

Coach Bob Seaman
1966 – 1968 – Won 20, Lost 9, Tied 1

Sandusky's Seaman Named Tiger Head Football Coach
 The Evening Independent

Teams Have Compiled 19-1 Record
Succeeds Bruce for Second Time

J. Robert Seaman has become the second Sandusky football coach to move to Massillon.

The Massillon board of education announced today that Seaman, 34, has been selected as the new head football coach, athletic director and director of physical education at Washington high school. He will be on the job Monday.



In his first 2 years in a held coaching position, Seaman guided Sandusky's Blue Streaks to a 19-1 mark. The only loss was a 32-6 decision to Elyria in 1964.

Bob Seaman - Massillon Record					
Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Points	
				Mass.	Opp.
1966	4	5	1	142	135
1967	9	1	0	200	79
1968	7	3	0	226	135
Total	20	9	1	568	349
Winning Percentage					
69.0%					

The formal appointment of Seaman is expected to be made at a regular meeting of the board of education Monday night. Seaman is to be awarded a 3-year contract at a salary of \$10,900. He will be employed on a 45 week work year.

Seaman was an assistant coach under Earle Bruce during the 1960 through 1963 seasons. He coached the guards, centers and linebackers.

The Blue Streaks had a 34-3-3 mark during those 4 seasons.

Dr. John Ellis, superintendent of schools, made this statement today. "We are fortunate to secure a dedicated, talented coach such as Robert Seaman.

Earl D Bruce, who guided the Tigers to 20 straight wins in his 2 years at the helm, will begin his defensive backfield coaching duties at Ohio State July 1.

He said this of Seaman:

"I think the community and the board of education have picked a very fine football coach, teacher, and, by all means, a gentleman. If I had a son playing football I would want him to play for Seaman."

"I understand Bob has made some improvements in my type of game since he has been head man at Sandusky." Bruce, laughed.

"Seriously, though, we run basically the same things: a T-formation offense with some variations such as split ends, and, the 'Oklahoma' 5-4 defense like we have. On offense he has used more T-formation than we have though."

(The 'T' formation puts the backs in a straight line behind the center and gives the quarterback ample opportunity to fake.)'

Contacted at his residence in Sandusky, Seaman said, "We use a similar type of offense. I operate a lot from the T with a split end, but this can vary with personnel. Both Earle and I believe in toughness and hitting.

"If we have a passer and receiver, we'll throw," he continued, "We threw enough here to keep the defense honest – about 8 to 10 times a game. We had 19 touchdown passes – one in every one of the last 9 ball games."

Coach Seaman makes adjustments Massillon Tigers seek Return to Greatness in 1967

By James C Delong – Team Historian

A return to the greatness that has characterized Massillon Washington football teams of the past is the immediate goal. of Coach Bob Seaman and his stall during the 1967 grid season.

After recording 34 consecutive winning football seasons for an all time Ohio scholastic record, 1966 saw the Tigers dip to a new "modern era" low with four wins, five losses and one tie.

In and effort to improve the Tiger grid machine, Coach Seaman has instituted the following changes. (1) Various adjustments in the offense including formation changes. (2) Basic play changes, and (3) Personal adjustments which will help the overall program.

The Tiger coaching stall has also undergone changes with the addition of four new assistants and the departure of three. The addition of an eighth assistant coach has given Coach Seaman the largest staff of assistants in Tiger grid history. The new assignments for staff assistants are as follows:

Blaine Morton (Fairmont State Teachers College) – Offensive coordinator.
Nick Vrotsos (Alabama) – Offensive line coach,
Chuck Bryant (Ohio State) – Wide Receiver coach,
Carl F. (Ducky) Schroeder (Wittenberg University) – End coach,
Bob Tucker (Wooster College) – Defensive coordinator
Gene Nara (Findlay College) – Defensive backfield coach,
Dale Walterhouse (Otterbein) – Sophomore coach,
Bruce Mays (Ohio Northern) – Sophomore line coach.

Eleven returning lettermen form the nucleus of the 1967 Tiger team. These veterans are Mike Snyder (end), Tom Houser and Bill Snowball (tackles), Ron Ertle and Hoyt Skelton (linebackers), Kevin Henderson (quarterback), Mark McDew and Jim Smith (halfbacks), Bill Simon (fullback), Trevor Young (defensive halfback), and Russ Fenton (defensive end), McDew and Smith are juniors, while the remaining nine lettermen are seniors.

