

# Syracuse: The Big ORANGE

BY NATHAN LEE ADAMUS

*Syracuse is known more for its basketball teams than its football teams, but the university is home to one of the largest domed stadiums in college football, the Carrier Dome. The school also boasts some big name NFL stars and one Heisman winner whose life was tragically cut short before he ever played a down in the NFL.*

## Syracuse Orange

(Through the 2013 Season)

First Season:	1889
All-Time Record:	705-503-49
National Championships:	One
Conference Titles:	Five
Consensus All-Americans:	12
Bowl Record:	15-9-1
Head Coach:	Scott Shafer
Stadium:	Carrier Dome

## Formation and Early History

The Syracuse football tradition began in late 1889, but didn't achieve much success until the arrival of Hall of Fame inductee Frank "Buck" O'Neill in 1906. O'Neill coached Syracuse intermittently from 1906 to 1919. In 1915, Syracuse solidified a Rose Bowl invite, but the school declined to travel to the West Coast for the game due to distance.

In the 1920s, the school gained more recognition under the leadership

**Before Jim Brown became one of the greatest runners in NFL history, he starred for Syracuse from 1954 to 1956.**

of Vic Hanson, a three-sport athlete who is the only player enshrined in both the Basketball Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

## Title Bound: Jim Brown and Ernie Davis

In 1952, the Orange made their first bowl appearance under Ben Schwartzwalder. His 24-year tenure as head coach put Syracuse on the college football map, as he guided them to seven bowl appearances: 1952 Cotton Bowl, 1957 Cotton Bowl, 1958 Orange Bowl, 1959 Cotton Bowl, 1961 Liberty Bowl, 1964 Sugar Bowl, and the 1966 Gator Bowl.

The 1956 team featured arguably one of the greatest running backs in college



**Jim Brown (left) poses with fellow Syracuse backfield alum Ernie Davis shortly after Davis was traded to the Cleveland Browns in 1962.**

and NFL history, Jim Brown. Although Brown never won the Heisman, he was instrumental in persuading 1959 Heisman Trophy winner Ernie Davis to attend Syracuse. Donning Brown's #44 jersey, the "Elmira Express" carried the Orange to an 11-0 record in 1959, a 1960 Cotton Bowl win and a national title. Davis was also named MVP of the 1960 Cotton Bowl and became the

first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy.

Davis was drafted by the Washington Redskins in 1962 but was traded to the Cleveland Browns, the home of his mentor Jim Brown. The trade set up what could have been one of the deadliest backfield combos in NFL history, but the story would never play out. Davis was diagnosed with leukemia and died in 1963 before ever playing a down in the NFL.

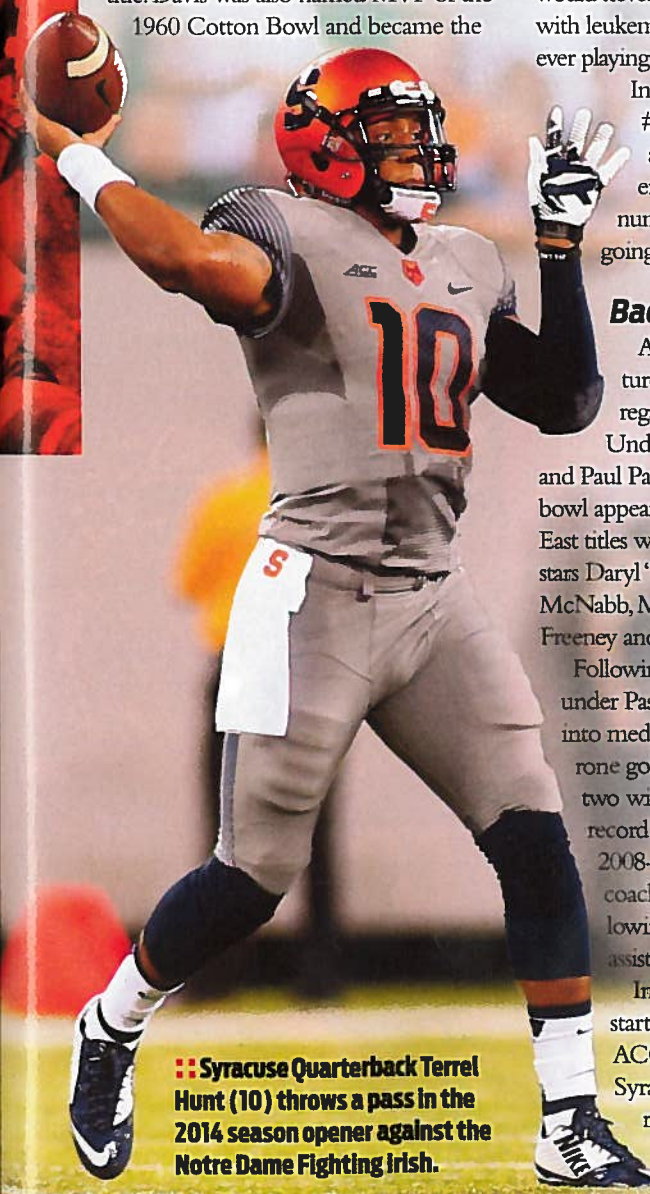
In 2005, Syracuse retired jersey #44 to honor Brown, Davis and Floyd Little, another powerful halfback who wore the number in the mid-1960s before going on to a long NFL career.

