

The All-American Conference 1963-1978

The All-American Conference was the premier Ohio league during its existence. Massillon, Niles McKinley, Canton McKinley, and Warren Harding joined in 1963, with Steubenville in 1966, and Alliance in 1969.

In 1979 the conference disbanded, primarily because of the dominance of Massillon. In the 16 years the league existed, Massillon won or tied for Champions 10 times, second 3 times, third 1 time, and fourth 2 times.

1963 – Massillon 2-0-0 1st

1971 – Massillon 3-2-0 3rd

1964 – Massillon 3-0-0 1st

1972 – Massillon 5-0-0 1st

1965 – Massillon 3-0-0 1st

1973 – Massillon 4-1-0 T 1st

1966 – Massillon 1-3-0 T-4th

1974 – Massillon 3-2-0 2nd

1967 – Massillon 4-0-0 1st

1975 – Massillon 3-2-0 2nd

1968 – Massillon 3-2-0 2nd

1976 – Massillon 5-0-0 1st

1969 – Massillon 2-2-1 4th

1977 – Massillon 4-1-0 T 1st

1970 – Massillon 5-0-0 1st

1978 – Massillon 4-0-1 1st

The following is a Master's Thesis by James Rubin (owner of Howards Tiger Rags) written in 1973. This is a partial history of the Conference.

THE HISTORY OF THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL
ALL-AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

1963 - 1972

A Problem

Presented to

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED	1
The Problem.....	4
Statement of the Problem.....	4
Importance of the Study.....	4
Methods and Procedures.....	5
Definitions of Terms Used.....	5
AAC.....	5
All-Ohio.....	5
All-American.....	6
Organization of the Research Study.....	6
II. REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PRE-CONFERENCE PLAY	7
Alliance High School.-.1907.-.1962.....	9
Canton McKinley High School - 1894.-.1962.....	14
Massillon Washington High School - 1963.-.1962.....	19
Niles McKinley High School 1963.-.1962.....	27
Steubenville High School 1901.-.1962.....	30
Warren G Harding High School - 1894.-.1962.....	35
III. ALL AMERICAN CONFERENCE PLAY.-.1963 · 1972	40
Alliance High School - 1968 - 1972.....	42
Canton McKinley High School - 1963 - 1972.....	48
Massillon Washington High School - 1963 -1972.....	56
Niles McKinley High School - 1963 -1972.....	64
Steubenville High School - 1966 -1972.....	72
Warren G, Harding High School - 1963.-.1972.....	79
IV. OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES OF MEMBER SCHOOL AND AAC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS	95
Alliance High School.....	96
Canton McKinley High School.....	98
Massillon Washington High School.....	101
Niles McKinley High School.....	102
Steubenville High School.....	103
Warren G Harding High School.....	105
1963 AAC - All Conference Team.....	107
1964 AAC - All Conference Team.....	108
1965 AAC - All Conference Team.....	109
1966 AAC - All Conference Team.....	110
1967 AAC - All Conference Team.....	111

CHAPTER	PAGE
1968 AAC.-.All-Conference Team.....	112
1969 AAC.-.All-Conference Team.....	113
1970 AAC - All-Conference Team.....	114
1971 AAC.-.All-Conference Team.....	115
1972 AAC.-.All-Conference Team.....	116
V. SUMMARY OF ALL-AMERICAN CONFERENCE YEARS	
1963.-.1972	117
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	122
APPENDIX.....	123
Directory	124
Member Schools' Head Coaches and Records	126
All-American Conference Team Records.....	132
All-American Conference Top-Ten	
Offensive & Defensive Teams.....	135
All-American Conference Overall Scoring	
Averages Offensive & Defensive	135
Most Points Scored in a League	
by One Team.-.Two Teams	137
All-American Conference Top-Ten Scorers	
& Ground Gainers.....	138

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Ohio High School Football has been studied by football coaches on every level as a story in itself. Many of the former collegiate and professional greats began their careers on scholastic gridirons in Ohio. When conversation is focused on Ohio High School Football, several school's rise above the others because of their success and notoriety at the state level. The nationally known rivalry between Canton McKinley and Massillon Washington High Schools is classified with the finest athletic contests yearly as is evidenced by capacity crowds in excess of 20,000 people with intense feelings of the schools' following.

“A football game in the All-American Conference is something more than a game, more than a 'big game' or a championship game or a game of any kind!” begins Charles Powell, sports writer for The Canton Repository in his yearly All-American Conference Preview brochure¹. Powell says, “Each and every game in the prestigious AAC is a phenomenon; a phenomenon in the sense of being something crucial, an enduring and singular achievement that serves as a robust and

¹ All--American Conference Football Brochure, August, 1970. p. 1.

colorful vehicle for the paying public.”²

In order for a league of this caliber to be formed, rules and regulations had to be adopted. The committee headed by Paul A. Schott, principal of Canton McKinley High School, as well as officials from Ohio High School football powers; Massillon Washington, Niles McKinley and Warren Harding met November 18, 1962, at the Mergus Restaurant in Canton to establish the league.³

The various coaches of these schools detected a need to organize a league consisting of the perennial "football powers" of state high school play to "insure a true state champion. Ben Wilson, coach at Warren Harding. pushed real hard.⁴

The purpose of the organization was "to promote clean, wholesome competition in the sport of football and to create a spirit of friendly rivalry and good will among the members. It shall also foster the exchange of professional ideas and the discussion of athletic policies.⁵

A second reason for the formation was an attempt to renew the rivalry between Warren Harding and Niles McKinley

²Ibid.

³Paul A. Schott, Personal Interview, November 12, 1972.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Constitution, Board of Directors Meeting of the All-American Football Conference, November 18. 1962.

High Schools on the gridiron. I. W. Snyder, principal of Massillon Washington, was elected the first chairman of the league and presided at the meeting in November, 1962.

H. Larry Brown, the retired superintendent of Ravenna Schools and a former member of the Northeast Ohio District Athletic Board, agreed to assume the responsibility of Commissioner. His excellent background assured exceptional leadership as he assumed the responsibilities of Commissioner.⁶

The league commenced official play in September, 1963, with an abbreviated schedule due to previous scheduling commitments. The league expanded with the addition of Steubenville High School on January 22, 1966, and Alliance High School on November 20, 1967, to complete the formation of the six-team league, which still remains intact.⁷ Although several other high schools have considerable desire to become admitted, immediate plans do not call for any additional members.

The All-American Football Conference, in its relatively brief existence, has made a lasting impact on both players and coaches in the State of Ohio. Many of the leagues

⁶1967 All-American Football Conference Program.

⁷Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting of the All-American Football Conference, January 22, 1966, (Special Meeting) and November 20, 1967.

participants have gained prominence in college competition as well as the professional ranks. The coaches have had the same opportunities as the players.

The Problem

Statement of the problem.

It is the purpose of this study to trace the development of the Ohio High School Football teams: Alliance, Canton McKinley, Massillon Washington, Niles McKinley, Steubenville, and Warren Harding; with the emphasis being placed on the inception of the All-American Football Conference and its games from 1963-1972.

Importance of the study.

Ohio is well known for its caliber of outstanding high school football play. This study will highlight its play as well as outstanding players to illustrate the quality of football in the All-American Football Conference.

This research study was conducted to:

1. Create an awareness of the number of great individual performers who have played for the member-conference schools.
2. To recognize and acknowledge the many instrumental in the success stories of their respective schools and the All-

American Conference.

3. Give an accurate record of past games to show its development and achievements.

Methods and Procedures

The primary sources of information used in this study were The Canton Repository, Massillon Evening Independent, Alliance Review, Warren Tribune-Chronicle, Niles Times, and Steubenville Herald-Star newspapers, as well as yearbooks from libraries of respective schools.

Personal interviews with men directly responsible for the Conference's inception, especially Paul A. Schott, principal of Canton McKinley High School, as well as records kept by Canton historian, Charles Bowersox, and league statistician, Thomas Persell of Massillon, were also included.

Definition of Terms Used

AAC - All-American Conference which is composed of six public high schools; Alliance, Canton McKinley, Massillon Washington, Niles McKinley, Steubenville, and Warren Harding competing against one another.

All-Ohio - is an honor awarded to the state's outstanding high school football players. The players are selected by various newspapers, sportswriters, and coaches throughout the state.

All-American - is an honor awarded to college players for outstanding football play. The players are also selected by various newspapers, sportswriters, and coaches through-out the country.

Organization of the Research Study

Chapter I included the introduction, statement of the problem, importance of the study, methods and procedures, definition of terms, and organization of the research study. Chapter II, "Reasons for Membership and Pre-Conference Play," from the school's inception and earliest football beginnings and traditions preceding All-American Football Conference play and the reasons for the formation of the conference. Chapter III, "All-American Football Conference Play - 1963-1972", traced the development of the AAC and highlighted league play, outstanding players and records. Chapter IV, "The Outstanding Individual Performers of Member Schools", who attained considerable recognition on the collegiate or professional levels and the yearly All-Conference teams were recognized. Chapter V summarizes the highlights instrumental in the developing and rapidly growing All-American Football Conference. A list of head coaches (1918-1972), game scores, and records are formed in the Appendix.

Chapter II

REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PRE-CONFERENCE PLAY

The All-American Conference members have dominated the Ohio High School Athletic Association's mythical state football championship trophy yearly. Voting for the state's best team was conducted by a representative panel of sports-writers and sports broadcasters throughout the state (Associated Press Poll), as well as a poll taken by representative football coaches throughout the State (United Press International Poll). Prior to the 1972 football season, the state champion was determined by the team accumulating the most poll points.

Since 1920, only ten non-member schools have ever won the state trophy, symbolic of the best high school football team in Ohio. These schools include Lorain, Toledo Waite (twice), Springfield Public, Cleveland Cathedral Latin (twice), Barberton, Cleveland Benedictine, Toledo Central Catholic, Upper Arlington (three times), Columbus Bishop Watterson and Warren Western Reserve, who won the 1972 state crown through the newly devised state playoff system. However, Massillon Washington has won the state crown twenty-four times; Canton McKinley seven times; Steubenville on three occasions, Warren Harding and Niles McKinley twice each,

with Alliance being named state titlist once, although receiving high rankings frequently.¹

Several leagues had been previously established, but none could have a lasting effect. The Ohio Scholastic League in the 1940's and 1950's was abandoned because of a league rule, that the loop's winner be recommended for the state championship, however, a dispute in 1949 between Mansfield and Massillon led to its downfall. Other league members included Canton McKinley, Warren Harding, Barberton, Alliance and Steubenville.²

In the late 1930's and 1940's, there was a league comprised of Massillon, Dover, New Philadelphia, Wooster, Salem, Ravenna, Niles, Warren, Alliance and Barberton, but the loop was also abandoned because of the domination of Massillon.³

Massillon Coach Leo Strang pointed out that "being in a league lessens scheduling worries for teams having trouble picking up opponents. The schools from the All-American Football Conference are having such problems."⁴

In the following pages, insight into each member school's beginnings, aged by tradition and sustained by rivalries, will be examined to illustrate the need for the existence of the All-American High School Football Conference.

¹Chuck Hess, Personal Interview, March 5, 1973.

²The Massillon Evening Independent, June 25, 1963, p. 10.

³Ibid.

⁴The Massillon Evening Independent, July 5, 1963, p. 16.

The Alliance Aviator Tradition

Three small communities - Freedom, Liberty and Williamsport - located on the banks of the Mahoning River, banded together in 1850 to become the city of Alliance. This consolidation has been one of constant growth and prosperity with an industrially accentuated city.⁵

Alliance's first school was established in 1857, and the eight-room building was replaced by a twenty-room structure in 1892. During the next five years, the school system had grown to 300 students. The new Alliance High School building, completed in the spring of 1972, is a ten million dollar complex, which ranks with the finest facilities in the country on the scholastic level. The enrollment of 1,300 students enjoys a well-rounded educational program, as well as the 28,000 residents, who proudly point to their fine institution.

Alliance High School had many "ups and downs" in its football history which dates back to 1896. In recent years, the "Aviators" have not been "flying too high" as the team has gone seven years in succession without a winning season. However, winning is a habit in Alliance, where more well-known individual performers have continued and established their identities in collegiate and professional levels than the average high school may expect. Although the "Carnation City

⁵The Stark County Story, "The McKinley Era", Edward T. Heald, Stark County Historical Society, Vol. II, Canton, Ohio, 1950, p. 397.

School" has had only two undefeated seasons, its teams have done very well. in the hot-bed of football.⁶

Since 1910, Alliance had many powerful football teams. On eight separate occasions, however, the Aviators have suffered a single setback for the season, and on each occasion that loss was administered by either state champion, Canton McKinley or Massillon Washington.

The 1958 Aviators, guided by Mel Knowlton, were the unbeaten state champions and Alliance boasted a second place finish in 1954, ranked third in 1960, seventh in 1948, eighth in 1961 and 1962, twelfth in both 1952 and 1953 and fourteenth in 1950.⁷

The Early Years

Alliance football teams played Massillon and Canton McKinley before 1910. In six games the Aviators only recorded a 10-6 win over Massillon in 1907.

Beginning in 1910, the coach of the Aviators for three seasons was Ray E. Bowman, and his first team lost only to Canton (twice), Massillon and New Philadelphia.

Captain of the 1910 team was left end Harry Geltz, who was to quarterback the 1912 squad and was called by Coach Bowman, "The terror of our opponents". His offensive as

⁶The All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 1
⁷ibid.

well as defensive playing won many battles for our school".⁸

Twins, Homer and Frank Tanner, both four-year regulars, starred for the 1912 outfit and the next year the Aviators were given colorful nicknames like Griz (Baier), Slick (Pacer), Fat (Williams), Irish (McGranahan), and Hunt (Davis).⁹

Records show that Coach Ray E. Bowman's first team, the 1910 edition, was a winner and he was the first paid grid coach in Stark County. Most of the players had to furnish their own uniforms, the jersey being a turtleneck sweater. The playing field itself had no stands, fences or admission gates.¹⁰

In 1917, the Aviators accumulated their highest point production in the school's history: Alliance, 141, East Palestine, 0.¹¹

In 1927, Dr. George Wilcoxon, produced a team that lost once all year, and before he quit in 1939, he had an undefeated season. The 1932 team, led by George O'Brien, later to star at Ohio State, blasted the opposition 311-28 enroute to an 11-0-1 record.¹² The 1940's saw Coach Leonard Hoppes assume the coaching duties with a quarterback named Hillis

⁸Ibid., p. 4.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Ibid.

Hume. Hume was voted the best player in the state in 1942, later named an All-American at the U. S. Naval Academy. Grid fortunes were very low until Mel Knowlton, a former Massillon assistant to Paul Brown and Steubenville head coach, took charge.

Coach Knowlton developed many outstanding players, but was mostly known for his standout quarterbacks; Len Dawson, John Borton, Walt Zingg and Bob Wallace. The "pony back field", with small and swift runners, was a customary facet of the offense with the quick pitch being the big weapon.¹³

The 1950's saw the Aviators rise to their heights, as it was a decade in which a state championship was won, another fall one game short, and only one losing season. The 1958 season ended 9-0-1, the tie being with Massillon, 8-8, but it enabled Alliance to win the state title. The defense permitted only 34 points and the offense led by Zingg scored 320 points. The 1954 campaign had Alliance only losing to Canton McKinley 26-6, but finishing second in the state polls. The explosive offense was led by halfback Tom Barnett and quarterbacks Bill Offenbacher and Ted Davidson.¹⁴ Len Dawson then took charge and was named All-Ohio for the next two seasons. Dawson completed 100 of 201 aerals for 1,638

¹³Ibid., p. 6.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 7.

yards and 19 T.D.'s, school records that still stand.¹⁵

The 1960's began well for the Aviators as they lost only twice and finished third in the state rankings. The 1961 and 1962 teams had identical records, losing twice each. Both Niles McKinley and Massillon spoiled undefeated seasons in 1960 and 1961, and Lima Senior and Toledo DeVilbiss were the culprits in 1962.

Super players among the outstanding in 1960 were halfback Charley King and All-State Q.B. Bob Wallace, tackle Jim Davidson and end Sam Longmire, all later to star in college and earn pro careers. Charley King scored a record of 158 points. His two T.D.'s against Canton McKinley led to a 20-6 win, which was Coach Knowlton's 100th as head coach.

The next season All-Ohio players included back Glen Hill and tackle Jim Fraraccio. Another pro-to-be was an outstanding back, Tony King. The Aviators finished 8-2-1, scoring a record 408 points.¹⁶

The 1964 season resulted in a 5-5 season with each game very close. The season finale against East Liverpool was typical as Alliance was attempting to score late in the game with the score 0-0. An Alliance fumble on the East Liverpool seven-yard line saw Liverpool go for the bomb, resulting in an interception for Aviator Tom Hahlen who returned

¹⁵Ibid., p. 8.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 10.

the ball to the East Liverpool 10-yard line with six seconds remaining. Halfback Gary Rasile scored on the next play to give the Aviators a big win.¹⁷

The first losing season in 15 years was completed by an Alliance team in 1965. The record of four wins - six losses being very similar to the preceding year in many respects. Tackles Tim Admonius and Ike Wright were named to All-State positions.¹⁸

Similar seasons unfolded in 1966 and 1967 for the Alliance Aviators. The 1966 record was a disappointing three wins - seven losses while 1967 brought about a 4-5-1 record. Led by the passing of Kurt Utterback, each loss was by less than one touchdown and every game going down to the wire.¹⁹

The Canton McKinley Bulldog Tradition

Canton McKinley's fabled football history began in 1894 when a group of individuals scraped together some leather pads, rubber nose guards, canvas trousers and an inflated pigskin that resembled a basketball to play a couple games with the high school boys from neighboring Massillon; Canton won 16-6 and 12-8. However, this was old Central High

¹⁷Ibid. p. 10.

¹⁸The Canton Repository, November 21, 1965, p. 32.

¹⁹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 12.

School which eventually became Canton McKinley High School in 1918.²⁰

The new building which cost \$2,349,461 was named for President William McKinley, a Cantonian for many years, and his sister, Anna McKinley, who taught in Canton city schools for thirty years. The original enrollment was 877 students who had been attending Central High School or the North Elementary School.²¹

After McKinley first opened its doors, the football team under the guidance of Coach M.C. Wagner, formerly the Central mentor, and lost to Alliance 33-6, Akron Central 6-0, and Mt. Union College 41-0.²²

The Bulldogs first played their home games at Lakeside Stadium, Meyers Lake Park, where the stands accommodated 3,000 fans. They moved to a new 7,000 seat Lehman Stadium in 1932, but since 1937 have played at 22,160 seat Fawcett Stadium, where some of the big games have drawn upwards of 25,000 spectators.²³

²⁰Charles E. Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 2972.

²¹The Stark County Story, "The McKinley Era", p. 403.

²²Charles E. Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

²³All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 20.

Canton's championship story cannot be summed up with cold facts on the football teams. However, it was here the Canton-Massillon meetings on professional fields first settled national titles. It was here that the fabled Indian, Jim Thorpe, led a resurgence of pro football and helped organize 51 years ago what is now the National Football League.²⁴

From the beginning Canton McKinley's entrance into competitive football began in 1918 with its beginnings less than enviable. For the 1918-19 seasons, the Bulldogs won only three games, lost eight and tied one.

The 1920 season started the road to success and the school motto established... "Where champions are made and success is tradition."²⁵ The "Pups" under Floyd Harshman had their first unbeaten season rolling over eight straight opponents with the finale being a 14-0 victory over Massillon. This squad was heralded as one of the all-time greats scoring 283 points, while giving up 0. Edgar "Rip" Miller, the team captain and best player, went on to star as a 1924 All-American at Notre Dame.²⁶

²⁴All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 17.

²⁵Charles E. Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

²⁶All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 20.

Dwight Peabody came on as head man in 1924 with some success, only twice losing one game and producing many outstanding players.

The 1932 season brought McKinley back to the heights as Jimmy Aiken became head coach. His teams beat Massillon three straight seasons which was a first for such an accomplishment. In 1933 the record was 9-1, losing only to Springfield 6-0. The 1934 team, said to be the greatest ever assembled in school history, finished unbeaten in 11 games, blanking eight opponents and beating Paul Brown's Massillon team 21-6 for the state championship.²⁷

Aiken left the following season as he began a successful coaching tenure at Akron University, Nevada and Oregon. Outstanding players during this period included Tillman "Tut" Allen and tackle Earl Haas, who later starred at Southern Cal.²⁸

Johnny Reed replaced Aiken but success was still mounting as McKinley would lose only to Massillon in three successive seasons. Standout performers included Don Scott, who gained All-Ohio honors as its best player and later starred at Ohio State where he was selected an All-American. He was killed in a tragic airplane crash in military service. Marion Motley, all-state player, who went to Nevada with

²⁷The Canton Repository, November 11, 1934, p. 34.

