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Tex Noel, Editor

(statwhiz@hotmail.com)

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Greatest NCAA 1-AA Team? 1996 Marshall

By Woody Woodrum

I meant to write awhile back about the high scoring teams in Feb. issue.

Marshall's 1996, 15-0, I-AA National Champions scored 658 points on the way to MU's second title in five years (also in 1992).

With new head coach Bob Pruett taking over for Jim Donnan, Erik Kresser at QB, transferring in from Florida, Randy Moss at receiver, transferring in from Florida State, and some of the best players in Marshall history (both Erik Thomas, a senior, and freshman Doug Chapman, now with ESPN, rushed for over 1,000 yards: 1,296 and 1,238 yards, respectively), the Herd won every game by at least two touchdowns.

The unsung defense, with players like B.J. Cohen, a nine-year veteran of the Arena League, and Billy Lyon, who played for the Packers and Vikings, and other All-Americans like corner Melvin Cunningham and linebackers Larry McCloud, Jermaine Swafford, the Herd allowed only 210 points in 15 games, outscoring opponents 43.9 - to - 14.0, and many of those points came for the opponents late in blowouts.

A total of 77 points were scored in fourth quarter by opponents, one-third of the points given up for the season.

The team had 18 All-Southern Conference selections, 13 of which were first-team selections. Moss was the SC Freshman of the Year, with 29 touchdowns (at least one in every game), 78 catches, 1,709 yards, and senior receiver Tim

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Martin added 74/868 and five scores.

Kresser threw for 3,407 yards, 31 touchdowns against 11 interceptions, and hit 60 percent passing. Eight of Marshall's all-time 44 All-Americans were named in 1996.

That season, Thomas Haskins of VMI was the SC Offensive Player of the Year, but rushed for **only** 73 yards, and threw a touchdown on a halfback pass, in a MU 45-20 win in Lexington, Va.

The SC Defensive Player of the Year was Dexter Coakley of Appalachian State, but Marshall rushed for 207 yards (Thomas has 118 yards, Chapman 115) and passed for 245 more yards in a 24-10 win in Boone, in a game that Chris Hanson averaged a MU record 55.3 yards per punt.

The team became only the third MU team all-time to start 8-0, and only the third team to beat ASU in Boone since MU joined the SC in 1977.

Wins were staggering: 55-27 over Howard in the opener; 37-

3 over Western Kentucky; 45-0 shutout of Tennessee-Chattanooga; 56-21 over Western Carolina; 56-25 over The Citadel; 42-17 over Furman in the regular season finale.

Marshall continued its scoring in the NCAA 1-AA playoffs. A 59-14 opening round over Delaware set the tone for the remainder of the post-season.

Furman was next, falling 54-0; then in the semi-finals, the Herd stopped the University of Northern Iowa 31-14; and defeated Furman 54-0 in the semi-final round, before taking on defending 1AA National Champion, Montana in the championship contest.

Marshall didn't have any trouble with the Grizzlies, winning 49-29, leading 46-3 before pulling off the dogs, while claiming its second NCAA 1-AA National Championship.

Several players off this team went to various pro football leagues, including the NFL, AFL and CFL; **included** in this list were Moss, Kesser, Cohen, Lyon, Chapman, Ricky Hall, John Wade, Giradie Mercer, Jason Starkey, Chris Hanson,

Jamie Wilson, John Grace, Tim Martin and Andre O'Neal.

Another future NFL player, Chad Pennington rode the

WHICH TEAM IS THE BEST? NAIA I (1956-1969/1997-2007)

by Patrick M. Premo

In the last issue, we saw 1974 Texas Lutheran capture the NAIA Division II (1970-96) all-time best crown. 1974 Texas Lutheran then went on to accept the challenge of 1997 Mount Union, but lost 21-31. 1997 Mount Union (the NCAA Division III champ) continues to advance in the Champions Round. This issue will feature **NAIA I (1956-1969 & 1997-2007)** teams. As I stated previously, I am using Tex Noel's rankings to pair these champions, *with the proviso that no individual school is represented more than once in each tournament.*

Here are the top 16 teams as rated by Tex:

1. 2000 Georgetown, KY

bench as a red-shirt that season at QB.

