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The Big Ten

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The Big Ten

On January 11, 1895, the president of Purdue University called a meeting of seven Midwestern university presidents for the purpose of considering regulation and control of intercollegiate athletics. Pursuant to this call the presidents of Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue, and Wisconsin Universities met in Chicago and created a committee to consist of an appointed faculty representative from each institution which would have authority to control athletics at the seven institutions. Before returning home the presidents voted to restrict eligibility for athletes to bona fide, full-time students who were not delinquent in their studies.

On February 6, 1896, one faculty representative from each of the above-mentioned institutions met in the Palmer House in Chicago. They designated themselves the "Inter-collegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives," popularly known today as the "Western Conference" or "Big Ten." The faculty committee promptly set up standards and machinery for the regulation and administration of intercollegiate athletics in their schools. The following year they passed a rule requiring that an athlete must have a year's residence after chang-

ing institutions before becoming eligible to play. The number of men available in 1897 for athletics at the seven schools follows:

Michigan	2,081	Illinois	746
Minnesota	1,813	Northwestern	317
Chicago	1,345	Purdue	569
Wisconsin	1,229		

In 1898 the Committee devised and printed a set of football rules for Conference teams in contrast to rules by Eastern institutions, but later rescinded this action and adopted the Eastern rules. The following year, in 1899, the State University of Iowa and Indiana University were admitted to membership.

In the years that followed numerous rules and regulations were adopted by the Conference. In 1901 preliminary football practice was limited to two weeks before the opening of college. In 1906 player competition was limited to three years with no graduate student eligible. The football season was limited to five games, no training table or training quarters were permitted, and student and faculty tickets were not to cost over fifty cents.

Membership in the Big Ten has remained amazingly stable since Iowa became a member in 1900. On April 6, 1912, Ohio State became the tenth school invited into the Western Conference. Meanwhile, in 1908, Michigan had withdrawn in protest against "retroactive provisions" of certain

committee enactments. The Wolverines rejoined the Conference in 1917, after which it was more popularly designated as the "Big Ten."

The faculty committee has not hesitated to penalize members for infractions of Conference rules.

The darkest day in Hawkeye football came on May 25, 1929, when the Associated Press carried the following story:

Chicago — The University of Iowa was ousted from the Big Ten collegiate competition tonight by the Big Ten faculty committee in executive session.

The committee charges the University of Iowa with violation of the rule against subsidized athletes — entering paid and hired athletes in amateur competition. . . .

After consideration of evidence the conference committee recommended that the conference sever athletic relations with the University of Iowa for the violation of the rule prohibiting the subsidizing of athletes.

The ban was effective January 1, 1930.

The ouster of Iowa from the Big Ten proved a bomb-shell. Director of Athletics P. E. Belting's home was pelted with rotten eggs by students. Players denied all charges. Two days later Major John L. Griffith, Big Ten Commissioner of Athletics, pin-pointed the charges, saying: "Evidence of a slush fund to pay athletes was the only basis for the Big Ten's action in severing relationship with the University of Iowa." After that came charges, countercharges, and promises that the situation would be remedied.

Iowa's initial effort to gain readmission was

turned down and it was not until February 1, 1930, that the Hawkeyes were readmitted to the Big Ten. In the three seasons that followed Iowa played only eight Conference games.

Other schools have felt the lash of the faculty committee. Wisconsin was threatened with suspension in 1936 but was saved when the Badgers assured the Conference "its faculty considers itself in control of athletic affairs."

By 1940 the Conference voted to permit nine football games per season, six Conference games to be required and at least two at each institution. Meanwhile, in 1940, the University of Chicago dropped Conference football and was replaced by Michigan State in 1949. On July 28, 1957, faculty representatives moved to make Indiana University's good standing as a Conference member conditional upon the suspension for one year of football coach Phil Dickens. The motion carried.

Although Iowa has seldom led the Big Ten in football, it started out well in 1900 by finishing in a tie with Minnesota with a 1000 per cent record. They won two and tied one, whereas the Gophers won three and tied one for their 1000 mark.

The last time the Hawks had the chance to take the Big Ten crown, in 1956, they swept by five opponents, lost to only one, and then went on to capture the Rose Bowl Championship.

