

Here Come The Big Reds



Information & Stories About
Parkersburg High School Football



Believed to be first Parkersburg High School football team – Circa 1900

The stories and information in this booklet were written by Carroll Jett or compiled from information found in the Parkersburg News & Sentinel and the Parkersburg Daily Journal as well as other sources. Jett was a sports writer who began covering the Big Reds in 1969 and has been the PHS statistician for the last 16 years. Corrections or additions to this booklet should be sent to the Parkersburg High School football office.

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History of Parkersburg High School

Nearly a century ago Parkersburg High School was built and it took a special law passed through the West Virginia legislature to accomplish the feat.

Built in 1917 at an approximate cost of a half million dollars, which included the grounds, building and equipment, Parkersburg High School was the dream of Charles Elliott VanDevender, President of the Board of Education.

The businessmen of Parkersburg elected VanDevender because they wanted a new high school and they felt he was the man for the job. After assuming office, VanDevender sought out various properties and decided on the piece of land between 19th and 24th streets on the west side of Dudley Avenue as the location for the new high school building.

There was bitter opposition to this site, some opponents going so far as to hang and burn VanDevender in effigy on Seventh Street in front of the old high school building. They felt it was foolish to build an enormous high school in a swamp, on a cow pasture that was located outside the city. It was said to be a building to house 1,200 students that would never be filled with students.

The site actually was a swamp, filled with cattails, water snakes and quicksand.

The main building of the original structure is resting on a concrete slab, which, in turn, rests on quicksand. Underneath that slab are many pilings. Because the structure is “floating” in the quicksand, all the settling has been uniform.

When the building was completed in 1917, the front campus and the front door could only be reached by an elevated boardwalk. VanDevender had a vision of what could be done with the site, and he refused to permit anything, or anyone, to deter him from his purpose. Every tactic known to demonstrators was used to stop the work but all attempts were unsuccessful. His adversaries criticized and opposed every action, including placing an “unheard of” price on the property VanDevender wished to acquire.

Also, at this time there was a West Virginia law which existed saying that no school ground could contain more than four acres. Since VanDevender wanted 27

acres, he met with Charles Kreps, attorney for the Board of Education, and had a bill properly drawn up. VanDevender took the bill by train to Charleston where the legislature was in session. There he met with Senator Robert Gregory and convinced him to present a bill making it legal to acquire 30 acres of land for school use. The bill passed.

An architect named F.L. Packard from Columbus, Ohio, designed the three-story structure and VanDevender spent much of his time at the building site overseeing its construction and expenses.

The original cost was \$675,000.

The school opened with room for 1,200 students. There were 38 classrooms, including shops and laboratories; an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,350; a gymnasium with a seating capacity of 1,000; three offices, a lunch room with a capacity of 500; and additional rooms for storage, janitorial supplies, etc.

In 1928, money was made available for the building of the two wings. The title “Central Junior-Senior High School” was used for many years when the school was operating under a six year plan, seventh through 12th grades. The name changed to Parkersburg High School when this system changed. However, as long as the seventh and eighth grades remained in the south wing, that wing was referred to as “Central Junior High School.”

In 1956, with the completion of two junior high schools and the construction almost finished for a third one, seventh and eighth graders were taken from the high school building. It was a four year institution until 1960 when it became a three-year school. That was in effect until the ninth graders were moved back into the school at the beginning of the 2008-2090 year.

In 1915 there were 128 graduates while the number increased to 209 in 1928. By 1965 the graduating class had reached 1,150 students. Current enrollment for 9th through 12th graders is over 1,800 with recent remodeling done to areas like the cafeteria and library.

History of Stadium Field

In the spring of 1923 a group of men got together to form a stadium committee whose sole intent was to build a stadium for the newly constructed Parkersburg High School.

Those men included John S. Echols, President of the Board of Education, C.M. Martin, Sherman Dils, J.H. Biddle, C.T. Hitshaw, Herbert Smith, John Randolph, and Paul L. Summers. The committee was incorporated on July 14, 1923 and became known as the Parkersburg High School Corporation. The process of forming a corporation was necessary because the bonded indebtedness of the Board of Education was then at the peak permitted by law. Also serving on this committee was Fayette Smoot, H.L. Martin, Edward Doesch, H.R. Debussey and W.O. Holiday. The corporation leased the back campus from the Board of Education. It was impossible, according to the law of the time, for such a corporation to build any structure on land owned by a board of education. Therefore, the board had to turn over the land known as Stadium Field, on a 99-year lease to this corporation. The bonds were then released. The money for the bonds was to be recovered through football games and other activities held at the stadium.

The stadium was the first of its kind (concrete) in West Virginia and must have been the first of its kind to be built for the use of tax-supported institution without the investment of a single tax dollar.

The plans were to build one side of the stadium in 1923 and to build the other side the following year. The end of the U-shaped stadium was to be completed in the third year. When finally, completed it was to seat about 13,000 people. The end or bowl section of the stadium was never completed according to plans. The total cost of construction for the two sides was \$104,000.

In just one day after the meeting in which the stadium plan was revealed, a total of \$33,000 worth of bonds was sold.

In September of 1923 the first concrete was poured for the West stands of the stadium and on Oct. 4, 1923, the first game in the new stadium was played

between the Big Reds of Parkersburg High School and Athens, Ohio. The Big Reds won by a 14-13 score. Ticket prices were 25 cents for student seating, 15 cents for student standing room. For the general public, the price was season ticket was \$5 for seats and \$4 for standing room.

In 1925 the stadium was officially dedicated. As part of the dedication, a race from Parkersburg to Marietta was held.

The installation of the stadium lights during the fall of 1940 made it possible for football games to be played at night. Until that time, most games were played on Saturday afternoon. The lights were installed by the Parkersburg Junior Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$7,000.75. The electric bill for the use of the lights was \$3.25 per hour or about \$10 for each game.

