

# FITTON FIELD RECORDS & HISTORY

Today's Crusaders are fortunate to call Fitton Field their home. Storied Fitton is considered to be the finest natural grass facility for viewing and playing a college football game in the Northeast. Always in impeccable playing shape, the field has played host to some of the greatest teams in college football — Louisiana State, Boston College, Georgia, Syracuse and Penn State, to name a few.

The first home football game ever played at Holy Cross was a 6-0 defeat of Massachusetts Agricultural College on Sept. 26, 1903. It was not until 1905, however, that the field was dedicated Fitton Field, and again it was a meeting with the Aggies that christened the new field. This time, the Crusaders won 17-0.

Still, the football field was laid out across what is now the baseball field, and it was not until Sept. 26, 1908, that the first game was held at what is now the field's current site. The Crusaders defeated Norwich 5-0 on that inaugural day, over 100 years ago.

In 1908, Holy Cross added new wooden stands to the field, while just four years later a concrete structure replaced many of those seats, thus increasing the seating capacity of the stadium. It was not until 1924 that Holy Cross built the steel structuring that makes up today's stadium.

Prior to the 1986 season, the wooden stands were removed and replaced with aluminum stands and a complete horseshoe design with a capacity of 23,500.

## HOLY CROSS BY DECADE AT FITTON FIELD

1903-1909	20-6-4
1910-1919	27-11-3
1920-1929	51-4-4
1930-1939	55-3-4
1940-1949	29-20-6
1950-1959	35-13-1
1960-1969	26-17-2
1970-1979	21-26-1
1980-1989	41-12-1
1990-1999	23-30-1
2000-2009	31-24-0
2010-2019	25-28-0
2020-pres.	9-2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>393-196-27</b>

## FITTON FIELD FACTS

**NAME:** Fitton Field is named for Father Fitton, who was born on April 10, 1805, and ordained a Catholic priest in 1827. Born and raised in Boston, he purchased land in the name of the church in 1840, upon which he founded the Seminary of Mount St. James. In 1842, Father Fitton deeded the land to Bishop Benedict Joseph Fenwick, who founded the College of the Holy Cross in 1843.

**FIRST GAME:** The Crusaders defeated Massachusetts Agricultural College 6-0 on Sept. 26, 1903, in the first game played on the Holy Cross campus. The first game played at the current site of Fitton Field was on Sept. 26, 1908, as Holy Cross beat Norwich 5-0.

**VINTAGE YEAR:** The steel structure which comprises Fitton Field was erected in 1924, a popular year for the construction of several of the nation's more prominent football facilities. Among the other stadiums completed in 1924 are: Tiger (Louisiana State), Memorial (Texas), Ross-Ade (Purdue), Folsom Field (Colorado) and Michie (Army).

**SEATING CAPACITY:** 23,500. Fitton underwent a major renovation prior to the 1986 season, which included replacing the old wooden stands with new aluminum seating, maintaining the horseshoe configuration.

**LARGEST CROWD:** Holy Cross played before numerous crowds of 25,000 prior to the stadium renovation in 1986. The largest unofficial crowd was 27,000 for the Holy Cross-Brown clash on Nov. 11, 1938, as "Bullet" Bill Osmani scored twice in the fourth quarter of his final home game for a 14-12 Crusader win.

**LONGEST WINNING STREAK:** 16 Games. Holy Cross broke the previous mark of 14, set from 1917-1921 and again from 1922-1924, with its victory over Brown on Oct. 28, 1989. The Crusaders saw their 16-game streak end with a 10-10 tie against Massachusetts on Sept. 8, 1990.

**LONGEST UNBEATEN STREAK:** 29 Games. The Crusaders did not lose at Fitton from the 1935 through 1938 seasons. After beating Manhattan in the 1939 home opener, Holy Cross fell to Louisiana State on Oct. 7. Holy Cross was 26-0-3 during that stretch. The Crusaders took a 26-game (25-0-1) home unbeaten streak into the 1992 season, but lost to Massachusetts 7-3 in the home opener.

**LONGEST LOSING STREAK:** 10 Games. Holy Cross lost its final five home games of the 2003 season and its first five home contests in 2004.

**BEST SEASON RECORD:** Holy Cross was 7-0 in 1923, outscoring the opposition, 242-0. The 7-0 record was matched in 1935, as Holy Cross outscored its home foes 184-0, and compiled a 9-0-1 overall record. The 1938 squad was also 7-0, en route to an 8-1 overall mark.

**WORST SEASON RECORD:** The Crusaders were 0-6 at home during the 2013 season.

**CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASONS:** Holy Cross recorded 25 consecutive winning seasons at Fitton Field from 1916-1940.

**UNBEATEN AND UNTIED SEASONS:** The Crusaders have posted 23 unbeaten and untied seasons at Fitton Field, including a perfect 6-0 mark in 2009. In 1987, 1988 and 1989, Holy Cross had consecutive unbeaten and untied home seasons for the first time since 1918, 1919 and 1920.