

South kept its hopes alive in the last quarter with a spirited brand of play, but the youngsters were not equal to the huge job confronting them. Both teams played hard, clean football and good sportsmanship prevailed all around. Rayen proved to be a good winner and South a good loser.

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South and Rayen student bodies showed more enthusiasm in this game than ever before. It was the first display of organized cheering, and both schools tried to outdo each other in making the favorite team known.

Possibly the fact that, for the first time, the game was played on a high-school field played a large part in the great interest manifested in this annual struggle. The game was growing in stature—for the first time it was deemed important enough to require four officials; heretofore, three—referee, umpire and head linesman—were sufficient, but this year a field judge, Ray Thomas of West Virginia University, was added.

The Sixth Game — 1916

THE SIXTH game of the Rayen-South series was played at South Field on Thanksgiving Day in 1916. As usual, the crowd was larger than the year before and set a new record for the Thanksgiving Day classic. Rayen was triumphant, 6-0 for its fifth consecutive victory, but the one-touchdown margin did not necessarily mean that the Northsiders had any advantage in team play. Accounts of this game tell us that the Red and Blue displayed their best form since the first game in 1911, and they were denied a score in the final minutes only by a stone-wall defense by the Rayenites on the 6-yard line.

The customary sunshine was missing and the dampened atmosphere, brought on by a hard November rain a few days before, seemed to hamper the play in some sections of the field. However, this situation did not deter the loyal fans, and an hour before game-time almost every vantage point was occupied and hundreds were forced to stand during the game.

In the first quarter neither team showed any advantage. Each seemed to be feeling the other out, and the first fifteen minutes were devoid of anything sensational. But in the second period Rayen began a drive featured by old-fashioned play. With the ball on South's 32-yard line, Rayen backs hammered the South line for substantial gains and reached the Red and Blue 10-yard line. At this point Rayen surprised the Red and Blue by switching to the overhead attack and the Northsiders scored on a pass tossed by halfback Eddie Hogan to quarterback Mike Jones for what proved to be the winning touchdown. The try for point was missed, but Rayen led 6-0. However, the Red and Blue Warriors were still in the game. The men from South started a drive in the final period that carried from midfield to the Rayen 6-yard line but met with stubborn resistance that blasted the hopes of at least a tie for the Warriors.

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As has been the case throughout the series, not a single incident to mar the fine sportsmanship was noted. These games year after year closely resemble the college affairs and the cheering sections this year proved it. In addition to the organized cheering, there was a circus touch of goats, donkeys and ponies.

This game marked the first appearance of Wallace "Fats" Elliott at fullback for Rayen. Elliott, a freshman of fifteen and large for his age, will be heard of in later games.

The Seventh Game — 1917

AFTER five consecutive defeats at the hands of their city rival, the South High Warriors ripped, smashed and tore their way to a devastating 48-0 victory over the Rayen Tigers at South Field on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1917. This was the seventh game in the annual series between the schools and an estimated crowd of over 10,000 fans attended.

The game was played in a sea of mud, and the players were difficult to identify after five minutes of hostilities. It was obvious from the start that Rayen was outclassed, but to the everlasting credit of the Orange and Black, the team never let up for an instant. Rayen could not cope with the crushing, open style of play exhibited by the well-drilled and smartly coached team fielded by "Busty" Ashbaugh on this Turkey Day afternoon. From the time, early in the first quarter, when Ray Fesler made good on a placement from the 25-yard line, until the last minute when Captain "Tubby" White nabbed a forward pass by "Fats" McPhee and raced forty yards for the seventh touchdown, the Rayen Tigers were never in the game. South outplayed Rayen in every department. Rayen had two pass completions for eight yards while South gained ninety yards through the air. The Warriors from South punted only five times. Rayen was forced to boot seventeen times. In first downs Rayen was held to 5, while South netted the staggering total of 26.

There were no individual stars in this brilliant routing of Rayen. Every member of the South juggernaut had a job to do, and they all responded magnificently. In amassing forty-eight points (a record for Rayen-South competition), no less than eight South players took part in the scoring. The forty-eight points included seven touchdowns, one field goal and three goals from touchdowns. Touchdowns

were scored by: George Prokop (2), Dave Jenkins, "Buck" Weaver, Les Jones, "Fats" McPhee and Captain "Tubby" White. Ray Fesler kicked the field goal from placement and Dave Jenkins booted three points after touchdowns out of seven attempts, a good average, considering the condition of the field and the mud-coated ball—all of which added up to a well-earned and clean-cut team victory.

Prokop, incidentally, had played at right end for Rayen in the 1916 contest. When his parents moved to the South High district, he was denied the privilege of finishing his senior year at Rayen. Converted into a running halfback by the South High coach, he literally ran wild against his old teammates.

While this was a much-cherished victory for the South High team and its followers after five setbacks in succession, it was also a personal triumph for "Busty" Ashbaugh, South High coach. He took over the coaching chores at South in 1914 and had taken three successive thumpings from the North Side rivals. Some of the more ardent South followers were beginning to grumble. Since Ashbaugh was an ex-Rayen gridder and captain they were of the opinion "Busty" was not anxious to defeat his old school. The more outspoken fans did not hesitate to air their feelings. The south side of town was really buzzing about this situation and it came near "Beat Rayen or else," as far as Ashbaugh was concerned.

But this 1917 squad of footballers, who knew no other coaching than Ashbaugh's, going into the Rayen game with eight straight victories and no defeats, scoring 256 points to their opponent's 6, quickly laid to rest these mutterings, with a resounding 48-0 victory over Rayen. This victory concluded an undefeated season, the first, incidentally, for South High, with nine victories. South scored a total of 304 points to its opponent's 6.

This was the best South High team up to now and there are many who rank it as the best South team of all time.