

Series Intelligence

OF THE forty-eight games played to date South has won twenty-four, Rayen seventeen, and seven have ended in ties. South has scored a total of 486 points, Rayen 361 points.

Fifteen games were played before a tie score was forthcoming. That was the 1926 game which ended in a 7-7 deadlock.

In total, South High scored seventy-five touchdowns, thirty-five points after touchdowns and one field goal for a grand total of 486 points. The first two South touchdowns, in the first game in 1911, counted only five points each. Included in Rayen's total 361 points were fifty-four touchdowns, twenty-seven points after touchdowns, two field goals for six points and two safeties for four points.

Four of the seven tie games in the series have been scoreless. Not including these scoreless tie games, Rayen has been held scoreless in sixteen games, with South being shut out ten times. On eighteen occasions both teams scored in the same game.

The seventy-five South touchdowns were tallied by fifty-four players: forty-four on straight football, either run or plunge; twenty-three on forward-pass plays; five on blocked punts; one on a punt return; one on an intercepted pass; and one on a fumble or loose ball. The rundown on the thirty-five South conversions (in thirty-four attempts) is: twenty-eight on kicks, three on plunges, three on forward passes and one on an offside penalty.

Thirty-nine Rayen players had a hand in scoring Rayen's fifty-four touchdowns; thirty on straight on-ground football; sixteen on forward passes; four on intercepted passes; two on lateral passes; and two on punt returns. Of the twenty-

seven successful point conversions (in twenty-three attempts), eleven were tallied on kicks, five on passes, nine on plunges and two on offside penalties.

It was in 1958 that rules governing conversions were changed, successful conversions by either a run or a pass counting as two points, rather than one as heretofore. Kicking conversions remained as one point.

To younger football fans, the offside penalties may seem strange. Rules in the 1920s stated the penalty for offside on the try for point after touchdown was: (a) if a foul is committed by the team making the "try," it shall forfeit the chance to score the additional point; (b) if a foul is committed by the side on defense, the point shall be awarded to the team making the try (whether or not successful). In the 1926 7-7 tie, both Rayen and South benefited from this ruling. South scored first in the second quarter when Mike Koken ran twelve yards after taking a pass from Jack Moss. Hal Scarnecchia's kick hit the goal post, but Wells, the referee, detected Rayen offside, and South was awarded the point. In the fourth quarter Rayen scored when Bill Salinsky dived over from the 2-yard line. On the try for point Don Wilson attempted a pass but the ball was grounded; headlinesman Graf ruled South offside and Rayen was awarded the point.

In individual scoring, four players are tied at three for scoring the most touchdowns in one game—Rayen's Bill Swanton in 1913, Rayen's Paul Birkholtz in 1932, South's Bob Zack in 1952 and South's Don Lisbon in 1957. In total touchdowns scored, Don Lisbon of South leads with three in 1957, one in 1956. In total points scored in one game, Rayen's Bill Swanton is ahead with nineteen points, scoring three touchdowns and one conversion for his total in the 1913 game which Rayen won 20-6. In the try-for-point category South's Bob Durkin leads with two in 1953 and three in 1952.

Only three successful field goals have been recorded. In

1912 Rayen's Tony Butchy was true with a 20-yard drop kick. Rayen later scored a safety to win 5-0. In the 1917 game which South won 48-0, Ray Fesler opened the scoring with a 25-yard placement. In the 1937 contest, Rayen's Jim Nard was successful on a field goal from the 19-yard line to give Rayen a 3-0 edge. This was the only game decided solely by a field goal.

Only two safeties have been scored in the series, both by the Rayen Tigers; the first in the 1912 game which Rayen won 5-0 and the second in 1931 when South won 13-2.

Both teams suffered through a six-year drought in point scoring: Rayen was shut out in 1917-22, and South failed to score a point in 1933-38.

The highest point total for a team was South's 48 points in 1917, when the Red and Blue won 48-0. The highest point total for both teams in one game was 58 scored in 1952 when South won 39-19.

The only postponement was in 1938 when, because of a driving snowstorm, the game was moved from Thanksgiving Day to the following Saturday afternoon. But the change was no better weatherwise since the new date was about the coldest day of any in the series. The field was completely covered with ice and snow and the result was a scoreless tie, in what was probably the least interesting of the contests.

