

CONTESTANT ID #: _____

GRADE LEVEL : _____

*Place Contestant ID label here BEFORE
Contest Begins*



Listening Skills

State Contest

Grades 4/5 & 6-8



2023

Grader #1 Score: _____

Grader #2 Score: _____

Grader #3 Score: _____

FINAL SCORE: _____

(Please do not open test until the signal is given to begin.)



Listening Skills Contest STATE – 2023

“How Teddy Roosevelt Saved Football”



1. How many hours of college football can people watch on Saturdays in the fall?
A. 12 B. 14 C. 13 D. 15
2. Which university won the first college football game?
A. Harvard
B. Rutgers
C. College of New Jersey
D. Yale
3. Which university lost the first college football game?
A. Harvard
B. Rutgers
C. College of New Jersey
D. Yale
4. What date was the first college football game?
A. Dec. 16, 1868 C. Oct. 9, 1868
B. Sept. 1, 1869 D. Nov. 6, 1869
5. What was the final score of the first college football game?
A. 6-4 C. 14-7
B. 8-2 D. 9-5
6. A newspaper in what city was mentioned to run a concerning article about the number of deaths and serious injuries in college football in 1904?
A. New York C. Boston
B. Chicago D. Princeton
7. How many deaths were reported by this newspaper article?
A. 11 C. 18
B. 15 D. 24
8. How many serious injuries were reported by this newspaper article?
A. 153 B. 159 C. 163 D. 169
9. Which injuries were mentioned as being the most brutal?
A. knee and leg injuries
B. hand and arm injuries
C. skull and spinal cord injuries
D. waist and hip injuries
10. Other newspaper articles compared football in the early 20th century to what other activity?
A. Sumo wrestling
B. Alpine skiing
C. Roman gladiator contests
D. Boxing
11. What was Roosevelt’s position when he endorsed the Navy’s order mentioned in the audio?
A. Assistant Secretary of the Navy
B. Lt. Colonel in the Rough Riders
C. Vice President
D. President
12. What number was this order in the Navy?
A. Number 6 C. Number 12
B. Number 9 D. Number 20
13. What did this order require?
A. the Army v. Navy game
B. the Navy to start a football team
C. football field installation on carriers
D. physical fitness for naval personnel
14. Where did Theodore Roosevelt lead excursions into tropical areas during the Spanish-American War?
A. Spain C. Cuba
B. Panama D. Florida
15. What was Roosevelt’s son, who was playing football, named?
A. Theodore, Jr. C. Eliot
B. John D. Charles

16. What school did Roosevelt's son play for?
A. Rutgers C. Princeton
B. Yale D. Harvard
17. On what date did Roosevelt convene a summit of powerhouse college officials to discuss the brutality of college football in 1905?
A. November 14 C. November 29
B. October 9 D. October 16
18. How many player deaths were reported in college football in 1905?
A. 11 C. 17
B. 13 D. 19
19. What action did the Univ. of California take after the 1905 season with regards to football?
A. switched to rugby
B. discontinued their football program
C. threatened to discontinue, but did not
D. none of these
20. Which university was not mentioned as having discontinued their football program after the 1905 season?
A. Princeton C. Columbia
B. Duke D. Northwestern
21. What is the current name of the organization that oversees collegiate athletics?
A. NAAC C. NCAA
B. NACA D. NCCA
22. Which rule change was the most profound of those suggested by Roosevelt to be adopted for the 1906 season?
A. allowing kicking on any down
B. legalization of the forward pass
C. changing the scoring system
D. rising the height of the goalposts
23. What area was established after the 1906 rule changes between the offense and defense?
A. the neutral zone C. the passing lane
B. no-man's land D. the tackle box
24. How many yards were needed to gain a first down before the rule changes of 1906?
A. 5 yards C. 15 yards
B. 10 yards D. 20 yards
25. How many deaths were reported in 1906 season?
A. 19 C. 13
B. 17 D. 11
26. Which season saw an increase in the brutality of the game that caused another round of changes to be made?
A. 1909 C. 1912
B. 1908 D. 1911
27. What rule was implemented in 2008 to prohibit players from lowering their helmet to contact the ball carrier?
A. butting C. batting
B. targeting D. spearing
28. The goal of implementing this new rule is to reduce which of the following?
A. amount of time the game takes
B. number of yards the offense gains
C. leg and ankle injuries
D. head injuries and concussions
29. What year was mentioned as to when this rule was revised?
A. 2013 C. 2014
B. 2011 D. 2012
30. What new penalty was imposed for violating this rule?
A. 15-yard penalty
B. automatic first down
C. player is ejected from the game
D. player must sit out a play



Listening Skills

State 2023

Contestant Answer Sheet

GRADERS: Write scores and initial.

