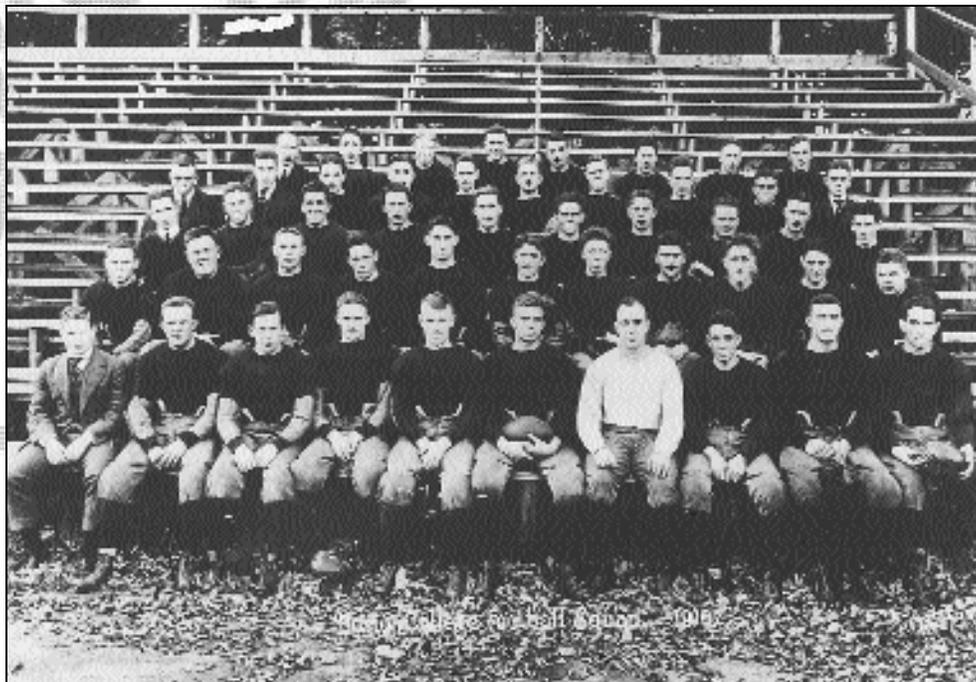


EAGLE FOOTBALL TIMELINE

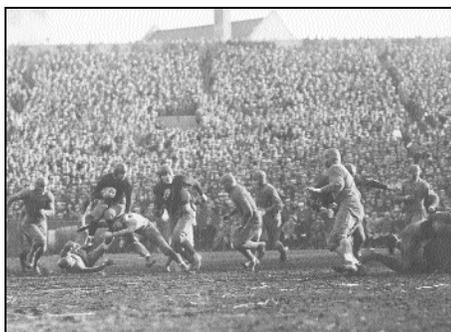


A HISTORY OF BOSTON COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Text by Reid Oslin '68

The 2001 season will be the 103rd year of intercollegiate football competition for the Boston College Eagles. Here are a few of the milestones that have been reached along the way:

1891 – The Boston College student body was granted permission — but no money — to organize a football team by President Edward I. Devitt, S.J. Joseph F. O'Donnell ('92), a Dorchester native with some previous amateur football experience, helped organize a team that played an informal schedule the following year.



1925 — BC vs. Holy Cross

1893 – Boston College began formal football competition. The team's first game was a 4-0 victory over St. John's Institute, an amateur power of the day (touchdowns were scored as four points by existing rules). BC played its first intercollegiate game on October 25, a 6-0 loss to Tech '97, an MIT class team. The first varsity game was a 10-6 victory over Boston University in the final contest of the year. Joseph C. Drum '94 served as BC's first football coach and the team's captain was Bernie Wefers '94, who briefly held the world record in the 100-yard dash.

1894 – The Boston College football team got its first compensated coach, William Nagle. The school adopted the team colors of Maroon and Gold.

1896 – Boston College and Jesuit rival Holy Cross met for the first time in a home-and-home series. Boston College won both games, by scores of 6-2 and 8-6.

