

# From Ivy League to Dixie Tradition: The Unlikely Rivalry of Ivy League vs Southern University

College football in the United States has always been known for its rich history and intense rivalries. Among these epic battles between universities, one particular matchup stands out as a fascinating tale of tradition and unexpected connections. In this article, we explore the intriguing story of how an Ivy League game evolved into a beloved Dixie tradition, culminating in the fierce rivalry between Ivy League and Southern University.

## The Birth of the Ivy League

Before we dive into the South's involvement, it is essential to understand the origins of the Ivy League. The Ivy League is a prestigious athletic conference that consists of eight private universities located in the northeastern United States. Founded in 1954, the Ivy League was initially established as an association for intercollegiate sports competition.

Renowned for their academic prowess, the Ivy League schools have always placed a strong emphasis on education. However, their long-standing football programs have also become integral to their traditions. Ivy League football has a storied history, dating back to the late 19th century.

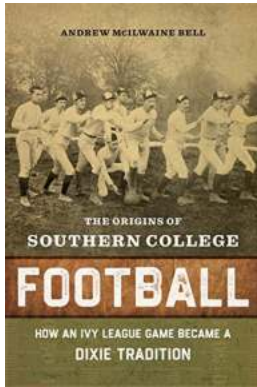
## The Origins of Southern College Football: How an Ivy League Game Became a Dixie Tradition

by Andrew McIlwaine Bell (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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File size : 1836 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 303 pages  
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## The Unexpected Encounter

In 1970, the world of college football witnessed an unexpected crossover when the Ivy League's Brown University played an exhibition game against Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Brown University, located in Providence, Rhode Island, had little connection to the South and its football culture at the time.

The exhibition game was initially intended as a friendly matchup to promote cultural diversity and solidarity among universities. However, it sparked something unforeseen – the appeal of a union between Ivy League sophistication and Southern hospitality. The game turned into an exhilarating spectacle that captivated the audience, leaving a lasting impact on the players and attendees alike.

## The Birth of a Rivalry

Following the success of the exhibition game, the Ivy League and Southern University decided to turn this unique event into an annual tradition. From that point onwards, a fierce rivalry was born, blending the intellectual prowess of the Ivy League schools with the passionate football fervor of Southern University.

The annual game became a melting pot of cultures, attracting fans from all corners of the country. Old southern traditions intertwined with the Ivy League's prestigious heritage, resulting in a one-of-a-kind experience for everyone involved. The game became more than just a football matchup; it became a celebration of diversity, camaraderie, and the unifying power of sports.

## **The Cultural Exchange**

As the rivalry grew stronger, both universities embraced the opportunity for cultural exchange. The Ivy League schools, renowned for their academic achievements, began to learn and appreciate the rich traditions of the South. Likewise, Southern University delved into the intellectual atmosphere of the Ivy League, cherishing the chance to showcase their unique perspectives and contributions.

Beyond football, the annual game became a platform for showcasing art, music, cuisine, and various cultural exhibitions that celebrated the diversity of both regions. The cities hosting the game became vibrant melting pots, with fans and locals alike immersing themselves in the unique fusion of southern charm and intellectual vigor.

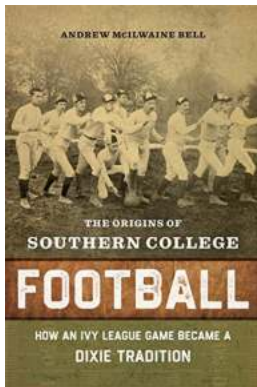
## **Legacy and Modern-Day Rivalry**

Decades have passed since that initial exhibition game, but the Ivy League vs Southern University rivalry has stood the test of time. Today, the matchup continues to be a highly anticipated event, drawing crowds of passionate fans from across the nation.

While the Ivy League and Southern University have undoubtedly evolved and expanded their football programs, the spirit of tradition still remains intact. The

games are not only fierce athletic battles but also a testament to the lasting bonds forged through this unlikely yet captivating rivalry.

