

Commerce Records

Early Years ***

SOURCE of all games listed---GHSFHA or
 GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
 HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION www.ghsfha.org

--Commerce also had a football team as early as 1909.

We have team pictures from 1909 and 1916. However, we do not know the record of the 1909 team, although we do have complete records from the 1914, 1915, 1916, 1923 and 1924 seasons as well as some partial records of teams from the years: 1910, 1911, 1912, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1925.

We also know that Commerce played football through the 1928 season, because of an article in *The Commerce News* from 9/5/40. Commerce, we know from 1909-1925, usually only played four or five games per season in the early years of their football history. There is no information in *The Jackson Herald*, (1909-1928).

--- Jeff Prickett, 1/7/07

1915 (4-0-0)

H(2-0-0), A(2-0-0) **--Coach E.J. Hardin, --r o d

			We	They		
O9Sat,	Monroe A&M	*	32	7	,ira	7/1/05
O29Fri,	Athens High	^^,*	31	3	& ,ira	“ ,rod 2/15/08
N5Fri,	Madison High		15	13	# ,ira	“
N25Thu,	Warrenton High		<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	^ ,bhodges	2/8/06
			92	30	,btaylor	

*----- Home games

**----- Coach Hardin was a recent graduate of UGA in 1915.

&----- Lamar Cooper had a 90-yard punt return for a touchdown.

#----- Commerce scored a TD in the last 30 seconds to win.

^----- Verne Davis scored both TD's for Commerce; source---
 bhodges through the GHSFHA by way of an article
 from *The Augusta Chronicle* on Nov. 26, 1915.

^^----- The starting lineup for Commerce in the Athens game was:
 Center—Frank Little, LG—Marshall Pierce,
 RG—J. B. Carson, LT—John Barnett, RT—Colquitt Sims,
 LE—Buck Smith, RE—W. (Willis) Harden,
 QB—Lawrence Hardman, LH—Lamar Cooper,
 RH—Verne Davis, Fullback—T. (Tot) Harden

---Sources----- r od- *Athens Daily Herald*, --email__2/15/08 ----- ^^

www.ghsfha.org-- bhodges, btaylor & ira—*Atlanta Journal Constitution*

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1916 (2-3-0) **, #

H(1-2-0), A(0-1-0) Coach E.J. Hardin, --btaylor

		We	They		,ira	7/1/05
????,	Gibson-Mercer	?	59	0	# ,btaylor	3/29/08
O13Fri,	Monroe A&M	*	44	0	## ,ira	7/1/05
????,	Piedmont College	*	0	6	^ ,btaylor	3/29/08
O21Sat,	Tech High, Atlanta		7	44	& ,ira	"
N17Fri,	Boys High, Atlanta	*	0	21	,ira	7/1/05
			110	71		

*----- Home games

#----- This opponent was located in Bowman, Ga.

?----- It is not known if this game was played at home or away.

##----- Commerce did not allow a first down or a single point in their two shutout games while scoring 103 points themselves.

^----- First Tiger home loss in two years

&----- This game was played at Grant Field (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta.

**-----Fulton McConnell played on this Commerce team and later had a brother named Frank who played for the Tigers-(1918) as well as in college for Virginia, G-(1920), Ga. Tech, G-(1922-23). Frank, sometimes known as Felton McConnell, also played guard at the professional level for the Buffalo Bisons of the NFL in 1927.

Other members of the 1916 team were: Tot Harden, Frank Little, Marshall Pierce, J. B. Carson, John Barnett, Colquitt Sims, Buck Smith, Lawrence Hardman, Lamar Cooper, Verne Davis, Harry Dale and Wink Dowdy.

We have a team picture of this 1916 team.

---2/15/08__Jeff Prickett

N3Fri, Gibson-Mercer 2 0 ## ,bt, rod 2/7/06 -- ???

--Sources-----www.ghsfha.org-- btaylor & ira- *The Atlanta Constitution*
rod,- *Athens Daily Herald*
Ga. Tech and Virginia Media Guides

1917 (0-0-0)

H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0) Coach - Unknown

We They

No opponents or scores
are known at this time.

