

CAPITALIZING on some very inept ball-handling by the Rayen Tigers, the South High Warriors defeated their cross-town rivals 12-0 on Friday night, November 6, 1959, at the South High Stadium. A slim crowd of about 2500 saw DeWitt Underwood and Sanford Rivers score touchdowns following

six of which were recovered by the alert Red and Blue Warriors. With the ball on South's 4-yard line, Rayen suffered from a mixup in signals, resulting in a backfield-in-motion penalty that stymied Rayen's only threat to score. South now has a 24-16 game margin, with 7 tie struggles.

Rayen began its sloppy ball-handling early in the game. After recovering three of their own fumbles, Mike Coppola fumbled and Jack Esposito, a veritable ballhawk, recovered for South to set the stage for the first touchdown. From midfield, South advanced to the 17-yard line. The big play in this drive was a 17-yard gain on a lateral from quarterback Bob Price to Underwood. Price and Buddy Taylor gained to the 5. Jay Cunningham drove to the 1, and with three minutes and forty-five seconds remaining, Underwood went over left guard for the touchdown. Lee Booker nailed Underwood on a conversion run, but South led 6-0. On the first play after kickoff Rayen's John Buddin fumbled and the alert Kenny Crawford, 153-pound guard, pounced on it for South on Rayen's 32-yard line. This advance was stalled largely through the work of Tony Vechiarelli of Rayen, who took over from their 27. Dick Sfarra, a battering-ram fullback, raced twenty yards and repeated to the South 40 where again fumbleitis hit the Tigers as Jim Bertilacci lost the ball and Bill Kinder recovered for South on the 40. Two long gains by Taylor carried to the Rayen 46. Fancy running by Underwood and Cunningham advanced the ball to the 21, in spite of fine defensive work by Tony Hudock, Vechiarelli and Dick Ward of the Tigers. Unable to advance in three plays, Price found Sanford Rivers all alone on the 1-yard line, and Rivers snared his pass for South's second touchdown. Rivers had entered the game as a replacement for end Tom Jenkins, who had suffered a head injury. It was the sophomore's first touchdown and his exultant teammates hoisted him aloft for his brilliant play. Again Underwood was halted on his conversion plunge, and South led 12-0.

With five minutes and thirty-three seconds remaining in the first half, Sfarra and Buddin drove to the South 37, where Bruce Jamison was forced to punt to the 17. Rayen got a break at this point when Price, on a pitchout, was bumped by Alex Zenko; the ball bounced away and was recovered by Dick Ward of Rayen on the South 10-yard line. Sfarra went to the 4 in two tries, and on third down Rayen backs were illegally in motion and the Tigers were set back to the 9-yard line. The threat ended here as the Northsiders went to the air with no success—Taylor foiled a Bertilacci pass and Bill Skowran knocked down Coppola's effort, South taking the ball on its 11-yard line. At this point the first half ended with the Warriors leading 12-0.

South took the second-half kickoff on the 28 and ran it back to the 47. A series of line plays gained the 30, and on a fourth down Bob Price's pass caromed off Cunningham into the hands of Art Ward who ran it back to the South 35-yard line. Ralph Coleman and Sfarra drove to the 24, and once again the Tigers were stricken with fumbleitis. On an attempted trap play there was a mixup in signals and the ball squirted into Bob Price's arms on the South 20. The Red and Blue pushed to the 35, and "Bullet" Bob Baker, who had replaced Price, was swarmed under by Zenko and Vechiarelli for an 18-yard loss attempting a pass. Price came in to boot; his kick went straight up, going only five yards, and Rayen had the ball on the 23. But Rayen could go nowhere against a relentless South defense that featured Bill Skowran. South took over on the 20 and, failing to gain, Price booted, but Rayen's Coleman fumbled and Skowran recovered for South on the 43. Again Price kicked, but this time Coleman returned from the 15- to the 26-yard line. After an exchange of punts in the fading moments of the fourth quarter, South pushed to the Rayen 27. South missed a score at this point when Skowran dropped two long passes by Baker on the goal line. Buddy Taylor nabbed a screen pass to the 20, short of a first down, and Rayen took over as time ran out.

Some of the luster of this classic has rubbed off over the years, but this year's game was close and hard-fought, like its many predecessors. Only two penalties were called, both against Rayen for twenty yards.

DeWitt Underwood, Jay Cunningham and Taylor did some fancy running for South, and quarterback Bob Price was outstanding on the option play. Kenny Crawford, the iron man of the South line, was tremendous at guard, as was Jack Esposito, who usually spends half his time in the opposing backfield. Ends Bill Skowran and Sanford Rivers were also outstanding.

The Rayen offense consisted mainly of Dick Sfarra aided by Ralph Coleman. Sfarra, the lumbering type of fullback, was effective with his bull-like rushes through the South line, but the sad ball-handling by his teammates nullified many of his brilliant gains. Outstanding on defense for the Rayen Tigers was Tony Hudock at center, ably supported by Dick Ward and Tony Vechiarelli.

South had 13 first downs to Rayen's 8. Both teams were about even on net yards gained by rushing, South netting 124 and Rayen 126. Each team attempted seven passes, with nary a completion by the Tigers. South gained twenty-eight yards on three completions, one for a touchdown. South punted four times for a 28-yard average, while Rayen booted three times for a 33-yard average. In fumbles—and this could very well be the story of the Rayen loss—the Tigers mishandled the ball the lofty total of nine times. South had only two bobbles, recovering once. The Warriors also recovered six of Rayen's miscues. The Red and Blue were penalty-free, while Rayen was assessed two for a total of twenty yards. The nine fumbles by Rayen is a record. The closest to this total is six fumbles by South High in the 1952 game; Rayen miscued five times in the 1950 contest.

Dick Sfarra, the big Rayen fullback, with his lumbering, dilatory style, recalls another Rayen fullback of bygone days—Harry "Hy" Manushak, who starred for the Orange and

Black in 1923-25. Incidentally, Sfarra and Taylor of South are the holders of city track titles, Sfarra in the discus-throw and Taylor in the broad jump.

Kenny Crawford, aggressive South junior guard, comes by his football ability naturally. His father, Francis Crawford, played end and captained the 1932 South eleven, and an uncle, Pauly Crawford, played quarterback on the 1928-29 South teams.

Both teams had several players injured in this game. South end Tom Jenkins was kicked in the head in the first half and sat out the second half, while Buddy Taylor and Ken Crawford came up with hand injuries.

Rayen played without guard Richard Michalian, who tore leg ligaments in practice. Ends Alex Zenko and Robert Beal were also slightly injured.

The Rayen Tigers outweighed the South High Warriors and were probably the heaviest team in the city. They looked great in the preview, beating Wilson 8-0, but somewhere along the line they lost something.