Force defeated Navy L (17–44). Then, on Oct 15 at Princeton’s Palmer Stadium Princeton, NJ, the Midshipmen beat the Tigers W (37–29). Then, on Oct 22 at home, Pittsburgh beat Navy L (14–21) before a crowd of 33,349. On Oct 29 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN, the Fighting Irish beat the Midshipmen L (12–28) before 59,075.

On Nov 5 at home, Syracuse defeated Navy L (7-14). On Nov 12 South Carolina beat Navy in Williams-Brice Stadium Columbia, SC L 7–31. Then, in the season finale cs. Army on Nov in the Rose Bowl Stadium Pasadena, CA (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy), Navy pounded the Army W (42–13). The Air Force kept the Commander in Chief’s Trophy by beating both Navy and Army this year.

#### **1984 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gary Tranquill**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1984 college football season. It was the Naval Academy’s One Hundred fourth of intercollegiate football. They were led by Gary Tranquill in his third of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen began to slip the prior year and the slide would continue this year for about ten more years. They finished the season with just 4 wins (4-6-1).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1984 Navy Football Team began its season on September 15, with a W (33-30) close win vs. North Carolina in Kenan Memorial Stadium • Chapel Hill, NC

On Sept 22, at home, Virginia defeated Navy L (9-21). On Sept 29, Arkansas beat Navy at Arkansas' War Memorial Stadium Little Rock, AR L (10-33) before 54,812. At Falcon Stadium on Oct 6, Air Force defeated Navy in Colorado Springs, CO L (22-29). On Oct 13 at home, Navy beat Lehigh W (31-14). Then, on Oct 20 at home, Navy whooped Princeton W (41-3). Then, Pittsburgh tied Navy on Oct 27 at Pittsburgh in Pitt Stadium Pittsburgh, PA, T (28-28) before 34,715. At Giants Stadium in a Navy home game, Notre Dame nosed out the Navy on Nov 3 in Giants Stadium East Rutherford, NJ L (17-18) before 61,795. At Syracuse on Nov 10, the Orangemen shut out the Midshipmen in the Carrier Dome Syracuse, NY L (0-29). Then, on Nov 17 at home, the Navy beat the #2 South Carolina Gamecocks W (8-21) Wrapping up the 1984 season, Army beat Navy L (11-28) on Dec 1 at Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy). Army won the trophy this year, beating both Air Force and Navy.

### **1985 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gary Tranquill**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1985 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred fifth of intercollegiate football. They were led by Gary Tranquill in his fourth of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Eric Fudge was the team captain. The Midshipmen began to slip in 1983 and the slide continued this year. They finished the season again with just 4 wins (4-7).

Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1985 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 7, with a L (19-21) close loss vs. North Carolina. The opener was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 14, Delaware beat Navy at Delaware Stadium Newark, Delaware, L (13-16) before 23,110. At Indiana on Sept 21 in Memorial Stadium Bloomington, Indiana, the Hoosiers beat Navy L (35-38). On

Sept 28 at #20 Virginia in Scott Stadium Charlottesville, Virginia, Navy prevailed W (17–13). Then, on Oct 12, at home, the #13 ranked high flying Airforce beat Navy again L (7–24) before 35,663. On Oct 19 at home, Navy beat Lafayette W (56–14). Then, on Oct 26 at home, Navy beat Pittsburgh W (21–7) before 29,343.

On Nov 2 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Fighting Irish checkmated the Midshipmen L (17–41) before 59,075. In another almost annual game, at Navy's home field, Syracuse edged out Navy on Nov 9 L (20–24). On Nov 16 at South Carolina, in Williams-Brice Stadium Columbia, South Carolina, the Gamecocks nosed out a victory over a stubborn Midshipmen L (31–34).

Navy got back on a win streak in the Army-Navy Classic Game played on December 5 at 2:30 p.m. in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) as the Midshipmen got the best of the Black Knights (Cadets) W (17–7).

He played in 1982, 1983, and 1985. Highly sought by college recruiters who wanted him as a defensive back, McCallum opted to enroll in the Naval Academy when the coaching staff promised that he would be allowed to play his preferred position of running back.

An offensive force who racked up a then NCAA record of 7,172 all-purpose yards, he was selected in the fourth round of the 1986 draft by the Los Angeles Raiders. The Navy initially arranged for him to be stationed in Southern California so that he could fulfill his service commitment while playing football on own time, but duty eventually called for him to spend three years away from the team.

Rejoining the Raiders in 1990, he would suffer a gruesome career-ending knee injury on national TV during the first week of the 1994 season. 1982, 1983 and 1985.

## Great Navy Player Napoleon McCallum



As noted, but worth repeating, McCallum was an unbelievable talent at Navy in 1985. He set an NCAA record with 7,172 all-purpose yards and also held the Mids' career rushing record of 4,179 yards until Keenan Reynolds, Navy's slick option quarterback, broke it in 2015. McCallum still holds Navy's single-season rushing record of 1,687 yards; he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003.

The affable native of Jefferson City, Missouri, has lived in Henderson since 1996. He is director of community development for Las Vegas Sands Corp., which is heading up the domed stadium effort.

### 1986 Navy Midshipmen Coach Gary Tranquill

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1986 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred sixth of intercollegiate football. They were



led by Gary Tranquill in his fifth and last of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen began to slip in 1983 and the slide continued this year. They finished the season with just 3 wins (3-8). Coach Tranquill would be replaced the following season.

Outgoing coach Gary Tranquill's 48-year coaching career began in 1962 as a defensive coach at Wittenberg, where he had played quarterback. As we just walked through his seasons at Navy, we know that he was head coach at Navy from 1982-86. His only NFL position was as quarterbacks coach of the Cleveland Browns from 1991-1993 under Bill Belichick. Tranquill was successful in making young men want to play football and then helping them achieve success.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1986 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 13, with a W (20-10) win vs. Virginia. The opener was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 20, Navy lost to Indiana at Memorial Stadium Bloomington, IN L (29-52). At home, the Navy beat Lehigh on Sept 27, W (41-0). Then, on Oct 4, at home on my wedding anniversary, Navy defeated Dartmouth W (45-0). On Oct 6, Navy suffered another loss to Air Force at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO L (6-40). At home vs Penn on Oct 18, the Quakers nosed out the Midshipmen L (26-30). At Pittsburgh on Oct 25, in Pitt Stadium, the Panthers walloped the Midshipmen L (14-56) before 45,345.

On Nov 1 in a home game v Notre Dame, for capacity reasons played at Memorial Stadium Baltimore, MD, Navy lost to the ND Squad L 14-33 before 61,335. At Syracuse in the Carrier Dome, on Nov 8, the Orangemen beat the Midshipmen in Syracuse, NY L (22-31). Then, on Nov 15, at home, Delaware beat the Navy L (14-27.)

On December 4 vs. Army, Navy lost this year's Army-Navy Classic at Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) L (7-27).

## 1987 Navy Midshipmen Coach Elliott Uzelac

### Michigan Aide Uzelac Is Named Navy's Football Coach

By Dave Sell

December 16, 1986

Courtesy of Washington Post

Elliot Uzelac today became the 32nd head football coach in the history of the Naval Academy.

"I'm very honored and very excited that it worked out the way it did." he said from his home in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"I have no doubt we can win. It's been done in the past and not that long ago. Army and Air Force proved that they can win. But I'm not a magician and I can't say when it's going to happen, but we're going to win."

In announcing approval of the recommendation of the academy's Athletic Board of Control, Superintendent Ronald F. Marriott said: "We found Coach Uzelac to be uniquely well-qualified for the position. He has an outstanding coaching record and an appreciation of intercollegiate athletics at the Naval Academy. He is extremely enthusiastic, and I am sure we will see that enthusiasm reflected in Navy football."

Terms of Uzelac's contract were not available. His predecessor, Gary Tranquill, had worked on a one-year contract for each of the last two seasons. He was fired after the Midshipmen finished the 1986 season with a 3-8 record and seven straight losses, including a 27-7 loss to Army on Dec. 6.

Uzelac, 45, had coached Michigan's offensive line for five seasons. For seven years before that, he was head coach at Western Michigan. He was an assistant at Navy in 1971-72. (Name = You-za-lak.)

"I always had him in my mind because I knew him," Navy Athletic Director J.O. (Bo) Coppedge said. "But the deciding factor was his experience and his tenure as head football coach at a Division I-A school. And there is his obvious success with the Michigan program. And where do I get that? I got that from [Bo] Schembechler."

Uzelac was the last of three candidates the board interviewed. Penn Coach Ed Zubrow was interviewed Thursday, and William and Mary Coach Jimmy Laycock met with the six-member group Saturday. The board met this morning and decided it did not need to interview anyone else in its search for a successor to Tranquill, who was told Dec. 7 that his contract would not be renewed.

"I would say the only real difference in the candidates, all of whom were excellent, was Elliot's previous experience with the Naval Academy," said Capt. Patrick Donnelly, a member of the board. "All of them were outstanding individuals with similar philosophies on what makes a good football program. All come from good schools which have good football programs. The only obvious difference was his experience at Navy, and, by virtue of that, he probably has a little better understanding of what it takes here."

Michigan is scheduled to play Arizona State Jan. 1, in the Rose Bowl. Donnelly said it was his understanding that Uzelac would spend part of this week in Annapolis to name a staff. Uzelac would then return to Ann Arbor to prepare for the Rose Bowl and come back to the academy after the game.

Uzelac returned to Ann Arbor Sunday night after his interview but will return for a 1 p.m. news conference Tuesday. He also is expected to meet with Tranquill's assistants.

After graduating from Tolleston High School in Gary, Ind., Uzelac played football for two seasons and ran track at Western Michigan, from which he graduated in 1964.

He coached at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo, Mich., and Chesterton, Ind.

He then went to Bowling Green and worked as a graduate assistant in 1965. After that came two seasons as a head coach at Logan (W.Va.) High. He went back to Bowling Green for three seasons starting in 1968. After that came his two seasons as an assistant at the academy under Coach Rick Forzano.

When Forzano was fired after the 1972 season, Uzelac joined Schembechler's staff for two seasons before taking the head coaching position at Western Michigan in 1975.

"The Naval Academy, in hiring Elliot Uzelac, is getting one of the finest football coaches that I have had working for me," Schembechler said in a statement released by the academy.

"He is a great football man, but more than that he is a quality person. In his wealth of experience, he knows the academy and he undoubtedly will give them a highly successful program."

Uzelac spent seven years coaching the Broncos, and is the only football coach in school history who did not have a losing record against fellow Mid-America conference teams. His first Broncos team went 1-10, but after that they were 7-4, 4-7, 7-4, 6-5, 7-4 and 6-5, for an overall record of 38-39.



The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1987 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred seventh of intercollegiate football.

They were led by Elliott Uzelac in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen began to slip in 1983 and the slide continued this year. Uzelac did not improve the situation in his three years. The team finished the season

with just 2 wins (2-9). Coach Uzelac had not yet at least brought back a notion of winning to the Navy squad.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1987 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 12, with a L (12-27) loss to William & Mary. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 19 at home, Lehigh defeated Navy L (9-24). On Sept 26, at home, North Carolina defeated Navy L (14–45). On Oct Virginia Tech defeated Navy at Lane Stadium Blacksburg, Virginia L (11–31) before 35,000. On Oct 10, at home, Air Force defeated Navy L (13–23) before 35,622. At Penn on Oct in Franklin Field Philadelphia Navy beat the Quakers W (38–28). On Oct 24 at home, Pittsburgh beat Navy L (6–10) before 29,167. Then, on Oct at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Irish pounded the Naval Academy L (13–56) before 59,075.

Then, on Nov 7 at home, Syracuse beat Navy L (10–34). Then, on Nov 14 at Delaware in Delaware Stadium Newark, Delaware, Navy prevailed W (31–22) before 23,100. In the Army Navy Classic Army beat Navy L (3-17) at Veterans Stadium Philadelphia L (3–17) Air Force won the big trophy again this year.

### **1988 Navy Midshipmen Coach Elliott Uzelac**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1988 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Elliott Uzelac in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen began to slip in 1983 and the slide continued this year. Uzelac did not improve the situation in his three years. The team finished the season with just 3 wins (3-8). Coach Uzelac would not bring the notion of winning regularly to the Navy squad.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1988 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 3, with a W (27-14) win over William & Mary. The opener was played

at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 10, at home, Navy beat Delaware W (30–3). On Sept 17, at home, Temple beat Navy. L (7-12) . On Sept 24 at The Citadel, in Johnson Hagood Stadium Charleston, SC, the Bulldogs beat Navy L (35–42 ). On Oct 1 at home, Navy beat Yale W (41–7). On Oct 8, Air Force beat Navy at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO L(24–34). On Oct 22, at Pittsburgh in Pitt Stadium • Pittsburgh, PA, the Panthers pounded the Midshipmen L (6–52) before 34,230.

On October 29, #1 Notre Dame beat Navy at Memorial Stadium • Baltimore, MD L (7–22) before 54,929. Then, on Nov 5 at #13 Syracuse in the Carrier Dome Syracuse, NY, the Orangemen slugged Navy L (21–49). Then, on Nov 12 at South Carolina in Williams-Brice Stadium Columbia, SC, the Gamecocks beat Navy L (8–19) before 66,000. To wrap up this inglorious season. On Dec 12 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA, Army beat Navy L (15–20).

### **1989 Navy Midshipmen Coach Elliott Uzelac**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1989 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Elliott Uzelac in his third and last of three seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen began to slip in 1983 and the slide continued this year. Uzelac did not improve the situation in his three years and after this year, it cost him his job. The team finished the season for the second year in a row with just 3 wins (3-8). Coach Uzelac had not brought a winning tradition to the Navy squad though his team did beat Army this year.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1989 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 16 with a L (10-31) win over BYU. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 23, at home, The Citadel edged out Navy L (10–14) before 20,057. On Sept 30 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Navy prevailed W (12–7). On Oct 7 at home Air Force defeated the Navy L (7–35) before 35,632. Then, on Oct 14 at Pittsburgh's Pitt Stadium in Pittsburgh L (14–31) before 50,467. At Boston College on Oct 1 in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, Navy edged out BC W (27–24). On Oct 28 at home, James Madison beat Navy L (20–24)

On Nov 4 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana ND shut out Navy L (0–41) before 59,075. On Nov 11 at home, Syracuse defeated Navy L (17–38). Then, on Nov 18 at Delaware in Delaware Stadium Newark, Delaware the Fighting Blue Hens nosed out the Midshipmen L (9–10). Then at the end of the 1989 season, on Dec 9 against Army in the classic Army-Navy Game, the Midshipmen defeated the Black Knights W (19-17) at Giants Stadium East Rutherford, New Jersey (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W 19–17. Air Force won the Commander-in Chief Trophy.

### **NAVAL ACADEMY DISMISSES FOOTBALL COACH UZELAC**

By Anthony Cotton Washington Post  
Thank you to the Washington Post  
December 12, 1989

The Naval Academy fired football coach Elliot Uzelac yesterday, just two days after ending its 1989 season in the sweetest way possible -- by defeating Army.

The decision to dismiss Uzelac after the third year of a four-year contract came on a unanimous vote by the Academy's athletic board of control. Athletic Director Jack Lengyel said the fourth year of Uzelac's contract will be honored by the Academy, and that Uzelac's assistants -- who also were dismissed -- will be paid through June 1990.

Lengyel, a member of the board, said the search for a new coach would begin immediately. He said the school hopes to name Uzelac's replacement by Feb. 1. Although last Saturday's 19-17 victory over Army was the Midshipmen's first over their arch rival in four seasons, Navy finished the season with a 3-8 record,

including losses to Division I-AA schools Delaware, The Citadel and James Madison.

Uzelac's teams lost six games against I-AA teams during his three seasons; overall, he had an 8-25 record. "I don't know into what context you can put one game; you always have to ask yourself, 'One game compared to what?' " Lengyel said last night. "I don't think there was any one factor {contributing to Uzelac's dismissal}, but a number of things. . . . The frustration is that we're a leadership institution, and in the evaluation of the last three years we feel the program hasn't portrayed the leadership commensurate with the standards of the United States Naval Academy.

"We're a school of leadership and we need to show that; we accept that responsibility and we're making a change that is commensurate with those objectives." Uzelac was told of the decision shortly before attending a team meeting. Although he was scheduled to have a year-end evaluation with Lengyel, he thought the meeting would be a formality, particularly after beating Army. "That's how I felt, that's how everyone felt," Uzelac said. "We beat Army, I come in for the team function and I get fired -- it's been a helluva day. "I think Navy's a great place; I was excited when I came in and we made some great friends. It didn't work out, but I just feel I had the right to coach that fourth year.

We don't have the opportunity to coach our first recruiting class; everything was geared to that fourth year, the recruiting -- everything we did." Speaking with reporters earlier in the day, Lengyel admitted that though the decision wasn't based only on Uzelac's won-lost record, one factor in Uzelac's firing was the string of losses to Division I-AA teams. "Not to demean I-AA teams," Lengyel said, "but for the Academy to lose to six over the past three years is certainly not indicative of progress."

Uzelac, 48, went to Navy after five seasons as an assistant coach at Michigan. From 1975 to 1980 he was coach at Western Michigan, where he compiled a 38-39 record. He also served an earlier stint with the Wolverines as an assistant as well as two seasons as an assistant with the Midshipmen.



At Navy, Uzelac faced a difficult schedule that regularly included national powers Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Syracuse. This season's schedule also included No. 19 Brigham Young and Air Force, which was ranked in the top 25 throughout the season. Navy is in the process of downgrading its schedule; beginning in 1990, the Orangemen and Panthers are being replaced with smaller schools such as Richmond and Bowling Green.

"The academy couldn't continue to play that schedule," Uzelac said. "You get pros and cons about it but the only way to compete with the other academies is to be on the same {level} with Army and Air Force, {which also have downgraded their schedules in recent seasons}. You can't keep walking around with blinders on."

Given the change in scheduling, Uzelac said next season's team could finish with at least a 6-5 record. Lengyel said the decision to fire Uzelac was based "on what was achieved as opposed to what could be." Uzelac faced mounting criticism throughout his tenure at Navy, much of it based on the team's offense.

The Midshipmen used a wishbone attack with varying success rushing and virtually none passing. "There was a concern in leadership about the style of offense, the lack of passing and balance," Lengyel said. When asked whether Uzelac would have had a better chance to keep his job at least for the final year of his contract had he switched to a multiple or pro-set offense, the athletic director said "those concerns were shared a year ago. . . . We do that at the end of every year. We talk about where we think the problems are; it's the coach's responsibility to accept or reject them, or at least be aware of them."

According to sources, a number of alumni canceled their season tickets because of unhappiness with Uzelac. Others said Uzelac was not popular among some officials at the Academy. Both factors reportedly were involved in the board's decision. Uzelac said he had no knowledge of a groundswell to dismiss him.

"You know that there are going to be alums who are upset with you -- that happens in winning programs too," he said. "I don't feel I had any enemies within the academy; I think maybe a few people felt

that way for whatever reasons. "I just know that I didn't do anything to embarrass the academy."

## **Best Army Navy Game # 10**

Occurring in the same year (1989) that many of the players in this year's contest were born, Navy junior Frank Schenk kicked a 32-yard field goal with 11 seconds to play to give the Midshipmen a 19-17 victory.

The result snapped a run of three straight losses by Navy, allowing the team's seniors to graduate from Annapolis with a win against their most heated rivals.

The joy was short-lived, however, as coach Elliot Uzelac was fired the next day with a year remaining on his contract. He found out about his dismissal the morning of a planned celebration—one that included fellow students cheerfully throwing snowballs at players—but did not tell the team until after the party had concluded.

Uzelac compiled a record of 8-25 in three seasons with the Middies, but no doubt left on a memorable note.

## Great Navy Player Rob Holmberg



Rob Holmberg wanted to be a pilot and enrolled at the Naval Academy in 1989 for a chance to attend aviation school. After playing wide receiver for the Midshipmen for two years it became clear to him that a spate of defense budget cuts meant there would be fewer opportunities for everyone aspiring to be a Navy aviator.

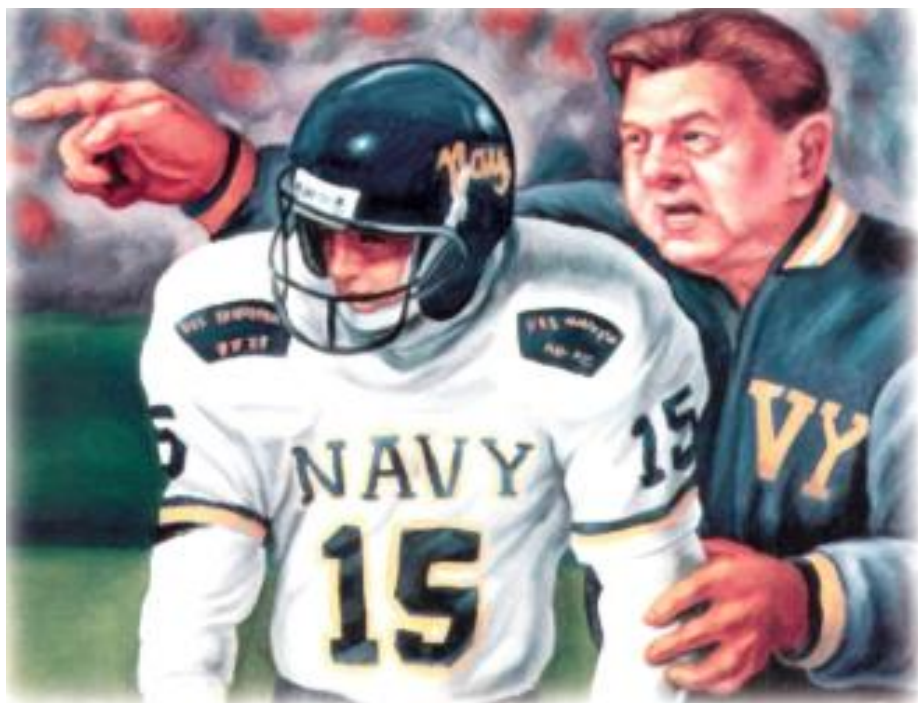
He transferred to Penn State where he was converted into a linebacker. His size and speed came to the attention of the staff of the Los Angeles Raiders who selected him in the seventh round of the 1994 draft. He stuck with the Raiders organizations for four years before playing stints with the Indianapolis Colts, New York Jets, Minnesota Vikings, New England Patriots, Carolina Panthers and Green Bay Packers.