1918 (0-0-0)

H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0)

We They

No opponents or scores
are known at this time.

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Commerce Records

Early Years

1919 (1-1-0) #

H(1-0-0), A(0-1-0) Coach – Unknown

		We	They		
O18Sat, Madison	*	7	6	,rod	1/27/08
O25Sat, Gainesville		0	55	,rod	“
		7	61		

#----- An article in the Commerce High School newspaper called *The Yellow and Black* from Sept. 27, 1920 noted that Commerce High School had a good season in 1919 and that most of the veteran players had graduated.

---12/25/07___Jeff Prickett

--Source-----www.ghsfha.org-- rod- *Athens Daily Herald*

1920 (0-1-0)

H(0-0-0), A(0-1-0) Coach Bray

		We	They		
S24Fri, Toccoa	*				#
O22Fri, Gainesville		0	55	,rod	1/27/08
		0	55		

#----- The September 27, 1920 edition of the Commerce High School newspaper known as *The Yellow and Black* noted that Mr. Bray, the coach of the Commerce Tigers, was looking forward to a good season.

It was also noted in the school article that the assistant coaches were “Fish” Davis, “Stump” Carson and “Pug” Mize. They possibly were recent graduates of CHS or maybe community volunteers. Most probably, they were not paid coaches.

Note that the colors for the Commerce team in 1920 were yellow and black. However, in 1940 when Commerce resumed football following the tough times of The Great Depression, the Commerce colors were gold and black.

It is not known exactly when the change from yellow to gold took place in the Commerce color scheme.

The article also stated that this was Toccoa’s first year of playing football.

No other opponents or scores from this season were listed in the article. The Gainesville score is the only one known at this time.

--Source-----www.ghsfha.org-- r od- *Athens Daily Herald*

---12/25/07___Jeff Prickett

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Commerce Records Early Years

1921 (0-1-1) **

H(0-1-0), A(0-0-1) Coach – Unknown

		We	They		
O21Fri, Toccoa	*	0	39	,rod	1/27/08
O29Sat, Gainesville “B”		<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	,rod	“
		12	51		

****-----These are the only games we can locate in
the research of the 1921 season.**

--Source-----www.ghsfha.org-- rod- Athens Daily Herald

1922 (0-2-1) **

H(0-1-0), A(0-1-1) Coach -- Unknown

		We	They		
S29Fri, Gainesville		0	24	,rod	1/27/08
O13Fri, Gainesville	*	0	26	,bt	3/5/07
N22Wed, Toccoa		<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	,rod	1/31/08
		6	56		

****-----These are the only games that we can locate in
the research of the 1922 season.**

--Source-----www.ghsfha.org-- btaylor, rod- Athens Daily Herald

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Commerce Records Early Years

1923 (1-4-0) **

H(1-3-0), A(0-1-0) Coach – Unknown

		We	They			
S28Fri, Tech High, Atlanta	*	0	81	#	ira	12/06, ,bt-2/12/06
O5Fri, Winder		0	33		,bt,	2/12/06
O19Fri, Gainesville	*	0	39		,bt	“
O26Fri, Cornelia	*	0	6		,bt	“
N23Fri, Toccoa	*	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>		,rod	1/31/08
		19	159			

*----- Home game

**----- Commerce didn't score any points all season until the final game.

#----- Tech High scored 40 points in the fourth quarter, as the Atlanta team ran up the score;

Commerce then cancelled the game for 1924.

This is the worst known defeat in Tiger football history.

