

A History of Stetson Football



Original 1884 Intramural "Forbes" team that played the "Stetson" team in the first organized football game in the state of Florida. Forbes team was coached by C.B. Rosa (Back Row Center).

The first organized football game in the state of Florida was an intramural contest on Thanksgiving Day in 1894. The team named after university president John Forbes and coached by C.B. Rosa defeated the "Stetson" team coached by Harvey MacQuiston of the English department. The field was created by removing some pine trees in the spot where the Cummings Gymnasium was later built. Due to the uneven ground one team had to run uphill each quarter. The game attracted considerable attention and viewers came from as far as Daytona. After several games local churchmen were shocked by the brutality of the game which seemed antichristian. This led to a



1906 State Championship Team.

three-year suspension of football at Stetson.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1901 football made its return. Stetson met the Florida Agricultural College on the State Fairgrounds in Jacksonville in what has been called Florida's first Bowl game. Stetson won the game 6-0. It is said that Stetson would have scored another touchdown except that a policeman on a horse got in the way. It is also said that Florida Agricultural College would have scored a touchdown had it not been for a tree stump at the edge of the playing field.

In the early days football aroused more interest than any other sport at Stetson, as it did at most universities. In 1903, although Stetson played just two games with a tie and a win, it was considered the state champions. Since the final game of the season was not played George Wilson of the Florida Times-Union said that Stetson had not formally won the championship. Stetson claimed the state title in 1901, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907, and 1909.

In the spring of 1934 an effort was made to build a \$40,000 football stadium on campus. Civil Works Administration (CWA) offered to put up \$30,000 of the needed funds. It was assumed that \$10,000 of the amount would be needed for materials and all the federal money for that purpose had already been apportioned to other projects on campus. Coach McQuillan and John Stetson Jr. worked diligently to get the stadium. They made drawings that turned into blueprints yet it was not enough. It was hoped that the City of DeLand would eventually lease the stadium and help find a way to cover the \$10,000, yet money was hard to come by at that time and the project never came to fruition.

Following the 1934 season and after the failed attempt to get a foot-



1954 Coach McQuillan talks to his players in the locker room.

ball stadium built, long time head coach Herb McQuillan announced that he was leaving Stetson to accept a position at Texas A&M. What followed was the biggest coaching controversy in Stetson athletics history. Initially there were 49 applicants for the coaching vacancy. When it was made public that one of the applicants was football star Red Grange, the best known name in the sport at the time, the other 48 hopefuls



Coach Warren C. Brady Cowell

faded away. At first it seemed that President Allen wanted Grange, yet when it became clear Grange would accept the position, Allen decided that his hiring would put too much stress on athletics, commercialize the University, and draw the school away from its intended purpose and mission. He feared it would impair the relationship between Stetson and the Baptist constituency. The uproar that followed included an unofficial poll by students who voted 100-1 in favor of hiring Grange. Locals and alumni vigorously supported the students' effort, yet President Allen stood firm and Red Grange never came to DeLand.

The bad news was that Grange did not become Stetson's next head coach. The good news was that Brady Cowell filled the opening. Cowell was one of the most beloved coaches ever to work at Stetson. He headed up the football program for nine seasons between 1935 and 1948. One of the biggest victories in program history came on Cowell's watch in 1938. Stetson had played the University of Florida just eight times since 1912 and had fallen behind in enrollment, as well as in football. Stetson trav-

eled to Gainesville, outplayed the Gators and brought home a 16-14 win. When Stetson's excited supporters returned to DeLand they went straight to President Allen's home and awoke him so he could join in the celebration which he did going as far as lighting the celebratory bonfire.

Following the Florida victory another movement started to build a football stadium in DeLand. This time the project was estimated at approximately \$100,000. The City of DeLand was to contribute \$26,000 and the 6,000 seat venue was to be completed in 1941. Late in the process however, President Allen announced that Stetson, for financial reasons, would cease to participate in intercollegiate sports. Due to finances, as well as World War II the football program was in hiatus from 1941 through 1945. After the war President Allen had football resumed at Stetson.

