

1920 SEASON

XEN SCOTT	Coach
C. A. BERNIER	Assistant Coach
SIDNEY JOHNSTON	Captain
JOE BARNETT	Manager

PLAYERS

Ends: Tom Newton, Al Clemens, A. R. Fioretti, W. M. Kelly . . . **Tackles:** T. L. Brown, Ernest Cooper, George Baker . . . **Guards:** Sidney Johnston, Ben Hunt, William Montgomery . . . **Centers:** Tram Sessions, J. M. Forney . . . **Backs:** William Little, Riggs Stephenson, Charles Bartlett, Walter Hovater, Luke Sewell, Talty O'Connor, E. B. Lenoir, Lelias E. Kirby, Ira Nichols, W. C. Baty.

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SEPTEMBER 25: Alabama defeated Southern Military Institute on the campus by the score of 59 to 0, Lenoir scoring five touchdowns, Luke Sewell and Stephenson two each.

The visitors failed to make a first down. Cooper, fullback, Compton, tackle, and Tanner, end, were outstanding.

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OCTOBER 2: Alabama won from the lighter eleven of the Marion Cadets 49 to 0 on the campus. Touchdowns were made by Lenoir (3), Stephenson (2), Clemmens and O'Connor. Sewell kicked four goals after touchdown and Sewell kicked three.

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OCTOBER 9: Alabama defeated Birmingham-Southern College by the score of 45 to 0 on the campus. Touchdowns were made by Lenoir 2, Nichols 2, O'Connor and Stephenson. Nichols' run of 67 yards was the longest of the day.

Miller, fullback, Neese, tackle, Levie, guard and Jim Baty, who is a brother of W. C. Baty of Alabama, starred for the visitors. Shorty Propst, at center, was likewise an outstanding performer.

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OCTOBER 16: The Mississippi College eleven was no match for the Crimson on the campus as Alabama won by the score of 57 to 0, scoring in every period except the first. Lenoir and Stephenson scored three touchdowns each and Nichols made two.

"Goat" Hale, one of the real great backs of the period, who made the majority of the All-Southern picks, was the star for Mississippi and was a threat every time he carried the ball.

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OCTOBER 23: Alabama defeated Howard 33 to 0 on the campus. Alabama fumbled badly and lacked punch probably due to the absence of Stephenson. Lenoir scored four touchdowns and Lenoir one.

"Pea Head" Walker starred for Howard.

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OCTOBER 30: Riggs Stephenson, Alabama's ace fullback, ran wild as the Crimson defeated Sewanee by the score of 21 to 0. Penalties against Alabama, aggregating 150 yards, kept down the score. Three long touchdown runs were nullified because of holding. Stephenson gained 286 yards and Lenoir made 212.

Alabama scored early in the second quarter when Stephenson drove off tackle for 12 yards. The ball was deep in Sewanee territory as the first period ended as the result of a 35 yard run by Stephenson and a 15 yard gain by Lenoir in four plays.

In the third quarter, Sewell passed to Lenoir for 45 yards and a touchdown. Earlier in the quarter, Alabama received the kickoff and drove to the Tiger 7 yard line where they lost the ball on downs.

In the final quarter, Stephenson intercepted a forward pass and ran 53 yards for the final score.

Coughlan's offensive and defensive play featured for the Tigers.

Sewanee—Ends: Conway, Council, Smith. **Tackles:** Elam, Skidmore. **Guards:** Stoney, Satterlee, Shook. **Center:** Stewart. **Backs:** Coughlan, Cook, Harper, K. Council, Long, Guerry.

Alabama—Ends: Clemens, Fioretti. **Tackles:** Brown, Baker, Cooper. **Guards:** Hunt, Johnson, Montgomery. **Center:** Sessions. **Backs:** Stephenson, Lenoir, O'Connor, Hovater, Sewell, Nichols, Kirby, Baty.



NOVEMBER 6: Alabama and Vanderbilt met on the gridiron for the first time in 1903 and Vanderbilt had won all of the five games that were played. But the situation changed as Riggs Stephenson, playing his greatest game, was the leading factor in the first Crimson victory by the score of 14 to 7. The score does not correctly reflect Alabama's superiority nor the number of times Vandy came close to winning the game.

Vandy returned the kickoff to her own 20. Jess Neely, later assistant coach at Alabama and head coach at Clemson and Rice, ran right end for 15 yards and Latham duplicated the gain around left end. Alabama held and, following an exchange of punts, O'Connor missed a drop kick from Vandy's 40 yard line. Neill then punted to Alabama's 30, where the parade began. Stephenson made 15, Lenoir, Stephenson and O'Connor made 15 more in three plays. Stephenson made 11. Short but consistent gains by Hovater, Stephenson, O'Connor and Lenoir carried to Vandy's 4 yard line as the quarter ended.

Stephenson scored behind Tram Sessions on the first play and O'Connor kicked goal.