Score 1: _____

Score 3: _____

Score 2: _____

FINAL: _____

Contestant ID: _____ Grade Level: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the PRINTED CAPITAL letter of each answer choice (A, B, C, or D) in the blank corresponding to the test item number. SCORING: +5 for each correct answer; -2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction ONLY if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 30. _____ |



Listening Skills State 2023

ANSWER KEY

SCORING: +5 for each correct answer; -2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction **ONLY** if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. B | 16. D |
| 2. B | 17. B |
| 3. C | 18. D |
| 4. D | 19. A |
| 5. A | 20. A |
| 6. B | 21. C |
| 7. C | 22. B |
| 8. B | 23. A |
| 9. C | 24. A |
| 10. C | 25. D |
| 11. D | 26. A |
| 12. A | 27. B |
| 13. D | 28. D |
| 14. C | 29. A |
| 15. A | 30. C |

College football has become an American tradition. Millions of people spend Saturdays in the fall lying on the couch, watching up to 14 hours or attending a tailgate and watching the game in person to root on their local college team. It might surprise you to learn that in the early 20th century, college football was so dangerous that many people were calling for its dissolution.

The first college football game was played between Rutgers University and the College of New Jersey, the institution now known as Princeton University, on November 6, 1869. The game was played in New Brunswick, New Jersey and the final score was 6 to 4, with Rutgers coming out on top. Scoring in the early days of football was different than it is today.

By the turn of the 20th century, the football field had turned into a battlefield, sometimes with deadly results. In 1904, a Chicago newspaper reported 18 deaths and 159 serious injuries. Players wore very little protective equipment, like helmets and pads. Injuries to skulls and spinal cords were among the most brutal. Newspaper editorials called for the termination of football and likened it to Roman gladiator contests. The outrage grew to such levels that one of football's biggest fans, who also happened to be the president of the United States, had to get involved.

Theodore Roosevelt loved the game and believed it provided opportunities for strenuous activity. Roosevelt himself was known for boxing, playing in water sports, and leading excursions into tropical areas as a cavalier in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt overcame ailments that left him weak as a child through exercise and physical activity. As president, Roosevelt endorsed Navy General Order No. 6 which required physical fitness for naval personnel.

By 1905, Roosevelt's son, Theodore Jr., was a freshman on the Harvard team and the president had a special interest in reforming college football. He convened a summit of the powerhouse college football programs of the day—Harvard, Yale, and Princeton—to the White House on October 9, 1905. The brutality of the 1905 season continued, resulting in 19 player deaths and 137 serious injuries. After the season ended, several schools switched to rugby, including Stanford and California. Other schools, including Columbia, Northwestern, and Duke, discontinued their football program altogether. Charles Eliot, the president of Harvard, hinted that the Ivy League school might be the next university to drop football as well.

Roosevelt again summoned the school officials and suggested radical changes to the way football was played at the time. His suggestions were approved by the forerunner of the NCAA, the organization that still today oversees collegiate athletics. The most profound change to the rules was the legalization of the forward pass. That's right. Before 1906, forward passing was not allowed. This opened up the field and prevented mass collisions. Other changes included the establishing of the neutral zone between the offense and defense and increasing the number of yards to gain before awarding a first down from 5 yards to 10 yards.

The result of these changes improved football. The number of fatalities in the 1906 season fell to 11 and the number of serious injuries fell sharply as well. After the particularly brutal 1909 season, more changes were enacted that further increased the safety of the game. The rules of the game have continued to evolve with player safety in mind. The most significant rule change in recent history involves prohibiting a player from lowering his helmet to contact the ball carrier, a penalty called targeting. Targeting was implemented in 2008 to reduce the number of head injuries and concussions. Starting in 2013, players called for targeting were automatically ejected from the game along with the original 15-yard penalty.

America's Saturday pastime thrives today, all thanks to the efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt.