

the history of the
BIG GAME
by Pablo Arvizu



46 wins 11 ties 59 wins

The **Big Game**, is a college football rivalry game played by the California Golden Bears of the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford Cardinal of Stanford University.

In 1910, during the Big Game, students from California performed the first ever Card Stunt. It was a Big blue "C".



The 1920s saw the first golden age of California football, as the Golden Bears went 50 straight games without a defeat from 1920 to 1925. The 1920-1924 squads were so dominant that they were nicknamed "The Wonder Teams," and were coached by **Andy Smith** (picture).

California won 4 National Championships in this period.



In 1947 **Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf** became the Head Coach. Known as **Pappy's Boys**, Cal teams of 47 to 50 won 33 consecutive regular season games earning 3 Rose Bowl berths. Cal lost all three Rose Bowls.

Pappy left in 1956 with a record of 67-32-4, and won all but one Big Games in that time.



The Play

On Nov. 20th, 1982, After Stanford had taken the lead on a field goal with four seconds left, the **Golden Bears used five lateral passes on the ensuing kickoff** return to score the winning touchdown and turn defeat into a 25-20 victory. The victory denied Stanford a Bowl invitation on John Elway's last game of his college career.

The Play has been named by numerous media organizations as one of the best football and sports moments.



In 2003 and 2004, **Aaron Rodgers** was the Quarterback of California. In his last season he led the team to a #4 ranking. After a controversial poll, Texas was selected over California for the Rose Bowl.

Rodgers went on to become **NFL MVP and Super Bowl Champion** with the Green Bay Packers.



The first game between California and Stanford was played on March 19th, 1892. **Stanford won 14 - 10**. Future U.S. President **Herbert Hoover** was Stanford Team Manager for the game.



There were no Big Games from 1915 to 1918 because Stanford had not resumed its Football Program.

In 1924 Stanford hired former Cornell and Pittsburgh Head Coach, **Glenn Scobey "Pop" Warner**. Two years after being hired, Pop Warner, led Stanford to their only **National Championship in 1926**. He stayed at Stanford for 9 years, playing in 3 Rose Bowls during that period. The popular and national youth football program Pop Warner Little Scholars is named after him.



The **Stanford Axe** made its first appearance in 1933. It is awarded to the team that wins the Big Game every year.



In his four seasons (1979-1982) at Stanford, **John Elway** completed 774 passes for 9,349 yards and 77 touchdowns. He graduated with nearly every Stanford and Pacific-10 career record for passing and total offense. Elway went on to win 2 Super Bowls with the Denver Broncos and an NFL MVP (1987).

He was inducted to the **College and Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2007 and 2004 respectively**.



Andrew Luck was the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy twice, in 2010 and 2011. Luck set a new Stanford record for career touchdown passes with 82, breaking John Elway's record of 77.

He was selected 1st overall in the **2012 NFL Draft**.



In 2013, **Stanford won 63 - 13**, setting the record for most points scored in a Big Game. The 50-point victory margin also set a **Big Game record**, breaking the previous record that had stood for 83 years.