

## *The Forty-Fifth Game — 1957*

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WENDING their way to a perfect season, the South High Warriors hurdled their eighth obstacle when they defeated their crosstown rivals 25-6 at South Field Friday night, November 1. About 6000 fans saw Don Lisbon run for three touchdowns on gallops of 3, 26 and 70 yards. Mervin Spencer went ten yards for the other score. South had three touchdowns, by Lisbon, Spencer and Don Rivers, called back, bringing the total to thirteen thus far for the season. Rayen's touchdown was scored by "Big Bill" Bretz, who dived over from the 1-foot line.

South took the opening kickoff, going sixty-four yards for its first touchdown, with all-city fullback Mervin Spencer tallying from the 10-yard line. This drive needed twelve plays and five first downs, including a fourth down and two to go on the 20-yard line. Jack Pauley missed the try for point and South led 6-0, with six minutes remaining in the first quarter. But Rayen, a definite underdog, opened up its bag of tricks and almost succeeded. On the first play from scrimmage after the South kickoff, Rayen was in possession on its 28-yard line. On the tail end of a backfield triple pass, Bretz shot a long forward pass into the waiting arms of Rayen end Reginald Eutsey, but he couldn't hold it, and for a brief moment Rayen followers had visions of a tie score at least. Shortly after this South's Spencer completed a 29-yard pass to Lisbon to the Rayen 15. On the next play Spencer got loose for the touch-

down but a backfield-in-motion penalty nullified the score and Rayen took the ball on the 19-yard line.

In the second period, Rayen was pushed back to its 3, but Bretz boomed a sensational 58-yard punt that Spencer took on the 32 after fumbling for a moment. With Spencer, Lisbon and De Witt Underwood spearheading the attack, South marched sixty-five yards to the 3 where Lisbon hurled himself through tackle for the touchdown despite the fine defensive work by Rayen's Dom Vechiarelli and Carl Pritchard who alone could not stem the tide. Pauley's kick was good and the Red and Blue were on the long end of a 13-0 score as the half ended.

Rayen started the third quarter with another gamble that did not pay off. With fourth and three to go on the South 47, the play failed, South took over and Floyd, Lisbon and Spencer went to the 26. Lisbon dashed the twenty-six yards with nary a hand on him. Pauley's kick was wide, but Rayen was offside. The next attempt was also missed, and the score was 19-0, South, with five minutes remaining.

Moments later, South's Joe Bonamase intercepted Henry Stubb's pass, and the Red and Blue were in possession again. Spencer went back as if to pass, Lisbon took the ball off Mervin's palm and the old Statue-of-Liberty play was executed perfectly, Lisbon going sixty yards to pay dirt. However, South was called for clipping, the touchdown erased, and a 15-yard penalty suffered. On the next play Ben Reali stopped Lou Floyd for a 5-yard loss. Then Lisbon got his touchdown back when he shot through tackle and outran Reggie Eutsey seventy yards for the score. Again the usually accurate Pauley missed the kick and South led 25-0. Bretz caught South unawares with a screen pass to Pete Anania and he sped down the sidelines like a scared rabbit until overhauled by Spencer on the 11-yard line. The play was good for forty-nine yards. Bretz worked to the 1-foot line, then dived through tackle for the touchdown. Bruce Jamison's kick was missed, leaving the score 25-6, South.

In the fourth period Anania fumbled and Dick Moran recovered for South on the Rayen 41. Floyd's pass to Bob Douglas carried to the 29. Rayen's Tom Citizen intercepted Pauley's pass and went to the 45. The Tigers could go no farther and Bretz sent a towering kick that Spencer muffed when he was hit by Eutsey. Vechiarelli recovered for Rayen on the South 16-yard line. This break was brief, however, as Bonamase recovered a fumbled jump pass by Lonzel Pruitt on the 8-yard line. South's advance to the 40-yard line was featured by Lou Floyd's 18-yard jaunt. Then South gambled and lost the ball on the 39 when Spencer's fourth-and-three try was short. Bretz and Anania moved to the South 25, but the threat failed as Bert Summers muffed a lateral and big Fred Ausnehmer pounced on it at the 23-yard line. Buddy Taylor and Spencer pushed to midfield where Rivers, running like a scared deer and as hard to stop, traveled fifty yards in nothing flat to score; but for the third time the touchdown was called back and South penalized for offensive holding. Here the game ended, the South High Warriors ahead 25-6.

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South's superiority was reflected in the statistics—20 first downs to Rayen's 7; 375 net yards gained with 336 rushing to the Orange and Black's 186 net yards, 112 on the ground. South completed three passes in ten attempts for 39 yards, Rayen five of fourteen for 74 yards. Each team punted twice; Rayen averaging 39 yards per kick, South 30. Both fumbled four times, South losing the ball once, Rayen three times.

As in the seven previous games, the big South line was a dominating factor in the victory. John Holzbach and Bernie Anderson were brilliant in their offensive duties while Fred Ausnehmer, Joe Bonamase, Dick Moran and Lou Floyd shone on defense. South's regular end Larry Holden did not play, due to injuries.

Rayen employed a 6-3-2 defense against the Warriors, with

Ben Reali, Dom Vechiarelli, Tom Citizen and Carl Pritchard outstanding. Bill Bretz, 210-pound quarterback, was the shining light on offense for the Northsiders; hampered by injuries the last two years, Bretz really came into his own this year. Ted Wynn and Frank Horvath were out of the Rayen lineup.

With this game in the history books, South could boast 23 wins to Rayen's 16, with 6 games tied.

This victory made at least a tie for the city title a certainty for the Red and Blue. All they needed was a victory over East High to gain the undisputed title and also their third undefeated and untied season.

South High defeated East High the next Friday and completed a perfect season for the city championship, winning nine games and scoring a total of 335 points to their opponents' 25. This tally was the largest season total in South High history. This was the fourth season in a row that a Youngstown high school came through with a perfect season—in 1954 it was Rayen, in 1955 East, in 1956 Ursuline and in 1957 South.