



1897



1901



1919

1896

The history of intercollegiate football at the University of Connecticut begins with the formation of the Athletic League of New England State Colleges. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island join for the purpose of scheduling regular meetings in football and baseball. Connecticut is known as Storrs Agricultural College.

1897 (pictured above)

A year of firsts, all in one game; first game against Rhode Island, first game against a collegiate opponent and first game in the newly formed conference. S.A.C. wins 22-8.

1899

Storrs Agricultural College changes its name to Connecticut Agricultural College.

1901 (pictured above)

The 1901 squad finished 8-2 and registered six shutouts on the season, including five straight in one stretch. Rhode Island was the only intercollegiate opponent on the schedule and was one of the shutout victims, falling to the "Aggies" of Connecticut Agricultural College by a count of 27-0.

1919

Gardner Dow, a native of New Haven, dies on September 20, 1919, after making a spectacular flying tackle in a game at New Hampshire. Dow suffered a concussion of the brain. The athletic fields (pictured above) behind Hawley Armory were named after him and served as the site of home games for football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse and track meets.



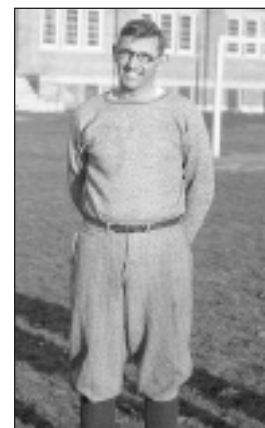
Gardner Dow

1923

Connecticut enters the New England Conference, which includes all New England state schools except for the University of Vermont.

1924

This squad is down in the annals as one of the school's finest, finishing 6-0-2 and winning the New England Conference Championship. The Aggies are said by the *New York Times* to be among the best teams in the country and the team defense finishes first in the nation. The team gave up only 13 points all season and only three in the final seven games.



1924 head coach Summer Dole



The 1924 Football Team

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1934



1945



1958

1924

Senior team captain Martin “Red” O’Neill is the school’s first All-America candidate, leading the 1923 and 1924 teams. As legend has it, his career started in 1922 during a loss to Springfield College. A Connecticut Agricultural College (now UConn) player was injured and the coaches could find no one to replace him among the reserves. Someone spotted O’Neill watching the game from the stands and called to him to join in the game. He threw on a uniform and stepped into the line-up, where he would remain for three seasons.



Martin “Red” O’Neill – UConn’s first All-America Candidate

1934

First season for head coach J.O. Christian. The school receives big press coverage at the end of the 1-7 campaign for stealing the Rhody Ram mascot before the game with Rhode Island (*pictured above*).

1935

First football team to come in early for preseason camp at the expense of the school.

1939

First season as the University of Connecticut; team defeats Coast Guard, 14-0, in the first game ever played under flood lights at Gardner Dow Field.

1942, 1944-1945

During the war years, head coach J.O. Christian and the Huskies put together a three-year stretch like none other in school history. In that three-season span (with no football being played in 1943), Connecticut won 20 of 24 contests. The Huskies registered separate winning streaks of six, eight and five games and shutout their opponents in 13 of the 20 wins.

1945 (*pictured above*)

UConn tailback Walt Trojanowski shares the NCAA scoring title with Doc Blanchard of Army. Both men scored 132 points on the season.

1947

UConn becomes a charter member of the Yankee Conference.

1953

Memorial Stadium opens with a 26-6 Connecticut win over St. Lawrence on October 10, 1953. The 1953 season also marked the first appearance at a football game for the marching band.

1956-1960

UConn captures five straight Yankee Conference Championships, a league-record for consecutive titles won or shared. During that span, the Huskies compile a 17-1-2 record in Yankee Conference play and go 18 league contests before their lone loss in the stretch, to New Hampshire.



1965

1965

1989

1965 *(pictured above)*

UConn beats Yale for the first time ever (pictured on page 142), on September 25, 1965, 13-6. UConn becomes the first school from within the state of Connecticut to ever beat Yale.