²⁸All-American Football, Conference Brochure, p. 23.

Aiken starred for the professional Cleveland Rams and later the Browns and has been said to be the most complete professional football player in the offensive backfield of any era. A trophy is presented to the school's most valuable player in honor of Don Scott and the Marion Motley Award to the individual contributing most in over-all play.²⁹

Herman "Bup" Rearick took over in 1942 with the Bulldogs winning the state championship and slaughtering Massillon 35-0. However, the years of his reign, 1942-1949, never brought an undefeated untied season. The era did restore outstanding seasons with some awesome individuals being produced. Headlining the group were Ernie Parks, All-American fullback at Ohio State; Dick Kempthorn, All-American at Michigan; and Ralph Pucci, standout at Southern Cal.³⁰

The Wade Watts era highlighted the '50's with back-to-back state championships. Stars of those teams were Wayne Fontes, later to star for Michigan State, as well as the New York Titans (Jets), now defensive backfield coach at Southern Cal. End Bob Williams was drafted by the Baltimore Colts out of high school, quarterbacks Ike Grimsley and Nap Barbosa were all-state greats, and John Kompara, an All-American at South Carolina.³¹

²⁹Paul A. Schott, Personal Interview, November 12, 1972.

³⁰All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 20.

³¹Ibid., p. 21.

The Bulldogs won 21 straight games before losing to Warren 32-7 in 1957, a school record. Canton McKinley has not had a losing football season since 1953. However, the Bulldogs were idled in 1962 when found to be "guilty" of recruiting two brothers from Portsmouth, Ohio, and were suspended for the year by the State Athletic Association. Pete Ankney, head coach at this time, organized a four-team intramural program, which proved highly successful as 13 Bulldogs received aid to attend college.³²

Massillon Tiger Tradition

The Massillon Tiger's football program has monopolized the glory of high school football in Stark County, Ohio and the country. Although other All-American Conference teams have won state championships, none has perennially dominated the scholastic scene as did Massillon.

Prior to the arrival of the famed Paul Brown, who proceeded to really build Massillon into a scholastic powerhouse, Tiger football teams were picked annually to win the state championship. However, the early years of football at the school did not indicate such a success story.

Beginning in 1894, when Canton began its football rivalry with Massillon, to 1918, the time of McKinley High School,

³²The Canton Repository, March 24, 1964, p. 42.

Canton beat the Tigers 15 times while Massillon won six, and two games ended in tie scores.

Sidney Jones was the first faculty member to coach the Tigers and his first team in 1912 divided 10 decisions. The next year saw Canton become a fixture as the Tigers' final opponent of each campaign.³³

The Early Years

Stark County's pro football lasted until 1923 with Canton's Bulldogs being undefeated world champions in 1922-23, and during the last five years of pro ball there were five Canton-Massillon games, Massillon taking all five.³⁴

Many outstanding individual performances were recorded during the 1920's with the Tigers enduring two losing seasons, 1920 and 1927. Among the best was Edwin "Dutch" Hill, who scored eight touchdowns for an all-time single game high as the Tigers trounced Akron North 94-0, most points ever scored by a Massillon team in one game. Hill finished the 1922 season with 204 points, which still stands as a school record.³⁵

In 1923, Bob Pflug, an outstanding kicker, kicked eight extra points in an 82-0 romp over Salem. An earlier 26-0

³³All-American Football. Conference Brochure, p. 40.

³⁴Ibid., p. 44.

³⁵Ibid., p. 42.

loss to Harrisburg, Pa. Tech marked Massillon's first game with an out-of-state opponent. The following year Bill Edwards kicked the Tigers to several more wins. Edwards, formerly coach of the Detroit Lions and Wittenberg University, booted a record 40-yard field goal against Alliance.³⁶

The 1925 Tigers lost two games, to Canton McKinley and Akron South, but the season brought about the famed quarterback and coach-to-be, Paul Brown. As Brown was throwing, Elwood Kammer was running, carrying the ball 44 times in one game for an all-time record as well as carrying 39 times for an all-time Canton-Massillon game record.³⁷

Elmer McGrew arrived as the head coach in 1928 and his teams were involved in some historical highlights: in 1930, the first night high school game ever played in Massillon occurred October 30 with Conneaut being beaten 26-0. The same year, the Tigers ended Cleveland Heights' string of 27 games without a loss, thanks to a safety in the final quarter. The 1931 team lost to a Toledo Scott team coached by Jimmy Aiken and to an undefeated Dover team guided by "Bup" Rearick. The Tigers beat Canton McKinley 20-6, but wound up with six losses and two ties against a pair of wins, the poorest record in school history.³⁸

³⁶Ibid., p. 42.

³⁷Ibid., p. 42.

³⁸The Canton Repository, November 19, 1930.

Two outstanding coaches arrived at Massillon and Canton McKinley the same year, 1932, which heightened the grid rivalry and solidified the game. The Paul Brown - Jimmy Aiken rivalry lasted four years with Aiken's teams defeating Brown's the first three and Brown's defeating Aiken's in 1935.

Brown, a former Massillon quarterback and Miami University of Ohio great, saw the Tigers lose 19-0 in 1932, 21-0 in 1933, 21-6 in 1934. The 1934 game was historic in that both squads had perfect seasons coming into the game. The game drew a crowd of over 25,000 but an exact count could not be taken because of duplicate tickets printed by counterfeiters, swelling the seating capacity of 21,000.³⁹

For six years, 1935-40, Brown was the nation's greatest coach in high school ball. Five times the Tigers were undefeated and in 1937 they were 8-1-1. Canton McKinley was beaten six times in a row. Brown's 1934 team, the first to score 400 points in a season, was led by Heine Krier, who scored all 45 points against Youngstown South, and Wendell Lohr who caught a record five T.D. passes against Barberton.⁴⁰

The 1936 Tigers had Charley Anderson who returned a record 82-yard punt against New Castle, Pa., and in 1947 Bob Glass scored 13 points in a 19-6 win over Canton McKinley to give him a career total of 331 points, an all-time record.⁴¹

³⁹The Canton Repository, November 25, 1934, p. 12.

⁴⁰All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 42.

⁴¹Ibid.

In 1939 Tommy James scored the first T.D. in Tiger Stadium. The first Canton-Massillon game was also played at Canton's Fawcett Stadium and was won by Massillon to gain its fourth consecutive state title.⁴²

Brown became the center of Massillon's national publicity and his renown spread from magazines to movies. Coaches throughout the country copied the style of Brown, the first high school mentor to have more than one or two assistants, the first to set up a junior high feeder system, first to use motion pictures as a visual aid, and the first to outfit his teams with three sets of uniforms, plus a practice suit. Among other innovations, he brought in George "Red" Bird as band director in 1938, to make the halftime show an integral part of the football spectacles. 43

Paul Brown's 1940 team, his last, may have been the best ever. The Tigers averaged 47 points a game while holding the opposition scoreless until McKinley dented the end zone in the finale won by the Tigers 34-6.

Earlier, the Tigers paid Canton Lehman \$1,200 to get off the schedule to make room for Toledo Waite, who had won 19 straight, including the 1939 victory over Lou Grazer and Martins Ferry in the Glass Bowl game. 44 Brown's team had a 30-game win streak on the line. Massillon scored in every

⁴²The Canton Repository, November 19, 1939, p. 29.

⁴³All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 44.

⁴⁴Ibid.

quarter and had two touchdowns nullified by penalties. In an unprecedented move, International News Service picked the entire Tiger first team on its All-Ohio. Gillom ended with two school records, 18 pass receptions in one year and 29 for his career.⁴⁵ The team also had a practice game with Kent State University won by Massillon 47-0 at Kent in late April.⁴⁶

During the 1941 season, the Tigers won all their games, but a 6-6 tie to Mansfield broke a 38-game consecutive win streak. The following season Massillon lost to McKinley 35-0 which snapped a 52-consecutive games without a loss record.

The 1943 Tigers was undefeated handing Canton its only loss, and for the year they allowed only two touchdowns, one on a blocked punt. A big reason was tackle Dick Arrington, named Ohio's lineman of the year.

Augie Morningstar assumed the reins in 1945. He was never to lose a game as his team won five times and tied the other five. One of the big attractions was a game against Cleveland Cathedral Latin at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium where the crowd numbered 51,000, largest ever to see a regular scheduled high school game in the state.⁴⁷

⁴⁵All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 44.

⁴⁶The Canton Repository, April 16, 1939, p. 19.

⁴⁷Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

1948 marked the arrival of Chuck Mather who stayed seven years and posted a 66-4 record. His teams scored 2,227 points and allowed only 432 in the 70 games played. His teams never lost to Canton McKinley.⁴⁸

In 1950 All-Stater Jerry Kosher made 45 points in placements, a record performance, including eight in two games to tie the mark set by Bob Pflug in 1923.

In 1951, the Tigers had a string of 20 wins snapped by Warren Harding, but promptly launched a 25-game win streak and Mather was on his way to the second of six consecutive state titles.

The 1952 team scored 437 points, with the closest game a 27-21 thriller over Alliance. The following year, the Tigers scored on the first play from scrimmage against Canton McKinley and went on to maul the Bulldogs 48 -7, the most points ever scored on the Pups by their No. 1 rival.⁴⁹

Lee Tressel, also at the Tiger helm for two seasons, saw his 1956 team lose to Mansfield and Canton McKinley, the latter game giving the Bulldogs a second straight state championship.

The 1957 season spotlighted a 20-14 victory over Warren Harding with a 38-yard pass from Joe Sparma to Clyde Childers

⁴⁸All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 45.

⁴⁹Ibid., p. 47.

⁵⁰Ibid.

on the last play of the game settling the issue. This was the much publicized "battle of the clock" because Warren Coach Gene Slaughter charged that a malfunction of the scoreboard timepiece allowed the Tigers some extra playing time in the last quarter.⁵¹

The last two years of the decade Leo Strang was in command and the Tigers, following an 8-1-1 season, returned to the perfect record class in 1959.

Warren Harding ended a Tiger string of having scored in 101 straight games in 1958, but the 1959 Tigers were 10-0 en route to the state title and out-scored their opposition 431-46. The big star was halfback Art Hastings, who carried the ball 117 times and gained 1,245 yards.⁵²

In 1960 Massillon again was led by Art Hastings, whose three-year career rushing total showed 3,090 yards. They beat Springfield South 62-32 for the most points scored by both teams in a single game in Tiger history and posted a 42-0 triumph over Canton McKinley, biggest victory margin ever in the series. Against the Bulldogs, Hastings counted four TD's and 220 yards rushing, and teammate Charley Brown returned an intercepted pass 100 yards for another school record, while Lawson White was the state's lineman of the year.⁵³

⁵¹Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

⁵³All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 47.

⁵³Ibid., p. 50.

The 1961 Tigers again reigned supreme; going undefeated and again had Ohio's top lineman in Ken Ivan. They handed Cincinnati Roger Bacon its only defeat and Wilbur Paisley's point-after beat Canton McKinley 7-6.

The 1962 season under Leo Strang proved disastrous, as the record was six wins, five losses, the most setbacks in the modern era for the school. When Alliance scored a 46-0 victory, the Tigers sustained their fourth worst loss in school history.⁵⁴

Niles Red Dragons Tradition

The Niles Red Dragons football history began in 1912; however, the excitement of big-time football didn't really reach its heights until the late 1950's. The first teams coached by W. W. Giffen displayed considerable success posting 20 wins with six losses and two ties. The most productive year was the 1914 season when the team posted a 9-1 record, giving up only 26 points, the fewest ever over a 10-game schedule while scoring 325 points.⁵⁵

The 1919 team of Coach J. Loma, returned after a year's absence of football, due to the war, posting an 8-0-1 season while outscoring the opposition 170-17 a tie against

⁵⁴The Canton Repository, September 29, 1962, p. 9.

⁵⁵All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 61.

Youngstown South. The 1924 through 1928 seasons found the Red Dragons enjoying more success on the gridiron posting winning seasons. The 1926 team won three times, lost once, and tied five games for the season. The 1936 season coached by Earl Hoker, displayed a 7-2 record losing only to Erie East and a tough Steubenville team, 6-0. Though Hoker's 1937-38 teams gained only two victories in each season, the 1939 squad returned with a 5-1-3 record losing only to New Philadelphia 13-0, tying Struthers, Girard and Warren.⁵⁶

The 1940 season was another banner year, Niles posted a 7-2-1 mark with a 2-0 win over Canton Timken and a 27-0 win over New Philadelphia. The season of 1942 was outstanding. The Red Dragons posted a 9-1 record, losing only to Youngstown Chaney 24-0 in the first game of the season.

Lou Cardinal, in 1951, began a resurgence in the football program of Niles McKinley High School. In his first full season, the Dragon's went 7-4, scoring a record total of 233 points before being shut out by Girard 19-0 in its final game. Coach Joe Bassett became the coach and Niles was to experience only one more losing season during his tenure.

The 1953 squad logged a 5-2-2 mark before the 1954 team showed what was to lie ahead, going undefeated and untied for the first time in the school's history. The Red Dragons went through their Steel Valley Conference schedule, led by Bob

⁵⁶Ibid.

Baughman, All-State tackle, blasting S.V.C. competition by scoring 183 points and allowing only 20 en route to becoming the first school to claim the Steel Valley Conference title two years in succession. However, the 1956 team could only gain two victories for the worst season to the present time.⁵⁷ The glory years of football came with the spectacular span beginning in 1958 when dynamic Tony Mason, from a successful stint at nearby Brookfield, became head coach. The 1958 Red Dragons, dominated by juniors, lost only two games while Mason was seasoning a 1959 club that was to lose only once. The 1959 season's squad was loaded with senior standouts including end Jim Shiffey, voted the outstanding player, and who was on the receiving end of a school record - an 85-yard touchdown pass against Akron Kenmore.⁵⁸

In 1960 Niles was placed on the football, map; going unbeaten but tying once, for only the third such record in Niles history. Dick Bindings led the team with 15 touchdowns, including a record 90-yard punt return. The Dragons also boasted a high school All-American in linebacker Ted Pappas; consequently, success continued as the Red Dragons were ranked second in the state.

The 1961 team performed even better as they reeled off 10 straight wins enabling the Niles McKinley Red Dragons to

⁵⁷Ibid., p. 61.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 63.

capture its first state championship. Some of the top players that year were Rick Sygar, Bo Rein and Karl Singer. Sygar, later a standout at Michigan, was Ohio's Back of the Year and his 1200 yards rushing remains a school record.⁵⁹

Rein returned in 1962, as did quarterback Jim Seiber, and the Dragons again posted an undefeated record. Rein scored 16 touchdowns and a career high of 28 points against Akron Kenmore. Seiber completed 29 of 62 passes for 314 yards and six touchdowns to help lead Niles its second consecutive undefeated season. The Red Dragons tied Alliance 12-12 in their season finale costing them another state championship, but it settled for second position in the state rankings.⁶⁰

Steubenville Big Red Tradition

Football began in Steubenville in 1901 at Wells High School, as it was formerly known, with players wearing uniforms of various color and description, and whose coaches were either regular players or volunteer workers who had acquired helpful hints watching college teams. Spirit and enthusiasm abounded in 1913 when the Big Red went 7-1, winning its finale over Wheeling, who walked off the field because of a controversial touchdown. Thus, when it appeared

⁵⁹Ibid.

⁶⁰Ibid.

that the Big Red football was on its way, World War I brought football to a standstill.⁶¹

Fortunately, the year 1919 brought Charles Q. (Punk) Cartledge as the head coach. During Cartledge's reign of 20 years, Steubenville's football program reached its all time heights; as he was the most colorful, most enduring boss in school history. His first three seasons showed two losses during each season, but during his fourth season, 1922, Steubenville celebrated its first undefeated season, a scoreless tie with Mingo being the only blemish. The 1923 season was even more successful as the Big Red defeated eight straight opponents, scoring 222 points while yielding only 27. More success was to come as Coach Cartledge's teams were undefeated through seven different seasons. The 1930 club may have been the best in the history of the school since the team shut out all nine opponents. The 1931 squad only lost its final game at Erie East 19-14; however, the 1932 team avenged that loss and won seven preceding games to gain an undefeated season.⁶²

The 1933-34 years recorded two losses each year, both season's losses being to Canton McKinley and Erie East. However, 1935, atoned for these losses by having another perfect

⁶¹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 78.

⁶²Ibid.

season, beating Canton 6-0 and Erie East 33-0 as the opponents scored 13 points for the year. The 1936-37 seasons brought losses again to Canton and Erie, and "Punk's" last two seasons were losing campaigns, posting 3-4-1 and 2-7 records.⁶³

Many outstanding players marked this era in Steubenville football; Horace Hampton, "Puck" Burgwin, Cas Myslinski, Johnny Cox, Gary Le Van, Bob Smith, Jack Roe and Bill Adams. Other significant highlights were the 1931 68-0 slaughter of Massillon, the worst defeat in Tiger history, after having defeated the Tigers the previous year to launch the rivalry, 19-0. When Cartledge decided to retire in 1939, his Steubenville record was 139 wins, 33 losses, and nine ties. "He received his due recognition in 1970 when he was elected to the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame", says Carl Schroeder, a fellow inductee.⁶⁴

The fourth decade of Big Red football began with World War II and four head coaches in as many years. Mel Knowlton began going 2-7, before he entered military service, which was the third straight year for that record. Howard Brinker, now an assistant with the Cleveland Browns, entered the service following a sparkling 9-1 finish in 1942. Brinker had the services of Johnny Stojack, one of the greatest runners

⁶³Ibid., p. 78.

⁶⁴Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

in school history, who later played for the Chicago Cardinals and Bill Ellis, who succeeded Brinker, boasted by the services of guard Bob Mike, an all-time standout at guard, who later starred at UCLA.⁶⁵

Brinker returned from the Navy in 1946, and the next year an upswing featured the likes of Don Joyce, a tackle who later was a regular defensive player with the Chicago Cardinals and Baltimore Colts.

While other Steubenville teams were rated high in the state, the '47 team placed 13th in the Associated Press Poll. During 1950 and 1951, the Big Red lost once - Massillon administering the defeat on each occasion.

The ninth-ranked 1950 team was led by twins Perry and Larry Jeter in the backfield and Marv Washington at end. Perry Jeter, a Cal Poly grad, went to star as a punt and kick-off return specialist with the Chicago Bears in 1956-57.

The 1951 squad, lost to Massillon 13-7, and equaled the 1950 defensive output of 49 points. Coach Ray Hoyman, who produced three big winners in five seasons, had the fabulous Calvin Jones, Eddie Vincent, Frank Gilliam, Bob Stratton, George Ossio, Preston Robinson, Pete Polovina, Querino Lelli, Tiny Linn, and Bill Kerr as mainstays. Stratton, Robinson,

⁶⁵All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 79.

Palovina, and Lelli constituted what has been called the school's "fastest backfield ever" .⁶⁶ Hoyman retired from coaching that year and The Big Red Success Story began a downward trend.

Ray Hoyman's 1961-62 teams led by "Lighthouse" Harry Wilson, who went on to star at Nebraska and for the Philadelphia Eagles, but during his schoolboy career was voted Ohio's Back of the Year in 1961 and the next season, recording 1,765 yards plus 23 touchdowns for the record books. Wilson and fellow All-Ohioan Ron Mazzaferro, a tackle, helped the '62 club to an apparent perfect season before a 20-12 loss to state champion Toledo Central Catholic brought a second-place finish.⁶⁷

Abe Bryan, a Steubenville assistant for nine years, was promoted to the head coaching job in 1964. His 1965 team, ranked seventh in the state, had a 14-0 lead go down the drain in a 20-14 loss to Massillon and yielded to Warren Harding 10-8 when Tony Capers kicked a 35-yard field goal for its only losses.⁶⁸

⁶⁶Ibid.

⁶⁷Ibid.

⁶⁸Ibid.

Warren G. Harding Black Panthers Tradition

The first complete season record available was from the 1916 season when Stanley Jordan was coach at the only high school in Warren. Harding finished with a strong 8-2 record, allowing only one touchdown in its first seven games to Youngstown South in a 14-6 win, losing only to East Palestine on a forfeit and 12-7 to Cuyahoga Falls.

