

AS I... SEE IT
By ED CONRAD

The street-corner prognosticators have announced that Mahanoy Area High School will sweep through its entire ten-game schedule this fall, and end up on the highest rung of the football ladder in their climb to Southern Division honors in the Eastern Football Conference.

Those sweet sounds hurt our eardrums, though we loved every syllable, and so we didn't stick around to hear the score of the terrible thrashing handed out to the champs of the Northern Division by our own Conference winners.

How about a break, fellas? Even Gollath, that Biblical villain who eventually succumbed to young David and his sling-shot, was once crawling around on all fours. The gridders of the new high school are large in size, spirit and determination, but they're still only "an infant in gold and black clothing."

The initial season of the Jointure football squad should be met with more intelligent reasoning. The new gridiron giant is only a baby in the football world, and the sooner this fact is realized, the better it will be for the team, coaching staff, and everyone else concerned.

From the outset, we cannot sensibly qualify our high school for an undefeated season. If it turns out that way, we'll be only too glad to shout their praises. But in the meantime, let's not reach too high. Let's shoot for a semester of fine football, with more wins than losses.

In this manner we'll creep before we walk, and we'll be better off in the long run.

Agreed, the team looks as if it can go a long way. It stands an excellent chance of finishing near the top in the Conference battle.

To place the squad among the Mighty, even before one minute of football is played, is sheer nonsense, though. It's something you'll find only in a gypsy's tent.

Coach Joe Pilconis hasn't a crystal ball, and neither have we, so we'll have to produce a bit of Confucius' philosophy and add—"Don't try to fly with the pigeons, unless you're sure you've sprouted wings."

The hide of Mahanoy will be a prize package for some other school's collection, and with Minersville, Mt. Carmel and Shamokin included in the opponents' register, an undefeated season is going to be quite a chore. It'll take all of Mahanoy's developed abilities coupled with a proper portion of help from Lady Luck to achieve this pinnacle of success.

Getting back to Mt. Carmel for a moment, the name "Tornadoes" was evident in every sense of the word last season, as the Mahanoy City Maroons bowed 40-6 in their only setback of the entire year.

The Red Tornadoes' six-touchdown margin was no farce by any means, and that same eleven would have captured the conference title had not injuries to key players cropped up in mid-season to hamper their chances.

Shenandoah captured the championship when those very same Red Tornadoes knotted the Greyhounds of Shamokin High School 12-12, in the grand finale Turkey Day clash last season. A victory for Shamokin would have allowed the Maroons to tread that same sod without Bernie Gazan's crew sneaking in to grab the title.

The Blue Devils did the same thing that any athletic team in the entire state would have done if the opportunity presented itself.

Mahanoy City topped the Shens, 7-0, and proved they were a shade better than Shenandoah on the gridiron.

According to the rules of the Conference, our neighbors over the hill were justifiably right in their endeavors to capture the crown. No one can honestly say that he would not have done the very same thing if the situation occurred.

The entire gang was spectacular in every sense of the word with their inspired performance. It has been said many times since that meeting in Hazleton last November, that a second-place finish was simply one notch too low. It might as well have been the cellar; it wouldn't have hurt as much.

August 25, 1959

AS I... SEE IT
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When the lights go on at the West End Stadium on September 11, it will mark 21 years since the first gridiron action was played under the stars on that field.

Back on a Tuesday evening, October 25, 1938, Mahanoy Township followers were treated to the first football game under the arc lights, as a portable lighting system was installed for their school's contest with St. Jerome's of Tamaqua.

According to a few of the fans who took in the ball game, the lights compared to an everready battery on the death-bed of its ninth life. The playing area was by no means ideal and the team that sported a sore-eyed end was doomed to a terrible fate as far as pass-catching was concerned.

St. Jerome's scored a touchdown in the final 90 seconds of play and romped victorious, 12-7, in this first night contest.

Mahanoy Township was behind throughout the greater portion of the ball game but came to life midway through the final quarter to push across a touchdown. They added an extra point and took a single point 7-6 lead.

With time running out the Saints of Coach Hugh "Wink" Gallagher stormed right back with a touchdown of their own to capture the victory.

Mahanoy Township, coached by Bob Hirsch, was evened up at two victories against two losses but their fifth encounter of that 1938 season was played at a setting which seemed a trifle strange. As a result, the first game played by the Purple Larks under the lights on their home grounds resulted in defeat.