--Sources-----www.ghsfha.org--btaylor- *The Atlanta Journal*,
rod- *Athens Daily Herald*

1924 (1-4-0) **

H((1-1-0), A(0-3-0) Coach – Unknown

		We	They			
O23Thu, Toccoa		0	36		,rod	1/31/08
N7Fri, Madison	*	22	7		,bt	2/1/08
N14Fri, Winder	*	0	27		,bt	9/9/06
N21Fri, Gainesville		0	39		,rod	1/27/08
N28Fri, Lavonia		<u>13</u>	<u>19</u>		,rod	“
		35	121			

*----- Home game

**----- These are the only games that we can locate in the research of the 1924 season.

--Source-----www.ghsfha.org--btaylor- *The Atlanta Journal*
rod- *Athens Daily Herald*

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Commerce Records Early Years

1925 (0-1-0) **

H(0-0-0), A(0-1-0) Coach - Unknown

	We	They			
O9Fri, Athens	0	26	#	,rod	1/6/08, email
	0	26			

****-----** This is the only game that we can locate in the research of the 1925 season.

#----- The game was played at Sanford Field in Athens at UGA. I believe that this stadium was located between Lumpkin Street in Athens and the present Sanford Stadium. Note that UGA's present Sanford Stadium construction was not completed and the first game played there until the 1929 season when Georgia defeated Yale by a 15-0 score.

*****--** We know that Commerce also played football from 1926-28, because of an article in *The Commerce News* from 9/5/40 which stated that the new 1940 Commerce football team would be the first Commerce squad since the last football team which Commerce had fielded back in 1928.

--Source-----www.ghsfha.org, rod- *Athens Daily Herald*, rod- email, 1/6/08

---1/5/08___Jeff Prickett

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Commerce Records Early Years

1926 (0-0-0) Coach - Unknown
 H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0)
 We They
 No opponents or scores
 are known at this time.

1927 (0-0-0) Coach - Unknown
 H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0)
 We They
 No opponents or scores
 are known at this time.

1928 (0-0-0) Coach - Unknown
 H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0)
 We They
 No opponents or scores
 are known at this time.

---We have knowledge that Commerce had a team in 1928 because of an article in *The Commerce News* from 9/5/40 which stated that the 1940 Commerce team would be the first squad that Commerce had fielded since the 1928 team.

---There is no information on the Early Days of Commerce football from 1909-1928 available in *The Jackson Herald* which is the Jefferson, Ga. newspaper.

---2/20/08 ___Jeff Prickett

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*****---All home games from 1909 through 1928 were played at Hardman Field located behind the Old Grammar School which was set next to the First Baptist Church and which is located on South Elm Street. Later, games from (1940-46) were played at Hardman Field as well. This field was only eighty yards in length and PAT's had to be kicked at the east end zone. The reason for this was that behind the west end zone, a street separated some houses from the field which were likely to be hit by the PAT kicks. Now, this area is an old Little League baseball field ---1/12/08___Jeff Prickett**

Commerce stopped playing football following the 1928 season probably because of the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the resulting Great Depression of the 1930's, until Commerce football was resumed once more in 1940. However, we are not completely certain of this assumption as the reason for which Commerce actually stopped play.

No other Early Years results other than (1910, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925) are known at this time. We have some knowledge that Commerce had teams in 1919 and 1920 because of a copy of the Commerce High newspaper in the Commerce Public Library, *The Yellow and Black*, that we have from Sept. 27, 1920 which mentioned the Commerce teams from these two years.

Note that the colors for Commerce in 1920 were yellow and black. However, in 1940 when the Tigers resumed football following the tough times of most of The Great Depression, the Commerce colors were gold and black. It is not known exactly when the change from yellow to gold took place in the Commerce color scheme. ---1/12/08___Jeff Prickett

Commerce probably also had teams in the following in between years: 1913, 1917-18, and 1926-28 However, we have found no records, results or information of any kind at this point in our research concerning these years that would provide proof that presently would in turn substantiate our theory found above.

---1/12/08___Jeff Prickett

The known records of the 1909-12, 1914 Commerce teams are listed on another page on the disc with the same title as is above in this paragraph. ---1/14/08___Jeff Prickett

The earliest known Commerce football team was in 1909. We have a picture of this team. The only other very early pictures that we have are from the 1916 and 1943 teams. ---3/5/07___Jeff Prickett

