

= 1884 Navy Midshipmen football team =

The 1884 Navy Midshipmen football team represented the United States Naval Academy in the 1884 college football season . The team was the fourth intercollegiate football squad to represent the United States Naval Academy , and was the final time the school played a single @-@ game season . The squad was captained by rusher Jim Kittrell . The team 's single game was a 9 to 6 (9 ? 6) defeat of rival @-@ school Johns Hopkins . The season continued a seven @-@ season , eight game rivalry between the Naval Academy and Johns Hopkins . It was the final season that a Naval Academy team would go unbeaten and untied .

= = Background and prelude = =

According to 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 . However , it is widely believed by football researchers that the playing of intercollegiate football began in November 1869 , when a player at Rutgers University challenged another player at the nearby College of New Jersey (now Princeton) . The contest more closely resembled soccer , with teams scoring by kicking the ball into the opponent 's net , and lacked a uniform rules structure . The game developed slowly ; the first rules were drafted in October 1873 , and only consisted of twelve guidelines . Even though the number of teams participating in the sport increased , the game was still effectively controlled by the College of New Jersey , who claimed eight national championships in ten years . Only Yale presented any form of challenge , claiming four national championships in the same time period .

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 the seven @-@ year rivalry between the schools . The 1883 season resulted in Navy 's first ever loss , a 2 ? 0 defeat by Johns Hopkins .

= = Schedule = =

= = Season summary = =

= = = Navy 9 , Johns Hopkins 6 = = =

The sole game of Navy 's 1884 season was the annual competition against rival Johns Hopkins , the third consecutive playing of the series . In what was the final season where the rivalry was the only game of the year , Navy defeated Johns Hopkins 9 ? 6 . The game , played on November 27 , was hosted by the Academy , likely on an unused drill or parade field . In an unusual agreement between the two schools , the contest was played entirely under rugby rules . In the first half , Hopkins scored twice , on a touchdown from Mr. Bonsall and on a two @-@ point safety . Navy scored twice in the second half of the game , when halfback Julius Dashiell , brother of Hopkins ' Paul Dashiell , kicked a five @-@ point goal and rusher David W. Taylor scored a touchdown to secure a victory .

= = Players = =

The 1884 Naval Academy team was made up of eleven players at four different positions . The squad consisted of seven rushers , one fullback , two halfbacks , and a quarterback :

= = Postseason and aftermath = =

The first postseason college football game was not played until 1902 , with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses ' establishment of the east ? west tournament game , later known as the Rose Bowl . The Midshipmen did 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 1882 season . According to statistics compiled by the National Championship Foundation , Parke Davis , and the Helms Athletic Foundation , Yale was declared the 1884 season champion . However , the Billingsley college football research center and Parke Davis also selected Princeton as the 1884 national champions .

The 1884 win over Johns Hopkins brought the Naval Academy 's overall win @-@ loss record to positive , as well as once again giving the Midshipmen a lead over Hopkins in their rivalry . The season marked the final time a team for the Naval Academy would play a single @-@ game season . In 1885 , their schedule was expanded to three games . It also marked the final time a Navy team finished a season unbeaten and untied ; the closest a squad would come was in 1926 , when they went 9 ? 0 ? 1 . Navy finished the 1880s with four winning seasons , and an overall record of 14 ? 12 ? 2 . The school outscored their opponents 292 ? 231 , and finished the 19th century with an overall record of 54 ? 19 ? 3 .