

Lehigh-Lafayette Legacy



Segment One Run Time: 19:51

Overview

While it may lack the prestige of the Harvard-Yale football rivalry, the magnitude of a Lehigh-Lafayette football game can never be doubted. The first game was played on October 25, 1884, with the victory going to the more experienced Lafayette team by the score of 15-0. Over the years, the rivalry has been anything but one sided; as of 2004, Lafayette had won seventy-three times, Lehigh had won sixty-two times, and there had been five ties.



Throughout the years, the annual game has served as a welcome distraction from the unhappy events surrounding the Valley and the world. During the 1930s, as people across America were suffering through the Great Depression, the rivalry helped people forget the hard times they were forced to endure.

Discussion/Questions

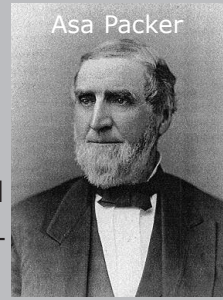
1. When was the first game played between Lehigh University and Lafayette College? Has the date remained the same from one year to the next?
2. What was one of the main reasons why the two teams now only play once a year?

Activities

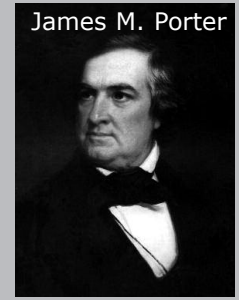
1. Create a timeline of the Lehigh-Lafayette rivalry. Emphasize certain unique games, circumstances, and events that you find interesting.
2. Lehigh University and Lafayette College are similar in some ways and different in others. Do you think it is their similarities or their differences that contribute more to their intense rivalry? Connect this to life in general: when two people clash, do you think it has more to do with their differences or similarities? Debate this as a class.

Spotlight: Founding of Lehigh and Lafayette Universities

Lehigh University and Lafayette College have a rich history when it comes to football. Both schools have great non-football related histories as well. Lehigh University first began as a dream by industrial pioneer Asa Packer, who wanted to increase the number of trained scientists, engineers, and other skilled people in the area so that he would be able to transform the vast natural resources of the country into a strong and independent national economy.



Asa Packer



James M. Porter

He found that he needed people broadly educated in the liberal arts and sciences, people who could combine practical skills with informed judgments and strong moral self-discipline. He kept this in mind when founding and endowing Lehigh University. The site he chose for his university was a railroad junction across the Lehigh River from Bethlehem.

James Madison Porter, who founded Lafayette College, wanted to create a school that paid respect to Marquis de Lafayette, a hero in the Revolutionary War. He wanted to create a college that combined the ideas of practical Military Science with those of Literature and General Science. On March 9, 1826 the governor of Pennsylvania signed the new college's charter.

More information

www.lehigh.edu/library/library.html

www.lehigh.edu/library/collection/specialcoll.html

Academic Standards

The Lehigh-Lafayette Legacy is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.2 Pennsylvania History, as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria:

8.2.12.

A. Evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to Pennsylvania history from 1890 to Present.

