

1891

### The Beginnings of University of Tennessee Intercollegiate Football

Football of sorts had been played by students of the university for some time. By the fall of 1891, sufficient interest had been generated and enough players had some idea of the sport to form a team. H. K. Denlinger, athletic program director of the YMCA on campus, acted as the prime mover for the first football team to represent Tennessee in an intercollegiate contest.

Two games for the year were planned: one with Sewanee and the other Maryville College. The later did not take place, but 46 University students traveled to Chattanooga in order to play or to watch the Sewanee contest on Nov. 21. Playing in a downpour of rain, Sewanee drowned the University squad 24-0.

Rules of that era provided that the field should be 110 yards long and 53.3 yards wide. Scores counted in this manner: touchdown 4; after goal kick 2; safety 2. The center rolled the ball to the quarterback, who in turn passed it to a third man, since the quarterback was restricted from advancing the ball himself.

Roster of the 1891 squad included the following:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Curriculum</i>
Robert L Hayes	Center rush	205	Latin-Science
James R. Wood	Left Guard	190	Latin-Science
Charles C. Moore, Jr.	Right Guard	150	Chemistry-Grad Student
Herbert A. Lathrop	Left Tackle	155	Civil Engineering
Edwin S. Werts	Right Tackle	150	Greek-Special Student
Charles McCung Rhea	Left End	145	Latin-Science
John B. Cox	Right End	150	Mechanical Engineering
Howard A. Ijams	Quarterback	110	Latin-Science
Shirley E. Spence	Halfback	140	Law
H. K. Denlinger	Halfback	160	Law and Instructor

Note: Excerpts from book written by James Riley Montgomery, *"The Volunteer State Forges its University 1887-1919"*