

UNDEFEATED, UNTIED, AND UNINVITED: A Documentary of the 1951 University of San Francisco Dons Football Team by Kristine Setting Clark (Griffin Publishing Group) Cloth, ISBN: 1-58000-107-6

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“If we had an expansion franchise, I would start it with just that team. They were so great!”

--Pete Rozelle, former NFL commissioner

We need heroes. And out of honor and respect to those bold individuals their stories should and must be told. Kudos to Dr. Kristine Setting Clark for telling the story of one of the greatest college football teams to grace the gridiron. The 1951 University of San Francisco Dons enjoyed a perfect season. The squad had ten future NFL players, five future NFL Pro-Bowlers, and three future NFL Hall of Famers—a record for a single college team.

'51 Dons labeled by SI's Ron Fimrite, as “The best team you never heard of,” experienced one of the utmost snubs in college football history. Due to the team having two African-American star players in **Ollie Matson** and **Burt Toler** USF received no bowl game invitations. Oh yes, the Orange Bowl called but demanded the crew play sans Matson and Toler. As Dons DT, **Gino Marchetti** said, “We would have told them to go to hell, first. That's exactly how I feel.”

In the wake of 9/11, our nation needs lessons and examples of human integrity, determination, and commitment trumping negativity and darkness **UNDEFEATED, UNTIED, AND UNINVITED** clearly provides such a courageous record.

United We Stand was more than a mere slogan for these “Magnificent 11”. But, how would USF match-up against Bobby Bowden's Seminoles or Chris Simms & the Longhorns? **Bob St. Clair** replied, “I get questions all the time from people wondering how we would have fared in today's era. I like to turn that question around. I wonder if these ‘candy asses’ today with their fancy equipment, specialization, etc.—could play in our era.”

UNDEFEATED, UNTIED, AND UNINVITED is an unparalleled chronicle of top-notch college football play and fascinating human events.

Review by John Vorperian. He and his wife, Suzanne reside in White Plains, NY, with America's craziest felines Tiggie and Daisy. A starting outfielder for the New Rochelle Bar Association Softball Team, Vorperian is an active member of Professional Football Researchers Association, Society for American Baseball Research, & coordinator for the Westchester (NY) Baseball Group. For more of his reviews see: www.johnnyvsports.fws1.com
