

Western Mass Thanksgiving Day High School Football History

A chronological list of the teams / schools that have played on the Nov. holiday. Some contests have lasted years between next door rivals, others for short series that have come and gone over the years. Several schools have entered into T - Day clashes only to drop them and resurrect them at a later time. Many played on Armistice Day - Veterans Day and then switched to the Turkey Day event. A few now play on Wed. eve the day before.

Originally the game on T Day was not played on that day but now there are @ 14 games between 28 teams. Berkshire County schools have played on that day, on and off in the past, but usually not. Ironically Pittsfield and St. Joe / Pittsfield had got together in 1920, then, 1925-1938 before moving the match to Armistice Day - Veterans Day until 1980 when Taconic took St. Joe's place. Oddly this rivalry lasted to 2013 when St. Joe dropped football. It was the longest consecutive series in WMass (93 years) at that time.

The first T - Day game was between Orange (Mahar) vs. Athol was in 1924 - 27 series. Athol then switched to playing Gardner as Orange dropped the sport until 1943. Orange and Athol go back to 1894 with gaps between 1905 - 1923 and 1928 - 1943. It stands as the oldest rivalry on the grid in WMass football history. The two schools who have played the most games over the years are Chicopee and Holyoke (103) times since 1908. They did not meet play on T - Day until 1948. The longest consecutive holiday series is Greenfield and Turners Falls (1927) with no breaks. Agawam and W. Side started in 1924 but in 1971 were snowed out breaking the string.

The "old" traditional matches for years were TF / GHS, Holyoke / Chicopee, Orange Mahar / Athol, Palmer / Ludlow and Cathedral / Westfield. These games could draw 3,000 - 5'000 fans or occasionally 5'000 - 10'000+, especially TF - GHS and Holyoke - Chicopee whose games in 1968 - 1970 drew 12 - 15,000 to Szot Park and MacKenzie Stadium. In the 1930's only TF-GHS and Pittsfield- St.Joe entertained each other on that November day, with Athol - Gardner as another match. Over the years the Armistice - Veterans Day clashes moved to the last Saturday before T - Day and then Thanksgiving Day itself. Odd series over the years from 1947 - 1951 usually were short and went their way, such as: 1944 Holyoke - Northampton, 1947, Holyoke - Tech, Chicopee - Holyoke Catholic, 1948- 1950 Northampton - Holyoke Catholic, 1951 South Hadley - Holyoke Catholic. In 1966, South Hadley - Holyoke Catholic (1966 - 1980), H.C. dropped football and 1967 Agawam - Chicopee Comp played a two year series. In 1976 Agawam - W. Side moved their Vet's Day game to T - Day while Longmeadow - East Longmeadow did in 1981.

South Hadley played Chicopee Comp from 1983-85, then Northampton in 1986 - 1999. They then switched back to Chicopee Comp while Northampton played Wahconah to 2003.

The late 1990's to early / mid 2000's saw an "explosion" of new rivalries and series based on new schools playing football or initiating new T -Day matches of convenience. The number of games on Thanksgiving now was up from the old 4-5 to a dozen +. Some, again are based on geography and an urge to play a game on a special day. Again: Berkshire schools and Springfield schools usually do not play on T - Day and have no long-time T-Day rivals.

