

FOOTBALL

The 1945 football season opened September 22 with a 13-6 victory over Roselle. This was the big Reds first appearance on our schedule for a number of years.

The Remcho crew, with the old SPHS spirit, worked hard for this opener, starting their practise on September first. Ed Lambertson, home on leave from the Navy, put the boys through their calisthenics on the opening day and set the standard for hard work throughout the season. Ralph Caruso and Ted Baranowski were also on hand early in the season to help prepare the boys and gave Coach Remcho some much needed help.

Roselle scored first in the waning minutes of the first half when they drove over the goal line on the fourth, down after several gallant stands by the Raiders. Our line did a beautiful job on the defensive, holding Roselle time and again when they approached our goal.

The second half opened with the Raiders receiving and from then on victory was never in doubt. Bill Simon made a number of first downs on power plunges through the line, while "Gee-Gee" Graves alternated with end runs for big gains. The first score for Scotch Plains came as a result of a consistent march down the field with Graves carrying the ball over the goal line. The try for extra point by rushing the ball failed. Late in the last period the Raiders obtained the ball as a result of a pass interception by "Rube" Howell. A beautifully executed jump-pass put the boys in scoring position and Bill Simon carried the ball over on an off tackle plunge. "Rube" Howell converted for the extra point.

The following week the boys journeyed to Metuchen when, combining power with speed they ground out their second victory over a hard-fighting, well-coached Metuchen 11.

The score - 26-6.

Their next game, October 6, against North Plainfield was played on a miserably rainy day. The muddy field slowed down the speedy backfield but the boys really emerged with a moral victory in the shape of a 0-0 tie.

The boys looked good in their game against Bernardsville on October 13th when they completely outclassed Bernards High in all departments, to run up a 19-0 score.

The Blue Raiders showed their best attack of the campaign and their sturdy line completely stifled the Bernies. Captain Ray D'Amato and Gee-Gee Graves stood out on the offense, piling up a large percentage of SP's 203 yards gained by rushing.

And the excellent work of guard Gay McGowan, center Ken Howell and tackle Dick Wilson allowed Bernards merely to compile 75 yards on the ground.

Early in the first period, the Raiders staged a 63-yard drive, culminated by Graves 20 yard run through center for a touchdown. The extra point try by Howell was missed.

The game was then scoreless until the third session. Starting from their own 39 the Plainers marched up the field for another score with D'Amato going around end from the 4 for the score. Howell's placement kick was good.

In the last quarter, Willson, Howell and a few other lads swarmed in and blocked Warren Hendershott's punt with Howell recovering the ball in the end zone for the final touchdown. Howell's kick was blocked.

Chip Sanguiliano's kicking and fine defensive play were other bright spots for the winners, who outscored Bernardsville in first downs, 10-4.

With no game scheduled for October 20, the Raiders were well rested for their game with Flemington on the home field on October 27. Unleashing a powerful running and passing attack, blended with a dazzling display of razzle-dazzle in the last half, the Blue Raiders completely outclassed Flemington High, 36-0. Sparked by the superb play of shifty Gee Gee Graves and the outstanding work of Pete McDede and big Bob Ehmman, the unbeaten Raiders scored their fourth victory.

The following week, the Raiders journeyed to Keyport where, in a bitterly-fought battle they notched their fifth win - an 18-0 victory.

While Remcho's charges showed a brilliant offensive in the first half as the trio of pony backs - Gee Gee Graves, Chip Sanguiliano and Ray D'Amato - consistently lugged the ball for substantial gains, the Raiders' running attack received a jolt in the second half when they were held scoreless.

Keyport used the T formation, but it didn't bother the Raiders.

November 10th saw Sayreville crushed under an avalanche of touchdowns as the ferocious running of Gee Gee Graves and spectacular guard play of Gay McGowan sparked the Blue Raiders to a 38-7 victory.

It was the Raiders' finest showing of the season and definitely labeled this years team as the greatest since 1939. In 1939, a Jim Fraley-coached team compiled an unbeaten record, only to see once-beaten Dumond grab state honors. That team consisted of Les Thompson, Bob Peters, Charlie Poole, Ben McPherson, "Pop" Onque, Joe Higginbotham, Jimmy Muir, Bob Campbell, Arsene Gautier, Harry Christopher, Ted Baranowski, Lap Pandick, Carlton Liddane, Walt Short, Bill Short and Bob DeWolfe. Not a single point was scored against them that season as the following scores indicate:

Highland Park	13 - 0
North Arlington	13 - 0
North Plainfield	6 - 0
Somerville	6 - 0
Summit	0 - 0
Metuchen	7 - 0
Dunellen	17 - 0
Thomas Edison	28 - 0

Season total - Scotch Plains 90
Opponents 0

Only North Arlington in a game scheduled for Nov. 17, stands between the Raiders and an unbeaten record. In the seven games played so far, Scotch Plains has scored 150 points against their opponent's 19, a record that compares favorably with that of the 1939 squad.

Several changes have taken place in the faculty since the close of school last June. Mrs. Raymond Peek (Esther Anderson) is again acting as secretary to the high school principal. Many of you old timers will recall that she served in this cap-

acity a number of years ago. Philip Burd is now devoting most of his time as assistant principal in charge of the Junior High. A real effort is being made to set up a separate organization of grades seven to nine from the point of view of both studies and activities. Elwood Feltham has been selected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Henry Gutknecht. Clarence Root is now teaching in Westfield and his place is being filled by Mrs. Pauline Heferman. Richard Keller is teaching social studies in a new position created by the Board of Education. Dr. Hanna Williams has resigned her position as Director of Guidance to accept a position in the Veteran's Guidance department of Rutgers.

Scotch Plains Veteran Starring for Columbia

One of the outstanding members of the current Columbia University football team which is bringing the Lions back to past grid glory with a perfect score up until they met Penn, is our own Les Thompson. Les is holding down one of the regular end berths on the Columbia squad and these wing spots are extremely important in Columbia's attack which is built largely on passing with Les as a key figure.

Les is another service man who has returned from the wars to take up college studies again and sandwich in some athletic work as well. He was outstanding when he played for Jim Fraley at Scotch Plains a few years back, and Fraley arranged for him to attend Kansas State Teachers College where Fraley earned Little All-America honors. Les is finishing up his college work at Columbia in preparation for a career in physical education, and his two greatest rooters any Saturday are his wife and six-months old daughter.

Di Pace Plays With Air Forces Team

Only member of the Personnel Distribution Command football team of the AAF League who does not boast previous college or professional-grid experience is Alex DiPace, former SPHS athlete. DiPace, a 200-pounder, played in the PDC backfield in the first few games of the season proving himself the fastest back on the squad. Alex has not played in recent games because of his "graduation". Graduation means his Army release. He recently worked out for Carl Snavely, University of North Carolina coach who is definitely interested, and the former SPHS played may wind up as a student at Chapel Hill. Alex is another product of Jim Fraley's coaching at SPHS, but was slowed down at the time by a broken ankle.

News too good to keep was relayed over trans-Atlantic telephone wires last month when Guy Checchio, 310, USN, called to tell his wife he expected to be home and discharged real soon.

Calling from Rome, Guy also spoke to his children, Annetta, 8 and Ralph, 3, both of whom were delighted to hear the good news.

Guy is stationed aboard the cruiser Memphis and has been overseas in the ETO for 11 months. He entered the service in February, 1944.