



100 YEARS OF RESPECTFUL RIVALRY

A SEED IS PLANTED

Frank Boyden, Deerfield Academy's Headmaster writes to George St. John to say "If it were possible for our athletic teams to meet in baseball or basketball I wish it might be arranged, as I am anxious to have our boys know the type of fellows who are in your school"

1921

A FIRST MEETING

Athletic teams from The Choate School and Deerfield Academy meet for the first time for a football game on October 7, 1922, unaware of the longstanding tradition that would rise from this occasion.

1922

POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Correspondence shows this was the first year the entire school traveled to Deerfield for the Football game when Boyden shared his wish to make it an annual affair with "more pageantry through our bands." The team, masters, and boys marched to the Wallingford train station, traveled to the Deerfield station, and marched to the fields for the game.

1934

A RIVALRY IS BORN

The first official Deerfield Day. Kent was always Choate's main rival in football until 1944, when Kent removed Choate from its schedule. The Deerfield football game was then moved to the last game of the season and Deerfield was added to the Soccer schedule to round out the athletic competitions for the weekend.

1944



Choate students travel by Train to Deerfield. Date unknown.



Boys Varsity Soccer, Deerfield Day 1983.

GROWING THE RIVALRY

While the Choate cross country program had been running since 1929, Deerfield was added to the schedule in the fall of 1948. As with other fall sports, this meet was the last of the season and considered the team's main rival.

1948

THE DEERFIELD RALLY

Pep rallies were long a tradition before important games but once the Deerfield rivalry was cemented, the Deerfield Rally took on a new level of grandeur with music, a bonfire, and presentations from various teams and the Head of School.

1950s & 1960s

DEERFIELD DAY SWAG

One of the most visual representations of our school spirit, the annual Deerfield Day t-shirts are designed by students and sold prior to the big weekend. The School Archives has a collection of Deerfield Day t-shirts going back to 1988. Prior to t-shirts, caps like these from 1985 & 1987 were made and worn for the weekend.

1985



Students attend the Deerfield Rally, 1965.



Deerfield Day caps, 1985 (left) & 1987 (right)

1989 & 1998

GIRLS JOIN IN

When Deerfield began admitting girls in 1989, field hockey and girls soccer were added to the Deerfield Day schedule. Girls volleyball was added nearly a decade later during the 1998 season.

A BRIEF HIATUS

Deerfield Day was cancelled due to COVID-19. Games resumed in the fall of 2021.

2020



Girls soccer beats Deerfield, 2019

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Plans are underway to celebrate 100 years of respectful rivalry between Choate Rosemary Hall and Deerfield Academy. Come back to Wallingford on Saturday, November 12, to cheer on your favorite teams, visit with classmates, and enjoy a tradition 100 years in the making!

2022