## Chapter 16 Coaches George Chaump & Charlie Weatherbie 1990-2001

Chaump                      Coach # 34  
Weatherbie                Coach # 35

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
1990	George Chaump	5-6	Indep	5-6
1991	George Chaump	1-10	Indep	1-10
1992	George Chaump	1-10	Indep	1-10
1993	George Chaump	4-7	Indep	4-7
1994	George Chaump	3-8	Indep	3-8
1995	Charlie Weatherbie	5-6	Indep	5-6
1996	Charlie Weatherbie	9-3	Indep	9-3
1997	Charlie Weatherbie	7-4	Indep	7-4
1998	Charlie Weatherbie	3-8	Indep	3-8
1999	Charlie Weatherbie	5-7	Indep	5-7
2000	Charlie Weatherbie	1-10	Indep	1-10
2001	Charlie Weatherbie	0-10	Indep	0-10



Coach George Chaump with kicker Ryan Bucchianeri

## NAVAL ACADEMY DISMISSES CHAUMP AS FOOTBALL COACH

By David Nakamura, Washington Post

Thank you to the Washington Post

December 5, 1994

George Chaump, who in five years as the Naval Academy's football coach failed to produce a winning record, was fired yesterday, less than 24 hours after the Midshipmen ended their season with a loss to Army.

Chaump, 59, compiled a 14-41 record at Navy, including four losses to Army, the past three decided on fourth-quarter field goals. The Midshipmen lost to the Cadets, 22-20, Saturday in Philadelphia and finished with a 3-8 record.

"We feel George is a fine individual and a knowledgeable football coach, and that we made some progress," Athletic Director Jack Lengyel said last night from Annapolis. "But we felt that we needed to move forward, and that one of the ways to do that is a change in leadership."

Some observers felt Chaump could have saved his job with a victory over Army on Saturday, but yesterday Lengyel said: "I would hate to speculate on that at this point. The {Navy athletic} committee measured everything."

Chaump was not available to comment last night.

Lengyel said he will begin his search for a replacement today, but he would not discuss specific names. Virginia offensive coordinator Tom O'Brien, a Naval Academy graduate and former Midshipmen assistant, was one of the finalists for the Navy job in 1990 and seems to be a likely candidate. Other possibilities are Boston College defensive coordinator Steve Szabo, who played at Navy from 1961 to 1964, and current Navy assistant Doug Williams, the former Washington Redskins quarterback.

"Obviously I have a short list I always keep," Lengyel said, "and I'll start the process Monday morning of making a lot of calls and putting together a bigger list of prospective candidates."

"At this point, we're looking for the best man possible."

Lengyel said Navy's assistant coaches will continue with the program until a new coach is selected, at which point it will be up to the new coach to retain them or bring in his own staff.

Chaump is the third Navy coach to be fired since George Welsh left the program to become Virginia's head coach in 1982. Navy has had only one winning record since Welsh departed, in 1982 when a team guided by Gary Tranquill went 6-5. Tranquill went 20-34-1 in five seasons before being replaced by Elliot Uzelac, who went 8-25 in three years.

Lengyel would not say whether his new coach would have to have intimate knowledge of how a military institution differs from other universities -- such as the academic pressures and military service obligations -- something Chaump did not have when he took over in 1990.

Chaump, a 1958 graduate of Bloomsburg (Pa.) University, left Division I-AA Marshall to become coach at Navy, and there were those who said O'Brien would have been the better choice because of his Naval Academy experience.

But Lengyel wanted someone with a proven head coaching record, and Chaump had gone 33-16-1 in four seasons at Marshall from 1986 to '89, and 24-16-1 in four seasons at Indiana (Pa.) University from 1982 to '85.

At Navy, Chaump went 5-6 in 1990, 1-10 in 1991, 1-10 in 1992 and 4-7 in 1993. His 3-8 mark this season included a 7-0 victory over Division I-AA Lafayette.

"You have to strive to be successful in everything you do, especially at a leadership institution like Navy," Lengyel said. "In the six years we've been here I think all our programs have done that except football, which is more complex and is a very difficult situation."

Chaump discovered those complexities and difficulties throughout his Navy tenure. Last year, six football players were involved in a school-wide academic cheating scandal. There also was a stretch in 1992

when injuries forced Chaump to play five different quarterbacks in the first three games of the season. In those games, Navy was outscored by a combined 121-0.

"That was as tough a thing as any program has had to go through," Lengyel said. "So George has been snake-bitten at times and has gone through some very tough things."

In an interview last week, Chaump said: "It's been a lot harder than I expected when I took the job. I didn't think the differences would be so marked. You're not going to get any magician to come in and turn things around in a couple of years. There's no quick fix at the Naval Academy. We do things the right way. It's slow, piecemeal change -- a nip here and a nip there, accomplishing things."

Lengyel said Chaump was instrumental in pushing for improvements for the football team.

"If you look at what is coming in terms of new facilities, weight rooms and stuff like that, George fought hard for those changes," Lengyel said.

"Now they're coming to fruition, and it's too bad he wouldn't be able to take part. But timing is everything. He just ran out of time."

### **1990 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Chaump**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1990 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred tenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Chaump in his first of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The Midshipmen had begun to slip in 1983 and the slide continued year after year. Chaump unfortunately in his first year was not the cure for the slide. The team finished the season this year just a bit better than their predecessor teams with 5 wins (5-6). Coach Chaump had not yet brought a winning tradition back to the Navy squad though there was a lot of hope.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.



The 1990 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 8 with a W (28-17) win over Richmond. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 15, Virginia walloped Navy at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA L (14–56) before 39,400. At home on Sept 22, Navy edged out Villanova W (23–21). Then, on Sept 29 at home, Boston College beat the Navy L (17–28). On Oct 6 Air Force whipped Navy at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO L (7–24). At home on Oct 13, Navy beat Akron W (17–13). Then on Oct 27, James Madison U beat the Midshipmen L (7–16).

On Oct 29 in a home game played on a big field, Notre Dame beat the Navy in a shootout at Giants Stadium East Rutherford, NJ L (31–52) before 70,382. On Nov 10 at Toledo, known for glass manufacturing of things like picture tubes, in a field called the Glass Bowl, Navy prevailed in Toledo, OH W (14–10) before 23,958. Then, on Nov 17 at home, Navy edged out Delaware W (31–27). In the season finale v Army in the classic Army Navy Game, on Dec 8 in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA, the navy lost the action L (20–30).

## **In George Chaump's Last Year at Navy**

It was George Chaump's Last year at Navy and let the record show that he was a fine coach. His record was not as good as his skills and capabilities, and his big heart, but he was a fine man and that topped it all. Look again at the picture in the beginning of this chapter, which I repeat above. It came from Sports Illustrated.

George Chaump had a young first-year kicker that he did not want to test with a kick that the pros would find hard to make. The Kicker knew from his childhood that he would make a big one for Navy someday. The day finally came when the young man was to fulfill his dreams.

In this book, we are very serious and show little of the emotional side of the game. We present a lot of facts and figures and by now over 100 years into Navy football, you have grown accustomed to fact after fact after fact.

I read this account and it is well written and delightfully written and it will keep you on the edge of your seat. The picture at the beginning of this chapter, of George Chaump gives you an idea of the emotion that is ultimately in this story. So, in this book, I present snippets of the story to you as it adds to the whole story of one hundred thirty-nine years of Navy football. Enjoy!

**AUGUST 29, 1994**

**A TIME OF TRIAL**

**FOR NAVY KICKER RYAN BUCCHIANERI, LAST FALL WAS A SEASON OF TESTING ON THE FIELD AND OF TRAGEDY OFF IT—A TIME THAT HELPED TURN A TALENTED BOY INTO AN EXEMPLARY YOUNG MAN**

BY WILLIAM NACK

Five-thirty, the sunlight fills my room. First thing I dunk is, I'm at the United States Naval Academy. It's still sinking in. I'm still amazed and pleased that I'm a midshipman. I roll over and look out the window and see the sunrise over the water. I see the clouds, their outline in dark red or different shades of purple, and I see the seagulls come right up to the window. Every day it's different. At nighttime there's the orange sunset and the blue water and the sailing boats at dusk. That's my favorite time of day: the earth, the setting sun, the clouds—and when I'm kicking, I see the silhouette of the goalposts against the sky, and the black ball....

—Ryan Bucchianeri

In all the years he had played and replayed this moment in his mind—from spring and summer nights to restless autumn afternoons, from his Pennsylvania boyhood to his first months at the U.S. Naval Academy—Ryan Bucchianeri had always made the kick, the one he had to nail to beat Army. Not once, in all his youthful reveries, had he ever missed. Ever hooked it left, floated it

right. Ever failed. Ever imagined anything but the kick that sailed end over end through the uprights, the boot that lifted the Middies over the Cadets and raised the boy onto the swarming shoulders of his teammates.

"Literally thousands of times I'd been in that situation in my dreams and made the kick against Army," Bucchianeri says. "I always made it. I had been visualizing it for years. For years!"

And now there he was, at age 18, only six months out of high school, looking like some downy-cheeked waif who had wandered out of a Dickens novel into Giants Stadium in New Jersey. It was almost 10 past three on the afternoon of Dec. 4, 1993, and for Ryan Joseph Bucchianeri—placekicker, poet, pianist, plebe—the Army-Navy game was just one play away from being his to decide. Army was leading 16-14, but the Midshipmen had driven 79 yards in 12 plays in the game's final 4½ minutes, from their own 20-yard line to Army's one, and now it was third-and-goal with 12 seconds left to play, and Bucchianeri (pronounced Boo-chee-ah-nary) was reciting his mantra on the sidelines: "I'm going in to kick the game-winner.... Get me in position!"

It was very strange, the way it was all happening. "You start thinking about fate," Bucchianeri says. "Was this meant to be?"

George Chaump grimaced at the thought. That the most important game of the year should turn on so young a toe was a fate the Navy coach wanted much to avoid. Bucchianeri had kicked erratically most of the season—he had never really recovered from the physical rigors of Plebe Summer, the Naval Academy's seven-week boot camp in the blazing heat of July and August—and Chaump feared exposing the struggling freshman to all the pressures that bore hard on the moment.

Besides the game itself, there was the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy, which goes to the service academy that beats the other two in football. Navy had already defeated Air Force 28-24 on Oct. 9, and all the Middies needed now was a victory over West Point to take home the trophy for the first time in 12 years. And beyond the trophy was the powerful, dramatic subtext that ran between the lines of the football field that gray afternoon at the Meadowlands.

...

And so it was third-and-goal in Giants Stadium, down on Army's one, and Chaump did not want the outcome of so emotional a drama to ride on a plebe with an uncertain toe. "I didn't want his confidence shattered." Chaump says. Nevertheless, the coach hedged. The ball was on the right hash mark, creating the most difficult angle for a right-legged kicker such as Bucchianeri, and so Chaump ordered a running play to the left, hoping to leave the ball in the middle of the held if the runner failed to score.

"Make sure it's dead center!" Chaump hollered at Kubiak. "Give him every chance to make it!"

Kubiak went to the huddle. "We're taking this in!" the quarterback hollered above the din of the crowd. Kubiak called 15-Cut, a handoff to fullback Brad Stramanak off Kubiak's left side. At the snap Stramanak took the handoff and started left. Suddenly, seeing a giant hole yawning on the right, he cut back and bolted for it. Alas, at the instant he seemed about to score, the damnable fates intervened. From the far right side of Army's line, linebacker Pat Work had slanted for the middle and dived forward. Now, reaching out, he caught Stramanak's foot with his left hand. The fullback tripped and fell a foot inside the one.

It was fourth down, with :06 left to play, and the ball was back on the right hash.

"Booch!"

It was Chaump calling. The young man materialized at the coach's shoulder, his waxen face glistening in the rain, his eyes blinking into the TV cameras from the hollow of a helmet that appeared a size too large. The coach grabbed him tightly by the arm. "Get in there and relax!" Chaump said.

"Just kick it like you do any other kick," said wideout Matt Scornavacchi.

"Come on, Ryan!" hollered Red Romo, the team trainer. "Put it in there and I'll give you an extra steak next week."

...

On the sideline, as the timeout dwindled, senior wide receiver Jimmy Screen turned to tailback Jason Van Matre, a classmate, and said, "He'll make it. It's just like Schenk and Griz in '89."

Behind them, off by himself, Kubiak knelt on the artificial turf and beseeched the originator of grass: "Dear God, we deserve this. Let this go through."

Bucchianeri rubbed his mourning band, making sure it was secure, and headed onto the field, right to the cusp of that most cherished of his fantasies. He repeated, like a litany, the first commandment of placekicking, of which his father, Richard, had reminded him only the night before: "Keep your head down and follow through the ball." Ryan's holder, Tony Solliday, approached him on the field. "I want you to know, whether you make this or not, that you're a great kicker," Solliday said. Given the acute angle to the goalposts and his tendency to hook the ball from the right hash, Bucchianeri made an adjustment. "I aimed slightly right of the nearest goalpost," he says, "thinking it would hook between the two." He took three steps back and 1½ over and bent forward.

Just before the catch of the snap, Bucchianeri stepped forward, locking his knee as he swung his leg like a golf club, driving the outside of his toe into the ball. "It felt like a good hit," he says now, "but something felt a little different. I looked up...."

...

When Bucchianeri arrived at the Naval Academy on June 30, 1993, he might have been mistaken for the protagonist of some lost Frank Capra movie: Mr. Bucchianeri Goes to Annapolis. Practically the first thing he did when he arrived at the Yard was to ask his dad to pull over next to the football practice fields. Ryan dug into the trunk and pulled out his right kicking shoe, whose cleats were caked with mud from the Ringgold High field. He said, "I want to put part of Monongahela around here. I want a little bit of something from where I grew up down here with me." So he walked onto the practice field while picking the dirt off the cleats, scattering it about like magic seed.

He had never wanted anything more than to be where he was that day. The summer after seventh grade, enraptured by the U.S. space program, Ryan talked his parents into sending him, at a cost of \$525, to a five-day program at the U.S. Space Academy in Huntsville, Ala. After being named Outstanding Trainee in a class of 120, Ryan returned to Monongahela determined to do a real moon walk one day. He saw in the Naval Academy his path toward being an astronaut. "I know it's a long shot, but this is the place to be to get there," he says. "But I would be happy on a submarine, too. I just want to be an officer and serve my country." Scores of colleges made passes at him—Pittsburgh and Penn State courted him at home—but none had a silent prayer. "The Navy didn't recruit him," says Rosemary [his mom]. "He recruited them."

...

Notre Dame turned out to be a vastly bigger deal. Navy's regular kicker, David Gwinn, had been having kicking troubles of his own, so Chaump told Bucchianeri to get ready for the Irish, then ranked No. 2, on Oct. 30. Bucchianeri was kicking better than he had all year. "I'm not kidding," Chaump said. "Keep up the good work. We'll see what happens."

It happened sooner, and far more dramatically, than Bucchianeri had dared imagine. With 2:22 gone in the first quarter and no score, Chaump called on Bucchianeri to try a 38-yarder. Head down, by the numbers, Bucchianeri swept through the ball. He knew instantly. "One of the greatest feelings of my life," he says. "Seeing that ball, almost in slow motion, turning end over end toward the uprights, on its unchangeable path! I hit it perfect. I just stood there and watched it. All of a sudden you hear bah-BOOM—that's the Navy cannons going off—and then you see a plume of blue smoke come across the ball. That's dramatic! You turn around and the Midshipmen are there cheering, and you look up on the scoreboard and it's 3-0, Navy over Notre Dame, and you were a part of that."

Navy collapsed in the second half and lost 58-27, but Bucchianeri kicked one more field goal, a 34-yarder, and three extra points, for nine points in all—and no misses. Even so, this would pale to transparency five weeks later if the great blue plume were to cross the flight of the ball against Army at Giants Stadium.

The kick floated to the right, missing by 18 inches, and Bucchianeri saw the referee wave his arms to the side. "No!" said the kicker.

He turned his back to the goalposts and fell to one knee. Solliday reached out for him. Bucchianeri dropped his head, closed his eyes and raised his left hand to his face mask, his right to Solliday's shoulder. "I can't believe it," he muttered. "This isn't happening...."

Bucchianeri was starting for his locker room when the Army placekicker, Rocco Wicks, put his arm around him. "Don't worry about it," Wicks told him, one toe to another. "One kick doesn't lose a game. Keep your head up."

Bucchianeri walked into the locker room looking utterly lost. "He was in shock," says Kubiak. "He was white as a ghost, and his eyes were wide open." To Kubiak he said: "I don't know what just happened out there. I think I'm in the stages of shock. I think I'm in denial...."

Someone leaned over and told Bucchianeri that the "gentlemen of the press" were waiting for him.

"Should I go?" he asked.

"If you don't feel like going, don't go," co-captain Van Matre said.

Bucchianeri thought a moment, then turned and left the room. "I knew I had to face the media," he says now. "Be responsible for your actions." Facing the microphones and the lights, he could not have been more ingenuous, more appealing. Asked, first off, how he felt, he paused, blinking. "I did the best I could," he finally said. "That's how I feel."

When someone gently lobbed him an excuse, wondering about the rainy conditions, about the snap and the hold, Bucchianeri let it sail past. "It doesn't matter," he said quietly. "I missed the kick, sir." And so, on and on, it went. Bucchianeri thus became, in failure, a kind of national hero—the kid who missed the kick, blamed only himself and addressed his inquisitors as sir. In an age of sport in which winners own the world and losers are lepers, at a time when

talk is trash and the buck is passed, he strummed an old and cherished chord at the hour of his keenest disappointment.

No one felt worse for him than those who knew him at Annapolis. Senior Lisa Winslow attended an NHL hockey game at the Meadowlands that night. Afterward she called her mother, Betty, in Bowling Green, Ohio. Betty had seen the game and asked about the plebe who missed the kick. "He's in my squad," Lisa said. "I want to talk to him and make sure he understands that it was not his fault. If the team had done better, it wouldn't have hinged on his kick. It's just a game. I really want to make sure I'm there for him when he gets back."

The Navy caravan of buses did not leave the Meadowlands until the next morning. The memorial service for Grizzard was scheduled to be held at three o'clock, and the caravan set out for Annapolis at 10. For Bucchianeri, still stunned by the turn of events, it would be a long ride south. It would be a far longer journey for superintendent Lynch, who had received distressing news from his executive assistant at 8 a.m. in his Meadowlands hotel room. At about 6 a.m., in the rainy, windswept darkness, three midshipmen had been killed and a fourth seriously injured when the roof of the Ford Bronco in which they were riding back from New Jersey was sheared off by a rotted willow tree that had just fallen across a road about a mile from the Naval Academy.

The caravan from the Meadowlands arrived at the Academy gate at 2:30 p.m., and the chapel filled for Grizzard's memorial service. During the service, without naming the victims, Lynch announced what had happened that morning outside the gate.

Who had died? all hands wondered.

Bucchianeri left the chapel and hiked in the cold rain across Tecumseh Court, then up the steps and into Memorial Hall, a vast, ornate room on whose far wall hangs the historic flag from the USS Lawrence. The flag bears the legend DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP. Outside, beyond the Yard, people seemed to be dying everywhere. Bucchianeri stared at the motto as though leaning on it for support. "It was perfectly silent," he says. "I wanted to be alone to dismiss



the kick once and for all. I dismissed it: O.K., it's over. Move on with your life!"

He did an about-face and left. Outside, on Tecumseh Court, he started back to his room. He noticed that the sun had broken through. "I looked up, and a huge rainbow had formed over Bancroft Hall, with a couple of seagulls flying across the sky," he says. "I almost cried. I thought, It's over. I can get on with my life."

Back in Mother B, he climbed the steps to his company deck and strode down the hall. A disquieting stillness hung in the air. "I knew something was wrong," he says. He joined some midshipmen in one of the rooms, where they sat talking for an hour, and then two plebes walked in to give them the news. Brian Clark, Bucchianeri's squad leader, was in serious condition at University Hospital in Baltimore. He had been driving the Bronco when it crashed into the tree. The three dead midshipmen were all women, all friends of Bucchianeri's: Lisa Winslow, Autumn Pevzner and Robin Pegram. They had left the hockey game together, visited a fellow midshipman in his hotel room, then set off for Annapolis at about 1:30 a.m. Alcohol was not involved. The tree toppled onto the road either just before the Bronco approached it or the instant the car got there.

...

"This was new for me," he says, "the most adversity I'd ever faced personally."

In the days after he returned from the Meadowlands, he received hundreds of letters, including scores through the E-mail on his computer. The expressions of kindness and solace overwhelmed him. "I didn't expect to get mail," he says. "I really didn't expect to get anything."