Vanderbilt received, Alabama held and Neill punted to Alabama's 33. Alabama made two first downs in spite of offside penalties. Conyers intercepted an Alabama pass on his own 20 and returned to his own 40. Neely lost 15 trying to pass and Neill kicked to Alabama's 40. Stephenson ran right end for 9 and left end for 20 to Vandy's 33. Lenoir made 9 yards in two plays. He then ran to his right, cut back and drove to Vandy's one yard line. He scored through the line on the next play and O'Connor converted.

Kuhn returned the kickoff 53 yards to Alabama's 37. O'Connor intercepted a pass on Alabama's 30. Sessions snap to Hovater got away and was recovered by Conyers on the Crimson's 10 yard line. Three plays later, Kuhn passed to Neely over the goal for a touchdown and Neely kicked goal.

In the third period, Lenoir returned the kickoff to his 25 yard line. Alabama then drove 65 yards to the Vandy 10 yard line where Lenoir fumbled and Kuhn recovered. No passes were thrown on this drive. Goar punted 55 yards and O'Connor returned to Vandy's 45. Running plays advanced the ball to Vandy's 9 and an offside penalty placed the ball on the one yard line where Vandy held and the ball went over. Early of Vandy, playing with a bad shoulder, played brilliantly on this goal line defense. Goar punted 65 yards, Stephenson returning to Alabama's 46. Two plays later, it was Vandy's ball on her own 45 following a holding penalty and a punt by Stephenson. Kuhn circled end for 20, Stephenson tackling, and Berryhill made 7. Floyd circled end for 20 with Stephenson again making the tackle. The ball was on the Alabama 10. Alabama held and took over on her 20 when a pass over the goal was incomplete. Stephenson kicked to midfield as the period ended.

On fourth down, Vanderbilt recovered the ball on an "onside" kick. An end run by Kuhn for 15 and a pass, Neely to Kuhn, carried to Alabama's 7. Three plays gained 3 yards. Lenoir intercepted a pass behind his goal and ran to his own 15. A few plays later, Goar blocked Stephenson's punt but Sessions fell on the ball. As it was a free ball, Alabama took over on her 30 and drove to about midfield where Stephenson punted over Vandy's goal.

Alabama held and Goar punted to Alabama's 41. The game ended a few plays later with Alabama in possession of the ball on the Vanderbilt 40 yard line. Alabama 14, Vanderbilt 7.

Clemens, Brown, Sessions, Montgomery and Hunt were the stars of a brilliant Alabama line. Lenoir lived up to his reputation as a ball carrier and open field runner and his defensive play was one of the game's features.

Kuhn was Vandy's star along with Goar, whose fine punting helped his team tremendously, and Wade at fullback.

Riggs Stephenson again demonstrated that he is one of the greatest backs of Southern history as he played his finest game. Running with tremendous power, he bucked the line, ran the ends from punt formation, kicked and passed. He backed up the line on defense, was in on most of the tackles and played the entire 60 minutes.

In the Spring of 1921, he joined the Cleveland Indians Baseball Club and was not present at commencement to receive the Henry Porter Loving Cup, an annual award to the best athlete at the University. President Denny, in making the announcement, said:

"The Porter Cup this year goes to Riggs Stephenson, a man we delight to honor for he has honored this institution. He is the embodiment of cleanliness, manliness and courage."

It is suggested that some of the "de-emphasizers" of football dwell upon this tribute for no doubt Dr. Denny's estimate of Stephenson was at least partly based on his observance of Stephenson's conduct on the football field.

Vanderbilt—Ends: Neill, Conyers, Goar. **Guards:** Baker, Bailey, Hendrix. **Tackles:** Rayburn, McCullough, Ryan. **Centers:** Sharpe, Early, Hill. **Backs:** Godchaux, Neely, Wade, Latham, Berryhill, Kuhn, Floyd, Thomas.



NOVEMBER 11: Alabama and the Tigers of Louisiana State staged an Armistice Day celebration at Tuscaloosa, Alabama winning by the score of 21 to 0. The Tigers made one first down in the first half and two in the second and never seriously threatened. The punting of Ives for Louisiana was excellent and resulted in keeping down the score.

In the second period, Stephenson passed to Fioretti for 35 yards to the Tiger's 8 yard line. O'Connor scored and kicked goal.

In the final period, Stumpy Bartlett, who substituted for Stephenson and made four long runs, intercepted a pass and returned 7 yards. Walter Hovater passed to Lenoir, who caught the ball on the run and ran 40 yards for a touchdown. O'Connor converted.

Alabama scored again when Ives' punt was rushed and went out of bounds on the Louisiana 27. After Stephenson and Hovater gained 15 yards, O'Connor scored off tackle and kicked goal.

Lenoir, Stephenson and O'Connor were the backfield stars for Alabama as were Sessions, Montgomery and Clemens in the line.

Bussey, guard, Lewis, end, and Ives, quarterback, were outstanding for Louisiana.