The Township backfield lined up with Foley at quarterback, Deffley and Burke at the half-back slots, while Wronski started at fullback.

The nightcap attraction against St. Clair in a couple of weeks won't be the only athletic activity since those few night football games in the past. Stock car racing, the reason for the torn-up turf surrounding the playing area, was the main attraction at the West End a few years ago.

Donkey Baseball, (if you can call it a sport) also was viewed under the arcs on several occasions, the latest being the Red Hens—Gas House Gang affair a few weeks ago.

Johnny Pilconis, Mahanoy City end, whose 80-yard dash to paydirt sank Bernie Gazan's "Titanic" last fall, will become roommates at George Washington University with Tony Fredicne, standout backfield performer for the Blue Raiders of Tamaqua High School. The pair was awarded football scholarships, and both are aspirants for the Colonial Freshman team.

What a turn of events! Joe Pilconis and Dave Linkhorst were opponents in their last coaching assignment with the Maroons and Purple Larks, respectively. With the new Jointure combining both schools, they share the same objective in an attempt to prepare the Mahanoy Area gridders for their initial campaign.

When Jim Koppenhaver was signed to the Ashland High School coaching position, it was a happy day for well-wishers of the Mahanoy Area football team.

Dave Linkhorst, one of the best coaches in the county for our money, was omitted in the process. It isn't that we wish him that kind of luck, but the birth of the new team at Mahanoy Area certainly will profit with his knowledge of the game.

With Dave acting as backfield coach, you can rest assured that the golden-cloaked gridders of Mahanoy will be well-trained in the procedures of ball-carrying.

Jack Sadusky certainly has our fondest wishes for denting the scoring column when he heads back to Cornell. Big John, a member of the starting team for the past two seasons, is having a bit of rough luck in his efforts to register a touchdown or an extra point with the "Big Red".

An outstanding defensive end, Jack has yet to score his first point in two seasons of varsity ball, so we're keeping our fingers crossed on his behalf. But then again, he hasn't former Mahanoy City teammate, Eddie Hino tossin' the pigskin.

August 26, 1959

The All-State First Team has other local interest. Ricky Leeson, son of Al (Lezousky) Leeson, a former Mahanoy City High School and Pitt University lineman, was selected to one of the halfback positions on the same team.

Rick's dad is a brother to Vince Lezousky, local councilman. The grid prowess of the Lezousky brothers in the 1930's is well-remembered by many Maroon followers of the grid sport.

Rick Leeson scored 154 points with 25 touchdowns and four extra points to lead Scott Township High School to an undefeated season. But that isn't all. The eye-poppin' fact is that he gained an average of 230 yards rushing in every game. His 2,075 total yards gained in nine games is better than many entire teams have totaled.

Rick stands six feet one inch tall and weighs 192 pounds. He inherited his football stature from his father, who was good enough to play with the Pitt Panthers in front of the Dream Backfield at that University. His dad participated also in the Rose Bowl game in his sophomore year.

Both E. J. Lucyk and Rick Leeson possess speed, power, reflexes, brains and deception. All the lads need now is an office in which to channel all the college offers that are continually pouring in.

Their educated action on the football turf has produced fine team-play for their respective high schools—around Schuylkill County for E. J. and in the Pittsburgh area for young Mr. Leeson. The pair absolutely stand out above all others in the state. Their selection to the coveted First Team is a tribute to their all-around ability. Those who saw them play agree wholeheartedly.

AS I... SEE IT
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We're wondering from this corner whether or not Mahanoy City High School's eight-game victory streak, on which scale they ended their connection with the sport, will continue with a Mahanoy Area victory over St. Clair in the opener.

Will the new squad have to start from scratch, or will a Gold and Black victory in that ball game raise the skin to one game short of double figures?

Lee Houser, who directed the Mahanoy Township Purple Larks from the quarterback post last season, will enter Florida State University as a reward for his prowess on the greenery.

The grass grows greener in the spring instead of the fall for the Grier City athlete, and his abilities on the diamond are being rewarded with a baseball scholarship to the southern university.

Joe Berdosh, Johnny "Red" Wargo and Tom Hayes headed south themselves today with Burlington, N.C. as their destination. The trio received scholarships at Elon College for their ability on the gridiron last fall.

Both Berdosh and Wargo, who played for the Maroons, and Hayes, ex-Twp. lineman who weighs in at 230, are all anxious to begin workouts with the "Fighting Christians."