Heine Beck, took the reins in 1917, but Warren had a bad year, managing only two wins in 10 games and sustaining eight shut outs. There was no football in Warren during the World War I years of 1918 and 1919. Massillon made its first appearance on a Warren schedule in 1921 and was a 13-0 loser; however, the Tigers gained revenge in 1922 with a 48-6 rout. In 1929, Warren fans were brightened during the Depression year with a 13-9 triumph over Massillon but closed the decade with a 4-7 record.⁶⁹

The 1930's produced some of Warren's best teams. There were nine winning records and the 1936 team split its games. Massillon was responsible for four of the 20 defeats suffered by Warren teams in the 1930's That rivalry was destined to accelerate considerably in the next decade and a new rivalry was to begin in 1939 when Warren beat Canton McKinley 13-0, the first time the two schools met in football.

⁶⁹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 94.

Pierre Hill, guided Harding through the 1930's. Hill's 1933 team recorded a 9-2 record while giving up only 24 points, and his last team in 1941 won seven in succession before losing 21-0 to Massillon and playing a scoreless tie with Youngstown Rayen. The Panthers of 1938 presented Harding its sixth season in seven years in which they lost only two games. The Panthers lost to Massillon 21-0, to Farrell, Pa., 7-6, and in the finale played a scoreless tie against Niles McKinley. Hill's teams had a record of 81-32-7 in 12 years. Beck returned as head coach in 1943, 26 years after his ill-fated 1917 campaigned.⁷⁰

Heine Beck fielded some of Harding's greatest football teams during the early 1940's. He gave the city its first undefeated season in 1945 when the "Presidents", as they were known then, won seven games and played scoreless ties with Campbell Memorial and Massillon.⁷¹

Warren's 1944 season was another spectacular chapter in the school's football history. It marked the first year a Warren team defeated both Canton McKinley and Massillon away from home during the same season. Warren trailed Canton McKinley 19-0 late in the game and came back to win 27-26. Three weeks later Harding invaded Massillon and came away with a 32-12 win.⁷²

⁷⁰Ibid., p. 95.

⁷¹Ibid., p. 96.

⁷²Ibid.

In 1947 when a 9-1 record was hung up, Canton McKinley accounted for the only defeat, 32-7.

The Black Panthers' nickname was adopted in 1948 and that season was highlighted by the school's longest football trip. Bethlehem, Pa., was host to Harding to close the season, and a 21-14 win gave Harding a 6-3-1 record.⁷³

The Ohio Conference was founded in 1949 and Harding had one of the worst records, only three wins and a tie in eleven games. Members of the Ohio Conference were Warren, Alliance, Canton McKinley, Mansfield, Massillon and Toledo Waite. The Ohio Conference was abandoned after the 1952 season when Warren won four of its five conference games for the third straight year.⁷⁴

Chuck Riffle, former Harding player, became the head coach in 1949. The 1951 campaign, despite an 8-3 record, has to rank as one of Harding's greatest years in football. The three games were lost by a total of only seven points, including two one-point decisions. Riffle's 1952 team was 9-2 and Harding suffered its first shut-out in 32 games when Cleveland Benedictine invaded for a 70-0 win.⁷⁵

Gene Slaughter became head coach in 1957 and ushered in a new era of football for Warren fans with a brilliant

⁷³All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 97.

⁷⁴Ibid., p. 98.

⁷⁵Ibid.

9-1 record in his first year as coach, the loss being to Massillon 20-14 in the 'clock-incident' at Massillon.⁷⁶ His three year record was 24-5-1.

Although such standouts as Marvin Howard, Willie Jones, and Bob Sims were fine football players, Slaughter luckily had a more talented athlete, Paul Warfield. For the 1958 season, Warfield scored 15 touchdowns and ran for 810 yards, an 8.1 average. The next year he scored 13 touchdowns, and was successful in his only field goal attempt, and zipped for 1,158 yards, a 7.8 average. "Warfield was a brilliant athlete, says Carl Schroeder, he could do it all".⁷⁷ He set the state high school low hurdles record his senior year. Another track standout was Howard, whose 1959 grid totals included 516 yards rushing, a 5.6 average. The year before Jones averaged 6.4 a try and Sims hit 4.4 per carry.⁷⁸

Slaughter left after the 1959 season (8-2) to join Warfield and Jones at Ohio State as an assistant to coach Woody Hayes. Slaughter currently is head coach at Capital University.

Ben Wilson, former head coach at Mt. Vernon, became the head coach in 1960 and began with a shaky start (5 -3-2). Although he lost his first two games, and tied Steubenville

⁷⁶Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

⁷⁷Ibid.

⁷⁸All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 99.

12-12 in the third, his team finished strong, beating Massillon 19-18, showing signs of things to come.

Wilson's second team avenged the Canton setback by a 20-8 score before losing to Massillon 36-0 and ending with a 6-4 record. Reedy Thomas, a swift halfback, showed the way, rushing for 813 yards, 5.9 a carry. During his senior year, he was even better, scoring 222 points and gaining 988 yards. The opening game with Mansfield Senior ended in a 6-6 tie, but the Black Panthers rang up nine straight wins. This squad scored a school record of 386 points and yielded only 37 points. Wendell, Smith rushing for 834 yards (7.5) and Thomas gave Harding a dynamic duo. Also, fullback Daryl Zupanic made 104 points, while Gary Windle was an All-State guard.⁷⁹

⁷⁹Ibid., p. 101.

Chapter III

ALL-AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE PLAY.-.1963-1972

On Monday, July 1, 1963, a meeting of the proposed All-American High School Football League was held at the Town and Country Motel in Warren, Ohio. A constitution and bylaws were formulated and prepared for presentation to the administrative heads of the schools for final approval.¹

Differences of opinion concerning the formation of the All-American Football Conference prevailed. Coach Ben Wilson of Warren, who headed the coaches' group stated, "Our goal of creating the greatest of all high school, football leagues will be in partial operation this fall and that by 1965 all member schools will be playing each other."²

Chuck Hess, sports editor of The Massillon Evening Independent felt that "I would rather see Massillon not get entangled with such an alignment. I believe that Tiger football is attractive enough as it is. I feel that one of its strong points is the number of new opponents which appear from year to year, giving the fare variety. Because Massillon's

¹1967 All-American Football Conference Program.

²The Massillon Evening Independent, July 5, 1963, p. 10.

entry into a league has not worked twice before, I would be wary of trying it again.”³

Thereafter, two prospective member schools, Alliance and Cuyahoga Falls, each withdrew. Alliance officials reported on June 14 that they were not interested in league membership at the present time. Cuyahoga Falls stated they had decided to observe for a year.⁴

Nonetheless, Coach Strang felt that with each team playing a tough opponent week after week, this would add community interest to the season, attract more favorable publicity and put the loop's champion in a better spot to win a state championship.⁵

Coach Tony Ware of Canton McKinley further believed the league would prove to be a producer of revenue sufficient to operate fine athletic programs not only in football but in the other sports as well.⁶

Charles Powell, sports editor of The Canton Repository asserted, "By all reasonable measurement, the very first of the AAC games in 1963 became big games; something crucial, an enduring and singular achievement that served as a robust

³The Massillon Evening Independent, June 25, 1963, p. 12.

⁴The Massillon Evening Independent, July 12, 1963, p. 22.

⁵The Massillon Evening Independent, July 5, 1963, p. 16.

⁶1967 All-American Football Conference Program.

and colorful vehicle for the paying public.”⁷

In the following pages, each individual school is studied during the league's inception, with emphasis placed upon their conference games and each teams' season's performances.

Alliance Aviator Conference Play

Although representatives of the Alliance High School, Aviators were in attendance at the original June, 1963, gathering for membership into the league, Alliance did not seek admittance until an official application was submitted to the league at the November 20, 1967, conference meeting. After considerable discussion concerning the applications of Alliance and Warren Western Reserve High Schools, President Vocaro proposed that the group divide into three groups of principals, faculty managers and coaches and that each group consider matters that logically pertain to each group. Upon reassembling, the President announced that as prescribed by the constitution, the Executive Board (Principals) unanimously approved the application of Alliance High School and instructed the Commissioner to also notify Warren Western Reserve that they did not receive approval.⁸

⁷The Canton Repository, December 14, 1963, p. 26.

⁸Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting of the All-American Football Conference, November 20, 1967.

A cordial welcome was extended to the representatives of Alliance High School at the August 9, 1968, Conference Meeting at the Hotel Onesto in Canton, who were attending a league meeting for the first time.⁹

Alliance's inaugural season in AAC play saw the Aviators bow to Massillon 32-6, Warren Harding 33-0, and Canton McKinley 32-0 in their only tests, however, they managed to defeat Akron Central, Akron Buchtel, Barberton, and Bedford Chanel by decisive margins. The 1968 record ended with four victories and six setbacks. Coach Mel Knowlton announced his retirement at the Awards Banquet, effective at the close of the 1969 season.¹⁰

Coach Mel Knowlton's final campaign (1969) as head football coach of the Alliance Aviators had both shiny moments, as well as dark nights.

The Aviators opened up the season battling Struthers to a 14-14 tie, ending a string of five consecutive losses to the Wildcats.

Akron Central and Akron Buchtel both were handled well in a 48-0 and 36-6 victories respectively, and in Knowlton's final game the Aviators upset East Liverpool 14-6. In that game Chuck Larsuel, one of the swiftest

⁹Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting of the All-American Football Conference, August 9, 1968.

¹⁰The Canton Repository, November 26, 1968, p. 18.

backs in the state, made both touchdowns in the second quarter, one on an 84-yard run. Canton McKinley beat the Aviators 30-8, but their two other AAC contests were "donnybrooks". Massillon managed a 6-0 victory and the next week Warren Harding got into the act by ringing up a 13-6 victory with the decisive score being made in the final moments of the game.¹¹

A new coach, Gene Nara, took over the reign of the Alliance Aviators in the 1970 season after Coach Knowlton handled the team for 24 years with a ledger that read 150 wins, 86 losses and 7 ties. Nara became the thirteenth head coach in Aviator football history. In his first year on the scene, the team ended the season with its sixth consecutive losing season as injuries hampered what seemed like a possible winning season, 3-7. Playing predominately an underclass unit, several games' outcome may have been reversed had it not been for the inexperience of youth with mistakes and mental errors that plague a youth movement. But after going 3-3 for the first six games, they finished with four straight setbacks.

The sixth game of the 1970 football season was a landmark for the Aviators as they notched their first AAC victory with a 24-8 defeat of the Warren Harding Black Panthers.

Sophomore Q.B. Bill Anderson connected with Chuck

¹¹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 12.

Larsuel on a pass play for a T.D., but the win took its toll, as Anderson sustained a broken arm and tackle John Swanson had severe calcium deposits of the arm which caused both starters to sit out the season.¹²

The next week proved disastrous as Alliance lost to Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas, 18-13, whose squad was comprised of many players living in the Alliance School District. This loss was an indication of things to come as the Aviators never recovered and lost its remaining games.

Before the Warren battle, the Flyers beat “pass crazy” Cuyahoga Falls 14-7 with the help of four stolen aerials; loss to Canton McKinley 14-6 after leading the entire game, but only to see the game lost by a late 97-yard touchdown run by Alex Dimarzio. They yielded to Massillon 36-12, after the Tigers held a 26-12 lead with only seven minutes remaining in the game.

While the fleet Larsuel, a senior, and sophomore, Danny Contrucci, carried the load of the attack, outstanding line play was turned in by the Kuceyeski twins, Ron and Randy, and defensive end Clifford Jones. In the spring of the year, Larsuel set Stark County records for the 220-yard dash and long jump and led the Aviator track team to a third place showing in the State track meet.¹³

¹²Ibid., p. 13.

¹³The Canton Repository, May 24, 1970, p. 67.

The best season Alliance High School had enjoyed since 1964 was evident in 1971, a 5-5 record was posted. The opener proved a sign of things to come as the Aviators topped Struthers 18-0 for the first win in a season opener since 1963. A big letdown came in the Canton game when the Aviators led in the fourth quarter, only to lose 21-14 on a 99-yard scoring pass. Alliance was shut out only by Warren's state champs, 27-0 and Niles, 19-0, while racking up a 49-12 win over Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas. Heading the team were All-Ohio Linemen Ron and Randy Kuceyeski; Danny Contrucci, fleet halfback; fullback Jim Hancock, who picked up 250 yards rushing against McKinley; and defensive end Cliff Jones.⁴

The 1972 season proved a disaster for coach Gene Nara as well as the Aviators. Beginning with the opening 12 -7 loss to Struthers, Alliance bounced back with a 21-12 win over Columbus East. They went into a losing streak of four games, but came back to topple Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 19-9. This win was followed by three straight losses to finish 2-8. Outstanding individuals could be found in Al Seals, a fine fullback-linebacker, as well as quarterback-linebacker Marcus Miller, Gene Paina, a tight end and linebacker, and Al Watson made the All-Conference team.¹⁵

¹⁴The Canton Repository, November 21, 1971, p. 18.

¹⁵Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

Table I

Alliance Aviator AAC Season Stats

1963	All.	Opp.	1964	All.	Opp.
Lima Senior	36	7	Struthers	0	6
Akron Central	22	8	Akron Central	38	8
Cleveland Glenville	20	0	Cleveland Glenville	42	0
Massillon Washington	0	28	Massillon Washington	8	26
Cuyahoga Falls	20	0	Cuyahoga Falls	18	13
Warren Harding	32	24	Warren Harding	14	18
Cleveland East	12	6	Barberton	14	8
Canton McKinley	0	41	Canton McKinley	6	28
Akron St. Vincent	34	0	Akron St. Vincent	20	21
East Liverpool	36	12	East Liverpool	8	0
Won 8-Lost 2	212	126	Won 5-Lost 5	168	128
1965	All.	Opp.	1966	All.	Opp.
Struthers	8	12	Struthers	0	3
Akron Central	30	14	Akron Central	36	0
Cleveland Glenville	22	6	Akron Hoban	0	29
Massillon Washington	6	22	Massillon Washington	12	24
Cuyahoga Falls	12	0	Cuyahoga Falls	12	34
Warren Harding	6	15	Warren Harding	22	13
Barberton	0	11	Barberton	6	28
Canton McKinley	14	15	Canton McKinley	14	20
Akron St. Vincent	8	13	Akron St. Vincent	22	20
East Liverpool	28	26	East Liverpool	0	30
Won 4-Lost 6	134	134	Won 3-Lost 7	124	201
1967	All.	Opp.	1968	All.	Opp.
Struthers	14	22	Struthers	6	34
Akron Central	42	0	Akron Central	23	0
Youngstown Cardinal	26	0	Akron Buchtel	20	0
Massillon Washington	14	20	Massillon Washington	6	32
Cuyahoga Falls	22	30	Cuyahoga Falls	14	22
Warren Harding	26	20	Warren Harding	0	33
Barberton	16	16	Barberton	6	0
Canton McKinley	20	14	Canton McKinley	0	32
Akron St. Vincent	14	15	Bedford Chanel	30	6
East Liverpool	8	14	East Liverpool	14	38
Won 4-Lost 5-Tied 1	200	149	Won 4-Lost 6	130	197

Table I Cont.

Alliance Aviator AAC Season Stats

1969	All.	Opp.	1970	All.	Opp.
Struthers	14	14	Struthers	0	24
Akron Central	48	0	Akron Central	15	6
Akron Buchtel	36	6	Massillon Washington	12	36
Canton McKinley	8	30	Canton McKinley	6	14
Massillon Washington	0	6	Cuyahoga Falls	14	7
Warren Harding	6	13	Warren Harding	14	8
Barberton	14	21	St. Thomas Aquinas	13	18
Bedford Chanel	8	18	Niles McKinley	0	20
East Liverpool	14	6	Steubenville	6	34
			East Liverpool	8	18
Won 3- Lost 5	148	114	Won 5-Lost 5	88	185
1971	All.	Opp.	1972	All.	Opp.
Struthers	18	0	Struthers	7	12
East Liverpool	6	13	Columbus East	21	12
Toledo Scott	27	7	Toledo Scott	15	20
Canton McKinley	14	21	Canton McKinley	7	34
Cuyahoga Falls	20	6	East Liverpool	0	14
Warren Harding	0	27	Warren Harding	7	24
St. Thomas Aquinas	49	12	St. Thomas Aquinas	19	9
Niles McKinley	0	19	Niles McKinley	21	41
Massillon Washington	6	36	Massillon Washington	8	34
Steubenville	13	0	Steubenville	14	24
Won 5-Lost 5	153	141	Won 2-Lost 8	119	224

Canton McKinley Bulldog Conference Play

The Bulldogs entered the All-American Conference in 1963, coached by Tony Ware. The season's opener began with the Pups bowing to come. They also were victims to Canton Lincoln and Massillon, 24-20 and 22-6 in an attempt to make up for lost revenue.

Heading the team was Arnie Fontes, later to star at Ohio State and Eastern Michigan.¹⁶

¹⁶The Canton Repository, November 19, 1963, p. 67.



The Bulldogs almost reclaimed the long missing state championship during the 1964 season, just bowing to Massillon in a 20-14 game in which McKinley was leading all the way. The Pups ended with a second-place finish in the state rankings with Massillon on top. The new coach was Don Nehlen, who came from Canton South, where he piloted that team to a championship season. Tony Ware, his predecessor, moved on to Kent State University to assist Massillon coach Leo Strang who had been named head coach.¹⁷ The McKinley offense scored 370 points and the "stingy" defense spearheaded by many outstanding players, only played Warren Harding in conference play that season. The Bulldogs beat Warren 34-8, and then lost to Massillon, which evened their AAC record at 1-1. Fred Mathews made All-State honors and went on to star at Bowling Green, setting many records, as did the fine pass receiver Eddie Jones who joined him there. Pete Kalogeras made Little All-American honors at Eastern Michigan after leaving Illinois. Nick Roman played at Ohio State, and then was drafted by Cincinnati. He played for the Bengals for two seasons, and then was picked up by Atlanta, and in turn by the Cleveland Browns, where he played regularly. His cousin, Jim Roman starred at Ohio State and scored 14 points in the Rose Bowl game his senior year.

¹⁷All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 31.

¹⁸Chuck Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

Don Nehlen left Canton and became assistant coach at Bowling Green University with defensive coordinator Ron Chismar taking over for the 1965 campaign. The 7 win and 3 loss season saw the Pups lose to Warren 9-8 on a 41-yard field goal by Capers in the closing minutes, as well as blowing a 14-0 lead against Massillon and losing 18-14.

Fred Mathews again led the Bulldog scorers with 74 points and Larry Clayton had 64. Other standouts included Tom Scott, eventual captain of the Illinois team, and Bill Nucklos, to become All-MAC at Bowling Green. George Foronimo, the barefooted placekicker scored to beat Alliance 15-14 with a last second placement.¹⁹

The 1966 season was a history-making one for the Bulldogs - they beat Massillon 25-16 to crack a nine-game losing streak. The season mark read only 6-4, but outstanding play highlighted this season.

A loss to Warren Harding, 29-28, was one of the biggest point productions in AAC play. Other losses in conference play came to Steubenville and Niles McKinley by identical. 22-0 scores; the other loss being to Cleveland St. Joseph, 27-12.²⁰

¹⁹Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

²⁰All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 3.

Outstanding performers included Jerry Hontas, now Q.B. at Stanford University; Leroy Wilder, who scored all three T.D.'s against Massillon and became a standout at Wisconsin University.

The 1967 season record again showed 6-4, but had to be as exciting a season as one could ever see. The Pups beat Niles and Warren in AAC contests but lost to Steubenville on a pass play with two seconds remaining in the game, final score 20-15. Alliance beat Canton McKinley 20-14, as did Massillon, 20-15, with both games being decided in the late stages of the fourth quarter.²¹

The leading players included halfback Gerald Davidson with 66 points and Q.B. Ted Bowersox with 62 points. Bowersox became the regular Q.B. at Kent State University. Middle guard Gaylord Sweat and tackle Mike Bush were awarded All-State honors.²²

In 1968 the Bulldogs began another resurgence as they won the first of two straight All-American Conference titles. The only defeat that season came at the hands of Niles, 16-0, in a game in which the Pups fumbled away the football five times.²³

²¹Chuck Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

²²The Canton Repository, November 21, 1967, p. 22.

²³Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

This marked the first season in which every conference member played one another. McKinley beat Warren Harding 20-0, Steubenville 26-8, Alliance 32-0 and Massillon 26- 6. Coach Chismar's team was acclaimed the No. 3 team in the state.