1900 – College President W.G. Read Mullan, S.J. refused to allow a football team to play under the school's name. Students formed an independent



BC plays at Fenway Park

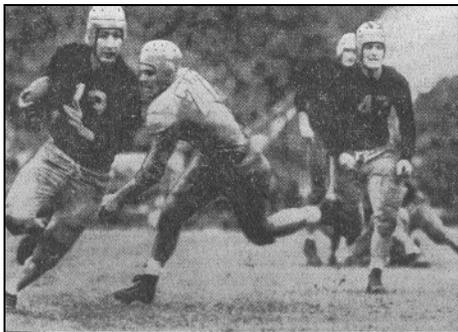
team named "Boston Combination" that competed locally. Fr. Mullan relented and allowed a varsity team to be fielded the following year.

1903-1907 – In a reaction to the growing public outcry against the violence of college football, as well as for economic considerations, the sport was dropped at Boston College. U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt summoned the leaders of college football to Washington and urged that the rules of the sport be tightened. The resulting rules committee evolved into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

EAGLE FOOTBALL TIMELINE

1908 – Varsity football was restored at Boston College. The team practiced on the Massachusetts Avenue Grounds, the site of a former city dump. Team members mowed the grass and lined the field before practice sessions.

1913 – The college moved from its original location on James Street in Boston's South End to a new campus in Chestnut Hill. The football team's locker room and equipment storage area was located in the basement of the "Recitation Building" (renamed Gasson Hall in 1952), but Coach Hiker Joy's team walked to the public park in Cleveland Circle for daily practice.



"Chuckin' " Charlie O'Rourke

1915 – The original Alumni Stadium was dedicated on October 30; however, the inaugural game was won by arch-rival Holy Cross by a 9-0 score before some 5,000 fans. A week later, BC won its first on-campus game, defeating Fordham, 3-0. The stadium was located on middle campus on the site of today's campus green.

1918 – Because of required military training for students in preparation for World War I, the football team was forced to limit practice sessions to no more than one hour per day.

1919 – A returning war hero, Frank Cavanaugh, was hired as BC's football coach. Known as "The Iron Major," Cavanaugh had been badly wounded in the Battle of San Mihiel, but recovered to launch a coaching career that would eventually lead him into the



Frank Cavanaugh

College Football Hall of Fame. In his first season at BC, he led his team to a startling 5-3 victory over heavily favored Yale — the biggest win in school history to that point. A 1943 movie, "The Iron Major" starring Pat O'Brien, chronicled Cavanaugh's life story. Part of the film was shot at the former Liggett Estate (now O'Connell House) on BC's upper campus.

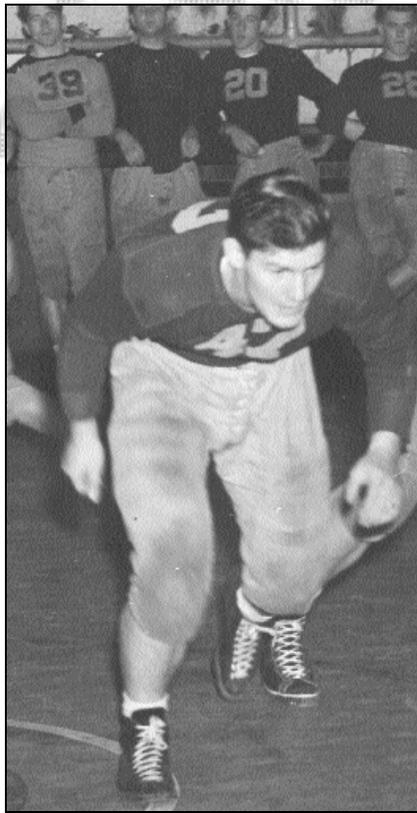
1920 – The Boston College football team adopted the nickname "Eagles." The season was capped by a stirring 14-0 victory over Holy Cross before 40,000 fans at Braves Field. The win gave the team a perfect 8-0 season and the school's first "Eastern Championship."

1921 – The team's budding success drew national interest. The Eagles were invited to play Baylor in the dedication game of Dallas' Cotton Bowl stadium. The BC team, which made the 2,400-mile trip by train to play its first intersectional contest, responded with a 23-7 win over the Bears.

1926 – The final year of the Cavanaugh era produced another unbeaten season at 6-0-2. Team captain was Joe McKenney, who would return to coach the Eagles from 1928-34.