Joe and Red are both remembered as defensive gems on the Mahanoy forward wall while playing for Joe Pilconis. Berdosh is recalled as the lad who laid all over a fumble in the Mahanoy Township end zone to score the deciding touchdown in the Maroons come-from-behind triumph over the Larks. A note worthy of mention: Joe was the fellow who sprung Johnny Pilconis free on his 80-yard jaunt for the only score of the game in the Shenandoah contest.

Red Wargo proved his worth time and time again with his constant and capable performances from the end position. Teamed with the coach's son, the pair goes in our book as the finest defensive two-some at the end slots in recent years. That's how I see it...

Tony Markosky, playing for Mahanoy City during the '55 and '56 football seasons, also ventures south to North Carolina with the trio of aspirants for the Burlington squad. Tony, a junior in school, was starting end for Elon last fall even though he toted the pigskin from the halfback post during his high school days.

Mahanoy Area High School students will select a team name under proper supervision when they meet in September. The conflict which might result with Mahanoy Area Joint of Dalmatia, caused the removal of the "Joint" in the new high school's name.

So as we contemplate a future name, may we present, though buried deeply in our files, (deliberately, for all we know), the diller of a name which the Mahanoy City athletic teams were called many years ago—"The Praying Miners."

August 27, 1959

AS I... SEE IT
By ED CONRAD

Mahanoy Area bent Frackville High's upset hook with touchdown marches each of the first three times it had possession of the pigskin and trampled the Mountaineers, 20-6, for its fourth consecutive triumph.

The 14-point difference indicates a hard-fought tussle, but Mahanoy's offensive powerhouse swung a mighty hammer early, gained a satisfying lead and politely coasted the rest of the way to victory.

Mahanoy Area has gained 184 yards rushing compared to a total of minus two yards gained by the Mountaineers when the Bears added their final TD early in the second period.

A second-period three touchdown lead afforded Coach Joe Pilconis an opportunity to use his reserves earlier than in any previous contest this season.

Mahanoy spring-boarded to a 20-0 lead with the backs totting the pigskin in a carnival of long runs. Frackville's defense stiffened the rest of the way, though Pilconis would have felt more comfortable with another six-pointer on the Golden Bear scoresheet.

The defensive team, with E. J. Lucyk sandwiched between six other qualified and potent stone-men, performed well until given a rest after the Bears took a commanding lead.

Ashland High School, came through with the "upset of the week" with a last-period touchdown to upset highly-favored unbeaten St. Clair, 13-12.

We figured that it would be a rough contest all the way and the Black Diamonds would not be easy victims. In fact, we'll quote from this corner concerning that ball game, "We're picking the upset of the week here... Ashland High to nip St. Clair by the margin of an extra point."

We couldn't have been more right either, because the game was knotted at 12-12 following Ashland's late score. That tiny infinitesimal yet glorious, game-winning extra point presented the margin of victory.

We did quite well for ourselves this weekend by picking all of important grid battles correctly. We selected the Battlin' Miners to cage the West Hazleton Wildcat and the Pottsville Crimson Tide to upend the favored Mt. Carmel Red Tornadoes.

With the Ashland victory, it was a profitable prognostication at our part. We'll drink from the cup while the taste is sweet, because there's plenty of bitter droplets ahead!

October 27, 1959

AS I... SEE IT
By ED CONRAD

Mahanoy Area High School, by virtue of its double-touchdown performance against Minersville on Friday night, possesses a scoring average of five points a ball game. Considering that six points constitutes a touchdown, a mathematician need not inform us that this total amounts to less than a touchdown each game.

On the other hand, Mahanoy Area's defense was touched for an identical number of points with 20 markers getting chalked up in the same four contests. The defensive record squares the ability of the offensive team, and presents an astounding five point per game balance for the Golden Bears.

We are mindful that football fans crave excitement resulting from dashes into the end zone on treks of skill and power. Mahanoy fans haven't been short-changed on thrills though, and have had the opportunity to strain their vocal chords many times so far this season even with the absence of points.

A five-point average, both offensively and defensively, is unquestionably low, but points do not necessarily spell gridiron pleasure to the folks in the stands. Mahanoy's victory, defeat and pair of ties proves the truth of the statement.

