



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 at right)

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 below)

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.





Gardner Dow

1919

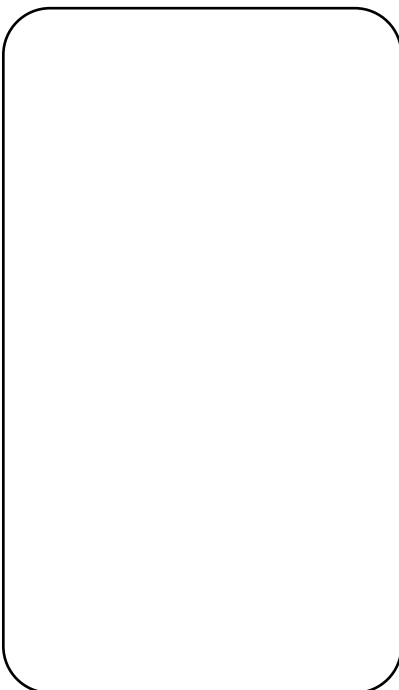
Gardner Dow, a native of New Haven, dies on September 20, 1919, after making a spectacular flying tackle in a game at New Hampshire. Dow suffered a concussion of the brain. The athletic fields (pictured above) behind Hawley Armory were named after him and served as the site of home games for football,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

1923

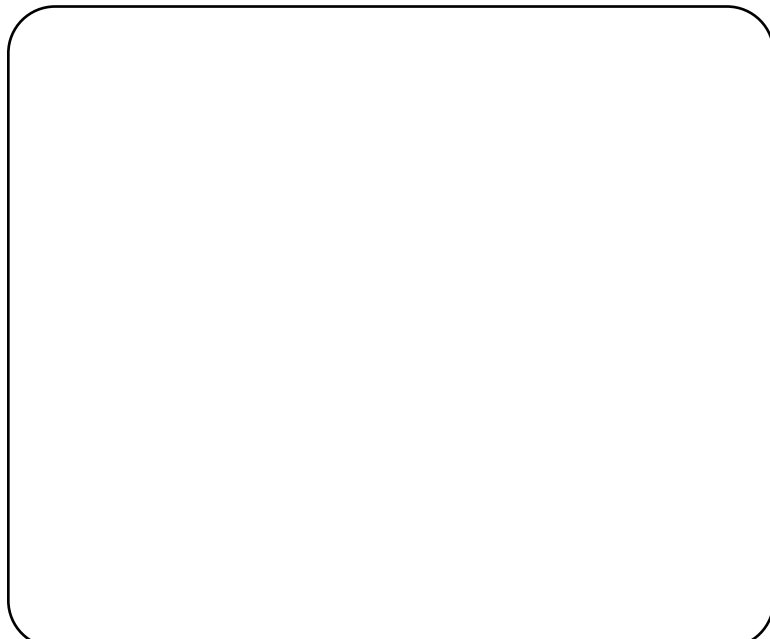
Connecticut enters the New England Conference, which includes all New England state schools except for the University of Vermont.

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.



**The 1924
football team
and head coach
Summer Dole**





Martin "Red" O'Neill
UConn's First
All-America Candidate

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.

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 below).

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.



The Rhode Island Ram mascot in Connecticut blue and white, 1934.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



PREVIEW

COACHES

SEASON IN REVIEW

OPPONENTS

HISTORY

PLAYER REGISTRY

RECORDS

UNIVERSITY

MEDIA

1942 (6-2)

Coach: J.O. Christian

Score	Opponent
0-34	Maryland
26-0	Massachusetts
7-20	Wesleyan
26-7	Maine
21-14	Springfield
32-0	Middlebury
13-6	Rhode Island
16-0	Coast Guard

Captains: Richard Aubrey,
John Toffolon

1944 (7-1)

Coach: J.O. Christian

Score	Opponent
27-0	Norwich
0-6	Bates
13-7	Middlebury
10-0	Brooklyn
21-0	City College of NY
15-0	Brooklyn
52-0	City College of NY
14-0	Norwich

Captain: William Anderson

1945 (7-1)

Coach: J.O. Christian

Score	Opponent
46-0	Worcester Poly.
28-6	Middlebury
0-19	Franklin & Marshall
18-12	Maine
33-6	Lehigh
33-0	Amherst
53-0	Maine
54-0	Boston University

Captain: Russell Hunter

Three-Season Totals: 20-4 win-loss record
Points Scored: 558 (23.3 per game)
Points Allowed: 137 (5.7 per game)



**Former Husky greets pictured in 1945:
tailback Walt Trojanowski and head coach
J.O. Christian.**

1945

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.



**Memorial Stadium on October 18, 1958, with a crowd of
13,539 on hand to see UConn beat Maine by a score of 21-6.**



1955-1960

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

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

1969

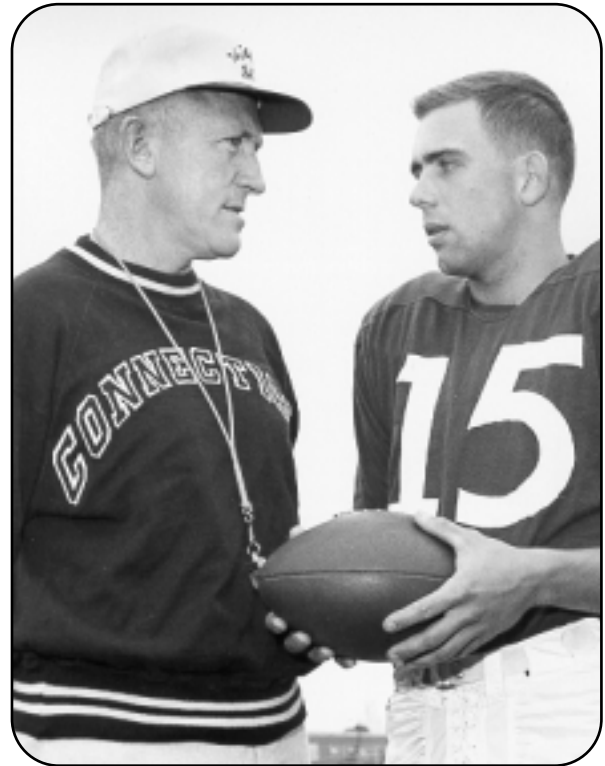
UConn joins the NCAA in celebrating the 100th anniversary of college football by selecting an 11-member All-Time UConn team. More than 130 UConn football players receive votes in the balloting of fans, alumni and former players.

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.



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



The celebration begins shortly after Gene Campbell's interception return for a touchdown, giving UConn its first-ever win over in-state rival Yale on September 25, 1965.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



PREVIEW

COACHES

SEASON IN REVIEW

OPPONENTS

HISTORY

PLAYER REGISTRY

RECORDS

UNIVERSITY

MEDIA



1989

UConn plays the first night game (pictured at left) 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 (below) 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.

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, 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.