Individual players receiving plaudits included Q.B. Mark Hontas, now playing at Florida University; Rocco Rich, a "nose-man" at Ohio State University; Rich Brown, a "monster" back at Miami of Ohio; and tackles Ben Hoskins and Jon Brandyberry, both playing at Bowling Green.²⁴

When the Steubenville Big Red edges the 1969 Bulldogs 20-24, via a second-half comeback, the game cost the Pups the state championship. The record for the season was 9-1 and a fourth place finish in state rankings.

Their AAC victories were posted over Niles 15-6, Warren 18-6, Alliance 30-8, and finally Massillon 14-7. The Massillon triumph came on a scoring pass to Eddie Floyd with 17 seconds left in the battle.²⁵

Players that showed considerable potential included Floyd who went on to North Carolina A & T; Rocco Rich, voted the State "Player of the Year", Joey Babics, Q.B. at Bowling Green; Danny Roman, playing at Purdue; and Lonnie Ford, currently performing for Miami of Ohio.²⁶

²⁴Chuck Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 1.3, 1972.

²⁵The Canton Repository, November 9, 1969, p. 75.

²⁶Chuck Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 1.3, 1972.

The success the Bulldogs enjoyed for two seasons was about to be threatened in 1970 as Chismar was off to Bowling Green to assist former Pup head Don Nehlen, newly appointed head coach at B.G. John Brideweser became head coach after successful seasons as a Massillon assistant, head coach at Canton Oakwood and Hubbard. With relatively few lettermen back and a young team to guide with considerable injuries, the Bulldogs showed only a 7-7 tie to Niles as the only blemish on a perfect season going into the Massillon game. The Tigers were also perfect coming into the contest. Massillon's Larry Harper broke off the opening kick-off all the way en route to a 28-0 victory and the Bulldogs ended the campaign 8-1-1 with a third place finish in the state rankings.

Outstanding players were halfback Alex Dimarzio, an All-State selection along with center Randy Clark, both now playing at Purdue. End Dave Turner and tackle Nick O'Brovac also made the All-State team and are performing at Bowling Green. The Pups defeated AAC opponents Steubenville 13-0, Warren 23-7 and Alliance 14-6, while tying Niles and losing to Massillon.²⁷

The 1971 Bulldogs with a 7-2-1 season record suffered their only two losses to AAC powerhouses, Warren and Massillon, by identical 29-6 scores and tied Niles 6-6.

²⁷All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 36.

The team was led by All-Ohio fullback Artis Zachary who scored 100 points for the year and quarterback Jimmy Vance, who passed for 1,061 yards (896 against AAC competition), a 54% completion record. Other All-Ohioan's included defensive back Dwight Lewis and guard Rodney Gordon. The game with Alliance will be remembered as the Bulldogs trailed 14-7 with six minutes remaining, first down and McKinley with the ball on its own one-yard line. A quick pass from Vance to Lewis covered 99 yards and a Bulldog victory.²⁸

A talented group returned in 1972 with state-title aspirations and a new play-off system for the state championship. The hopes were dampened early by a 12-6 loss to Akron Garfield in the second game of the season. However, the Bulldogs won the next seven games and went into the annual clash with Massillon with a remote chance. Massillon prevailed 12-3 with two long touchdown passes being the difference. The team was led by a trio of transfers headed by All-Ohio fullback-linebacker Chuck Gelal, slotback-defensive back Dan Contrucci and halfback Eric Escola. Also gaining state recognition was guard Jim Lerario. The Bulldogs finished in second place in AAC play behind Massillon.²⁹

²⁸Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

²⁹Charles Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

Table II
Canton McKinley Bulldogs - AAC Season Stats

1963	All.	Opp.	1964	All.	Opp.
Martin Ferry	8	20	Akron Hoban	31	14
Cleveland East	44	0	Warren Harding	34	8
Fremont Ross	40	14	Fremont Ross	50	0
Lincoln	7	8	Lincoln	10	6
Canton Central	36	8	Canton Central	27	6
Massillon Washington	20	24	Cleveland East Tech	62	0
Steubenville	60	0	Steubenville	70	0
Alliance	41	0	Alliance	28	6
Cuyahoga Falls	30	0	Cuyahoga Falls	54	0
Massillon Washington	6	22	Massillon Washington	14	20
Won 6-Lost 4	292	96	Won 9-Lost 1	379	60
1965	All.	Opp.	1966	All.	Opp.
Akron Hoban	32	7	Columbus East	40	0
Warren Harding	8	9	Niles	0	22
Cleveland St. Joe	20	28	Warren Harding	28	29
Lincoln	40	0	Cleveland St. Joe	12	27
Canton Central	15	8	Lincoln	16	14
Columbus East	28	6	Canton Central	50	6
Dayton Roth	41	0	Steubenville	0	22
Alliance	15	13	Alliance	20	14
Cuyahoga Falls	32	14	Cuyahoga Falls	22	8
Massillon Washington	14	18	Massillon Washington	25	16
Won 7- Lost 3	245	103	Won 6-Lost 4	213	158
1967	All.	Opp.	1968	All.	Opp.
Niles	19	14	Barberton	28	0
Warren Harding	32	7	Warren Harding	20	0
Dayton Roth	51	20	Niles	0	16
Lincoln	27	6	Lincoln	36	7
Canton Central	44	6	Canton Central	7	6
Steubenville	15	20	Steubenville	26	8
Toledo DeVilbis	33	14	Toledo DeVilbis	44	12
Alliance	14	20	Alliance	32	0
Lakewood St. Edward	12	21	Warren Western Reserve	27	12
Massillon Washington	15	20	Massillon Washington	26	6
Won 6-4 Lost	262	148	Won 9-Lost 1	246	67

Table II cont.

1969	Mck.	Opp.	1970	Mck.	Opp.
Barberton	34	10	Portsmouth	44	14
Warren Harding	18	6	Warren Harding	23	8
Toledo Scott	65	0	Cincinnati Taft	21	0
Alliance	30	8	Alliance	14	6
Lincoln	45	13	Lincoln	22	6
Niles	15	6	Niles	7	7
Toledo DeVilbis	68	0	Toledo DeVilbis	47	8
Steubenville	14	20	Steubenville	13	0
Columbus South	60	0	Youngstown South	35	8
Massillon Washington	14	7	Massillon Washington	0	28
Won 9-Lost 1	363	70	Won 8-Lost 1-Tied 1	226	84
1971	Mck.	Opp.	1972	Mck.	Opp.
Cleveland East Tech	40	8	Dayton Roosevelt	27	8
Warren Harding	6	29	Akron Garfield	6	12
Cincinnati Taft	37	0	Cincinnati Taft	57	0
Alliance	21	14	Alliance	34	7
Canton Lincoln	21	17	Canton Lincoln	33	0
Niles	6	6	Niles	24	13
Dayton Roosevelt	65	0	Youngstown Mooney	11	3
Steubenville	37	0	Steubenville	29	7
Youngstown South	29	8	Warren Harding	14	12
Massillon Washington	6	29	Massillon Washington	3	12
Won 7-Lost 2-Tied 1	268	111	Won 8-Lost 2	238	74

Massillon Tiger Conference Play

The 1963 season was unique in many ways for the Tigers, as this was Leo Strang's last year at Massillon and first year of All-American Conference play. The Tigers not only played two games with Canton McKinley for the first time since 1909, but Strang accepted a real challenge from Akron Garfield who was looking for statewide recognition.

At Akron's Rubber Bowl before 19,598 fans, the Tigers repeatedly knocked on the touchdown door, but hit the jackpot only once and Garfield won 13-6.³⁰

The Tigers finished second in the polls this season, never losing again before Strang became head coach at Kent State University, taking some of his former Massillon players with him. All-Staters included halfback Billy Blunt, quarterback Ron Schwartz and end Will Perry. In the first McKinley game, Massillon won 24-20, but in the season finale the Tigers beat the Pups 22-6 before 21,965 fans in Canton. Blunt also tied a school record of 18 pass receptions for the season en route to All-State honors.³¹

Earle Bruce became head coach in 1964 and for his two year stint, did not lose a game, chalking up 20 straight wins. The team won the state championship again in 1964 with a 20-14 win over Canton McKinley, who was also undefeated coming into the game. This marked the first time since 1938 that both teams came into the season finale undefeated. Highlights of the season included a 34-18 win over Altoona, Pa., ending their 21-game victory streak, and the first meeting with Niles in conference play. The game at Akron's Rubber Bowl was played before 30,428 fans with

³⁰The Canton Repository, October 21, 1963, p. 65.

³¹The Massillon Evening Independent, November 12, 1963, p. 16.

Niles having a string of 48 straight wins coming in, but afterwards being bounced 14-8. The Tigers boasted two All-Americans in center-linebacker John Muhlback and guard Larry Larsuel, while tailback Jim Lawrence was the leading rusher and scorer with 80 points.³²

The 1965 team was very similar to the previous year, undefeated in both seasons. Every AAC game was a thriller; Alliance 22-6, Niles 22-8, Steubenville 20-13, Warren 16-12 and Canton McKinley 18-14. Also the game at Altoona won by the Tigers 14-0 before 16,000 fans, largest ever in their history was very exciting.³³

The 1966 season was one to be forgotten by Massillon partisans, as Bob Seaman, like Earle Bruce from Sandusky, took over. After handing Cleveland Benedictine and Steubenville their only season losses, the Tigers tied Mansfield Senior, snapping a string of 30 straight victories. A 20-12 loss to Niles ended a record of 32 straight games without a loss. A 20-14 loss to Altoona was the first to an out-of-state team in the history of Tiger Stadium. A 17-6 loss to Warren Harding tied the records of 1912 and 1931 of four straight losses, and finally, the Tigers lost to Canton McKinley for the first time in 10 games.

³²Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

³³Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

No team beat the Tigers soundly, but everyone found ways to score, including Warren's Tony Capers, who kicked a field goal, the first against a Massillon team since 1926.³⁴

The 1967 Tiger team won the All-American Conference championship again, but wound up one point away from winning the state championship trophy.

Upper Arlington came on as a state power and the 7-6 win against Massillon propelled them to four consecutive state titles. Fullback Jim Smith led the potent Tigers' attack with over 1,000 yards gained in 203 carries and set a record of 39 times carrying the ball in the defeat of Steubenville that cost the Big Red the state championship.³⁵

The 1968 team started off on the wrong foot as they were upset by Mentor 19-0 in the season opener - the worst opening game loss in the school's history. Although the Tigers ended a Niles record of 63 consecutive home games without defeat, 16-8, they lost to Warren 23-13 and to Canton 26-6 for the second time in three years. Again Jim Smith led the way, scoring 74 points and gaining over 1,000 yards for the second straight year. George Whitfield, guard and linebacker, also gained All-Ohio honors.³⁶

³⁴All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 51.

³⁵All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 52.

³⁶Ibid.

Bob Commings took over the coaching duties from Bob Seaman who went to assist the Wichita State University football program. Commings served as head coach of Struthers High School, with great success for seven years but met Niles in the second game of the season, losing 33-20, as well as tying Steubenville and losing to Canton McKinley 14-7. With an explosive backfield attack that included Darnell Streeter, Mike Autrey, Larry Harper, and quarterbacked by Gary Herring, the Tigers amassed considerable yardage. As a receiver, Harper caught 24 passes for a school record. All-Ohioans included guard Pat Midgley, tackle Bill Dorman and Herring.³⁷

The 1970 team brought the state title back to Stark County as the Massillon school had one of the finest teams in football history. They scored 412 points, eighth on the school's all-time list and allowed 29, twelfth best in history. Led by the running of Mike Mauger, the Tigers used the Niles game as the springboard to the crown. Trailing into the second half, the Tigers exploded for a 22-3 victory over Niles to take the title from Upper Arlington.

Mauger ran for 1,200 yards and scored 152 points, second only to Dutch Hill in Massillon history. Denny Franklin, the quarterback, completed 33 of 78 passes for 669 yards and

³⁷Ibid.

13 touchdowns, while keeping for 363 yards on running plays. Wingback Larry Harper had 15 pass receptions for 310 yards and seven T.D.'s, four kickoff returns for 157 yards, 16 punt returns for 88 yards and a total of 62 points. His 95-yard run with the opening kickoff against McKinley led to the Tiger win.³⁸

The 1971 Tiger team lost the state crown by two points, losing to Niles 7-6 and to Warren 8-7, with one of the best teams in a decade. Led by big All-State and All-American fullback-linebacker, Willie Spencer, the Tigers out-scored opponents 300-33, shutting out five opponents while never permitting more than one T.D. in the other five games. Offensive standouts included wingback Art Thompson and tailback-noseman Larry McLendon. Center Steve Studer and end Bob Stephan opened big holes and tackle Glen Weirich, backs Tom Hannon and Hank Nussbaumer, led the defense. The highlight was the 29-6 win over Canton, as the Bulldogs could not stop Spencer's thrusts.³⁹

With many outstanding returnees, the Tigers led the polls the entire 1972 season, but failed to win the state crown as the new play-off system was inaugurated. Going 10-0 in the regular season, Massillon faced Cincinnati Princeton in the semi-finals at Ohio State Stadium.

³⁸Ibid., p. 54.

³⁹Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

Leading 14-3 at halftime, the Tiger offense could not get untracked the second half and fell to the Vikings 17-14. Princeton lost to Warren Western Reserve the next week 34-6 for the state crown. Led by All-Ohio back Tom Hannon who gained over 1,350 yards for the season, the methodical offense marched down the field to grind out 193 points for the season while the stingy defense shut out five opponents and permitted only one T.D. to the other teams except Princeton. Other standouts included the Edwards brothers, end Darius and wingback Terry, and quarterback Kevin Westover, whose two long bombs enabled the Tigers to beat Canton. Two-way stand-outs included All-Ohio tackle Bob Geiser and back Don Muhlbach.⁴⁰

Table III
Massillon Tiger AAC Season Slats

1963	Mass.	Opp.	1964	Mass.	Opp.
Cleveland East	46	0	Cleveland East	16	0
Akron Garfield	6	13	Niles	14	8
Mansfield Senior	28	0	Mansfield Senior	26	0
Alliance	28	0	Alliance	26	8
Steubenville	52	0	Steubenville	58	0
Canton McKinley	24	20	Cleveland Benedictine	55	0
Struthers	74	0	Altoona, Pa.	34	18
Warren Harding	22	8	Warren Harding	12	0
Cleveland Benedictine	22	0	Eastlake North	36	0
Canton McKinley	22	6	Canton McKinley	20	14
Won 9-Lost 1	334	47	Won 10-Lost 0	297	48

⁴⁰Ibid.

Table III cont.

1965	Mass.	Opp.	1966	Mass.	Opp.
Cleveland Glenville	50	0	Canton Lincoln	32	14
Cleveland Benedictine	29	12	Cleveland Benedictine	20	6
Mansfield Senior	38	12	Mansfield Senior	0	0
Alliance	22	6	Alliance	24	12
Niles	22	8	Niles	12	20
Steubenville	20	14	Altoona, Pa.	14	20
Altoona, Pa.	14	0	Upper Arlington	6	21
Warren Harding	16	12	Warren Harding	6	17
Eastlake North	18	0	Steubenville	12	0
Canton McKinley	18	14	Canton McKinley	16	20
Won 10-Lost 0	247	78	Won 4-Lost 5-Tied 1	142	135
1967	Mass.	Opp.	1968	Mass.	Opp.
Akron East	28	14	Mentor	0	19
Cleveland Benedictine	24	0	Cleveland Benedictine	34	19
Mansfield Senior	28	0	Mansfield Senior	46	16
Alliance	20	1.4	Alliance	32	6
Niles	14	6	Niles	16	8
Altoona, Pa.	12	7	Altoona, Pa.	30	0
Upper Arlington	6	7	Steubenville	20	12
Warren Harding	22	0	Warren Harding	12	23
Steubenville	26	18	Cuyahoga Falls	30	6
Canton McKinley	20	13	Canton McKinley	6	26
Won 9-Lost 1	200	79	Won 7-Lost 3	226	135
1969	Mass.	Opp.	1970	Mass.	Opp.
Trotwood Madison	60	6	Trotwood Madison	71	0
Cleveland Benedictine	22	20	Cleveland Benedictine	32	7
Toledo Whitmer	60	0	Alliance	36	12
Niles	20	33	Niles	22	3
Alliance	6	0	Toledo Whitmer	41	0
Steubenville	0	0	Steubenville	40	0
Hamilton Garard	52	12	Barberton	52	0
Warren Harding	33	14	Warren Harding	22	0
Marion Franklin	38	8	Akron St. Vincent	68	7
Canton McKinley	7	14	Canton McKinley	28	0
Won 7-Lost 2-Tied 1	298	107	Won 10-Lost 0	412	29

Table III cont.

1971	Mass.	Opp.	1972	Mass.	Opp.
Cleveland Heights	32	0	Cleveland Benedictine	15	6
Cincinnati Taft	56	0	Youngstown Ursuline	21	0
Cleveland Benedictine	20	0	Upper Arlington	14	0
Niles	6	7	Niles	16	6
Akron East	42	6	Cincinnati LaSalle	14	6
Steubenville	26	0	Steubenville	12	0
Barberton	46	0	Cleveland Glenville	34	0
Warren Harding	7	8	Warren Harding	7	0
Alliance	36	6	Alliance	34	8
Canton McKinley	29	6	Canton McKinley	12	3
Won 8-Lost 2	300	33	Won 10-Lost 1	193	46

Niles McKinley Red Dragon Conference Play

The 1963 squad was runners-up to Massillon in All-American Conference play because the Dragons played one AAC team and won its game, but the Tigers defeated both their opponents. However, the Niles team regained the state championship trophy as they went undefeated for the third straight year tying only Cincinnati Roger Bacon 0-0. The Dragons scored 401 points to the oppositions 34, blanking seven opponents along the way. Led by halfback Bill Gales, fullback Cee Ellison, halfback Mel Dixon and guard Barry Profato the Dragons defeated the previous state champion, Toledo Central Catholic 20-0 and the Roger Bacon defensive struggle was a classic. Gales, a high school All-American, gained 968 yards and scored 16 touchdowns; Ellison scored 108 points; and Dixon picked up 650 yards as a junior.⁴¹

⁴¹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 66.

Although the Red Dragons competed against the best competition, many fans felt the real test could only come against the team from Massillon. The much-publicized game was second on the 1964 schedule and was played at the Akron Rubber Bowl. The Dragons had a new coach in Glenn Stennett, a former assistant at Niles. The largest crowd ever to see a Niles team, 30,128, saw the Tigers win the 14-8 thriller. Although the squad ended the season 8-2, losing only to Cincinnati. Roger Bacon 20-16 at Cincinnati. Niles ranked thirteenth in the state. Cee Ellison, who scored 72 points, and Dixon, who scored a 64-yard punt return against Steubenville Central Catholic, were the top performers, along with quarterback George Infante, who hit 33 of 76 passes for 705 yards and nine touchdowns.⁴²

Bob Shaw took command and his first season of 1965, with a very young team, and completed the campaign 6-2-2, losing to the state champion Massillon 22-8 and No. 6 Akron St. Vincent, 19-0. The ties were to Toledo Central 14-14 and fifth-rated Warren Harding, 14-14. Outstanding play by Joe Lukz and halfback-end Larry Cella., led the way to All-State honors. Lukz went on to star at Michigan and Cella was one of the leading punters in school history.⁴³

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴³Ibid., p. 67.

The 1966 team placed emphasis on defense to post a perfect 10-0 record as the Red Dragons permitted only 48 points for the season while the offense scored .306 points. Led by outstanding linebackers Tim Johnson and Pat Ryun on defense, and quarterback Bob Leonard on offense, the Dragons placed second in the state rankings behind Columbus Watterson. Niles won the AAC championship as they defeated Massillon, Canton McKinley and Warren Harding. Leonard passed for 711 yards and nine touchdowns as he completed 47 of 102 and Bruce Simeone, halfback, carried 117 times for 793 yards, including a 91-yard touchdown run against Toledo Libbey. Johnson went on to be named an All-New England center at Boston University and captain Jim Kines was a defensive standout at Harvard.⁴⁴

The 1967 season had assistant coach Fred Conti replacing Bob Shaw, who became an assistant coach at Bucknell University. The season record displayed a 7-3 mark, the only losses being two of the three games in AAC play to Canton McKinley and Massillon, 19-14 and 14-6 respectively. Outstanding players included fullback Lou Tabor, who racked up 84 points; halfback Roger Jones averaging 6.1 on 777 yards rushing; and Joe Gayonski, 6.6 on 594 yards. Jones also had a spectacular 75-yard run against Cleveland East Tech.