The letters, predictably, addressed the missed kick, the public agony amid his private sorrow. They came from all places and all kinds of people—from a man who addressed the envelope "To the Young Man at the Naval Academy whose place-kick missed going through the goal by inches" and from such senior military officers as Adm. Frank B. Kelso II, then the chief of naval operations, who

subsequently stepped down in the wake of the Tail-hook scandal. "When I was captain of the Naval Academy golf team many years ago," Kelso wrote to Bucchianeri, "I missed a putt on the 18th green to lose our match with Army, and I feel I haven't done too badly."

The central theme of these letters, which were often long and always generous, was the suffering and handling of adversity. "Everything from striking out in the last inning of a Pony League baseball game to captains and admirals losing men in war," Bucchianeri says. "They shared some very personal things with me. A lot of people said I taught them a lesson—that we can fail, that we can mess up sometimes, and it's O.K."

Bucchianeri was left, of course, to write his own endings to the days that followed. One night during the week after the Army-Navy game, when one memorial service seemed to blur into another, he fled the sadness of the faces and the walls to be alone again. He went to the auditorium in Mitscher Hall, turned off all the lights and sat down at the piano in the dark. "I was thinking about everything," he says. "How fragile life is at times...the kick wide...Lisa Winslow dancing in the halls...how larger-than-life Alton Grizzard was...."

He made the keys sound like wind, and he made them sound like rain.

--- The end ---

Sometimes not everything in life goes perfectly well. For those who would like to read the entire Sports Illustrated piece on the kick that did not make it, may choose to take this link:

<https://www.si.com/vault/1994/08/29/131858/a-time-of-trial-for-navy-kicker-ryan-bucchianeri-last-fall-was-a-season-of-testing-on-the-field-and-of-tragedy-off-it----a-time-that-helped-turn-a-talented-boy-into-an-exemplary-young-man>

## Great Navy Players David C. Berghult

David C. Berghult was a tight end for Navy from 1988 through 1990. He kept getting better and eventually made the Navy Athletic Hall of

Fame. In 1988 for example he caught one pass for 25 yards. Then, in 1989, it was 12 passes for 200 yards. In his last year, Berghult snagged 7 throws for 359 yards. He was a mainstay on the office with a total of 40 catches and 584 yards at the Naval Academy.

Berghult was fast and so every now and then he returned punts. He got the call one time and he gained 7 yards on the return.

**-- End of tribute--**

### 1991 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Chaump



#### << George Chaump

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1991 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred eleventh season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Chaump in his second of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. The team captains were B. J. Mason and Byron Ogden.

The Midshipmen had begun to slip in 1983 and the slide continued year after year. Chaump unfortunately, even in his second year was not the cure for the slide. The

team finished the season with a record worse than in many years with 1 win (1-10). In fact, it was the program's fewest wins in a season since the winless 1948 squad. The Navy was clearly not proud of this record.

Coach Chaump was heading in the wrong direction though his methods may have been the best. It did not look like in his tenure the

winning tradition would be brought back to the Navy squad though there still was a lot of hope.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1991 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 7 with a L (10-33) loss v Ball State. The opener was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 14 Virginia squeaked by Navy at Scott Stadium Charlottesville, VA L (10–17). Then, on Sept 21, at home, William & Mary beat the Navy L (21–26) before 23,697. At home v Bowling Green on Sept 28, the Navy lost a close game L (19–22). Air Force was next on Oct 12 at home, as the Falcons walloped the Midshipmen L (6–46) before 35,640. Then, on Oct at Temple, in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA, Navy lost the close game L (14–21). On Oct 26 in a close home game, Delaware beat Navy L (25–29).

As the season moved along, on Nov Notre Dame got to play Navy and beat them in a shutout in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend IN L (0–38) before 59,075. Then on Nov 9 at Tulane in the Louisiana Superdome New Orleans, LA, Navy lost to the Tulane Green Wave L (7–34) before 23,322. Wake Forest was next on the calendar and it proved to be a disappointment for Navy at home with a big loss L (24–52) before 22,276. Eventually with Navy, every regular season ends with Army as did 1991. On December 7 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Navy emerged victorious W (24–3).

## Great Navy Player Jim Kubiak

Jim Kubiak joined the Naval Academy in 1990 and graduated in 1995, after a stellar career at Navy in which he broke 22 passing records.

In 1996, Kubiak signed to play with the Carolina Panthers, but the Navy refused his request for an early release and the Panthers cut him in 1997. In 1998, he signed a contract with the Colts, and again asked

the Navy to release him from active duty so that he could try out for the team. The Navy agreed, but then Kubiak was cut from the team last November.

In December, the Navy asked Kubiak to return to active duty. He had been serving aboard the U.S.S. Eisenhower aircraft carrier, based in Norfolk, Va. Kubiak refused to return to duty, arguing that his release was not contingent upon his making the team.

In January, Kubiak sued the Navy in federal court in Buffalo, N.Y., his hometown, seeking to prevent being forced back to active duty. A judge temporarily granted Kubiak's request, stating that returning to duty would "irreparably damage" his football career.

Kubiak's settlement will likely come as good news to 1998 academy graduate Chris McCoy, another Navy quarterback who signed a contract with the Green Bay Packers last year and had planned to ask for an early release after he had served two years in the Navy.

During had a successful pro career in which he played for the Carolina Panthers, Indianapolis Colts, Barcelona Dragons, New York Jets, Buffalo Destroyers, Dallas Desperados, Detroit Fury, Georgia Force.

## Great Navy Player Todd Peterson



Peterson kicked for Navy for two years before concluding that the Naval Academy was not the best environment for him. He transferred to the University of Georgia where he excelled in academics and on the field, leading the SEC in field goal percentage. Drafted by the New York Giants in 1993, he became a journeyman kicker playing for the

Arizona Cardinals, Seattle Seahawks, Kansas City Chiefs, Pittsburgh Steelers, San Francisco 49ers and Atlanta Falcons. Beat Army 1989.

## Great Navy Player Kyle Eckel



This all-American fullback was named the MVP of the Army Navy game in consecutive years. He rushed for 1,147 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior, notably rushing 26 times for a career-high 179 yards and one touchdown against Army en-route to being named the Philadelphia Sportswriters Most Valuable Player of the Army-Navy game for the second consecutive year.

Unfortunately, Eckel gained a reputation for lacking discipline which contributed to him being booted from the Navy for undisclosed reasons only a year and half after his 2005 graduation.

He was forced to repay more than \$96,000 in tuition costs. He spent a couple of years on the practice squads of the New England Patriots and Miami Dolphins before finally cracking the Patriots' lineup player in 2007.

He spent most of his career as a special teams player, making stops in Philadelphia and Denver. He was with the New Orleans Saints for their Super Bowl XLIV victory. Beat Army 2002, 2003 and 2004.

### **1992 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Chaump**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1992 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twelfth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Chaump in his third of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen.

The Midshipmen had begun to slip in 1983 and the slide continued year after year. Chaump unfortunately, even in his second year was not the cure for the slide. The team finished the season this year with the same exact poor record as 1991 which had given Navy the program's fewest wins in a season since the winless 1948 squad. Just like the 1991 and 1948 seasons, the Navy was clearly not proud of this record.

Coach Chaump was heading in the wrong direction though his methods may have been the best. It did not look like in his tenure the winning tradition would be brought back to the Navy squad though there still was a lot of hope.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1992 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 12 with a L (0-53) shutout loss against Virginia. This opener and all home openers was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

At Boston College on Sept 19, Boston College shutout Navy at Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, MA L (0–28). Then, on Sept 26 at home, Rutgers shutout Navy L (0–40). Then, on Oct 3 at North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium Chapel Hill, NC, the Razorbacks defeated Navy L (14–28). At Air Force on Oct 10, the

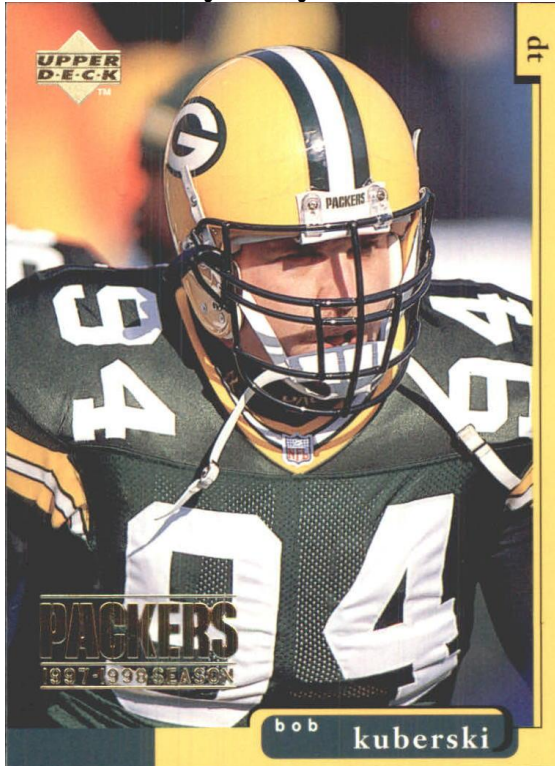


Falcons nosed out Navy in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO L (16–18). Moving on to Delaware, Navy lost a nice game on Oct 24 at home v Delaware L ( 21–37).

Against Notre Dame this year on Oct 31, Navy played the Irish at Giants Stadium East Rutherford, NJ, and ND got the best of Navy again, winning L (7–38) before 58,769. On Nov 7, at home, Navy beat Tulane in a close match W (20–17) before 21,912.

Then, on Nov 14 at home, Vanderbilt beat the Navy L (7–27). Working through the season, in the second last game, Rice beat Navy by a hair on Nov 21 in Rice Stadium Houston, TX L (22–27). Finishing off a very poor year, on Dec 5, Navy was nosed out by Army at Veterans Stadium • Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) L (24–25). Could not have been any closer without being a tie.

## Great Navy Player Bob Kuberski



A huge, agile and quick defensive lineman, Kuberski was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in the seventh round of the 1993 draft. After his request to delay his military obligation was denied, he spent two years out of football until he received an honorable discharge by working out a deal to financially compensate the Naval Academy for the cost of tuition. He played four years for the Packers and was a member of the team that won Super Bowl XXXI. He finished his career in 1999 playing for

the New England Patriots. Beat Army 1989 and 1991.



### 1993 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Chaump

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1993 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Chaump in his fourth of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen.

The Midshipmen had begun to slip in 1983 and the slide continued year after year. Chaump unfortunately, even in his fourth year had not become the cure for the slide. The team finished the season a bit better than the prior two (*one-win*) seasons with 4 wins (4-7). The Navy was hoping for more from Coach Chaump.

Coach Chaump was heading in the wrong direction though his methods may have been the best. It did not look like in his tenure the winning tradition would be brought back to the Navy squad though even after four poor years, there still was a lot of hope.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1993 Navy Football Team began its season on September 11, with a L (0-38) shutout loss against Virginia in a game played at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA.

On Sept 18, at home, Navy beat Eastern Illinois W (31-10). At home again on Sept 25, Navy beat Bowling Green W (27-20). For its second loss, on Oct 2, Tulane edged out Navy at the Louisiana Superdome New Orleans, LA L (25-27) before 21,117. On Oct 9 at home, Navy beat Air Force W (28-24). Then, on Oct 16, at home, Navy beat Colgate W (31-3). At Louisville the following week on Oct 23, Kentucky beat Navy in Cardinal Stadium Louisville, KY L (0-28) before 37,214.

At home in a game played in Veterans Stadium on Oct 30, Notre Dame beat Navy in Philadelphia, PA L (27-58) before 61,813. After a week off, on Nov 13 at Vanderbilt in Vanderbilt Stadium Nashville, TN, the Commodores beat the Midshipmen L (7-41). On

November 20, at home, SMU defeated Navy L 13–42 before 24,639. In the Army-Navy Classic on Dec 4 vs. Army in Giants Stadium East Rutherford, NJ (Army-Navy game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Army nosed out Navy L 14–16. Since all service teams had one loss, Air Force retained the trophy for their win in 1992.

## Great Navy Player Max Lane



A three-year starter 1989-1991, at offensive tackle for the Midshipmen, Lane left the Naval Academy under a dark cloud in his senior year when he was caught in a cheating scandal. Drafted by the New England Patriots in the sixth round of the 1994 draft, he was able to immediately join the team because he had been released from his obligations to the Navy. He enjoyed a solid seven-year career that included starting in Super Bowl XXXI.

### 1994 Navy Midshipmen Coach George Chaump

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1994 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred fourteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by George Chaump in his fifth and last of five seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen.

The Midshipmen had begun to slip in 1983 and the slide continued year after year. Chaump unfortunately, even in his fifth year had not become the cure for the slide. The team finished the season a bit worse

than the prior year with 3 wins (3-8). This would be Coach Chaump's last season at the helm.

From his first season in 1990, Coach Chaump took Navy in the wrong direction. His tenure did not recover Navy's winning tradition from before 1983 and after five years of effort, it was clear Coach Chaump was not going to be the hero he originally was hired to become.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1994 Navy Football Team began its season on September 3, with a L (14-56) loss against San Diego State in a game played at Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego, CA.

Sept 10 at home, Virginia walloped Navy L (10-47) before 25,463. Then at Bowling Green's, on Sept 17 at Doyt Perry Stadium Bowling Green, OH, the Falcons whipped Navy L (21-59). Then, on Oct 1 at home, Duke pounded Navy L (14-47). At Air Force on Oct 8 in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs CO, the Falcons defeated Navy L (21-43). On Oct 15 at home, Navy beat Lafayette W 7-0. Then, on Oct 22, at home, Louisville beat Navy L (14-35)

On Oct 29 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN, the Fighting Irish hammered Navy L (21-58) before 59,075. At Tulane on Nov 5 in the Louisiana Superdome New Orleans, LA, Navy edged out the Green Wave W (17-15) before 20,603. At home on Nov 19, Navy defeated Rice W (29-17). Then, on Dec 3 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), the Black Knights edged out the Midshipmen L (20-22). Air Force took the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for the fifth time in a row.

## **Best Army Navy Game # 8**

Army captured the 1994 game, 22-20, after Kurt Heiss made one of the longest field goals in the rivalry's history.

In a contest that mostly was about the Cadets' ground game (they rushed for 373 yards) and Navy's passing game (quarterback Jim Kubiak threw for 361 yards), it came down to a 52-yard kick by Heiss with 6:19 remaining to win.

The game featured six lead changes and more than its share of big plays, mostly by Navy, as tailback Michael Jefferson had a 73-yard touchdown run and Kubiak threw a 56-yard scoring pass to tight end Kevin Hickman.

Still, it wasn't enough to overcome the Cadets that day.

**1995 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie**

*Courtesy of the ULM Athletic Media Relations office*



Charlie Weatherbie turned around the Navy Football Program in his time at the helm. He is a fine coach and Navy was going nowhere fast before Weatherbie became the difference maker. You will see as after this piece courtesy of a school where he also coached, the seasons in which he coached and his fine record at Navy.

Weatherbie, who took over struggling football programs at Utah State and the Naval Academy and guided both to bowl victories, was introduced Wednesday at ULM as its 13th head football coach at Louisiana-Monroe. The announcement came at a press

conference at the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center on the ULM campus.

"I said at the outset of this search that we wanted to work quickly, but more importantly we wanted to make the right decision on our next head football coach," ULM Director of Athletics Bruce Hanks said in introducing Weatherbie to the overflow crowd of supporters, University and athletic department personnel. "I don't know that we always moved as quickly as everyone would have liked, but I am confident that this Search Committee got the right man for the right time to run our football program."

"The Search Committee was impressed from the outset with both the amount of interest we received in the head coaching position and the quality of the applicants," Hanks said. "As the process progressed, it became clear to us that Charlie Weatherbie possessed all of the attributes we were looking for in our head coach -- character, experience, proven success as a head coach, and the ability to succeed in a University setting similar to ours. And his tenure at Navy shows that academic success for our student-athletes is also something that we share in common with our new head football coach. Numerous experienced individuals in the industry gave Charlie strong recommendations."

Weatherbie said he is excited about the challenge of winning a Sun Belt Conference championship in Monroe, but said it's going to take a group effort.

"I am very excited to come here to ULM. I know that we have the opportunity to be successful and get this program turned around," Weatherbie said. "Once you've been successful, it's easier to get back there. It's like driving a car, once you've been there, it's easier to get back. ULM has been there. We can win in the Sun Belt Conference and go to the New Orleans Bowl, that is our goal. It's about changing an attitude, getting everyone on board and behind this football program, it's going to take a total team effort. It takes the whole city of Monroe, the entire community to bring back the pride in this great program, but I know that it is something that we can get done with the help of everyone in this room."

Weatherbie, 48, has twice proven that he can take over sub .500 football programs and instantly transform them into winners. At Utah State, he inherited a program that had not had a winning season in 12 years and took the Aggies to their first Big West Conference championship in 15 years, their first bowl game in 32 years and their first bowl victory ever, beating Ball State 42-33 in the 1993 Las Vegas Bowl. He was 15-19 in three seasons (1992-94) at the Logan, Utah, school and the Aggies' 1993 win over Brigham Young still stands as Utah State's only win in the last 18 meetings with their in-state rivals.

At Navy, Weatherbie had similar success. He took the Midshipmen, who had suffered through 12 consecutive losing seasons prior to his arrival, to a 9-3 record and the championship of the 1996 Aloha Bowl in his second season. The nine wins were the most by a Navy team in 18 years and no Navy team has won more games since 1905. He also became just the third coach in school history to win a bowl game.

In 1997, Weatherbie led Navy to a 7-4 mark, the first time since the 1981-82 seasons that the Mids had compiled back-to-back winning seasons. The 16 wins over two years tied for the third most in school history. He was named ECAC Coach of the Year and was the head defensive coach at the Kelly Tire Blue/Gray Classic. Weatherbie's first team in Annapolis, Md., went 5-6 in 1995, after Navy had won just nine games the previous four seasons combined. Overall, he was 30-45 at Navy and is 45-64 in nine-plus seasons as a head coach on the NCAA Division I-A level.

ULM President James E. Cofer, Sr. thanked the effort of the Search Committee during his remarks and urged the Indians' fans to look ahead to an exciting future for the football program and the University.

"The selection of Charlie Weatherbie as ULM's head football coach should signal everyone that we are serious about having a successful program," Cofer said. "Charlie is a leader and a winner. He will guide our student athletes to success on the field and in the classroom. I want to thank the committee and all of our boosters for their constant and strong support of ULM athletics."

"Under Charlie's direction, the progress we've made at ULM will continue in our football program. Our players and our program are looking ahead to a bright future. It is time for our entire community to step forward and get behind our football program. Your continued support of ULM athletics -- through attendance at events, ticket sales, and donations to the foundation -- is needed more than ever. We welcome Charlie to the ULM Family."

Prior to his head coaching experience at Utah State and Navy, Weatherbie served as an assistant coach at Arkansas for two years, as quarterbacks coach the first season and offensive coordinator the second. From 1984-89, he was an assistant at Air Force, helping the Falcons to a 48-25-1 record in six seasons. Weatherbie coached the quarterbacks and receivers during his stint as an assistant at Wyoming from 1981-83 as the Cowboys compiled a 20-15 mark over three seasons.

A native of Sedan, Kan., Weatherbie was the starting quarterback at Oklahoma State from 1974-76. In his senior season, he led the Cowboys to the co-championship of the Big Eight Conference and a victory over defending national champion Oklahoma. During his OSU career, he accounted for 2,950 yards of total offense (2,215 passing and 735 rushing) and 25 touchdowns (14 passing and 11 rushing) and led the Cowboys to bowl victories in 1974 and '76.

A member of the Dean's Honor Roll at Oklahoma State, Weatherbie earned his bachelor's degree from OSU in 1977. His first coaching position came as a graduate assistant at his alma mater in 1977.

Weatherbie and his wife, Leann, are the parents of two sons, Lance (25) and Jonas (23). Jonas is a former quarterback at the University of Kansas.

Weatherbie's appointment is pending the approval of the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.

### **The 1995 Navy Season**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1995 college football season. It was the Naval

Academy's One Hundred fifteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his first of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Weatherbie had some fine seasons but overall, Navy had not regained its stature as a national powerhouse at the end of Weatherbie's tenure.

As discussed previously, the Midshipmen had begun to slip in 1983 and the slide continued year after year. As you will see, Weatherbie showed some signs of brilliance and even brought in a record one year of 9-3. Weatherbie unfortunately missed the mark with five of his seven seasons categorized as *losing* (less than .500).

This year's team finished the season with the best record since George Chaump's 1990 season with 5 wins (5-6).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1995 Navy Football Team began its season on September 9, with a W (33-2) win against SMU in Cotton Bowl (stadium) Dallas before 20,302.

At Rutgers on Sept 1 in Rutgers Stadium Piscataway, New Jersey, the Scarlet Knights beat the Midshipmen L (17-27). Then, on Sept 23, at home, Wake Forest beat Navy L (7-30) before 25,380. At Duke on Sept 30, Navy beat the Blue Devils W (30-9) at Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, North Carolina W (30-9). At home on Oct 7, Virginia Tech shutout Navy L (0-14) before 31,114. At home on Oct 14, Navy lost to Air Force L (20-30). At home, Navy beat Villanova on Oct 21 W 20-14

On Nov 4 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Irish beat the Midshipmen L (17-35) before 59,075. Then, Navy beat Delaware at home on Nov 11 W 31-7. Navy beat Tulane at home on Nov 18 W 35-7 before 19,815. On Dec 2 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Army nosed out Navy L (13-14) in a classic close game.



