
The Origins of the “Ivy League”

And its connections with football

By: Naeem Morgan

What people are saying

The ivy league is pretentious, the smartest people go there.

Anonymous Dartmouth Student

A kid got into Brown but everyone put an asterisk next to it because he got in for football.

Anonymous Dartmouth Student

Bunch of collard sweaters with short haircuts, sitting in an old library

Anonymous Dartmouth Student

Dartmouth's peers prior to the ivy league

Yale and Harvard were sporting their colors which sparked rush to choose colors. When choosing colors they listed colors they couldn't choose by eliminating colors their peer institutions already claimed.

- Amherst (orange)
- Williams (purple)
- Bowdoin (N/A)
- Michigan mentioned (Blue and Maize)

Disregards

- Trinity
- Bethany College
- West Virginia
- Illinois Wesleyan



EXAMPLES

Dartmouth Colors

South Atlantic Magazine, summer of 1947.

Just after the Civil War a great epidemic of college colors swept the country. Thomas '67 apparently caught the fever first: he was a spectator at the Yale-Harvard bostrace at Worcester! 1866 and was so struck with the brilliant crimson and blue landscape that he came back saying "We must have a color too."

In the same year nine Amherst students came up to the north woods to teach the Hanover collegians the new game of baseball. When the sting of defeats was softened, Ketcham, the catcher, Dartmouth '67, Civil War veteran, began to talk about the Amherst purple and said "We must have a Dartmouth color."

That same fall the senior class came to the point. Thomas/Ketcham, Hill and others presented the idea, saying "Let us choose Green." Finally a ballot was taken, and green was elected as the Dartmouth College color. In a sense, ^{it was} an artificial, arbitrary choice, but in a truer sense Dartmouth Green, that is pine green is just as sturday and steady as the tree- it does not change. The ancient Lone Pine is a symbol and Dartmouth

Summer of 1947 mention of
boat-race

THE DARTMOUTH GREEN AND OTHER COLLEGE COLORS

By Professor E. J. Bartlett

I

In the *Yale Courant* of July 25, 1866, (Vol. I, No. 30) appeared the following plain sign of new and conscious adornment with brilliant hues:

"Show your colors." At Worcester, day after tomorrow, every son of Yale and Harvard will be called on to show his colors. Yale is 'true blue,' Harvard is red. Last year Harvard was very profuse in this display up to the close of the race; Yale was lacking. Some wag remarked that Yale boys were ashamed to wear blue when every Harvard man wore it on his phiz. Though Harvard wears it, let every son and friend of Yale be proud to show their love and loyalty by wearing the blue. Hamilton College has just adopted orange as the college color. Williams has purple."

A Dartmouth boy, Alfred A. Thomas '67, now a lawyer in Dayton, Ohio, was one of the spectators at that regatta, two days later. He was to be one of the founders and early contributors of the *Dartmouth*, and in its second num-

Lake Quinsigamond in the summer of '66, I first saw college colors in use; and felt denuded because Dartmouth had none."

And Frederick G. Mather, also of '67, writes of Thomas:

"He was the originator, promoter, and executor of the idea. . . . It was when he attended that regatta in the summer of 1866 that he noted that several of the colleges had selected their colors and that Dartmouth had none."

William A. Ketcham, of the same class, gives a different account of the source of the suggestion:

"As I recall it, Amherst had come up with flying colors in '66's senior year, to teach us how to play baseball,—and she did it to our sorrow. Every Amherst son sported, as I now recall it, mauve and white as their college colors, and we had none, and the absence of a color that we could claim as our own rankled within us. It looked as though we were not up to date. Sixty-six did nothing about it, however, and it was not until '67 came to the front as the senior class that anything was done."

That there were two sources of

Mention of
Amherst (1866)

HOPKINS OF DARTMOUTH



The story of Ernest Martin Hopkins
and his presidency of Dartmouth College

by

CHARLES E. WIDMAYER

Pres. Hopkins

Formation of the official ivy league (1954)

The formation of the **Ivy League in 1954** set up certain rules that shaped perception of the league for years to come.

Fact

A formal proposal for the Ivy League was drafted in 1945 but 1954 is considered the true birthday of the ivy league



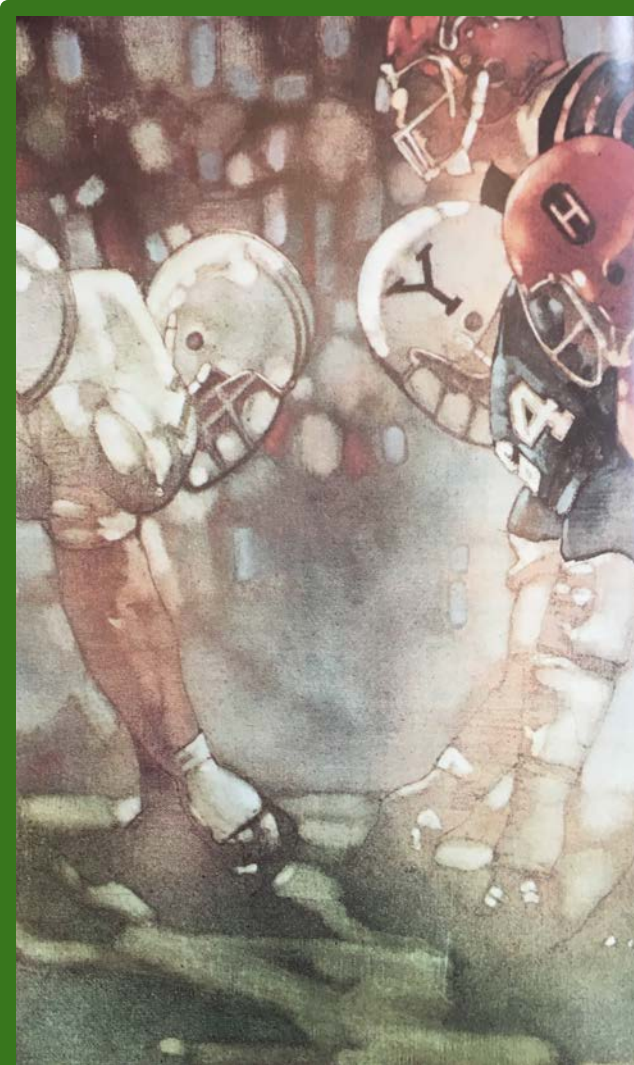
Allison Danzig has been covering sports for The New York Times for 31 years. He has written and collaborated on half a dozen books on sports and is recognized as an authority on football, tennis and rowing.