1928 – McKenney's first year as head coach was perfect — 9-0 and yielded another Eastern title. McKenney would later gain entrance into College Football's Hall of Fame as a highly respected college football official.

1936 – BC names Gilmour Dobie, another future College Hall of Fame member, as its head football coach. The Eagles' schedule is upgraded to include such national rivals as Kansas State, Kentucky, North Carolina State, Indiana and Florida, and home games are shifted to Fenway



The 1940 Eagles

Park and Braves Field. Dobie's teams lose only six games in his three-year tenure.

1939 – On February 7, Frank Leahy is named head football coach. "I have come here to succeed and to win football games," he told alumni a few days later. He did both, as the Boston College football team won 20 of 22 games played in the ensuing two seasons. The Eagles lost only one regular-season game in the 1939 campaign (7-0 to Florida) and became the first New England team in 20 years to earn a New Year's Day bowl invitation. The Eagles met Clemson in the Cotton Bowl on January 1, but lost a close 6-3 decision to the Tigers.

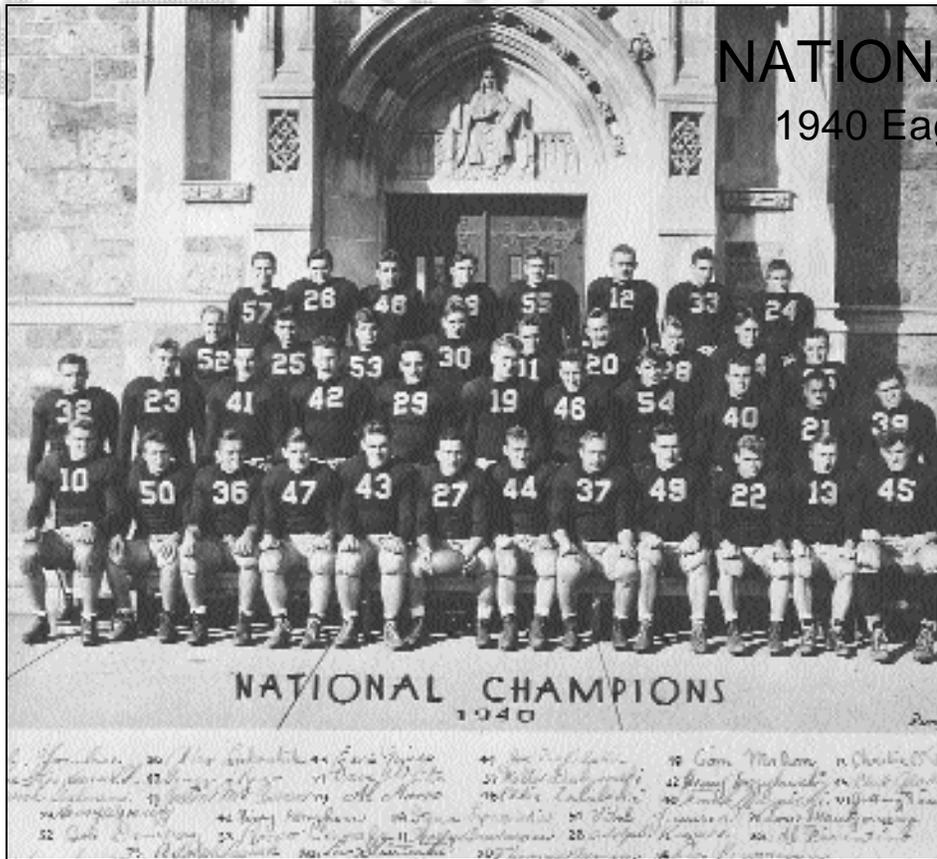
1940 – An undefeated (11-0) season, capped by the Sugar Bowl championship and the claim of a national championship made this arguably the greatest season in Eagle football annals. On November 16, BC handed Georgetown its first football loss in three years when "Chuckin' " Charlie O'Rourke eluded a host of tacklers and took a safety in his own end zone as the clock expired to give the Eagles a memorable 19-18 victory. Sportswriter Grantland Rice described the contest as "the greatest game of football ever played."



