

BEFORE a disappointing crowd of 6000, the Talented Tigers of Rayen High, gunning for the city-series crown, overpowered a lighter but willing South High team, 36-12, at the Rayen Stadium on Friday night, November 4. This was the worst defeat inflicted on the Warriors by Rayen in the forty-eight games of this traditional rivalry. Also, it was the first Rayen victory over South since the undefeated 1954 Tigers won by a 27-13 score. The win also clinched at least an Orange and Black tie for the city title, only an afternoon joust with East remaining.

South kicked off to Rayen to open the game, and play in the initial stanza was dull. Each team punted twice in this period and the only sizable gain was one of twenty yards by South co-captain Jay Cunningham. South's Ron Delluomo's punt traveled only seven yards as the scoreless first period came to a close.

The second quarter began auspiciously for the Bengals. From the Rayen 38, Jim Harris, in at fullback for Rayen's injured Oliver Anderson, made fifty-four yards, being caught from behind by Cunningham and Sanford Rivers on the 8-yard line. After two assaults at the line failed, Rick Ballantine pitched out to Richard Atkinson who turned end for the first Tiger touchdown. Ballantine's run for the conversion failed and Rayen led 6-0. South, after failing to gain, kicked to the Rayen 44. Here Ballantine caught Chuck Sammarone alone on the South 20, but he was nailed from behind by Sandy Rivers on the 8. Three smashes netted only three yards, but on fourth and goal Ballantine hit Harris in the end zone for the score. Harris' plunge for the extra points was marred by a backfield-in-motion penalty. On the next try Ballantine passed to John Buddin, but the catch was made beyond the end zone, and the score remained 12-0, Rayen.

Minutes later South quarterback Jimmy Jones, attempting his first pass of the evening, threw into the arms of Rayenite Buddin who with superlative blocking proceeded forty yards to the Warrior 15, where he was caught by South's Delluomo.

Ralph Coleman dropped Ballantine's pass on the 5. Harris and Coleman drove to the 3 and Harris waltzed over for the third Rayen touchdown with only 1.19 remaining on the scoreboard clock. He also hit center for the two-point conversion, and the Orange and Black led 20-0.

After the ensuing kickoff, Tony Vechiarelli, living up to the family tradition of ball-hawking, intercepted Sandy Rivers' pass and ran it back to the South 35-yard line. On the next play Ballantine, attempting to pass, was rushed by Augie

Bukovi; Jones intercepted for the Warriors and moved up-field twenty-five yards to the 40. At this point South showed signs of retaliation and started to move goalward. Aided by an interference call that gave the Jones-Cunningham duo a completion on the 50, fullback Ken Booker drove to the 35 on a quick opener with only four seconds remaining in the first half. South called time and when play resumed Jones tossed a flat pass to Cunningham; with as nifty a bit of broken-field running seen all evening Jay evaded five would-be tacklers to tally standing up as the clock ran out. Clyde Allen, Rayen's alert center, and end Sam Crenshaw halted Booker's plunge for the conversion, and the half ended 20-6 in Rayen's favor.

In the opening moments of the third quarter the South Warriors battled back to make a game of it. Taking the Rayen kickoff, the Red and Blue marched seventy-one yards to score South's second touchdown. Key plays in this drive were a Jones-to-Cunningham pass good for seventeen yards and an 18-yard jaunt by Sandy Rivers that placed the oval on the Rayen 20. From here Cunningham broke loose for fifteen to the 5, where Vechiarelli nailed him. He repeated to the 1, being stopped by Bill Kohut. Two more stabs at the center of the Tiger line went to the six-inch mark, and then Ken Booker dove over for the score. Allen stopped Rivers on the point-try, and the scoreboard showed Rayen 20, South 12.

On the kickoff South gained a terrific break, but unfortunately could not capitalize on it. Harris fumbled Lawson Booker's kick which was recovered by Ken Booker on the Rayen 45. If the South rooters had any hopes for at least a tie score here their hopes were short-lived, for on the very first play Jones, fading back to pass, was swarmed by at least five Rayen behemoths and he lost possession of the ball to Joe Haus, and the Orange and Black had the pigskin on the Rayen 49. Oliver Anderson, now in at fullback for Rayen, gained three yards to the South 48. Lightning struck on the next Rayen play. Ralph Coleman cut oftackle and swung to

his right to go forty-eight yards to register touchdown four for the Northsiders. He also ran for the conversion to up the score 28-12 and quash Red and Blue hopes for the night. It was a hard-fought affair by both teams; after the next kickoff four players were sprawled out on the turf, each one needing bench attention, and Jay Cunningham was lost to the South cause for some plays following this furious attack.

As the third quarter ended Rayen pushed to the South 34, mainly through the work of Coleman. In spite of Cunningham's superb defensive play, Buddin and Coleman drove to the Warrior 15. South took over after Ballantine's fourth-down pass failed. The next play could well have been one of the most sensational in Rayen-South history. Jimmy Jones, back to pass, was trapped in the end zone for an apparent safety, but he cleverly evaded the six giant Rayenites and scooted out to the 30 before Chuck Sammarone, the only remaining opponent, reached out to bring him earthward. Pete Patrone nipped this in the bud with an interception in midfield. Rayen failed to gain and, as South took possession, South coach "Sonny" Friend sent in his second unit. But the Gary Williams-Lawson Booker-Tom Benish-Lou D'Apolito backfield got nowhere and the first team re-entered the game.

