

# 30 Years Ago This Season

## Colgate Football's First 10-Win Season

**1977**
**(10-1)**
**Coach:** Frederick H. Dunlap

**Captains:** Gary Hartwig, Mike Foley

23	Rutgers	0
38	Lafayette	12
28	at Cornell	22
38	at Harvard	21
31	at Holy Cross	14
31	at Princeton	13
48	at Columbia	36
43	at Boston Univ.	22
49	Bucknell	17
48	Northeastern	39
3	at Delaware	21

**Andy Kerr Trophy, Offensive MVP**

Bob Relph, Henry White

**Hal W. Lahar Trophy, Defensive MVP**

Gary Hartwig

**by Jim Leach**

2007 marks the 30th anniversary of Colgate's first 10-win football season. Under second-year head coach Fred Dunlap '50, the 1977 team earned national attention, cracking the Associated Press Top 20 in Division I. At the time, the winning streak was the longest in the nation in Division I (in the days before the College Football Association forced the NCAA to relegate Colgate and other smaller D-I teams to Division I-AA).

The 1977 season opener against Rutgers was one of the most anticipated contests in years. An acknowledged officiating error figured large in a heart-breaking loss to undefeated Rutgers in a regionally televised game at the Meadowlands on Thanksgiving to end the '76 campaign. But Dunlap and the team turned that bitter disappointment into their cause, and preparation for Rutgers on September 10, 1977, began before the team ever left New Jersey that Thanksgiving evening.

"Down to a man, it made a huge difference in our off-season," said the quarterback of the '76 and '77 teams, Bob Relph '78. "Going into that game, there was one season, and it was taking out Rutgers. When we made mistakes our will to win had developed to such a strong point that I don't think we could have lost." The defense held Rut-

gers to 52 yards and the offense tallied 23 points to hand the Scarlet Knights their first shutout in 35 starts. Typifying the Raider effort, at the beginning of the third quarter, punter Jerry Andrewlavage set the Colgate record, unloading an 83-yard punt to nullify one of Rutgers' few offensive threats.

Fears that a single-minded focus on Rutgers might rob the team's enthusiasm for the rest of the campaign proved unfounded as they rolled up nine more victories:

Relph had 236 yards passing, mostly to Casper Wells and Dick Slenker, to dominate Lafayette 38-12 on Homecoming.

Coming from behind in the rain at Schoellkopf Stadium on a day when Pat Healy rushed for 146 yards and the defense (led by Doug Curtis, Ken Ebeling, John Quinn, and Robert Crowley) stopped two late Cornell drives, Colgate won 28-22.

At Harvard, Andrewlavage threw for a first down from punt formation and kicked three field goals in a 38-21 win. Dunlap praised the offensive line. Ebeling intercepted twice, and Relph hit Bruce Malverty for a 51-yard TD.

Henry White ran for 140 yards and caught for another 104 in a 31-14 win over former coach Neil Wheelwright's Holy Cross Crusaders in a game at Fitton Field. Ebeling and Paul Lawlor each intercepted twice.

At Princeton, White returned the opening kickoff 98 yards for the first of 28 unanswered first-half points. Tom McGarrity intercepted to set up Colgate's second touchdown. The offensive line led by Rick Doell, Gavin Kerr and John Gibney were solid up front. Curtis had 10 solo tackles in the 31-13 win.

White's 204 yards rushing against Columbia got him into UPI's National Backfield of the Week. The Raiders gained a record 667 yards in the 48-36 win.

Relph recalls being injured against a touted Boston University defense. "Knowing that I was questionable, the offensive line was just incredible. I never took one hit." He completed a single-game record 16 of 29 for 293 yards, Healy ran for

94, and Colgate prevailed 43-22.

In a week when Sports Illustrated offered Colgate for bowl consideration, blocking back Dave DeTone rushed for a career-high 89 yards on three carries, including a 66-yard TD, in a 49-19 romp over Bucknell.

Healy rushed for 131 and Lawler intercepted twice in a 48-39 victory over Northeastern, the team's 10th win, surpassing the previous record of nine set by Andy Kerr's 1932 "un" team.

Of the team's disappointing, season-ending, 21-3 loss at the hands of the Delaware Blue Hens (when would we hear that name again?), the Philadelphia Inquirer's Frank Dolson wrote: "They were able to handle their first defeat almost as well as they handled their first 10 opponents. That, under the circumstances, may have been their greatest achievement of all."

The Eastern College Athletic Conference named Colgate its Division I Team of the Year in the East. White and center Mike Foley were selected ECAC All-Stars. The American Football Coaches Association named Dunlap District Coach of the Year, and he was the Walter Camp Football Foundation's choice for 1977 Man of the Year.

It would be 22 years before another Colgate team recorded 10 wins.

*(Special thanks to Brad Pearson and his history of the first century of Colgate football: A Roar from the Valley.)*



**Henry White rushed for 1,032 yards in 1977, averaging 7.8 yards per carry.**