Cotton Pickin'

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

1940 Eagles among the best

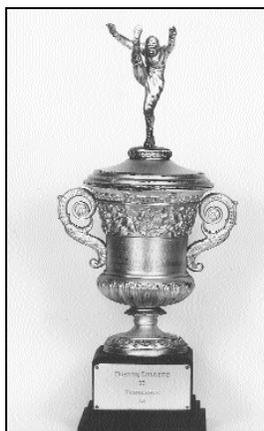
1941 – On January 1, the Eagles would lay claim to the national championship with a 19-13 victory over Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl. Again, O'Rourke provided the heroics, scoring on a 24-yard touchdown run with three minutes remaining in the game. Leahy had installed the game-winning play in the BC offense one day before the game. Leahy and five members of the Sugar

Bowl championship team would eventually be enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame (HB O'Rourke, C Chet Gladchuk, E Gene Goodrault, FB Mike Holovak and G George Kerr). A crowd of 100,000 people welcomed the Sugar Bowl victors back to Boston's South Station, but Leahy would leave Boston Col-

lege for Notre Dame within a month of the game.

1941 – From a field of 80 candidates, Denny Myers was named Boston College's new football coach.

1942 – The Eagles were undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the land as they headed into the final game of the season against Holy Cross on November 28. The Crusaders pulled one of the biggest upsets in college football history that day, upending BC by a 55-12 score. Many BC players and fans were so bitterly disappointed that a planned "victory party" at Boston's Coconut Grove restaurant was canceled. The Coconut Grove was destroyed by fire that night and 490 people lost their lives.



1943 – Again playing on New Year's Day, Boston College loses to Alabama in the Orange Bowl, 37-21. One bright point in the game for the Eagles was the play of Holovak, who scored all three BC touchdowns and averaged 15.8 yards every time he touched the football — an Orange Bowl record that stands to this day.

1943-1945 – A large number of Boston College players and coaches departed to serve their country in the U.S. armed forces during World War II. The teams fielded on campus found competition against service teams such as Melville PT and Squantum Naval Air Station.

1946 – Myers returned as head coach after the war and the Eagles undertook a national schedule that included LSU, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Michigan State and Penn State in following years. Two members of that September's freshman class — linemen Art Donovan and Ernie Stautner — would one day be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The roster also includes lineman Ed King, who, after a brief pro football career, would later be elected Governor of Massachusetts.

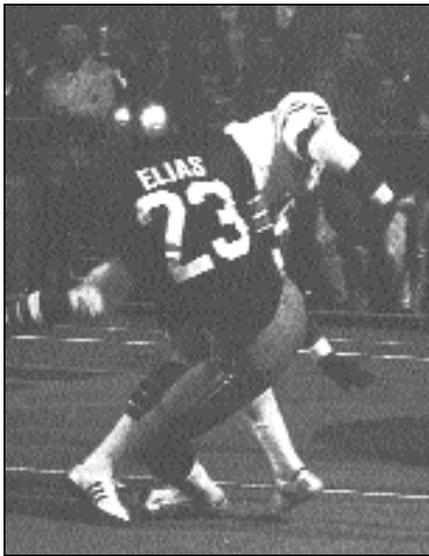
1949 – On November 26, Boston College scored its most lopsided victory ever — 76-0 — over annual rival Holy Cross. BC fullback/kicker Ed Petela scored a record 34 points in the game — four touchdowns and 10 PATs.

1951 – Mike Holovak, who had played professional football with the Los Angeles Rams and



Brendan McCarthy

EAGLE FOOTBALL TIMELINE



BC vs. Texas — 1976

Chicago Bears, returned to his alma mater as head coach. He later would be the head coach of the Boston Patriots and long-time general manager of the Houston Oilers.

1956 – After losing to Holy Cross, 7-0, on December 1, Boston College is told that football games will no longer be played at Fenway Park. The school considers dropping the sport.

1957 – On January 23, Boston College President Joseph R. N. Maxwell, S.J. announces the decision to build a new stadium on campus. Athletic Director William J. Flynn and former head coach Joe McKenney lead the successful \$250,000 campaign to construct the new facility on the site of a filled-in reservoir on BC's lower campus. On September 26, Alumni Stadium opened with a game against Navy that had been arranged with



Frank Leahy

the assistance of then-U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy. The visiting Midshipmen spoiled the day, however, with a 46-6 victory before a standing-room-only crowd of 26,000-plus. The referee in the dedication game was the legendary Albie Booth.