## Great Navy Player Gervy Alota

Gervy Alota is recognized a one of Navy's best. In 2009 he was named to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial All-Stadium Team as a defensive back. In 1997, he was interviewed by Alan Goldstein of the Sun Staff for a column just before the all-important Army-Navy Game.

Goldstein began by writing that: "More than just a game Army-Navy: Despite boyhood dreams of being a Midshipman, Gervy Alota didn't fully realize the magnitude of the annual game until he was a part of it. And Saturday is his last chance to beat Army."



Lt. Cmdr. Gervy Alota talks about playing football for Naval Academy and his unusual pre-game ritual.

Gervy Alota sat with a reporter in an otherwise empty press box at Giants Stadium last week, looking down on the field where Army and Navy would be staging the 98th renewal of their football rivalry Saturday afternoon.

"That's where I was sitting in 1993 with all the other football players from Navy prep school who were going to the academy," said the senior co-captain and free safety, pointing to a section in the end zone to the right of the goal posts.

"We were looking right into the eyes of Ryan Bucchianeri when he lined up on the 18-yard line in the last seconds for what we all figured would be the winning field goal.

"Of course, Booch shanked it to the right. That's when we first realized how much this game with Army meant and we all cried," Alota recalled. "Later, we kidded ourselves that maybe if we'd been sitting right behind the posts, and yelled, 'Booch, over here!' he might have kicked it straight."

Alota has become far more involved emotionally as the only Midshipman to start the past three Army-Navy games. And Saturday represents his last opportunity to walk off the field a winner before graduation.

"I became a starter halfway through my freshman year," said Alota, a native of San Diego who leads the team in tackles (101). "When I got to play at Notre Dame Stadium, I thought that was the ultimate until I played against Army for the first time.

"Being young, I approached it as just an ordinary game. But after talking with my peers, it hit me what this game was all about. The emotion and the atmosphere of having the two brigades on hand is unparalleled."

Again in 1994, the game was decided by a swing of the leg, only this time it was a career-best, 52-yard field goal by Kurt Heiss that gave Army a 22-20 victory.

After his first Army game, a tearful Alota was physically and emotionally drained while the Mids lined up to sing their alma mater.

"I was feeling real weak, but someone put an arm around me. I looked up, and it was [Army coach] Bob Sutton. He sung the 'Navy Blue & Gold' with us. Then he took me aside and said, 'Son, you have a lot of football ahead of you. Keep fighting!'

"It's like our linebacker coach, Tommy Raye, tells us, 'You look in the mirror, and that's who you're playing.' We both go through the same things and play for the same reason. We play for our love of football and for our love of country."

But even that inspirational message did not help erase the frustration of two more bitter losses to Army for Alota, an emerging team leader.

As a sophomore, he saw Army drive 99 yards for the winning touchdown after Navy failed to score on fourth down from the Cadets' 1 with about eight minutes left. Last year, Navy failed to hold an 18-point lead in a 28-24 defeat.

"We let it slip through our hands," Alota said. "We were up 21-3, but just didn't have the killer instinct to finish them off. We still had a chance to win in the fourth quarter, but [wide-out] LeBron Butts dropped a couple of passes in the end zone."

It was because of Butts that Alota found his way to Annapolis as an undersized (he's now 190 pounds) and all-but-overlooked defensive back.

"LeBron and I were teammates at Morse High," he said. "He was a great high school player, and Navy recruited him hard. LeBron knew I wanted to go to the academy because my father was a career enlisted man in the Navy and I wanted to be on ships just like him."

One day, at practice, Alota, then all of 145 pounds, noticed Navy recruiter Mike Drake watching him, but not looking particularly interested.

"I introduced myself, and he said, 'Oh, you're Gervy Alota,' and by his voice, I could tell he didn't expect me to be that small."

But Drake came back for a second look, and Alota convinced the recruiter he was worth packaging with Butts for scholarship offers to Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, R.I.

Alota said: "Honestly, my ambition in prep school was just to become good enough to play on special teams so my parents could see me play in one Army-Navy game."

Making his parents feel proud has been Alota's mission since they all but pushed him into playing football as a youngster growing up in a tough section of San Diego, an area where kids often found trouble.

When he was 6, his father drove him to a neighborhood football field.

" 'Son,' " my father said, 'go out and practice. If you don't like it, don't play. But if you like it, stick with it, and it will pay off for you in the end, I promise you.'

"I played in the Pop Warner league, and I loved it right away."

As he grew older, his family ties grew even closer. His father gave up an overseas promotion to stay in the San Diego area with his wife and children. When his mother suffered kidney failure and needed a donor, all three of her children -- Albert, 18; Gervy, 17; and daughter, Merizen, 16 -- volunteered. But Albert was selected.

"He did it for me," Gervy said. "He was a real good athlete, but he knew how badly I wanted to go to the Naval Academy. He also had aspirations to go to college, but he put me ahead of him."

That is why Gervy is dedicating this last Army game to his parents and Albert, who will graduate from San Diego State this June.

"This year, Army is our bowl game. This is the last time for me to put on the pads," Alota said. "I've pretty much accomplished everything I've wanted as a collegiate athlete. I never dreamed of starting as a freshman or playing at Notre Dame.

"But from the time you're a plebe, you start yelling, 'Beat Army! Beat Army!' And I've yet to get a star on my letter sweater or heard the bells ring in Annapolis. This is the game I want to remember the rest of my life."

-- End of tribute --

### **1996 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1996 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred sixteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his second of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with the best record since George Welsh's 1978 season with 9 wins (9-3).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1996 Navy Football Team began its season on September 7, with a W (10-6) win against Rutgers in Rutgers Stadium Piscataway, New Jersey.

At home, Navy beat SMU on Sept 21 W (19–17) before 26,798  
 At Boston College on Sept, Navy lost to BC in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts L (38–43). On Oct 5 at home, Navy walloped Duke W(64–27) before 31,365. At Air Force on Oct 12 in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado , Navy beat the Falcons W (20–17) Then on Oct 26 at Wake Forest in Groves Stadium • Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Navy prevailed W (47–18) before 17,307.

Then on Nov 2 vs. Notre Dame in Croke Park Dublin, Ireland (Emerald Isle Classic/Rivalry), the Fighting Irish beat Navy L (27–54) before 38,651. On Nov 9 at home, Navy beat Delaware W (30–14). At home on Nov 16, Navy beat Tulane W 35–21 before 24,952. Then, on Nov 23 at Georgia Tech’s Bobby Dodd Stadium Atlanta GA, Navy prevailed W (36–26) before 44,415. Wrapping up the season on Dec 7 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy), the Cadets beat the Midshipmen L (24–28).

On Dec 25, in a Christmas Day Aloha Bowl meeting against California, Navy prevailed in Aloha Stadium Honolulu, HI (Aloha Bowl) W (42–38) in a close game before 30,411



Charlie Weatherbie 1996 Aloha Bowl Victory

### **1997 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1997 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred seventeenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his third of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with a winning record with 7 wins (7-4).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1997 Navy Football Team began its season on September 5, with a L (31-45 loss against San Diego State at Jack Murphy Stadium San Diego, CA

On Sept 13 at home, Navy beat Rutgers W (36–7). On Sept 20 at SMU in Cotton Bowl (stadium) Dallas, TX, Navy prevailed W (46–16) before 20,011. On Sept 27 at Duke in Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, NC the Blue Devils beat the Midshipmen L (17–26) before

17,370. On Oct 11 at home, Air Force edged out Navy L (7–10). At home on Oct 18, Navy beat VMI W (42–7). Then, on Nov 1 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, IN the Irish barely beat the Midshipmen L (17–21) before 80,225 in the newly refurbished facilities.

On Nov 8, at home, Navy walloped Temple W (49–17). At home on Nov 15, Navy shellacked Colgate W (52–24). Then, on Nov 22, at home, Navy thumped Kent State W (62–29). In the annual Army-Navy Classic Game on December 6 vs. Army in Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ (Army-Navy game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), the Midshipmen pounded the Cadets (Black Knights) W (39–7)

## Great Navy Player Mike Wahle

Mike Wahle was a rare breed as an offensive guard. He was the best OG at Navy for sure. He also played big time for the Green Bay Packers (1998-2004), the Carolina Panthers (2005-07) and the Seattle Seahawks (2008).



Wahle loved sports and thus he became a three-sport athlete in high school. When he came to the Naval Academy, he was to be a wide receiver. However, several years later, he had grown into a standout offensive lineman, but he was asked to resign his commission before his senior season at Navy.

The complete skinny on Wahle was that when he came to the Naval Academy, he was a “skinny” 210-pound



wide receiver but by his senior year he had become a 307-pound offensive linesman, so it was not a big surprise when he tested positive for steroids. He was dropped from the team like a hot potato and asked to resign from the Naval Academy.

Freed from commitment to military service, he was nabbed in the second round of the 1998 NFL supplemental draft by the Green Bay Packers. He spent 8 productive years in Green Bay before signing with the Carolina Panthers where he earned a trip to the Pro Bowl in 2005. In 2008 he signed a five-year contract with Seattle only to suffer an injury in his first season with the Seahawks that effectively ended his career.

To summarize, the Green Bay Packers selected him in the supplemental draft with a second-round selection, and he went on to a 10-year NFL career. The Navy's misfortune was Green Bay's fortune. He started 138 games and earned a Pro Bowl nod with the Carolina Panthers in 2005.



## 1998 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1998 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred eighteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his third of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with a losing record with 3 wins (3-8).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1998 Navy Football Team began its season on September 10, with a L (14-26) loss against Wake Forest at Groves Stadium • Winston-Salem, North Carolina before 26,032.

On Sept 19 at home. Navy beat Kent State W (38-24). At Tulane on September 26 in the Louisiana Superdome New Orleans, , the Green Waves defeated the Midshipmen L (24-42) before 19,371. On Oct 3 at home, West Virginia beat Navy L (24-45) before 36,009. On Oct 10 at Air Force in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, the Flying Falcons pounded the Midshipmen L (7-49). Then, on Oct 17 at home , Navy edged out Colgate W 42-35. On Oct 24, Navy nosed out Boston College in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts W (32-31) before 42,877.

On Nov 7 at home, Rutgers defeated Navy L (33-36) On Nov 14 at home in a game played vs. Notre Dame at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium Landover, Maryland (Rivalry), the Fighting Irish shut out the Middies L (0-30) before 78,844. At home on Nov 21, SMU beat Navy L (11-24) before 27,487. In the season ending Army-Navy Classic Game, on Dec 5 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Army defeated Navy L (30-34) in a close match.

## Great Navy Player Chris McCoy

In his Navy career from 1995 to 1997 Chris McCoy was a phenomenal QB for Navy. He completed 682 passes for 3401 yards over three years.

McCoy never minded the kidding he took about his tiny hometown of Morris, Ga. (pop. 850). "There's a post office and a general store with two gas pumps, and that's it," he says, grinning. The nearest movie theater? "Sixty miles away." McCoy's directions to his family's home: Take the dirt road out of Morris, make a right, make a left, pass a big tree, take another left and drive through a two-foot-deep creek--and then you're getting close. "We used to tease Chris that they didn't get Monday-night football out there until Thursday," says Jim McFather, who was an assistant coach at Randolph-Clay High when McCoy played there.

McCoy indeed came out of nowhere on Sept. 9, 1995, when as a sophomore quarterback making his first start for Navy, he gained a Middies-record 398 yards in total offense against SMU, including 273 yards rushing. Since then, his ability to run Navy's option attack has been no secret. He finished the '95 season with 803 yards rushing and ran for 1,228 in '96. This year McCoy, a 5'10" 190-pounder, became only the ninth collegian to surpass 1,000 yards rushing (1,165) and passing (1,129) in the same season.

Entering the season's Army-Navy game, McCoy owns Middies career marks for total offense (5,608) and rushing touchdowns (40). Under his direction, Navy (6-4) at the time, has had back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1981 and '82.

Surprisingly, McCoy almost didn't make it out of Georgia. In the spring of 1993 Randolph-Clay principal Jackie Hammond sent tapes of McCoy's best games to an assistant coach at Navy he had contacted on a whim. After weeks went by without word from the Middies, McCoy was ready to sign with Division II Albany (Ga.) State, the only school that had recruited him. In fact, Chris; his mother, Rosie; and Hammond were meeting with an Albany State coach in preparation for Chris's signing with the Golden Rams when a secretary hurried in with a message: "Mr. Hammond, there's a coach from Navy on the line for you."

### **1999 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1999 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred nineteenth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his fifth of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with a losing record with 5 wins (5-7).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 1999 Navy Football Team began its home season on September 4, with a L (14-49) drubbing from Georgia Tech before 30,311. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

At home, on Sept 11, Navy whooped Kent State W (48–28). At home again on Sept 18, Boston College edged out Navy L (10–14) before 34,052. Then on Sept 25 at Rice in Rice Stadium Houston, Navy was edged out L (17–20). On Oct 2 at West Virginia, Navy edged out the Mountaineers at Mountaineer Field Morgantown, West Virginia W 31–28 before 52,875. At home, playing Air Force on Oct 11 in FedExField Landover, L (14–19). On Oct 23 at home, Akron neat Navy L (29–35). On Oct 30 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana (Rivalry), ND beat the Middies in a close match L 24–28 before 80,012.

On Nov 6, Navy beat Rutgers at Rutgers Stadium in Piscataway, New Jersey W (34–7). At home on Nov 13, Navy beat Tulane W 45–21 before 32,840. On Nov 20 at Hawaii in Aloha Stadium • Honolulu, HI, Navy lost L (41–48) before 41,895. On December 4 vs. Army in Veterans Stadium Philadelphia (Army-Navy game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy)n Navy beat Army W (19–9). Air Force again won the trophy.

### **Great Navy Player Terrence Anderson**

By Rick Scherr Special to the Washington Post 1999



Growing up in the shadow of big-time college football, Terrence Anderson had the unique opportunity to learn from some of the sport's best. He was named after former NFL defensive back Terry Kinard – the first player his father recruited as an assistant coach at Clemson – and his babysitters included Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas, players his father recruited while working for Oklahoma State. Not surprisingly, the Navy senior center has a substance-over-style approach to playing. Offensive Line

"Most offensive linemen are tough guys. I tell them all the time, I'm not a tough guy," said Anderson, who also sings tenor in the Naval Academy gospel choir. "I smile a little too much and maybe care about my grooming standards a little too much. I see a lot of true tough guys who use that as a motivation to play, and that's good – especially here. But my motivation is more in a simple pride that I'm not going to let any one person beat me."

That approach has helped him make a stunningly quick transition from seldom-used backup linebacker to one of the nation's top centers. (He was rated the nation's eighth-best center in the Sporting News' season preview magazine.)

Last season – his first at center – he averaged 15 knockdown blocks per game and did not allow a sack. He also did his best work against the best opponents, grading out at 95 percent against Notre Dame and recording 25 knockdown blocks against unbeaten Tulane.

"He can be as good as he wants to be because he's got the one thing that a lot of them lack, and that's consistency," Navy offensive line coach Gene McKeehan said. "You kind of expect him to play well every game, and he does."

Leading by example is nothing new to Anderson, however. While they were growing up, he and his brother, Derrick, shared their home with emotionally troubled boys from dysfunctional families whom their father – a church pastor as well as a football coach – took in for anywhere from six months to two years as part of his ministry.

"The goal was to try and impact a change," Willie Anderson said. "Terrence and his brother were always role models for [the boys he took in]. They worked closely with them and made a difference." But Willie Anderson, an all-Atlantic Coast Conference nose guard and team co-captain at Clemson in 1974, has groomed his son to be a leader since shortly after he was conceived. While pursuing his master's degree, the elder Anderson studied the idea that education begins in the womb. So he read and talked to his still-unborn son, frequently telling him one day he would become the first black president.

The night Terrence was born, his father read him an entire Mother Goose book.

When it came to football, though, Willie Anderson resisted the urge to coach his kids. Now the defensive coordinator at Langston (Okla.) University, he said, if anything, his son may be too serious. An economics major who also is taking pre-med courses, Terrence Anderson said he eventually would like to become a physician. He also is considering trying out for Navy's wrestling team (he finished sixth in his weight class in Oklahoma as a high school senior).

"I like having an opponent – it's either me or him that wins," Anderson said. "One of us knows he won, the other knows he lost."

At 5 feet 11 and 285 pounds, he often weighs 20 or 30 pounds less than the players he must block. Overcoming that obstacle, he said, is just a matter of putting into practice lessons he learned long ago.

"Most of the guys I play against are bigger and stronger than I am, but it's just a matter of technique," he said. "A lot of guys don't play with good technique, and that can save you if you're not as strong or talented as they are."

**2000 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2000 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twentieth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his sixth of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with a losing record with 1 win (1-10).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2000 Navy Football Team began its season on September 2, with a L (6-17) loss at home from Temple before 28,335. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 16 at Georgia Tech in Bobby Dodd Stadium Atlanta, the Yellow Jackets beat Navy L (13–40) before 46,042. At Boston College, on Sept in Alumni Stadium Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, BC whipped Navy L (7–48) before 42,681. At home, on Sept 30, #18 TCU shutout Navy L (0–24) before 28,477. On Oct 7 at Air Force in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs Colorado the Falcons beat the Midshipmen L (13–27) before 50,342. Then, on Oct 14 vs #20 Notre Dame in a game played in the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL, the Irish beat the Midshipmen L (14–45) before 47,291. On Oct 21 a home Rutgers beat Navy L (21–28) before 32,108. On Oct 28 at home, Toledo beat Navy L (20–21) before 27,355

On Nov 11 at Tulane in the Louisiana Superdome New Orleans, the Green Waves defeated the Navy L (38–50) before 20,081. Then, on Nov 18 at home, Wake Forest crushed the Navy L (26–49) before 30,370. On Dec 2, Navy won its only game of the season in the Army–Navy classic at PSINet Stadium Baltimore, MD (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (30–28).

**2001 Navy Midshipmen Coach Charlie Weatherbie**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2001 college football season. It was the Naval

Academy's One Hundred twenty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Charlie Weatherbie in his seventh and last of seven seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Weatherbie was replaced by defensive coordinator Rick Lantz for the last three games of the season This year's team finished the season with a losing record with 0 wins (0-10).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2001 Navy Football Team began its season on September 2, with a L (6-17) loss at home from Temple before 28,335. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

Since all games were losses this year, the following chart depicts the results of the games of the season.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Home/Away</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Att.</b>
Aug30	Temple	H Franklin Field	26-45	26,191
Septr 8	Georg Tech	Home	7-70	30,602
Sept 15	Northwestrn	Canceled due to Sept 11		
Sept 22	Boston College	Home	21-38	30,064
Oct 6	Air Force	A FedExField	18-24	36,251
Oct 13	Rice	Home	13-21	29,106
Oct 20	Rutgers	Away Rut Stad	17-23	29,101
Oct 27	Toledo	Away Gls Bowl	20-21	36,852
Nov 10	Tulane	Home	28-42	31,456
Nov 17	Notre Dame	ND Stadium	16-34	80,795
Dec 1	Army	Vets Stadium	17-26	65,352

## Best Army Navy Game # 9

In a matchup featuring two teams headed for bowls, Army defeated Navy, 28-24, following a late defensive stand.

Headed for the Poulan Weedeater Independence Bowl, the Cadets stopped the Jeep Eagle Aloha Bowl-bound Midshipmen eight times inside the 10, highlighting the final four minutes of the tight contest. After falling behind 21-3 in the second quarter (21-13 at the half), the game turned for Army early in the third quarter on an 81-yard touchdown run by Bobby Williams. However, the two-point conversion attempt failed, and kept Navy ahead, 21-19.

After the Midshipmen missed a 42-yard field goal try on its next series, the Cadets took a 25-21 lead on a 3-yard touchdown run by Demetrius Perry.

Navy's Tom Vanderhorst atoned for his previous miss by nailing a 31-yard field goal late in the third quarter to cut the deficit to a point. Army responded with a 21-yard field goal by J. Parker to give the game its final margin.

The Midshipmen drove inside the Cadets' 10 twice in the latter stages of the fourth quarter but were stopped each time.



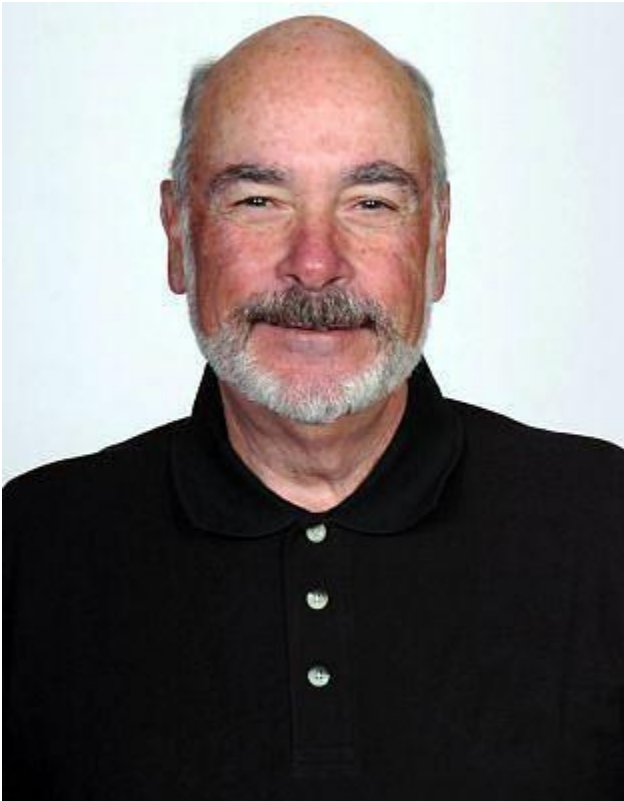
## Chapter 17 Coaches Lantz & Johnson 2001 – 2007

Lantz            Coach # 36  
Johnson        Coach # 37

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
2001	Rick Lantz	0-0	Indep	0-0
2002	Paul Johnson	2-10	Indep	2-10
2003	Paul Johnson	8-5	Indep	8-5
2004	Paul Johnson	10-2	Indep	10-2
2005	Paul Johnson	8-4	Indep	8-4
2006	Paul Johnson	9-4	Indep	9-4
2007	Paul Johnson	8-5	Indep	8-5

\*\* Johnson left before 2007 Bowl game

**2001 Navy Midshipmen Coach Rick Lantz interim / Charlie Weatherbie**



<< Rick Lantz

Lantz was enjoying life as the defensive coordinator for Navy in Charlie Weatherbie's last season at the helm. Weatherbie had begun his tenure at Navy with two very successful seasons and then something happened, and he had a tough time finding a win. In his seventh season, after a 1-10 season in 2000, Charlie was not hitting the win column at all. With three games left in that

season, Navy had enough and let Charlie Weatherbie have a free pass for the remaining three games.

