

The Thirty-Sixth Game — 1948

ON A field at Rayen Stadium that resembled a skating rink the South Warriors defeated Rayen 19-0, the Red and Blue's sixteenth triumph, as against fourteen losses and six ties, witnessed by about 7200 who braved the inclement weather. The freezing rain did not impair the offensive power of the

South gridders, who paraded for three touchdowns and held Rayen scoreless.

They got rolling in the first period, marching seventy-two yards for a touchdown. First, Joe Byrdy passed to Burdette Baker on the 46-yard line. Angelo Dannessa then bulled through Rayen's line for thirty-six yards, to be hauled down by "Boots" Burney on the Rayen 18. Gene Davis got four and Dannessa went the remaining fourteen easily to register the first six points. The conversion attempt was fouled up by a bad pass from center and South led 6-0.

In the second quarter the Warriors tallied again on a 55-yard drive that started with "Sonny" Friend tossing to end John Guerriero for twenty-five yards, putting the ball on Rayen's 25-yard line. Dannessa went to the 21 and George Manolukas dashed to the 8 where he fumbled, but South retained possession as the ball rolled out of bounds. It was Dannessa again for the score; Byrdy's pass to Guerriero for the conversion was good and South led 13-0. With about half a minute to go in the half, "Boots" stopped another South drive when he grabbed Dannessa's pass on the 3-yard line and lateraled to Ewashko, who went out to the 27. However, a 15-yard penalty against Rayen for roughing the passer regained the ball for South on Rayen's 30-yard line. With only seconds remaining, Friend passed to halfback Davis for the third South touchdown; but this score was disallowed as South was declared offside and the half ended 13-0, South. During the first half Rayen was never in the game, getting over the midfield stripe just once.

South took the kickoff to start the second half and drove to the Orange and Black 7, but two penalties of fifteen and five yards ended this threat. However, the 5-yard penalty voided a completed fourth-down pass, Dannessa to Guerriero, to the Rayen 1-yard line. Rayen took over on the 29-yard line. From here until the last three minutes the game was devoid of thrills. Then Rayen's Tony Crish completed a

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41-yard pass to Burney that carried to the South 37-yard line; but the attack stalled and South took over on the Rayen 45 when Baker blocked Orechoneg's punt. Davis romped twenty-three yards to the 22 and repeated for two more. Byrdy picked up five and Davis added eleven to the 4-yard marker. Byrdy dived into the end zone for the touchdown with a minute and a half of game-time left. Dyke Hall's attempted place-kick was no good and South was ahead 19-0. With the aid of two 15-yard penalties against South, following the kickoff, Rayen again got as far as the South 37 as the game ended.

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South was clearly the master, with ten first downs to Rayen's five, and total offensive gains of 239 yards to 118 for the Northsiders. For South High, Davis, Dannessa and Byrdy were the offensive stars while Pete Popovich, Tony De Lucia and Burdette Baker were the bulwarks on the forward wall.

What little Rayen showed on the attack was spearheaded by "Boots" Burney, with Sam Kasparian second-best. The outstanding lineman for Rayen was guard Don Heller.

The Thirty-Seventh Game — 1949

IN A game replete with long scoring plays both on the ground and in the air, South High swamped Rayen 30-19 at South Field on Friday night, November 5. A crowd of 7000 was on hand to watch South put the damper on Rayen's title hopes. The cold and snow cut down attendance, but the Warriors seemed to enjoy the weather as they overcame a first-half deficit.

After a scoreless first period, South scored on the first play of the second quarter, climaxing a 67-yard march with a pass from Ernest Brantley to Joe Byrdy for thirteen yards. The point was missed and South led 6-0. Before the fans had settled back in their seats, Rayen forged ahead 7-6 on "Boots" Burney's 66-yard gallop on the first play after South had kicked off. Warren Orechoneg kicked the point, the only successful one out of eight attempts by both teams. The Warriors came right back with a 61-yard drive that featured an aerial attack led by Brantley passing to Delfino for nine yards, then to Pete Popovich for twenty-six, and seventeen more to Bill Schoessel to the Rayen 10. After Ben Stawarski gained one yard, Brantley ran left end for the score and South was ahead 12-7. This lead was only temporary as the Northsiders moved eighty yards in only six plays to score again. After five plays had taken the Orange and Black to the South 27, Burney took Don Matuleck's pass for a 24-yard sprint for the touchdown. The try for point was missed and Rayen led 13-12. Just before the first half ended, "Boots" intercepted a South pass and dashed fifty yards to the Warriors' 9-yard line, but South held and the half ended with Rayen in the lead.

In the third period South High really went to work with two lightning-like touchdowns. On the second play from scrimmage, Brantley fired a long pass to Joe Byrdy, who went all the way for the tally. Though the point try was missed, South went ahead to stay. On this 65-yard play Byrdy was chased by Jim McClendon all the way, but McClendon's tackle was a bit too late as Byrdy fell into the end zone.

After failing to gain past the South 47, Rayen punted and the Red and Blue were on the march again. Three plays settled South on its 33-yard line and here the play settled the game. Husky Dave Delfino stormed through the middle; he seemed to be stopped twice but he was goalward bound and, despite a desperate try by Dick Craver, he scored on a 67-yard jaunt. When the kick for point was missed, South led 24-13.

Delfino's run was beautiful—he seemed to be running a straight line, never veering right or left for an instant.

In the last period, with the game seemingly in the bag, South sent in Paul Russo, 130 pounds of football dynamite. He led a 65-yard march that put the Red and Blue in scoring position, with Delfino going over from the 1-yard line. With South ahead 30-12, South coach McAfee sent in most of his reserves and Rayen scored late in the period on a 54-yard pass play, Matuleck to Bob Washington, that carried to the South 24. But the Warriors held and took over. The Northsiders got another chance when Burney intercepted Bill Booth's pass on the 45 and took it back to the South 16-yard line. Frank Ewashko went to the 2-yard line and repeated on the next play to score. The try for point was missed and the final score was South 30, Rayen 19.

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This was the seventeenth victory for South against Rayen's fourteen wins, with six tie games accounting for the thirty-seven series games.

South was master in statistics, with eleven first downs to six for Rayen, 359 yards gained in total offense to Rayen's 228 yards; South completed nine passes out of thirteen attempts, Rayen three out of eleven. Each team punted five times, South averaging 34 yards to Rayen's 28. South lost 40 yards due to penalties to Rayen's loss of 35 yards. The 49 points scored by both teams in this game were the high for the series, the previous high being 48 points in 1917 when South won 48-0.