1964 – The Eagles

knocked off highly ranked Syracuse 21-14 on September 19 in the season opener as Larry Marzetti hit Bill Cronin with a 45-yard touchdown pass on a fourth-down play as time ran out. A freshman running back for the Orangemen that year was Tom Coughlin.

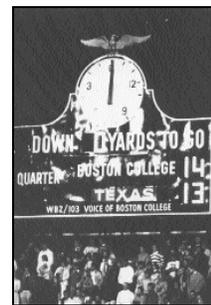
1968 – Joe Yukica took over as the Eagles' head coach. He served notice of things to come with a stunning 49-15 win at Navy in his BC coaching debut. Among the defenders for the Midshipmen in that game was end Tom O'Brien.

1970 – Fred Willis became the first running back in BC gridiron history to surpass 1,000 yards rushing (1,007) in a 10-game season.

1971 – Alumni Stadium is expanded to 32,000 seats, an artificial surface is installed and lights are added for night play.

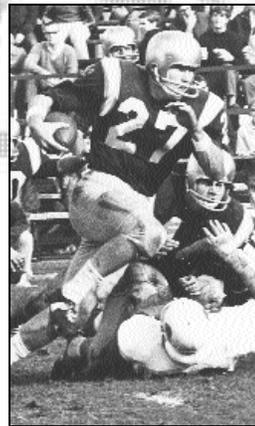
1974 – The Eagles — under Yukica and offensive backfield coach Jack Bicknell — are the hottest team in college football down the stretch, outscoring opponents by a 270-27 margin in the season's final six games. FB Keith Barnette is the nation's top scorer with 22 TDs on the season. However, the team's 8-3 record does not attract any bowl invitations to Chestnut Hill.

1975 – The Eagles open the season with an ABC-TV "Monday Night Football" appearance against Notre Dame at Schaefer Stadium in Foxboro (now Foxboro Stadium). A record 61,000 fans filled the facility to watch the Irish take a 17-3 victory.



1976 – BC upended No. 1-ranked Texas, 14-13, in a thrilling season opener at Alumni Stadium on September 11. A key tackle by Kelly Elias on a Longhorn two-point conversion try with 4:38 remaining in the game proved the difference in this victory — the biggest for a BC team in years.

1978 – The Eagles suffer their worst season in history, losing all 11 games, including a 28-24



Frank Ferrino

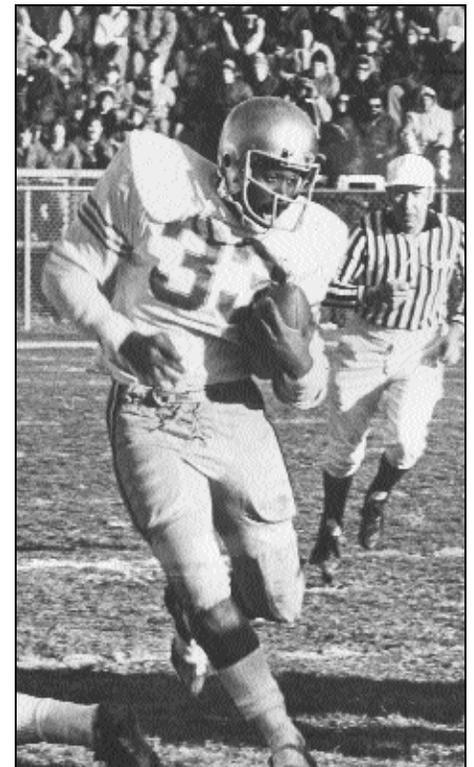
loss to Temple in a game played in Tokyo, Japan, on December 10.

1981 – Former BC assistant Bicknell is hired as head coach. He opens the season with a 13-12 home victory over Texas A&M on September 19. Freshman Doug Flutie sees his first action — on one special teams play. Flutie would be named the team's starting quarterback by Bicknell and QB coach Tom Coughlin prior to the Navy game on October 17.

1982 – The Eagles open the season with a smashing 38-16 victory over

Texas A&M in College Station. Two weeks later BC tied defending national champion Clemson 17-17 at "Death Valley," and once again Boston College football was drawing national attention. After beating Holy Cross 35-10 in the final regular season game, the Eagles are invited to the 1982 Tangerine Bowl in Orlando to play Auburn. Fans watching that game saw two future Heisman Trophy winners: BC's Flutie and the Tigers' Bo Jackson. Auburn won the December 18 game, 33-26.