The lights were put in for the dual purpose of protecting the health of the players from the intense heat and to increase attendance. Among other reasons cited for the lighting was so that persons who worked Saturday afternoon could see the Big Reds play and so that the Stadium could be used for the purpose of holding other outdoor events such as political rallies or church events. Businessmen also felt that by playing Friday night games, Saturday afternoon business would be bolstered.

The first night game at PHS Stadium was Sept. 6, 1940 with the Big Reds beating Grantsville 50-0.

During the 1984-85 football season part of the stadium stands were closed for safety reasons. On June 13, 1988 it was recommended that both sides of the stands be closed. On June 14 the Board of Education accepted that recommendation.

During the summer of 1988 temporary bleachers were purchased and put up. Remodeling was done with funding help from C.O. Erickson and began in 1992. It was totally completed in 1994 with structural steel and concrete used to repair the stands.

In 1995 PHS qualified for home playoff games. After beating North Marion in the first round, the Big Reds were scheduled to host Wheeling Park. The Patriots protested the playing conditions at Stadium Field (no grass and nothing but mud) and a state inspection committee upheld the protest – moving the game to Tyler Consolidated High School. PHS won that game 28-7 and got to host the semifinal

game after much work was done to repair the turf. But Hedgesville won the game 18-0 and the drive to install artificial turf on Stadium Field began in earnest.

The Stadium Renovation committee had its first planning session on Jan. 4, 1996 with more than two dozen members. In almost no time there were plans for an artificial surface to be added to the football field along with an 8-lane Eurotan track surface, new sidewalks, asphalt parking lot and refurbished concession stands.

On Aug. 30, 1996 the first game was played on AstroTurf XI surface between Parkersburg South and Wheeling Park. On Sept. 6 the Big Reds played host to Hurricane on the new turf.

The cost of the new surface and renovations came to \$1.25 million dollars which included \$400,000 worth of in-kind services, \$400,000 for advertising signs, \$250,000 in donations and five bank loans of \$400,000.

New light standards were installed in 1998.

The bleachers were closed again following the 2012 season and PHS faced the prospect of playing its home games on the road or at Erickson All-Sports Facility in 2014.

The Board of Education said it could not pay for the renovation of Stadium Field so the community got together to raise enough to fix the home side bleachers in time for the second home game of 2014. Although there was much controversy over the final bill for the home side bleachers (which was virtually double the amount quoted) they were completed and are a thing of beauty. Now the visitors side remains closed with an unknown future for that part of the Stadium.

Early Years of PHS Football

(Information taken from article written by former Parkersburg News Sports Editor Francis P. (Buss) Fisher)

Paul Lehman was the first PHS football coach, serving during the 1903 and 1904 seasons. The first paid coach was Harry Bonner in 1907.

The football team of 1906 was the first PHS team on which the players were restricted to regularly enrolled students of the school.

Letter awards and sweaters were presented at PHS for the first time at the conclusion of the 1907 season. Boyd Carfer was captain of the team that year.

PHS has not always been the Big Reds. They have been known by various nicknames in earlier years. 1915 The first time Big Reds were used as nickname was in 1915. In fact, Red and White have not always been the school colors. There was a time in the early years when the school colors were black and white.

While special trains often took the PHS team to away games as well as bringing teams to town for home games, the largest special football train went to Wheeling on Nov. 11, 1938 when Parkersburg clinched the state championship by beating Wheeling 33-6. The three-section train carried approximately 3,000 fans. Of the 10,000 fans at the game it was estimated that 5,000, or one-sixth of the town's population, came from Parkersburg.

Twice PHS has eclipsed the century mark in scoring during a game. The first time was in 1917 when the Big Reds beat Middlebourne of Tyler County 120-0. The score was reported in the school paper as 122-0 but both newspaper accounts stated it was 120-0. Then, in 1922, PHS played Allegheny High of Cumberland, MD, (reported to be the champions of the state of Maryland) in a post-season game and the game ended in a 111-0 victory for PHS.

William "Widdy" Neale, Greasy's younger brother went to Yale where he played three sports and later served as the school's director of intramural athletics.

Father of PHS Football?

In 1930 the Parkersburg Sentinel ran a series of articles written by Boyd Carfer. The odd thing was the series had run in the Sentinel some time well prior to 1930 and the Sentinel was only re-running the series for PHS football history buffs. Rather than repeat the series, which was written in the old, rambling style of sports writing, here are the highlights of information given by someone who could probably called the “Father of PHS Football.”

At that time (1930) Carfer was still considered one of the greatest ever to play the game in Parkersburg. He was a four-time captain of the PHS team – a feat which will never be repeated – and also played on various other independent football teams. He went on to play end at West Virginia University during the 1911 season (one of a 12-member squad) and later for Penn State. He was also team captain in track and basketball.

Archie Boyd Carfer was born in 1885 and died in 1972 in Parkersburg.

Going strictly by memory, Carfer said between the years of 1895 and 1905 he could recall teams such as the P.A.C. (Parkersburg Athletic Club), the P.A.C. Juniors, the C.A.C. (Colored Athletic Club), the Beechwood Athletic Club, the North Parkersburg Athletic Club and the more familiar Lehmann’s Maudes.

The old P.A.C. teams were active for a number of years and were made up chiefly of the following men: center Jesse Silcott, center Joe Murphy, guard Dewitt (it was the case most of the time not to give a person’s first name in print), guard Max Hall, guard Bob Stewart, guard/tackle Ron Johnson, end Louis carpenter, guard Will Hoblitzell, tackle Will (Bill) Lyons, tackle Wilbur Pomeroy, tackle Jim (Dulix) Henderson, end Arthur Watson, end George Budd, quarterback Ad Krepps, quarterback Harold “Weinie” Wiant, halfback Jim Wilson, halfback Roy Fiske, halfback Ben Stewart, halfback Paul Lehmann, fullback J.W. Dudley, fullback F.B. “Monk” Francis and Mel Shugart (position not known).

