

The Forty-Sixth Game — 1958

AT Rayen Stadium on Saturday night, November 1, the Rayen Tigers and South High Warriors were unable to reach a decision after forty-eight minutes of play and settled for a 14-14 tie, the seventh in the long series. Only a handful of fans were on hand, less than 3000, to watch these arch-rivals, the cold raw weather responsible for one of the four poorest attendances in the series.

The game got under way with South kicking off to Rayen. On the third play Rayen fumbled and the Warriors recovered

on the Rayen 47-yard line. It took just eleven plays for South to register when Buddy Taylor smacked over from one yard out. In this goalward drive the key play was a 16-yard pass from De Witt Underwood to Taylor. Quarterback Bob Price hit end Jay Cunningham for the two extra points, and South led 8-0, with about five minutes of play remaining in the first period.

The Rayen Tigers lost no time in evening up the score, taking the kickoff sixty-three yards to pay dirt with about thirty-eight seconds left in the quarter. Featured in this drive were passes from Horvath to end Lonzel Pruitt for nine yards and to back Martin for twenty-five. Frank Horvath tallied on an option play and then flipped a short pass to Earvin Martin for the two points that deadlocked the contest.

Rayen moved out to a 14-8 lead in the second quarter when Horvath caught Martin with a 36-yard pass completion. Only four minutes had elapsed when Rayen took over on its 27-yard line. Aided by a 15-yard penalty against South and two pass plays from Horvath to Pruitt and Alex Zenko, the Tigers found themselves on South's 36-yard line. Here Horvath found Martin for the remaining distance, and with guard Bruce Jamison's attempted conversion wide of the mark, the Rayen Tigers led 14-8, the score when the half ended. Prior to this Rayen score, the South Warriors lost a touchdown on the prettiest play of the game—Underwood flipped a short screen pass to South speed-demon Taylor who raced seventy-six yards to pay dirt only to have the run nullified when teammate Wally Taylor was detected clipping at the Rayen 28.

The third period was uneventful except for an early Warrior bid for a score that was rudely nipped by Rayen guard Dom Vechiarelli who intercepted Bob Price's pass on the Rayen 30-yard line. With ten minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, South capitalized on a Rayen bobble to tie up the game. Rayen's Horvath returned a South punt from the 20- to the 48-yard line but a clipping penalty erased this

gain and the Tigers found themselves back on their 13-yard line. Rayen's Dick Ward fumbled on the 21 and Don Shaw, South's 140 pounds of defensive dynamite, recovered. In seven plays Taylor bulled over from the 1-yard line. In this drive Taylor went four yards, was held for naught on his next try, then a pass was broken up by Rayen in the end zone. Now, with a fourth-down situation, Taylor hit end George Grimmett with a 12-yard do-or-die pass for a first down on the Orange and Black 5-yard line. In three smacks at the Rayen line Taylor scored, with seven minutes remaining. Underwood tried running right end for the points that would put South in front, but Rayen end "Long Lonzie" Pruitt nabbed the runner just short of the goal. With about five minutes left, South's Price found end Gene Bukovi with a 14-yarder that carried almost to midfield, but the Warriors were forced to punt, and the Tigers held the ball for the remaining few moments of the game.

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The statistics of the game were almost as even as the score. Rayen had fourteen first downs for a total 237 yards, South thirteen for 195. The Rayen Tigers completed five of eight passes for 91 yards to South's seven of eighteen for 72 yards, with one interception by Rayen. South had the edge in punting, averaging 37 yards on five kicks; Rayen punted three times for a 30-yard average. South did not lose a fumble; Rayen lost two, both converted into Red and Blue touchdowns. In penalties, South lost thirty yards, compared to the 45 yards suffered by the Northsiders.

The turnout, one of the poorest, was especially lacking in student bodies from both schools. Their interest is diminishing yearly. At game-time the stands on the east side of the field, mainly for students, were scarcely one-third filled.

It was many fans' first glimpse of the new and elaborate press box at Rayen Stadium, and they were unanimous in

declaring it long-needed. South Field also has a new press box identical in design.

This was the first Rayen-South game played under the new conversion rule—two points for a successful pass or running attempt. Both coaches, McAfee of South and Robinette of Rayen, went for the two points on their first touchdowns, resulting in an 8-8 tie in the first period. However, after Rayen's second touchdown, Bruce Jamison missed on a kicking attempt, and South tried an end run after its second touchdown, which also went awry—resulting in the final 14-14 score.

Each team lost a man through injuries. Star South halfback Don Lisbon sat out the second half as the result of a shoulder injury, and Jim Bertilacci, Rayen junior halfback, was hospitalized with an injured back.

Frank Horvath, whose passing and running highlighted the Rayen attack, is one of a long line of Horvaths who played for the Northsiders. Early in the 1930s John and James Horvath were members of the Rayen squad, and in 1947 their younger brother Bill was a Rayen back. In 1954, James' son Dick starred on the undefeated Rayen team of that year, and in 1958 Dick's brother Frank came along to star for the Orange and Black. Incidentally, both Dick (1954) and Frank (1958) Horvath were *Vindicator* all-city selections.