

## *The Eleventh Game — 1921*

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ON A FIELD ankle-deep in mud, as usual, the South High Warriors defeated Rayen High 13-0 at South Field before the largest crowd in the history of the annual classic. This was the eleventh game of the series and the victory put South one up, six victories to five for the Orange and Black.

Someone once said that in football "your best offense is a good defense." This was partially correct today when both South scores were the result of blocked punts. Near the end of the first quarter with Al Sebastian kicking from his own goal line, "Tarzan" Welch, big South tackle, broke through the Rayen line, blocked the kick and fell on the ball for the touchdown. Barrett kicked goal to make it 7-0, South's favor. In the early part of the fourth quarter an almost identical play took place when Denton "Baby" Doll, South end, blocked Davies' attempted punt and fell on the ball on Rayen's 1-yard line. In the next play "Jiggs" Marrie dove over for the 6-pointer. Barrett missed the try for point and South led 13-0, the way the game ended.

Due to the condition of the field, neither team had a chance to display its offensive weapons; about all either team could do was hit the line or punt. It took only a few plays after Don Brown's opening Rayen kickoff for the fans to realize that any razzle-dazzle or long runs would be out. "Yak" Jacobs' boots were excelling those of Sebastian. This advantage put Rayen back on its own goal line, from which point the aggressive South forward wall was able to block the two kicks that led to the two touchdowns. In all fairness to Sebastian and Davies it must be said the ball was practically encased in mud, making it that much heavier. Both kicks were low, just clearing the line of scrimmage.

Each team threatened once during the contest. In the

second period South drove to within a yard of the goal, only to lose the ball on downs. In the third period Rayen was on South's 14-yard line but lost the ball to South on a fumble. Each team punted twenty-six times, which should be some kind of a record.

The eleventh game was cleanly played; the officials on the job to check any rough stuff penalized South four times for being off-side and Rayen eight times for the same offense.

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With the crowds growing larger every year, there was an equal improvement in the cheering and musical portions of the program. Pre-game festivities were gay with the colors of the two schools, and the students kept the crowd in good humor. Team spirit was good too, with Coach Gaskeen congratulating Coach Ashbaugh on his victory, and Rayen Captain Rickert congratulating Captain Nels Williams of the Red and Blue.

There were two unrelated Jacobses in the South backfield, "Yak" at quarterback and "Jiggs" at halfback. Jiggs was the third from his family to play for South—Selby in 1915 and "Tacks" in 1918.

The offense of each team suffered from the condition of the field in uncertainty in every play.

Only two passes were intercepted and both of these by South.

South had ten passes grounded, Rayen four.

Rayen completed one forward pass for six yards while South had two completions for seven yards.

South made one first down on actual yards gained. Rayen made three first downs, not counting penalties.

Only once was time taken out because of an injured player, a Rayenite who recovered quickly.

## The Twelfth Game — 1922

ON THANKSGIVING DAY, November 30, 1922, at South Field, the South High Warriors defeated Rayen 14-0 for their sixth straight victory, and now led in the series 7-5. Nearly 13,000 fans fought their way into South Field while hundreds were turned away and watched from windows and roofs of nearby houses. Telephone poles, boxes, orange crates or step-ladders could not be found within blocks of the stadium; they were all being used by fans outside the stadium as vantage points. It was an ideal day for the game. Old Sol tried to break through several times and the temperature stayed around 40. While the field was muddy it was nothing like the quagmire the year before.

The game was scheduled to start at 2:15 P.M. but it was about 2:33 when "Big Don" Brown's opening kickoff reached the 10-yard line and was returned fifteen yards by Ray "Bucky" Dahman of South. The first quarter was scoreless; neither team registered a first down in this period. However, about halfway through the second quarter "Windy" Harris of Rayen made the first first down of the game with a 4-yard plunge after a Butler-to-Harris pass had gained seven yards. A few plays later, Rayen tried another aerial; it was plucked off by South's "Jiggs" Marrie, who raced forty-six yards to pay dirt with nary a hand being laid on him. It happened so quickly the Rayen players seemed dumbfounded by the interception.

The third period was almost a repetition of the first quarter. Rayen made one first down in this quarter and completed one pass for fifteen yards from "Jiggo" Del Quadri to Jones. All South could show for this period were two penalties for holding, which cost them a total of thirty yards.

South really got going in the fourth quarter. After two

successive first downs, Billy Davies shot through tackle and wended goalward for twenty-eight yards and a touchdown. It was a beautiful run, Davies doing some fancy dodging. "Bucky" Dahman again split the uprights to hike the score to South 14, Rayen 0.

South tried one forward pass which was grounded; Rayen tried 19, completing only 5. Rayen outscored South on first downs 5-3, but they also lost 149 yards on plays. On the line, "Army" Armstrong, South center, seemed to be in almost every play. Al Sebastian of Rayen was a bearcat in running punts back, with several long ones to his credit.

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Billy Davies was the third Davies boy to perform for South. He was preceded by Paul who played center and captained the 1914 South team, and Albert who played center on the 1920 team.

Don Brown, big Rayen tackle, certainly must have had a hard head. I watched him in three Rayen-South contests and never saw him wear headgear.

Two things about the Rayen-South rivalry caught the Youngstown *Telegram's* attention—a larger city-owned stadium and local officials. The need for a new stadium was proven conclusively at this Rayen-South game. Hundreds were turned away and many more fans did not bother to come because they knew the crowd would be too large for the limited-capacity South Field. Attendance was growing by leaps and bounds and it would not be too long before crowds of 20,000 or more were visualized by the *Telegram*. The newspaper also contended that local officials could handle this classic just as satisfactorily as the imported officials who allowed the game to drag too long—two and a half hours to play sixty minutes of actual football.

"Busty" Ashbaugh was given a terrific ovation when he appeared in his flaming red coat. He doffed his gray hat in response to the cheering.