In 1902 and 1903 this team was not scored upon. Sherman Dils was the manager and Henry “Hen” Nelly was the coach.

Among the teams that the P.A.C. played was Bethany College, Catlettsburg KY, Ohio University, Marietta College, Wheeling, Ravenswood, West Virginia University, Clarksburg, West Virginia Wesleyan and Benwood. By Carfer's recollection, WVU was the only team to beat the locals.

Lehmann went on to star at Marietta College.

During the latter years of the P.A.C. team, an off-shoot (the Juniors) was formed to let the smaller players give the game of football a try. Among the young men who performed for the Juniors were: Rube Taylor, Howard Weibel, Will Hoblitzell, Ronald Johnson, Dulix Henderson, Gay Brown, Wallace "Dutch" Wild, Mark Sanderson, Lefty Wilson, Gay Latshaw, Johnny Dye, Harley Hughes, Bob Mallory and Red Vogel. Brown, better known as the Shine Man because he ran a shoe shine parlor and news stand on Sixth Street, weighed only 82 pounds but was fast as lightning and game as a bulldog.

Until the 1940's or 50's the major pre-game talk of any game concerned the size (weight) of the teams and whichever team averaged out to weigh the most was considered the favorite in the rough and tumble early days of football – when the average weight of a team was about 160 pounds.

The Colored Athletic Club was organized around the turn of the century as well and included such players as Gay Brown, Dink Brannon, Dallas and Will Washington, Charley "Ragtime" Dorsey, Dooley Taylor, Great Williams, Guy Brooks, G. Gates, Herman Newman Charley Pierce, Cecil Amos, Ben Lindsey and Coach George Niswander.

The star of the Beechwood team was Frank Bruckner. While North Parkersburg had a player named Howard Neale (older brother of Greasy).

Lehmann's Maudes attracted many of the top players, including Carfer, who started his athletic career with that team. It was organized and coached by Paul Lehmann after he left college and was the foundation of our present high school football system. It was composed of half high school students and "town boys" as they were called because they were not in school. The Maudes were managed by Jimmy Schneider, who later became a banker in New York.

According to Carfer this was in 1904 with the first all-student team officially organized in 1905. Dick Hoblitzell, who later became a teammate of Babe Ruth on the World Champion Boston Red Sox, was the captain of the All Maudes.

Pennybacker played left end, E.J. Flynn right tackle, Lawrence McCluer right end, Elliott Stone left guard, Hubert Gaynor left halfback, Upson Harris was the quarterback, Dick Hoblitzell played halfback, Harold Ramp left tackle, Sam Stewart right halfback, Had Dils was the center, Arthur Toole was right guard, Harry Oliver quarterback, Dan Pendleton was a sub and the manager, Clarence Tucker a sub and Carfer was the fullback. In 1905 the team played “old time: football which included mass plays through the line being the favorite style.

During that season they beat Marietta High, whose team was padded with “town boys” by a 45-0 score.

Carfer’s biggest revelation was that PHS supported teams composed entirely of students as early as 1895 or 1896 but the existence of these teams was rather ephemeral due to lack of support and interest in the game and due to the fact it was general looked with disfavor because of its brutality. Until 1906 it was considered proper to play “ringers” if the opponents’ strength compelled such action but beginning with the season of 1906 Principal Boetticher ruled that only students in good standing could play and since that time we have had strictly high school teams.

Team members in 1906 included George Hiehle end, Bryan Rittenhouse end, Edwin Manzo center, Maxwell guard, Gordon Padden tackle, C.H. Rathbone at fullback, Vierheller at guard, Gilfillan at tackle, Creel at guard, Oliver at quarterback and halfback, Perkins at guard, Ruttencutter at halfback, Don Earle at end, Vic Chancellor at center, Eddie Dement at tackle, Alfred String at end, G. Mallory at halfback, R. Alleman and end and Carfer at halfback. There was also a little Irishman who wanted o play but was ineligible because of his size by the name of Greasy Neale.

Memories of 1906 Team

In 1950 in a column written by Brent Snodgrass of the Parkersburg News the following excerpt from a letter was published from a member of the 1906 team, Milan Bartlett.

“Going back to just about the beginning of local and state high school football, I will aim to write as comprehensive of football as it was 44 years ago. The all high school player Parkersburg High School team of 1906 consisted of 12 men, which gave us only one substitute. I state above all high school player squad for the reason that prior to the year 1906 scrub teams were the rule. Also, I may be a year off in the date being 1906. It could be a year earlier or a year later.

“Player equipment, self furnished, consisted of a jersey sweater and slightly padded football pants. No two uniforms, if they could be called uniforms, were alike. Extra safety devices were a combination rubber molded nose and mouth protector. While this safety device was not too sanitary, it was very popular in its day. Another safety device was a rubber molded mouth protector which was shortly considered more dangerous than safe to use and it was discarded. Last, but by no means least, were the shin guards. Shin guards were considered the all essential safety device and if a player was fortunate to possess a pair of these, together with a jersey sweater and a pair of padded football pants he was considered very well equipped.

“Few possessed the rubber molded nose and mouth protector as it was very costly. Cleated shoes were acquired by having the neighborhood shoemaker nail leather cleats to a castoff pair of shoes. Headgear, shoulder pads and hip pads were unknown.

“Field practice was held Saturdays at the Park Place grounds or Governor White’s cow pasture field. Signal drills were held several nights a week under carbon lights in the then boulder-filled streets at the corner of Murdoch Ave., 8th and Ann Sts.

