

# Classic moments from renowned Jesuit-Holy Cross football rivalry

Posted by: **Ron Brocato, SportsNOLA Prep Writer** in **Prep Sports** on Oct 10, 2013

Tagged in: **prep-sports** , **prep-football** , **jesuitseniorhs** , **holycrosshs**

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The rivalry between the two is a study of New Orleans folklore that dates back 91 years. Jesuit had fielded a football team since before the turn of the century when the school combined high school and college classes and there were no age restrictions. Its main rival was nearby public school Boys High, later to be named Warren Easton.

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Holy Cross signed up for the Class "B" league of small schools and played pretty well against the St. Aloysius Panthers, 13-0. The Micks then faced a team that would become its storied rival. Ten decades later, the series stands 54-37-1 with one no-contest in favor of Jesuit.

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.

**JESUIT'S GREATEST MARGIN OF VICTORY:** The Jays defeated the Tigers, 72-0, in 1927. But that was hardly a shock. Prior to that game, the Blue Jays beat Terrebonne 39-6, then Varnado 65-0; Bay High 60-0; Reserve 18-0; Spring Hill 32-0; then Franklinton 20-0. Sportswriter Gene Thatcher reported, "The Jay backs were almost unstoppable when once out in the open and they nearly always cut through any part of the line to get free of scrimmages as Shorty Gannon chalked up four touchdowns, Tom Daigle two, one each going to Raymond Mock, Mike White, Leonard Mock, Warren Aitkens and Harry White. "To be sure that the Micks weren't even going to seriously threaten their goal, Frank Courreges gave an exhibition in defensive play in backing up the line that was a revelation. He was in every play no matter where it started or ended, and was given great support by Captain "Man" Montagnet, Snee, Ray Mock and a flock of others. Everybody romped in the backfield and there were many as every available player on the bench was used and by Cross as well."

**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.

Holy Cross defeated Jesuit, 7-0, in the schools' regular season matchup and won the Catholic League crown. Jesuit finished second and made it to the post-season with a mediocre 5-4 record. The Tigers defeated Istrouma and LaGrange to earn a berth in the finals since 1949. Jesuit surprised Baton Rouge High and Lafayette to gain a rematch with its archrival.

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.

Jesuit's team was described in later years by head coach Gernon Brown as his greatest. The Blue Jays changed their offensive formation to a single wing to accommodate its new star back, O.J. Key.

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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.

The two saved the rivalry by playing a game on a Saturday afternoon in late October at Yenni Stadium. These elevens were both patched together at the last minute. There were many young players shuttling in and out of the lineups. Holy Cross won the game, 20-10. Wilson and Eumont embraced at midfield following the game to the applause of about 3,000 Blue Jay and Tiger fans appreciative of the coaches' efforts to return the city to some degree of normalcy.

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