

# THE FIRST NAVY - AIR FORCE FOOTBALL GAME

## Peter Savage

I probably will miss many details about this story.... However.... It was the first Navy - Air Force football game! It was in the stadium in Baltimore. I was on the staff of WRNV as a Youngster (3/c), the midshipmen radio station. Ben Sottile was also on the WRNV staff as a 2/c. I was charged with setting up the public address system on the AF side of the field, to be used by the AF cadets cheering on their team. Before the march-ons, Ben came over to me and said, "When I signal you, make a big deal about introducing the USAF Academy Football Team" As Youngster I did what Ben asked me to do. After a while, with many many USAF officers, enlisted and wives and families and friends in the stands immediately behind my mikes and speakers, I saw Ben wave to me from across the field! In my best VERY enthusiastic announcers' voice I said (something like): "Ladies and Gentlemen, from Colorado Springs, the mile high home of the United States Air Force Academy, flying in from that unique place in our country, please welcome the outstanding football team of the United States Air Force Academy!!!!" The stands went wild! Officers, enlisted, wives, and families and friends stood and cheered. The Air Force Band struck up "Off we go... into the wild blue yonder..." and everyone on the Air Force side of the field was wildly cheering! This was a momentous occasion! The first Air Force game on the East coast, the first Air Force Game near Washington DC, and the first Air Force game against Navy! Out of the locker room on the far side of the field came the Air Force team! They were FANTASTIC! Their passing, running etc. was amazing...!!!! Then... something happened!!! They started missing snaps, missing catches, stumbling and falling... The stands went quiet! Then, the "Air Force" football team tore off their jerseys and revealed their NAVY jerseys! I darn near crapped in place! It was a marvelous farce, but for a few seconds I wondered if I would be mobbed! All ended well! And... we won the game!

There's more to be said about halftime and what we did to befuddle the Air Force Academy falcons!

That story will be coming soon!