In between 1900 and 1956, the Iowa title teams of 1921 and 1922 are reserved for special lime-

light. The 1921 team had the top all to themselves. Iowa fans had waited since 1900 for the chance to shout, and this they did mightily, as their team tacked up a perfect record of five wins, no defeats, no ties. The 1922 Hawks repeated with the same record as the 1921 team. The trouble was that two other teams, Michigan and Chicago, both had a 1000 percentage with four wins and no ties.

From 1922 to 1956 the Hawks found the football going in the Big Ten just as rugged as they did from 1900 to 1921. They were the small school in the big league. All they heard was — "Everybody can't win. Somebody has to lose." And they didn't like it.

In 1939 the Hawkeyes reached the glory trail after a dismal decade. They tossed aside four Conference opponents, losing only to Michigan at home. In the finale of the season the Northwestern Wildcats tied Iowa, but Iowa was second with 800 per cent. Ohio State won the Big Ten crown that year, a mere 33 percentage points ahead of Iowa.

To the everlasting credit of Iowa it may be said without fear of contradiction that the Hawks would not like to compete in anything but the rocking-socking Big Ten, the most rugged football loop in the country. It offers the supreme test; the team which wins the championship has been through the wars. So have the other nine.

When Coach Forest Evashevski and his 1956 squad put the name of Iowa on the pedestal, it was just reward for a school and its ever optimistic followers. Victories over Ohio State and Minnesota to clinch the title are fresh in mind. So is the thriller over Purdue and the lone loss to Michigan. One thing is certain; the Hawks are not going to live in past glory. They are out to make some more history. Two titles in a row would be welcome, particularly by those who have followed Iowa for years. Those with long memories will remember the dark days of 1930, 1931, and 1932, when the Hawks did not have a Conference victory. It is a long cry from then.

Here are some facts to remember since 1900. Iowa finished last six times in the annual race. Forty-one times they landed in the second division. Only four times have they been on top! The Hawks made the first division fifteen times.

Individually, the Hawks have had their share of honor and glory. In 1954 against Purdue Eddie Vincent established the run-from-scrimmage record in the Big Ten with a 96-yard dash. In 1951 "Dusty" Rice took a Purdue kickoff and returned the ball 100 yards for a Big Ten record. In another Iowa-Purdue contest, in 1939, tackle Mike Enich blocked two kicks for a Big Ten record. In the same year Nile Kinnick created a record in the Indiana clash as he came up with 201 yards on punt returns. In 1949, against Wisconsin, the

Hawks threw 41 passes, completing 12 for 208 yards, a Big Ten record.

There are other Iowa records, some good, some bad. In 1902 Michigan set the Conference mark by trouncing Iowa, 107 to 0. The fewest yards gained, Iowa, in 39 plays a mere 19 yards against Minnesota in 1944. Finally, in 1952, Iowa went through the Wisconsin game without a penalty.

Every now and then a Hawk will break into the print reserved for champions. Take, for instance, halfback Earl Smith. In 1954 he led the Conference in scoring with eight touchdowns. In the same year Eddie Vincent took the prize in rushing with 566 net yards in 81 carries for an average of 6.9.

Fullback George Broeder grabbed the Big Ten punting crown in 1953, getting off twenty-two punts for 908 yards, an average of 41.2. In 1945 Iowa led the Big Ten in first downs, an average of 15 in six games.

Iowa and Ohio State tied in one department in 1956 — losing the ball on fumbles the fewest times. Each had 1.2 per six games. Twice the Hawks had the dubious honor of losing the ball the most times on fumbles — 2.3 times a game for six contests in 1944 and 2.5 for the same number of games in 1950. In 1943 Iowa and Ohio State tied for the fewest yards penalized — 24 yards a game.

The following Hawkeye football players have

been voted the Most Valuable in the Big Ten: Bill Glassgow, 1929; Joe Laws, 1933; Nile Kinnick, 1939; Bill Reichardt, 1951; and Kenny Ploen, 1956.

Three times since 1936 Iowa was ranked in the first ten teams in the nation by the Associated Press poll, 9th in 1939, 9th in 1953, and 3rd in 1956.

