

= 1885 Navy Midshipmen football team =

The 1885 Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1885 college football season . The team was the fourth intercollegiate football squad to represent the United States Naval Academy , and marked the first time that the school played a multiple @-@ game season . The squad was captained by halfback Cornelius Billings . The year began with a blowout victory over St. John 's College , but was followed by close losses to Johns Hopkins University and the Princeton Tigers reserves squad . The season continued a seven @-@ season , eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins , and began a ten @-@ game , seven @-@ year rivalry with St. John 's .

= = 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 's first ever football team was fielded in 1879 . The squad was entirely student @-@ operated , receiving no official support from Naval Academy officials . The team was entirely funded by its members and their fellow students . The 1879 team participated in just one game , which resulted in a scoreless tie . It was played against the Baltimore Athletic Club , apparently on the Academy superintendent 's cow pasture . Navy would not field a football team in 1880 or 1881 , due to the lack of support from officials . When football returned to the academy in 1882 , the squad was led by player @-@ coach Vaulx Carter , and won 8 ? 0 in a match with Johns Hopkins , starting a seven @-@ year rivalry between the schools . The 1883 season resulted in Navy 's first ever loss , a 2 ? 0 defeat by Johns Hopkins . Navy returned the favor the following year , defeating Hopkins in a close 9 ? 6 game .

= = Schedule = =

= = Season summary = =

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 . The first 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 .

= = Players = =

The 1885 Naval Academy team was made up of thirteen players at four different positions . The squad consisted of seven rushers , two fullback , three halfbacks , and a quarterback :

= = Postseason and aftermath = =

The first postseason college football game would not be played until 1902 , with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses ' establishment of the east ? west tournament 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 a competition , there were no postseason games played after the 1885 season . According to statistics compiled by Billingsly , Houlgate , the National Championship Foundation , Parke Davis , and the Helms Athletic Foundation , Princeton was declared the 1885 season champion .

The 1885 season brought Navy 's overall win ? loss record to an even 3 ? 3 ? 1 . It also brought the Academy 's record against Johns Hopkins to 2 ? 2 tie . The season marked the first time a team for the Naval Academy would play a multiple @-@ game season . In 1886 , their schedule was expanded from three games to five , and continued to grow through subsequent years . It was the worst single @-@ season record for the Academy until 1888 , when they went 1 ? 4 . Navy would finish the 1880s with four winning seasons , and an overall record of 14 ? 12 ? 2 . The school would outscore their opponents 292 ? 231 , and would finish the 19th century with an overall record of 54 ? 19 ? 3 .