

The Fifteenth Game — 1925

BACK ON their own field for the 1925 battle with Rayen, the South High Warriors emerged the winners, 13-0, in the fifteenth annual contest played on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.

The day before the game there had been about six inches of snow, but morning workers had removed it from the field, which by game-time was in perfect shape for the contest, encircled by a snowbank about three feet high. Along the white yardmarks the residue looked especially effective. The day was cold and both players' benches had bales of straw strewn about to keep the players reasonably warm while sitting on the bench.

Newspaper accounts place the crowd at near 25,000. It was easily the largest crowd of the series. The South team outplayed the Orange and Black in every department. For the fourth time in eight years Rayen introduced a new coach in this game. He was Rollie Bevan from Dayton, Ohio. His record for the year was perfect with eight straight wins, while South had only one defeat in eight contests.

The first period was scoreless, although South drove goalward a couple of times, reaching the Rayen 9-yard line once. However, Rayen repulsed them with a stone-wall defense to thwart any scoring.

In the second quarter South took to the air and, after a couple of passes, entered scoring territory. Murphy went over for the touchdown, but Captain Jack Rees missed the extra point; the score South 6, Rayen 0, as the half ended. In the dying moments of the third period South staged a drive to the Rayen 24-yard line. On the second play of the final quarter a pass from Murphy to Rees was good for a touchdown. George Collins, the big South fullback, booted

the extra point, and South led, 13-0. The only Rayen threat was in the third period when South's 28-yard line was reached. But Rayen lost the ball and its scoring opportunities were over for the day.

Rayen was fortunate in holding the score at 13-0; statistics showed South should have scored at least three more touchdowns. For South, Leo Murphy was his usual triple-threat, with lots of help from Bailey, Collins, Hall, Jack Rees and the entire front line. What little Rayen showed in offense was contributed by Salinsky, Maxwell and McFarland, and on the line "Woody" Peebles, John Renner and Flannigan performed well.

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This was the first Rayen-South game played under the new rule limiting the periods to twelve minutes. Heretofore the quarters had been of fifteen-minute duration.

Captain Hy Manushak was unable to play due to an injury suffered in the Struthers game, and Renner, the Rayen end, was appointed captain for the game. Manushak's only appearance on the field was for the coin-tossing.

New concrete stands on the west end of South Field were used for the first time and proved a welcome improvement. They seated about 2000 and were filled.

The Rayen team wore the same rubber suits as last year, but they were not needed. The turf was not too soft and the footing was very good.

Leo Murphy not only ran like "Red" Grange, he also had a large "77" on his back, Grange's number at Illinois University. Captain Jack Rees sported number 13 on his jersey.

George Collins, the South fullback, had time out for an injury for the first time in his three-year career. He was only shaken up, however, and remained in the game.

The Sixteenth Game — 1926

THE SIXTEENTH annual Rayen-South classic wound up in a 7-7 draw at the Rayen Stadium on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1926. It was the first tie game in the history of this growing event, and newspaper accounts indicate that the crowd was over 20,000. The weather was the best for many years and the sun shone most of the day, which made the field sticky, after having been covered with snow the day before. It was far from being a standout game, as both teams were mud-covered after the first quarter and their trick plays and aerial work were hampered.

Captain Ramage of South won the toss and elected to defend the south goal. Vogel of Rayen kicked off to Kolesar of South and the game was on. On the first play from scrimmage Mike Koken of the Red and Blue broke off tackle for fifteen yards. After three more line assaults with only short gains, Koken punted to "Hot Dogs" Kane of Rayen, who was downed on the 11-yard line. For the rest of the first quarter, play seesawed back and forth and the period ended without a score. Rayen was outplayed in every department in the first period, its punting exceptionally poor, and the South line rushing the kicker with vehemence.

In the second quarter South drove within scoring distance twice before finally hitting pay dirt. Bill Salinsky, Rayen fullback, fumbled on his own 21-yard line, and South recovered. After two futile line plays, Koken tossed to Wade Christy for five yards. With the ball on the Rayen 16-yard line, left-handed Jack Moss threw to Koken for five yards, and Koken scampered the remaining 12 yards for the score. Hal Scarnecchia's boot hit the crossbar, but South was awarded the point when Rayen was declared offside.

The third quarter was uneventful and at its end the score

was still South 7, Rayen 0. When the fourth period opened it was Rayen's ball on the South 21-yard line. Then with fullback Bill Salinsky carrying almost every play, he finally plunged over from the 2-yard line for Rayen's initial tally. Wilson attempted to pass for the extra point, but it was incomplete. However, South was ruled offside and the point was awarded to Rayen to tie it up at 7-7.

Regarding this point after touchdown try, if the defending team commits a foul on the try, the offensive team is awarded the point; in other words, instead of marking off yardage and trying again, the penalty is the awarding of the point. Since both tries for the point after were missed and each scored-upon team was off side on the tries, they were each awarded the point, thus resulting in a tie game. If both teams had not committed a foul on the try for point, the score could easily have been 7-6 for either team.

For Rayen Bill Salinsky was the workhorse in the backfield. He ground out yardage consistently. On the forward wall Mason, Vogel and Captain "Woody" Peebles were outstanding. Mike Koken was the standout for South in the backfield and on defense. Cliff Lawson, Fitzgerald and Bert Nasman were the bulwarks in the South forward wall.

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Stan Kreiler, Rayen cheerleader, and Nicodemus Johnson, former Rayen mascot, had the big crowd in stitches between halves with their antics.

Gaining in public esteem were the bands of each school. Their pre-game musical show was a crowd-pleaser and faculty advisers Yauss of Rayen and Armstrong of South must have been proud of their musical units.

Rayen used the huddle system which worked much better than the South call system. South quarterback Joe Hoffer had signal trouble and had to call them several times.

The three officials, Wells, Dunlap and Graf, praised the

game highly, and were unanimous that it would do credit to many colleges.

A few days before the game there was a slight controversy over the eligibility of "Hot Dogs" Kane of Rayen, but it was ironed out to everyone's satisfaction.

This was the first Rayen-South game to be broadcast. WKBN, the local station, carried it play by play.

The South High squad earned a trip to Pittsburgh to see the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame game the following Saturday, as promised if Rayen was beaten. Though South did not win, it did not lose either, so "Busty" Ashbaugh decided to let the team take the trip. There was a Rayen-South flavor to this college game as Ray Dahman, formerly of South, was a member of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and Mike Goodwin, ex-Rayen star, was on the Carnegie Tech team.