

= Dartmouth Big Green football under William Wurtenburg =

From 1895 to 1899 , William Wurtenburg served as the head coach of the Dartmouth Big Green football program , which represented Dartmouth College in collegiate football competitions . Dartmouth had adopted football as a school sport in 1881 when the team went 1 ? 0 ? 1 . Prior to Wurtenburg 's hiring , the team had won two consecutive Triangular Football League championships under coach Wallace Moyle . Wurtenburg had been a highly successful player at Yale , where he had played at quarterback on teams that went 46 ? 1 ? 1 in a four @-@ year span . He had graduated from the school in 1893 and coached the Navy Midshipmen football program for a year before his hiring by Dartmouth .

During Wurtenburg 's five year coaching tenure , Dartmouth went 8 ? 2 in conference contests and won four consecutive Triangular Football League championships . The 1895 season was made up of thirteen games , a record @-@ setting amount for a Dartmouth team . It included the closest loss to rival Harvard up to that point . The 1896 was the most successful season of Wurtenburg 's , in terms of winning percentage ; the squad went 5 ? 2 ? 1 , the tenth @-@ best record among major teams , for a .688 win percentage . The fewest games played in a season under Wurtenburg were seven in 1897 . That team managed a 4 ? 3 record , which included a three @-@ game scoreless streak . The 1898 squad finished the season with a losing record , 5 ? 6 , but managed to outscore its opponents 205 ? 137 . Wurtenburg 's final season as Dartmouth 's head coach was his worst . The team had a 2 ? 7 overall record and went 0 ? 2 in conference play . The season was also marked by several of the largest blowouts of Dartmouth in years .

Overall , the Dartmouth football program went 23 ? 23 ? 2 in Wurtenburg 's five years of coaching . The 1898 season was the final Triangular Football League championship the school would win ; the conference would become defunct in 1901 , two years later . Following Wurtenburg 's departure , Frederick E. Jennings , a player under Wurtenburg , would take over the program , leading it to a 2 ? 4 ? 2 record in one year of coaching . Another former player , Walter McCornack would coach the program starting in 1901 , and led the team to a 15 @-@ win record in two years . Wurtenburg 's tenure as coach has occasionally been remarked as the beginning of Dartmouth 's acceptance as a major team .

= = Prelude = =

Dartmouth College fielded its first football team in 1881 , when the school challenged Amherst College to a two @-@ game series . They won the first contest , one touchdown to none , and tied the second . The following year , the team played their first major opponent when they traveled to Cambridge , Massachusetts and played the Harvard Crimson . Dartmouth was blown out 53 ? 0 , and a rivalry with Harvard formed . The Dartmouth football team developed through the 1880s , skipping the 1885 season but challenging several major opponents . Prior to Wurtenburg 's arrival , the school had won four Triangular Football League championships in seven years . Wallace Moyle was the first coach hired by the program ; he served in that position during the two years before Wurtenburg 's appointment and led the school to a 9 ? 7 record .

William Wurtenburg was born and raised in Western New York by immigrant parents . He was introduced to football while a student at Phillips Exeter Academy , where , in his senior year , he played quarterback and served as team captain . In 1886 , Wurtenburg entered Yale University to study to become a doctor . He joined the school football team in his first year , playing as a backup halfback . He remained a backup halfback on the 1887 team , which went undefeated and was later recognized as a national champion . Wurtenburg transitioned to the quarterback position in 1888 and took the starting spot . He finished playing with the team regularly in 1889 . During the time Wurtenburg played , Yale went 46 ? 1 ? 1 . Upon graduating from Yale in 1893 , Wurtenburg accepted a position as head coach of the Naval Academy football team for the 1894 season . He guided the team to a 4 ? 1 ? 2 record .

= = Aftermath = =

After the 1899 season concluded , Wurtenburg declined to return the next year . Instead , he was replaced by one of his former players , Frederick E. Jennings . During the time that Wurtenburg coached Dartmouth , the program went 23 ? 23 ? 2 and won four consecutive Triangular Football League championships . The team had also amassed an 8 ? 2 conference record . Jennings took the 1900 squad to a 2 ? 4 ? 2 record , and was replaced following that season by Walter McCornack . He found more success with the program and led it to a 15 ? 3 ? 1 record over two years . The Big Green would never win another Triangular Football League championship ; the conference folded after the 1901 season . Following his coaching career , Wurtenburg became an occasional referee for Yale , and later established himself as a respected surgeon . Fred Crolius , captain of the 1898 team , would reflect on Wurtenburg 's coaching career at Dartmouth for William " Big Bill " Edwards ' book Football Days , stating that :

One man , whose influence more than any other one thing , succeeded in laying a foundation for Dartmouth 's wonderful results , but whose name is seldom mentioned in that connection is Doctor Wurtenberg , who was brought up in the early Yale football school . He had the keenest sense of fundamental football and the greatest intensity of spirit in transmitting his hard earned knowledge . Four critical years he worked with us filling every one with his enthusiasm and those four years Dartmouth football gained such headway that nothing could stop its growth .