Rick Lantz, who may or may not have been a good DC for Navy agreed to take the team as head coach and as you saw in Chapter 16, as a Weatherbie sub, he could not muster up a win in the three games left. Thus Navy was left with a winless season, 0-10. Lantz disappeared after that as Navy invested in a fine coach, Paul Johnson who did quite well before he left after the 2006 season.

## Paul Johnson takes the helm at Navy



It takes a long time to change the character of a team. Paul Johnson made things better for Navy in his second year. After Rick Lantz' interim stint, Navy hired Georgia Southern's Coach Paul Johnson, a former Navy assistant, to be its next football coach.

A Navy spokesman said a news conference had not been scheduled as the hiring was not immediately announced so technically there was no news to report. You never know as in other coaching news at the time, Notre Dame was about to hire Georgia Tech Coach George O'Leary.

ND did but he lasted just five days. So, careful is the order of the day when picking new coaches.

At the time of his hiring, Johnson was in his fifth season coaching at Georgia Southern, which had just advanced to the NCAA Division I-AA semifinals with a 38-24 victory over Appalachian State.

Prior to his stint at Georgia Southern, where he had a 62-9 record, Johnson was the offensive coordinator at Navy. He had been considered one of the leading candidates to become Navy's coach since former coach Charlie Weatherbie was fired and Rick Lantz came in as interim coach. As you will see, Johnson turned Navy around and unlike Weatherbie's brief turnaround, this one would last.

### **2002 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Johnson**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2002 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Paul Johnson in his first of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with a losing record with 2 wins (2-10). This would be Johnson's only losing season at Navy. For his next five years, he made great improvements to the Navy program and its record.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2002 Navy Football Team began its season on August 31 with a W (38-7) win at SMU in Gerald J. Ford Stadium University Park, Texas before 25,744

On Sept 7 at home # 21 NC State shellacked Navy L (19-65) before 29,613. On Sept 21 at home, Northwestern defeated the Navy L (40-49) before 27,012. Then, on Sept 28 at home, Duke beat Navy L (17-43) before 31,647. At Air Force on Oct 5 in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado, the Falcons beat the Midshipmen L (7-48) before 48,550. On Oct 12 at home, Rice beat Navy L (10-17) before 25,104. At Boston College on Oct 19 in Alumni Stadium

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, BC beat Navy L (21–46) before 41,322. At Tulane on Oct 26, the Green Waves beat the Midshipmen in Tad Gormley Stadium New Orleans L (30–51) before 27,417

At home on Nov 9 in a game played in Ravens Stadium Baltimore MD Navy lost to Notre Dame L (23–30) before 70,260. On Nov 16 at home, Connecticut shut out Navy L (0–38) before 25,664. Then, on Nov 23 Wake Forest beat Navy at Groves Stadium Winston-Salem, North Carolina L (27–30) before 22,811. In the season wrap-up game, on Dec 7 vs. Army in Giants Stadium East Rutherford, New Jersey (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Navy put all of its eggs together and smothered the Army W (58–12).

### **2003 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Johnson**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2003 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Paul Johnson in his second of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with the first winning record in years with 8 wins (8-5).

This would be Johnson's first of five winning seasons. He brought back the prestige of the old Navy program pre-1983. Unlike other coaches after 1983 that had a winning season or two, Johnson got four in a row and Navy was the better for his efforts.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2003 Navy Football Team began its season on August 30 with a W (37-10) win at home vs VMI before 30,129. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 6 at #25 TCU in Amon G. Carter Stadium Fort Worth, Texas Navy lost the game L (3–17) before 35,688. Then, on Sept 20 at home, Navy beat the pants off of Eastern Michigan W (39–7) before 27,627. At Rutgers on Sept 27 in Rutgers Stadium Piscataway,

New Jersey, Navy lost L (27–48) before 32,382. On Oct 4, Navy beat Air Force in a Navy home game played at FedExField Landover, Maryland W 28–25 before 30,623. On Oct 11, Navy beat Vanderbilt in Vanderbilt Stadium Nashville, Tennessee W (37–27) before 25,417. Then, on Oct 18, Navy beat Rice at Rice Stadium Houston W (38–6) before 27,832. On Oct 25 #3(FCS) Delaware beat Navy at home L (17–21) before 34,982.

Then, on Nov 1, at home, Navy beat Tulane W (35–17) before 27,417. On Nov 8 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, Navy was just edged out by the Fighting Irish L (24–27) before 80,795. Then at home on Nov 22 at home, Navy scorched Central Michigan W (63–24). In the final regular season game, Navy beat Army on Dec 6 in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (34–6)

Having made a bowl game for the first time in years. Navy played hard on Dec 30 Texas Tech in Reliant Stadium Houston (Houston Bowl) but they did not have enough to beat Houston L (14–38) before 51,068

#### **2004 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Johnson**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2004 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Paul Johnson in his third of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with another winning record with 10 wins (10-2).

This was the first time since the 1963 college football season that Navy would win nine or more games in a season. Wins over Army and the Air Force Falcons secured Navy's second consecutive Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. Navy also snagged a berth in the 2004 Emerald Bowl when the Pacific-10 Conference did not have enough teams to fill its bowl obligations.

The other connection this year was that the Mountain West Conference (MWC), and the Midshipmen ended up playing the New Mexico Lobos. Navy won the game with a score of 34–19, finishing with a 14-minute, 26-play drive that set the record for the longest drive in a college football game. That great win gave the Midshipmen a final record of 10–2. This was unbelievable. Paul Johnson was a magician

for sure. It was the first time since the 1905 season that the Midshipmen finished with ten or more wins. Go Navy!

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2004 Navy Football Team began its season on September 4 with a W (27-12) win at home vs Duke before 29,027. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 11, at home, Navy beat Northeastern W (28–24). Then, on Sept 18, Navy shutout Tulsa at Skelly Stadium Tulsa, Oklahoma W (29–0) before 23,658. At home on Sept 25, Navy edged out a tough Vanderbilt team W 29–26 before 32,809. At Air Force on Sept 30, in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado, the midshipmen battled for a close win against the Falcons W (24–21) before 44,279. With a 5-0 record, Navy played the team that spoiled many of its seasons-Notre Dame. This game would be like the others in a game at home played on Oct 16 vs. Notre Dame at Giants Stadium • East Rutherford, New Jersey (Rivalry) L (9–27) before 76,166.

On Oct 23 at home, Navy nosed out Rice W (14–13) before 31,117. Then, at home on Oct 30 v #3 (FCS) ranked Delaware, Navy prevailed W (34–20) before 34,416. On Nov 6 at Tulane in the Louisiana Superdome New Orleans, Louisiana, the Green Waves defeated the Midshipmen L (10–42) before 21,484.

On Nov 20 at home, Navy beat Rutgers W 54–21 before 33,615. Then, in the classic Army Navy Game, Navy triumphed on Dec 4 vs. Army at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia winning both the Army–Navy Game and the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (Air Force Victory on Sept 30) W (42–13).

Navy was invited to play in the Emerald Bowl and accepted. The game was played on December 30 vs. New Mexico. #24 Navy played a great game in SBC Park San Francisco (Emerald Bowl), in a game televised across the country on ESPN2 W (34–19) before 30,563.

### **2005 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Johnson**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2005 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Paul Johnson in his fourth of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with another winning record with 8 wins (8-4).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2005 Navy Football Team began its season on September 3 with a W (20-23) loss vs. Maryland before 67,809 at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore.

On Sept 10, Stanford beat Navy at home L 38–41 before 35,670 On Oct 1, Navy beat Duke at Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, North Carolina W (28–21) before 15,246. At home on Oct 8, Navy edged out Air Force W (27–24) before 35,211. On Oct 15 at home, Navy beat Kent State W (34–31) before 30,316. On Oct 22 at Rice in Rice Stadium • Houston, Texas, Navy beat the Owls W (41–9) before 12,714. On Oct 29, Rutgers beat Navy at Rutgers Stadium Piscataway, New Jersey L (31–41) before 41,716. Then, on Nov 5 at home, Navy beat Tulane W (49–21) before 33,608

On Nov 12 at #7 Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana, the Fighting Irish beat the Midshipmen L (21–42) before 80,795. At home on Nov 19, Navy defeated Temple W (38–17) before 30,261. On Dec 3 at 2:30 p.m. the Army-Navy game was played vs. Army in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy). Navy won the game W (42–23) before 69,322 and received the trophy.

In the Poinsettia Bowl on Dec 22 at 8:30 p.m. Navy pounded Colorado State in a shootout at Qualcomm Stadium San Diego (Poinsettia Bowl) with a nice W (51–30) before 36,842

**2006 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Johnson**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2006 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Paul Johnson in his fifth of six seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with another winning record with 9 wins (9-4).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2006 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 2 with a W (28-23) win vs. East Carolina before 33,809. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD.

On Sept 9 at home, Navy nosed out Massachusetts W (21-20) before 30,117. Then, on Sept 16 Navy beat Stanford at Stanford Stadium Stanford, CA W (37-9) before 44,022. At home on Sept 23, Navy lost to Tulsa in OT L (23-24) before 31,604. Navy beat Connecticut on Sept 30 at Rentschler Field East Hartford, CT ESPN W (41-17) before 40,000.

On Oct 7 at Air Force in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO (Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), the Midshipmen beat the Falcons W (24-17) before 45,246. Then, on Oct 14, at home, #24 Rutgers beat Navy L (0-34) before 36,918. Then, on Oct 28, at home #11 Notre Dame beat Navy at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore, MD L (14-38) before 71,851

On Nov 4 at Duke in Wallace Wade Stadium • Durham, NC, Navy prevailed W (38-13) before 17,782. At Eastern Michigan on Nov 11 in Ford Field Detroit, MI, Navy won in a blowout W (49-21) before 15,816. Then, on Nov 18 at home, Navy beat Temple W (42-6) before 33,927. On Dec 2, vs. Army in Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Navy grabbed all the marbles W (26-14) before 69,943



In the Meineke Car Care Bowl on December 30 at 1:00 p.m. #23 Boston College beat Navy at Bank of America Stadium Charlotte, NC (Meineke Car Care Bowl) L 24–25 before 52,303.

## Great Navy Player Jeromy Miles



After a strong season at defense back during his plebe year in 2006, Miles decided that he was better suited for a career in professional football rather than life in the Navy. He transferred from to Naval Academy to the University of Massachusetts where he played well enough to be named All-American as a senior. He was signed by the Cincinnati Bengals as a free agent in 2010 and then moved on to the Baltimore Ravens in 2013. He signed with the Giants in 2015 but was cut at the start of the season.

### **2007 Navy Midshipmen Coach Paul Johnson**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2007 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Paul Johnson in his sixth and last of six

seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. This year's team finished the season with another winning record with 8 wins (8-5).

Before the season had ended. Paul Johnson, who did a fine job with Navy in his six years, and completely turned around the program, accepted the head coaching position at Georgia Tech. (See article at the end of this chapter.) In fact, it was prior to the team's final game of the season. Offensive line coach Ken Niumatalolo was first promoted to interim head coach and then named as the team's permanent head coach. For their own reasons, Navy and Johnson decided he would not coach his last bowl game. I could not find a reason in the accounts of the time. 1

After beginning this season with a 4–4 record through the first eight games, including a loss to Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) foe Delaware, the Midshipmen broke what I will call the Notre Dame barrier. The barrier was a 43-year losing streak in the Navy–Notre Dame football rivalry. But, that all changed with Paul Johnson in the 2007 Navy vs. Notre Dame football game. Navy kept at it while Paul Johnson was on the sidelines and Ken Niumatalolo led the team to a triple overtime victory.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2007 Navy Football Team began its season at home on August 31 with a W (30-19) win vs. Temple before 30,368 at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia.

On Sept 7 # 15 Rutgers defeated Navy at Rutgers Stadium Piscataway, New Jersey L (24–41) before 43,514. At home, on Sept 15, Ball State beat Navy L (31–34) in OT before 32,087. Then, on Sept 22, at home, Navy beat Duke W (46–43) before 31,278. At home, on Sept 29, Navy beat Air Force W (31–20) before 37,615. On Oct 10 at Pittsburgh in Heinz Field Pittsburgh, Navy edged out the Panthers W 48–45 in double overtime 2OT before 30,103.

On October 20 at home Wake Forest beat Navy L (24–44) before 36,992. On Oct 27, #9 (FCS) Delaware beat Navy in a shootout L

(52–59) before 35,213. On Nov 3, in the longest Navy-ND game ever in terms of time played – three overtime periods, Navy nosed out Notre Dame for the first win in many years at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium • Notre Dame, Indiana W (46–44) 3OT before 80,795.

On Nov 10, Navy unloaded all its cannons and took a few hits itself at North Texas Fouts Field, Denton, Texas in a shootout win W (74–62) before 26,012. On Nov 17, at home, Navy beat Northern Illinois W (35–24) before 34,517. In the annual Army-Navy Game, on Dec 1 at 12:00 p.m. Navy pounded Army at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (38–3) before 71,610

Having accepted another invitation to the Poinsettia Bowl, Navy lost another in a close match on Dec 20 at 7:00 p.m. vs. Utah at Qualcomm Stadium • San Diego, California (Poinsettia Bowl) L (32–35) before 39,129.

## Johnson Leaves Navy for Ga. Tech

washingtonpost.com > Sports > Colleges > Navy

Paul Johnson's outstanding tenure at Navy was marked by the return of the program to major success and national prominence. (Rob Carr - AP Photo)

This article is right on the mark. It is written by Christian Swezey He is a Washington Post Staff Writer , Saturday, December 8, 2007.

*This article, courtesy of the Post, continues on the next page*

Navy football Coach Paul Johnson will leave the academy to take over the program at Georgia Tech, ending his six-year tenure that included unprecedented success.

"It's a very tough decision to leave Navy, it's a very special place," Johnson said. "But I felt like it was a great opportunity at Georgia Tech at this point in my career. . . . If I was going to do this, this was the time."

Johnson met with Navy Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk on Wednesday to discuss serious interest from Georgia Tech, Southern

Methodist and Duke. Late Wednesday afternoon, Gladchuk said Johnson was "doing some serious thinking" about his future. Around 10:30 yesterday morning, Gladchuk said a decision was imminent. At about the same time, an e-mail was sent from Ryan Hamilton, the team's military liaison, to the players. It informed them that a team meeting was being held at 11:45 a.m. at Ricketts Hall.

"I knew as soon as I opened it" that Johnson was leaving, senior wide receiver O.J. Washington said.

Washington said the meeting became emotional.

"A couple guys cried," he said. "Coach Johnson got choked up. . . . He's a good guy. He loved us, and we loved him, too. We wish him the best. There're no hard feelings. It's a business; we understand that. It's just unfortunate."

Johnson's teams went 45-29, including 43-19 over the past five seasons -- and 11-1 against Army and Air Force. Navy also is headed to a bowl game for the fifth straight season.

Johnson, 50, will not coach Navy (8-4) in the Poinsettia Bowl against Utah (8-4) on Dec. 20 in San Diego. Gladchuk said he hoped to know today which assistant coaches would be at the bowl. Almost all of the assistants were out recruiting this week; they returned to Annapolis yesterday, and Gladchuk said he intended to meet with each one.

Gladchuk declined to name any candidates to replace Johnson. But an obvious candidate to Navy fans is Ken Niumatalolo, the assistant head coach and offensive line coach. Niumatalolo, 42, succeeded Johnson as offensive coordinator at Navy in 1997, after Johnson left to be the head coach at Georgia Southern.

"Nobody knows [Johnson's] offense better than Ken Niumatalolo," said Omar Nelson, a radio analyst for Navy. "If you look at the increased production this time [under Johnson] as opposed to the first time he was here, the biggest difference is the offensive line."

Johnson's tenure was marked by the return of the program to prominence. When he was named Navy's head coach in December 2001, fans were given T-shirts that read, "Navy Football: Expect to

Win." It seemed an odd sentiment, given that the Midshipmen were 1-20 the previous two seasons combined and had not had a winning season since 1997.

Following a 2-10 mark in his first year, Navy began a run of five straight winning seasons, five straight bowl games and five straight victories over both Army and Air Force.

"We so appreciate Paul and what he meant to the academy and the fleet and everyone who serves in the Navy and Marines," Gladchuk said. "People are disappointed today that he decided to move on. But there is a tremendous sense of appreciation for what he accomplished. . . . Now is the time to move forward. The program is in such a better place now than it was five years ago. The next person who takes this job will have great facilities and the support to continue to win."

In many ways, this was a landmark year for Johnson. His offense is leading the nation in rushing for the third straight year; the Midshipmen defeated Notre Dame, 46-44, to end a 43-year losing streak in the series; and they played in one of the highest-scoring games in NCAA history, a 74-62 victory over North Texas on Nov. 10.

"He did a great job at Navy," junior fullback Eric Kettani said. "He beat Army and Air Force and Notre Dame. What else can you do? At the meeting he said his goal in life is to win a national championship. You can't blame him for that."



## Chapter 18 Navy Joins the AAC

Independent schools (those not playing in a conference), such as Army, Navy, Notre Dame and others have often toyed with the idea of joining a conference and being like the others. Most have succumbed over the years and so there are few independents left. Some like Army have tasted the water and then exited. Others like Navy convinced themselves that joining a conference was the best course of action. So, while Ken Niumatalolo was at the helm, Navy negotiated and joined the Big East but before they played a game, the big Est became the American Athletic Conference or as it likes to be known, the AAC.

And, so, the American Athletic Conference is an outgrowth of the Big East. The Big East Conference was a collegiate athletics conference that consisted of as many as 16 universities in the eastern half of the United States from 1979 to 2013. Seven teams broke away and kept the name Big East while the remaining six football-playing members, three of whom had only joined the Big East in 2005 when an earlier exodus had started, merged with four schools from other conferences. This mélange become known as the American Athletic Conference (The American), which is the Big East's legal successor.

So the big merger *and more* eventually sorted out as *12 member universities and six associate member universities*. They now compete together in NCAA Division I in the FBS.

The member universities are

- University of Central Florida
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Connecticut
- East Carolina University
- University of Houston
- University of Memphis
- University of South Florida
- Southern Methodist University
- Temple University
- Tulane University
- University of Tulsa
- Wichita State University

The Associate members are

- University of Florida
- United States Naval Academy (Navy)
- Old Dominion University
- California State University, Sacramento
- San Diego State University
- Vanderbilt University

Navy Athletic Director, Chet Gladchuk, has been quite successful in his many years in Annapolis. He believed that the move was necessary for three reasons: scheduling, bowls and television. Gladchuk was concerned that it was getting harder for Navy to put together a 12-game schedule because fewer teams were eager to play the Mids, a perennially good team. He was also worried that with conferences having so many tie-ins, a good Navy team could get left out of a bowl.

And, finally, being part of the Big East's TV package would guarantee more exposure. Navy began its move to the AAC when it was the Big East.

Nobody knows how this will eventually work out but in 2018, it has had a hit on Navy's record or so many pundits believe. It all made sense when it was put together—except it may be as teams in the conference get tougher, the good sense may not last as a good deal.

Coach Niumatalolo was there for all the negotiations but he is the coach, not the AD. The coach has an honest opinion of his team and where they come from. Even when Navy's good, it's beatable. The coach often reminds his players, "We're the Naval Academy. We can't take any opponent for granted." The coach reminded them of that after their season-opening 2018 loss to Hawaii.

With or without a conference that means teams always will schedule Navy—it's a good name on your schedule, it's a national school, and it doesn't come to town with a dozen NFL prospects.

The second-tier bowls love Navy, and there are about a million of them to choose from. They feel the same way about Army, which is an independent again — and will never be left out of a bowl when it is eligible.



TV? It is almost impossible not to get on TV nowadays. Army has the same deal with CBS's cable network to televise its home games that Navy does. So, one can ask if a conference was absolutely necessary.

Until 2018, for almost two seasons, it looked as if Navy had made the right move and all fears were unfounded. In 2015, with the football schools from the Big East forming the AAC, the Mids, led by generational quarterback Keenan Reynolds, went 11-2, including 7-1 in AAC play, with the only loss on the road to a Houston team that went on to beat Florida State in a New Year's Six bowl game.

A year later, Navy stunned Houston and Notre Dame and went on to win the AAC West title, with Will Worth stepping in to play brilliantly when Tago Smith, Reynolds's successor, went down with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the opener.