“In those days, mamma and papa required home chores to be done immediately after school and parent instructions were to come straight home from school. This still rings in my ears. Hence, nightly held signal drill practice.

“Our 1906 playing schedule consisted of playing several scrub teams and the Grafton High School team on Thanksgiving Day. Grafton boasted the only other

known high school team in the state that year. The game with Grafton started very late, this for the reason that several Grafton players were employed at the B & O railroad shops and we were required to wait change of shifts so that these several Grafton players would be available.

“It was well after darkness had settled and very near the end of the game when we were in scoring position. A very secret team consultation was held and it was agreed by all our team members that following the very next down on which we felt sure we could score, we would as quickly as possible leave the field and head for the B & O depot for our safety, for there were too many of them and too few of us. Anyway, we claimed the victory by a score of 6 to 0 and in due time arrived home victorious, safe and sound. Each player paid his own railroad fare and meals.

“Members of the 1906 team were lineman Francis Rathbone, George Hiehle, Don Earl, Polly Deem and myself (Milan Bartlett). The backs were Frank Creel, Mark Flathery, Boyd Carfer and Joe Ruttencutter. And what a rip-roaring, gouging backfield it was. They were tops. I regret I am unable to name the remaining three members of this team but I have not been able to ascertain their names. We were part-time coached by Professor Boetticher, then principal of Parkersburg High School, corner of Green and Seventh Streets, now downtown Washington Junior High. Four members of the 1906 team have passed on. George Hiehle, Francis Rathbone, Frank Creel and Joe Ruttencutter, as well as Professor Boetticher, all being deceased.

“Traditional of those days was much rowdyism, to say the least, during and at the close of games was the rule. To a less and lesser extent this went on for years.

“If my memory serves me well during the next few years high school football rapidly developed and before and by the year 1912 well organized high school teams had been started in most cities of the state. From as early as perhaps 1909 all high school games locally were played at the YMCA lot located at the head of Ann Street. This was until the construction of the present stadium.”

Respectfully, Milan L. Bartlett

(According to a newspaper article on the Grafton game, Bartlett is credited with pushing Russell Paden across the goal for the winning touchdown)

The Evolution of Football

1800-1865 - Football, without rules or regulations was played in a haphazard manner at some of the older colleges in the East. Catching the ball on the first bounce or in the air entitled the catcher to a free kick. Balls kicked out of bounds were kicked in at right angles. Six goals were needed to win a game.

1869 - The captain of the Princeton team challenged the captain of the Rutgers team to a game. The first intercollegiate game took place at New Brunswick, NJ, with 22 men on a side. Rutgers won by the score of six goals to four. Rutgers never beat Princeton after that until 1938 when they upset the Tigers.

1870 - Columbia joined with Princeton and Rutgers to form a league for competition. Shortly afterwards Yale came in to provide some strong teams. In 1873 a code of rules was drafted by the four schools.

1874 – Supposedly the first game of “modern” American football was played between McGill University of Montreal and Harvard.

1875 - The American Intercollegiate Association was formed. The game consisted of 45 minute halves and a field goal equaled four touchdowns. A team consisted of 15 players and each one wore tights for a uniform.

1876 – Goal posts introduced, set on the goal line.

1878 - Canvas uniforms made their appearance.

1880 – The number of players was reduced to 11, according to a proposal by Yale coach Walter Camp. The size of the field area was reduced by almost half and the line of scrimmage introduced.

1882 – The origin of signals. In the beginning these consisted of sentences, finally numbers. A system of downs was introduced (another of Camp’s innovations). Three plays to make five yards and maintain possession of the ball. Scoring was as follows: touchdown - 2 points; field goal - 5 points; conversion kick - 4 points; safety - 1 point.

1883 – Scoring was changed to: touchdown - 4 points; field goal - 5 points; conversion kick - 2 points; safety - 2 points.

1884 – The origin of running interference. Scoring was changed as a touchdown became worth two points while a goal from touchdown was four points, a field goal five points and a safety was one point.

1890 - Long hair was the style for players. Yale introduced heavy interference by employing the guard.

1892 - Harvard introduced the famous “Flying Wedge,” a formation in which a large number of offensive players charged as a unit against a similarly arranged defense.

1894 – The “Tackles Back” formation was originated by Amos Alonzo Stagg of Yale.

1894 – The Harvard-Yale game (known as the Hampden Park Blood Bath) resulted in crippling injuries for four players. The rivalry was suspended until 1897. The Army-Navy game was suspended until 1899 for similar reasons. The “Flying Wedge” was one of the major reasons for serious injuries and sometimes even death.

1896 – Helmets were introduced.

1898 – Scoring changed to the following: touchdown - 5 points; field goal - 5 points; conversion kick - 1 point; safety - 2 points.

1904 – A field goal was reduced to four points.

1905 – A total of 19 fatalities took place nationwide from football (there had been 15 deaths from 1899-1902). President Theodore Roosevelt threatened to shut the game down if drastic changes were not made. He called upon Harvard, Yale and Princeton to help save the sport.

1905 – On Dec. 28 there were 62 colleges that met in New York City to discuss rule changes to make the game safer. As a result of this meeting the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States (later named the National Collegiate Athletic Association or NCAA) was formed.

1906 – Forward pass introduced (legalized) which opened up the game and reduced the number of injuries. The ball was redesigned to make it easier to throw. Rough mass plays were prohibited as well as interlocking of arms by teammates in an effort to clear the way for their ball carriers. The length of the college game shortened from 70 to 60 minutes and the neutral zone, which separates the teams by the length of the ball before each play begins, was also established.

1906 – The distance was changed from five yards to 10 yards to make a first down.

1909 – The field goal was reduced to 3 points.

1910 – Abolishment of interlocked interference and aid to the runner by pulling or pushing.