Bob Pruett, a 1965 graduate of the school, was in his first season as coach.

16. 1964 Concordia-Moorehead, MN

8. 1956 St. Joseph's, IN

9. 1962 Central St., OK

5. 1997 Findlay, OH

12. 1956 Montana St.

13. 1960 Lenoir-Rhyne, NC

4. 1999 NW Oklahoma St.

3. 1968 Troy St., AL

14. 1966 Waynesburg, PA

6. 1963 St. John's, MN

11. 1967 Fairmont St., WV

7. 2006 Sioux Falls, SD

10. 1961 Pittsburg St., KS

15. 1958 NE St., OK

2. 2003 Carroll, MT

ROUND ONE:

2000 Georgetown, KY, won an extremely close game over 1964 Concordia-Moorehead, MN, 10-6. 1962 Central St., OK, thrashed 1956 St.

Joseph's, IN, 28-0. 1956
Montana St. squeaked by 1997

Findlay, OH, in a minor upset,
24-21. In another upset, 13th
seed 1960 Lenoir-Rhyne, NC,

defeated 4th seed NW
Oklahoma St. 28-20. 1968
Troy St., AL, won in a shoot out
over 1966 Waynesburg, PA,
40-35. In a minor upset, 1967
Fairmont St., WV, won over
1963 St. John's, MN, 35-27.
1961 Pittsburg St., KS,
defeated 2006 Sioux Falls, SD,
24-14 in another minor upset.
But the biggest upset of the first
round came in the last game
when 15th seed 1958 NE St.,
OK, crushed 2003 Carroll, MT,
34-10.

ROUND TWO:

Upsets continue to abound as
the top seed, 2000
Georgetown, KY, is beaten
badly by 1962 Central St., OK,
40-20. 1960 Lenoir-Rhyne,
NC, and 1956 Montana St. put
82 points on the board with
Lenoir-Rhyne prevailing, 52-30.
The last of the top four seeds
fell as 1967 Fairmont St., WV,
narrowly defeated 1968 Troy
St., AL, 21-20. 1961 Pittsburg
St., KS, ended 1958 NE St.,

OK's, dream with a 40-24
thumping. Moving into Round
three, the highest remaining
seed is a 9 – the top 8 teams
are gone in some shocking
upsets. [Personally, I think the
teams of the first era were
superior to the teams of the
second era, and the results
seem to back that up.]

ROUND THREE:

1960 Lenoir-Rhyne, NC, won
over 1962 Central St., OK, 31-
27 to move into the
championship game. 1967
Fairmont St., WV, lost to 1961
Pittsburg St., KS, in another
close game, 30-27.

THIRD PLACE:

A nine and a eleven seed meet
for third place – and it is
number nine, 1962 Central St.,
OK, prevailing over 1967
Fairmont St., WV, 27-15.

CHAMPIONSHIP:

The all-time champ will either
be a ten seed or a thirteen
seed. In a high scoring game,
the thirteen seed, **1960 Lenoir-
Rhyne, NC**, defeats the ten
seed, 1961 Pittsburg St., KS,
38-36 to claim the **NAIA I
(1956-1969 & 1997-2007)
Crown.**

PROLOGUE:

As promised, the NAIA I Champ from 1970-1996, 1976 Texas A&I, takes on the NAIA I Champ from 1956-1969/1997-

2007) 1960 Lenoir-Rhyne, NC, to determine the best NAIA Division I team of all-time. 1976 Texas A&I is a field goal favorite, but they win by more than that, taking it to Lenoir-Rhyne, 41-26.

CHAMPIONS ROUND:

1997 Mount Union is now waiting for 1976 Texas A&I. Texas is a 12 point favorite and the team does not disappoint, winning 44-31. 1997 Mount Union's aura of invincibility is over – they were soundly beaten by a very good team. 1976 Texas A&I will now advance to take on the next winner.

The next issue will feature the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) teams (1956-2007); the following issue will have the College Division (1958-1974), and then the issue after that will feature the NCAA Division I-AA teams

(1978-2007). And after that, we will see the big boys in action!

See you then!