MASSILLON TIGERS USING T AND I FORMATIONS IN 1968

by James C. Delong, *Team Historian*

The emphasis will be on the offense during the 1968 football season as Coach Bob Seaman fields his third Massillon Washington eleven since succeeding Earle Bruce here in May, 1966.

In Seaman's first year in 1966, the Tigers ran out of the T-Formation and their inability to score was the main cause of Massillon's first losing season since 1931. The Tigers averaged 14 points a game in 1966, or a reduction of 11 points per game from the previous year.

Last year, Coach Seaman came back strong and fashioned a line 9-1 record, losing only a 7-6 decision to undefeated Upper Arlington, the eventual state champion. They operated from the power I-Formation in 1967 and increased the per game average to 20 points.

This year the Tigers are running from both the straight T-Formation and the Power I, as Coach Seaman believes that his present backfield personnel is best adapted to this type of attack. Those individuals expected to provide the Tigers with all improved offense are experienced halfbacks Jim Smith and Mark Me Dew.

The Independent
By Mike Keating

In his three seasons as head football coach of the Massillon Tigers, Bob Seaman could not duplicate what predecessors Leo Strang and Earle Bruce accomplished – guiding the team to a state championship.

Seaman survived a 4-5-1 record in his rookie campaign in 1966 to post back-to-back winning seasons of 9-1 and 7-3 in his final two years on the job.

While several of his predecessors admitted they felt a pressure to bring home a state title to Massillon Seaman never did.

“In my mind, the majority of kids who played in that era were handled as human beings,” Seaman said. “That’s all I cared about.

“I never felt any pressure at Massillon from the community. Bob Seaman ran the program. I called it a democratic dictatorship. I consulted with the all of the players, but I made the final decision. That was my responsibility since I was head coach.”

Robert Seaman was born on March 28, 1932 in Sandusky. He was a three-sport athlete during his scholastic days, participating in football, basketball and track at Sandusky High. In football, he played linebacker.

The Independent

Following high school graduation, he attended Kent State University, where he played all three sports until suffering a knee injury his freshman year. Seaman, whose father was the Sandusky superintendent of schools, turned his attention to his studies, earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He later earned his master's degree in the same course of study.

Numbers weren't his only focus in college. Seaman became intrigued by X's and O's so he opted to pursue both a teaching and coaching career.

He returned to his hometown and Sandusky High, where he began his teaching and coaching career. “I was hired at \$2,700 to teach, and I earned \$100 (apiece) to coach football, basketball and track,” Seaman recalled. “That \$100 for each sport was like pennies from heaven.”

Seaman spent seven years as an assistant football coach at Sandusky, working one year for Jeff DeHaven - his high school coach, two years for Ben Wilson and the final four for Bruce, the man he eventually succeeded at both Sandusky and Massillon.

When Bruce accepted the Massillon coaching job in 1964, Seaman got his first chance to run a football program.

The Blue Streaks, who were 40-3-3 during Bruce's tenure, continued winning under Seaman, recording a 19-1 record in his two years on the job.

It would have been easy for Seaman to stay at Sandusky. It was his hometown and the team was winning. Everything was running like
(continuation of article not available)

29 killed in Wichita U. plane crash Masillonians on other plane Seaman to take over at Wichita

According to an associated press release, former Washington high head coach Bob Seaman was appointed head football coach at Wichita State University effective immediately. Seaman was the Tiger pilot from 1966-1968.

He replaces Ben Wilson, killed a week ago in a plane crash in the Colorado Rockies along with 13 players and 16 other persons.

Seaman's defensive coordinator will be his former Tiger assistant Bob Tucker. Frosh coach is Bruce Vandersall, also a former Seaman assistant here.

Dr. Gobert Holmer, faculty representative, did not indicate whether the school would continue the 1970 season. That decision will be reached by a Sunday vote of the players and coaches.

Spared from tragedy – These Wichita State University sophomore football players, all from Massillon, were not aboard the aircraft which crashed Friday in Utah. From left to right are Kim Cocklin, George Whitfield and Chuck Stoner. The sophomore gridgers, along with former Massillon coaches Bob Seaman and Robert Tucker, were on a second plane which landed safely.

Arrived Safely – Bob Seaman, former Washington high head grid coach, and Bob Tucker, and Bruce Vandersall, former Tiger aides, were not on the special Wichita State University charter which crashed Friday afternoon. Seaman and Tucker were on a second plane. Vandersall did not make the trip. All three are assistant coaches at WSU.