1912 – A fourth (or additional) down was added in which to advance the ball 10 yards. The value of a touchdown was fixed at six points. Field size officially set to 100 yards plus end zones.

1915 – The first appearance of numbers on uniforms so fans could more easily identify the players became commonplace.

1920 – Clipping or blocking from behind was abolished.

1924 – The use of all tees was abolished. The ball was required to be kicked from ground.

1925 – Walter Camp of Yale known as the “Father of American Football” died.

1927 – The goal posts were set back on rear line of end zone.

1932 – The flying block and tackle was made illegal.

1937 – Players were required to wear numerals on both the front and back of the jersey.

1941 – Unlimited substitution was allowed; previously the number of substitutes had been set at various numbers.

1958 – Two-point conversion added.

Odd Rules Involving PHS

Among the high school rules in effect from 1900 through the 1930's were:

Two incomplete passes in a row drew the offense a five yard penalty.

An incomplete pass in the end zone gave the other team the ball on the 20.

The team must be allowed to complete any play if they break the huddle before time expires. The Big Reds once won a game with this as they were allowed to run one final play after the gun had sounded when the PHS coach pointed out that particular rule in the book to the official.

A team would be penalized if they talked during substitutions.

In 1911 after scoring a touchdown the team had to punt the ball out of the end zone and make a fair catch in order to attempt the extra point after the TD.

In the 1920's if there was a penalty of any kind (offside, holding, etc.) during the extra point kick attempt; the kick was automatically counted as good. Howard Rutter and Basilio Marchi were among PHS players who benefited from this rule.

In 1927 the Big Reds were so good that teams often elected to kick off after being scored upon to force PHS to take longer to score. Oddly enough this rule is still in effect today, but hardly ever used. PHS opponents back then would also often punt on first or second down if they were on their side of the 50 yard line, again in an effort to force the Big Reds to have to gain more yards before scoring. It was not unusual for teams in the 1920's to punt 10-12 times per game.

In 1910 Marietta walked off the field because the Tigers were penalized for crawling after the runner hit the ground. Twenty-two years later that rule was still in effect and Morgantown was penalized five yards for crawling against PHS.

As late as 1939 there were different rules for different states. When PHS played Marietta, the Big Reds had to follow Ohio rules while in that state and West Virginia rules when they played at home. In Ohio a pass was allowed to be thrown from anywhere behind the line of scrimmage but in West Virginia the pass had to be thrown from five yards behind the line of scrimmage.

The Coaches and What They Did

In 1900 a group of Parkersburg High School students got together because they wanted to play football. With no support, no coach and only a willingness to play the then brutal, and sometimes fatal, game of football, the students organized their own team, purchased or made their own equipment, practiced on their own after doing chores and arranged games with whoever they could find.

They played independent teams from surrounding towns like Athens and Marietta while trying to persuade groups of student-only teams to play.

The first known coach was Henry Nelly. His 1902 team won five of eight games.

A local football wizard around the turn of the century, Paul Lehman, volunteered to coach the group of high school students in 1903 and 1904. Lehman was well-known for being the leader of the local independent team, the Parkersburg Athletic Club, which traveled around playing various other teams. He even formed his own team later, called the “All Mauds.”

That 1903 team was captained by a 15 year-old freshman named Dick Hoblitzell, who would go on to play baseball with Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox in the world series.

Carfer Comes Along to Play & Coach

In 1904 a student named Boyd Carfer, came onto the scene.

Carfer fell in love with the game of American football at an early age. Before he ever got to high school he was playing on the local independent PAC team. He was the player coach of the 1905 PHS team. In 1906 the team got the blessing and support of Professor C.W. Boetticher, the PHS principal, who declared only students would be allowed on this team. Boetticher also served as the “official” coach although it was Carfer who did all the work.

From 1904-1907 Carfer was the team captain – a four-year feat which undoubtedly will never be repeated as it is unlikely a modern day freshman would never be given such an honor. He graduated as a 21-year-old senior, something which was allowed in those days. Twenty years later he was still considered one of the

greatest to ever play the game at Parkersburg High School. He went on to play end at West Virginia University in 1911 (one of only 12 members on the WVU squad).

In 1907 Harry Bonner was the first paid coach and remained in that position for three years, winning 13 games with two losses and three ties. Bonner left in 1909 and PHS was without a coach but had a team that wanted to play.

“Greasy” Neale Becomes Another Player/Coach

So up stepped a strapping 11th grader named Alfred Earle Neale, who would become probably the most celebrated sports figure to have ever graced the halls of Parkersburg High School. As a young player-coach, Neale compiled a 5-2-1 record.

Earle Neale, who earned the nickname “Greasy” because he was so hard to tackle, has accomplished a trio of feats that most assuredly no one else will ever equal.

During his lifetime he is the only man in history to play in a World Series (for the winning team by the way), to coach a Rose Bowl football team (where he tied) and to coach an NFL championship team (twice).

He was the leading hitter (.357) for the Cincinnati Reds in the Black Sox Scandal World Series of 1919. He then coached Washington & Jefferson to a scoreless tie with California in the Rose Bowl football game. He later won two NFL championships with the Philadelphia Eagles.

He was named to the NFL Hall of Fame in 1969 and was earlier voted into the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

B.B. Cooley 10-0 and Gone

During Neale’s senior season, B.B. Cooley was hired as coach and the team went 10-0 with nine shutouts. By popular acclaim they were named state champions. The next year Cooley was gone.

As a 20-year-old senior (you could attend high school until age 21 in those days), Neale was accused of not even attending PHS. A three-sport standout and three-time captain he was especially known as an outstanding receiver and kicker. As a senior he caught at least eight touchdown passes, kicked five field goals (the

farthest being 35 yards) and 21 extra points. He won one game with a last-second field goal from 25 yards away with the ball being spotted only five yards in from the sidelines.