Iowa has the sixth largest football stadium in the Big Ten with 58,400 seats. The University has made fine strides in the Conference despite the fact it is the smallest school. Six institutions have student bodies more than twice the size of the Iowa City school.

The Western Conference record book shows these enrollments in 1956: Illinois, 19,223; Indiana, 20,814; Iowa, 9,700; Michigan, 21,959; Michigan State, 21,000; Northwestern, 15,678; Ohio State, 22,500; Minnesota, 24,000; Purdue, 13,060; and Wisconsin, 15,377.

In some ways the odds are stacked against Iowa, but Iowa does not admit odds. The Hawks proved last year that the job can be done; they won the respect of the football world by capturing the two top crowns in the country, the Big Ten and the Rose Bowl. It was a long time coming, but when it arrived it was grand.

JOHN O'DONNELL

MOST VALUABLE IOWA FOOTBALL PLAYERS
IN THE
WESTERN CONFERENCE

1930	Oliver Sansen, hb	1943	Bob Liddy, g
1931	Oliver Sansen, b	1944	Bob Snyder, c
1932	Joe Laws, fb	1945	Art Johnson, fb
1933	Joe Laws, b*	1946	Bill Kay, †
1934	Dick Crayne, b	1947	Hal Shoener, e
1935	Dick Crayne, b	1948	Al DiMarco, b
1936	Homer Harris, e	1949	Jack Dittmer, e
1937	Bob Lannon, e	1950	Harold Bradley, †
1938	Erwin Prasse, e	1951	Bill Reichardt, fb*
1939	Nile Kinnick, hb*	1952	Bill Fenton, e
1940	Mike Enich, †	1953	Bill Fenton, e
1941	Bill Diehl, c	1954	Warren Lawson, c
1942	Tom Farmer, b	1955	Jerry Reichow, qb
	1956	Kenny Ploen, qb*	

*Received Chicago Tribune Trophy as Most Valuable in Conference. (Tribune Trophy winners prior to 1930 were Red Grange, Illinois, 1924; Tim Lowry, Northwestern, 1925; Benny Friedman, Michigan, 1926; Ken Rouse, Chicago, 1927; Chuck Bennett, Indiana, 1928; Bill Glassgow, Iowa, 1929.)

Big Ten Records Book—1957-1958.

CONFERENCE MEDAL WINNERS*

In 1914 the Conference endowed a Medal of Honor, to be awarded annually at each institution to the student demonstrating the greatest proficiency in scholarship and athletics. Following is a list of past winners of the Conference Medal of Honor:

1915	Herman L. Von Lackum*	1936	Francis X. Cretzmeier
1916	Forrest W. Deardorff	1937	Cornelius J. Walker*
1917	Wayne J. Foster	1938	Robert G. Lannon*
1918	John K. Von Lackum*	1939	Wilbur V. Nead*
1919	Homer W. Scott*	1940	Andrew J. Kantor
1920	Charles A. Mockmort*	1941	James R. Murphy, Jr.*
1921	Robert J. Kaufman*	1942	Richard E. Hein
1922	Aubrey Devine*	1943	Thomas Farmer*
1923	Gordon C. Locke*	1944	No award
1924	Wayland Hicks	1945	No award
1925	John W. Hancock*	1946	Arthur Harold Johnson*
1926	Don M. Graham*	1947	John Kenneth Hunter*
1927	Carl D. Voltmer*	1948	Herbert W. Wilkinson
1928	Lawrence Harrison	1949	Evan LeRoy Hultman
1929	Forest Twogood	1950	Donald C. Hays
1930	Willis A. Glassgow*	1951	Ralph W. Thomas
1931	No award	1952	Charles F. Darling
1932	Stuart W. Skowbo	1953	J. Burton Britzmann*
1933	William A. McCloy	1954	William Fenton*
1934	Tom W. Moore*	1955	LeRoy Anton Ebert
1935	James P. McClintock	1956	Andrew Marc Houg*
		1957	Frank Otis Sebolt

*These twenty-two men (out of the forty listed above) not only played football but a majority won varsity awards in two or more sports.