⁴⁴Ibid.

Quarterback Bob Leonard threw for 332 yards, ran for 362, and made nine touchdowns. John Ziegler was the top receiver and an All-State defensive back while Tim Goodhard received mention for his tackle play.⁴⁵

Conti's second season, 1968, was a repeat of the first, 7-3, losing to state powers, Massillon, Warren Harding and Warren Western Reserve. Massillon's hard-earned 16-8 triumph followed a 16-0 win over Canton McKinley by two weeks with the victory over Canton keeping it from dominating the AAC by itself. When Warren Harding nipped the Dragons 14-8 in the finale, the Panthers tied the Bulldogs for first place. Junior Rich Gales led the way with 590 yards in 112 tries, as the offense made 145 points in the first four games. Quarterback Scott Conway completed 24 of 65 passes for 362 yards. The defense was anchored by tackle Bob Santangelo, middle guard Ray Syper and end John DeCamp.⁴⁶

The 1969 Niles football team inspired by the return of Bob Shaw from college coaching, replacing Fred Conti who went to Wichita State University as an assistant coach, finished the year 8-2. Although the Dragons finished seventh in the state polls, both losses occurred in the AAC race, losing 15-16 to McKinley and 14-7 to Warren Harding.

⁴⁵Ibid., p. 68.

⁴⁶Ibid., p. 69.

Individual standouts were abundant, but the leader was Ohio Back-of-the-Year Rick Gales. Gales carried the football 208 times and gained 1,266 yards, a conference record, scored 114 points, returned 11 punts for 251 yards, ran back five kickoffs for 125 yards and caught eight passes for 24 yards. Rick scored four touchdowns in the 33-20 win over Massillon and gained 165 yards, ran for 164 against Toledo Libbey, 172 against Cincinnati Taft, but he reached his season high of 232 against Warren Western Reserve. For three seasons, Gales rushed 330 times for 1,955 yards, scored 26 touchdowns and 176 points. Quarterback Ron Fusco completed 53.2% of his passes (59 of 111) for a school record and end Randy Hardy made 27 receptions for 462 yards. Halfback George Harris averaged 5.2 per rush and made five touchdowns. Starring on offense and defense, tackle Gary McBride, deaf since birth, made 62 solo tackles, 56 assists and 10 tackles for losses. Fullback-linebacker Tim Monos was also a standout both ways.⁴⁷

The 1970 Red Dragons had a 7-2-1 year utilizing young players, with injuries and key mistakes proving costly. Niles lost to Massillon 22-3 after leading 3-0 at halftime and also losing to Warren Western Reserve 35-8. A 7-7 tie with Canton McKinley was a thriller, as was the

⁴⁷All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 70.

10-0 win over Warren Harding. Quarterback Allan Ciminero paced the Dragons, passing for 856 yards and 10 touchdowns on 55 of 105 and keeping 119 times for 296 yards. Flanker Johnny James caught 17 passes for 281 yards and three scores, and Jerry Cranston made 14 receptions for 211 yards. Defensive back James intercepted 10 passes, which stands as a school record.⁴⁸

The Red Dragons of 1971 followed with another 7-2-1 record as a failure to score against Warren Western Reserve and Warren Harding cost them the state crown. However, a missed conversion by Niles helped Canton McKinley to a 6-6 tie. Injuries to stellar performers proved costly, but coach Bob Shaw didn't use it as an excuse. Led by fullback-linebacker Tim Monos and the outstanding quarterback Tom Andres, the Red Dragons overall, play was inconsistent according to Shaw. Lou West, a standout runner and defender also starred. The defense, annually strong, was no exception, as linebacker Mike Weida and end Al Masciangeleo led the way.⁴⁹

The 1972 team led by the West brothers, Clark and Lou, had enough misfortune to prove disastrous to any team, but the Red Dragons overcame the injuries to the first and second team quarterbacks and finished with a fine 8-2 season.

⁴⁸Ibid.

⁴⁹Tom Persell, Personal. Interview, April 20, 1973.

Coach Bob Shaw headed for the University of Cincinnati to join former Niles boss, Tony Mason's staff, at the close of the season. Losing only to powerhouses McKinley and Massillon by a touchdown, the Red Dragons had one of the scrappiest teams in AAC play.⁵⁰ Receiving special recognition was soccer-style kicker Steve Cerneka, who kicked a 43-yard field goal to beat Boardman, 10-7.⁵¹

Table IV

Niles McKinley Red Dragons AAC Slats

1963	Nls.	Opp.	1964	Nls.	Opp.
Cleveland East Tech	50	0	Cleveland East Tech	57	0
Youngstown Cardinal Mooney	46	0	Massillon Washington	8	14
Akron St. Vincent	46	0	Akron St. Vincent	22	14
Cincinnati Roger Bacon	0	0	Cincinnati LaSalle	42	0
Steubenville Central Cath.	54	6	Steubenville Central Cath.	40	0
Toledo Scott	60	22	Akron Central	42	14
Farrell	27	6	Cincinnati Roger Bacon	16	20
Erie Tech	62	0	Farrell	52	14
Toledo Central Cath.	20	0	Erie Tech	58	8
Warren Harding	36	0	Warren Harding	26	0
Won 9-Lost 0-Tied 1	401	34	Won 8-Lost 2	354	90

⁵⁰The Canton Repository, January 27, 1973, p. 20.

⁵¹Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

71
Table IV cont.

1965	Nls.	Opp.	1966	Nls.	Opp.
Cleveland East Tech	40	6	Canton McKinley	22	0
Youngstown Wilson	28	0	Cleveland John Adams	36	8
Akron Central	20	14	Cleveland East Tech	42	0
Cincinnati Withrow	20	6	Cincinnati Withrow	38	0
Massillon Washington	8	22	Massillon Washington	20	12
Toledo Libby	26	0	Toledo Libby	48	14
Akron St. Vincent	0	19	Akron St. Vincent	20	0
Steubenville Central Cath.	6	0	Steubenville Central Cath.	6	0
Toledo Central Cath.	14	14	Toledo Central Cath.	52	8
Warren Harding	26	0	Warren Harding	22	6
Won 6-Lost 2-Tied 2	176	97	Won 10-Lost 0	306	48
1967	Nls.	Opp.	1968	Nls.	Opp.
Canton McKinley	14	19	Cleveland East Tech	55	6
Cleveland John Adams	42	8	Youngstown Rayen	24	0
Cleveland East Tech	37	6	Canton McKinley	16	0
Cincinnati Taft	61	8	Toledo Libby	50	0
Massillon Washington	6	14	Massillon Washington	8	16
Toledo Libby	40	14	Akron St. Vincent	20	8
Akron St. Vincent	8	20	Warren W. Reserve	8	40
Austintown Fitch	22	12	Austintown Fitch	8	6
Toledo Central	30	8	Steubenville	16	0
Warren Harding	14	11	Warren Harding	8	14
Won 7-Lost 3	274	120	Won 7-Lost 3	213	90
1969	Nls.	Opp.	1970	Nls.	Opp.
Cleveland East	34	6	Cleveland East	34	2
Youngstown Rayen	48	0	Steubenville	8	6
Toledo Libby	41	8	Toledo Libby	21	6
Massillon Washington	33	20	Massillon Washington	3	22
Canton McKinley	6	15	Youngstown Rayen	42	0
Warren W. Reserve	23	14	Canton McKinley	7	7
Middletown	36	8	Warren W. Reserve	8	35
Warren Harding	7	14	Alliance	20	0
Steubenville	16	0	Cincinnati Withrow	27	16
Cincinnati Taft	62	6	Warren Harding	10	0
Won 8-Lost 2	306	91	Won 7-Lost 2 Tied 1	180	94

72
Table IV cont.

1971	Nls.	Opp.	1972	Nls.	Opp.
Cleveland East	34	6	Cleveland East	42	0
Columbus Marion Franklin	40	6	Boardman	10	7
Cleveland John Adams	40	14	Cleveland John Adams	37	12
Massillon Washington	7	6	Massillon Washington	6	16
Youngstown Rayen	43	0	Cincinnati Withrow	47	6
Canton McKinley	6	6	Canton McKinley	14	23
Warren West Reserve	0	10	East Liverpool	35	6
Alliance	19	0	Alliance	41	21
Steubenville	16	0	Steubenville	14	6
Warren Harding	0	27	Warren Harding	17	8
Won 7-Lost 2Tied 1	205	71	Won 8-Lost 2	262	106

Steubenville Big Red Conference Play

The year 1966 found the Big Red entering the All-American Conference with one of the school's finest units. Outstanding players included end Dwight Sims and tackle Jim Crosier, but the best individual performer was talented Mike Palmer, the State's Back-of-the-Year. For the season Palmer's marks included records of 1,093 yards rushing in 154 attempts and 117 points scored. Only one team stopped the Big Red, eventually the fourth-ranked club in the state, and that 12-0 loss came from Massillon. The game started late because of trouble with the lighting system, and before the first half was over similar trouble delayed the contest one and one-half hours. The Big Red was ranked No. 1 in the state most of the season and had given up only four touchdowns the entire year prior to the Massillon defeat.⁵²

⁵²The Canton Repository, November 4, 1967, p. 13.

The 1967 season was very much similar to the preceding year with eight consecutive victories, then another showdown with Massillon and another fourth place in the polls. After the Big Red knocked Canton McKinley from the unbeaten ranks by staging a tremendous second-half surge, it appeared as if they would finally make it to the state title room. The game was won on a deflected pass with only four seconds left to go in the game, with the score ending 20-15.⁵³

Massillon was the spoiler, 26-26, in a hard-hitting encounter that featured a 127-yard effort by Steubenville's explosive Don Osby, the state's track and field long jump champ for two years, and a Massillon modern era record of 39 carries by All-Ohio Jim Smith.⁵⁴

The 1968 season was mediocre for the Big Red as their season statistics indicated by scoring 152 points and allowing 150, enabling them to have a 5-5 record. Team leaders included fullback Bob Sims and guard Gary Patterson. Sims was the leading ball carrier as he averaged five yards a try on 848 yards in 169 attempts.

The 1969 season saw a rise in football fortunes for Steubenville as they used every weapon to score; the run, pass and kick. The team finished eighth in the polls with

⁵³All-American Football. Conference Brochure, p. 85.

⁵⁴Ibid.

outstanding efforts by various individuals; Jim Steiner, whose 15-yard field goal decked Warren Harding 17-15 was one of three runners who averaged better than four yards a trip; prime pass receiver Bob Washington, and quarterbacks Jeff Spann and Gary Repeals, who combined for 890 yards and seven touchdowns passing were outstanding. Washington's pass receiving against Canton McKinley cost the Bulldogs another state championship enabling the Big Red to win 20-14, with Washington scoring on a pass from Spann with 1:30 left in the final period. Washington's first touchdown on the last play of the first half, an 80-yard interception gave the Stubbers the momentum on a fourth-down playe.⁵⁵

That upset placed the Big Red into state title contention, only to lose the next week 16-0 at Niles. One of the best teams in Kentucky, Louisville Trinity, dumped the Redmen in their opener and then won four in a row before having a scoreless tie with Massillon, a game that was one of the hardest hitting involving a Steubenville team. Steiner averaged 6.4 yards a carry, Tim Williams hit 4.3 and Tom Mitchell 4.1 while Repella passed for 528 yards and Spann for 362.⁵⁶

The 1970 season was frustrating as each game was a close

⁵⁵The Canton Repository, October 25, 1969, p. 11.

⁵⁶All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 85.

battle with the outcome not determined until the last minutes of the game. An outstanding performance was turned in by Les Washington, a fine pass receiver and brother of Bob Washington; Jeff Spahn, southpaw quarterback, who completed many pressure passes; Arnie Johnson, a quick halfback who gained 4.2 yards a carry; and top-notch lineman Scott Barren, center; and Walter King, tackle.⁵⁷

Massillon's state champs handed the Big Red its worst setback, 40-0 after Spahn went out of the game in the first quarter. Niles, Warren Harding, and Canton McKinley each defeated the Big Red. A blocked field goal from the nine yard line enabled Niles to win 8-6; a fumble and interception led to a 13-16 win for Warren; and Canton McKinley ground out a 13-0 win. Washington got things going in the 34-6 Alliance win with a 91-yard punt return. He also intercepted a pass and returned it 70 yards against Brooklyn, N. Y., Jefferson Memorial, in a 27-8 victory. Johnson ended the season with 12 touchdowns and Washington caught 17 passes.⁵⁸

In 1971, the Big Red came out strong winning its first three games in a convincing fashion, but ran up against state champ-to-be Warren in the fourth game and were bombarded, 35-12. The Stubbers came back with a 14-0 win over Dayton

⁵⁷Ibid., p. 88.

⁵⁸Ibid.

Roth, but that was to be its final win and were only able to score on an opponent during the Steubenville Central game, bowing 23-8. The Big Red was blanked by all AAC competitors, Massillon 26-0, Canton McKinley 37-0, Niles 16-0, and Alliance 13-0.⁵⁹

Injuries, inexperienced players and a lack of size proved their downfall, but some individual performers stood out. All-Ohio junior back, Courtney Snyder, brought back memories of the former great Steubenville "big back". Small, but talented, Mike Mavromatis, was a standout two-way performer and named All-Ohio defensive back.⁶⁰

The powerful Big Red returned to its day of prominence as they bounced back to record a 7-3 log with a strong and talented team. Led again by All-Ohio Courtney Snyder, the Big Red reeled off five consecutive, impressive wins, only to fall to the No. 1 ranked Tigers of Massillon 12-0 in one of the most physical battles in AAC play. Handing Steubenville Catholic a 19-10 setback, the offensive attack sputtered as the Big Red bowed to AAC members Canton McKinley 29-6 and Niles 14-6 before closing with a 24-14 win over Alliance. Standouts included quarterback Ira Jarvis, end Keith Dorsey, and guard Greg Sandonis. The Big Red out

⁵⁹Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April, 20, 1973.

⁶⁰The Canton Repository, November 22, 1971, p. 37.

scored its opponents 192-140 and ranked high in the state rankings; however, coach Abe Bryan resigned as head football coach at the close of the season.⁶¹

Table V

Steubenville Big Red AAC Season Stats

1963	Stb.	Opp.	1964	Stb.	Opp.
Aliquippa, Pa.	0	32	Girard	0	34
Cleveland Glenville	36	6	Cleveland Glenville	7	0
Weirton	13	24	Weirton	6	0
Pittsburg Schenley	50	0	Pittsburg Schenley	24	8
Massillon Washington	0	52	Massillon Washington	0	58
Pitt. N. Catholic	12	35	East Liverpool	12	24
Canton McKinley	0	60	Canton McKinley	0	70
Dayton Col White	0	36	Dayton Col White	32	12
Warren Harding	12	52	Warren Harding	0	20
Steubenville Central	0	8	Steubenville Central	6	36
Won 2-Lost 8	123	305	Won 4-Lost 6	87	262
1965	Stb.	Opp.	1966	Stb.	Opp.
Akron St. Vincent	12	6	Akron Hoban	24	0
Cleveland Glenville	38	0	Cleveland Glenville	21	0
Weirton	45	19	Weirton	44	6
Hamilton Garfield	29	7	Warren Harding	21	6
Wellsville	40	8	Cincinnati Taft	42	16
Massillon Washington	14	20	Toledo Macomber	40	0
East Liverpool	28	18	Canton McKinley	22	0
Toledo Scott	42	28	Toledo Scott	34	0
Warren Harding	8	10	Massillon Washington	0	12
Steubenville Central	26	0	Steubenville Central	34	6
Won 8-Lost 2	282	116	Won 9-Lost 1	282	46

⁶¹Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April. 20, 1973.

Table V cont.

1967	Stb.	Opp.	1968	Stb.	Opp
Cleveland Kennedy	26	0	Cleveland Kennedy	28	6
Cleveland Glenville	42	6	Youngstown South	24	8
Toledo Scott	34	0	Weirton	26	0
Warren Harding	40	12	Warren Harding	0	38
Canton Lincoln	14	6	Copley	26	6
Canton McKinley	20	15	Canton McKinley	8	26
Columbus DeSales	14	0	Massillon Washington	12	20
Weirton	32	19	Toledo Scott	20	12
Massillon Washington	16	26	Niles	0	16
Steubenville Central	18	0	Steubenville Central	8	18
Won 9-Lost 1	256	83	Won 5-Lost 5	152	150
1969	Stb.	Opp.	1970	Stb.	Opp.
Louisville , Ky. Trin.	8	2	Cleveland Glenville	21	0
Youngstown South	24	0	Niles	6	8
Weirton	26	6	Weirton	36	0
Warren Harding	17	15	Warren Harding	13	16
Dayton Roth	39	6	Dayton Roth	42	28
Massillon Washington	0	0	Massillon Washington	0	40
Brooklyn, NY, Mem.	27	8	Cleveland John Marshall	28	0
Canton McKinley	20	14	Canton McKinley	0	13
Niles	0	16	Alliance	34	6
Steubenville Central	32	6	Steubenville Central	14	10
Won 8-Lost 1-Tied 1	193	92	Won 6-Lost 4	194	149
1971	Stb.	Opp.	1972	Stb.	Opp
Cleveland Cathedral Latin	13	0	Cleveland Shaw	27	0
Columbus East	22	6	Kettering Alter	23	13
Cleveland Glenville	39	16	Cleveland Glenville	29	20
Warren Harding	12	35	Warren Harding	14	6
Dayton Roth	41	0	Dayton Roth	44	12
Massillon Washington	0	26	Massillon Washington	0	12
Steubenville Central	8	23	Steubenville Central	19	20
Canton McKinley	0	37	Canton McKinley	6	29
Niles	0	16	Niles	6	14
Alliance	0	13	Alliance	24	14
Won 4-Lost 6	135	172	Won 7-Lost 3	192	140

Warren Harding Black Panthers Conference Play

In its first season of All-American Conference play in 1963, the Panthers were led by two standout individuals, Charles Williams and Sam Pagano, but the record was only 6-4. Williams out scored Pagano 78-70 but Pagano had an 11-9 edge in T.D.'s and was the leading rusher 739-724. Sharing the quarterback spot were two juniors, Bruce Webster and Bill Stredney. The latter finished with a 383-377 edge in yards gained passing. The Panthers lost close battles with Alliance and Akron South before Williams and Pagano each scored a pair of touchdowns in a rout of Olean, N. Y. Ron Swartz passed for two T.D. to lead Massillon to a 22-8 win before Warren romped over Steubenville 52-12, getting 615 yards in the process. The 481 gross yards rushing was a Harding record and the 172 passing was another school record. Pagano carried for 187 yards against Maple Heights, putting him tenth on the single-game rushing list. Four Panthers have gained more than 200 in a game; Bill Bevan having 261 in 1948, Fred Caldwell 249 in 1960, Dave Rogers 238 in 1951 and Paul Warfield 216 in 1959.⁶²

Ben Wilson's last Harding team forged a rousing start, winning five of its first six games, and juniors dominated

⁶²All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 101.

the line-up. Junior fullback Dave Binko scored 20 points against Akron South the night Warren's 15,000 seat Mollenkopf Stadium was dedicated to perpetuate the memory of Milton E. Mollenkopf, principal at Harding for 41 years. He also ran for three T.D.'s against Muskegon, Michigan Catholic, and two against Cleveland John Adams. However, after his 42-yard gallop set up a second Warren T.D. in the Steubenville game, a knee injury made him the sixth letterman casualty of the season.⁶³

Canton McKinley beat the Panthers 34-8, Alliance was a stubborn 18-14 loser, and Akron Garfield got a 16 -16 tie. The year ended with a defensive struggle between Warren and Niles being busted open by the Red Dragons in the last quarter, scoring a 26-0 victory. Binko rushed for 765 yards, as compared to 538 for another junior, Jim Hall. Wilson closed his five-year tenure with a 32-14-4 record.⁶⁴

When Bill Shunkwiler came from Orrville to take over the Harding reins in 1965, a wave of optimism swept over Warren, and the Panthers promptly served notice that they were not to be discounted. They won seven straight before suffering a 16-12 loss at Massillon, where end Tom Dailey

⁶³Ibid., p. 102.

