

## *The Forty-Second Game* —~~XXXXX~~<sup>1954</sup> 1944

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IN A thrilling battle that had 7000 fans on the edges of their seats the South High Warriors came from behind in the second half to hand a loss to a stubborn Rayen eleven, 13-6, at Rayen Stadium on Friday night, November 4, 1944. For the second time in two years South High lost its coach—Delmar Anderson—to the Service. Alfred M. Beach, a Mount Union College grad who had come to South from Columbiana to coach basketball, took over the football reins and had a very good season. Rayen's touchdown early in the second quarter on a 46-yard pass play was the first score against Beach's team in five games. The win over Rayen was South's sixth in eight starts, the fifth consecutive win for the Red and Blue.

In the first quarter Rayen got as far as South's 33-yard line on Adrian Castilla's pass to end Fred Heinselman. But on the next play McCullough Williams, Jr., intercepted Jerry Goldberg's heave to end the threat. Early in the second period Castilla's poor punt went out of bounds on the Rayen 19-yard line. South could not move the pigskin, and, largely through the defensive work of end Dave Zurbrick, Rayen took the ball down on its 21-yard line. From here "Lefty" Tabachino and Goldberg smashed to the 34, and a pass to Heinselman and more ground gains took Rayen to the South 46-yard line. Goldberg then passed to Zurbrick, who made a sensational catch on the 35 and then lateraled to Heinselman, who went the rest of the way to pay dirt. Tabachino's boot was low and Rayen led 6-0. Incidentally, this conversion failure was the eighth miss in eight tries this year.

South looked like a different team in the second half. Gaining possession on its 24, Don Stevens, Williams, Bill Richards and Napoleon Bell drove to the 48 with beautiful

blocking. With a fourth-down situation coming up, South decided to go for the first down, and an aerial to "Slick" Kay took the ball to the Rayen 35-yard line. After getting to the 19-yard line, Stevens roared over the goal line on a double reverse behind superb blocking, and Roy Rowan split the uprights to put South ahead 7-6. The blocking in this 76-yard touchdown march was some of the best seen in the thirty-two years of this classic.

In the third quarter South was on the march again. Play started on its 31-yard line and when the quarter ended South was on the 50-yard line. Stevens, Williams and Richards powered to the Rayen 16-yard line. Stevens made eight and Bell made first down on the three, and on the next play Bell went over for the score. Rayen's Charles Maltbie blocked Rowan's kick and South led 13-6. Later, South got to the Rayen 25-yard line, but time ran out and the final score was South 13, Rayen 6.

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South had a great edge in the statistics with twelve first downs to Rayen's five, and net yards gained 237-54. South completed one pass out of six for a 14-yard gain; Rayen four out of sixteen for 77 yards. On penalties South suffered six times for forty yards; Rayen four times for twenty yards. South punted four times for a 30-yard average; Rayen five times for a 27-yard average.

Outstanding for Rayen were Heinselman, Castilla, Zurbrick, Tabachino and Goldberg. For South the whole team performed like champions; the line, composed of Jones, Rowan, Madjeski, B. Williams, Compolito, Barrett and Kay, was rugged, and the fleet-footed backfield of M. Williams, Richards, Stevens and Bell was amazing.

The following Saturday, South defeated Woodrow Wilson 27-6 to gain a triple tie for the city laurels with Chaney and East.

### *The Thirty-Third Game — 1945*

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BEFORE AN unexpected throng of more than 10,000 onlookers, the Rayen High Tigers edged the South High Warriors 14-7 in a thriller at South Field on Friday night, November 2. If ever a football game had a story-book finish this was it. The Frank Merriwell hero of the game was "Lefty" Tabachino who, with only seconds remaining in the game, electrified the crowd with a 79-yard scamper for the winning touchdown. The score had been deadlocked, 7-7, the fans willing to settle for a tie when the dramatic run took place. It gave Rayen coach Mike Koma, who had taken over from Joe Horn, a victory in his first meeting against South.

Rayen took the opening kickoff on its 18-yard line and marched to the South 11-yard line before giving up the ball. South then began its own march. After gaining to its 32, Don Stevens threw a pass intended for left-end Sesonky, but the ball bounded out of the intended receiver's arms into those of Rayen quarterback Charley Spencer who darted fifty-three yards for the marker. Tabachino's kick for the point was good and Rayen led 7-0.

This lead held up until the last quarter, although the Red and Blue was denied touchdowns twice in the second period. South rallied in the fourth quarter to knot the count when "Slick" Kay blocked John Fortunato's kick on the 25-yard line and fell on the ball at the Rayen 17-yard line. Napoleon Bell drove to the 1-yard line, but South drew a 5-yard penalty for backfield in motion, putting the pigskin on the 6-yard line. Bell went to the 3 and Bill Burnett bucked across on a quarterback sneak for the South touchdown. Bell took the ball over on a buck for the extra point and the game was tied 7-7.

With the seconds ticking away and some of the fans leav-

ing, Tabachino broke through the South forward wall for his 79-yard jaunt, and the thirty-third game in this great rivalry was history. This was one of the longest runs from scrimmage in Rayen-South history, a fitting climax for a boy who had starred in two previous Rayen-South encounters but who was not a member of a winning team; this year, "Lefty" "won his own game."

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For Rayen, John Fortunato and Ralph Wagner were outstanding on the line and quarterback Charlie Spencer played brilliantly on both offensive and defensive. Napoleon Bell and "Slick" Kay bore the brunt of the offensive for the losing South Warriors, with Herb Luckey and Nick Sesonky stalwarts on the line.