What began as a mere exhibition game between universities with seemingly little connection transformed into a cherished Dixie tradition. The Ivy League vs Southern University rivalry has endured through the years, captivating fans with its unique blend of intellectualism and southern flair. This extraordinary connection between two regions is a testament to the unifying power of sports, showing that unlikely alliances often lead to the most remarkable journeys.



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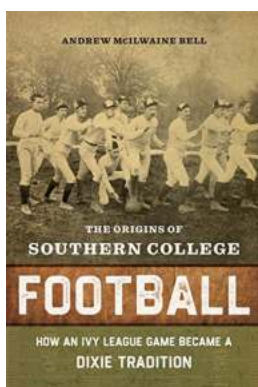


College football is a massive enterprise in the United States, and southern teams dominate poll rankings and sports headlines while generating billions in revenue for public schools and private companies. Southern football fans worship their teams, often rearranging their personal lives in order to accommodate season schedules. The Origins of Southern College Football sheds new light on the

South's obsession with football and explores the sport's beginnings below the Mason-Dixon Line in the decades after the Civil War.

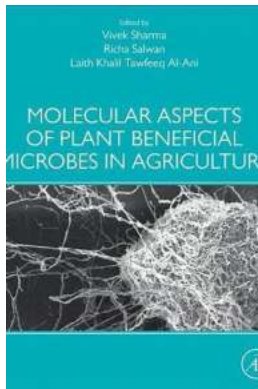
Military defeat followed by a long period of cultural unrest compelled many southerners to look to northern ideas and customs for guidance in rebuilding their beleaguered society. Ivy League universities, considered bastions of enlightenment and symbols of the modernizing spirit of the age, provided a particular source of inspiration for southerners in the form of organized or "scientific" football that featured standardized rules and scoring. Transported to the South by men educated at northern universities, scientific football reinforced cultural values that had existed in the region for centuries, among them a tolerance for violence, respect for martial displays, and support for traditional gender roles. The game also held the promise of a "New South" that its supporters hoped would transform the region into an industrial powerhouse. Students and townspeople alike embraced the new sport, which served as a source of pride for a region that lagged woefully behind its northern counterpart in terms of social equity and economic prowess.

The Origins of Southern College Football is an entertaining history of the South's most popular sport cast against a broader narrative of the United States during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, two momentous periods of change that gave rise to the game we recognize today.



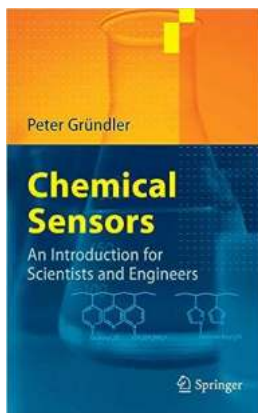
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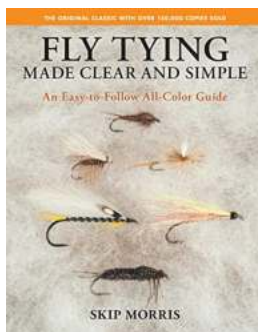
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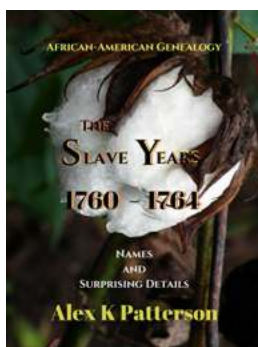
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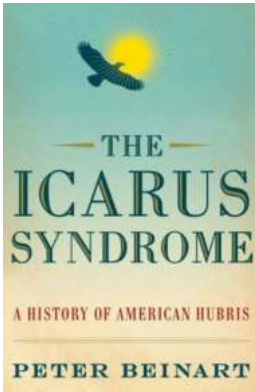
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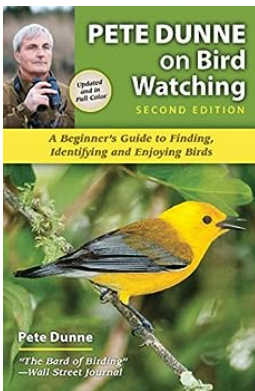
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