⁶⁴Ibid.

scored twice on passes from quarterback Vern Wireman to erase an 8-0 deficit. However, the Tigers maintained the upper hand after the Panthers fumbled away the ball at the Massillon 17-yard line with five minutes to play. Tony Capers beat Cleveland John Adams on a conversion kick and the next week the big tackle calmly booted a 41-yard field goal that whipped Canton McKinley 9-8 with only eight seconds left in the game. The same Capers proceeded to set a Harding record on a 44-yarder in the rout of Cleveland East Tech the following week. The Black Panther's placed fifth in the final A.P. state ranking polls.⁶⁵

Jim Hill, who was to emerge as the scoring leader on 60 points, scored three times against Akron Garfield and made both six-pointers in a 14-14 tie with Niles McKinley. Niles earned the deadlock on a sensational 41-yard scoring pass from Ray Mucche in the last minute. Capers kicked a 32-yard field goal against Steubenville but Allen Anderson's 15-yard run decided the issue in Warren's favor. Fullback Dave Binko outgained Hill 566-579 for the year, and Wireman completed 37 of 91 passes for 755 yards and eight T.D.'s

Despite the loss of four games, the Panthers had some exceptional individual success in 1966 with the principals being big Tony Capers and speedy Tom Perry. Capers kicked two field goals, bringing his two-year total to five, and a

⁶⁵Ibid.

42-yarder beat Willoughby Eastlake North 16-14. That boot equaled Capers' kick in a 17-6 win over Massillon, a game in which Perry scored two touchdowns. Against Akron South, Perry set a single-game scoring record when he rambled for six touchdowns, four extra points and 40 markers. The old record of 24 points was shared by Dave Rogers (1951.) and Jim Rogers (1953). Perry finished with 78 points and as the team's leading rusher ran for 752 points. Harding had a 24-14 lead over Canton McKinley with only three and one-half minutes left to play. However, 36 points were scored in the final period with the Bulldogs getting two T.D.'s in the last 1:35 of the battle, but Harding walked off with a dandy 29-28 edge. Following a 12-0 win over Pittsburgh Westinghouse, which had won 111 of 116 of its previous games, the Panthers were hampered by injuries. Steubenville took a 21-8 verdict and Alliance beat the Panthers 31-22 after leading 22-0 at halftime.⁶⁶

After a fair start, the Panthers suffered their first losing season since the 1955 team won four of 10. One reason was that Harding's backfield was studded with juniors as Gerald Wesley, Ed Exler, and Paul Metzendorf carried the Panthers throughout the year.

Wesley led the way with 72 points and 921 yards rushing; despite the record, quarterback Greg Williams broke Don Seem's

⁶⁶Ibid., p. 103.

1951 passing record as he connected on 49 of 134 for 890 yards. Seem's record was 43 of 93 for 860 yards. Wesley rang up three touchdowns and Metzendorf booted six straight conversions in a 45-12 rout of Hamilton Taft. A touchdown by Wesley and an eight-yard field goal by Metzendorf gave Harding an 11-8 lead over Niles, but the Dragons marched 81 yards in less than two minutes and won 14-11 on a pass from Lou Lukz to John Ziegler.

Canton McKinley scored 24 points in the second period en route to a 32-7 win over the Panthers; Steubenville took a 40-12 victory after four interceptions broke the back of the Panthers in the first half; Alliance prevailed 26-20 on a scoring pass with three minutes to go; and Massillon's 22-0 win was some sort of revenge for the Tigers had had a 102-game scoring streak ended by Warren 6-0 in 1958. The Massillon game marked the first time in 28 games a Warren team had failed to reach the end zone.⁶⁷

The 1968 season for the Black Panthers proved significant in that they shared the All-American Conference championship. Although losing to Canton McKinley 20-0, they tied McKinley after the Pups beat Massillon 26-6. Warren Western Reserve edged Warren Harding 14-6. Warren handled Massillon 23-13 for only the twelfth time in its rivalry. The season finale against Niles determined the championship.

⁶⁷Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

as Niles had previously defeated Canton, each team having lost once. Harding scored quickly twice and then Niles scored in the second quarter making it 14-6 with the second half being a defensive standoff. Jerry Hall, who scored 54 points for the year, also led the Panthers in rushing via 878 yards. George Cooley's 10 scoring passes are also a school record.⁶⁸

A fine start and a fine finish marked the farewell 1969 season for Coach Bill Shunkwiler. After beating Cleveland John Adams easily, the Panthers dropped four in a row, including a 30-0 pasting from cross-town rival Warren Western Reserve, which administered the first Warren whitewash since 1964. The Panthers came back to win four of the next five games, beating Niles 14-7 after Niles had defeated Reserve. It marked the first time Warren defeated Niles at Niles since 1951. The season record was 5-5 with Tyrone Cooks and Marv Simmons each scoring 52 points for the Panthers. Simmons rushed for 835 yards and Cooks 435. When Coach Shunkwiler resigned to take an assistant's job at Kent State University, his five Warren teams had combined for a 30-19-1 record.⁶⁹

Tom Batta, an assistant coach on the Harding staff moved up to take over the reins of the Panthers in 1970. Receiving

⁶⁸Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

⁶⁹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 106.

the position in late summer and with only four returning lettermen, Batta led the eleven to a 5-5 season. Warren lost to Canton 23-7, Steubenville .16-13 after leading throughout, 14-8 to Alliance, and 10-0 to Niles. Leading players were halfback Tony Brown, 76 carries for 364 yards, and alternate fullback Eric Kirksey, 62 carries for 302 yards.

"1971 - The Year of the Black Panther" as Warren won the mythical state championship trophy with a perfect 10-0 season. Rolling up 323 points on offense and yielding a meager 33 points, the Harding team of Coach Tom Batta won the AAC championship as well. After a 44-0 opening game win with Cleveland John Adams, the Black Panthers soundly beat Canton McKinley 29-6 and continued with an explosive offense, scoring 29-6 and 35-0 wins, respectively against Cincinnati Aiken and Steubenville. The big game came with the previous state champion, Massillon, as Warren pulled off a reverse extra-point play for a hard-fought 8-7 win and the momentum enabled them to get by both Cincinnati Taft and Niles, 60-0 and 27-0. Led by All-Ohio fullback and linebacker Len Sernulka, quarterback Danny Ross and halfback Wilbur Boggs, the unbalanced offense could not be stopped. Defensively, the previously mentioned players along with back Mike Capellas, tackle Bob Stan, and noseman Matt Lee starred.⁷⁰

⁷⁰The Canton Repository, November 16, 1971, p. 66.

The 1972 season proved a season of inches. With several "breaks" the 5-5 record could have been as good as the previous unbeaten season. Opening with three big wins over Cleveland John Adams, Youngstown South, and Cincinnati Aiken, the Black Panthers met a tough Steubenville team and came out on the short-end of a 14-6 count. 1972 state champion Warren Western Reserve handed the Panthers another loss (21-14) as Harding led the entire game as well as being inside the 10-yard line on five occasions and failing to score. Against Massillon, a 7-0 loss could have been averted as Warren had the ball on the Massillon one-inch line twice and failed to score. Canton McKinley won on two blocked punts that set-up short scoring plays as Warren outgained the Bulldogs 425-250 in total yards. In the finale against Niles (a 17-8 loss), which was not decided until a return late in the game, made the difference. Led by All-Ohio tailback and monster back Wilbur Boggs, back Tony Elzey and noseman Charles Cullins, the Black Panthers had the best 5-5 team in the state.⁷¹

⁷¹The Canton Repository, November 25, 1972, p. 74.

Table VI

Warren Harding Black Panthers AAC Season Stats

1963	WH	Opp.	1964	WH	Opp.
Mansfield	14	0	Cleveland John Adams	34	8
Cleveland John Adams	14	0	Canton McKinley	8	34
Lima Senior	14	7	Bedford Chanel	16	6
Akron South	12	20	Akron South	44	6
Alliance	24	32	Musk, Mi. Central	38	0
Olean, N. Y.	38	14	Alliance	18	14
Massillon Washington	8	22	Akron Garfield	16	16
Steubenville	52	12	Massillon Washington	0	12
Maple Heights	36	8	Steubenville	20	0
Niles	0	36	Niles	0	26
Won 6-Lost 4	212	151	Won 6-Lost 3-Tied 1	192	122
1965	WH	Opp.	1966	WH	Opp.
Cleveland John Adams	7	6	Cleveland John Adams	36	6
Canton McKinley	9	8	Canton McKinley	28	29
Cleveland East Tech	25	0	Pittsburg Westinghouse	12	0
Akron South	47	6	Steubenville	8	21
Akron East	20	0	Akron South	50	0
Alliance	15	6	Alliance	13	22
Akron Garfield	30	0	Akron Garfield	6	7
Massillon Washington	12	16	Massillon Washington	17	6
Steubenville	10	8	Eastlake North	16	14
Niles	14	14	Niles	6	22
Won 8-Lost 1-Tied 1	189	64	Won 6-Lost 4	191	126
1967	WH	Opp.	1968	WH	Opp.
Cleveland John Adams	44	14	Cleveland John Adams	34	6
Canton McKinley	7	32	Canton McKinley	0	20
Hamilton Taft	45	12	Cincinnati Taft	22	0
Steubenville	12	40	Steubenville	38	0
Akron South	20	0	Warren W. Reserve	6	14
Alliance	20	26	Alliance	33	0
Akron Garfield	6	14	Toledo Macomber	25	6
Massillon Washington	0	22	Massillon Washington	23	12
Eastlake North	13	14	Wintersville	43	13
Niles	11	14	Niles	14	8
Won 3-Lost 7	178	188	Won 8-Lost 2	238	79

Table VI. cont.

1969	WH	Opp.	1970	WH	Opp.
Cleveland Job Adams	23	0	Cleveland John Adams	18	13
Canton McKinley	6	18	Canton McKinley	7	23
Berea Midpark	6	7	Berea Midpark	34	0
Steubenville	16	17	Steubenville	16	13
Warren W. Reserve	0	30	Warren W. Reserve	0	20
Alliance	13	6	Alliance	8	14
Akron South	22	6	Cincinnati Taft	22	8
Massillon Washington	14	33	Massillon Washington	0	22
Morgantown, W.V.	46	0	Cincinnati Aiken	28	14
Niles	14	7	Niles	0	10
Won 5-Lost 5	160	104	Won 5-Lost 5	133	137
1971	WH	Opp.	1972	WH	Opp.
Cleveland John Adams	44	0	Cleveland John Adams	42	6
Canton McKinley	29	6	Youngstown South	47	6
Cincinnati Aiken	41	0	Cincinnati Aiken	56	0
Steubenville	35	12	Steubenville	6	14
Warren W. Reserve	15	0	Warren W. Reserve	14	21
Alliance	27	0	Alliance	24	7
Toledo DeVilbis	36	8	Toledo DeVilbis	30	6
Massillon Washington	8	7	Massillon Washington	0	7
Cincinnati. Taft	60	0	Canton McKinley	12	14
Niles	27	0	Niles	8	17
Won 10-Lost 0	322	33	Won 5-Lost 5	239	98
State Champs					

AAC Conference Game by Opponents

Alliance Aviators

vs. Canton McKinley

1968	L	0 - 32
1969	L	8 - 30
1970	L	6 - 14
1971	L	14 - 21
1972	L	7 - 34

0 - 5 - 0

vs. Massillon

1968	L	6 - 32
1969	L	0 - 6
1970	L	12 - 36
1972	L	6 - 36
1972	L	8 - 34

0 - 5 - 0

vs. Steubenville

1970	L	6 - 34
1971	W	13 - 0
1972	L	14 - 24

1 - 2 - 0

vs. Niles McKinley

1970	L	0 - 20
1971	L	0 - 19
1972	L	21 - 41

0 - 3 - 0

vs. Warren Harding

1968	L	0 - 33
1969	L	0 - 13
1970	W	14 - 8
1971	L	0 - 27
1972	L	7 - 24

1 - 4 - 0

AAC Conference Games by Opponents

Canton McKinley Bulldogs

vs. Alliance

1968	W	32 - 0
1969	W	30 - 8
1970	W	14 - 6
1971	W	21 - 14
1972	W	34 - 7

0 - 5 - 0

vs. Niles McKinley

1966	L	0 - 22
1967	W	19 - 14
1968	L	0 - 16
1969	W	15 - 6
1970	T	7 - 7
1971	T	6 - 6
1972	W	24 - 13

3 - 2 - 2

vs. Massillon

1963	L	20 - 24
1964	L	14 - 20
1965	L	14 - 18
1966	W	25 - 16
1967	L	15 - 20
1968	W	26 - 6
1969	W	14 - 7
1970	L	0 - 28
1971	L	6 - 29
1972	L	3 - 12

3 - 7 - 0

vs. Steubenville

1966	L	0 - 22
1967	L	15 - 20
1968	W	26 - 8
1969	L	14 - 20
1970	W	13 - 0
1971	W	37 - 0
1972	W	29 - 7

4 - 3 - 0

vs. Warren Harding

1964	W	34 - 8
1965	L	8 - 9
1966	L	28 - 29
1967	W	32 - 7
1968	W	20 - 0
1969	W	18 - 6
1970	W	23 - 7
1971	L	6 - 29
1972	W	14 - 12

6 - 3 - 0

AAC Conference Games by Opponents
Massillon Tigers

vs. Alliance

1968	W	32 - 6
1969	W	6 - 0
1970	W	36 - 12
1971	W	36 - 6
1972	W	34 - 8
5 - 0 - 0		

vs. Canton McKinley

1963	W	24 - 20
1964	W	20 - 14
1965	W	18 - 14
1966	L	16 - 25
1967	W	20 - 15
1968	L	6 - 26
1969	L	7 - 14
1970	W	28 - 0
1971	W	29 - 6
1972	W	12 - 3
7 - 3 - 0		

vs. Niles McKinley

1964	W	14 - 8
1965	W	22 - 8
1966	L	12 - 20
1967	W	14 - 6
1968	W	16 - 8
1969	L	20 - 33
1970	W	22 - 3
1971	L	6 - 7
1972	W	16 - 6
6 - 3 - 0		

vs. Steubenville

1966	W	12 - 0
1967	W	26 - 16
1968	W	20 - 14
1969	T	0 - 0
1970	W	40 - 0
1971	W	26 - 0
1972	W	12 - 0
6 - 0 - 1		

vs. Warren Harding

1963	W	22 - 8
1964	W	12 - 0
1965	W	16 - 12
1966	L	6 - 17
1967	W	22 - 0
1968	L	12 - 23
1969	W	33 - 14
1970	W	22 - 0
1971	L	7 - 8
1972	W	7 - 0
7 - 3 - 0		

AAC Conference Games by Opponents

Niles McKinley Red Dragons

vs. Alliance

1970	W	20 - 20
1971	W	19 - 0
1972	W	41 - 21

3 - 0 - 0

vs. Canton McKinley

1966	W	22 - 0
1967	L	14 - 19
1968	W	16 - 0
1969	L	6 - 15
1970	T	7 - 7
1971	T	6 - 6
1972	L	14 - 23

2 - 3 - 2

vs. Massillon

1964	L	8 - 14
1965	L	8 - 22
1966	W	20 - 12
1967	L	6 - 14
1968	L	8 - 16
1969	W	33 - 20
1970	L	3 - 22
1971	W	7 - 6
1972	L	6 - 16

3 - 6 - 0

vs. Warren Harding

1963	W	36 - 0
1964	W	26 - 0
1965	T	14 - 14
1966	W	22 - 6
1967	W	14 - 11
1968	L	8 - 14
1969	L	7 - 14
1970	W	10 - 0
1971	L	0 - 27
1972	W	17 - 8

6 - 3 - 1

vs. Steubenville

1968	W	16 - 0
1969	W	16 - 0
1970	W	8 - 6
1971	W	16 - 0
1972	W	14 - 6

5 - 0 - 0

AAC Conference Games by Opponents
Steubenville Big Reds

vs. Alliance

1970	W	34 - 6
1971	L	0 - 13
1972	W	24 - 14
2 - 1 - 0		

vs. Canton McKinley

1966	W	22 - 0
1967	W	20 - 15
1968	L	8 - 26
1969	W	20 - 14
1970	L	0 - 13
1971	L	0 - 37
1972	L	6 - 29
3 - 4 - 0		

vs. Niles McKinley

1968	L	0 - 16
1969	L	0 - 16
1970	L	6 - 8
1971	L	0 - 16
1972	L	6 - 14
0 - 5 - 0		

vs. Massillon

1966	L	0 - 12
1967	L	16 - 26
1968	L	12 - 20
1969	T	0 - 0
1970	L	0 - 40
1971	L	0 - 26
1972	L	0 - 12
0 - 6 - 1		

vs. Warren Harding

1966	W	21 - 8
1967	W	40 - 12
1968	L	0 - 38
1969	W	17 - 15
1970	L	12 - 35
1971	L	12 - 35
1972	W	14 - 6
4 - 3 - 0		

AAC Conference Games by Opponents
Warren G. Harding Black Panthers

vs. Alliance

1968	W	33 - 0
1969	W	13 - 6
1970	L	8 - 14
1971	W	27 - 0
1972	W	24 - 7
4 - 1 - 0		

vs. Canton McKinley

1964	L	8 - 34
1965	W	9 - 8
1966	W	29 - 28
1967	L	7 - 32
1968	L	0 - 20
1969	L	6 - 18
1970	L	7 - 23
1971	W	29 - 6
1972	L	12 - 14
3 - 6 - 0		

vs. Massillon

1963	L	8 - 22
1964	L	0 - 12
1965	L	12 - 16
1966	W	17 - 6
1967	L	0 - 22
1968	W	23 - 12
1969	L	14 - 33
1970	L	0 - 22
1971	W	8 - 7
1972	L	0 - 7
3 - 7 - 0		

vs. Niles McKinley

1963	L	0 - 36
1964	L	0 - 26
1965	T	14 - 14
1966	L	6 - 22
1967	L	11 - 14
1968	W	14 - 8
1969	W	14 - 7
1970	L	0 - 10
1971	W	27 - 0
1972	L	8 - 17
3 - 6 - 1		

vs. Steubenville

1966	L	8 - 21
1967	L	12 - 40
1968	W	38 - 0
1969	L	15 - 17
1970	W	16 - 13
1971	W	35 - 12
1972	L	6 - 14
3 - 4 - 0		

Chapter IV

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS OF MEMBER SCHOOLS AND AAC - ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

Each member of the All-American Conference's teams each year has had players of outstanding ability, who have gained fame and recognition. Attention has been given to outstanding individuals who have received national acclaim and exemplify the spirit of AAC play, as well as players who have been selected to the AAC All Conference teams for the 1963-1972 seasons. The All-Conference teams are selected by the head coaches of the member schools utilizing a nomination procedure and a vote of coaches. However, no coach is permitted to vote for a player on his own team. The voting is conducted during the November league meeting by Tom Persell, league statistician.¹

The Canton Repository adds concerning the 1964 All-Conference team, that "many all-star teams are picked but these are chosen".²

¹Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

²The Canton Repository, November 18, 1964, p. 75.

Alliance Aviators Outstanding Performers

Many players who have performed on the scholastic scene for the Aviators have gone on to both outstanding collegiate and/or professional, careers. No doubt the most celebrated performer whose records still exist in Alliance annals is Len Dawson.

After completing a highly successful career for Alliance High School in which he led his team to state ranking in both his junior and senior seasons, he was named to the second All-Ohio All-Star team his junior year and first team the following 1952 season. The much sought after player landed at the University of Purdue where he gained All-American recognition.

Dawson was then drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, who in turn traded him to the Cleveland Browns where he served in a back-up capacity. With the formation of a new league (The AFL-American Football, League), he joined the Dallas Texans' entry where he was an immediate success. The team later became the Kansas City Chiefs, which he led to a league championship and Super Bowl victory.³

Jim Davidson, after gaining All-American honors at Ohio State, was drafted by the Buffalo Bills. Forced to undergo

³All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 1.

knee surgery he attempted a comeback with the Miami Dolphins, but could not shake the leg injury.⁴

Tom Barnett, after gaining first team backfield recognition on the All-Ohio squad of 1954, performed well enough at Purdue to warrant attention of the Pittsburgh Steelers as one of the last two-way grid professionals.⁵

Also gaining spots on pro rosters were Tom Goosby, Tony King, Charley King, Sam Longmire and Skip Waters.

Goosby had an outstanding career at Baldwin-Wallace and played for Cleveland, then had several seasons with the Washington Redskins. The King brothers played for the Buffalo Bills after their collegiate days at Purdue (Charley) and Findlay (Tony). Charley then played for Paul Brown at Cincinnati, while Tony became a member of the New York Giants. Longmire also played at Purdue then spent two years with the Kansas City Chiefs. Waters was graduated from Stout College and now is playing in the Central States Football League.⁶

But the list of greats does not end there. Through the years there have been many names bringing success and glory to Alliance football. Many of those "gridders" have attained

⁴Tony King, Personal Interview, December 10, 1972.