Remember, if you were to conduct these tournaments again using my **FAST-ACTION COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOARD GAME**, your results will most likely vary. Just as in real life, when two teams play one another twice (or more) in the same season, the results are not always the same.

Looking for All-Time Scores of your favorite college football team? Have you misplaced the scores and dates of when your alma mater defeated its biggest rival while you were going to school?

The answers to all of these can be answered by IFRA member Richard Topp. He has record games, sites, dates and locations of not only major colleges; small colleges and also schools that no longer participate in college football.

Email Richard at: rjtopp@earthlink.net with you request.

Coach Faurot Goes out a Winner—on the last play of his career

By Tex Noel/1st-N-Goal
(editor, *The College Football Historian*)

Many college football games have come down to the final play: known as a *Hail-Mary* pass—one that is thrown down the field, fans hold their collective breaths; then a yell of excitement as the receiver hauls in-the-pass and crosses into the end zone for the winning score.

But, how often is a game decided on the final play by a safety? While no specific details are known, one former coach concluded his career on such a play.

After 19 years on the Mizzou sidelines—and 28 overall—Missouri's Don Faurot called it a career following the 1956 season.

His career, no doubt, had many outstanding games and plays. The last play of that season probably would go down as the most remarkable.

The Missouri Alumnus-Spring, 1994

Magazine (pages 18-20) highlighted Coach Faurot's career in Columbia.

One game struck my attention—as how it ended: Missouri won on a safety on the final play of the game, defeating rival Kansas, 15-13.

Under the heading **HOW SWEET IT WAS** Coach Faurot recalled some of his most memorable games; then he came to the game against Kansas.

Another highlight was the victory over Kansas, 15-13, in my final game as head coach.

Offering his congratulations afterward, KU Coach Chuck Mather said 'you ought to give me a letter.'

*In his book, **Ol' Mizzou** veteran scribe Bob Broeg describes that last victory.*

"Before 28,000 on a homecoming for which the campus decoration had been dedicated to the retiring coach, the Kansas Jayhawks were spoilsports until the final minutes. Then Dave Doane,

understudy to the injured [Jimmy] Hunter, ducked a pass rush on fourth down and fired to top end Larry Plumb, who made a spectacular catch on the 14-yard pass for a touchdown. But a foulup on the snap kept placekicking sharpshooter Charley Rash from a winning conversion.

With little more than a minute left, a letdown tie seemed certain. Kansas had the ball on its own 20. Even when KU quarterback Wally Strauch was thrown for a 16-yard loss as he tried to pass, how could Missouri score without the ball?

Mather, the KU coach, misread the distance. He thought the Jayhawks were on the nine-yard line, not the 4. He sent a daring reverse, Stauch to Bobby Richardson, but Chuck Mehrer, playing defensive left tackle, read the misdirection. He barreled across the goal line and threw his

230-pound bear-hug into Robinson. The ballcarrier dropped in the end zone. Safety! Final score: Missouri 15, Kansas 13.

*As the goal post went down and the Tigers carried off a happy, grinning Faurot, the **Old Master of Mizzou** received a standing ovation from the sentimental well-wishers who included the man from Independence, Harry Truman.*

With the season ending victory over KU, the Tigers evened their all-time series with Kansas at 28-28-7.

Interesting, on the same page as his last game as coach; it also listed “highs and lows” of his career.

Faurot, a 1925 graduate of the University of Missouri, also played for the Tigers.

Under the lows, what caught this writer’s eye was how his first game as a player, ended—losing on a safety.

Now, how ironic is this???

Then, there was my first varsity game against Iowa State in 1923. Our punter, Forrest Fowler, was hurt. I was the next-best punter and was sent into the game with the ball on the two-yard line. The pass from center was a little low—but we’re not going to say that, I fumbled it, and I lost the game

on a safety, 2-0. I never thought that Coach [Gwinn] Henry would play me again—but he was patient and forgiving, because I played 60 minutes in the next 6 games.

Faurot's began his coaching career at Northeast Missouri Teachers Colleges, (in Kirksville; now Truman State), in 1926. In nine-years at the helm of the school his record was a 63-13-3.

Then, in 1935 he returned to Columbia where he quickly turned the Tigers fortunes: the previous three seasons, the

Sources:

The Missouri Alumnus-Spring, 1994; University of Missouri Alumni Office. University of Missouri Columbia, Mo, 1994.

