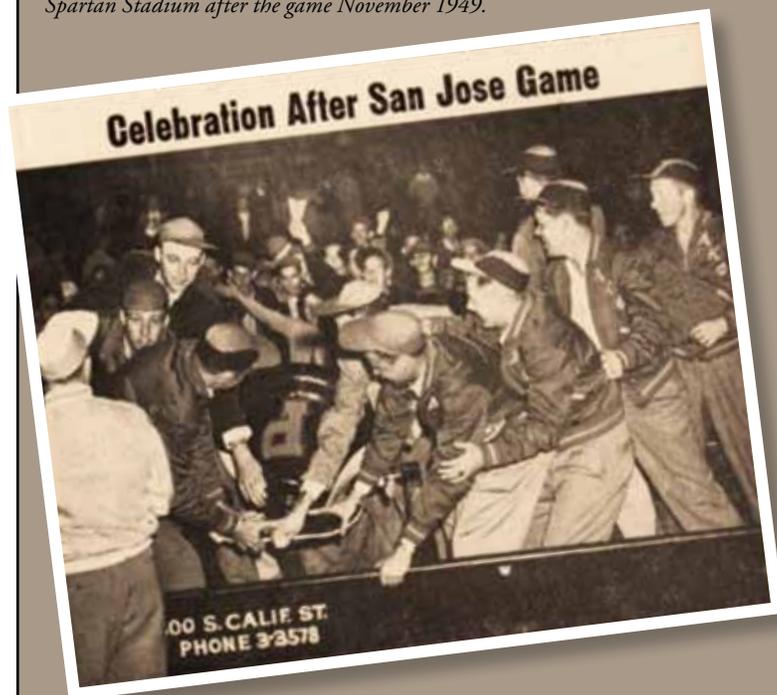


BACK IN TIME

Wildly ringing the victor's bell — symbol of rivalry between Pacific and San Jose — the Archites shown below circle the Spartan Stadium after the game November 1949.



At the teams match-up in 1954, Trish Meyers points to the Pacific side of the bell and signifies with her hand that it has been five years since the Tigers have earned the right to the trophy bell. Wade Wilson, San Jose State athletic news director, holds the perpetual trophy awarded to the winning team.

Spartan Rivalry Rings a Bell

College of the Pacific gained national attention in 1949 when the Pacific Tigers football team went undefeated against tough competition. The Associated Press ranked the Pacific football program 10th in the nation among larger universities like Ohio State, Notre Dame and West Point. That triumphant year also sparked the beginning of a tradition with Pacific's longtime rival: the San Jose State Spartans.

The Tigers entered the 1949 season with a 7–1–2 record, the sole loss going to the Spartans. When the teams met on the field, the Spartans had an 11–7–2 edge and were predicted to defeat the Tigers. Pacific went on to smash the Spartans 45–7 on their home turf before a record crowd of 19,335.

At that game, Archania, Pacific's oldest social fraternity, unveiled a victor's bell that would go to the winner of subsequent Tiger-Spartan games. The bell is about 2 feet tall with a P on one side and SJSU on the other. On its rolling cart it stands waist high. The "Belle of Archania" (a female mascot who was selected each year by the fraternity from one of the sorority pledges) made the presentation to the winner of the Tiger-Spartan football game. Jeanne Gist '51, the 1949 Belle of Archania, made the presentation at the inaugural unveiling.

The Spartans tied the Tigers in 1950, only to take the bell after a 1951 win. The bell returned to Stockton in 1954 and then back to the Spartans in 1961. Archania history records that San Jose neglected the tradition for several years in the late '70s and the brothers "reacquired" the bell in 1981 (details of this were not provided). They cleaned and repainted it, restarting the tradition in 1982.

When Pacific ended its football program in 1995, the tradition shifted to basketball. The first bell presentation at a basketball game came in 1997. Since San Jose State and Pacific are not in the same league, it is up to the teams' coaches to schedule the games and continue the tradition. With a few lapses from year to year, the tradition continues.

Where is the bell today? Pacific had the bell for several consecutive years until the last loss to the Spartans on November 28, 2009. The Tigers did not face the Spartans in 2010. So, it remains for Pacific to win it back the next time around.

1949