

1940 Under the best weather conditions in years the football teams of Rayen and South fought to a scoreless tie in their twenty-eight meeting at Rayen Stadium, Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 1940. An estimated 9000 fans saw the third successive deadlock, the fifth of the series. It was also the

third scoreless draw of the five tie games. It was one of the duller games in the whole series.

In the opening period the Warriors from South High threatened to score twice. The first drive ended on the Rayen 7-yard line when a pass from Tom Jeffries to Dal Hancock just missed being a first down. Rayen took over and Ernest Deak got away a poor kick, the ball going only to the 21-yard line. South could not move and lost the ball to Rayen at the 25. Then Rayen rooters got a terrific thrill when the team drove all the way to the South 1-foot line, where it ran out of gas and South took over. Marvelous defensive work by South's Jeffries, aided by Co-captain Bill Richards, prevented any scoring from here on.

South, after going from its 1-foot line to the 17-yard line, then almost lost the game. Co-captain Sheridan Weaver's kick bounced crazily and rolled back to the South 9-yard line, where Deak tried a fake kick, and, in trying to pass, was thrown for a big loss by Regis Dunlap, and South took over on the 15-yard line. The first half ended then, 0-0.

In the third quarter both teams went to the air, but they had left marksmanship in the dressing rooms. Most passes were inaccurate and often the passers were smothered before getting the ball away. Rayen, however, did get one more scoring opportunity in the fourth canto. Ed Finamore of Rayen blocked Weaver's kick and recovered on the South 21. Tony Agnone moved the ball to the 18-yard line. After two pass attempts failed, Ernest Deak tried a field goal that missed—this was the last scoring threat by either team. Each seemed on the way to scoring several times, but when the chips were down the ability to make the scoring play was missing.

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For South High, Bill Richards, Dalvin Hancock, Regis Dunlap and Bob Probyn were demons on the forward wall, while Tom Jeffries stood out like a beacon in the backfield.

The Orange and Black played heroically with Ed Finamore, Bob Dent and Fred Lombardo outstanding, while Ernest Deak, Jack Slifka and Tony Agnone featured in the backfield.

These teams played fifteen games before getting a tie; the sixteenth, in 1926, ended 7-7. In the last thirteen games five had ended in deadlocks. Rayen had a slight edge in the statistics, with eight first downs to four for South. Rayen also led in yards gained by rushing, 145-91. Rayen completed one pass out of ten, with South completing four out of twelve. Both teams punted eight times, South averaging 26 yards to Rayen's 21 yards. South had one punt blocked, Rayen two.

The Twenty-Ninth Game — 1941

PLAYING UNDER lights for the first time, the South High Warriors defeated their archrival Rayen for the first time in ten years by the narrowest of margins, 7-6, at South Field, Friday night, November 21, 1941. A throng of 13,000, by far the largest in the last decade, braved the cold damp atmosphere to voice its approval of the night-football innovation in Rayen-South history.

South scored its touchdown in the first quarter. Starting a drive on the Rayen 47-yard line, the Red and Blue Warriors marched to the Rayen 20, and after two attempts at the line netted only two yards, George Bahm took Tom Jeffries' pass in the end zone for a touchdown, and South led 6-0. Anthony De Michele's place kick was good and South led 7-0. This point after success was a big point, as later events proved.

In the second quarter Rayen had three golden opportunities to score but muffed them all. Lombardo of Rayen recovered a fumbled lateral on the South 25-yard line, but, after

going to the South 1-foot line, could not dent the South forward wall, and the Warriors took over. After De Mar returned Weaver's punt to the South 29-yard line, passes combined with line bucks took the oval to the South 1-yard line where De Mar's plunge and three passes failed, and once again South took over. On the next play Tom Jeffries of South turned right end and scooted down the sidelines twenty-four yards before being brought down. The first half ended here with South leading 7-0.

The third quarter showed up no scoring opportunities, the play being for the most part in the vicinity of the 50-yard stripe. But in the early part of the last period the Orange and Black got back in the game with a vengeance. Keeling of Rayen recovered Jeffries' fumble on the 44-yard line and in six plays took the oval to the South 18. De Mar carried four times and Dischavio and Schiavone one each in the drive. When two plays got only two yards South supporters were not alarmed; after all, South had repulsed Rayen in three valiant attempts earlier in the game. But suddenly Dischavio had the ball and, fading back, spotted De Mar in the end zone with De Michele and Jeffries of South defending. Dischavio threw and the ball struck De Michele's hand and bounced off Jeffries' helmet smack into De Mar's outstretched hands. It was easily the finest three-cushion billiard shot in Rayen-South football history.

Now the fans were buzzing about another tie ball game. South rooters were silent as a sphinx, and Rayen supporters were holding their breath. A Rayen sub, sent in to kick the extra point, was waved back to the bench and the Rayen team lined up. De Mar's attempt to score the point failed when Gordon Harrison of South broke through and nailed him, and Rayen was on the short end of a 7-6 score. The game ended shortly with South the winner by one point. The statistics of this game were as even as the scores of the previous three games, indicating how evenly matched the teams were.