Rayen scored again in the fourth canto following a South punt on the 35. With Richard Gomez at the signal-calling post, Jim Herod and Buddin worked the ball to the 21 and once again it was Coleman all the way for the final 6-pointer for the Bengals. Gomez skirted end for the two points that upped the final score to 36-12 with Rayen on the long end.

While this game was a rout for the Orange and Black, the statistics were on the even side. First downs were even at eleven for each team, but Rayen had 235 net yards gained rushing to South's 182. Rayen completed two of six passes for forty-seven yards, compared to South's three completions of ten for twenty-seven yards. However, the Rayen Orange and Black intercepted four South aeriels, two of which led to touchdowns. There was only one Rayen pass nabbed by South

and it too led to a South score. Rayen punted five times for an average of thirty-four yards, while South punted four times for a twenty-seven-yard average. The Tigers fumbled just once and South miscued three times. Each team lost one fumble, and each was penalized four times, Rayen losing forty yards on penalties to South's loss of thirty yards.

With this win, Rayen was undefeated in city-series play, having won six straight.*

The story of this victory over South, as well as over others this year, can be summed up: a big line that averaged over two hundred pounds had the desire to become great, and did. This Gargantuan unit, led by co-captains Tony Vechiarelli and Chuck Sammarone, with Bob Beal, Tony Hudock, Clyde Allen, Harry Janke, Joe Haus, Bill Kohut and others, paved the way for fleet-footed Ralph Coleman, John Buddin, Oliver Anderson, Jim Harris and Richard Atkinson to run wild against virtually all opponents and limit foes to about nine points per game. The spark plug of this fine eleven was Rick Ballantine, sophomore quarterback who until this year had never played football.

For the South Hi Warriors the outstanding man on the field was, as usual, Jay Cunningham. All season he has been practically a one-man gang on the Red and Blue eleven, not only as a ball-carrier but defensively as well. In this game he scored his eleventh touchdown this season, averaging over seven yards per carry.

Kenny Crawford, with Cunningham, is co-captain of the Warriors. At guard he was brilliant. Although weighing only about 160 pounds this all-city guard has been the bulwark of the South line for the past two years. The work of Myron Robinson, Geo. Rukovena, Mike Dorfi and Jack Esposito also stood out on the South forward wall.

Both coaches, Robinette of Rayen and "Sonny" Friend

*Rayen defeated East Hi on Saturday afternoon, November 12, by a 20-16 score, thus gaining the undisputed title of city-series champion of Youngstown.

of South, sent in many substitutes. With both starting teams studded with seniors, the mentors thus had an opportunity to survey next year's material. Among the Rayen returnees are Rick Ballantine, Ralph Coleman, Richard Gomez, Jack Kline and Art Ward in the backfield, and Mike Patrick, Tom Nunziato, Fred Fabry, Roy Winston, Gerald Allen and Robin Altdoerffer on the line. South should have Sandy Rivers and Jimmy Jones back for this year's starting backfield, plus Gary Williams, Leroy Arrington, Ron Adair, Allan Bogan and Lou D'Apolito and linemen Steve Ditchendorff, Earl Banfield, Jamie Rivers, Ron Delluomo, Augie Bukovi and Kenny Crawford's brother Fran.

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About an hour before game-time a slight drizzle fell, and several times during the game some rain fell, but it did not scurry the fans. The field was firm and ready-made for the fast footwork the Rayenites piled up.

The bands from both schools put on a pre-game show in addition to the usual half-time entertainment.

Going into this game, Rayen had won six and lost one. That loss was the opener against a strong Niles eleven. South's record as the eleven squared off against the arch rival was four wins and three setbacks, 3-2 in city-series play.

The thirty-six points scored by Rayen is an all-time high for points scored against South. The previous high by a Rayen team was 27 scored in the 1954 game which Rayen won 27-13. The record for points scored in a Rayen-South game is 48—in 1917 when South won 48-0.

Rick Ballantine, though only a Rayen sophomore, should carve quite a niche for himself at the school. He ran the team like a veteran and his passes and roll-outs were something to behold.

A Rayen-South game would not be complete without a dog running out on the field. Sure enough, this happened during the first half, and play was held up momentarily while

Referee Harold Burry and Field Judge Fred Vicarel chased the canine to the sidelines.

Tony Vechiarelli is the third Vechiarelli to perform for the Tigers in recent years. There was his cousin Jim in 1953 and Jim's brother Dom in 1957. Another cousin, Tony "Spike" Zone, in 1949 played center for Rayen. All are linebackers.

This was "Parents' Night" at Rayen Stadium. The parents of the Rayen players were seated on field benches and were introduced during the half-time ceremonies.

Even though South was the loser in this game, the school still retains the edge in the series with 24 wins, 17 losses and seven ties. This was Coach Robinette's second victory in the Rayen-South series. He began his coaching tenure at Rayen in 1952. "Robby's" record against South now stands at two wins, six losses and one tie.

This was J. L. "Sonny" Friend's first game against Rayen as head coach of the South Hi Warriors. An assistant coach, he stepped into the top spot when John McAfee resigned after the 1959 season.

Although the local press estimated the crowd at 6000, it is doubtful if it reached that figure. Some observers seemed to think that the low attendance was the result of some violence at a high-school game the previous week. But the fans were promised better police protection for this game and, with Rayen undefeated in city-series play and South still in the race, one would have expected Rayen Stadium to be bursting at the seams. However, these factors were not enough to bring out the fans despite a good night for football. Perhaps the answer is to return the game to its former date, Thanksgiving Day.