Another one-year coach at PHS was Mike Martin in 1912. The team with 4-3-1 but two of the losses were to an outstanding Marietta team and the other to an alumni squad made up of several members of the 1911 squad.

Frank Wray was the coach from 1913-1915 and the team won only seven games with 17 losses and one tie. But he, or rather his assistant Ralph Jones, did give Parkersburg High School something which will always be remembered – the school nickname. Jones had come to Parkersburg from Denison College, whose team name was the Big Red. Since PHS had no official name, Jones started calling them the Big Reds and by the third game of the 1915 the name Big Reds appeared in the newspaper for the first time. Also, at one time prior to that the PHS school colors were black and white.

Harry Buland came to PHS from Jacksonville High School (FL) in 1916 and stayed for four years, giving the Big Reds a state title in 1919 before moving back to Florida the following year to become athletic director at St. Petersburg High School.

Gosnell Layman came to Parkersburg from Bellaire (OH), where he coached the Big Reds of that school. He stayed only one year, going 6-3 in 1920, before moving on to coach at Highlands High School in Fort Thomas (KY), which (like PHS) is one of the top 10 winningest high school football programs in the country.

Coach Thomas 2 Years, 2 Titles, and Then Leaves

Harold Thomas came to Parkersburg from Gallipolis (OH) and went undefeated in his first season as coach to lay claim to the 1921 state crown. The next year his team went 9-2, losing to Ohio national powerhouse Toledo Waite and dropping a heart-breaker to Huntington. Despite that loss PHS was given a share of the state title that year, meaning Thomas left with two state titles in two tries and his final game was a 111-0 victory over the so-called state champion of Maryland, Allegheny High School.

Harry Gamage only coached one year at PHS, 1923, with an unimpressive 6-4 record but then he went to Illinois to coach the Illini's freshman team and a back by the name of Red Grange. He then moved on to be the head coach at the University of Kentucky, where one of his assistants was Adolph Rupp, before hitting the road to become the winningest coach in South Dakota University football history. He coached 18 years there before being inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame.

Fred Chenoweth was a Fairmont native who was a four-year letter winner at West Virginia University (1913-1916). He coached at Weston before moving to Parkersburg to serve as assistant to Gamage. He was the PHS head man for one year (1924) and won five games.

Leo Novak only coached at PHS for one year, 1925, and suffered through a 3-6-1 season. But he is known as one of the nation's top coaches – in track and basketball. He was inducted into the Army Sports Hall of Fame for his success in track. His teams there captured nine major indoor and outdoor track and field championships. He was also Army's all-time winnings basketball coach. In 68 seasons at Army over four sports his teams had only three losing records.

Maurice Carlson came to Parkersburg from Iowa and attended one of Knute Rockne's coaching schools at Lehigh University. During his three-year stay at PHS the Big Reds lost just four games and went 10-0 in 1927 as they allowed just 19 points the entire season.

McHenry Returns to Take Reins

The first alumni to return and coach at PHS, Ross McHenry were the only three-time first team all-state football selection for the first 107 years of school history. He went on to an outstanding career at West Virginia University, making captain as a senior, before returning to coach his high school alma mater in 1929. In seven years at PHS his teams won 44 games.

Floyd "Ben" Schwartzwalder was born in Point Pleasant in 1909 and became that team's starting quarterback as a 95 pound freshman. He graduated from Huntington High in 1929 and played football at West Virginia University from 1930-35, making captain as a 152 pound center for coach Greasy Neale.

He began his coaching career at Sistersville and made a stop at Weston before moving to Parkersburg, where he compiled a five-year record of 45-6-2 from 1936-40 (the best winning percentage among any PHS coach with more than two years at the helm).

In 1941 Schwartzwalder was a paratrooper in the Army (the 82nd Airborne Division), jumping behind enemy lines during the D-Day invasion. He earned several medals (including the Purple Heart for being wounded in combat).

He then returned to coaching, going 25-5 at Muhlenberg College (PA) from 1946-48 and then went to Syracuse University in 1949, where he remained until 1973, guiding the Orangemen to the national title in 1959. He had 22 consecutive non-losing seasons and finished with a 153-91-3 overall record which including seven bowl appearances and four Lambert Trophies. He was especially known for the running backs he coached – Jim Brown, Ernie Davis, Floyd Little, Jim Nance and Larry Csonka as well as John Mackey, who was an outstanding running back at Syracuse only to become a Hall of Fame tight end in the NFL.

Pfalzgraf/Scott Share Season

Between 1941 and 1955 two men coached the Big Reds and their tenure was unusual to say the least.

Pfalzgraf graduated from PHS in 1928 and went to West Virginia University. In 1933 he returned to Wood County to begin a teaching, coaching and administrative career that would span decades. He was the supervisor of the PHS physical education department for eight years and was assistant superintendent of schools for 15 years. In 1941 he coached the Big Reds to a 10-0-1 record before entering the military and serving with the U.S. Army Intelligence throughout World War II until his discharge in 1946 as a major. He remained in the Army Reserves until he retired in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel.

While Pfalzgraf was in the service, Scott guided the Big Reds until Pfalzgraf returned in 1946. Scott stepped aside and served as Pfalzgraf's assistant until early in 1948 season. With the Big Reds off to a 1-2 start and having suffered two straight shutout defeats, Pfalzgraf resigned to take the position of physical education supervisor and Scott finished out the season, going 1-6. Scott coached

the Big Reds through 1955 before resigning, primarily over financial issues (he threatened to quit during the middle of the 1955 campaign).

During the war years, Scott guided the Big Reds to a 9-0 season and state sportswriters declared them state champs in 1943. The team was led by Fred Earley and Ora Hanks. In 1945 the team went 9-1. After his return to coaching he guided the Big Reds to an 11-0 season in 1950 as another Earley brother, Jim, would lead the way and be named Parkersburg's first Kennedy Award winner.