The first four Rayen-South games were played at Wright Field. In 1915, the first game was played at new South High Field, and for the next eight years South Field was the scene of the annual contest. In 1924, with the completion of the new Rayen Stadium, the game was shifted to the North Side for the first time; from then on the game sites were alternated each year and eighteen games have been played at Rayen Stadium and seventeen at South High Field. Of the seventeen games the Rayen Tigers played at South Field, the Orange and Black have won five, lost ten and tied two.

South's record at Rayen Stadium is six wins, seven losses and five deadlocks.

Accounts of the 1923-28 games estimate the crowds at anywhere from 18,000 to 25,000. The throngs in the 1920s were absolute capacity. The three games of 1923, 1924 and 1925 shared the largest gates. The smallest crowd in the history of this event turned out in 1955 when less than a thousand fans were in attendance.

South holds the record for years without a victory—nine, 1932-41. Included in this stretch were six defeats and three ties. Rayen was without a win for six years, 1917-23, suffering six straight losses.

In the early days of Rayen-South competition it was possible for a boy to play football in his freshman year and thus compete four years, providing he was still under the age limit, but this was changed in 1926 when the six-semester rule was adopted in Ohio.

Hundreds of boys have participated in this football rivalry, many having played in three games. Competing in four games was indeed a rarity, and five lads who accomplished this feat come to mind. They are, from Rayen: Harry "Punch" Gaskeen, 1912-15; "Pete" McBride, 1914-17; and Harold "Red" Rickert, 1918-21. From South High: Jack Blystone, 1912-15, and Don "Tubby" McAllister, 1913-16. All of these hold the honor of having captained their respective teams; at Rayen: Gaskeen in 1914; McBride in 1916; Rickert in 1921. Jack Bystone led the 1915 South team and McAllister the 1916 Red and Blue machine.

"Punch" Gaskeen, who later coached the Rayen teams, 1920-25, had the distinction of never having lost to South in his playing career. On the other hand, "Red" Rickert of Rayen never had the pleasure of beating South. The same holds true of Blystone and McAllister, whose teams never defeated Rayen.

From 1914 until 1919 the name McPhee appeared at a

halfback post in every South lineup against Rayen. First it was Chester, followed by Lawrence and Harold. All three also captained South High basketball teams and were members of South track teams. Ches and Lawrence ("Mickey") were 3-letter men and Harold ("Fats") was a 4-letter man, having captained the tennis team as well.

There have been instances of as many as three brothers having played on either team during this rivalry. Only two cases were uncovered of four brothers who were football lettermen. These were the Rayenite Renner boys—George, John, Bill and Bob—and the Davies boys—Paul, Albert, Bill and Frank who attended South.

Paul, the eldest Davies brother, captained the 1914 South team; Al played in the 1920 Rayen game; Bill played in 1922 and captained the 1923 South team; and Frank played in the 1923 and 1924 Rayen games.

The Renner boys learned from their father, better known as "Spitz" Renner, Rayen player back in 1901 and 1902. He also played some pro football in the area after leaving school. George and John both appeared in the 1924 game with South, George at left halfback and John at left end. John was back for the 1925 game at the same position. Bill came along for the 1928 game, starring at quarterback and captaining the scoreless deadlock with the Red and Blue. Bob played on the 1929 and 1930 Rayen teams, missing the chance to play in the annual Rayen-South game due to the round-robin setup then in effect.

Bob was the only Rayen student ever awarded a letter in swimming. At Rayen swimming was not a competitive sport, but Bob displayed such talent that Oliver Ellis, Rayen track coach, took him under his wing. After winning top honors in meets throughout northeastern Ohio, the Rayen athletic committee awarded him this unusual honor.

Bill, one of the few 4-letter men at Rayen, earned awards in football, basketball, track and tennis, and entered the University of Michigan, where he starred at quarterback and

captained the 1935 Wolverines. During his football career at Michigan, the school was voted the Knute K. Rockne Trophy, emblematic of the National Intercollegiate Football Championship. At the conclusion of his final year Bill was awarded a silver football by the *Chicago Tribune* as most valuable player on the team. He was also voted All-Big-Ten-Conference Quarterback and All-American mention.

History would have been made at Rayen had Art, the youngest Renner boy, attended that school. He decided to cast his lot with Ursuline High, one of the newcomers in the area, where he lettered in football in 1932-35.

All five Renner brothers chose the University of Michigan and three became varsity captains there—Bill, the football team; John the boxing team (and incidentally, was welterweight champion of the school); and Bob, the swimming team.