The Kick is Good: Winning Field Goals from Pre-1937

**By Pat Harmon, retired
College Football Historian**

- Princeton's Alexander Moffatt converted 4 goals from the field, in

Tigers had compiled a 2-23-2 mark.

He patrolled the Mizzou sidelines though the 1956 season, with the 1942-45 seasons off for WW II, finishing with a 101-79-10 and a career mark of 164-92-13.

Faurot was bestowed two additional honors 11 years apart. He was enshrined into the *College Football Hall of Fame* with the class of 1961; and in 1972, the playing field at Memorial Stadium named in honor of him.

Official Collegiate Football Record Book, 1956; published by the NCAA.

Princeton's 1883, 27-6 victory against Harvard. Moffat's kicks were more unusual: his kicked two goals with his right foot and added another pair left footed.

- Edward Robertson of Purdue was successful on 7 of 12 drop-kick field goal attempts in the Boilermakers' 46-5 triumph over Rose Poly, in 1900. (His kicks

- traveled 25- 35-25-20-20-30-30 yards.)
- In back-to-back seasons, 1905-06, Chicago's Walter Eckersall booted five field goals in a game. His 1905 kicks came in a 44-0 shutout over Illinois; and the next season, his kicks aided in the Maroon's triumph over Nebraska, 38-5.
- Another outstanding kicker from the state of Illinois was the Illini's Otto Seiler. His successful kicks won three contests (vs Chicago, Indiana and Syracuse) all by identical 3-0 margins, in 1910.
- Charles Brickley's converted four dropkick field goals while adding a fifth by place kick Harvard's 15-5 victory over Yale in 1913.

NOTE: Most of the content in this story appeared an issue of The College Football

**College Football
Coaches...that Won a**

- Harvard's Eddie Mahan was successful on three drop-kick field goals, scoring his team's only points in a 1915 (9-0) victory over Virginia.
- In 1917, Alvin "Bo" McMillin, who played for Centre, scored his Team's and the game's only points in the 3-0 win over the Kentucky Wildcats.
- In Army's 12-0 triumph over Navy in 1924, the Cadets' Ed Garbisch made four field goals to provide the difference.
- Yale's Albie "Little Boy Blue" Booth successfully made a field goal, scoring the game's only points in Yale's 3-0 victory over rival Harvard, in 1931.
- In the snow, Michigan's Harry Newman kicked a field goal in a 3-0 defeat of Minnesota, in 1932.

Researchers Monthly *Bulletin*— and is used by permission.

**High School Football
National Championship**

**Compiled by Tex Noel, editor
The College Football
Historian**

**Coach, Team/Year
(Source)**

- Enoch Bagshaw, Everett, WA/1920, (NSNS)...[Washington, 1921-29; also, coached in the Rose Bowl]
- Paul Brown, Massillon OH, Washington/1935-36-39-40), (NSNS)... [Ohio State, 1941-43; won the 1942 AP National Championship]
- Todd Dodge, Southlake TX Carroll/2004-05-06, (NPP, USA)...[North Texas, 2007-current]
- Gerry Faust, Cincinnati OH Moeller/1976-77-79-80, (NSNS)...[Notre Dame, 1981-85; Akron, 1986-94]
- Jim Lookabaugh, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill OK/1933, (NSNS)... [Oklahoma A&M, 1938-49]
- Chuck Mather, Massillon Washington OH/1950-52-53, (NSNS)...[Kansas, 1954-57]
- Corky Nelson, Tyler TX John Tyler /1973, (NSNS)...[North Texas, 1982-90]
- Clarence "Nibbs" Price, San Diego, CA/1916 (NSNS)...[California, 1926-30; also, coached in the Rose Bowl]
- Glenn Thistlewaite, Oak Park IL/1913-20 (NSNS)...[Earlham, 1909-12; Northwestern, 1922-26; Wisconsin, 1927-31; Carroll WI, 1932-34 and Richmond, 1935-41]
- Paul Tyson, Waco TX/1927, (NSNS)...[Daniel Baker, 1950]
- Oak Park IL, Robert Zuppke, Oak Park IL/1910, (NSNS)...[Illinois, 1914-41]

**Thanks to IFRA member, Tom Goddard (who specializes in JUCO and high school football)*

who noted that Chuck Mather had coached at Kansas.