Head Coach John Toner and his starting quarterback, Pete Petrillo, who was the lone QB on UConn's 1969 All-Time team.

1969

UConn joins the NCAA in celebrating the 100th anniversary of college football by selecting an 11-member All-Time UConn team. More than 130 UConn football players receive votes in the balloting of fans, alumni and former players.

1967-73

Connecticut captures four Yankee Conference championships in a seven-season span, going 27-6-3 in league play during that stretch.

1983

Linebackers John Dorsey and Vernon Hargreaves become the first teammates in UConn football history to earn All-America honors in the same season. The duo combined for more than 300 tackles and helped UConn to a share of the Yankee Conference Championship.

1989

UConn plays the first night game (pictured above) in the history of Memorial Stadium on September 23, 1989, and defeats New Hampshire, 20-10.

1990

Matt DeGennaro finishes his Husky career as the leading passer in the history of the Yankee Conference, totaling 9,288 yards and 73 touchdowns.

1995

UConn matches the most successful start in school history by winning its first six games of the year. Senior captain Wilbur Gilliard becomes the all-time leading rusher in school history. Gilliard finishes his career with 2,624 rushing yards. The 1995 team finishes 8-3 and ties the school record for wins in a season. The squad finished the year ranked No. 23 in the national I-AA top 25.

1998

UConn football celebrates its 100th season with a school-record 10 wins and advances to the NCAA I-AA football playoffs for the first time. UConn defeats Hampton, 42-34, in its first playoff game and advances to the NCAA Quarterfinals. The Huskies finish the season ranked No. 7 in the national I-AA rankings. Senior quarterback Shane Stafford is the only active player named to the UConn Football 100th Anniversary All-Time Team and finishes his career in the top two of every quarterbacking category in school history.



2002

2003

2004

1999

Randy Edsall becomes UConn's 27th head coach and leads the Huskies through their final season in Division I-AA. UConn finishes 4-7, but wins its first ever game against a Division I-A opponent, beating Buffalo 23-0 on September 16.

2000

UConn begins play as a Division I-A Independent. The team earns two wins over Division I-A opponents and sets a single-season record for average home attendance (14,166), playing before the three largest crowds in school history (all advance sellouts) in their first three home games.

2001

UConn earned its first-ever victory over a BIG EAST opponent as Marc Hickok nailed a career-long 47-yard field goal with 3:04 remaining in the game to lift the Huskies to a 20-19 win over Rutgers.

2002

UConn has a breakthrough season, posting a 6-6 record, including a win at Big 12 member Iowa State (*above*), which would advance to a bowl game. For the first time, the NCAA included UConn in the Division I-A statistics and the Huskies placed in the national top five in passing defense and ranked 19th in total defense. Terry Caulley was the nation's leading freshman rusher with 1,247 yards on the year. The Huskies closed a 50-year run at Memorial Stadium with a 63-21 win over Kent State in which Caulley tied an NCAA record by scoring four touchdowns in one quarter. The Huskies averaged a record 15,807 fans at Memorial Stadium during its final season.

2003

UConn made its debut at Rentschler Field, playing to 93% capacity (37,059). The large home crowds helped push the Huskies to a 9-3 record, including a 34-10 win over Big Ten member Indiana on opening day.

2004

UConn made its debut as a member of the BIG EAST Conference in style as the Huskies finished one game back of the leaders and earned a berth in the Motor City Bowl. With an 8-4 record on the year, UConn's run of 23 wins from 2002-04 is the most successful three-year span in school history. The Huskies led the conference in both total offense and total defense while Cornell Brockington led the BIG EAST with 1,218 rushing yards. UConn sets a record by posting a 6-1 mark in home games at Rentschler Field, which is sold out for six of the team's home dates on the year. In all, the Huskies made their first five live national television appearances during the season. The run culminated with a 39-10 rout over Mid-American Conference Champion Toledo in the Motor City Bowl (*above*) as the Huskies were victorious in their bowl game debut behind game MVP Dan Orlovsky.