NOVEMBER 20: Alabama lost a tough one to Georgia before a crowd of 11,000 spectators in Atlanta by the score of 20 to 14. And the story of Georgia's victory and the circumstances surrounding Alabama's defeat are probably without a parallel in football history. Georgia scored three touchdowns without having the ball in her possession for the purpose of starting offensive plays and two of these scored were made in the first five minutes of play. The last touchdown was scored in the closing minutes of the final period and won the game.

Stephenson returned the kickoff 16 yards. Hovater hit left tackle for 5 yards. Lenoir fumbled, Page Bennett recovering the ball in mid air and running 40 yards for a touchdown. Pew kicked goal.

Lenoir returned the kickoff to his own 20 yard line. Stephenson gained 6 yards and O'Connor two. Stephenson punted, Welch blocked the kick, Pew recovering and running 25 yards to score and kicking goal. Georgia 14, Alabama 0.

Lenoir returned the kickoff 25 yards. Three plays gained 9 yards and Stephenson punted 50 yards. Alabama held and Collins kicked 50 yards. Lenoir went off tackle for 12 yards, Hovater made 9 and Lenoir circled end for 20. Five plays by Lenoir, O'Connor, Hovater and Stephenson carried to Georgia's 2 yard line as the quarter ended.

Lenoir went over right tackle for a touchdown and O'Connor kicked goal. For the rest of the period, Alabama's line, outweighed 15 pounds to the man, outplayed Georgia but couldn't score.

Beginning the third quarter, Cheeves returned the kickoff 25 yards. Alabama held and Collins punted to Alabama's 15. Stephenson made 7 and O'Connor 2. Stephenson threw a short pass, which a Georgia player tipped, and the ball fell into the arms of Clemens, Alabama's end. The interference formed quickly, providing a wall of blockers as Clemens ran down the side lines and scored. When O'Connor kicked goal, the score was Alabama 14, Georgia 14.

Alabama's confidence mounted. Georgia fumbled the kickoff and Clemens recovered. Three plays lost ground and O'Connor's try for a field goal was wide.

Late in the fourth quarter, runs by Lenoir and Stephenson advanced the ball to Georgia's 45. Stephenson passed to O'Connor for 25 yards. Georgia held and O'Connor attempted another drop

kick from the 20 yard line. The kick was blocked and Cheeves of Georgia picked up the ball and ran 80 yards for a touchdown. Pew converted.

Alabama tried every variety of pass play during the rest of the game but Georgia was alert and knocked them down.

Al Clemens played an excellent game at end. Captain Johnston, Stephenson, Lenoir and Sessions were also stars.

Cheeves was outstanding for Georgia while the defensive play of Reynolds, end, Pew, tackle, and Welchel, guard, was excellent.



NOVEMBER 24: Alabama defeated the Mississippi Aggies on Thanksgiving Day in Birmingham by the score of 24 to 7. Both teams passed well, Stephenson completing 10 passes and Klindworth 6.

The first quarter was scoreless and ended with Alabama in possession of the ball on the Aggie 40 yard line.

In the second period, line plays by Stephenson, Lenoir and Hovater advanced the ball to the one foot line and Hunt, on a guard over guard play, scored and O'Connor kicked goal. Later, on a fake punt, Hough of the Aggies gained 25 yards but was soon forced to punt to Alabama's 45 yard line. Stephenson passed to O'Connor for 15 yards and twice to Lenoir for 24 yards. Lenoir then scored and O'Connor kicked goal.

In the third period, Alabama was penalized for holding on the kickoff. Stephenson punted 40 yards and Klindworth returned 25 to Alabama's 15. Klindworth passed to Little on the Crimson's one yard line. Hough scored and Billingsley kicked goal. Just before the quarter ended, O'Connor kicked a field goal from the Aggie 25 yard line.

O'Connor returned the kickoff to his 38 yard line. Runs by Stephenson and Lenoir and a pass, Stephenson to O'Connor, advanced the ball to the Aggie 8. Stephenson circled end for the score and O'Connor kicked goal.

Klindworth, Hough and Little, backs, and Minyard, guard, who repeatedly broke through the line to stop the Alabama backs, were the stars for the Aggies.



NOVEMBER 27: Playing her third game in eight days, Alabama defeated Case Colle in Cleveland, Ohio by the score of 40 to 0. Alabama scored once in each of the first three periods and three times in the final quarter.

Lenoir, Stephenson and Clemens made two touchdowns each. O'Connor made two goals after touchdown and Sessions also made two.

Stephenson's passing was the feature of the game, throwing passes with the same accuracy as pitching a baseball to Clemens and Hovater for gains of 15, 20, 25 and 30 yards.

For Case, Edwards, at end, Sloat, center, and Moyer, back, were outstanding on the defense.

Ike Rogers, Captain of the 1919 team, who was employed at Dayton, Ohio, witnessed the game from the bench.