

The Thirteenth Game — 1923

IN THE thirteenth annual Rayen-South game, Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1923, all records for attendance and enthusiasm were broken when a crowd estimated by the press at 18,000 jammed into South Stadium. It was a rainy day but the water-soaked fans forgot their discomfort to watch a smart, aggressive Rayen team, under the leadership of Captain Al Sebastian, outplay the South Warriors 19-0. Rayen was undefeated in eight games going into this battle while South, also undefeated, had two tie games. South's chief weapon was its huge line which had permitted only four touchdowns in nine games. But against the onslaught of Al Sebastian, "Ons" Williams, "Jiggo" Del Quadri and big Hy Manushak, South's vaunted forward wall seemed like just so much papier mâché. Manushak scored two of the touchdowns on line plunges, and Del Quardi electrified the fans with a dazzling 70-yard punt return for the other score. It was a beautiful run and newspaper accounts credited it as the second longest run in Rayen-South history.

This was the first Rayen victory in seven games and was doubly sweet as South was generally picked to win on the strength of its line play during the season—which proves again that season records mean nothing when these two arch-rivals meet.

It was a relatively clean game except for a few penalties for unnecessary roughness which always crop up in a rivalry such as this. It was said that the officiating was the poorest ever in a Rayen-South classic. In the first period Walt Whitley, big South tackle, was disqualified for alleged slugging, though some officials felt that Whitley was merely trying to free himself from the grip of a Rayen player. But headlinesman Curtis ruled otherwise. South was penalized only

fifteen yards, though the penalty for slugging is half the distance to the goal line. Whitley was grieved over his disqualification; it was the first time his play had ever been questioned and he had played every minute of every game until the unfortunate incident.

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The victory was a great boost for Rayen coach Harry "Punch" Gaskeen. It was his first victory in four Rayen-South games and he had worked hard to achieve it.

Before the start of the game the South band marched to the east end of the field to dedicate a new flagpole donated by the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. As the flag went up the huge throng stood at attention while the band played "America."

Dick Bartholemy, South's sub center, was the only casualty. Shortly after relieving "Cow" Moss he was kicked in the head. He played for a few minutes after suffering the blow and then toppled over on the field, unconscious. In the dressing room he was revived half an hour later.

The handling of the crowd was the best yet. Six large gates were opened and everyone was busy as a bee.

Big Hy Manushak could not be stopped. The six-foot back seemed to gain at will.

South never threatened the Rayen goal, earning only one first down while the Orange and Black made eight.

Once again the Youngstown *Telegram* blasted the officials. Supporters of both teams agreed with the *Telegram* that local officials could not possibly be worse than the imported officials.

The Fourteenth Game — 1924

IN THE first Rayen-South game ever played on a Rayen gridiron, the Orange and Black went down to defeat before one of the greatest aggregations ever assembled at the Southside school. The score, 14-0, does not indicate how badly Rayen was outplayed. This fourteenth game in the series was played in the beautiful new Rayen Stadium on Thanksgiving afternoon, November 27, 1924. The victory was the eighth for South and was witnessed by more than 20,000 fans, the largest turnout of the series till then. Call it the stadium jinx, but South won because Rayen could not cope with the work of Bailey, Baker, Murphy and Collins in the South backfield. This quartet of backs, nicknamed the "Four Horsemen," tore through and around the Rayen line for an amazing twenty first downs and 364 yards gained by rushing. Rayen was able to garner only eight first downs and eighty yards rushing. Only once during the game did Rayen get within South's 30-yard line and that was in the closing seconds when Ray Mack went into the game for George Renner and on the first play scooted around his own left end for twenty-five yards to the Red and Blue 10-yard line. The game ended before another play could be run off.

South opened the scoring in the first quarter. After several goalward marches that fizzled out either by intercepted passes or by a stiffened Rayen defense, Morgan Baker punted beautifully to about Rayen's 10-yard line where "Huck" Flynn fumbled and Frankie Davies recovered for South on the Rayen 10. After three thrusts at the line, George Collins finally went over for the score. With Ches Bailey holding, Jack Rees booted perfectly, and South led 7-0.

In the second quarter Rayen worked the ball to South's 25-yard line. After two forward passes failed, Flynn attempted

a field goal, but he had little protection, and Davies and Summers tore in and blocked the kick, with Summers picking up the loose ball and going to midfield before being stopped. Then, with Collins, Baker and Murphy taking turns at tearing the Rayen line apart, Leo Murphy went over for the second South marker, and once again, with Bailey holding, Rees split the uprights to make the score South 14, Rayen 0.

This completed the scoring for the afternoon, although in the fourth period South came very close to making a third touchdown. Johnny Hall fumbled going over the goal line and the ball was recovered by Lepo of Rayen. It was ruled a touchback and brought out to the 20-yard line and given to the Orange and Black.

It was a well-earned victory for South and atoned somewhat for the defeat of the previous year. Rayen, however, was weakened at the start when its star fullback Hy Manushak was unable to play. Big Hy had undergone an operation on his knee. He got up from his bed the Tuesday before the game and, entering the game in the third quarter, gave a marvelous exhibition of courage for about twenty minutes. He seemed to be in every play and when he finally left the game late in the last period he received a thunderous ovation from the huge crowd. As he strode to the bench with the help of his teammates his tears were seen.

While the story of the South victory can be told in the work of the backfield, reference should be made to the work of the South front wall—Ted Diddoms, Dick Bartholemy, Summers, Captain "Cow" Moss, Wes Fesler, Miller, George Schuler, Jack Rees and Frankie Davies, who all worked like Trojans to insure a South win. The Rayen forwards, Foster, Captain Nally, John Renner, Drake, Campbell, G. Miller and Vic Daubner, all performed well against the battering rams in the South backfield.

No account of this game would be complete without some mention of "Huck" Flynn, Rayen quarterback. Playing

his last game for the Orange and Black, Flynn was all over the field, kicking, passing, a tower of defensive strength. He will go down in Rayen history as one of its greatest stars.

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The fans were pleased with the beautiful new Rayen Stadium; all that afternoon there was praise for the wonderful accommodations afforded in the realization of a Rayen dream officials had hoped for years before. This stadium would do credit to many colleges and universities in the country and Youngstown and Rayen may well be proud of it.

For the first time in Rayen-South history a scoreboard was in operation during the game. It was part of the new Rayen Stadium and it proved very popular with the fans. It showed which team had control of the ball, downs, yards to go, penalties and the score. Former Rayen coach Lou Pickrel supplied the information for the board.

The officials, all out-of-towners, were enthusiastic about the game, the crowd and the new stadium. They all agreed they had never seen such a setup for high-school football.

The Rayen team came out attired in rubber pants and shirts, something new; however, the field was not wet enough for their use.

When Manushak entered the game some of the South players protested about the steel brace to protect his injured leg. Referee Yerges was ready to rule that Hy would have to leave the game as the steel might cause injury to other players. Captain Moss, however, waved aside his protesting South teammates and told the referee it was okay with South to let "Big Hy" stay in the game, rules permitting.

The cheering and band music was the best yet. Between halves Rayen students prevailed on one of their former cheerleaders to lead them—Nate Kauffman, dean of cheerleaders in the area.