The "Seven Mules of Mahanoy" displayed defensive ability of an uncanny nature against the high scoring Battlin' Miners. The linemen knocked Minersville ball carriers with a sudden and deliberate thump, and provided the opportunity for a long-overdue victory.

Mike Sisak more than vindicated himself for his bobble of Jack Museousky's fourth down flip into the end zone with a minute remaining. Not a soul on either side of the field expected "No. 13" to snag a similar aerial a half minute later to produce the winning score.

It took really fine work by the "Seven Mules" to enable Sisak's atonement to occur. These "Seven Mules" include Artie Frey and George Cunningham as wingmen, with E. J. Lucyk sandwiched between Bobby Guziksky, Leon August, Johnny Whitecavage and Jimmy Mitchell.

Sportscaster Ed Romance commented on Jack Museousky's performance on Friday night with the phrase, "Rare wine improves only with age." We must certainly agree, because Jack was certainly calm, cool and collected when the going got rough in Minersville Stadium.

Paul Petrucka and Mike Sisak teamed up with Tim Creodon to chop off yardage which was mandatory late in the game. Bobby Maschock bulldozed for the first extra point when that single tally spelled the difference between a defeat and our third tie of the season. Johnny Logan, Richie Matlaga, Bob Monrain, Leo Hartman and Wayne Mensinger were all part of the gang which successfully broke the Miners' backs.

Forgive us for our repetition, but we attempt to refresh your memory with a few lines worth repeating now that the Golden Bear has finally tasted victory.

"We cannot sensibly qualify our high school for an undefeated season. If it turns out that way, we'll be only too glad to shout its praises. In the meantime though, let's not reach too high. Let's shoot for a season of fine football with more wins than losses. In this manner we'll creep before we walk and we'll be better off in the long run."

These past four ball games have presented untold thrills and countless memorable moments on both sides of the Mahanoy ledger. Though the going was rough for a while, the Golden Apple has finally been plucked, and our Golden Bear has taken a deserving bite. We had never lost confidence in the gridders, or the capable coaching staff of Joe Pilconis, Greg Christ, Dave Linkhorst and Bill "Buck" Jones. The triumph over Minersville was the first of many victories for the new school.

The "Golden Grizzly" was rewarded for its many disappointments. With all the sadness and gloom, our Bear learned the value of team unity, spirit and determination which never appear in the lineup of points on the score sheet.

The clouds of doubt have disappeared from the Mahanoy Valley and it took the combined efforts of Mahanoy City, Mahanoy Township and Gilberton to brew the proper tonic. A combination of talents against an unconquerable adversary has resulted in the first victory. St. Clair, Pottsville and Mt. Carmel fooled with a mere Cub. Minersville met a more ferocious animal. It had met our "Golden Bear."

October 5, 1959

AS I... SEE IT
By ED CONRAD

"E. J. Lucyk definitely is the best high school center in the entire state, and rightfully deserves this All-State recognition bestowed upon him."

That was the comment of Joe Pilconis, head football coach of the Mahanoy Area Golden Bears, upon learning that Lucyk had been selected to the All-State First Team of the United Press.

"E. J. performed well all season long," Pilconis continued, "and it pleases me to see that he hit the top. He receives my wholehearted congratulations."

"The selection of a member of the Mahanoy Area football squad to the All-State First Team is a wonderful beginning for the new joint high school," added Joe who was all smiles. "Local footballers who have gained a position on the All-State First Team are few and far between in this immediate area. The heartening news concerning the selection of E. J. to the squad is indeed warmly received."

December 1, 1959



GHOSTLY GLIMMERS IN SPORTS ONE YEAR AGO

By ED CONRAD

Just one short year ago Joe Matalavage terminated his freshman season at the United States Naval Academy. He had tucked under his belt the experience of collegiate football with the Navy understudies, and nervously awaited his gridiron initiation as a member of the varsity squad.

Joe's high school days at Mahanoy City were a shining page in the record-book of the Maroon and Black. Recalling those Friday nights of a few years ago, the bruising fullback left us with the thought that he would fare out very well playing for the college of his choice.

Latching on to a backfield berth as a member of Bullis Prep his first year after graduating, Joe battled both textbooks and prep school opponents while making himself known on the football field as a man to be reckoned with.

Aware of the Middies' enormous selection of football talent, Joe moved from Bullis Prep to the Naval Academy for a year of service with the Navy Frosh. He played exceptionally well for his new coaches on their Navy freshman team. A very fine season produced an inkling of things to come with the upperclass eleven.