The last notably successful season for the Stetson football team came in 1956. Head Coach Joe McMullen led the Hatters to an 8-1-2 overall record and a 35-20 victory over Arkansas State in the season-ending Tangerine Bowl. The only blemish on the record that season came at the hands of the Florida



President William Allen (1934-1947)

State Seminoles by a score of 13-10.

The end of football at Stetson came to pass following the 1956 season. The times, as well as students at Stetson had changed. They were still interested in athletics, but not nearly as much as in years past. It was felt that football had to be given up. Most of the schools Stetson had played in the past had abandoned their football programs and the larger schools like Florida had grown large and were too strong to compete against. In Stetson's final season of 1956 other than homecoming no more than 60 reserved seats were sold to the general public. In a January 22, 1957 meeting of trustees the football program was terminated at Stetson.



1956 Team, the last to play football at Stetson.

Stetson Football Through the Years

1901 (1-0-0) Coach C. Seaton Fleming

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida Agricultural College	W	6-0

1902 (2-1-1) Coach C. Seaton Fleming

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida Agricultural College	T	0-0
Florida Agricultural College	W	22-5
East Florida Seminary	L	6-11
East Florida Seminary	W	2-0

1903 (1-0-1) Coach C. Seaton Fleming

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida Agricultural College	W	6-5
Florida State College	T	5-5

1904 (2-2-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
East Florida Seminary	W	16-0
East Florida Seminary	W	21-0
Jacksonville Light Infantry	L	0-6
Florida State College	L	6-18

1905 (4-0-1) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Rollins College	W	28-0
Rollins College	W	39-0
Jacksonville Light Infantry	T	0-0
Jacksonville Light Infantry	W	12-0
Tampa	W	16-0

1906 (3-1-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Soldiers	W	53-0
Rollins College	W	15-0
Rollins College	W	2-0
Savannah	L	0-39

1907 (2-0-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Rollins College	W	6-0
Rollins College	W	4-0

1908 (0-1-1) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida	L	5-6
Florida	T	0-0

1909 (3-0-1) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida	W	26-0
Olympics	W	10-0
Olympics	W	14-0
Florida	T	5-5

1910 (3-0-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Columbia	W	10-0
Olympics	W	34-0
Orlando	W	6-0

1911 (0-2-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida	L	0-27
Orlando	L	5-6

1912 (5-2-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Southern	W	71-0
College of Charleston	W	87-0
R.M.I	W	26-3
Mercer	L	5-6
Florida	L	7-23
Davidson	W	21-6
Georgia Military Institute	W	19-7

1913 (2-0-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Maryville	W	13-3
Mercer	W	13-6

1914 (1-4-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
King College of Tennessee	L	0-7
Southern	L	0-7
Georgia Military Institute	W	6-0
Mercer	L	0-47
Southern	L	0-21

1915 No Team

1916 (3-1-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Rollins College	W	34-0
Rollins College	W	48-0
Southern	W	8-6
Southern	L	7-13

1917 No Team because of War

1918 No Team because of War

1919 (4-4-0) Coach Litchfield Colton

Opponent	Result	Score
Florida Military Academy	W	31-0
Winter Park	W	12-0
Arcadia Flyers	W	18-6
Southern	L	0-19
Rollins College	W	32-0
Florida	L	0-64
Southern	L	12-25
University of Havana	L	0-6

1920 (2-4-0) Coach H. T. (Pug) Allen

Opponent	Result	Score
Jacksonville American Legion	W	7-0
Southern	L	0-14
Southern	W	20-7
Mercer	L	6-21
Florida	L	0-26
Florida	L	0-20

1921 (1-4-0) Coach H. T. (Pug) Allen

Opponent	Result	Score
Rollins College	L	0-13
Mercer	L	0-41
Oglethorpe	L	0-41
Bartow Aviators	L	0-19
Orlando American Legion	W	25-0