1983 – The Eagles finished the regular season with



Phil Bennett

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a 9-2 record, including the first win ever over Penn State (27-17 at Foxboro) and a last-minute 20-13 victory over Alabama on a rainy November night in Foxboro that is remembered as the game "that the lights went out." Fortunately, power crews restored electricity just as officials were considering stopping the game and BC went on to score on its final possession to win. The Lambert Trophy champions were matched up against Notre Dame in the Liberty Bowl on December 29 — a game that was played in frigid, icy conditions. Each team scored three touchdowns in that game, but BC missed all of its extra-point tries, while the Irish converted one of three to account for the heart-breaking 19-18 final score.

1984 – Perhaps one of the most storied seasons in Boston College football history, an early highlight was the Eagles' stunning 38-31 victory over

Alabama in Birmingham before a national television audience on September 8. The Eagles scored on their final possession of the game to beat the Crimson Tide — an omen of rallies to come. On November 22 at the Orange Bowl, Flutie and Boston College Football went into the storybooks as No. 22 threw a 48-yard "Hail Mary" touchdown pass to WR Gerard Phelan on the game's final play to give BC a memorable 47-45 victory. A week later, Doug completed one of his final college football goals by throwing a touchdown pass to his brother Darren, a freshman, in the final game of the regular season at Holy Cross on December 1. He then flew to New York City where he was presented with the Heisman Trophy later that night.

1985 – Boston College scored its first post-season victory since the 1941 Sugar Bowl with an impressive 45-28 victory over Houston in the

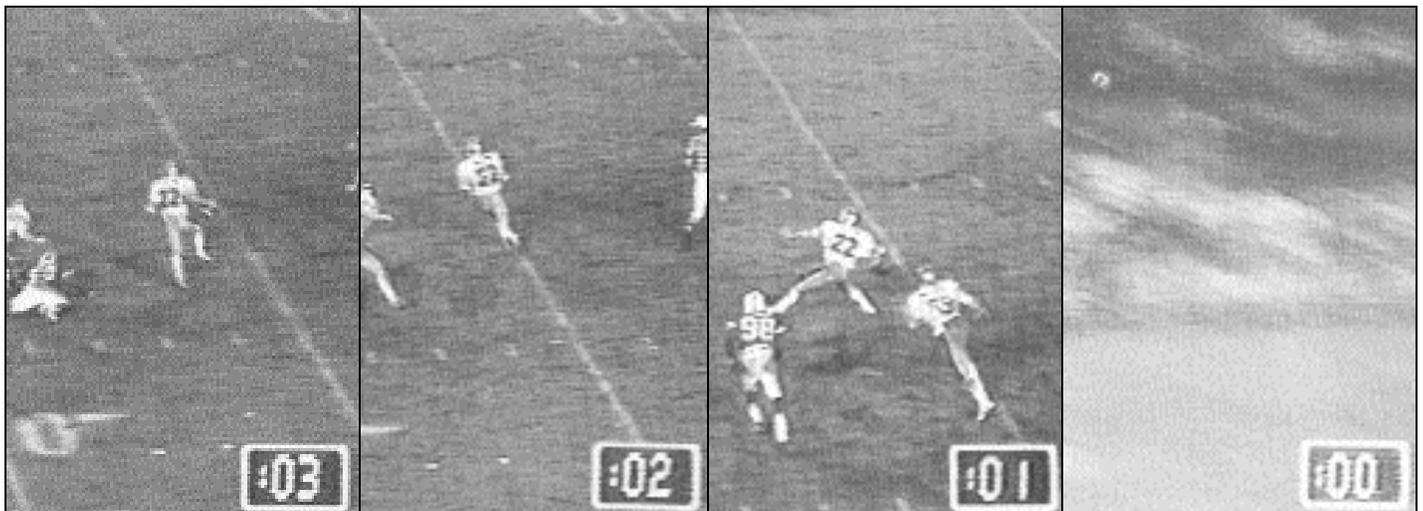
Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day. The Eagles were ranked No. 4 in the final college football poll and won the Lambert Trophy as Eastern Champions for the second consecutive year.

