

# STAGG AT PACIFIC

## PART III - 1940-1942

By Joe Marvin

After two highly successful seasons at College of Pacific in 1938 (7-3-0) and 1939 (6-6-1) the Tigers of Amos Alonzo Stagg tailed off to a 4-5 campaign in 1940. In the summer of 1939, while driving cross-country to meet relatives in the East, Stagg stopped off to tour the Notre Dame campus. Elmer Layden was Notre Dame's athletic director and head football coach at the time, and upon hearing of Stagg's visit, rushed over to meet the famed mentor. There were plans to hold the world premier of the movie, "Knut Rockne, All American" in South Bend during the first week of October in 1940; and Layden proposed that Stagg's C.O.P. team play the Fighting Irish that weekend. Stagg accepted the proposal.

On October 5, 1940, Pacific played Notre Dame to a 7-7 tie at halftime, before losing in the second half 25-7. Stagg had coached four times against Notre Dame back in the 1890s while at Chicago, and had never lost. In the 1940 contest, Pacific scored right away by using a mix of passes and trick plays on a 60-yard march, with Dwayne Mears scoring on a one-yard run.

In the second period Bob Saggau of Notre Dame passed to Steve Juzwik for a 40-yard gain to the Pacific 25 yard line. After Milt Piepul ran 18 yards to the seven, Juzwik then faked a reverse and scored the touchdown. Tied until the third quarter, Notre Dame blew it open with three scores in the second half. Bernie Crimmins tallied on a 16-yard run, and then Piepul started to the right before he cut back to the middle on a 17-yard scoring dash. After Juzwik raced for his second touchdown, the Irish had finally beaten Stagg and his game and determined team.

C.O.P. returned home to defeat the California Ramblers, 6-0, and later edged U.C. Davis, 7-6. The Tigers were then shut-out by the Fresno State Bulldogs, 3-0, and Loyola of Los Angeles, 20-0. Once again, the Tigers nemesis San Jose State whipped them 28-7, the fifth straight loss to the strong Spartan teams of that era. Ben Winkelman had replaced Dud DeGroot as the head coach at San Jose, with Glenn "Pop" Warner acting as an advisory coach for the powerful Spartan club that posted a 11-1 record.

Late in the season, Pacific defeated Nevada 24-6 in a wind-blown contest on Thanksgiving day at Stockton. Then the following week Chico State was trounced at Chico, to give C.O.P. another Far Western Conference title. Al Irwin received the Red Busher trophy as the season's outstanding lineman for the Tigers, and Stan Vaughn was elected captain at the annual banquet. Willis Bogarsky was also named to the Notre Dame all-opponent team

Amos Alonzo Stagg's fifty-second football team, a band of sophomores and junior college transfers, opened the 1941 season at home against the University of Hawaii. Springing their "little" All-American halfback, Nolle Smith, for spectacular open field jaunts time after time, the Warriors of Hawaii walked out of Baxter Stadium with an easy 14-0 triumph. Then after a 7-0 victory over Chico State, the Tigers traveled to Dallas to meet the Mustangs of Southern Methodist, who easily rolled over the West Coast visitors, 34-0.

Back home again, Pacific scored late in the fourth quarter on a pass play to nip U.C. Davis 7-0. San Jose State then invaded Stockton on October 24 and garnered a close 7-0 win, the winning score being tallied on a disputed touchdown by fullback Allen Hardisty. Pacific managed to win the Far Western Conference again by defeating Humboldt State 19-0 in early November.

Losses to Fresno State (13-0) Santa Barbara (7-6), Pacific Lutheran and its great "little" All-

American, "Tommygun" Tommervik (13-7) in Tacoma, and San Diego State (12-6); closed out a disappointing 4-7-0 season for Pacific in 1941. One of the fall's highlights was a 103-yard run by fullback Earl Klopstein in the 20-0 defeat of the California Ramblers.

The Fall, 1942 prospects for C.O.P. looked very slim because of World War II and the loss of many athletes to the service, but Stagg was determined to keep his program going despite the adversity. Larry Siemering, former All-Pacific Coast center from the University of San Francisco and a veteran of the Washington Redskins, was hired to coach the line for C.O.P., and he would remain with Stagg through the 1946 season before he took over as head football coach and developed some outstanding teams.

Stagg opened his fifty-third season against the St Mary's Pre-Flight Air Devils from Moraga, who were loaded with former college gridiron greats - Albert and Grayson from Stanford, Bottari and Lutz of California, DeLauer and George of Southern Cal, Manske and Vanzo of Northwestern, Falaschi of Santa Clara, Ruetz from Notre Dame, and Erdelatz of St Mary's. The Tigers scored first, before the Air Devils took command of the game and romped to a 38-9 win at Baxter Stadium in Stockton. Traveling to Seattle the following week, the Bengals fell to the Washington Huskies 27-0 as Klopstein was the leading ground gainer and defensive bulwark for Pacific.

On October 17, 1942, Stagg's squad journeyed to San Jose and the Spartans ripped them 29-0 to give Pacific the worst beating they had ever taken at the hands of their arch rivals. Running reverses off the Warner double wing formation; Perry, Parton, Foote and Blackwell had a field day for San Jose. Then the Fresno State Bulldogs - led by Jackie Fellows, one of the nation's top passers - invaded Stockton in late October. Playing their best defensive game of the season, the C.O.P. Tigers held the country's highest scoring team to just a 13-0 victory. Fellows completed touchdown passes to Jackie Pattee and Jim Molich; but the Bulldogs' offense was held to just 294 total yards, far below their early season average of 463 yards of total offense per game.

The only two wins for C.O.P. on its difficult 1942 schedule were Chico State, 27-0, and U.C. Davis, 15-7. Losses to two more strong service teams - Alameda Coast Guard (137) and San Diego Navy (14-0) - closed out a 2-6-1 season for C.O.P. While many colleges on the West Coast had been forced to shut down their football programs during the war, Stagg was able to keep going at the small Methodist school - another tribute to his dedication, hard work, and leadership ability.

( To Be Continued )

In 1925 Drake and Grinnell tangled in a strange Missouri Valley Conference game. Drake players were tackled in their own end-zone THREE times for safeties (believed to be a modern football record). But Drake scored a touchdown on a long pass and managed to escape with a 7-6 win.