⁵All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 1.

⁶Tony King, Personal Interview, December 10, 1972.

a place in the school's Hall of Fame. Others will be accord accorded that recognition in due time.

Canton McKinley Bulldogs Outstanding Performers

When the McKinley fans size up the greatest of all Bulldog football stars, they lead the list with Marion Motley, Don Scott and Rip Miller.

Motley (1936-38) reached the pinnacle of football success in 1968 when he was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. The former Cleveland Browns' ball carrying great, Motley played in the backfield and on the line at McKinley. During his three years the Bulldogs lost only one game the entire season, that game being lost to Massillon. Marion Motley gained fame at Nevada University before starring for the Cleveland Browns, 1946-53, and he still holds the highest rushing average in pro ball 5.7.⁷

In 1920, Edgar "Rip" Miller led the McKinley Bulldogs to the state crown, as the team captain and an All-State player. He later matriculated to Notre Dame where in the year of 1924 he was one of the "Seven Mules" blocking for the "Four Horsemen" and made All-American honors as a guard.

⁷Charles Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

He has been Navy's Assistant Director of Athletics and Chief Football Recruiter since 1948.⁸

Don Scott, who prepped at McKinley High School, later became All-American halfback at Ohio State in 1939. While cavorting across the football field his senior season at McKinley in 1936, Scott was an All-State halfback. During World War II his athletic career was interrupted by his entrance into the military service, and in 1941 he was a bomber pilot and lost his life in a plane crash in England on October 1, 1943. Canton McKinley still honors its top football player each year with the Don Scott Memorial Trophy.

McKinley can also claim six other collegiate All-Americans:

Hal Broda, an end at Brown University in 1926
 Denver "Butch" Gibson, a tackle at Grove City, Pa., College in 1926
 Ralph Fife, a tackle at the University of Pittsburgh in 1941.
 Ernie Parks, a fullback at Ohio State in 1943.
 Jack Dogger, an end at Ohio State in 1944.
 Dick Kempthorn, a guard at Michigan in 1949.¹⁰

Lou Mariano, a deaf-mute, went on to become a Little All-American halfback at Kent State University in 1954, where he was followed by Mike Norcia who held nearly every ball-carrying record at Kent State.

⁸Ibid. The Canton Repository, November 21, 1963, p. 31.

¹⁰All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 20.

Don Nehlen (1964) was named head football coach of Bowling Green State University and hired Ron Chismar (1965-69) as an assistant.¹²

Wayne Fontes (1956) after breaking scoring records at McKinley, starred at Michigan State and then the pro New York Titans (Jets) as a defensive back. He is presently coaching the national champions, Southern California.¹³

Tony Ware, who is an administrative assistant at Kent State University, headed the 1963 season for the Bulldogs, and assistant, Robert Marcum, is the Assistant Athletic Director at Iowa State University.¹⁴

Nick Roman who played at McKinley (1963-64) later displayed his talents at Ohio State University. Nick who was selected by the Cincinnati Bengals was then signed by the Cleveland Browns. Pete Kalogeras who made Little-American honors at Eastern Michigan, had tryouts with the Miami Dolphins and Toronto Argonauts and later played semi-pro for the Youngstown Hardhats.¹⁵

¹²Chuck Hess, Personal Interview, March 5, 1973.

¹³Charles Bowersox, Personal Interview, November 13, 1972.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Ibid.

Massillon Washington Tigers Outstanding Performers

Harry Stuhldreher played for the Massillon Tigers in 1917-19 and was the quarterback for Notre Dame's famed "Four-Horsemen" in 1924, whom he led to the National Championship.¹⁶

The Houston brothers, Lin (Massillon 1937-38) and Jim (Massillon 1954-55) both were All-Americans at Ohio State and later performed professionally with the Cleveland Browns and were selected to All-Pro teams.¹⁷

Bob Vogel, a tremendous high school end who won high school All-American honors, played only on the 1958 Tiger team moving to Massillon from Toronto, Ohio. He was later named All-American at Ohio State in 1962 and has been a star line man for the Baltimore Colts. Chuck Hess reported, "Vogel was the finest high school lineman I've seen. He was just a superior athlete".¹⁸

Will Foster (Massillon 1964-66) was a Little All-American at Eastern Michigan University as a linebacker. Drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, he has been a member of the taxi-squad.¹⁹

¹⁶All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 41.

¹⁷Carl Schroeder, Personal, Interview, February 10, 1973.

¹⁸Chuck Hess, Personal. Interview, March 5, 1973.

¹⁹Ibid.

Dave Whitfield, a 1965 All-Ohioan, led the 1969 Ohio State team as captain and its most valuable player to a Rose Bowl victory.²⁰

Niles McKinley Red Dragons Outstanding Performers

Brothers Herb and Russ Stein were first team All-Americans in 1920. Herb, a center for the University of Pittsburgh; Russ, a tackle at Washington and Jefferson College. Both brothers played pro football, Herb with Buffalo, Toledo and Frankfort, Illinois and Russ with Toledo, Frankfort, Canton, and the 1925 World Champion, Pottsville, Pennsylvania, Maroons.²¹

They were followed in the All-American category by Adrian Ford, Phil Ragazzo, Dick Rindfuss, Karl Singer, Bo Rein, Jim Berline, Dave Pappada, and Pat Ryun.

Ford was selected as an All-American at Lafayette College in 1923, Ragazzo at Western Reserve in 1937, Rindfuss at Michigan in 1964, Singer at Purdue in 1965, Rein at Ohio State in 1966, Berline at Michigan in 1967, Pappada at Findlay in 1967 and Ryun at Youngstown University in 1968. Following their college careers Ragazzo, Rindfuss, Singer and Rein played pro football, Ragazzo with the

²⁰Carl Schroeder, Personal Interview, February 10, 1973.

²¹All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 60.

Cleveland Rams and New York Giants, Rindfuss with the Washington Redskins, Singer with the Boston Patriots, and Rein with the Baltimore Colts. Rein also played pro baseball and is an assistant football coach at North Carolina State.²²

Steubenville Big Red Outstanding Performers

In 1970, Steubenville High School instituted its own Hall of Fame which includes Calvin Jones, Cas Myslinski, John Cox, Gary Levan, Bob Smith and George "Puck" Burgwin.

At the conclusion of his Big Red career in 1952, Jones attained All-Ohio status as a fast, powerful two-way tackle, and he went on to become a two-time collegiate All-American. A star for Iowa University, Cal gained national honors in 1954-55; however, he never received an opportunity to star in pro football. Jones was killed in a plane crash in the spring of 1955 while he was on his way to Canada to report to the Hamilton Tiger Cats of the Canadian Football League.

As a standout center for the Big Red in 1938-39, Cas Myslinski was an All-American at West Point in 1943, who later coached at the U. S. Air Force Academy and was named in 1969 Athletic Director at the University of Pittsburgh.

²²Sam Davis., Personal Interview, February 20, 1973.

Pitt was the college alma mater of John Cox, a 1936 All-American, who played for the Big Red 1922-24. Gary Levan a triple-threat quarterback, was an All-East player at Princeton, after being a Stubber star in 1926-28. Bob Smith was a great guard at Steubenville during 1927-28 seasons and later starred at Colgate University in 1933.²³

The following is a list of recent standouts during their senior year at Steubenville

High School:

Ends - Roger Sims, 1961, and cousin, Dwight Sims, 1966; Bob Washington, 1968; Lester Hicks , 1969; Ed Simon and Les Washington, 1970; Craig Hill, 1971, and Bruce Fletcher, 1972.

Tackles - Ron Mazzaferro, 1962; Mitchell Bass and Jim Crosier, 1966, Paul Muklewitz, 1968; Walter King, 1969; and Bob Jarvis, 1972.

Guards - Keith Monroe, 1966; John Miller, 1967; Gary Patterson, 1968; Sam Stefanides; and Ralph DiBocco, 1970; and Keith Dorsey, 1972.

Centers - Milan Moncilovich, 1947; and brothers Pete (1958) and Scott Barren, 1969.

Quarterbacks - Querino Lelli, 1952; Dave Corsi, 1967; Gary Repella, 1969; and Jeff Spahn, 1970.

Halfbacks - Harry Wilson, 1962; Mike Palmer, 1966; Don Osby and Keith Burke, 1967; Tom Mitchell, 1969; Arnie Johnson, 1970; and Mike Mavromis, 1971.

Fullbacks - Wally Neel., 1961; Bob Sims, 1968; and Courtney Snyder, 1972.*

*Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

²³All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 78.

Warren Black Panther Outstanding Performers

When all-time Warren Harding greats are listed, the top player must be Paul Warfield. Warfield, gifted with great speed, fine hands and rare break-away ability, dazzled the opponents of the Panthers in 1958 and 1959, and went on to attain national recognition at Ohio State. Since 1964, he has been one of the most sensational receivers in professional football ranks. An All-Ohio scholastic choice in 1959, Warfield scored 28 touchdowns his last two seasons with many long and spectacular runs. For the Buckeyes, he caught 30 passes his last two seasons and also was used as a running back, kickoff-return man and pass defender. When he joined the Cleveland Browns he was an instant success and established many receiving records and continued to do so after he was traded to the Miami Dolphins. Since then he has been an All-Pro choice yearly.²⁴

Dave Rogers, a powerful and shifty back, was All-State for the Black Panthers in 1951. He scored a record 24 touchdowns, 138 points and gained 1,454 yards rushing.²⁵

²⁴All-American Football Conference Brochure, p. 92.

²⁵Ibid.

The following players have been highlighted for their play while attending

Warren Harding High School:

Ends - John Hrenko, 1964; Tom Dailey, 1966; Joe Carroll, 1967; Mark Beach, 1968; George Stubbs, 1969; and Doug Stubbs, 1971.

Tackles - Roger Shively and Mark Kujalo, 1964; Dan Clark and Tony Capers, 1965; Dennis Yendrich, 1966; Charles O'Donald, 1968; Bill Kehler, 1969; and Matt Lee and Bob Stern, 1971.

Guards - Gary Windle, 1962; Rich Kermode, 1965; Jim Jenyk, 1967; George Burin, 1968; Jack Richards and Mike Capellas, 1971; and Chuck Cullins and Denny Varley, 1972.

Centers - Carl Angelo, 1965; and Tom Antenucci, 1967.

Quarterbacks - Vern Wireman, 1965; Greg Williams, 1967; George Cooley, 1968; and Danny Ross, 1971.

Backs - Reedy Thomas, 1962; Charles Williams and Sam Pagano, 1963; Dave Binko, 1964; Jim Hill, 1965; Tom Perry, 1966; Gerald Wesley, 1967; Jerry Hall, 1968; Tyrone Cooks, 1969, Len Sernulka, 1972; and Wilbur Boggs, 1972.*

*Tom Persell, Personal Interview, April 20, 1973.

1963 AAC-All Conference Team

Offense		
Ends:	Jim Berline Will Perry	Niles Massillon
Tackles:	Tony Shumick Jim Owens	Canton Niles
Guards:	Jim Barney Larry Larsuel	Canton Massillon
Center:	Jim Roman	Canton
Quarterback:	Ron Swartz	Massillon
FB:	Ephriam Ellison	Niles
LHB:	Bill Blunt	Massillon
RHB:	Arnie Fontes	Canton
Defense		
Ends:	Mike Jones Bill Hall	Massillon Canton
Tackles:	Jim Hill Steve Tarle	Niles Massillon
MG:	Barry Profato	Niles
LB:	Pete Kalogeras Bob Hood	Canton Niles
CB:	Bob Johnson Graydon Eckard	Canton Massillon
Safety:	Bill Gales Floyd Pierce	Niles Massillon

The Massillon Evening Independent, November 19, 1963, p. 16.

1964 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense		
Ends:	Nick Roman Ed Franklin	Canton Massillon
Tackles:	Dennis Rambaud Roger Shively	Massillon Warren
	Ronnie Miller	Niles
Guards:	Bob Spencer Larry Larsuel	Canton Massillon
Center:	Jim Roman	Canton
Quarterback:	George Infante	Niles
HB:	Fred Mathews Ed Herring	Canton Massillon
FB:	Jim Lawrence	Massillon
Defense		
Ends:	Emanuel Bradley John Hrenko	Canton Warren
Tackles:	Dennis Carrado Mike Kujalo	Niles Warren
MG:	Bob Spencer Tom Whitfield	Canton Massillon
LB:	Pete Kalogeras John Muhlback	Canton Massillon
CB:	Ed Jones Mark Mathieu	Canton Canton
DHB:	Pat McQueen Tom Turner	Niles Warren

The Canton Repository, November 18, 1964, p. 31.

1965 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense		
Ends:	Marv Franklin Larry Cella	Massillon Niles
Tackles:	Dan Clark Tom Scott	Warren Canton
Guards:	Dave Whitfield Rick Kermode	Massillon Warren
Center:	Carl Angelo	Warren
Quarterback:	Dave Sheegog	Massillon
HB:	Jim Hill Fred Mathews	Warren Canton
FB:	Will Foster	Massillon
Defense		
Ends:	Pat Ryun Dave Whitfield	Niles Massillon
Tackles:	Joe Lukz Tom Scott	Niles Canton
MG:	Bill Nucklos	Canton
LB:	Paul Marks Larry Cella	Massillon Niles
CB:	Caesar Alzio Jim Kines	Warren Niles
Safety's:	Elbert Bradley Nevelton Butler	Canton Warren

The Canton Repository, November .18, 1965, p. 42.

1966 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense

Ends:	Dwight Sims	Steubenville
	Tom Dailey	Warren
Tackles:	Mitchell Bass	Steubenville
	Gary Rushe	Canton
Guards:	Bill Porrini	Massillon
	Jeff Law	Niles
	Keith Monroe	Steubenville
Center:	Tim Johnson	Niles
Quarterback:	Bob Leonard	Niles
Backs:	Larry Clayton	Canton
	Will Foster	Massillon
	Mike Palmer	Steubenville
	Bruce Simeone	Niles
	Tom Perry	Warren

Defense

Ends:	Roy Small	Canton
	Pat Ryun	Niles
Tackles:	Mike Sherrett	Massillon
	Dennis Yendrick	Warren
	Jim Crosier	Steubenville
MG:	Paul. Robinson	Canton
	Joe Costerella	Niles
LB:	Jerry Hontas	Canton
	George Sharp	Steubenville
	Dominic Santangelo	Niles
	Tony Capers	Warren
DHB:	Dale Gallion	Massillon
	Ron Muhlbach	Massillon
	Frank Thomas	Warren
	Jim Kines	Niles

The Massillon Evening Independent, November 29, 1966, p. 13.

1967AAC - All Conference Team

Offense

Ends:	Jim Iams	Canton
	Tom Honser	Massillon
	Jim Smith	Steubenville
Tackles:	Bill Snowball	Massillon
	Tim Goodhart	Niles
Guards:	John Miller	Steubenville
	Jim Jenyk	Warren
Center:	Tom Antenucci	Warren
Quarterbacks:	Ted Bowersox	Canton
	Dave Corsi	Steubenville
Backs:	Gerald Davidson	Canton
	Jim Smith	Massillon
	Gerald Wesley	Warren
	Roger Jones	Niles
	Keith Burke	Steubenville

Defense

Ends:	Tim Richards	Massillon
	Joe Carroll	Warren
Tackles:	Mike Bush	Canton
	Jim Davis	Niles
	Gaylord Sweat	Canton
	Ron Martin	Canton
	Ron Ertle	Massillon
	Lou Tabor	Niles
DHB:	Mark McDew	Massillon
	Bob Young	Steubenville
	Don Osby	Steubenville
	John Ziegler	Niles
	Joe Gayonski	Niles

The Canton Repository, November 21, 1967, p. 22.

1968 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense

Ends:	Bob Washington	Steubenville
	Mark Beach	Warren
	Dan Summers	Canton
Tackles:	Ben Hoskins	Canton
	Bob Santangelo	Niles
	Paul, Muklewitz	Steubenville
Guards:	Gary Harig	Massillon
	Garry Patterson	Steubenville
	George Burin	Warren
Center:	Ray Gnes	Canton
Quarterbacks:	Mark Hontas	Canton
	George Cooley	Warren
Backs:	Jim Smith	Massillon
	Rich Brown	Canton
	Robert Sims	Steubenville
	Jerry Hall	Warren

Defense

Ends:	Jack Dyer	Warren
	John DeCamp	Niles
Tackles:	Jon Brandyberry	Canton
	Charles O'Donald	Warren
MG:	Ray Sybert	Niles
	Mark Brown	Canton
LB:	Rick James	Warren
	George Whitfield	Massillon
	Rocco Rich	Canton
	Bill Haines	Canton
DHB:	Mosie Hunter	Canton
	Chuck Stoner	Massillon
	Ed Exler	Warren
	Tom Bohyer	Warren
	Rick Gales	Niles
	Tom Mitchell	Steubenville

The Canton Repository, December 8, 1968, p. 83.

1969 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense

Ends:	Ray Biery	Alliance
	Dan Roman	Canton
	Randy Hardy	Niles
	Bob Washington	Steubenville
Tackles:	Bob Martin	Canton
	Bill Keller	Warren
Guards:	Jerry Nemeth	Canton
	Pat Midgley	Massillon
Centers:	Mike Monos	Niles
	Scott Barren	Steubenville
Quarterbacks:	Joe Babies	Canton
	Ron Fusco	Niles
Backs:	Rich Brown	Canton
	Mike Autrey	Massillon
	Rich Gales	Niles
	Tyrone Cooks	Warren

Defense

Ends:	Dave Turner	Canton
	Lester Hicks	Steubenville
Tackles:	Lonnie Ford	Canton
	Walter King	Steubenville
MG:	Mark Brown	Canton
LB:	Rocco Rich	Canton
	George Harris	Niles
	Tim Williams	Steubenville
	Marvin Simmons	Warren
Backs:	Ed Floyd	Canton
	Darnell Streeter	Massillon
	Tom Mitchell	Steubenville
	Mark Conway	Niles

Tom Persell, Personal. Interview, April 20, 1973.

1970 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense		
Ends:	Steve Luke	Massillon
	Jeff Cranston	Niles
	Les Washington	Steubenville
Tackles:	Ron Kuceyeski	Alliance
	Nick O'Brovac	Canton
	Dave Bennett	Warren
Guards:	Rod Gordon	Canton
	Dave Kulik	Massillon
	Ralph DiBocco	Steubenville
Center:	Randy Clark	Canton
Quarterbacks:	Denny Franklin	Massillon
	Alan Ciminero	Niles
	Jeff Spahn	Steubenville
Backs:	Lloyd Gray	Alliance
	Mike Mauger	Massillon
	Larry Harper	Massillon
	Arnie Johnson	Steubenville
Defense		
Ends:	Dave Turner	Canton
	Larry Glowacky	Niles
	Ed Simon	Steubenville
	Tyrone Owens	Warren
Tackles:	Tim Ridgley	Massillon
	Jim Boyle	Niles
MG:	Sam Stefanides	Steubenville
LB:	Carey Cook	Canton
	Tom Cardinal	Massillon
	Ray Tesner	Warren
Backs:	Alex DiMarzio	Canton
	Scott Pattinson	Massillon
	John James	Niles
	Mike Mavromatis	Steubenville
	Ed Vogel	Warren

Tom Persell Personal Interview, April. 20, 1973.

1971 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense

Ends:	Randy Kuceyeski	Alliance
	Dwight Lewis	Canton
	Doug Stubbs	Warren
Tackles:	Andre Heath	Massillon
	Tom Shehy	Niles
	Bob Stan	Warren
Guards:	Rodney Gordon	Canton
	Jack Richards	Warren
	Mike Capellas	Warren
Center:	Steve Studer	Massillon
Backs:	Artis Zachary	Canton
	Willie Spencer	Massillon
	Rob Sygar	Niles
	Len Sernulka	Warren

Defense

Ends:	Cliff Jones	Alliance
	Bob Stephan	Massillon
	Craig Hill	Steubenville
Tackles:	Glen Wierich	Massillon
	Mark Thou	Niles
	Matt Lee	Warren
MG:	Larry McClenndon	Massillon
	Chuck Cullins	Warren
LB:	Ron Kuceyeski	Alliance
	Mike McGuire	Massillon
	Mike Weida	Niles
Backs:	John Barnett	Canton
	Art Thompson	Massillon
	Tom Andres	Niles
	Mike Mavromatis	Steubenville
	Wilbur Boggs	Warren

Tom Persell, Personal. Interview, April, 20, 1973.

