



## Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association



By Roger Saylor

1895-1922

The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) was established on December 21, 1894 at a meeting in Atlanta. This marked the beginning of organized college athletics in the south. The original seven members were Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Georgia Tech, North Carolina, university of the South (Sewanee), and Vanderbilt. The membership was doubled the next year with the admissions of Cumberland of Tennessee, Louisiana State, Mississippi, Mississippi state, Tennessee, Texas, and Tulane.

the major objectives of the association included the establishing of standard eligibility rules plus running a track meet and a basketball tournament. The determining of a football champion was not planned. As a result there were no football standings or champions announced. This did not prevent newspapers from running stories about which were considered the strongest football teams. A series of these by J.R. Heisman was published by the Atlanta constitution.

Additional members were admitted almost annually. Included were such obscure institutions as Gordon Military Academy, Dahlonga (now North Georgia), and Southwestern (now Rhodes). Some members did not field football teams with others fielding teams only some years. The geographical area stretched from Charleston, SC, to Austin, TX, and Gainesville, FL, to Louisville, KY.

A major disagreement among the members developed quickly regarding the eligibility of first year students, freshmen or higher classmen, the so-called one-year rule. In general, the larger members favored this rule, and the smaller ones were opposed to it. A sign for the future appeared in 1915 when of the larger members formed the Southern Intercollegiate Conference and decided they would observe the one-year rule. They did not then withdraw from the SIAA, nor did they conduct their own events.

Annual votes on the one-year rule confirmed the deep disagreement among the members, with the rule never passing for all members. A result was that in December of 1920 the Southern Conference was expanded to 14 members, with the first year of real operation to be the 1921-1922 school year. These were Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi State, and Tennessee of the SIAA, plus Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Washington & Lee.

In December of 1921 the Southern Conference announced it would expand to no more than 16 members. The selection of the two additions proved so difficult that the membership was raised to 20 with the acceptances of Florida, Louisi-

ana state, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tulane, and Vanderbilt, all of the SIAA. There were no resignations from the SIAA, but after the 1922 season 13 left, leaving only Vanderbilt with dual membership. This made the SIAA effectively a small college conference. Sewanee was accepted for Southern Conference membership for 1924. After that season, Sewanee and Vanderbilt ended their SIAA affiliations.

1923-1942

with the withdrawal after the 1922 season of all the Southern Conference members except Vanderbilt, the SIAA became a small college conference. With the addition of several members, the lineup appears to have been this: From Alabama, Birmingham-Southern and Howard (Samford); from Georgia, Mercer and Oglethorpe; from Kentucky, Centre, Georgetown, Louisville, and Transylvania; from Mississippi, Millsaps and Mississippi College; from south Carolina, the Citadel, Erskine, Furman, Newberry, Presbyterian, and Wofford; and from Tennessee, Chattanooga, Sewanee, and Vanderbilt, with the last two leaving after the 1924 season.



All were private colleges except for Chattanooga and Louisville, which were municipal. The first state-supported colleges to apply for admission appear to have been Louisiana Tech and Southwestern Louisiana for 1924. The conference apparently was not quite ready for them for they were rejected and private Louisiana College was accepted,

The break-through for state-supported colleges came one year later when the applications of the two Louisiana schools were granted. The acceptance of Western Kentucky for 1926 followed. Eventually others from Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee became members. The first Florida members, all private, joined for 1925.

Another sign of unrest occurred for 1932 when nine members formed the Dixie Conference. They were Birmingham-Southern, Centre, Chattanooga, Howard, Mercer, Millsaps, Mississippi College, Southwestern (Rhodes), and Spring Hill, with Loyola following two years later. Not all resigned from the SIAA, and some returned later. The Citadel and Furman left to join the Southern Conference in 1936. A token expansion into Virginia occurred in 1936 with the acceptance of Emory & Henry.



It is not clear when the SIAA started declaring official football champions, but standings began appearing about 1929.