For many years Danzig has been a fixture in the press box at football games all over the country. But he has a special interest in the Ivy League, having played end and halfback for Cornell during his college days.

The Story of the Ivy League Agreement on Football

A reprint of three articles by New York Times sports writer Allison Danzig about the standards of conduct adopted by the eight Ivy League colleges.

The New York Times
"ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT"



1952 DARTMOUTH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 27 -- Holy Cross at Hanover
 Oct. 4 -- Pennsylvania at Philadelphia
 Oct. 11 -- Army at West Point
 Oct. 18 -- Rutgers at Hanover
 Oct. 25 -- Harvard at Cambridge
 Nov. 1 -- Yale at New Haven
 Nov. 8 -- Columbia at Hanover
 Nov. 15 -- Cornell at Ithaca
 Nov. 22 -- Princeton at Princeton

SERIES RECORDS WITH 1952 OPPONENTS

Opponent	First Year of Series	Opponent's Victories	Dartmouth Victories	Ties
Holy Cross	1903	2	15	2
Pennsylvania	1896	15	6	2
Army	1895	2	1	0
Rutgers	1952	0	0	0
Harvard	1882	31	21	3



and enforcement of the same ethical standards so scrupulously observed for the protection of academic rating.

Ban on Spring Practice

Under this agreement the presidents set up rigid scholastic requirements for athletic eligibility. They strictly limit and supervise the award of all financial aid, ban spring football practice, curtail the length of the playing and practice seasons, bar post-season (bowl) and all-star games for secondary school coaches and players, prohibit both from participating in clinics for secondary school coaches and players and from endorsing commercial products.

Specifically they provide that no student shall be eligible for a varsity team:

"Unless he has previously filed with the appropriate authorities a written statement in which he agrees to abide by the policies and spirit of the Ivy agreement."

"Unless he is in good scholastic standing as determined by faculty standards, enrolled in an academic program leading to a rec-

purpose of the agreement the presidents set up three committees. They are the Presidents' Policy Committee, the Committee on Administration and the Committee on Eligibility. The last, composed of a full-time member of the academic faculty of each school, is the implementing agency to administer the rules of eligibility and make the code work.

President Grayson Kirk of Columbia University points out that the intent of the agreement is summed up in the following paragraph:

"It is the spirit of this agreement that it shall be carried out through wise and flexible administration and in a setting of mutual respect and confidence among the members of the group as institutions having a common dedication to the purposes and principles of higher education."

From presidents of colleges clip outside of the group have come Col-

Indian block.

Learning Mattered Little

No matter how little learning they had or what they lacked in entrance credits, so long as they could grasp and remember signals and reported dutifully to the coach on the field, they were welcomed. And welcomed generously, with all expenses paid, including tuition, fees, books, room, board and "extras."

Year after year this went on, with the football mania mounting, the crowds increasing and gate receipts pyramiding. The booming stock market, providing unthinking if not unprincipled alumni with the funds to buy the makings of a winning team for the glory of alma mater, played its part in keeping the gridiron pot boiling furiously.

Most colleges by now were depending upon football revenue for the support of their entire athletic program, both intercollegiate and intramural. That added to the pressure.

Then the storm broke, about the same time as the crash in the stock market. The Carnegie Foundation Bulletin 23 exposed

In 1948 occurred an development. The National Athletic Association stepped into the picture, effort to clean up the m administrative body up time, it undertook to ass powers of an enforcement

From time to time the A. A. had interested establishing sound ethics and procedures for conduct of college sports, but been able to do no more suggest or recommend. back as 1916 it petitioned foundation to make a of intercollegiate athletics such a survey as the Foundation published year

In 1918 it recommended the athletic department be nized a department of c instruction directly responsible the college administration that hiring of seasonal scouting and training to considered detrimental good of football.

Suggestions of N. C. .

In 1922 it urged men to organize sectional conf abide by amateurism, ad



1. No Scholarships

- ➔ Prior to agreement no matter how little learning they had as long as they could read signals they were admitted. This made sure only students on par with academic standard of school would be admitted.



2. Ban on Spring Ball

- ➔ Was put in place to give the players more time to focus on academic focuses instead of just being solely student athletes

Milestones

1902

Dartmouth was one of the top 10 teams in the nation

1937

Dartmouth was invited to the Rose Bowl

Pre Ivy League

Post Ivy League

1925

Dartmouth was named the National Champion

1954-Present

No national championships.