1972 AAC - All Conference Team

Offense

Ends:	Gene Paina	Alliance
	Darius Edwards	Massillon
	Chris Mackey	Niles
Tackles:	Gary King	Alliance
	George O'Brovac	Canton
	Bob Jarvis	Steubenville
Guards:	Mike Huff	Alliance
	Jim Lerario	Canton
	Keith Dorsey	Steubenville
	Denny Varley	Warren
Center:	Ken Bush	Canton
Quarterback:	Kevin Westover	Massillon
Backs:	Tom Hannon	Massillon
	Lou West	Niles
	Courtney Snyder	Steubenville
	Wilbur Boggs	Warren

Defense

Ends:	Brian Bash	Massillon
	Tom Williams	Niles
	Bruce Fletcher	Steubenville
Tackles:	Lee Geiselman	Canton
	Bob Geiser	Massillon
	Dave Biddlestone	Niles
MG:	Ron Miranda	Niles
	Chuck Cullins	Warren
LB:	Chuck Gelal	Canton
	Bob Mannella	Niles
	Bob Snyder	Steubenville
Backs:	Gary Deak	Alliance
	Herman Scott	Canton
	James Jackson	Massillon
	James Shannon	Warren
	Tony Elzey	Warren

Tom Persell, Personal. Interview, April 20, 1973.

Chapter V

SUMMARY OF THE ALL-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The purpose of this study was to trace the development of the six schools which comprise the All-American Football Conference from its beginnings to its present status. This historical study of the development has revealed many facts which are reflections of our modern day society with its many changes taking place daily. Through historical research, the men instrumental, in the development of the schools, the many fine coaches and players, the games bringing about the rivalries have been brought into focus. The results of this study were obtained by: reading local news articles, reviewing school yearbooks, gathering data from the respective high school, booster clubs, and staging interviews with prominent people who organized the All-American Conference.

The study began with research from the inception of football at each All-American Conference school; Alliance, Canton McKinley, Massillon, Niles McKinley, Steubenville and Warren Harding, to its entrance into the Conference. Attention was given to each decade of play with highlights of each coach's tenure and outstanding players mentioned.

Competition in AAC play began in 1963 with only an abbreviated schedule because of previous scheduling commitments.

of member schools. With increasing interest in conference play and the notoriety of each conference school in state play, attention was given to inter-league play and outstanding individual performances with mention of the member school and its state ranking.

Much discussion has been made by both league members and supporters of member schools as to severity of schedule and mortality rate in conference play; resulting in a non-member school winning the Ohio High School's state championship. But the new computer rankings for all state high school football teams in 1972, and the state high school football play-off system has accomplished its major goal, which was to promote football in the state of Ohio. Although the rules and regulations of this system of play are in adolescent stages, the state football title has been dominated by an All-American Conference school member since the inception of interscholastic play on the secondary level.

Without such athletic-minded administrators from each member school and representatives, the All-American Conference would not have been established, nor would it have the strength and support the conference enjoys today.

Men such as Paul Schott, principal of Canton McKinley High School, Carl "Ducky" Schroeder of Massillon, Larry Palante of Niles, and coaches Ben Wilson (Warren), Tony Ware (McKinley) and Leo Strang (Massillon), had a strong influence.

on the league's formation. These men had the insight for the existence of the league and the benefits each community, member school, player and fan would derive. The league added highly to the players' and spectators' interest and enabled more individual recognition for many outstanding players.

It is the author's opinion that the All-American Conference has more than accomplished its goals or expectations. It has enabled member schools to be even more recognized and accepted as powers in state football competition. Coaches have been able to advance in their profession by the success enjoyed on the scholastic level. Players have been more sought by collegiate recruiters by the exposure received from conference play and more thorough evaluation processes of conference coaches.

The value derived from football play have been debated and measured for many years, but have been accepted by professional educators as a democratic way of life. Football as part of the general education can fulfill the student's development socially, physically, mentally and emotionally.

The author has presented a historical perspective of the All-American Conference Football League highlighting six public high schools which comprise the league; Alliance, Canton McKinley, Massillon Washington, Niles McKinley, Steubenville, and Warren G. Harding. Each member school has

been studied from its earliest beginnings and traditions, through its entrance into the conference and the results of its league play have been highlighted. The men and events that were instrumental in the gradual growth were included. It is the hope of the author that this informative reference would serve to foster future and continued success, along with growth and development in the All-American Football Conference.

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APPENDIX

All-American Conference Directory

1972

Alliance Aviators

Alliance High

335 East Broadway

Enrollment: 1380, grades 10-12

Superintendent: R. G. Hamrick

Principal: L. J. Tome

Athletic Director: Mel Knowlton

Football Coach: Gene Nara*

Hartshorn Stadium, seating 9,700

Population: 28,000

Canton McKinley Bulldogs

McKinley High School

800 Market Ave. North

Enrollment: 2600, grades 10-12

Superintendent: Dr. Henry Kurdziel

Principal: Paul A. Schott

Athletic Director: Joseph Tovissi

Football Coach: John Brideweser

Fawcett Stadium, seating 22,160

Population: 125,000

Massillon Tigers

Massillon Washington High School

340 First St., S. E.

Enrollment: 1500, grades 10-12

Superintendent: Lloyd McCrory

Principal: Clifford Wilson

Athletic Director: Robert Commings

Football Coach: Robert Commings

Tiger Stadium, seating 21,345

Population: 32,000

All-American Conference Directory cont.

Niles McKinley Red Dragons

Niles McKinley High School
616 Trumbull Drive
Enrollment: 1,180, grades 10-12
Superintendent: Dr. Donald T. Renwand
Principal: Robert Sharp
Athletic Director: Larry Pallante
Football Coach: Robert Shaw*
Riverside Stadium, seating 14,500
Population: 22,000

Steubenville Big Red

Steubenville Wells High School
420 North Fourth St
Enrollment: 1420, grades 10-12
Superintendent: Spencer E. Douglas
Principal: A. J. Vaccaro
Athletic Director: Abe Bryan
Football Coach: Abe Bryan*
Harding Stadium, seating 12,000
Population: 35,000

Warren Harding Panthers

Warren G. Harding High School
860 Elm Rd., N. E.
Enrollment: 2,000, grades 9-12
Superintendent: Dr. David L. Moberly
Principal: Gilbert Menz
Athletic Director: Nick Angelo
Football Coach: Tom Batta*
Mollenkopf Stadium, seating 12,700
Population: 65,000

*Resigned after 1972 season.

Alliance Aviator Head Football Coaches

Year	Name	W-L-T Record
1918-19	Ralph Coppock	8 - 6 - 2
1920	E. E. Kidwell	3 - 5 - 2
1921-25	Harry Geltz	18 - 21 - 3
1926	E. E. Holibaugh	4 - 2 - 2
1927-33	George Wilcoxon	49 - 13 - 7
1934	Leland E. Whitacre	3 - 5 - 1
1935-39	George Wilcoxon	29 - 11 - 3
1940-43	Leonard Hoppes	13 - 5 - 2
1944	Marcus Covert	2 - 6 - 1
1945	Joe Quincan	1 - 8 - 1
1946-69	Mel Knowlton	150 - 86 - 7
1970-72	Gene Nara	10 - 20 - 0

Canton McKinley Bulldog Head Football Coaches

Year	Name	W-L-T
1918-19	M. C. Wagner	3 - 8 - 1
1920-22	Floyd Harshman	14 - 9 - 3
1924-30	Dwight V. Peabody	39 - 25 - 2
1931	Chuck Wright	2 - 8 - 0
1932-35	Jimmy Aiken	31 - 7 - 1
1936-40	John Reed	30 - 7 - 2
1941	Ben Schwartzwalder	6 - 3 - 1
1942-49	Herman "Bup" Rearick	67 - 8 - 6
1950-52	Dick Miller	15 - 14 - 1
1953-57	Wade Watts	38 - 11 - 1
1958-60	Jim Robinson	17 - 14 - 0
1961-62	Pete Ankney	6 - 4 - 0
1963	Tony Ware	6 - 4 - 0
1964	Don Nehlen	9 - 1 - 0
1965-69	Ron Chismar	37 - 13 - 0
1970-72	John Brideweser	23 - 5 - 2

Massillon Washington Tiger Head Football Coaches

Year	Name	W-L-T
1909-10	Hap Fugate	13 - 4 - 3
1921-13	Sidney Jones	9 - 9 - 1
1914-19	John Snavely	41 - 8 - 2
1920	Elmer Snyder	3 - 4 - 1
1921-25	Dave Stewart	38 - 9 - 0
1926-27	Dan Atkinson	8 - 7 - 3
1928-31	Elmer McGrew	20 - 16 - 4
1932-40	Paul Brown	80 - 8 - 2
1941, 46-47	Bud Houghton	21 - 6 - 3
1942-44	Elwood Kammer	26 - 4 - 0
1948-53	Chuck Mather	57 - 3 - 0
1954-55	Tom Harp	17 - 2 - 1
1956-57	Lee Tressel	16 - 3 - 0
1958-63	Leo Strang	54 - 8 - 2
1964-65	Earle Bruce	20 - 0 - 0
1966-68	Bob Seaman	20 - 9 - 1
1969-72	Bob Commings	36 - 5 - 1

Niles McKinley Red Dragons Head Football Coaches

Year	Name	W-L-T
1912-14	W. W. Giffen	20 - 6 - 2
1915	L. A. Bletzer	4 - 4 - 1
1916	B. Kroll	4 - 2 - 1
1917	A. M. Cunningham	6 - 3 - 0
1.919	J. Homan	8 - 0 - 1
1920	W. W. Giffen	4 - 4 - 2
1921	P. Greene	3 - 4 - 1
1922-23	L. Guilfoyle	7 - 10 - 0
1924-25	W. Welty	12 - 5 - 2
1926	F. A. Caller	3 - 1 - 5
1927-32	B. Smith	27 - 22 - 5
1933	L. Smith	5 - 4 - 1
1934-46	Earl Hoker	51 - 61 - 12
1947-50	James Wiand	25 - 23 - 0
1951-52	Lou Cardinal	14 - 6 - 0
1953-57	Joe Bassett	24 - 14 - 4
1958-63	Tony Mason	47 - 3 - 6
1964	Glenn Stennett	8 - 2 - 0
1967-68	Fred Conti	14 - 6 - 0
1965-66, 69-72	Bob Shaw	31 - 6 - 3

Steubenville Big Red Head Football Coaches

Year	Name	W-L-T
1919-39	Charles Q. Cartledge "Punk"	139 - 33 - 9
1940	E. Maley	3 - 6 - 0
1941	Mel Knowlton	2 - 7 - 0
1942, 46-48	Howard Brinker	24 - 13 - 3
1943-44	Bill Ellis	12 - 8 - 0
1945	Fortune Sullo	0 - 9 - 1
1949-53, 60-63	Ray Hoyman	56 - 31 - 2
1954-55	Bill Abraham	6 - 13 - 1
1956-59	Hal Paul	22 - 18 - 0
1964-72	Abe Bryan	48 - 21 - 1

Warren G. Harding Black Panthers Head Football Coaches

Year	Name	W-L-T
1920-21	Milton S. Mollenkopf	12 - 6 - 3
1922-24	Sidney W. Jones	25 - 7 - 1
1925-26	Wilkie O. Moody	8 - 10 - 1
1927-28	Jim Earich	9 - 9 - 3
1929	Heinie Wagner	4 - 7 - 0
1930-41	Pierre F. Hill	81 - 32 - 7
1942-48	J. O. "Heine" Beck	39 - 18 - 8
1949-56	Charles Riffle	50 - 33 - 1
1957-59	Gene Slaughter	24 - 5 - 1
1960-64	Ben Wilson	32 - 14 - 4
1965-69	Bill Shunkweiler	30 - 19 - 1
1970-72	Tom Batta	20 - 10 - 0

All-American Conference Statistics 1963 - 72

Team Records

Team	AAC Games W-L-T	All Games W-L-T
Massillon Tigers	31 - 9 - 1	84 - 15 - 2
Canton McKinley Bulldogs	21 - 15 - 2	75 - 23 - 2
Niles McKinley Red Dragons	17 - 10 - 3	70 - 15 - 5
Warren Harding Panthers	16 - 24 - 1	62 - 36 - 2
Steubenville Big Red	8 - 20 - 1	46 - 23 - 1
Alliance Aviators	2 - 16 - 0	18 - 25 - 1
1963		
Massillon Washington	2 - 0 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Niles McKinley	1 - 0 - 0	9 - 0 - 1
Canton McKinley	0 - 1 - 0	6 - 4 - 0
Warren Harding	0 - 2 - 0	6 - 4 - 0
1964		
Massillon Washington	3 - 0 - 0	10 - 0 - 0
Canton McKinley	1 - 1 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Niles McKinley	1 - 1 - 0	8 - 2 - 0
Warren Harding	0 - 3 - 0	6 - 3 - 1
1965		
Massillon Washington	3 - 0 - 0	10 - 0 - 0
Warren Harding	1 - 1 - 1	8 - 1 - 1
Niles McKinley	0 - 1 - 1	6 - 2 - 2
Canton McKinley	0 - 2 - 0	7 - 3 - 0
1966		
Niles McKinley	3 - 0 - 0	10 - 0 - 0
Steubenville	2 - 1 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Warren Harding	2 - 2 - 2	6 - 4 - 0
Canton McKinley	1 - 3 - 0	6 - 4 - 0
Massillon Washington	1 - 3 - 0	4 - 5 - 1

All-American Conference Statistics 1963 - 72 cont.

Team	1967	
	AAC Games W-L-T	All Games W-L-T
Massillon Washington	4 - 0 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Steubenville	2 - 1 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Canton McKinley	2 - 2 - 0	6 - 4 - 0
Niles McKinley	1 - 2 - 0	7 - 3 - 0
Warren Harding	0 - 4 - 0	3 - 7 - 0

1968		
Canton McKinley	4 - 1 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Warren Harding	4 - 1 - 0	8 - 2 - 0
Massillon Washington	3 - 2 - 0	7 - 3 - 0
Niles McKinley	2 - 2 - 0	7 - 3 - 0
Alliance	0 - 3 - 0	4 - 6 - 0
Steubenville	0 - 4 - 0	5 - 5 - 0

1969		
Canton McKinley	4 - 1 - 0	9 - 1 - 0
Steubenville	2 - 1 - 1	7 - 2 - 1
Niles McKinley	2 - 2 - 0	8 - 2 - 0
Massillon Washington	2 - 2 - 1	7 - 2 - 1
Warren Harding	2 - 3 - 0	5 - 5 - 0
Alliance	0 - 3 - 0	3 - 5 - 1

1970		
Massillon Washington	5 - 0 - 0	10 - 0 - 0
Canton McKinley	3 - 1 - 1	8 - 1 - 1
Niles McKinley	3 - 1 - 1	7 - 2 - 2
Steubenville	1 - 4 - 0	6 - 4 - 0
Warren Harding	1 - 4 - 0	5 - 5 - 0
Alliance	1 - 4 - 0	3 - 7 - 0

All-American Conference Statistics 1963 - 72 cont.

Team	1971	
	AAC Games W-L-T	All Games W-L-T
Warren Harding	5 - 0 - 0	10 - 0 - 0
Niles McKinley	3 - 1 - 1	7 - 2 - 1
Canton McKinley	2 - 2 - 1	7 - 2 - 1
Massillon Washington	3 - 2 - 0	8 - 2 - 0
Alliance	1 - 4 - 0	5 - 5 - 0
Steubenville	0 - 5 - 0	4 - 6 - 0

Team	1972	
	AAC Games W-L-T	All Games W-L-T
Massillon Washington	5 - 0 - 0	10 - 1 - 0
Canton McKinley	4 - 1 - 0	8 - 2 - 0
Niles McKinley	3 - 2 - 0	8 - 2 - 0
Steubenville	1 - 4 - 0	6 - 4 - 0
Warren Harding	1 - 4 - 0	5 - 5 - 0
Alliance	0 - 5 - 0	2 - 8 - 0

All-American Football Conference

Top Ten Offensive Teams				Top Ten Defensive Teams			
Year	Team	Points		Year	Team	Points	
1.	1970	Massillon	412	1.	1970	Massillon	29
2.	1963	Niles McKinley	401	2.	1971	Massillon	33
3.	1964	Canton McKinley	379	3.	1971	Warren Harding	33
4.	1969	Canton McKinley	363	4.	1963	Niles McKinley	34
5.	1964	Niles McKinley	346	5.	1972	Massillon	46
6.	1963	Massillon	334	6.	1963	Massillon	47
7.	1971	Warren Harding	322	7.	1964	Massillon	48
8.	1966	Niles McKinley	306	8.	1966	Niles McKinley	48
9.	1969	Niles McKinley	306	9.	1966	Steubenville	50
10.	1971	Massillon	300	10.	1964	Canton McKinley	60

Overall Scoring Averages

Team	Off Points	Avg.	Def. Points	Avg.	Yrs in League	
1.	Canton McKinley	2723	272.3	971	97.1	10
2.	Niles McKinley	2662	266.2	857	85.7	10
3.	Massillon	2635	263.5	720	72.0	10
4.	Warren Harding	2050	205.0	1128	112.8	10
5.	Steubenville	1405	200.7	789	112.7	7
6.	Alliance	638	127.6	861	172.2	5

AAC Football Conference
League Games (5 Games per Year)

Top Ten Offensive Teams				Top Ten Defensive Teams			
	Year	Team	Points		Year	Team	Points
1.	1970	Massillon	148	1.	1970	Massillon	15
2.	1971	Warren Harding	127	2.	1972	Massillon	17
3.	1968	Warren Harding	108	3.	1971	Warren Harding	25
4.	1968	Canton McKinley	104	4.	1971	Massillon	27
5.	1971	Massillon	104	5.	1968	Canton McKinley	30
6.	1972	Canton McKinley	104	6.	1970	Niles McKinley	35
7.	1969	Canton McKinley	91	7.	1968	Warren Harding	40
8.	1972	Niles McKinley	91	8.	1971	Niles McKinley	40
9.	1968	Massillon	86	9.	1969	Canton McKinley	47
10.	1972	Massillon	81	10.	1970	Canton McKinley	48

Most Points Scored in a League Game by One Team

- 41 - By Niles McKinley against Alliance, October 28, 1972.
- 40 - By Steubenville against Warren Harding, September 29, 1967.
- 40 - By Massillon against Steubenville, October 16, 1970.

Most Points Scored in a League Game by Two Teams

- 62 - By Niles McKinley and Alliance, October 28, 1972.
- 57 - By Warren Harding and Canton McKinley September 16, 19

Longest Consecutive League Game Winning Streaks

Massillon	8 Games	1963-1965
Massillon	7 Games	1967-1968
Massillon	7 Games	1971-1972
Canton McKinley	6 Games	1968-1969

All-American Football Conference Statistics

Top Ten Scorers All Games

		Team	Name	Points
1.	1970	Massillon	Mike Mauger	152
2.	1966	Steubenville	Mike Palmer	117
3.	1971	Massillon	Willie Spencer	116
4.	1969	Niles McKinley	Rick Gales	114
5.	1964	Canton McKinley	Fred Mathews	110
6.	1963	Niles McKinley	Cee Ellison	108
7.	1966	Canton McKinley	Larry Clayton	106
8.	1970	Canton McKinley	Artis Zachary	100
9.	1972	Massillon	Tom Hannon	94
10.	1967	Niles McKinley	Lou Tabor	84

Top Ten Ground Gainers - All Games

	Year	Team	Name	Att.	Yds.	Avg.
1.	1969	Niles McKinley	Rick Gales	208	1266	6.1
2.	1971	Massillon	Willie Spencer	182	1251	6.9
3.	1972	Massillon	Tom Hannon	231	1236	5.4
4.	1970	Massillon	Mike Mauger	159	1200	7.5
5.	1964	Canton McKinley	Fred Mathews	147	1141	7.8
6.	1966	Steubenville	Mike Palmer	154	1093	7.1
7.	1972	Steubenville	Courtney Snyder	151	1040	6.9
8.	1968	Massillon	Jim Smith	220	1022	4.6
9.	1967	Massillon	Jim Smith	203	1011	5.0
10.	1972	Warren Harding	Wilbur Boggs	135	944	7.0