Russ Parsons came to Parkersburg High from long-time rival Stonewall Jackson in Charleston and went on to become one of the Big Reds' most respected coaches and the fourth winningest coach in school history. His first two PHS teams went 7-3 with the 1957 squad being led by Kennedy Award winner Jim Bargeloh. In his third year, 1958, the Big Reds went 9-0-1 and defeated East Bank 34-12 to claim the state title. He led PHS back to the finals in 1959 and 1962 but both times lost to Bluefield. His record at PHS was 85-34-4 with 14 first team all-staters.

James Goes From Captain to All-Time Winningest Coach

Captain of the 1955 Big Red football team, Dan James or Buddy as everyone called him, made the all-state team that year and was a state champion wrestler as a senior. He played football and wrestled at Montana State as a freshman (being good enough to be named to the MSU Hall of Fame. He then returned to West Virginia where he played football and wrestled at Marshall.

From 1963-67 he was an assistant coach in football, wrestling and track at PHS, taking over the head reins in 1968 – a post he held through the 1990 season. During that tenure he became the all-time winningest coach in PHS history – by a wide margin. His 178 wins are nearly twice as many as the nearest coach. His 1976 and 1978 teams won state titles in convincing fashion. He coached 44 first team all-staters and four Hunt Award winners. In 1999 he was inducted into the Mid-Ohio Valley Hall of Fame. Between 1973 and 1985 his teams made the playoffs nine times, including a 7-0 championship game loss in 1985 to James' old rival Bud Billiard of Brooke.

As an assistant to Buddy James in 1976, Marshall Burdette was given credit for one of the most famous and successful pieces of coaching brilliance in the history of PHS – and it was not accomplished on the field but in the film room.

While preparing to meet number one seed, undefeated and high-scoring (38 points per game) Martinsburg, the PHS coaching staff was viewing film of Martinsburg's games. Burdette, who had been known to spend hours (and even all night) watching films to break down the other team, noticed that the Martinsburg fullback always pointed his feet in the direction the play was going to be run. With linemen like Rick and Dave Phillips, George Elliott and Dennis Rexroad able to read and carry out Burdette's instructions, the Big Reds not only shut out the Bulldogs but totally frustrated the Fulton Walker-led Martinsburg team. Walker, incidentally, went on to play in the NFL. In 1990 when Buddy James retired after 23 years, Burdette, a native of Huntington and Marshall University, became the new Big Red head coach.

Burdette would struggle for his first three years, failing to make the playoffs. But in year four, 1994, PHS went 7-3 and qualified as the ninth ranked team only to lose 20-19 to St. Albans. That was the beginning of a seven-year run to the playoffs with PHS playing for the state title four times and winning twice.

In 1998 the defensive-minded Big Reds went through the entire regular season without having its first team defense allow a point. There were nine shutouts, tying an 87-year-old record. The only points allowed came after PHS built a record-setting 56-0 halftime lead against Ballou and reserves played the second half, giving up 18 points on three big plays.

During the 1998 playoffs the first team defense gave up a quick touchdown to Hurricane, falling behind 7-0, but the offense proceeded to score 58 consecutive points to advance to the second round. The team as a whole struggled to beat Buckhannon 31-15 to set the stage for a game which might have drawn the largest crowd ever to witness a high school football game. Nitro and its national record-setting quarterback J.R. House came to Stadium Field and the standing room only crowd was estimated at around 14,000 people. They watched House rally his team in the second half for a 24-15 victory. House went on to throw 10 touchdowns the

following week in the state championship victory over Morgantown while PHS sat home with its 40 point per game offense and incredible defense.

The following year came the first 14-win team in the history of the school – but not without some drama provided by sophomore Marc Kimes, senior Nathan Fields and a host of outstanding players. In the 1999 playoff semifinals against a Huntington team it had beaten 30-0 during the regular season, PHS found itself behind 18-0 with only four minutes left to play. “Faithful” Big Red fans proceeded to exit, not knowing they were going to miss the greatest comeback in the history of PHS football and maybe the history of high school football (at least in this state). PHS won 21-18 on Fields’ acrobatic catch in the end zone with seconds remaining after he and Kimes talked coach Burdette into trying for the TD instead of a tying field goal. In the state finals against another team they had beaten during the regular season, Riverside, Kimes led PHS to a come-from-behind 31-28 victory with Fields nearly pulling and exact replay for the winning touchdown.

Farnsworth Fills In For Title

Craig Farnsworth was a former PHS quarterback-kicker and a member of Marshall Burdette’s staff who was thrust into limelight when Burdette resigned three days after 2001 season-opening 44-7 romp over Huntington. The team won its next two games but then lost two of next four to stand 5-2 with three games left to play. But senior Marc Kimes brought team to the championship game for the third year in a row. After disposing of Hampshire, University and Riverside, the Big Reds met powerful Martinsburg in the finals. Brandon Barrett caught an early, long TD pass but PHS went on to post a 28-17 victory.

Farnsworth accepted a position at Musselman High School the following year and PHS brought in Bernie Buttrey. Buttrey, who had taken Williamstown to the Class A semifinals in 2001, found himself on the triple-A level against the usual tough schedule - and without Marc Kimes. The team won its first three games but then lost six of its last seven to miss the playoffs for the first time since 1993.

The Big Reds got back to the playoffs in 2003 with a 6-4 record but lost in the first round. In 2004 with Chance Litton setting a single-season passing record, PHS made it to the semifinals before losing at Martinsburg 31-28. In 2005 the team lost in the second round to Nitro.

