

### *The Seventeenth Game — 1927*

ON THANKSGIVING DAY, 1927, at South High Field, the South High Warriors pinned another defeat on their archrival Rayen, 12 to 0. It was the seventeenth game of the series and was viewed by at least 20,000 fans, according to newspaper accounts. It was also South's tenth victory to Rayen's six, the previous year's game having ended in a 7-7 tie. This was the tenth victory of the season for South, which included a thrilling 7-6 victory over the strong New Castle Red Hurricanes, and gave the Red and Blue undisputed city championship. This was the first year of football contention for East High and Chaney High, the new schools in Youngstown, and South had defeated them both.

The morning of the game was beset by the old bugaboo "Jupe Pluvius," but around noon the sun came out and

remained until about game-time. During the second half the rain resumed, but fortunately didn't last long.

There was a long delay in starting when Referee Carl Weygandt of Wooster failed to put in an appearance. He was scheduled to work a Cleveland game Thanksgiving morning and fly down for the Rayen-South game, but he never arrived. The fans were getting impatient and the call went out for Russell McKay, a local official who had worked many South games. He was paged in the crowd but he was absent, and Earl Flad, another local official, was spotted and prevailed upon to act as head linesman.

After a half-hour delay, Captains Barnett of Rayen and Mike Koken of South met in the center of the field for the tossing of the coin and the game was on. Both teams were cautious at first, with South proving the better offensive unit. Near the end of the Period Captain Koken broke away for a touchdown, but it was nullified by an offside penalty on both teams.

In the second quarter, quarterback Lindsay Cartwright punted for South and the ball was allowed to roll dead on the Rayen 9-yard line. In attempting to kick out of danger, Don Wilson of Rayen was forced to leap high in the air to catch the pass from center and could not get the kick away. Whether it was blocked or not no one knew. The result was that Bert Nasman stormed through, picked up the loose ball and trotted over the Rayen goal line for six points. With Jack Moss holding, Cartwright's kick was no good, and the score stood South 6, Rayen 0. The first half ended with no further scoring.

The third period was uneventful, with both teams going all-out to score, but to no avail, and the period ended 6-0 in favor of the Red and Blue from South High.

In the fourth quarter South started to move for another score. With the ball on Rayen's 31-yard line, the South backfield started the drive, with Georgie Strauss off tackle for ten yards, Mike Koken for ten, Jack Moss for five, and Koken

again for the remainder and the touchdown. Once again Cartwright's try for the point was outside, and the score was South 12, Rayen 0, the final score.

Rayen was outplayed throughout the encounter, the only bright spot being the sensational defense of Don Wilson. The score might have been greater but for his ability to cut down the South backfield. The entire South team performed in championship style, playing the smart football, no large scores, satisfied just to win.

In ten games South made 146 points, an average of less than 15 points a game, while Rayen registered 38 points. Mention must be made of the brilliant play of the South captain, Mike Koken, 150 pounds of football know-how, as outstanding on defense as on offense.

✓   ✓

The boys who lived around South High Stadium proved to be quite good businessmen. Every bucket, box or step-ladder in the neighborhood—anything that would hold a fan so he could see over the heads of those in front—was sold or rented for the game and the boys reaped a harvest.

Stan Kreiler again had the fans applauding his antics between halves.

Lindsay Cartwright, the crafty South quarterback, established an unusual record this year, playing every minute of every one of the ten games on the Red and Blue schedule. Forty quarters to his credit; quite an iron man.

Two more McFarlands entered the game, Bill and Fred, the younger brothers of "Packy" McFarland who preceded them at South.

South captain Mike Koken finished his career as the leading scorer of the city, with fifty-seven points, nine touchdowns and three points after touchdown.

Earl Flad came down from the stands to take up head linesman's duties with the understanding he could not call penalties. He was the first local man to officiate a Rayen-South contest in years.