## Back in the Spotlight

After Schwartzwalder's departure, the Orange struggled before regaining form in the late 1980s. Under coaches Dick MacPherson and Paul Pasualoni, Syracuse made 11 bowl appearances and captured three Big East titles with the help of future NFL stars Daryl "Moose" Johnson, Donovan McNabb, Marvin Harrison, Dwight Freeney and Qadry Ismail.

Following a 10-1 record in 2001 under Pasualoni, the program fell back into mediocrity, but coach Doug Marrone got things back on track with two winning seasons, an overall 25-25 record and two bowl wins from 2008-2012. When Marrone left to coach the NFL's Buffalo Bills following the 2012 season, his former assistant Scott Shafer took over.

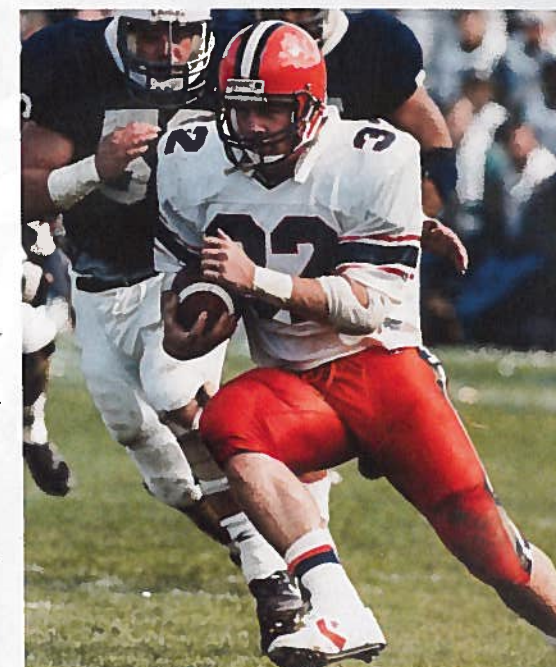
In 2013, the team that helped start the Big East moved to the ACC. In their 125-year history, Syracuse has a postseason bowl record of 15-9-1 and a regular season winning percentage of .580. Syracuse has won



**Syracuse Quarterback Terrel Hunt (10) throws a pass in the 2014 season opener against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.**

## Notable Coaches:

Bobby Winston	(1890)
William Gilbraith	(1891)
Frank "Buck" O'Neill	(1906-07, 1913-15, 1917-19)
Ben Schwartzwalder	(1949-73)
Dick MacPherson	(1981-90)
Paul Pasqualoni	(1991-2004)



**Daryl "Moose" Johnson (32) runs with the ball during a 1986 game against Penn State. Johnson went on to star with the Dallas Cowboys before embarking on a broadcasting career.**

or shared five Big East conference titles and is the home of 14 College Football Hall of Fame inductees.

## Memorable Players

Joe Alexander	(1917-20)
Vic Hanson	(1924-26)
Jim Ringo	(1950-52)
Jim Brown	(1954-56)
Ernie Davis*	(1959-61)
John Mackey	(1960-62)
Jim Nance	(1963-65)
Floyd Little	(1964-66)
Larry Csonka	(1965-67)
Art Monk	(1976-79)
Gary Anderson	(1978-81)
Don McPherson	(1984-87)
Daryl Johnston	(1985-88)
Rob Burnett	(1987-89)
Marvin Harrison	(1992-95)
Donovan McNabb	(1995-98)
Dwight Freeney	(1998-2001)

\*Heisman Trophy Winner