The good news was that the Midshipmen had a chance to play for the AAC title with a possible trip to the Cotton Bowl — a New Year's Six bowl—on the line if they could beat Temple and then Army a week later.

The bad news was that, instead of the traditional three-week break before the Army game, the Mids had to play Temple the Saturday before the game. Not only did they lose (badly), but Worth and slotback Toneo Gulley, the offensive captain, both suffered a broken foot on the same play.

A fluke? Absolutely, but it couldn't have happened if Navy had the day off. A week later, Army rallied to beat the Mids, 21-17, ending Navy's 14-game winning streak against the Black Knights. So, if nothing else it seems that in 2018, it affected Karma if that means anything.

Two years ago, in 2017, the Mids started 5-0. But after an emotionally draining 48-45 win over Air Force, their next six games were: at Memphis, UCF (which finished 13-0), at Temple, SMU, at Notre Dame and at Houston. They finished the season 7-6, just the second time in 15 years they failed to win at least eight games. Had something changed?

In 2018, they had a comedown from the 7-6 record. It will take a lot of work to be that good again in 2019. The 2018 season after a lot of close losses, is already in the books and in this book.

In 2018, in addition to the tougher competition, Navy had eight opponents it had to face every season as opposed to three in the independent days. This includes the other five teams in the AAC West, plus, as in the past, Air Force, Notre Dame and Army. The last three have been on Navy's schedule forever and will be there forever more. The other five have been on it annually for only four years. The more teams see an option offense, the better their chances to stop it. So, playing the same team every year as must happen in a conference, may be more than bad karma.

In their three previous conference games against SMU, for example. Navy had scored 55, 75 and 43 points. In 2018, the team scored 23 in regulation, two of those on a blocked extra point that was returned all the way. Coincidence? Perhaps. Karma? Perhaps. "I've grown accustomed to your face?" Perhaps.

Niumatalolo is not about to use anything as an excuse for a poor record this year but we are just saying... Excuses are not part of this coach's vocabulary.

Remember all the Navy good fortune began after Weatherbie's tenure when Paul Johnson stepped on campus. How does this sound as a fact: One of Johnson's secrets to Navy's recent success was the 4-4-4 scheduling concept that he insisted Gladchuk adapt? Johnson saw four games that should always be wins; four games that should be competitive; and four games that would be difficult. Once Navy got good, it became more like 4-6-2. That's how the Middies won between eight and 10 games most years. Now what?

The jury is still out, but that "karma" thing still is out there. The Middies are 9-11 since that conference-title game loss to Temple, including 5-6 against AAC opponents after starting 14-2. Those who don't believe in karma see the recent past as just a brief downward trend. That is a good thought for sure. Of course those games against Texas State, Georgia Southern, San Jose State and South Alabama don't look like such a bad idea anymore. We'll see. I have a lot of confidence in Coach Niumatalolo. He is the kind of coach who will make his own karma as needed. Navy is pleased to have him at the helm.

## Chapter 19 Coach Ken Niumatalolo 2007-2018

Niumatalolo Coach # 38

Year	Coach	Record	Conference	Record
2007	Ken Niumatalolo	bowl game	Indep	8-5
2008	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5	Indep	8-5
2009	Ken Niumatalolo	10-4	Indep	10-4
2010	Ken Niumatalolo	9-4	Indep	9-4
2011	Ken Niumatalolo	5-7	Indep	5-7
2012	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5	Indep	8-5
2013	Ken Niumatalolo	9-4	Indep	9-4
2014	Ken Niumatalolo	8-5	Indep	8-5
2015	Ken Niumatalolo	11-2	AAC	7-1
2016	Ken Niumatalolo	9-5	AAC	7-1
2017	Ken Niumatalolo	7-6	AAC	4-4
2018	Ken Niumatalolo	3-10	AAC	2-6
2018	Ken Niumatalolo	3-10	AAC	2-6

### 2008 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2008 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his first of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. He had coached the team in 2007 for the bowl game instead of Paul Johnson. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with another winning record with 8 wins (8-5).

Niumatalolo had been promoted from the offensive line coach before the season, after his predecessor, Paul Johnson, accepted the head coaching position at Georgia Tech.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2008 Navy Football Team began its season at home on August 30 with a W (41-13) win vs. Towson before 31,613. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 5, Ball State beat Navy at Scheumann Stadium Muncie, IN L (23-35) before 22,517. On Sept 13, Duke defeated Navy at Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, NC L (31-41) before 25,082. On Sept 20 at home, Navy beat Rutgers W (23-21) before 37,821. At #15 Wake Forest, on Sept 27, Navy beat the Deamon Deacons in BB&T Field Winston-Salem, NC W (24-17) before 33,173. On Oct 4, Navy beat Air Force in Falcon Stadium USAFA, W (33-27) before 46,339.

On Oct 18, at home, #23 Pittsburgh beat Navy L (21-42) before 37,970. Navy then beat SMU at home on Oct 25 W (34-7) before 31,698. At home again on Nov 1, Navy beat Temple in overtime W (33-27) OT before 34,775. Notre Dame was ready for Navy in this major home game for the Navy on Nov 15 in a game played at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore, MD. IN a close game, the Irish neat the Middies L (21-27) before 70,932.

On Nov 25, Navy beat Northern Illinois in Huskie Stadium DeKalb, IL, W (16-0) before 17,932. On December 6 at 12:00 p.m. Army at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA (Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) Navy prevailed again W (34-0) before 69,144.

In the Eagle Bank Bowl, the first bowl game earned under Ken Niumatalolo, Navy was defeated on December 20, at 11:00 a.m. by Wake Forest at RFK Stadium Washington, D.C. (EagleBank Bowl) L (19-29) before 28,777.

### **2009 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2009 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred twenty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his second of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with another

winning record with 10 wins (10-4). Coach Niumatalolo fit in the Paul Johnson scheme perfectly like as if Johnson was not missed. That's because both men are great coaches. But you knew that.

There was more good news in 2009. On November 7, for example, athletic director Chet Gladchuk announced that the Naval Academy had accepted an invitation to play in the Texas Bowl on Thursday, December 31 at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas against the Big 12's Missouri Tigers. This season was the first time that Navy had ever been invited to bowl games in seven straight seasons. Navy won the 2009 Texas Bowl 35–13 and as noted previously, finished with a great record of 10–4. Coach Niumatalolo appeared to be very comfortable in his role of leading the Midshipmen on to greatness.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2009 Navy Football Team began its season at on September 5 with a L (27-31) loss vs. Ohio State before 105,092. The game was played in a huge stadium, Ohio Stadium Columbus, OH L (27–31).

On Sept 12 at home, Navy beat Louisiana Tech W (32–14) before 31,017. Then, on Sept 19 at Pittsburgh, the Panthers beat Navy in Heinz Field Pittsburgh, PA L (14–27) before 55,064. On Sept 26, at home, Navy beat Western Kentucky W (38–22) before 29,009. At home on Oct 3, Navy edged out Air Force W (16–13) in OT before 37,820.

On Oct 10, Navy smothered Rice in Rice Stadium Houston, TX W (63–14) before 15,096. On Oct 17, Navy outmuscled SMU in Gerald J. Ford Stadium Dallas, TX (for the Gansz Trophy) W (38–35) in OT before 22,203. On Oct 24 at home Navy edged out Wake Forest W (13–10) before 31,097. Then, on October 31 at home, Temple beat Navy L (24–27) before 28,305.

On Nov 7, in the second of three outings with the Fighting Irish, Navy outfought Notre Dame at #21 Notre Dame Stadium Notre Dame, IN W (23–21) before 80,795. Navy had entered a new era in greatness. On Nov 14, a great team from a different NCAA division, Delaware did

its best but lost to Navy at home W (35–18) before 34,223. After the long trip to Hawaii on Nov 28. Hawaii defeated Navy by a TD on Nov 28 at 10:30 p.m. in Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, HI L (17–24) 40,643.

Though with just a few great plays in addition to the others, Navy could have won, the tough men from the Naval Academy got a bit of a break from their routine on a familiar Pacific Island. On Dec 12 at 2:30 p.m. vs. Army in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), Navy was pleased to beat Army again and also pleased to take away the Trophy W (17–3) before 69,541

Inching their way towards a New Year's Day game, Navy played in the Texas Bowl on December 31, 3:30 p.m., against an always tough Missouri squad at Reliant Stadium Houston, TX (Texas Bowl). Navy was tough and unrelenting, and the Midshipmen were forced to carry away the victory with pleasure W (35–13) before 69,441.

### **2010 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2010 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirtieth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his third of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with another winning record with 9 wins (9-4). Coach Niumatalolo was carving out his own great record at Navy after the Paul Johnson years.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2010 Navy Football Team began its season on September 6 with a L (14-17) loss vs. Maryland before 69, 348. The game was played at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore (Crab Bowl Classic) before 69,348.

On Sept 11 at home, Navy beat Georgia Southern W (13-7) before 33,391 . On Sept 18 Navy beat Louisiana Tech at Joe Aillet Stadium Ruston, Louisiana W (37–23) before 23,122. Then, on Oct 2, Navy

lost to Air Force in a big game in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado (Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) L (6–14) before 47,565.

On Oct 9 Navy nosed out Wake Forest at BB&T Field Winston-Salem, North Carolina W 28–27 before 31,454. At home on Oct 16, Navy beat SMU for the Gansz Trophy W (28–21) before 33,924 Navy was going for a two-for (second win in a row) against the mythical Notre Dame on October 23 at 12:00 p.m in a home game played at the New Meadowlands Stadium East Rutherford, New Jersey. Navy pulled it off and pounded the Irish for a W (35–17) before 75,614.

After so many years of being pounded themselves despite intense effort, Navy inflicted some pain on a team that was always tough to beat.

On Oct 30 at home, Duke barely edged out a win from Navy L (31–34) before 34,117. On Nov 6, Navy crushed East Carolina at Dowdy–Ficklen Stadium Greenville, North Carolina W (76–35) before 50,191. Then, at home, on Nov 13 in a real squeaker, against Central Michigan. Navy prevailed W (38–37) before 34,333. On Nov 20, at home Navy defeated Arkansas State W (35–19) before 27,501. After a few weeks rest, Army was at Navy's doorstep again on Dec 11 at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy).

Navy again found the strength to overcome the Army in this classic inspirational game. W (31–17) before 69,223[12]

Navy got to the Poinsettia Bowl again on December 23 at 8:00 p.m. playing San Diego State at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego (Poinsettia Bowl). San Diego State whipped the Midshipmen L (14–35) before 48,049.

### **2011 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2011 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-first season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his fourth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with Niumatalolo's first

losing record with 5 wins (5-7). Coach Niumatalolo was carving out his own great record at Navy and this was just a bump in the road type year.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2011 Navy Football Team began its season on September 3 with a W (40-17) win vs. over Delaware (FCS) before 34,117. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

69, 348. The game was played at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore (Crab Bowl Classic) before 69,348. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 10 at Western Kentucky in Houchens Industries–L. T. Smith Stadium Bowling Green, Kentucky, Navy prevailed W 40–14 before 19,409. On Sept 17 at #11 South Carolina in Williams-Brice Stadium Columbia, South Carolina, Navy lost **L** 21–24 before 78,807. On Oct 1 at home, Navy lost to Air Force **L** (34–35) before 37,506. On October 8 at home, Navy lost to Southern Mississippi **L** (35–63). Then, on Oct 15, Rutgers nosed out Navy at High Point Solutions Stadium Piscataway, New Jersey **L** (20–21) before 47,138 On Oct 22, at home East Carolina beat Navy **L** (35–38) before. 34,612.

On Oct 29 at Notre Dame in Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana (for the Rip Miller Trophy), ND walloped the Navy **L** (14–56) before 80,795. On Nov 5 at home, Navy beat Troy W (42–14). On Nov 12 Navy beat SMU at the Gerald J. Ford Stadium University Park, Texas (for the Gansz Trophy) W (24–17). On Nov 19 at San Jose State in Spartan Stadium San Jose, California Navy lost **L** (24–27) before. Then, in the season wrap-up in the classic Army-Navy game, the Midshipmen beat the Cadets (Black Knights) at FedExField Landover, Maryland (This was the 112th Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (27–21) before 80,789.



## Great Navy Player Joe Cardona



When the New England Patriots used their fifth-round pick in 2015 to select long snapper Cardona, he became the first Midshipmen to be drafted since tight end Kevin Hickman was chosen by the Detroit Lions in 1995. He was granted special permission to delay his commitment to the Navy, so he could play for the Patriots his rookie season but how long he will be allowed to remain with the team is unknown. Beat Army 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

### **2012 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2012 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-second season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his fifth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a winning record with 8 wins (8-5).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2012 Navy Football Team began its season on September 1 with a L (40-17) loss to #24 Notre Dame before 48,820. This game began at 9:00 a.m. at Aviva Stadium Dublin, Ireland (Emerald Isle Classic/Rip Miller Trophy) L (10–50) before 48,820.

On Sept 15 Penn State beat Navy at Beaver Stadium University Park, Pennsylvania L (7–34) before 98,792. At home on Sept 22, Navy beat VMI W (41–3) before 35,671. At home on Sept 29, San Jose State shut out the Navy L (0–12) before 32,375. On Oct 6 at 11:30 a.m., Navy beat Air Force at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado W (28–21) in OT 38,927. Then, on Oct 12 Navy beat Central Michigan at Kelly/Shorts Stadium Mount Pleasant, Michigan W (31–13) before 15,074. On Oct 20 at home, Navy nosed out Indiana W (31–30) before 33,441. Then, on Oct 27 , Navy beat East Carolina at Dowdy–Ficklen Stadium • Greenville, NC W 56–28.

On Nov 3 at home, Navy beat Florida Atlantic W (24–17) before 29,362. At Troy, on Nov 10, at Veterans Memorial Stadium Troy, Alabama, Navy lost by ten L (31–41) before 24,321. On Nov 17, at home, Navy beat Texas State W (21–10) before 31,004. In the annual regular season ending Army-Navy Classic on December 8 at 3:00 p.m., Navy beat the Army at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia (Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (17–13) before 69,607.

In post season Navy was invited to the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl on Dec 29 at 4:00 p.m. They were pounded by Arizona State at AT&T Park San Francisco, California L (28–62) before 34,172

### **2013 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2013 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-third season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his sixth of twelve seasons as

head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a winning record of 9 wins (9-5).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2013 Navy Football Team began its season on September 7 with a W (41-35) win against Indiana before 47,013. This game began at 6:00 p.m. at Indiana Memorial Stadium Bloomington, Indiana before 47,013.

On Sept 14, at home, Navy crushed Delaware W (51–7) before 36,208. At WKU, on Sept 28, Western Kentucky beat Navy at Houchens Industries–L. T. Smith Stadium Bowling Green, Kentucky L (7–19) before 19,813. At home against Air Force, on Oct 5, the Midshipmen beat the Falcons W (28–10) before 38,225

On Oct 12, Duke beat Navy at Wallace Wade Stadium Durham, North Carolina L (7–35) before 23,749. Then, on Oct 19, Toledo nosed out Navy at the Glass Bowl Toledo, L44–45 in 2OT before 18,221. On Oct 26 at home, Navy beat Pittsburgh W (24–21) before 37,094.

#25 Notre Dame beat Navy in a very close match L (34-38) on Nov 2 at Notre Dame Stadium South Bend, Indiana (for the Rip Miller Trophy) before 80,795. At home on Nov 9, Navy beat Hawaii W (42–28) before 33,327. Then on Nov 16, at home, Navy beat South Alabama W (42–14) before 33,086. At San Jose State on Nov 22, in Spartan Stadium San Jose, California, Navy won in a close match W (58–52) in triple overtime 3OT before 16,876.

In the season crescendo, Navy beat Army in the annual Army-Navy Classic played on December at 3:00 p.m. in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia (114th Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (34–7) before 65,612.

In the Bell Helicopter Armed Services Bowl on December 30 at 11:45 a.m., Navy beat Middle Tennessee at the Amon G. Carter Stadium Fort Worth, Texas W (24–6) 39,246

## Great Navy Player Keenan Reynolds

Keenan Reynolds who did his time in the Naval Academy got promoted twice in 2018. It made big news. After Navy, he rose from a fringe free agent thinking about playing in Canada to catching passes from Russell Wilson in the first days of Seattle Seahawks training camp. He's in the right place at the right time, part of the Seattle's suddenly depleted receiver unit. Some might say more importantly, Reynolds recently became Lieutenant Junior Grade Reynolds. The wide receiver and a kick returner is now a cryptologic warfare officer in United States Navy. "J.G. Just got promoted," Reynolds said with a grin after the fifth practice of training camp at team headquarters.



Asked whether he has brought up the fact that Wilson, his quarterback, and every other Seahawk teammate should be calling him "sir" if not saluting him, Reynolds laughed. Somewhat nervously laughed, too, as if someone passing by him into the locker room might hear about his seemingly secret, second life. "Nah," he said. "I don't even talk about it."

The former four-year quarterback for the Naval Academy who set NCAA top-division records with 88 touchdowns and 4,559 yards rushing by a QB — now a 23-year-old who is trying to win a Seahawks

roster spot as a receiver and on special teams and make his NFL regular-season debut — has rank. Reynolds' got rank like no other player in the NFL.

He is the last graduate of a service academy to directly enter the NFL instead of active duty in the military upon graduation. Reynolds was the last approved case of a short-lived waiver from the Department of Defense. It allowed elite-athlete graduates of a service academy the chance to defer active-duty time and go into the Ready Reserve immediately to pursue pro-football careers.

The recent history of service-academy graduates playing in the NFL has been a mix of new opportunities, Super Bowls-and doors slammed shut.

Back as Navy's QB, Reynolds beat the Navy archrival Army football team in each of the four years that he was Navy's quarterback to early 2016. Yes, he did it in each of the four years that he served as Navy's quarterback to early 2016. That is a big deal for any Navy man.

The Navy loves him still. Months before Reynolds graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy Navy football retired his jersey number 19. He joined Roger Staubach, Joe Bellino and Napoleon McCallum as the only USNA football players the Midshipmen have so honored.

In 2016m the Ravens drafted Reynolds in the sixth round. He spent most of the '16 season on the team's practice squad. The Ravens promoted him the 53-man active roster for the last game of his rookie season but left him inactive on game day. The Ravens released him last Sept. 1 among its final preseason cuts. He is not done to say the least.

Does Reynolds have second thoughts on not joining his Annapolis classmates, plus almost all academy graduates before and every one of them since, in serving on active duty right now?

"I'm not sure if 'second thoughts' is the proper way to put it," Reynolds said.

"It's definitely a humbling thing to know that my class was the last class (that could apply for the waiver)I definitely feel for those guys

that came before me. But I know that they are still thinking about pursuing (their professional-sports dreams) after they complete their first two years of active service.

”And the important thing to remember is, I am still doing what's required of me in the reserves. I am still doing my drills and my requirements.

“I've got eight years in the reserves. I am two years in. So, basically, I owe a certain number of drills (training) a year, and a certain number of active-duty days.”

“Theoretically, if all were to break loose, I could be back in the action,” Reynolds said, meaning war and a call-up to active duty, away from his NFL dreams.

For now, he's trying to get in league action. Any league action. He's yet to play in an NFL regular-season game.

When the Seahawks got their look, during a minicamp, coach Pete Carroll said Reynolds “lit it up” in practice. Reynolds thinks his experience starring at and graduating from Navy-the discipline, the responsibility, the maturation and the prioritizing of tasks that a service academy demands-may come in handy in his fight for Seahawks job.

It is not easy becoming an NFL player, Reynolds will tell you. Yet, Navy gives a man the tenacity to go give it his best to make it happen. It is on again off again. Reynolds' Navy spirit keeps him going.

He was promoted to the active roster on September 12, 2018. Reynolds made his NFL debut on September 17, 2018 in the Seahawks 24-17 loss against the Chicago Bears. He was waived on October 13, 2018 and was re-signed to the practice squad. He was promoted to the active roster on November 24, 2018.

## 2014 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2014 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-fourth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his seventh of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a winning record of 8 wins (8-5).

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2014 Navy Football Team began its season on August 30 at 12:00 PM with a L (17-34) loss against #6 Ohio State before 57,579. This game was played at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore L (17-34) before 57,57.

On Sept 6, Navy defeated Temple in Lincoln Financial Field • Philadelphia W (31-24) before 28,408. At Texas State, on September 13 in Bobcat Stadium, San Marcos, Texas, the Midshipmen beat the Mean Green W (35-21) before 32,007. Rutgers beat Navy at home on Sept 20 L (24-31) before 33,655. On Sept 27, at home, WKU beat Navy L (27-36) before 30,537. Air Force beat Navy on Oct 4 at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado L (21-30) before 37,731. Then Navy thumped VMI at home on Oct 11 W 51-14 before 33,812. On October 25, at home, Navy beat San Jose State W (41-31) before 30,612.

On November, #10 Notre Dame beat Navy at FedExField Landover, Maryland (for the Rip Miller Trophy) L (39-49) before 36,807. Then, on Nov 15 at home, Navy beat Georgia Southern W (52-19) before 33,894. At South Alabama on Nov 28, Navy edged out the Jaguars in Ladd-Peebles Stadium Mobile, Alabama W 42-40 before 14,571. Then in the game of games Navy won the Army-Navy Game on Dec 13 at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore (115th Army-Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) W (17-10) before

In the Poinsettia Bowl on December 23, 2014, at 9:30 PM before 70,935, Navy nosed out San Diego State in Qualcomm Stadium San Diego W (17–16) before 33,077

### **2015 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2015 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-fifth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his eighth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a winning record of 11 wins (11-2). They were #18 in the college football rankings.

