

= 1886 Navy Midshipmen football team =

The 1886 Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1886 college football season . The team marked the second time that the school played a multiple @-@ game season . The squad was captained by halfback Clarence Stone . The year began with consecutive wins over rivals St. John 's College and Johns Hopkins , but then reversed with a loss to the former and a close victory over the latter . The year concluded with shutout losses to the Princeton reserve squad and Gallaudet . The season was the program 's longest until 1890 , when that year 's team played seven games .

= = Prelude = =

According to Ellsworth P. Bertholf 's biographer C. Douglas Kroll , the first evidence of a form of football at the United States Naval Academy came in 1857 , but the school 's cadets lost interest in the game shortly afterward . The Naval Academy fielded its first official football program in 1879 , headed by William John Maxwell . The team played one match , a 0 ? 0 tie , after which the program went on hiatus for two years . It returned with the 1882 season under the guidance of player @-@ coach Vaulx Carter . That season and the following two years of football were single @-@ game seasons played against rival Johns Hopkins ; Navy won two of the three years . The 1885 season was the first the school participated in a multi @-@ game year , playing three games , including the first against nearby St. Johns College . The season was a disappointment , ending in a 1 ? 2 record .

= = Schedule = =

= = Season = =

The season began with a game 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 paydirt 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 .

= = Players = =

The 1886 Navy football team was made up of twelve players at five unique positions . The squad consisted of five rushers , one snapback , two fullbacks , two halfbacks , and two quarterbacks . Three of the players ( both halfbacks and a rusher ) had played the previous season . The age of the players ranged several years due to the academy 's admission policy ; the school allowed for men between the ages of 14 and 18 to be admitted , which future player John B. Patton remarked made it " just a boys ' school " .

= = Postseason and aftermath = =

The first postseason college football game would not be played until 1902 , with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses ' establishment of the Tournament East @-@ West football game , later known as the Rose Bowl . The Midshipmen would not participate in their first Rose Bowl until the 1923 season , when they went 5 ? 1 ? 2 and tied with the Washington Huskies 14 ? 14 in the match . As a result of the lack of competition , there were no postseason games played after the 1886 season . According to statistics compiled by Billingsly , Houlgate , the National Championship Foundation , Parke H. Davis , and the Helms Athletic Foundation , Princeton and Yale were declared the 1886 season national co @-@ champions .

Paul Dashiell , the Johns Hopkins player who nearly single @-@ handedly beat the Naval Academy , later served as the team 's head coach , leading the program to a 25 ? 5 ? 4 record between 1904 and 1906 . The 1886 season kept Navy 's overall win ? loss record at an even 6 ? 6 ? 1 . It also brought the Academy 's record against Johns Hopkins to a 4 ? 2 lead , from which Hopkins never recovered . The season marked the first time a team for the Naval Academy would play a multiple @-@ game season . The 1886 schedule was the longest for the Naval Academy until 1891 , when that year 's squad played seven matches . Navy finished the 1880s with four winning seasons , and an overall record of 14 ? 12 ? 2 . The school outscored their opponents 292 ? 231 , and would go on to finish the 19th century with an overall record of 54 ? 19 ? 3 .