Any others?

Sources of National Championships:

*National Sports News Service (NSNS)...1910-1916, 1918-1943, 1946-1999

*USA TODAY (USA)...1982-2007

*National Prep Poll (NPP)...1987-2007

In Memory of...

John Pont, who coached at Indiana, Northwestern, Yale and Miami of Ohio and Mt. Saint Joseph OH. He was 80.

Jake Rudolph who played at Georgia Tech.

University of Oregon's Todd Doxey.

Ereck Plancher, University of Central Florida

Terrence Kiel a former Texas A&M player

In Honor of...

Tony Casillas (Oklahoma) and former Tulsa standout Drew Pearson will join the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Vince Young, who led Texas to the 2006 National Championship will join two other former Longhorn greats to have his number—10—retired this year.

Also receiving the honor this fall will be No. 22 Bobby Layne and former star linebacker, Tommy Nobis and his No. 60.

The trio will join former Heisman Trophy winners, Earl Campbell (No. 20) and Ricky Williams (No. 34)

Members of the Intercollegiate Researchers Association congratulate the Class of 2008 recently enshrined into the College Football Hall of Fame.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME—CLASS OF 2008

Players enshrined were Mount Union quarterback Jim Ballard; Oklahoma center Tom Brahaney; Michigan defensive back Dave Brown; Clemson linebacker Jeff Davis; Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie; Texas defensive back

Johnnie Johnson; Ohio State quarterback Rex Kern; North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon; Texas A&I defensive end John Randle; Oregon running back Ahmad Rashad; McMurry halfback Brad Rowland; Indiana running back Anthony Thompson; Houston defensive tackle Wilson Whitley; Dartmouth linebacker Reggie Williams; Southern California linebacker

F.....Y.....I.....

- If you have recently subscribed to *The College Football Historian* and haven't sent your interest; favorite college football team(s) and a listing (titles) of any of your work that has been previously published—please send them in for the directory. (Just send an email to the editor, Tex Noel (statwhiz@hotmail.com))

Mo Johnson, who has designed our website:

<http://www.secsportsfan.com/college-football-association.html>

will be updating the directory every two months. He also will

Richard Wood and Notre Dame nose tackle Chris Zorich.

Coaches in the class of 2008 include Central Michigan coach Herb Deromedi, Jackson State coach W.C. Gorden, and Doug Porter, who coached at Mississippi Valley State, Howard and Fort Valley State and Penn State's Joe Paterno.

To quote Bob Hope: "Thanks for the memories!!"

update the story directory—thanks, Mo!!

- The start of the 2008 College Football Season will kick-off next month.
- Be sure and send your research in.
- **Next Month:** A review of a new book on Red Grange;
- George Macor will inform us on what college football teams have and AP's No. 1 have met the most frequent.
- Also, Jeff Bovee will have a compilation on all

in the weekly AP Poll (and later, a similar compilation on how the 1A teams did against teams ranked in the final AP Poll).

"Blood, Sweat, and Tears: A History of Black College Football" has been on exhibition at the College Football Hall of Fame and will be on display through Aug. 31, 2008.

Visitors to the exhibit will have the opportunity to walk through a historic locker room filled with memorabilia representing all 50 Historic black colleges and universities. The exhibit features the rich pageantry of the black marching bands, the hallowed black college All-America teams, and a tribute to the black college national champions.

- NCAA 1-A teams and their record against teams
- Patrick Premo will continue his small college football tournaments— with all the upsets in this issue, will they continue in the next issue?

Team Statistics of actual Pre-1937 National Champions

From the book: **Stars of an Earlier Autumn**

Rushing Yards

No.	Team	Season
2578	Minnesota	1934
2499	SMU	1935

Passing Yards

No.	Team	Season
1219	SMU	1935

Total Offense Yards

No.	Team	Season
3718	SMU	1935
2872	Minnesota	1934

Most Points

No.	Team	Season
336	Yale	1900
316	Alabama	1934