Navy played this year as a member of the Western Division of the American Athletic Conference and were first year members of the conference. In their entire football history, this was the first season that Navy did not compete as an Independent. This was a great season as noted with the Midshipmen finishing 11–2. They were 7–1 in American Athletic play and they finished in a tie for the Western Division title with Houston.

Unfortunately because they had a head to head loss to Houston, they did not represent the Western Division in the American Championship. They were, however, invited to the Military Bowl where they defeated Pittsburgh.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2015 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 5 at 12:00 PM with a W (48-10) win against Colgate before 28015. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 19 at home, Navy beat East Carolina W (45–21) before 34,717. At Connecticut on Sept in Rentschler Field East Hartford, Connecticut, Navy prevailed as the winner W (28–18) before 33,204



On Oct 3 at home, Navy beat the Air Force W (33–11) before 32,705. Then, on Oct 10 at #15 Notre Dame, the Irish beat the Midshipmen at Notre Dame Stadium Notre Dame, Indiana (for the Rip Miller Trophy) L (24–41) before 80,795. At home on Oct 24, Navy beat Tulane W (31–14) before 32,033. On Oct 31 at home, Navy beat South Florida W (29–17) before 26,766. At #15 Memphis, on Nov 7, in Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium, Navy defeated the Tigers W (45–20) before 55,212.

At home on Nov 14, #22 Navy trounced SMU, (for the Gansz Trophy) W (55–14) before 35,778. On Nov #19 Navy defeated at Tulsa at Chapman Stadium Tulsa, Oklahoma W (44–21) before 22,749. At #21 Houston, #16 Navy lost to the Cougars on Nov 27 at TDECU Stadium Houston L (31–52) before 40,562. On Dec 12 at 3:00 p.m. vs. Army in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia (in the 116th Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) Navy won the big game W (21–17) before 69,722.

In the Military Bowl on December 28 2:30 p.m., #21 Navy beat Pittsburgh at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, Maryland W (44–28) before 36,352.

### **2016 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2016 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-sixth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his ninth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a winning record of 9 wins (9-5).

Navy continued as a member of the West Division of the American Athletic Conference—their second year as a member of the conference. They finished this season well at 9–5, 7–1 in American Athletic play. This brought them the championship of the West Division. They represented the West Division in The American Athletic Championship Game where they lost the game to Temple. They were also invited to the Armed Forces Bowl where they lost to Louisiana Tech.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2016 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 3 at 12:00 PM with a W (52-16) win against Fordham before 28,238. This opener, and all home openers, was played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD

On Sept 10, at home, Navy beat Connecticut W (28–24) before 31,501. At Tulane on Sept 17 in Yulman Stadium New Orleans, Navy beat the Green Wave W (21–14) before 21,503. At Air Force on Oct 1, the Falcons beat the Midshipmen in Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, Colorado L (14–28) before 43,063. At home on Oct 8, Navy beat # 6 Houston W (46–40) before 34,531. At home on Oct 22, #24 Navy beat Memphis W (42–28) before 35,943. On Oct 28, South Florida beat #22 Navy at Raymond James Stadium Tampa, Florida L (45–52) before 31,824

At home on Nov 5, Navy nosed out Notre Dame at EverBank Field Jacksonville, Florida (for the Rip Miller Trophy) W (28–27) before 62,246. At home on Nov 12, Navy edged out Tulsa W (42–40) before 36,397. On Nov 19, Navy crushed East Carolina in a shootout at Dowdy–Ficklen Stadium Greenville, North Carolina W 66–31 before 39,480. In a blowout at SMU on Nov 26, at the Gerald J. Ford Stadium Dallas (for the Gansz Trophy), the Midshipmen clobbered the Mustangs W (75–31) before 21,283. Then on December 3 at home, Temple beat #20 Navy in (The American Championship) L (10–34) before 22,815. In the annual classic on Dec 10 at 3:00 p.m. vs. Army at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore (117th Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy), #25 Navy lost to Army L (17–21) before 71,600.

In the Armed Services Bowl, Navy had similar misfortune as they were beaten on December 23 at 4:30 p.m. by Louisiana Tech at Amon G. Carter Stadium Fort Worth, L (45–48) before 40,542

## 2017 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2017 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-seventh season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his tenth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a winning record of 7 wins (7-6).

Navy continued as a member of the West Division of the American Athletic Conference—their second year as a member of the conference. They finished this season well at 7-6, 4-4 in American Athletic play. This was good enough for third place in the West Division. They were invited to the Military Bowl where they defeated Virginia 49-7.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2017 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 1 at 8:00 PM with a W (42-19 win against Florida Atlantic before 28,481 in FAU Stadium Boca Raton, FL.

On Sept 9 at home. Navy edged out Tulane W (23–2) before 30,420. At home again on Sept 23, Navy beat Cincinnati W (42–32) before 33,134. Then, on Sept 30, Navy beat Tulsa at the H. A. Chapman Stadium Tulsa, OK W (31–21) before 21,354. Then, at home on Oct 7, Navy edged out Air Force in a shootout W (48-45) before 38,772. At Memphis on Oct 14, #25 Navy lost to the Tigers in Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium Memphis, TN L (27–30) before 40,177. On Oct 21, at home, #20 UCF beat Navy L (21–31) before 35,277.

On Nov 2, Temple beat Navy in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA L (26–34) before 26,127. Then, on Nov 11, at home, Navy edged out SMU (for the Gansz Trophy) W (43–40) before 36,157. Coming in later in the season than normal, Navy would not let Notre Dame beat them and the Midshipmen played their hearts out but lost by one TD to the #9 ranked Fighting Irish on November 18 at Notre

Dame Stadium South Bend, IN (for the Rip Miller Trophy) L (17–24) before 77,622. At Houston on Nov 24, the Cougars defeated the Midshipmen at TDECU Stadium Houston, TX L 14–24 before 29,252.

On Dec 9 in the annual Army-Navy Game, Navy lost a nail biter by one point on Dec 9 at 3:00 p.m vs. Army in Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA (It was the 118th Army–Navy Game/Commander-in-Chief's Trophy) L 13–14 before 68,625.

Navy accepted the invitation to the Military Bowl and made up for the Army loss in the field against Virginia. On December 28 at 1:30 PM, Navy began its pounding of the Wahoos and they did not stop until they had won at their home field, Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium • Annapolis, MD (Military Bowl) W (49–7) before 35,921

### **2018 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2018 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-eighth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his twelveth of twelve seasons (point in time) as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. This year's team finished the season with a losing record of 3-10 and 2-6 in the ACC. This was the team's worst record since 2002.

Navy continued as a member of the West Division of the American Athletic Conference—their third year as a member of the conference. They finished this season poorly in American Athletic play.

Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The 2018 Navy Football Team began its season at home on September 1 at 11:00 PM with a L(41-59) loss against Hawaii at Aloha Stadium Honolulu, HI L (41–59) before 29,702

On Sept 8, at home, Navy nosed out Memphis W (22–21) before 31,762. On Sept 15 at home, Navy pounded lower division contender Lehigh W (51–21) before 30,011. In a nail biter on Sept 22, at SMU in Gerald J. Ford Stadium Dallas, TX (for the Gansz Trophy), Navy could not get the job done in overtime L (30–31) OT before 17,531. In this a weakened Navy year, Air Force took advantage on Oct 6 at Falcon Stadium Colorado Springs, CO and they pummeled Navy L (7–35) before 40,175. A revitalized Temple squad got the best of Navy at home in a close game, on Oct 13 L (17–24) before 30,106. Then, on Oct 20, at home Houston outperformed Navy L (36–49) before 33,924.

On Oct 27 at 8:00 p.m. against a powerful #3 ranked Notre Dame squad, Navy in a losing effort, put on a great show of skill and determination with their triple option prowess, and Notre Dame struggled to contain the Midshipmen at SDCCU Stadium San Diego, CA (for the Rip Miller Trophy) L (22–44) before 63,626

On Nov 3 at Cincinnati in Nippert Stadium Cincinnati, OH, Navy took on the chin a big-time shutout loss L (0–42) before 36,318. Then, on Nov 10 at the new darling team in college football, #11 UCF, in Spectrum Stadium Orlando, FL, Navy battled for pride L (24–35) before 44,738. Finding another nice win against Tulsa, at home, on Nov 17, Navy would not be beaten this afternoon in College Football W (37–29) before 31,517. Getting close to the Army-Navy Classic, on Nov 24 at Tulane in Yulman Stadium New Orleans, LA, the Green Wave nosed out Navy L (28–29).

Then, on December 8 at 3:00 p.m vs. Army at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA (Commander-in-Chief's Trophy). Army Navy Game was not played at the time of printing. Thank you for reading this book. God bless you and Merry Christmas. The 2018 Army-Navy is shown next.

I released this book several weeks ago—before the Army-Navy game. But, I am back right now at 11:00 AM on December 8 (Game Day) I came back to this chapter to close out the 2018 season with a prognosis and then an analysis after the game in hindsight.

The big question at 11:00 AM is will history repeat itself, or will Navy get back in the winning column against its biggest rival? We have

learned in this book that the Army-Navy game is like a second-season for both teams and there is not always a correlation between the season records and the performance and results of the game.

I think I will make a prediction despite the odds after I break the game down first. I know, and you know right now that we will all be able to see the 2018 Army-Navy Game as it is broadcast on the air live nationally on CBS and stream live on CBSSports.com, the CBS Sports App and fuboTV beginning at 3 p.m. ET on Saturday. Best wishes for both teams but in this book for sure, we are rooting for Navy.

## **The 2018 Army-Navy Game—pre & postgame**

We know that the seasons records do not matter. One team is flying high nonetheless, and the other is in a short drought. Army was all fired up with a record of 10-2, with its only two losses coming to Duke in the season opener and an overtime loss to Oklahoma (#4 in the CFP top-25). There was a lot in this game for Army for with a win against Navy, the Black Knights, which they achieved 17-10 gave them the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy again, but they will have won over 10 games in a season for the second year in a row. This is a feat Army has never done before. Their only other 10-win season in history came in 1996.

As we all know from our recent reading Ken Niumatalolo's *Midshipmen* have had a rough season, but one that the Midshipmen as always were hoping ends on a high note. Their record after the Army-Navy game loss however is 3-10, meaning that no matter what happened, 2018 would be Navy's first losing season since 2011, and only the second of Niumatalolo's tenure as the master at the helm.

For Army to win, and they did, they had to stick to the game plan and take care of the football. As an option team, Army was be prone to fumble. Yet, they lost only four fumbles in 2018. Pitching the ball with regularity is surely dangerous, but this is the second season in a row the sticky-fingered Knights have only lost four fumbles. As in most games, including the Army-Navy game, the team that does the better job taking care of the football wins this game.

For Navy to win, and the team did not win, just like Army had to do, Navy needed to take care of the football. The game was very close L (10-17). Unlike Army, Navy has not had the same ability all season long to keep the ball in the carry position. They turned the ball over more often with 10 lost fumbles. Aside from keeping the ball, Navy would have had to find ways to make some big plays on offense. There were few of them. With three one-point losses this year, Navy was a much better team than its record. Whether it's on the ground or through the air, the Midshipmen need to find their success with explosion plays to pull off what would be characterized as the upset. Unfortunately, in 2018, they did not.

Both teams play their toughest and their best football against each other. Since 2011, just one Army-Navy Game has been decided by more than seven points, and the underdog covers more often than not. In fact, the underdog has covered five-straight in this series, and in eight of the last ten. It became eight of ten this year. My pick was *Navy by 11*. Unfortunately for Navy, I was off by a minus 18.

## The Army-Navy Game results

It pains me to report the results of this Army-Navy game for this is a book about Navy and as you know, I had predicted that Navy, fighting as the underdog would overcome the odds and beat the Knights by 11 points. I was wrong.

Army beat Navy 17-10 on Saturday, December 8 and this gave them their third straight win against the rival Midshipmen. It also gave Army its second consecutive Commander-in-Chief's Trophy in the process. Army began early but after putting together an 82-yard touchdown drive on its opening possession, it was a draw from then on. Navy had a tough time finding offensive success all day long.

And, so the story of this game, as many predicted was turnovers. Army didn't turn the ball over once, while Navy turned it over four times. Two first-half interceptions kept Navy at bay, but the two second-half fumbles sunk the Midshipmen and stopped any opportunities they were making for themselves.

In the best chance effort of the game, Navy earned a defensive stop on fourth down at midfield and proceeded to put together a great drive

into the red zone. Unfortunately, a fumble by Navy's Garret Lewis inside the Army 5-yard line ended that and effectively finished the game for the Mids.

Navy would get a defensive stop afterward and they got the ball back in Army territory, from which they quickly capitalized with a touchdown drive to cut Army's lead to 10-7. As the game moved on. The Navy defense came through again on the next possession, forcing an Army punt, but the offense could not produce. Zach Abey was stripped of the ball while dropping back on 4th-and-12, and Army recovered the fumble. It was the QB's third turnover of the day as he was responsible for both interceptions in the first half.

Army had a bright spot with QB Kell Hopkins rushing for 83 yards and scoring both of Army's touchdowns. He also helped Army convert some critical third downs during the game with his arm, completing 4 of 9 passes for 61 yards. Hopkins' play on offense and the Army defense forcing four Navy turnovers and holding the Midshipmen to 3.85 yards per play gave the Knights their third straight win over Navy. Army got to celebrate its , second consecutive 10-win season. It's the first time in history Army has won at least 10 games in back-to-back seasons. With a little extra help in the QB slot, Navy fans are expecting a much better 2019 season. Go Navy!

On December 8 at 3:00 P.M Navy played Army at Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA (Commander-in-Chief's Trophy). Army prevailed L (10-17)

### **2019 Navy Midshipmen Coach Ken Niumatalolo**

The Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 2019 college football season. It was the Naval Academy's One Hundred thirty-ninth season of intercollegiate football. They were led by Ken Niumatalolo in his twelfth of twelve seasons (point in time) as head coach of the Midshipmen. Niumatalolo is the current Navy coach. In the third week of the season, Navy's record for the first two games was 2-0 and 1-0 in the ACC. At this point, it looked like a good season on its way.

Navy continued as a member of the West Division of the American Athletic Conference—their third year as a member of the conference. They finished this season poorly in American Athletic play.



Navy Home games that were not moved for capacity reasons, were played at the Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It is an open-air stadium located off the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Navy began the 2019 season on August 31, at home against Holy Cross. The midshipmen prevailed in the home opener W (45-7) before 28,531. After a bye week, the Navy began ACC play and on Sept 14, defeated East Carolina W (42-10) before 30,707.

The schedule for the rest of the 2019 season and a recap of the 2019 results from games played is as follows:

## **Schedule and Season Results**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
31-Aug	Holy Cross*	W 45–7	28,531
14-Sep	East Carolina	W 42–10	30,707
26-Sep	at Memphis		
5-Oct	Air Force*		
12-Oct	at Tulsa		
19-Oct	South Florida		
26-Oct	Tulane		
1-Nov	at UConn		
16-Nov	at Notre Dame*		
23-Nov	MU		
30-Nov	at Houston		
14-Dec	vs. Army*		

**That's All Folks!**

**We hope you enjoyed this edition of Great Moments in Navy Football. We appreciate your selecting this title for your Navy sports book collection. This “Great Moments” book joins three other Navy titles brought forth by Brian Kelly and the Lets Go Publish! Team in the last several years.. These are as follows:**

***Navy Football Championship Seasons; Great Coaches in Navy Football, and Great Players in Navy Football***

**Again, thank you for choosing this book among the many that are in your options list. We sincerely appreciate it! Go Navy!**

# Chapter 20 The Navy, Notre Dame Football Rivalry



Army vs. Notre Dame – Early Game

## A rivalry through the ages

The Navy–Notre Dame football matchup is an American college football rivalry that goes back to just after when teams were struggling just to get opponents. The rivalry stages the Navy Midshipmen Of the United States Naval Academy and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team of the University of Notre Dame. Both teams had been playing for over forty years at the time they played each other for the first time in 1927. At that time, both teams were among the top college football programs in the United States.

There was a time when Army and Navy were consistently atop the college football landscape. There were very few losing seasons. Both were winning national titles and producing Heisman winners and All-Americans. There are very few programs in the country that have more history than these two.

Somewhere down the line, it seems like some of that glory has been lost, and these two once-historic schools have been placed are let's say, "not quite on the front burner." Thankfully for all of us who love the military engaging in college sports, both have passed through their darkest years and both are doing better than the forty years or so years that passed since their heydays.

For example the Navy Midshipmen have had two great coaches in a row with Paul Johnson and Ken Niumatalolo , reaching a bowl game in nine of the past 10 years and Army played in a bowl just back in 2010. It may be true that these two schools no longer have the same feel they did back when our grandfathers would watch them play, but they still excite a crowd and they are both getting better and better.

In this book, you have found that we picked ten of the top Army-Navy-Games and we report on them within the season in which they occurred. Since this is a book about Navy and Notre Dame is Navy's other famous competitor, and since the meetings are annual, your author chose to create a final chapter that describes the ins and outs of the Navy v Notre Dame rivalry from its beginning in 1927 when Navy and Notre Dame began to compete regularly.

The first Navy–Notre Dame game was played in 2017 and like most of the games in the series, the nationally prominent Irish has most often been victorious. Both Navy and Notre Dame have lots of rivals. The Midshipmen of course will never have one as big as Army, and their series with Air Force has become a blood feud. Notre Dame itself has enjoyed rivalries of varying degree with USC, Michigan, Miami, Stanford, Pitt, Penn State, and others. Having said that, none can deny that the rivalry between the Middies and the Fighting Irish has endured as one of each team's most serious.

There is a week in every football season in which the pundits announce that the schools will meet Saturday for the XXnd season in a row, as the Irish try to run their series record to xx-xx-x. Some even count the vacated wins. It's the longest continuous rivalry in the country between teams from different regions of the country.

For many, there is no rationale for the rivalry. It does not make immediate sense upon a cursory examination. Notre Dame has a huge and much higher perch in the sport's hierarchy and it certainly has

dominated the series. The home fields are a 10-hour drive apart. However, there is more than meets the eye. But the schools have a deep shared history.

When the series began in 1927, the Irish won the game 19-6 in Baltimore. Both Navy and Army were power houses during World War I as Army played its first ND game in 1913. World War II brought the ND Navy series even more staying power.

1913 is generally regarded as the game that established the national reputation of the Fighting Irish. Army already was viewed as one of the toughest competitors in the nation. In that game, Notre Dame revolutionized the notion of the forward pass as a major offensive weapon as the Irish pulled off a crowd stunning 35-13 victory.

In World War II, Notre Dame lost a lot of its students to the war effort. It was still an all-male school, and its enrollment declined dramatically. Fortunately for Notre Dame, the Navy picked South Bend as the site for a V-12 Navy College Training Program. The V-12 was not a super powerful vegetable juice for sailors. In essence it was ROTC for Midshipmen. It sent a bunch of students and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the campus.

The program was designed to supplement the force of commissioned officers in the United States Navy during World War II. Between July 1, 1943, and June 30, 1946, more than 125,000 participants were enrolled in 131 colleges and universities in the United States. Notre Dame needed that money to survive. It got its share of enrollments and it had plenty of room to accommodate the Navy. Notre Dame has had a soft spot for Navy from when it needed a hand and Navy was there.

“All I can say is without the Navy during the war, this institution would have gotten down to a few hundred students,” former Notre Dame president Theodore Hesburgh said in 2004. “Instead of that, we were almost twice our normal size during the war, and we were able to contribute something to the Navy.”

Due to the small capacity of Navy’s original Worden Field or its later use of Thompson Field and even the current Navy Stadium—the 34,000-seat strong *Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium* in Annapolis,

Maryland off the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis MD, the Navy football team, did not have a big enough stadium to hold the crowds. in any official stadium. So, Navy would find a suitable big venue someplace, somewhere to host its Notre Dame games. Army liked to use Yankee Stadium, but Navy seemed to always be moving their game around. Please read the following paragraph:

The Navy in its early days used Baltimore's old Memorial Stadium and then the current M&T Bank Stadium, or FedExField in Landover, Maryland, or at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. From 1960 to 1970, Navy moved the games into Pennsylvania as the Midshipmen hosted the game at John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia, and then hosted the 1972, 1974 and 1993 games at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium.

Because ND likes to move its games at times, Navy has played the game has also been played twice in Dublin, Ireland—in 1996 at Croke Park and 2012 at Aviva Stadium. Occasionally, there is even a game played at old Cleveland Stadium. The 2016 game was held at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Florida. This year's, (2018) home game was played at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California (the first time the teams have played each other west of the Eastern Time Zone). For those looking ahead to a future venue, the 2020 game will be at Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland. I sure hope to be there as long as they promise not to run out of Guinness.

## **Coaches Charles Dudley & Jesse Harper**

If it were not for a famous service academy, Notre Dame would not have reached national prominence in football so early. In 1913, while Notre Dame was trying to convince its Administration to fund collegiate football at ND, Army was well established having begun its program in 1890 eleven years after Navy. Moreover, Army had just brought in a coach who was going to bring Army some great success.

Charles Dudley Daly was Army's head football coach from 1913-1916 and he had another stint from 1919-1922. He was successful both times. His Army teams were tough on opponents. Notre Dame in particular respected Army's power. Daly had a great 58-13-3 record.

His 1914, 1916, 1922 teams were undefeated. All teams were winners. Daly never had a losing season in eight years.