1922 (4-2-0) Coach H. T. (Pug) Allen

Opponent	Result	Score
Southern	W	52-0
Palatka	W	45-0
Fort Lauderdale	W	53-0
Tampa Legion	L	0-16
Southern	W	35-0
Rollins College	L	0-25

1923 (5-2-0) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Springfield A.C.	W	33-0
Southern	L	13-14
St. Augustine	W	53-0
Southern	W	27-6
Florida	L	0-26
Seabreeze	W	44-0
Rollins College	W	15-7

1924 (6-0-0) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Pensacola Flyers	W	16-0
Piedmont	W	43-0
Louisiana	W	32-0
Newberry	W	26-2
South Georgia Teachers	W	46-6
Cumberland University	W	32-13

1925 (6-2-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Camp Benning	L	0-51
Palmer	W	34-13
Norman	W	16-0
Georgia A & M	W	18-0
Spring Hill	W	6-5
Carson-Newman	T	0-0
Newberry	L	0-20
Tennessee State	W	10-0
Daytona A.C.	W	26-0

1926 (5-1-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Citadel	L	7-14
Tifton A & M	W	63-0
Newberry	W	18-0
Spring Hill	T	0-0
Rollins College	W	33-0
Southern	W	17-0
Maryville	W	14-12

1927 (6-0-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Auburn	W	6-0
Newberry	W	24-0
Southern	T	6-6
Rollins College	W	75-0
Louisiana Polytechnic	W	19-7
Miami University	W	36-0
Centre	W	27-0

1928 (4-3-0) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Citadel	L	0-39
Tampa Independents	W	13-0
Rollins College	W	19-6
Southern	L	0-13
Newberry	W	19-0
Miami	W	15-6
Howard	L	6-8

1929 (5-1-0) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Norman Park	W	12-0
Rollins College	W	20-0
Southern	W	45-19
St. Petersburg Junior College	W	19-0
Miami	W	12-0
Howard	L	13-14

1930 (5-3-0) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
Citadel	L	7-13
Norman Park Institute	W	38-0
Millsaps	W	13-0
Centenary	L	0-9
St. Petersburg Junior College	W	58-0
Mercer	L	0-33
Southern	W	52-0
Miami	W	19-0

1931 (3-5-0) Coach Herb McQuillan

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Mercer	L	7-28
Birmingham Southern	L	0-19
Centenary	L	0-27
Citadel	L	0-6
Erskine	W	19-7
Millsaps	L	7-19
Southern	W	20-0
South Georgia College	W	27-0

1932 (3-1-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Middle Georgia	T	0-0
Georgia State	L	6-34
Oglethorpe	W	13-0
Parris Island	W	13-7
Lakeland	W	7-0

1933 (4-1-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Middle Georgia	W	7-6
Oglethorpe	W	66-13
Bowden	W	26-0
Southern	W	73-0
Tampa	L	0-8
Miami	T	0-0

1934 (1-4-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Georgia University	L	0-48
Murray State	L	0-19
Mercer	L	0-6
Miami	T	6-6
Tampa	W	21-7
Florida	L	0-14

1935 (8-2-0) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Florida	L	0-34
Oglethorpe	W	7-6
Howard	L	0-32
Miami	W	13-12
Erskine	W	19-13
Tampa	W	9-7
Murray	W	6-0
Georgia State	W	9-6
Rollins College	W	21-14
Florida Southern	W	19-10

1936 (2-5-1) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Georgia State	W	12-0
Florida	L	0-32
Tampa	L	0-6
Erskine	L	6-12
Miami	L	6-20
Union	T	7-7
Oglethorpe	W	13-7
Rollins College	L	0-13

1937 (5-4-0) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Florida	L	0-13
South Georgia Teachers	W	24-0
Tampa	W	18-12
Erskine	L	13-14
Miami	L	13-25
Lenior Rhyne	W	20-6
Oglethorpe	L	0-10
Mississippi College	W	14-6
Rollins College	W	15-12

1938 (6-2-1) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Florida	W	16-14
Rollins College	L	0-18
South Georgia Teachers	W	28-0
Wofford	W	7-6
Erskine	W	33-14
Tampa	W	42-0
Oglethorpe	W	13-7
Presbyterian	L	6-7
Rollins College	T	6-6