- 1920 St. Joseph - Pittsfield (1921, 1925 - 1938)
- 1924 Orange - Athol (Sat.11/29) snow on T-Day, Pittsfield - Dalton
- 1925 - 1927 Orange – Athol, restarted T-Day series in 1953
- 1927 Turners Falls - Greenfield (1927 – 2018) , 92 years, TF no team 2019
- 1929 Athol – Gardner (1929 – 1936)
- 1944 Westfield - Cathedral (1944 - 2015) 72 years, Cathedral closed 2016
- 1946 Holyoke – Tech (1946 – 1947)
- 1947 Chicopee -Holyoke Catholic (one year)
- 1948 Holyoke - Chicopee (1948 - 2016), N.Hamp.- Holy.Cath. (1948-1950)
- 1951 South Hadley - Holyoke Catholic (one year)
- 1953 Orange - Athol (1953 - 1956), Mahar - Athol (1957 - 20xx)
- 1954 Palmer - Ludlow (1954 - 20xx)
- 1957 Agawam - Holyoke Catholic (1957 - 1959)
- 1960 W. Side - Tech (1960 - 1970)
- 1966 South Hadley - Holyoke Catholic (1966 - 1980), H.C. dropped football
- 1967 Agawam - Chicopee Comp (1967 - 1968)
- 1976 Agawam - W. Side (1976 - 20xx) Armistice / Veterans Day (1924 -1975)
- 1980 Taconic - Pittsfield (one year)
- 1981 Longmeadow - East Longmeadow (1961 - 1980) Veterans Day
- 1983 South Hadley - Chicopee Comp (1983 - 1985)
- 1986 South Hadley - Northampton (1986 - 1999)
- 1991 Wahconah - St. Joseph / Pittsfield (1991 – 1998), DNP 1995, 97
Amherst - Minnechaug (1991 - 2004)
- 1996 Mohawk - FCTS (1996 - 2004)
Ware - Pathfinder (1996 - 1999)
- 2000 South Hadley - Chicopee Comp (2000 - 2016)
Ware - Frontier (2000 - 2004)
Easthampton - Holyoke Catholic (2000 - 2007) H.C. dropped football
2007, Northampton - Wahconah (2000 – 2003)
- 2001 Pathfinder - Belchertown (2001 -)
- 2004 Berkshire Co. title game (2004 - 2008), various teams
- 2005 Amherst - Northampton (2005 - 20014)
- 2007 Pioneer - Franklin Co. Tech (2007 – 2017) Pioneer drops team
Mohawk - Frontier (2007 - 2021) play Wed. eve
- 2009 Easthampton - Dean Tech (2009 -20014), Dean drops team
Ware - Quaboag (2009 -) Wed. eve, Central- Minne (2009-2012)
- 2015 Northampton – Easthampton (2015-), Minne. - Amherst (2015- 2016)
- 2016 Hoosac- Drury (2016), Amherst drops T-Day game
- 2017 Minne. - Westfield, S.Hadley – Holyoke, Chic. Comp - Chicopee (2017 -)
- 2018 Franklin Co Tech – Smith Voc (2018 -)
- 2019 TF-Greenfield end 92 year series (1927-2018) TF ends team
Westfield-Minne end series, 2017-19
- 2020 no new rivalries, no season – T-Day games, Covid-19
- 2021 Frontier-Mohawk end series. Mohawk ends team

