

Classic moments from renowned Jesuit-Holy Cross football rivalry

Posted by: [Ron Brocato, SportsNOLA Prep Writer](#) in [Prep Sports](#) on Oct 10, 2013

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These are the highlights of this classic confrontation and how they were reported:

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The results shocked not only Jesuit, but the Easton faithful, as well. The newly named "Tigers" posted a 9-1-1 record and tied Easton, 0-0, to claim a share of the city prep title. When the two Catholic schools met, Holy Cross was now the bigger in size. Jesuit was outclassed by the imported players, led by back Joe McGlinchey, who scored a record 25 touchdowns. Holy Cross won easily, 45-0.

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HOLY CROSS' GREATEST MARGIN OF VICTORY: In 1948, the Tigers handed Jesuit one of its worst defeats ever when they trounced the Blue Jays at City Park Stadium, 55-0, before a crowd of 6,500.

Led by the great Joe Heap, Holy Cross, scored at will over the hapless Jays, who ended a dismal season with a 1-7-1 record. Heap tallied three times, passed for two and set up still another touchdown. Teammate Hayden Mayeaux scored twice and kicked seven extra points from placement to win scoring honors over Heap with 19 points, Heap having 18. Billy Callery, Clarence Zimmerman and Lloyd Bertrand scored the other Tiger touchdowns on passes from Heap.

THE 1937 NO-COUNT GAME: A new rule caused a great deal of turmoil that year. It stated "Beginning with 1937, there will be no tie games in district games, the score counting first, number of first downs second and number of penetrations third." So when Holy Cross and Jesuit battled to a 6-6 tie, the rule received its first test... and failed it. Each team was credited with five first downs in the game. The penetrations clearly favored Jesuit, 4-1, causing the officials to award Jesuit the victory. At that point, Holy Cross head coach Chuck Jaskewich pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the reporting of first downs. He claimed his team had one more first down than Jesuit. The Tigers took their case to the LHSAA, which ruled that since no official record was available in the matter of first downs, the game was no-contest and stricken from both schools' records. The outcome sent Warren Easton to the state playoffs.

BROTHERS-IN-LAW TITLE GAME: In 1963, the schools were coached by brothers-in law, John Kalbacher of Holy Cross, who was married to Jesuit head coach Ken Tarzetti's sister. There was little brotherly love between the two men and their players on the week of the rivalry. That same season, the LHSAA allowed two schools from the same district to qualify for the playoffs.

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The game, scheduled for Tulane Stadium on a Friday night, was postponed until Tuesday. A daylong deluge soaked the stadium turf and Tulane officials did not want the high school players to chew up the field the night before the Green Wave was scheduled to play.

Despite a weeknight game, some 27,500 spectators were in attendance to watch Kalbacher's Tigers defeat the Jays for a second time, 14-6, to gain the schools' first state title since 1945.

CITY PARK'S GREATEST CROWD: On Nov. 24, 1940, a crowd of 34,345 elbowed their way into City Park Stadium for the classic rivalry. Another 1,000-plus were turned away from the facility whose capacity of 24,500 was enlarged by adding bleachers to the open end of the stadium.

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Holy Cross had hoped to surprise the Blue Jays with a passing attack, but that, too, was overwhelmed by the Blue Jays, who would go on to win all 11 games and the state championship over Lake Charles, 26-6. It would be the first of four state crowns the Jays would win in the 1940s.

THE KATRINA GAME: The hurricane of late August, 2005, devastated the city and the lives of its inhabitants. Jesuit head coach Vic Eumont temporarily relocated to California. Players from both schools were scattered. But Eumont and Holy Cross head coach, Barry Wilson, were teammates on the 1963 Tiger team which defeated Jesuit for the state title and knew the importance of the series. Eumont returned to the area and located enough Jesuit students to field a team. Wilson also pieced together a small squad.

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