The Blue and Gold of Annapolis had beckoned our favorite son for a place on the Navy scorecard. We have confidence in his ability; we know he'll make us proud.

Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain, former Overbrook High School and Kansas University basketball great, signed his first professional contract with the Harlem Globetrotters. Although he had another year of eligibility remaining at Kansas U., seven-foot-plus "Stilt" decided to leave the confines of the amateur courts for the greener pastures of professionalism.

Chamberlain's one-year contract called for an estimated \$65,000, which eclipsed Goose Tatum's fabulous \$35,000 salary as a member of

those same Trotters. The tremendous monetary reward guided his move, probably because that pleasant stack of dollar bills stretched higher than his towering frame.

Over in Ebbets Field one year ago there was action galore. The clowns were in town and the stadium was packed—but not with baseball fans. The beloved Bums had been replaced with a homely-looking crew, and it wasn't the Cubs or the Phillies. Baseball season found the Dodgers three thousand miles away—Ebbets Field was hosting a circus.

Ossie Virgil, a native of the Dominican Republic, became the first Negro to play for the Tigers in Briggs Stadium, Detroit just one year ago.

Nervous? No doubt he was. But he never did show it. All Ossie showed the home folks was a 5-for-5 night at the plate as the Tigers sank the Senators for their fifth straight victory. All in all, a wonderful beginning, one that 29,000 Detroit fans will long remember.

A few local fishermen had their names in print a year ago for successful catches of newspaper trout. Their names in the newspaper made the wives happy, their kids proud, and earned them a drink at the corner bar on their angling ability.

Lou Capitalno, Joe Peel, Chubbins DeAngelo and Joe Gavala all caught 18-inch beauties, while Tony Analavage also hooked onto a pair of 16-inch rainbows. The real prize went to Joe Chesakis though, who took home several pounds of delicious Friday-dinner in the form of a 20-inch rainbow.

And of course, each of these fellows added, "You should have seen the one that got away."

Still fascinated with the rod and reel, we leave this little reminder with all of you good sports, "Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if he kept his mouth shut."

June 20, 1958

AS I... ...SEE IT

By ED CONRAD

It's rainin', and a tough day to write sports. To be different though, here's our rainy Saturday "Believe It or Not" on the sports front. The black face typed statements are absolutely true. The side remarks might never have been.

"Patience is a virtue", and Jack Sadusky must certainly agree. After three barren seasons of varsity football at Cornell, Jack finally scored his first touchdown in the final game of his college career against Penn on Thanksgiving Day. Starting at an end position for nearly two dozen successive games, Jack's scoring patience was rewarded in the waning minutes of a fine tenure with the Big Red footballers.

Bill Jones, Mahanoy Area Jayvee football coach, rants and raves about one of the fellows on his squad who punted a football 75 yards into the wind with a broken ankle this past season.

Eddie Hino performed in the Gem Bowl in Erie on Thanksgiving and got his name in the scoring column. Too bad a safety adds points to the other team, Ed. It didn't matter (we hope not), because his squad gained the victory in a 17-16 squeaker. The former George Washington University quarterback has been listed on the all-opponents team of Detroit University.

There's a new ladder on the market. According to the peddler, they're for people who can't stand high places.

Joe Berdosh, Red Wargo and Tom Hayes, though only freshmen at Elon College in Burlington, N. C., saw action in several varsity games. They watched Kerry Richards' jayvee team in action in their idle hours. Kerry is a former Mahanoy City and Elon star and now teaches school in the community.

Dave Linkhorst has a problem. One of his 5 foot 8 inch basketball players hits his head on the bottom of the backboard every time he jumps for a rebound. That's one Golden Bear that really has problems.

Joe Matalavage gained honorable mention on a National Sportswriters All-American team. Navy's leading point producer this season Joe's looking to adding to his total today in an upset victory for the Academy against the Black Knights of the Hudson. (We'll warn you, Joe, that Mule kicks awfully hard in the mud.)

There's a new instant beer on the market whether Kaler's know it or not. Everything else is instant these days anyway. As the motto states—"Loose your blues with instant booze."

"Lady, if you'll give us a nickle, my little brother will imitate a hen."
"What will he do" said the lady.
"Cackle?"
"Naw," said the little boy "that's too easy. He'll eat a worm."

