

The Nineteenth Game — 1931

THE nineteenth annual Rayen-South game was played at South Field on Saturday, October 24, 1931, and South High emerged victorious, 13-2. This was the earliest date for a Rayen-South contest since the first one on October 22, 1911.

There were no Rayen-South games in 1929 and 1930. The round-robin setup was in effect, and winning this game earned South High the right to meet the winner of the East-Chaney game on Thanksgiving Day.

The round-robin routine was started in 1929 to give the new high schools, East High and Chaney High, a chance to share in the usually large gate receipts of a Thanksgiving game. South played on Thanksgiving Day the year before (1930), meeting Chaney High for the title at Rayen Stadium, and went down to defeat, 12-0. That Thanksgiving Day was the coldest on record, the field like a skating rink with almost three inches of light snow and the thermometer reading about ten above zero; the crowd was estimated at only about 5000.

This nineteenth Rayen-South meeting did not have the Thanksgiving Day spirit. The crowd was down to about

7000, mostly students, the adult fans conspicuous by their absence.

This game marked the series debut of Rayen coach Harold Lansing, a former aide of Gaskeen and Bevan, who became coach in 1929.

Both coaches and captains, Jobe of South and Mirto of Rayen, met with the officials in the center of the field for the customary tossing of the coin, and the game was on a few minutes later. Jobe kicked off to Birkholtz, who returned to his own 32-yard line. After an exchange of kicks, South had the ball on its 48-yard line and then pulled a tricky play with Lobinger taking the pass from center, faking a handoff to Lehman Tomlin and throwing a 20-yard forward pass to Ray Rowney, South quarterback, who had raced far to the right corner to gather it in and gallop the remaining thirty-two yards. Antonucci's kick was low and South led 6-0. The rest of the first period turned into a punting duel between Birkholtz of Rayen and Antonucci of South.

Rayen broke into the scoring column early in the second quarter. It was South's ball on its 20-yard line when Tomlin fumbled a high pass from center and recovered on the 5-yard line. Antonucci's kick was blocked and the ball rolled over the end zone and was downed by Saunders of Rayen for an automatic safety and two Rayen points. Later in the second period Lobinger of South intercepted Paul Birkholtz's pass and returned to the Rayen 41. At this point Husic, Rayen guard, was kicked in the head, and time was called. Modarelli replaced Husic, who left the field under his own power though he appeared to be in a dazed condition. With Lobinger carrying eight times out of eleven, he finally dove over from the 1-foot line for South's second touchdown. He also crashed through for the extra point to make the score South 13, Rayen 2. The half ended a few minutes later with the ball on South's 38-yard line.

As far as the scoring went, the game could have ended there. However, in the fourth quarter Rayen opened up with

a passing attack that carried to the South 18-yard line where it lost possession on an incompleated pass. In this drive Rayen completed 7 of 13 passes for 7 first downs. Wilbur Franklin of Rayen tossed these strikes and only once was he mussed up by South.

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For South the offensive stars were Lobinger, Rowney and Antonucci. Lehman Tomlin, who was expected to be the star of the South backfield, had a bad day. He fumbled several times, once leading to the Rayen safety, and couldn't get off any of his long runs. The shining lights of South defense were Jobe, Sinowski, Crawford and Kenny Franklin.

For the Orange and Black, Wilbur Franklin and Johnson were brilliant in the backfield, while the work of Leventry, Mirto and Dornstetter stood out in the forward wall.

Referee Pete Scullion of nearby Salem, Ohio, was on top of every play and several times mingled with the players in downs.