1939 (3-5-2) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Florida	L	0-21
South Georgia	W	19-0
Rollins College	L	7-27
Presbyterian	T	12-12
Erskine	W	14-7
Tampa	T	0-0
Newberry	L	0-20
Oglethorpe	L	13-20
Wofford	W	14-7
Rollins College	L	17-27

1940 (2-5-1) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Tampa	L	0-6
Miami	L	0-10
Rollins College	L	12-25
Erskine	W	19-13
Tampa	W	19-13
Wofford	T	7-7
Presbyterian	L	0-6
Rollins College	L	0-34

1941 No Team because of War**1942 No Team because of War****1943 No Team because of War****1944 No Team because of War****1945 No Team because of War****1946 (3-4-0) Coach Brady Cowell**

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Troy Teachers	W	15-12
Rollins College	L	0-20
Presbyterian	L	0-25
Mississippi College	L	0-13
Erskine	W	26-0
Rollins College	L	0-19
Tampa	W	20-0

1947 (2-6-1) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Florida State University	W	14-0
Southwestern of Memphis	W	27-0
Milligan	L	13-20
Jacksonville NAS	L	0-23
Millsaps	L	6-14
Rollins College	L	6-27
Erskine	L	0-27
Mississippi College	T	6-6
Presbyterian	L	0-7

1948 (2-7-0) Coach Brady Cowell

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Mississippi College	L	0-14
Southwestern of Memphis	W	18-0
Milligan	L	6-12
Tampa	L	13-24
Florida State University	L	7-18
Erskine	L	0-14
Presbyterian	L	7-19
Millsaps	W	12-6
Rollins College	L	0-22

1949 (4-5-2) Coach Bob Trocolor

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Saufley Field	W	60-0
Millsaps	W	16-6
Troy	L	0-10
Milligan	T	13-13
Tampa	W	40-14
Florida State University	L	14-33
Erskine	W	24-13
Presbyterian	L	12-14
Mississippi	L	13-33
Rollins College	L	14-19

1950 (8-2-0) Coach Joe McMullen

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Troy State	W	34-12
Wofford	W	23-20
Jacksonville N.A.S.	W	55-0
Milligan	W	42-0
Tampa	L	20-27
Livingston State	W	28-26
Erskine	W	43-7
Florida State University	L	7-27
Newberry College	W	7-0
Western Kentucky	W	41-14

1951 (8-1-2) Coach Joe McMullen

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Patrick Field	W	70-0
Jacksonville N.A.S.	W	42-0
Furman	W	21-20
Tampa	T	14-14
Florida State University	L	10-13
Erskine	W	54-0
Richmond	W	19-14
Wofford	T	7-7
Livingston State	W	42-20
Eastern Kentucky	W	26-14
Arkansas St. (Tangerine Bowl)	W	35-20

1952 (3-4-3) Coach Jay Pattee

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Florida	L	6-33
NE Louisiana	W	40-20
Furman	W	25-14
Tampa	T	6-6
Parris Island	L	13-54
Florida State University	T	6-6
E. Carolina	T	19-19
University of Miami	L	0-35
Troy State	W	32-14
Mississippi	L	0-49

1953 (3-6-0) Coach Jay Pattee

<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Score</i>
Auburn	L	0-47
Western Kentucky	W	18-7
Florida	L	0-45
Tampa	W	14-7
Wofford	L	0-26
Morehead State	W	41-0
Eastern Carolina	L	6-40
Florida State University	L	6-13
Eastern Kentucky	L	26-30

Stetson Coaching History

1954 (1-7-0) Coach Jay Pattee

Opponent	Result	Score
Davidson	L	13-19
Troy State	W	18-14
SE Louisiana	L	0-62
Tampa	L	9-64
Wofford	L	0-41
Presbyterian	L	7-28
East Carolina	L	7-26
Florida State University	L	6-47