As had happened two decades earlier, the SIAA had expanded to the point of becoming unwieldy. It lasted until the World War II period, but was not revived after that. By 1948 its members were scattered over five limited area conference, the Alabama, Kentucky (now Ohio Valley), Louisiana (later Gulf States), Volunteer state, and a new Dixie Conference, this with members in Alabama and Florida. Mercer and Oglethorpe never returned to the football scene after the war.

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, 1895-1922

	Years	Teams	Games	W	L	T	Pct.	titles
								W T
Vanderbilt	1895-1922	28	134	105	20	9	0.817	7 7
North Carolina	1895-1901	7	19	13	4	2	0.737	1 1
Texas	1896-1915	19	40	27	11	2	0.700	0 0
Auburn	1895-1914, 1916-1922	27	146	97	41	8	0.692	2 4
Georgia Tech	1896-1913, 1916-1922	25	125	75	44	6	0.624	2 5
Texas A. & M.	1904-1914	11	22	13	8	1	0.614	0 0
Centre	1911-1922	12	40	23	14	3	0.613	0 1
South (Sewanee)	1895-1922	28	147	83	50	14	0.612	1 3
Alabama	1895-1917, 1919-1922	25	141	76	54	11	0.578	0 1
Georgia	1895-1914, 1916, 1919-1922	25	147	77	55	15	0.575	0 3
Cleason	1899-1922	24	128	64	54	10	0.539	1 2
Mississippi State	1896-1922	23	120	58	53	9	0.521	0 0
Louisiana State	1896-1917, 1919-1922	25	91	43	43	5	0.500	0 2
Florida	1910-1917, 1919-1922	12	52	23	25	4	0.481	0 0
Kentucky	1906-1907, 1909-1922	16	49	19	23	7	0.459	0 0
Cumberland (IN)	1899-1903	7	21	9	11	1	0.452	0 0
Furman	1901-1902, 1916-1922	9	41	16	20	5	0.451	0 0
Tulane	1896-1906, 1911-1917, 1919-1922	21	84	34	43	7	0.446	1 1
Transylvania	1915-1922	8	23	10	13	2	0.440	0 0
South Carolina	1900-1901, 1911-1922	14	53	20	27	6	0.434	0 0
Tennessee	1897-1916, 1919-1922	23	113	43	52	12	0.434	1 0
Chattanooga	1914-1916, 1919-1122	7	31	11	19	3	0.379	0 0
Louisville	1916	1	4	1	2	1	0.375	0 0
Birmingham-Southern	1921-1922	2	14	4	8	2	0.357	0 0
Mississippi College	1911-1917, 1919-1922	11	50	16	32	2	0.340	0 0
Nashville	1899-1904	6	21	6	14	1	0.310	0 0
Mississippi	1896-1912, 1914-1922	25	105	29	71	3	0.290	0 0
Georgetown (KY)	1915-1922	8	22	6	16	0	0.273	0 0
Mercer	1906-1911, 1919-1922	15	69	17	50	2	0.261	0 0
Oglethorpe	1920-1922	3	22	5	16	1	0.250	0 0
Citadel, The	1909-1922	14	49	9	35	5	0.233	0 0
Wofford	1916-1922	7	19	3	13	1	0.164	0 0
Southwestern (Rhodes)	1907-1909, 1911	4	11	2	9	0	0.182	0 0
Millsaps	1920-1922	3	10	1	2	1	0.150	0 0
Howard (Sanford)	1906-1912, 1914-1917, 1919-1922	15	63	7	53	3	0.155	0 0
Gordon Military	1906-1910	5	16	1	13	0	0.063	0 0
University Sch., Memphis	1908-1910	3	4	0	4	0	0.000	0 0
Dahlonga (No. Georgia)	1905-1908	4	6	0	6	0	0.000	0 0
			1128	1046	1046	164		16 30

There were no official standings.  
The years for some members may not be right.



SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, 1923-1942

	Years	Teams	Games	W	L	T	Pct.	Titles
								W T
Fursan	1923-1929, 1932-1935	11	50	41	6	3	0.850	2 6
Centenary	1925-1941	17	46	37	5	4	0.648	1 1
Centre	1923-1941	19	71	52	15	4	0.761	0 0
Vanderbilt	1923-1924	2	4	3	1	0	0.750	0 0
Western Kentucky	1921-1942	17	101	70	24	7	0.728	1 0
Chattanooga	1923-1932	10	64	42	18	4	0.688	3 1
Spring Hill	1927-1931	5	23	15	7	1	0.674	0 0
Citadel, The	1923-1935	13	74	47	22	5	0.669	0 0
Southern Mississippi	1928-1941	14	69	42	23	4	0.638	0 0
Miami	1929-1942	14	45	26	14	5	0.633	0 0
South (Sewanee)	1923-1924	2	8	5	3	0	0.625	0 0
Southwestern (Rhodes)	1928-1937	10	39	22	13	4	0.615	0 0
Mississippi College	1923-1941	19	106	60	37	8	0.608	0 1
Murray State	1931-1942	12	79	44	27	8	0.608	1 0
Howard (Sanford)	1923-1931, 1933-1938	15	78	41	26	11	0.596	0 0
N.W. Louisiana	1928-1942	15	77	42	29	6	0.584	1 0
Presbyterian	1923-1942	20	113	61	45	7	0.571	2 0
Mercer	1923-1937	15	71	38	28	5	0.570	0 0
Loyola	1925, 1930-1957	9	26	14	12	0	0.538	0 0
Union (Ky)	1933-1941	9	32	13	11	8	0.531	0 0
Birmingham-Southern	1923-1931	9	55	25	22	8	0.527	0 0
Louisiana Tech	1925-1942	18	101	48	47	6	0.505	0 0
Georgetown (KY)	1923-1941	19	85	39	40	6	0.494	0 0
Rollins	1925-1942	18	74	35	36	3	0.493	1 0
Oglethorpe	1923-1929, 1936-1941	13	76	36	38	2	0.487	2 0
Eastern Kentucky	1930-1942	13	57	24	26	7	0.482	0 0
Stetson	1925-1931, 1933-1940	15	75	32	35	8	0.480	0 0
Tennessee Tech	1933-1942	10	51	21	26	4	0.451	0 0
Morehead State	1934-1942	9	39	15	19	5	0.449	0 0
Middle Tennessee	1931-1942	12	65	26	34	5	0.438	2 0
Millsaps	1923-1938	16	91	32	47	12	0.418	0 0
Union (IN)	1925-1942	18	104	39	58	7	0.409	1 0
S.W. Louisiana	1925-1942	18	89	34	51	4	0.404	0 0
Memphis State	1935-1942	8	51	20	30	1	0.492	1 0
Southern (FL)	1925-1930	6	28	10	16	2	0.393	0 0
Wofford	1923-1942	20	101	33	56	12	0.386	0 0
Newberry	1923-1942	20	99	35	58	6	0.384	0 0
Kentucky Wesleyan	1925-1930	6	25	8	16	1	0.340	0 0
Louisiana College	1924-1941	18	95	27	60	8	0.326	0 0
Transylvania	1923-1924, 1926-1941	18	86	25	55	6	0.326	0 0
Louisville	1923-1941	19	73	22	49	2	0.315	0 0
Tampa	1936-1942	7	36	10	24	2	0.306	0 0
Emory & Henry	1936-1941	6	7	2	5	0	0.286	0 0
Delta State	1936-1941	6	34	7	25	2	0.235	0 0
Erskine	1923-1941	19	92	18	69	5	0.223	1 0
Troy State	1936-1942	7	30	6	23	1	0.217	0 0
Jacksonville State	1959-1940	5	15	0	13	2	0.067	0 0
			1455	1344	1344	222		19 3

Editor's Note: On page 9 is a detailed review of the 1918 Cleveland Navy-Pitt game controversy by Bob Royce. It's a followup to the brief article about the game written by Lefty Farnsworth for the special August all-service football issue. Too bad these two great researchers will never meet. They live a continent apart, and Lefty, who claims to be "100 years old", seems to be more interested in fishing with his shoes off, ala Huck Finn. Lefty admits his grid articles are a little silly sometimes, but they do spark debate among CFHS members.