November 28, 1959



AS I... ...SEE IT

By ED CONRAD

As Red Smith recently put it, "One year in sports is much like any other, but decades are different. A decade can be viewed in perspective and each has a character of its own.

Now that the "Fifties" are drawing to a close, we present our selection of the top ten local sports stories since the decade began ten years ago. Some stories probably were missed and we apologize if one of your favorites was omitted.

We hope though, that our choice of the best sporting notes since 1950 will enable you to relive golden moments and bring a smile to your face. No order of importance is intended. Use your own judgement and rank them to suit yourself.

Memorable Court Upset

Mahanoy City High School's fighting Maroons, outmanned but not outfought, notched their 19th consecutive court triumph with an absolutely sensational 57-52 victory over Hazleton in PIAA playoff competition at the Penn Palestra in March, 1950.

Jimmy "Cheeta" Smith, knocked unconscious in the first quarter, came roaring back with determination and desire that enabled Mahanoy to register the stirring upset victory. It ranks among the all-time great Maroon victories.

Superb Victory Streak

Mahanoy Township's Purple Larks, soaring the stratosphere for three seasons, put together the longest winning streak in the County. The Larks scored 22 consecutive victories from 1953 to September 1956, while gaining statewide recognition in the sport.

Their tremendous success story linked many exceptional athletes and several outstanding teams during its lengthy course. It took the Southern Division champion, St. Clair, to end the illustrious skein.

Last Attempts Fail

Gilberton, unable to capture a North Schuylkill League basketball title in its history, finished a hair's breath from the championship in its last shot at the crown. Mahanoy Township defeated the Ducktowners in the 1959 playoff.

Mahanoy City High, never a Southern Division champ, lost out in its last attempt as a high school in 1958. Mahanoy finished six slim percentage points behind Shenandoah's champion gridders, although defeating the Blue Devils during the regular season.

Great Personal Achievement

Joe Matalavage did his little town rightfully proud with his selection to captain the 1960 Naval Academy football team after two fine seasons with the Gold and Blue.

The former Maroon fullback, second leading scorer with the Middies, was voted to the coveted honor by his teammates as he placed Mahanoy in brighter lights on the football map.

Legendary Grid Contest

High school football bowed out at the East End Stadium with one of the finest games ever played on that field, although it was played on an overcast November afternoon in 1958.

A desperate Purple Lark eleven, intent on upsetting its highly-ranked cross-town rival, played magnificently for three quarters, but eventually succumbed to the might of the Maroons in a 20-13 thriller.

Brand New Look

Mahanoy City, Mahanoy Township and Gilberton, each with a glorious history of its own, united this past July to form the largest joint high school in the county.

The Maroons, Purple Larks and form an athletic giant in coal region scholastic athletics. The three high schools formed a new team destined for greatness—the Mahanoy Area Golden Bears.

Best Of Good Sports

Mahanoy City met Mahanoy Township in PIAA playoff competition on the Hazleton hardwood in March, 1956, after each team won its respective league championship.

In a contest marked by thrills galore, the Maroons defeated their capable and formidable opponent, 76-62. The score fails to indicate the real feature of the game, an exceptional display of sportsmanship by players and fans alike.

Rank With Nation's Best

Four fellows who played together under Joe Pilconis at Mahanoy City High School owned a fitting share of the national limelight for their outstanding play as starting members of various top-notch college grid teams.

Jack Sadusky, of Cornell; Justin Pahls, of Rutgers; Ed Hino, of George Washington, and Joe Matalavage, of Navy, all owned starting assignments at the same time, certainly an extraordinary achievement.

Among State's Best

George Thompson gained a position on the First Team All-State basketball team as a reward for his exceptional ability as a member of Mahanoy Township High School. Bill Walinchus, playing for Mahanoy City, placed on the First Team All-State football squad.

E. J. Lucyk also gained a cherished position on the First Team All-State for his talent on the gridiron at Mahanoy Area High School. He opened the door of the new high school for those who will pass through in the decades of tomorrow.

An Athlete's Athlete

It took a feature article in the town's Sunday newspapers to bring to light the story of Kerry Richards, the speedy, aggressive halfback for Elon College who performed for Mahanoy City during his high school days.

Though it was no surprise to local football fans, Kerry had only one hand. His handicap (he refused to regard it as such) failed to deflate his love for the game. His iron-clad determination and an irrepressible will transformed him into a star.

December 24, 1959