

History of Jesus in Football

The College of Nazareth football player tight end dashed into the end zone and caught the pigskin spiraling toward him. After completing the game-winning play, the player, #3, approached the press and said, "I really want to thank my Dad for being here for me." All the other team members thanked that player's Dad for being there for them, too. The player, Jesus Christ, was executed two years later for heresy, but in his memory, football players have kept up the tradition of thanking his dad, and even sometimes the legendary football player himself. On the morning of this most important day in football, *The Record* Sports Desk brings you a look back at some of the most notable moments of Christ's football career:

The First Game

Jesus was not that popular in his own day. No coach would waste one of his spots on a player who was just as likely to try to convert all of his fellow students as he was to complete a pass, so Jesus found it difficult to get a spot on any college football team. Eventually he decided to attend The College of Nazareth, which didn't have a football team at all. So Jesus applied for a Sudleronium Fund and started his own football team, along with ten other players and two alternates. The team got off to a rocky start in the preseason, and many of the players began to blame their captain, Christ, and his frequent month-long fasts. That attitude changed, however, after Jesus led his teammates on a weekend fly-fishing retreat. Two of the players, John and Judas fell into the rapids, and Jesus fished them out. He would later regret saving the life of the latter man. Then, in a show of machismo, Jesus cooked dinner and served it saying, "Eat this. It is human flesh. My flesh. The team members returned to school, opened the season at home and finished with an 11-4 record.

Notre Dame, 1970

1970 was a pretty good year for Notre Dame, and the Fighting Irish, ranked second in the Associated Press poll, looked to be a formidable bowl opponent. But the team lost to FSU in a down-to-the-wire heart-breaker in the Cotton Bowl. After the game, the linebacker who fumbled the pass that would have won the game told the press, "I've really been for-

saken by Jesus. I mean, come on, man!"

Turns out he was right. Jesus actually did forsake him. His Dad had given him a stern talking-to about using his omnipotence to affect the outcome of football games instead of addressing world problems and preparing for his return to Earth. So back in 1968, to placate his Dad, Jesus established a policy that he would only accept requests for intervention in matters of football from Saint Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes. It turns out that before the game, the Notre Dame players had prayed to, well, leur dame. And while she is the Holy Mother of God, a policy is a policy. It also came to light that Saint "Like a Bowl of Sugar There Is No Equal" Sebastian is a huge FSU fan. Jesus reportedly felt guilty, but said, "People don't understand that I can't just go around disobeying my Dad like that. Most people can do whatever they want no matter what their dads tell them, but my Dad's got lightning and stuff at his disposal. You just don't want to make The Guy mad."

The Yale-Harvard Game, 1998

Yale won for the first time since 1994, and many Elis (the ones who weren't Jewish, anyway) thanked Jesus for the 9-7 win over the Cantabs.

They reveled in delight at the notion that Christ would have forsaken the holy Puritans for a bunch of lowly (in terms of the actual evolutionary scale and nothing else, that is) bulldogs. When reached for comment, Christ explained that this was not really the case. "I actually did want Harvard to win," He said. "But my dad is a Yale man, and He gets the final word on stuff, and intervened on behalf of the Bulldogs. I really wish they would stop thanking me. It's making it tough for me to stay friends with the few Harvard grads who managed to make their way up here. At first they believed me when I told them that I wanted their team to prevail, but with all this Yalies-thanking-Jesus nonsense, they're starting to get skeptical. And it really makes me

mad, because my Dad isn't as big of a football fan as I am, but he still feels like he has the right to tune in once a year for the Yale-Harvard game and intervene!

The San Francisco Bay Area, 2001

Jerry Rice left the San Francisco 49ers at the end of last season because the team management decided that it needed more space under the salary cap. "Look, Jerry is a great player," owner Denise DeBartolo York said. "And I may be just a girl, but I just don't think that we can have a football team with only one player. All those other teams have a lot of guys, and Jerry is great, but I think like ten of them could probably take him."

So Rice was released and quickly snatched up by the Oakland Raiders, just across the San Francisco Bay. Rice is glad that in spite of his high price tag some team was willing to take him: "I'd just like to thank Jesus for allowing me to walk out of Candlestick Park and right across the water to keep playing football." Jesus pointed out that Rice didn't actually walk across the water; he drove across the San Francisco Bay Bridge in his Bentley. Rice said it's just a technicality, and he could have if he wanted to.

Predictions

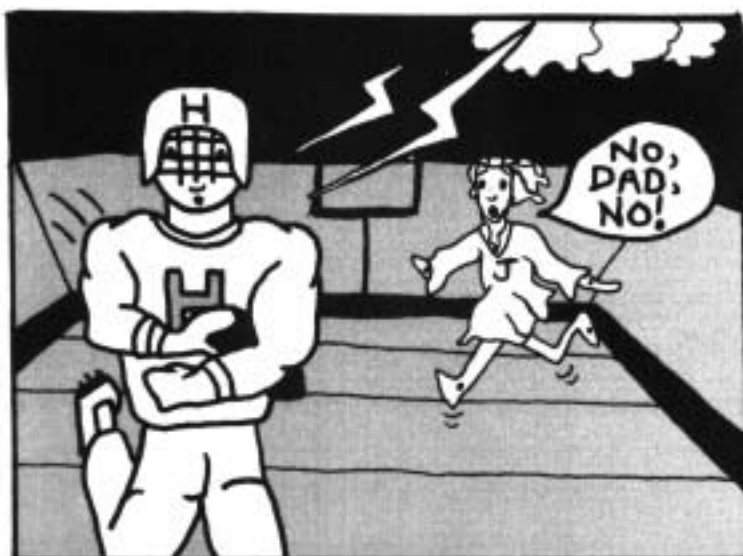
During the next season, Jesus-watchers will want to consider the following questions:

- ◆Will He stick to that Sebastian-only intervention policy?
- ◆What is He going to do about that Vikings-Ravens game?
- ◆Will He, as rumored, make a comeback?

Should be an interesting season Jesus-wise. Stay tuned to *The Record*

Sports Desk for miracles, apparitions and other happenings as they transpire. And our readers can expect to be the first to know when the pending Last Game, which promises an exciting neoclassical halftime show featuring chariot races by four flaming horsemen as well as one-way-only tickets for half price and a really loud public address system. Jesus is planning to attend that one personally, and it will reportedly take place in a stadium near Jerusalem, in a rare overseas appearance by two as-yet-unnamed pro teams.

-- S.J. Pearce '05,
art by David
Fabricant '04



The T-Shirt Game

If *The Yale Record* had made a Yale-Harvard game t-shirt, this is what it might have been like:

1. My hatred for Harvard outweighs my apathy for football.
2. Harvard Fuck- The Yale Society of Dyslexics
3. A picture of a Cantab spooning a goat in his bed. "Cantabs don't roll over when they're done; they cuddle."
4. Yale beats Harvard in football, Harvard beats Yale in male cheerleading.
5. A picture of Harvard student Dan Zarchan. "Dan Zarchan sucks."
6. Coed Naked Harvard Football. "Oh god... OH GOD! No, I didn't need to see that. Shoot me now."
7. The Harvard Coin Collecting Club Sucks!- The Yale Coin Collecting Club
8. I went to Harvard and all I got was this lousy t-shirt...and gonorrhea. I got that too.
9. "What if we made this t-shirt that said 'Fuck Harvard' and then when you folded it together it said 'Fuck Harvard.'" Again. And if you folded it up again, it said "Fuck Harvard" again and so on?
10. My AP Physics lab partner went to Harvard. He's a terrible person.

-Tyler '03 and staff