1985 – Appearing in the Kickoff Classic, the Eagles lost to high-powered Brigham Young, 28-14, in the college football curtain-raiser, but NG Mike Ruth chased Cougar QBs all over the field en route to eventually winning the Outland Award as college football's top lineman that season.

1986 – After thrashing Holy Cross by a 56-26 score in Worcester on November 22, the Eagles were invited to play Georgia in Tampa's Hall of Fame Bowl on December 23. There, QB Shawn Halloran hit WR Kelvin Martin with a 5-yard scoring pass with just 32 seconds left in the game

THE MIRACLE IN MIAMI

:03, :02, :01 ...Oh, my! It's Flutie to Phelan in the most famous three seconds in BC foot-



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to give BC a 27-24 victory. Two months later, Holy Cross abruptly canceled the BC-HC rivalry that had begun in 1896.

1988 – A rebuilt Alumni Stadium with matching upperdecks and state-of-the-art press facilities is dedicated in a nationally televised game against Southern Cal. On November 19, Boston College and Army made sports history by playing the first American college football game in Europe. The Eagles topped the Cadets 38-24 in that contest, played at Dublin's Lansdowne Road Stadium.

1991 – Former assistant coach Tom Coughlin, is hired away from the Super Bowl Champion New York Giants as BC's newest head football coach.

BC plays the first-ever BIG EAST Football Conference game at Rutgers on August 31 — the coach's 45th birthday.

1992 – BC scores three consecutive shutout victories (vs. Northwestern, Navy and Michigan State) on the way to an 8-2-1 regular season and a berth in the Hall of Fame Bowl against Tennessee. The Vols won the Sugar Bowl "rematch" by a 38-23 score.

1993 – The Eagles bounced back from losses in the first two games of the year to reel off eight consecutive victories and earn another post-season invitation. Highlighting this drive was a magnificent 41-39 victory at Notre Dame on November 20 when David Gordon kicked a 41-yard field goal with no time remaining to shock the No. 1-ranked Irish. The Eagles' final 8-3 showing earned them a slot in the Carquest Bowl in Fort Lauderdale where they convincingly beat ACC representative Virginia, 31-13, on New Year's Day.

1994 – Alumni Stadium was expanded to its current capacity of 44,500 and was completely refurbished. Unfortunately, as had happened on three previous occasions, the Eagles lost the dedication game, this time, 12-7, to Virginia Tech on September 17. BC made up for the loss, however, by scoring an impressive 30-11 victory over Notre Dame in Chestnut Hill on October 8 — the Eagles' first win in their new lair. BC went on to cap the season with a Christmas Day appearance in the Aloha Bowl in Honolulu where the Eagle defense led the way to a 12-7 victory over Kansas State.

