

The Thirtieth Game — 1942

BEFORE AN enthusiastic crowd of 7500, the Rayen-South gridiron stalwarts battled to a scoreless draw at South Field on Thanksgiving afternoon, November 26, 1942, the sixth tie game and the fourth in the past five years. On this bright November afternoon amid ideal playing conditions Rayen showed a marked superiority in the statistics, but the only serious scoring threat was made by the South High Warriors. They reached the Rayen 5-yard line in the third period, but in a mixup the ball went wide of Jones, and Culp finally fell on it on the 19-yard line. Bill Kalaher was sent in for a field-goal attempt, but Merle Wylie passed over the goal line. However, the ball struck Glen Culp's shoulder and Rayen took over.

Rayen staged a mild score threat in the first quarter when the team marched from its 43 to the South 23. Most of the yardage was gained on off-tackle drives, but when Rayen switched the attack to the airlines it lost the ball as passes by Al Palermo and Frank Sinkovich missed fire. Second quarter play was for the most part an aerial duel with neither team showing an edge. Two interceptions by Gordon Harrison, South co-captain, and Culp's long punt gave a decided advantage to the Red and Blue.

South's deepest penetration in the third period was a pass from Culp to Henry Beckenbach, good for thirty yards. Bob Byrnes provided the key block enabling Beckenbach to come close to going all the way.

After both teams traded fumbles at the start of the final quarter, Rayen launched its final drive. Palermo grabbed Culp's pass and went to his own 46-yard line. On three plays the Orange and Black moved to the South 36. Here Culp intercepted Sinkovich's pass on the 23-yard line and raced

twenty-three yards before being forced out of bounds. But South was detected holding on the play and Rayen wound up with the ball on a first and ten on the South 28-yard line. Frank Davanzo tried three left-handed passes, after Sinkovich made two on a plunge but they were futile and South took over on its 26. With only moments remaining, South was evidently satisfied to settle for a tie and confined its efforts to ground plays until the final whistle.

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Rayen enjoyed a 13-5 margin in first downs and led in total yards gained, 244-146. The eleven completed four passes out of eighteen attempts for 30 yards, while South tried twelve and succeeded on two for 45 yards. South, however, had a big edge in punting on seven kicks, Culp averaging 37 yards while Sinkovich of Rayen averaged 26 yards on four attempts.

Louis "Red" Angelo was the rough man for the Rayen line, ably assisted by Tom Rutkay and Bob Burnett. In the backfield Agnone was outstanding on both offense and defense for the Northsiders. For the Red and Blue, big Gordon Harrison, Bob Byrnes, Bill Poulakas and Bob Keifer were the front line workhorses, with Co-captain Merle Wylie taking honors in the ball-lugging department.

Rayen coach Joe Horn made no change in his starting lineup until near the end of the third period, when he sent in Don Bettura at end for James Perry. Later he sent in Pennell for Miller and Russell Morgan at guard for Saborse.

South coach Del Anderson substituted frequently, running Francis McLaughlin and Jack Swan in and out repeatedly. Delmar Anderson of Muskingum College took over the South coaching duties at the beginning of the 1942 season when Coach Johnny McAfee entered the service.

The Thirty-First Game — 1943

BEFORE A CROWD of about 6500 fans at Rayen Stadium, South High's Warriors triumphed over an inspired Rayen, 13-6, on the night of November 5, 1943. This victory gave South the edge, thirteen victories to Rayen's twelve, and six tie games. It was a cold night with a raw wind that threatened rain, making it unpleasant for all.

South was the first to score when Walt Jones went over from the 1-foot line and Henry Beckenbach place-kicked the extra point. South led 7-0. Rayen threatened with only a few minutes remaining in the second period when Rayen took Beckenbach's punt on the South 45, after Pickering passed to De Gennaro for fourteen yards and Lefty Tabachino smashed tackle for eight yards to the South 23. Napoleon Bell intercepted the next pass to snuff out this threat, and the half ended with the score still 7-0.

The third quarter was little more than a kicking duel with neither team making a first down. Beckenbach was outpunting De Gennaro, but he fumbled on the next-to-last play of the quarter, leading to Rayen's only touchdown. The fumble was recovered by Maltbie of Rayen on the South 37-yard line. Mixing passes with line smashes, Rayen worked the ball to the South 10-yard line, where "Lefty" Tabachino shot through left tackle, eluded the South secondary with a bit of side-stepping and, pivoting, went over standing up. Chester Julian came in for the try for point but it was low and off to the side and South still led 7-6.

Halfway through the final period Beckenbach put Rayen back on its heels with a long kick that Tabachino bobbled but recovered on his 4-yard line. Moses Garcia of Rayen went back of his goal line to kick, but instead streaked around left end for twenty-five yards. Two plays later, South's

Bill Poulakas intercepted a Jack Pickering pass on the Rayen 27. South was penalized back to the 32-yard line for being offside, but Dudley Turner hit left guard for six and Beckenbach tossed to "Slick" Kay on the 10. Then Rayen was penalized five yards for too much time out, which put the ball on the 5-yard line, and it was an easy matter for the speedy Beckenbach to negotiate the remaining five yards for the score. His place-kick failed, but South led 13-6. South kicked off out of bounds to the Rayen 42. From here Bruno made four yards and took a pass from Pickering for an additional four yards. Tabachino then took Pickering's pass good for twenty-seven yards to South's 28-yard line. After two incomplete passes, Bill Kreuzwieser intercepted for South on the goal line and ran the ball back to the 20-yard line; here the final whistle ended hostilities with South the winner, 13-6.

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The statistics were fairly even for both teams, except in forward passing where Rayen had the edge—the Orange and Black completed seven out of sixteen, while South was successful in two out of six attempts. Rayen offensive stars were Pickering and Tabachino, while Big Joe Conroy, Bob Burnett and De Gennaro sparkled on defense. For South High, Henry Beckenbach and Walt Jones were ball-handling demons, and Bill Poulakas, Charlie Yost and Roy Rowan were defensive standouts.