

Lone Star State's (and College Football's) Worst College Football Team **By Tex Noel, Editor, The College Football Historian**

Trying to determine the worst college football team of all-time would be a more undoubting task than to name the greatest eleven in the sport's history.

At least with the latter, there more than likely a team would be ranked and season statistics will aid in the effort.

But, in order to go back for the worst team over the 141 years often only game-by-game scores are the only source of information, the task would take a bit of research!

Remember, "Everyone Loves a Winner," the old cliché states.

Many teams have completed a season winless; low scoring or failing to score; while the opposition seems to have scored at will.

Playing at least a three-game schedule, there have been 115 teams to complete the season without a single point being registered in their favor.

Three teams could qualify as the worst team ever to compete on the gridiron: 1920 Daniel Baker (Brownwood, Texas) ; it finished the season 0-9-0, 0-506; 1923 Kansas City University, 0-6-0, 0-532 or Evansville Ind., in 1937 failed to win or score in a 9 starts, while allowing just 197 points.

What process would go into the selection of college football's worst eleven? A quick glance would eliminate Evansville; while the Purple Aces were scoreless, their defense was better than the other two schools.

KCU played fewer games than Daniel Baker; but allowed its minimal number of opponents to score more frequently.

For years, Daniel Baker's opponents were a mystery, to the exact number of games played and the final score.

Many historians utilize many sources in research for their info; including a school's annual yearbook for scores.

Only one problem: Daniel Baker, known as the Hill Billies and whose mascot was a Billie goat, had such a rough year in 1920, the editor of the yearbook, **The Trail**, must have made an executive decision—and excluded the scores. While there has been no other documentation if the other two schools' scores were in their respective annuals, but proof has been made that Daniel Baker's were not.

Just recently, score researcher Richard Topp, whose project is to research and compile correct and accurate information on every college football game that has been played since 1882. This was the origin of when touchdown, goals from the field and goals after touchdown were beginning to be used when computing scores; replace goals and earlier scoring methods.

Topp's efforts have produced exact dates, location, scores and even, at times, opponents for countless colleges and university, through his **American College Football Encyclopedia**; often find scores that the schools weren't even aware of—or a change of information that was previously reported as fact.

But that's getting ahead of the story; so, first let's look at what has been written about the 1920 Daniel Baker college football team that would be supportive as being the worse college football team ever.

Many outstanding teams have come out of the Lone Star State; but just two of its teams failed to score and only one using the three-game minimum. Texas Lutheran gave up 39 points in 1946; while losing both games.

Daniel Baker played its first games in 1903; compiling a 3-1 record that included a 72-0 shutout triumph over Howard Payne University—just three miles from the DBC campus; other wins were 10-5 over TCU and 10-6 Austin College The lone setback came at the hands of Trinity Texas, 35-0.

- Between 1899-1903, Scoring Values: Touchdowns and field goals, 5 points each; with a safety 2 points and the conversion a single point.

But as the seasons came and went, and of course WW I, small enrollment and financial difficulties, DBC began to decline.

The end of WW I, brought maybe a glimmer of hope for those involved with Daniel Baker...maybe it was a spark; okay a flicker.

The school had an enrollment of 67 students—mostly future preachers and teachers—of that, 44 were beginning their college studies.

The athletic teams were members of the fledging Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association (TIAA) conference.

Before joining the TIAA, DBC would play schools from the five-year old Southwest Conference; compiling a 5-22-1 slate.

The Billie Goats opened the 1920 season losing to a pair of teams that would second and sixth in the final SWC standings.

The SWC schools shellacked the tiny school by a combined 180-0; including a 110-0 by Texas A&M, who was coached by one of the game's legendary mentors, Dana X, Bible, in his third of a 11-year career in College Station. He would compile a 72-19-9; the most victories at any of the five schools he coached.

The Aggies' 110 outburst was the most points ever against DBC, surpassing the 1915 mark of 92 held by A&M's arch rival, the Texas Longhorns.

Later, Bible would make the comment: that his school's freshman team gave the Varsity a better game than DBC.

Ouch! There is nothing on record that the conference office fined Bible for slamming the opposition.

This would not be the lone game where a Billie Goat eleven would see a century mark put up on its opponents side of the scoreboard.

To this day, the 110 points remain the school's single-game high point total.

Ding Dong! Ding Dong...crack! Next week's opponent was Austin College; founded by none other than Daniel Baker and was coached by E.Y. Freeland who had led the DBC to some glory before the war and would also coach at SMU and TCU.

Traditionally the bell would chime per number of points that AC, known as the Kangaroos, scored.

The bell was a present to the school by the first and third President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston.

Home Sweet Home (maybe!) After playing 3 straight road games, Daniel Baker returned home for its first of three home games.

An old cliché says “something must have been in the water”. All three games played in Brownwood Texas, the Hill Billie defensive unit allowed just 42 combined points—15 came in the first home contest against St. Edward’s, a school that no longer plays football.

A 40-0 loss to Southwest Normal Institute (now Texas State); the Hill Billies returned home to face Meridian MS Junior College...same result, but the lowest point total yielded in 1920, as the visitors scored just 13 points.

Two of the last three games were played in the city of Abilene Texas. Following a 54-0 loss to Simmons (now Hardin-Simmons) and an 81-0 setback came at the hands of Abilene Christian.

To further enhance its claim as the worse college football team in history, DBC couldn’t even register a safety against the alums, losing 14-0.

Just 12 players would earn letters in 1920.

Following its disastrous 1920 season, DBC would almost finish with a .500 record in 1921; but ended-up 3-4-1 as every game was at home but one.

The latter part of the 1920s and mid-1930s were favorable towards the Billie Goats.

They were TIAA champions in 1926 and 1928 and then, after joining the Texas Conference; they won titles in it in 1934 and 1936.

But, another war (WW II) would take its toll on Daniel Baker.

The 1940 and 41 elevens combined for a 0-18-0 mark; while averaging 1.0 (18 points scored) and would surrender 554; before the school would not play again for another five seasons.

The Billie Goats were put out to pasture (as the school was closed in 1953; with the last season being 1950.) That season, saw the school win 4 of 9; but holding true to form, was outscored once again, 88-225.