1995 – Boston College was again



Pete Mitchell

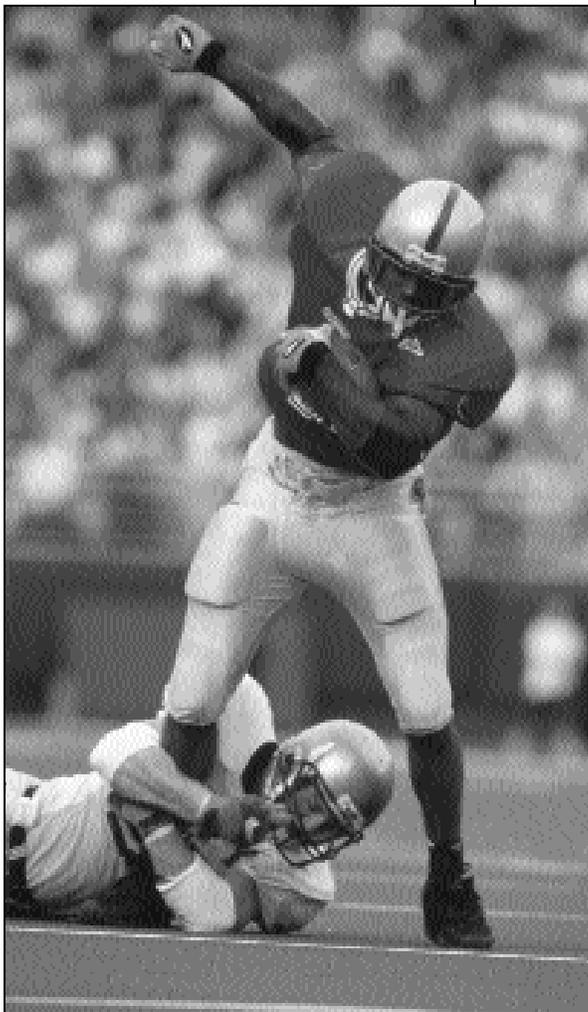
Bob Hope

invited to participate in the Kickoff Classic at the Meadowlands, but fared no better than in their 1985 appearance and lost to Ohio State by a 38-6 count. All 12 of the Eagles' games were on network television this year.

1996 – Tom O'Brien was named head coach at Boston College on December 13.

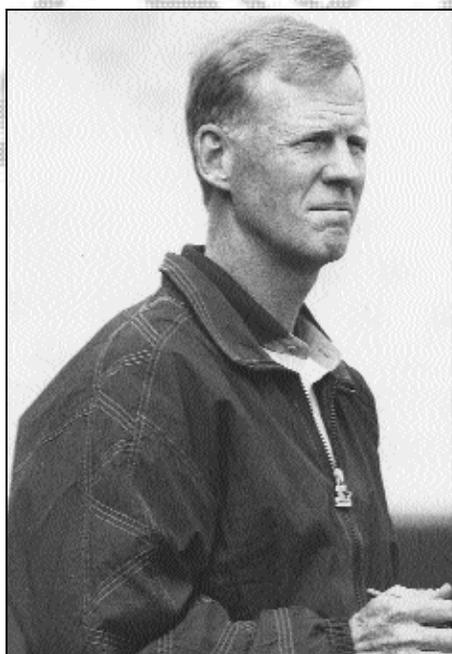
1997 – O'Brien recorded his first victory as a head coach on September 13 as BC beat West Virginia, 31-24. It was the first time the Eagles had defeated the Mountaineers in Chestnut Hill since 1976.

1998 – Mike Cloud rushed for a BIG EAST and BC single-season record 1,726 yards to become Boston College's all-time leading rusher with 3,597 yards. He became a consensus first-team All-America selection and a finalist for the Doak Walker National Running Back of the Year Award. The Kansas City Chiefs selected him in the second round of the NFL draft.



William Green

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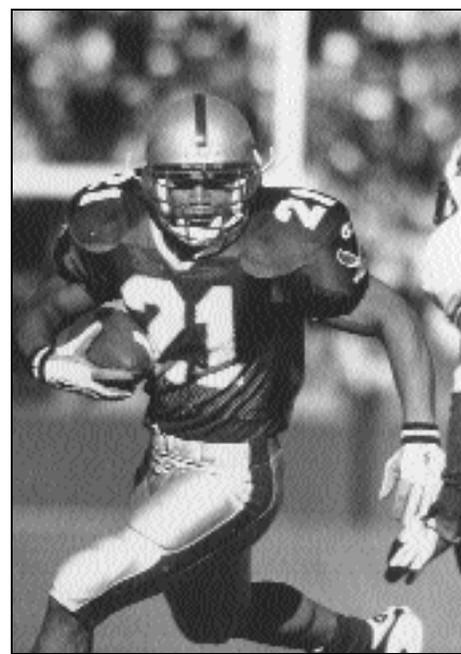


Tom O'Brien

1999 – Boston College engineered the third-best turnaround in major college football by finishing the regular season with an 8-3 record and ranked 22nd nationally. BC received an invitation to play in the Insight.com Bowl, its first postseason appearance since 1994.

2000 – Boston College posts its second consecutive winning season and makes its second-straight trip to a bowl game as the Eagles defeat Arizona State by a 31-17 score in the Aloha Bowl. William Green becomes the third-straight Eagles back to rush for 1,000 yards or more in a season and offensive tackle Paul Zukauskas earns first team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association and is later picked in the seventh round of the NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns.

Note: Reid Oslin was Sports Information Director at Boston College from 1974 until the end of the 1997 football season.



Mike Cloud

WHEN IRISH EYES WEREN'T SMILING...

DOWN GOES NUMBER ONE ... IN SOUTH BEND