At the same time as Dudley was preparing for more undefeated seasons, Jesse Clare Harper, a fine coach, became head coach of ND in 1913 and remained so until he retired in 1917. Harper had a five-year head coaching career with a great record of 34-5-1 with a 7-0 undefeated record in 1913. Two of the stars on Harper's 1913 team were Knute Rockne, who played End, and Gus Dorais, QB. Dorais would pitch them and Rockne would catch them. Both made all American.

Prior to Harper, Notre Dame would take games with High Schools and athletic clubs and just about any team that would play them. During his tenure, the Irish began playing only intercollegiate games. This period also marked the beginning of the rivalry with Army and the continuation of rivalries with Michigan State. In an effort to gain respect for a regionally successful but small-time Midwestern football program, Harper scheduled games in his first season with national powerhouses Texas, Penn State, and Army.

Of course Army and Navy had been playing football forever or so it seems. The Cadets and midshipmen played the first Army-Navy football game Nov. 29, 1890 on "The Plain" at West Point. "The Plain" was like a huge sandlot field used for military drills. Navy had been playing organized football since 1879 and the Middies defeated the newly established Army team, 24-0.i

By most standards, Notre Dame never should have been able to get the game with Army. As the story goes, two major factors combined to make the 1913 meeting with Army possible. Army had been stiffed by Yale. They were deemed not good enough to compete with Yale by Yale, a major Eastern superpower football team. Yale broke off its series with Army that had been played for 20 consecutive years from 1893 through 1912. Army therefore had a "hole" in its schedule. Jesse Harper, a clever man and a great coach for ND, knew it was his job to fill that hole with a team named Notre Dame. He did.

The Army Series against Notre Dame would itself make a great book and probably a better movie. But, this is a book about Navy. By the way, I also wrote a book titled, Great Moments in Army Football.

Navy was the first service academy to play football and the first to beat Army.



**Coach Jesse Harper & ND Player Knute Rockne**

Whereas Army helped Notre Dame gain notoriety in the big 1913 game, Navy helped Notre Dame support its institution during World War II when ND may not have made it otherwise. That's why Navy and not Army has a regular series with the Fighting Irish.

Looking through history we all have seen FDR talking about Navy and the Pearl Harbor Day of Infamy. We know that America declared war and the nation had to put college plans aside, so it could fight the clear and imminent dangers from Hitler, Mussolini and Japan. During this time as noted, colleges, as important as they are when survival is a given, became an afterthought. Without students, who heard the call of war, this all-male institution at the time, would not be receiving tuition checks.

Many colleges went out of business. Notre Dame could not call on the Catholic Church to support the institution and so it was not exempt from the strain. The South Bend institution was facing the wartime

economic crisis without state funding, without any of the guarantees of America's great land grant colleges and without the decades of

accumulated endowments of the Ivy League colleges. The facts suggest that Notre Dame was on the brink of extinction.

Navy came to the rescue. The US Navy, was already very comfortable in the Midwest at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, but they needed more officers for the war effort. So, they designated Notre Dame as a training center and paid enough for usage of the Notre Dame facilities to keep the University afloat. The good Holy Cross Fathers most certainly breathed a sigh of relief.

By the way, in 1946, right after the war, a small group of these Holy Cross Fathers left the ND campus and traveled to Wilkes-Barre PA, where I grew up. I was born in 1948. They founded King's College using a building that was once a Coal Company HQ. They did not just show up. The Congregation of Holy Cross accepted the invitation of Bishop William J. Hafey of Scranton to begin an independent four-year college for men in Wilkes-Barre. In 1969, I had the distinct pleasure of graduating from Kings College. And, so, we might say that this book was made possible by the Notre Dame Navy rivalry.

There is more to the ND Navy connection as Frank Leahy, the legendary coach of ND Football left his position as Notre Dame Head Football Coach to enlist, voila, in the Navy. Whether Leahy who some called a "silver tongued rogue" had anything to do with initiating or increasing the level of Navy support is unknown. One thing was sure, Notre Dame would not be just another casualty of the war. Consistent with its Christian values, Notre Dame was and remained, and yet even today remains, grateful for the Navy's support and solace in the midst of woe. Ironically, in Leahy's absence serving in the Navy, Army had its best years against the Fighting Irish

Notre Dame has given Navy an entirely appropriate open invitation to play the Irish every year. While a paper trail exists, the word of Notre Dame is its bond and Navy will play the Irish every year until Annapolis chooses not to continue the tradition.

Another great tradition began in 2005. Each team stands near the other's fans for the post-game singing of the alma mater, win or lose. Notre Dame provides this major recognition for no other opponent.



As with the other series with the academies, Notre Dame has dominated with a 76-13-1 series advantage through the 2017 game.

## **Joe Bellino & Roger Staubach & 40 YR Drought**

Notre Dame's biggest losses against Navy came between 1956 and 1963. Navy had two Heisman winners at the time and a great coach Wayne Hardin. Heisman winners Joe Bellino and Roger Staubach led the Midshipmen to victory five times over the Fighting Irish during this period, by an average of more than 14 points per game. Then came the drought. Since their 2007 upset win, Navy has won four of the last eleven games.

In 1963, Navy was a National Power, contending with Pitt for Eastern supremacy, the then prized Lambert Trophy and a chance at the National title. Their quarterback is famous today as much for being one of the greatest Dallas Cowboys. He was a Midwestern kid named Roger Staubach from Purcell Marian High School in Cincinnati. He was simply magnificent as he led Navy to a 35-13 romp over the beleaguered Hugh Devore's Irish. Roger Staubach went on that year to win the Heisman Trophy.

Notre Dame did not stop getting the best. In fact, soon they had Ara Parseghian and they began a 44-year winning streak against the Naval Academy. Navy often put up a fight but only 6 of the 44 games were won by Notre Dame by a margin of 10 or fewer points. Lou Holtz offered the comment of comments on the series. "The University of Navy scares me to death."

There was a trail of Never-Losers that began with Ara. Parseghian who never lost to Navy. Dan Devine never lost to Navy. Gerry Faust never lost to Navy. Lou Holtz never lost to Navy. Bob Davie never lost to Navy. Tyrone Willingham never lost to Navy. But the 44-year win streak ended with a 46-44 Navy upset over the Irish in South Bend in 2007. To prove both that it was not a fluke and that coaching matters, ol' schematic advantage (Charlie Weiss) managed to lose to Navy, in South Bend, again in 2009.

Strength of schedule is one thing. But strength of soul and honor is more important at Notre Dame. Notre Dame will be playing Navy for decades to come. God bless America.

## Chapter 21 History of the Army-Navy Game by Mandy Howard etc.



### Army-Navy Game Is a Great Tradition

On a cold November afternoon in 1890, two branches of the U.S. armed forces turned to face one another on the field of battle. The *New York Sun* warned of freezing temperatures that Nov. 24 and reported in a blurb on page 2: “About 180 New Yorkers will go up to West Point at 11 o'clock this morning on a special train. The game will be called at 2 o'clock and will be followed by a hop.” A century and a quarter later, the college football rivalry between the Army Black Knights of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and the Navy Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., has become one of the greatest of all time.

Thank you Mandy Howard:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Features-and-Columns/MOAA-Features/History-of-the-Army-Navy-Football-Game.aspx>



Sometimes called the Gray Phantom of West Point, Glenn Davis (41) picks up yardage in Army Navy Game

## An impressive history

In 1961, a Plebe named Roger Staubach sat in the stands at the Army-Navy game. “There were 100,000 people there, and [President] John Kennedy was there,” Staubach recalls. “I was thinking, what’s going to happen next year? I don’t think I can play in this thing. It’s too big of a deal.”

But in 1962, Staubach thrilled audiences nationwide. “My first Army-Navy game and when I played Super Bowl VI against the Dolphins [were] by far the most nervous I’ve ever been,” he says.

“We beat Army that year, and that was as big a thrill as I’ve ever had winning a football game, when we beat Army in 1962.”

After that, the stage was set for the 1963 epic battle between Staubach, who had just won the Heisman Trophy, and Army star quarterback Rollie Stichweh.

That game, however, unexpectedly was postponed, following the tragic assassination of Kennedy, who hadn't missed an Army-Navy game during his presidency.

After a week's postponement, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy asked that the game still be played. So Dec. 7, 1963, the nation turned its eyes to Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia (later renamed John F. Kennedy Stadium). "We played the game on behalf of the Kennedy family," Staubach says.

The 1963 matchup also was the first-time college football fans witnessed instant replay. The instant replay machine was equipped with videotapes that had episodes of *I Love Lucy* on them, so if the tapes did not record correctly, there was a distinct possibility the biggest game in the country would be interrupted by a Lucy rerun. CBS Sports Director Tony Verna said in a CBS News interview, "If you foul with the Army-Navy game and mess that up, that was the end of your career." They tempted fate only once, replaying a Stichweh touchdown, which prompted commentator Lindsey Nelson to advise viewers, "Ladies and gentlemen, Army has not scored again."

## Unmatched rivalry and tradition

The 1963 game and the rivalry between the two academies have been the subject of numerous articles, documentaries, and books. In 1995, both academies allowed unfettered access to bestselling sports author John Feinstein, who chronicled the college football year for the book *A Civil War: Army vs. Navy*.

The book takes an inside look at the locker rooms, classes, and minds of the young men who have chosen a path that combines intense football and selfless service and opens the door to understanding the unique difficulties that come with playing Division I football at a service academy today. The book proves that though this game is unshakably woven into college football history, the passion and desperate drive to win are what continue to make this rivalry great.

"There's nothing like Army-Navy," Feinstein says, "not just because of the tradition but because of who plays the game."

Lee Fitting, senior coordinating producer with *ESPN College GameDay*, which visited the Army-Navy game for the first time in 2014, agrees. “I’d argue that it may be the greatest rivalry out there,” he says. “A lot of these other rivalries, it’s only football, football, football, and that’s the end goal. That’s not the end goal for the cadets and midshipmen. There’s a bigger picture and a bigger perspective, and when you bottle that all together, it’s unbelievable.”

West Point graduate and Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski says, “The very nature of collegiate sport is to get our student-athletes to put into practice what they learn in the classroom: loyalty, teamwork, trust, competitiveness, all of these important values. You watch the [Army-Navy] game, and you realize they are going to take it even further. They are going to take it to a real battlefield to protect America and to protect our freedoms.”

The desire to win might be greater than in any other rivalry, argues the Naval Academy’s first Heisman Trophy winner, Joe Bellino, who won the award in 1960. “They are not only playing for themselves or for their schools but for the millions of veterans who are watching the game.”

With such great rivalry comes great tradition, and the Army-Navy game does not disappoint.

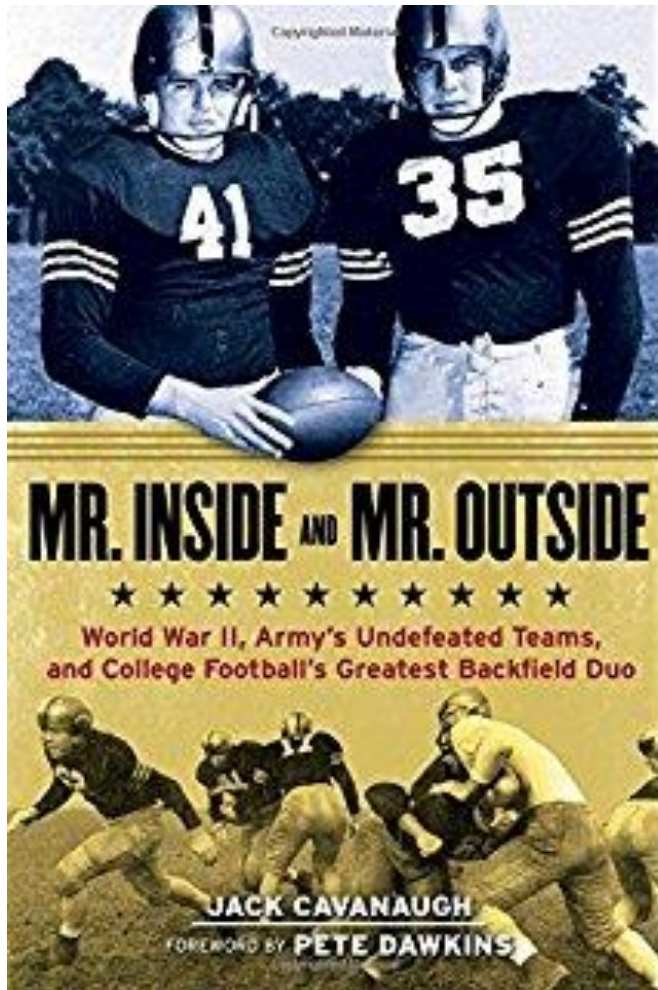
Krzyzewski remembers marching onto the field as a cadet: “We all want that feeling of being part of something bigger than you,” he says. “You’re out there on the field and you think, *Wow, I’m a lucky guy*. You get chills.”

Staubach’s favorite tradition comes at the end of the game, when the two teams stand together and sing both academy alma maters.

“When the game is over, despite this fierce competitiveness that we have, this history, this rivalry, we become one. Midshipmen going over to the Army side, and Army going over to the Navy side. I just think that is really special. I still get emotional,” Staubach says.

Bellino agrees the singing of the alma maters still brings tears to his eyes but shares, with a grin, a lesser-known tradition.

“If you could find a plebe cadet that'd bet you, you'd bet his West Point bathrobe that you'd win the game,” Bellino says.



Glenn Davis & Doc Blanchard Never Lost an Army-Navy Game

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The idea of this surprises Army Maj. Jim Nemeck, a former officer representative for the Army football team: “I never heard of plebes betting their bathrobes, at least not in the company I was responsible for. They love their bathrobes. Douglas MacArthur famously wore his in three wars!”

“It gets better,” promises Bellino. “If you're lucky enough to win a robe, and you are a varsity athlete, you have the option of putting your

varsity letter 'N' on your West Point bathrobe. If you beat Army as an athlete, you receive a star to add to it. It's one of the most beautiful things I own,” says Bellino of his West Point bathrobe, covered in six varsity letter N's (three for baseball and three for football) and five stars.

On the 2014 *College GameDay* telecast, ESPN analyst Lee Corso famously showed off the bathrobe he won while he was a Navy assistant.

Add to all of that the feeling of being at the game itself, which, by all accounts, is something you have to experience to understand. “You have to be in the stadium and feel the emotion when the teams come on the field and feel the emotion when they play the national anthem and 8,000 hands snap to attention and understand that every one of the cadets in that stadium and every one of the midshipmen in that stadium have volunteered to die for our country if need be,” Feinstein says.

## Closing the gap

Prior to the 2016 game, Navy was boasting a 14-game streak, the longest in this rivalry's history. Then Army emerged with a victory and another in 2017.

Bellino said sooner or later, Army is going to break Navy's winning streak. “But,” he continues, “Navy's going to be tough for a number of years, believe me.”

In the realm of college football, region to region, fans will claim their rivalry is the greatest. But Army-Navy belongs to the entire nation. The players are future U.S. military officers.

“What replaces Army-Navy?” Krzyzewski asks. “There's nothing,” The only question left to ask is: “Go Army, beat Navy, or go Navy, beat Army?”

--- End of Mandy Howard's Fine Piece with pictures added---



## Other Books by Brian W. Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

[Great Coaches in Navy Football: From Coach 1 to Coach #39 Ken Niumatalolo](#)  
[Great Moments in Navy Football: From the beginning of football to the 2018 Season!](#)  
[Great Players in Navy Football: From the first player to the Current Seasons](#)  
[No Tree! No Toys! No Toot Toot!](#) Heartwarming story. Christmas disappeared while 19 month old was napping  
[How to End DACA, Sanctuary Cities, & Resident Illegal Aliens](#) . best solution to wipe shadows in America.  
[Government Must Stop Ripping Off Seniors' Social Security!](#): Hey buddy, seniors can no longer spare a dime?  
[Special Report: Solving America's Student Debt Crisis!](#): The only real solution to the \$1.52 Trillion debt  
[How to End DACA, Sanctuary Cities, & Resident Illegal Aliens](#) . best solution to wipe shadows in America.  
[The Winning Political Platform for America](#) Unique winning approach to solve the big problems in America.  
[Lou Barletta v Bob Casey for US Senate](#) Barletta's unique approach to solving the big problems in America.  
[John Chrin v Matt Cartwright for Congress](#) Chrin has a unique approach to solving big problems in America.  
[The Cure for Hate !!!](#) Can the cure be any worse than this disease that is crippling America?  
[Andrew Cuomo's Time to Go? "He Was Never that Great!"](#): Cuomo says America never that great  
[White People Are Bad! Bad! Bad!](#) Whoever thought a popular slogan in 2018 would be *It's OK to be White!*  
[The Fake News Media Is Also Corrupt !!!](#): Fake press / media today is not worthy to be 4<sup>th</sup> Estate.  
[God Gave US Donald Trump?](#) Trump was sent from God as the people's answer  
[Millennials Say America Was "Never That Great"](#): Too many pleased days of political chumps not over!  
[White People Are Bad! Bad! Bad!](#) In 2018, too many people find race as a non-equalizer.  
[It's Time for The John Doe Party...](#) Don't you think? By By Elephants.  
[Great Players in Florida Gators Football...](#) Tim Tebow and a ton of other great players  
[Great Coaches in Florida Gators Football...](#) The best coaches in Gator history.  
[The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, et al.](#) The Real Constitution  
[The Constitution Companion.](#) Will help you learn and understand the Constitution  
[Great Coaches in Clemson Football](#) The best Clemson Coaches right to Dabo Swinney  
[Great Players in Clemson Football](#) The best Clemson players in history  
[Winning Back America.](#) America's been stolen and can be won back completely  
[The Founding of America...](#) Great book to pick up a lot of great facts  
[Defeating America's Career Politicians.](#) The scoundrels need to go.  
[Midnight Mass by Jack Lammers...](#) You remember what it was like Great story  
[The Bike by Jack Lammers...](#) Great heartwarming Story by Jack  
[Wipe Out All Student Loan Debt--Now!](#) Watch the economy go boom!  
[No Free Lunch Pay Back Welfare!](#) Why not pay it back?  
[Deport All Millennials Now!!!](#) Why they deserve to be deported and/or saved  
[DELETE the EPA, Please!](#) The worst decisions to hurt America  
[Taxation Without Representation 4<sup>th</sup> Edition](#) Should we throw the TEA overboard again?  
[Four Great Political Essays by Thomas Dawson](#)  
[Top Ten Political Books for 2018...](#) Cliffnotes Version of 10 Political Books  
[Top Six Patriotic Books for 2018...](#) Cliffnotes version of 6 Patriotic Book  
[Why Trump Got Elected!](#).. It's great to hear about a great milestone in America!  
[The Day the Free Press Died.](#) Corrupt Press Lives on!  
[Solved](#) (Immigration) The best solutions for 2018  
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[Great Moments in Pittsburgh Steelers Football...](#) Six Super Bowls and more.  
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[Great Players in Syracuse Football.](#) Highlights best players such as Jim Brown & Donovan McNabb  
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[Great Moments in Philadelphia Eagles Football.](#) The best from the Eagles from the beginning of football.  
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[A Boy, A Bike, A Train, and a Christmas Miracle](#) A Christmas story that will melt your heart  
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[Great Coaches in Army Football](#) Army's coaches are all great.  
[Great Moments in Army Football](#) Army Football at its best.  
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[Great Moments in Clemson Football](#) CU Football at its best. This is the book.  
[Great Moments in Florida Gators Football](#) Gators Football from the start. This is the book.  
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[The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, & Madison](#) – Big type and in English  
[PATERNO: The Dark Days After Win # 409](#). Sky began to fall within days of win # 409.  
[JoePa 409 Victories: Say No More!](#) Winningest Division I-A football coach ever  
[American College Football: The Beginning](#) From before day one football was played.  
[Great Coaches in Alabama Football](#) Challenging the coaches of every other program!  
[Great Coaches in Penn State Football](#) the Best Coaches in PSU's football program  
[Great Players in Penn State Football](#) The best players in PSU's football program  
[Great Players in Notre Dame Football](#) The best players in ND's football program  
[Great Coaches in Notre Dame Football](#) The best coaches in any football program  
[Great Players in Alabama Football](#) from Quarterbacks to offensive Linemen Greats!  
[Great Moments in Alabama Football](#) AU Football from the start. This is the book.  
[Great Moments in Penn State Football](#) PSU Football, start--games, coaches, players,  
[Great Moments in Notre Dame Football](#) ND Football, start, games, coaches, players  
[Cross Country with the Parents](#). A great trip from East Coast to West with the kids  
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[How to Write Your First Book and Publish It with CreateSpace](#). You too can be an author.  
[The US Immigration Fix--It's all in here](#). Finally, an answer.  
[I had a Dream IBM Could be #1 Again](#) .The title is self-explanatory  
[WineDiets.Com Presents The Wine Diet](#) Learn how to lose weight while having fun.  
[Wilkes-Barre, PA; Return to Glory](#) Wilkes-Barre City's return to glory  
[Geoffrey Parsons' Epoch... The Land of Fair Play](#) Better than the original.  
[The Bill of Rights 4 Dummies!](#) This is the best book to learn about your rights.  
[Sol Bloom's Epoch ...Story of the Constitution](#) The best book to learn the Constitution  
[America 4 Dummies!](#) All Americans should read to learn about this great country.  
[The Electoral College 4 Dummies!](#) How does it really work?  
[The All-Everything Machine](#) Story about IBM's finest computer server.  
[ThankYou IBM!](#) This book explains how IBM was beaten in the computer marketplace by neophytes

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