1955 (2-4-2) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
NW Louisiana	L	0-7
Wofford	L	6-22
Troy State	W	7-0
Tampa	L	13-40
Davidson	L	13-25
Presbyterian	T	6-6
Newberry	T	12-12
Mississippi College	W	25-0

1956 (2-6-1) Coach Herb McQuillan

Opponent	Result	Score
V.M.I.	L	6-47
East Carolina	T	7-7
Citadel	L	6-40
NW Louisiana	L	7-13
Davidson	L	7-43
Wofford	L	20-47
Carson Newman	W	20-0
Presbyterian	L	12-33
University of Havana	W	64-0

Year	Coach	Games	Record	Pct.
1901	Seaton Fleming	1	1-0-0	1.000
1902	Seaton Fleming	4	2-1-1	.500
1903	Seaton Fleming	2	1-0-1	.500
1904	Litchfield Colton	4	2-2-0	.500
1905	Litchfield Colton	5	4-0-1	.800
1906	Litchfield Colton	4	3-1-0	.750
1907	Litchfield Colton	2	2-0-0	1.000
1908	Litchfield Colton	2	0-1-1	.000
1909	Litchfield Colton	4	3-0-1	.750
1910	Litchfield Colton	3	3-0-0	1.000
1911	Litchfield Colton	2	0-2-0	.000
1912	Litchfield Colton	7	5-2-0	.714
1913	Litchfield Colton	2	2-0-0	1.000
1914	Litchfield Colton	5	1-4-0	.200
1916	Litchfield Colton	4	3-1-0	.750
1919	Litchfield Colton	8	4-4-0	.500
1920	Pug Allen	6	2-4-0	.333
1921	Pug Allen	5	1-4-0	.200
1922	Pug Allen	6	4-2-0	.667
1923	Herb McQuillan	7	5-2-0	.714
1924	Herb McQuillan	5	5-0-0	1.000
1925	Herb McQuillan	9	6-2-1	.667
1926	Herb McQuillan	7	5-1-1	.714
1927	Herb McQuillan	7	6-0-1	.857
1928	Herb McQuillan	7	4-3-0	.571
1929	Herb McQuillan	5	4-1-0	.800
1930	Herb McQuillan	8	5-3-0	.625
1931	Herb McQuillan	8	3-5-0	.375
1932	Herb McQuillan	5	3-2-0	.600
1933	Herb McQuillan	6	4-1-1	.667
1934	Herb McQuillan	6	1-4-1	.167
1935	Bradley Cowell	9	7-2-0	.778
1936	Bradley Cowell	8	2-5-1	.250
1937	Bradley Cowell	9	5-4-0	.556
1938	Bradley Cowell	9	6-2-1	.667
1939	Bradley Cowell	10	3-5-2	.300
1940	Bradley Cowell	8	2-5-1	.250
1946	Bradley Cowell	8	3-4-1	.375
1947	Bradley Cowell	9	2-6-1	.222
1948	Bradley Cowell	9	2-7-0	.222
1949	Bob Trocolor	10	3-5-2	.300
1950	Joe McMullen	10	8-2-0	.800
1951	Joe McMullen	10	7-1-2	.700
1952	Jay Pattee	10	3-4-3	.300
1953	Jay Pattee	9	3-6-0	.333
1954	Jay Pattee	8	1-7-0	.125
1955	Herb McQuillan	8	2-4-2	.250
1956	Herb McQuillan	9	2-6-1	.222

Totals

155-127-27 (.545)

All-Time Coaching Records

Coach	Years / Seasons	Record	Pct.
Seaton Fleming	1901-1903 / 3	4-1-2	.571
Litchfield Colton	1904-1919 / 13	32-17-3	.615
Pug Allen	1920-1922 / 3	7-10-0	.412
Herb McQuillan	1923-1934, 1955-1956 / 14	55-44-8	.567
Bradley Cowell	1935-1948 / 9	32-40-7	.405
Bob Trocolor	1949 / 1	3-5-2	.300
Joe McMullen	1950-1951 / 2	15-3-2	.750
JayPattee	1952-1954 / 3	7-17-3	.259