

# The National Association Football League:

## Season 1 Schedules and Standings

Schedules and standings for season one of the National Association Football League were compiled from multiple newspaper sources. Individual newspaper summaries were often incomplete and commonly contained erroneous spellings of player names, etc., but when numerous summaries from different papers were taken as a group, a cohesive summary for the goal scorers list could be constructed. When conflicts arose, the newspaper of the home team or the summary with the most detail was normally taken as the most definitive source.

### Initial Schedule

The initial NAFL schedule was created at the weekly meeting conducted on Tuesday, January 29, 1895. The league officers created an eight-game schedule for each team, with each team playing the other league members both home and away. The imbalance created by a five-team league necessitated that one team be idle each week.<sup>1</sup>

| Date            | Game                                      | Location           |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>March 3</b>  | Scottish-Americans vs. Americus           | Newark, NJ         |
|                 | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Centreville AC     | South Brooklyn, NY |
| <b>March 10</b> | New Rochelle vs. Scottish Americans       | Ground open        |
|                 | Americus vs. Brooklyn Wanderers           | West Hoboken, NJ   |
| <b>March 17</b> | Centreville AC vs. New Rochelle           | Bayonne, NJ        |
|                 | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Scottish Americans | South Brooklyn, NY |
| <b>March 24</b> | Americus vs. Centreville AC               | West Hoboken, NJ   |
|                 | New Rochelle vs. Brooklyn Wanderers       | Ground open        |
| <b>March 31</b> | Scottish-Americans vs. Centreville AC     | Newark, NJ         |
|                 | New Rochelle vs. Americus                 | Ground open        |
| <b>April 7</b>  | Centreville AC vs. Brooklyn Wanderers     | South Brooklyn, NY |
|                 | Americus vs. Scottish Americans           | West Hoboken, NJ   |
| <b>April 14</b> | Scottish-Americans vs. New Rochelle       | Newark, NJ         |
|                 | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Americus           | South Brooklyn, NY |
| <b>April 21</b> | New Rochelle vs. Centreville AC           | Ground open        |
|                 | Scottish-Americans vs. Brooklyn Wanderers | Newark, NJ         |
| <b>April 28</b> | Centreville AC vs. Americus               | Bayonne, NJ        |
|                 | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. New Rochelle       | South Brooklyn, NY |
| <b>May 5</b>    | Centreville AC vs. Scottish Americans     | Bayonne, NJ        |
|                 | Americus vs. New Rochelle                 | West Hoboken, NJ   |

## Revised Schedule

Due to the dismissal of the New Rochelle club at the April 13, 1895, weekly meeting, the schedule was rearranged so that each of the remaining clubs would play an additional eight games. An extra contest between the Scottish-Americans and Americus AA was added so that each team would finish the season with thirteen games played, five more than called for in the original schedule published on January 29, 1895.<sup>2</sup>

| Date            | Game                                      | Location           |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>April 14</b> | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Americus AA        | South Brooklyn, NY |
|                 | Centreville AC vs. Scottish Americans     | Bayonne, NJ        |
| <b>April 21</b> | Centreville AC vs. Americus AA            | Bayonne, NJ        |
|                 | Scottish-Americans vs. Brooklyn Wanderers | Newark, NJ         |
| <b>April 28</b> | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Centreville AC     | South Brooklyn, NY |
|                 | Scottish-Americans vs. Americus AA        | Newark, NJ         |
| <b>May 5</b>    | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Scottish Americans | South Brooklyn, NY |
|                 | Americus AA vs. Centreville AC            | West Hoboken, NJ   |
| <b>May 12</b>   | Scottish-Americans vs. Centreville AC     | Newark, NJ         |
|                 | Brooklyn Wanderers vs. Americus AA        | South Brooklyn, NY |
| <b>May 19</b>   | Centreville AC vs. Brooklyn Wanderers     | Bayonne, NJ        |
|                 | Scottish-American vs. Americus AA         | Newark, NJ         |
| <b>May 26</b>   | Scottish-Americans vs. Brooklyn Wanderers | Newark, NJ         |
|                 | Centreville AC vs. Americus AA            | Bayonne, NJ        |
| <b>June 2</b>   | Americus AA vs. Brooklyn Wanderers        | West Hoboken, NJ   |
|                 | Centreville AC vs. Scottish Americans     | Bayonne, NJ        |
| <b>June 9</b>   | Americus AA vs. Scottish Americans        | West Hoboken, NJ   |

## Standings as of April 13, 1895

After adopting the new schedule, the *New York World* erroneously declared Bayonne Centreville the league champions. The official standing for the first five weeks, shown below, indicates Centreville and Brooklyn Wanderers each played five games, with the Scots and Americus clubs each playing four games.<sup>3</sup> Forfeits with the New Rochelle club were accounted for.

| National Association Football League Standings (as of 4/13/1895) |     |      |       |        |           |               |
|--|-----|------|-------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| Club   | Won | Lost | Drawn | Points | Goals For | Goals Against |
| <b>Centreville AC</b>  | 4   | 1    | 0     | 8      | 20        | 9             |
| <b>Scottish Americans</b>  | 3   | 0    | 1     | 7      | 8         | 5             |
| <b>Brooklyn Wanderers</b>  | 2   | 2    | 1     | 5      | 13        | 14            |
| <b>Americus AA</b>   | 1   | 3    | 0     | 2      | 3         | 16            |

## Standings as of May 25, 1895

NAFL standings of May 25, 1895, were published in the *Bayonne Times*.<sup>4</sup>

| National Association Football League Standings (as of 5/25/1895) |     |      |       |        |
|--|-----|------|-------|--------|
| Club   | Won | Lost | Drawn | Points |
| Centreville AC   | 9   | 1    | 1     | 19     |
| Scottish Americans   | 5   | 3    | 2     | 12     |
| Brooklyn Wanderers   | 4   | 5    | 2     | 10     |
| Americus AA  | 2   | 7    | 1     | 5      |

## Final Standings

Bayonne Centreville AC were crowned champions of the inaugural NAFL season. The Brooklyn Wanderers and Newark Scottish-Americans each finished with the same number of points, however, the *New York Sun* reported the Scottish-Americans had disbanded, and “as they are indebted to the league, they will be disqualified and the place awarded to the Brooklyn Wanderers.”<sup>5</sup> The Americus AA finished in fourth place, making up ground during the late-season chaos. It is important to note that the standings were not “reset” with the April 13 schedule rearrangement, and the final standings reflect the early season forfeits by the New Rochelle FC. Final standings follow:

| Final National Association Football League Standings |     |      |       |        |            |                |
|--|-----|------|-------|--------|------------|----------------|
| Club   | Won | Lost | Drawn | Points | Goals For* | Goals Against* |
| Centreville AC                                       | 11  | 1    | 1     | 23     | 53 (53)    | 21 (21)        |
| Brooklyn Wanderers                                   | 5   | 6    | 2     | 12     | 39 (42)    | 43 (40)        |
| Scottish Americans                                   | 5   | 6    | 2     | 12     | 29 (32)    | 28 (32)        |
| Americus AA  | 4   | 8    | 1     | 9      | 14 (9)     | 43 (43)        |

\* = Value Reported by New York Sun (Value Obtained from Combined Newspaper Sources)

Won/lost/drawn results obtained from the newspaper clippings referenced in the main essay text match the final results posted by the *Sun*. During a normal season, the combined number of wins and losses usually cancel; however, these results indicate four more wins than losses. This imbalance is the result of early season forfeit victories against New Rochelle remaining in the record for each of the four clubs, but New Rochelle’s dismissal removed them and their four forfeit losses from the standings.

History was not so cooperative with the goals-for/goals-against (GF/GA) numbers. GF/GA numbers obtained from combined newspaper sources total 136 while the reported number from the *Sun* total 135. Team GF/GA numbers exactly match the *Sun* records for Bayonne Centreville, however, records for Americus AA, Brooklyn Wanderers and Newark Scottish-Americans differ from the reported *Sun* values. The uncertainty surrounding the Week 13 fiasco at Wiedenmayer’s Park may contribute somewhat to these differences. It is unknown if that game, or any others, was thrown out by league officials during under-reported league meetings. Hopefully, additional newspaper accounts or formal league records will someday appear to resolve these differences.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Schedule of the National Association Football Club," *The New York Sun*, Wednesday, January 30, 1895, 8

<sup>2</sup> "Centrevilles The Champions," *New York World*, April 14, 1895.

<sup>3</sup> "Centrevilles The Champions."

<sup>4</sup> "National Association League Record," *The Bayonne Times*, May 23, 1895, 2.

<sup>5</sup> "Season of the National Association Football League," *The New York Sun*, June 16, 1895, 20.