Most T-Day / Rivalry Games Played - WMass 1920 - 2024

| T- Day Rival vs Rival | *Traditional Rival, start | T-Day Rivals, Dates | T- Day, all games | \$ All-games vs rival |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 92 ^Greenfield-Turners Falls1927* | | (1927-2018^) | GHS 61-23-8 | Greenfield \$(95) 62-25 -8 |
| 74 Athol-Orange-Mahar 1894* | | (3) (1925-1927) (71) (1953-2024) | (74) Athol 43-30 -1 | Athol \$(96) 58-37 -1 |
| Athol-Orange-Mahar, non T-Day | | (1894-1952) | (14) Athol 10 -4 -0 | |
| Athol-Mahar, seasonal games | | (2016-2024) | (8) Athol 5 -3 -0 | |
| 83 Athol vs Mahar,others,T-Day | | (74) (1925-20xx)) | (9) Athol 2 -6 -1, others (1930-38) | |
| 72 ^Westfield-Cathedral 1944 | | (1944-2015^) | Westfield 43 -29-0 | Westfield (75) 44-31-0 |
| Westfield vs Minne. T-Day,+ | | + (2017-19) | Westfield 1 - 2-0 | |
| 69 ^Holyoke -Chicopee 1908 * | | (1948-2016^) | Holyoke 33-30-6 | Holyoke (104) 54-39-11 |
| vs. others T-Day, H 3-2,C 2-0 | | (1941-1947) | | |
| 69 Ludlow-Palmer 1947* | | (1954-2024) | Ludlow 39-27-3 | Ludlow (76) 43-30-3 |
| 56 South Hadley-Holyoke vs. others | | (2017-2024) | S.Hadley 33-24-0 | N. Hamp.+ (57) S.Hadley+ |
| others | | (1951-2016) | 27-23-0 | 6 -0-0 |
| 51 Agawam-W.Side *1924-2024 | | (1941,1948) (1976-2024) | Agawam 26-24-0 | Agawam \$(101) 62-36-3 |
| 55 Agawam vs. others,4-1 | | (1957-1968) | Agawam 30-25-0 | |
| 61 W.Side vs. Tech, 5-6 | | (1960-1970) | W.Side 29-32-0 | |
| 43 Longmeadow – East Longm'w | | (1981-2024) | Longm'w 33-10-0 | (63) Longm'w 44-19-0 |
| 41 N.Hamp - E.Hamp. vs. others | | (2015-2024) | N.Hamp. 30-11-0 | N. Hamp.+ (113) 8 -1-0 |
| N.H.,T-Day vs. Holyoke 0-1, Hol.Cath. 3-0, S.Hadley 12-2, Wahconah 2-2, Amherst 5-5 | | | | |
| vs. Amherst (82) 44-35-3 (1915-2024) games pre 1915 ? | | | | |

+start new T-Day rivalry: N.H-E.H. 2015, Holy.-SHadley,2017, Chic.Comp-Chic.2017

\$ games vs rival may include “extra” games in a season that add to total count

^ end T-Day rivalry: Westfield-Cathedral 2015, Holyoke-Chicopee 2016, TF-GHS 2018

Other Non – T-Day (long-time) Rivalries

| | Rivalry | Years | T – Day Record | All - Time |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 134\$ | Drury – Adams / Hoosac | (1919 – 2024) | Hoosac 1- 0-0 H | (134) 74-52-8 |
| 99^ | Palmer – Ware | (1925 – 2024) | Ware 0- 0-1 W | (99) 51-43-5 |
| 94# | Pittsfield – St Joseph # | (1920 – 2013) | Pittsfield 11- 2-3 P | (94) ? |
| 86% | Frontier – Mohawk Deerfield - Arms | (1933 - 2019) | Frontier 11- 2-0 F | (86) 48-32-6 |
| 82@ | Northampton – Amherst | (1915 – 2024) | NH-Amh't 5 -5-0 NH | (82) 44-35-3 |
| 60! | +Chicopee – Chic. Comp | (1964 - 2024) | Comp 7-0-0 Chic | (60) 33-26-1? |

\$ Drury - Adams-Hoosac, some years two games

^ Palmer - Ludlow (1954) start T-Day rivalry

St Joseph ended football 2013, closed 2016, 1920-73 Pittsfield 34-13-7, Inc. 1974-2013

% Frontier-Mohawk started playing T-Day eve 2007, Mohawk,no team 2021

@ Northampton – Amherst (1915-47) played pre 1915 but ? No games 1948-1975, NHamp. played others on T-Day as well, including Amherst (2005-14)

! Chicopee played Holyoke 1908-1947, 1948-2016 on T-Day, 2017- 20xx as Ind. game
Chicopee vs Chic. Comp., Holyoke vs. S.Hadley on T-Day (2017)

Based on Springfield Republican archives: Newsbank website. Also Greenfield Recorder, Berkshire Eagle, Hampshire Gazette records. There are, of course, some overcites, errors, etc. due to the volume of info researched and transcribed.If anything needs to be corrected, updated,etc. Cite your source and let PVIAC or me know and I'll review data.

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* 2020, no Fall season - T-Day games, Covid-19

Nov., 2024