Then came 2006-2007 and the first back-to-back state championships in the history of the school. Buttrey directed his team to a 14-0 mark in 2006 as Matt Lindamood and Charlie Taylor each rushed for over 1,000 yards and no regular season opponent scored more than one touchdown. In the playoffs they disposed of Cabell Midland, St. Albans, Morgantown and Martinsburg to claim the title. In 2007 with Lindamood, Lou Thomas and Josh Jenkins all returning (and all would eventually wind up at West Virginia University), another championship was predicted and produced – although a second straight undefeated season failed to materialize thanks to a 19-14 loss to George Washington in Charleston. In the playoffs it was convincing victories over John Marshall, Bridgeport and University before a tough 22-15 win over MSAC rival St. Albans in the finals.

After missing the playoffs in 2008, PHS returned to the post-season in 2009 with junior Allan Wasonga rushing for over 2,000 yards. But a first round loss to Bridgeport ended the season and Buttrey's career at PHS.

Early in 2010, Don Reeves, a former quarterback and all-stater at PHS who went on to play quarterback at Morehead State University, was named as the 22nd official head coach of the Big Reds. He took the team to the playoffs his first two years but through four seasons has only a 21-21 overall record. His 2013 team suffered a one-point defeat and a two-point defeat, both on the road, which kept the Big Reds out of the playoffs.

Championship Football Teams

Football has been around in the state of West Virginia for over 100 years and almost since the beginning teams have laid claim to being “State Champions.”

But no school can claim more titles than Parkersburg High School.

Prior to 1916 each city would lay claim to the title if it had a successful team. Usually whichever team came out best in the meetings between Parkersburg, Charleston, Huntington and Wheeling was the team which laid claim to the title. If the teams split there was usually a lot of arguing.

In 1916 the largest newspapers in the state began publishing their lists of who should be declared the state champion – one class, one champion. For 20 years there would be varying opinions and thus multiple champions on occasion. In 1922 there was no less than seven schools acclaimed state champion.

Finally, in 1937, after years of schools “claiming” to be state champion, the West Virginia Sports Writers Association began voting on who the state champion in football would be each year. There was one class, one champion. The first champion was tiny Hinton High School.

In 1947 a state playoff system was initiated with the two top rated teams playing each other for the state title. The state was divided into two classes at that time. In 1955 the state moved to its present system of three classes.

Since Parkersburg High School students began playing football at the beginning of the 20th century they have won 16 state championships and 778 games. That championship total does not include the 1911 team which was considered by virtually everyone to be state champions. But it does total more than any other team in the history of the state and more wins than all but five teams in the nation.

1911 First Championship Team?

In 1911, the last year touchdowns counted for five points instead of six, Parkersburg would lay claim to being state champion and there was no argument. The not yet nicknamed Big Reds of first year coach B.B. Cooley went 10-0 and defeated Wheeling (12-8) and Charleston (9-0) along the way.

Led by Earl “Greasy” Neale, who had been the player-coach the year before, the Big Reds shut out their first six opponents and blanked nine foes for the year to set a record which has not yet been bettered. In addition to being an outstanding receiver (when there were few passes and the ball was more round than pointed), Neale was one of the greatest drop-kickers in history. His 25 yard field goal beat the Alumni team to start the season

Neale and quarterback Glen Allen, who went on to letter at West Virginia University, combined for what is believed to have been eight touchdown passes during the season.

After beating the alumni, PHS downed New Martinsville 11-0 despite the Magnolia team trying the hidden ball under the jersey trick (which didn’t work). In a 24-0 win over the Company A National Guard team, Charles Penwell scored on two blocked kick runbacks.

Then came wins over Athens (17-0), Marietta twice (5-0 and 6-0), Wheeling (12-8), Charleston (9-0) and Athens again (6-0). Prior to playing Clarksburg Washington Irving in the season finale, it was rumored in the Clarksburg paper that Neale was not a student. Student, or not, Neale scored two touchdowns, kicked a field goal and four extra points as PHS beat WI 45-0 to finish 10-0.

1918 And The Flu Epidemic

After going 8-2 in 1917 and returning outstanding players like quarterback Widdy Neale (Greasy’s brother), tackle Ken Ferrell, end Tom Dando and halfback Jack Armstrong, the Big Reds were expected big things in 1918.

What they did not expect was a flu epidemic of catastrophic proportions.

From what was to have been the season opener against Sistersville through what was to have been a state championship showdown with Buckhannon, PHS had seven games cancelled because of quarantine conditions in most towns and cities due to the Spanish Flu. The only three games played were between Nov. 16 and Nov. 28 as they beat Cambridge 21-7 and Huntington 6-0 while losing to Marietta 14-13. However, the win over Huntington, achieved on Armstrong’s lone touchdown run, was enough to give the Big Reds a share of the state title with Buckhannon.

Neale and Ferrell were named to the all-state team.

1919 End of War and Another Title

Although they had only 15 players, the 1918 Big Reds were an outstanding team with all-staters Armstrong, Ferrell and end Joe Lidderdale. They rolled over the first four teams on their schedule, Clarksburg WI (47-0), Triadelphia (60-0), Fairmont West (52-0) and Portsmouth (31-0) before traveling to Huntington for a showdown with a strong Pony Express team. Armstrong and Arian Kelly scored touchdowns to lead PHS to a 13-6 triumph.

After a 20-6 win over Linsly Military, PHS hosted Morgantown in a game billed as the state championship on Thanksgiving Day. Pete Barnum ran for two touchdowns while the defense scored twice on a 75 yard interception return by William Davis and a 40 yard fumble return by Lidderdale in a 26-7 victory.

A week later the Big Reds played host to the “Championship of the East” against Allegheny High of Pittsburgh and lost a 12-0 decision in a sea of mud.

1921 All-State Domination

There was only one class all-state team selected prior to 1947 with 11 players on the first team, 11 on the second and 11 on the third. The team was chosen by Harry Stansbury, the athletic director of West Virginia University, based on voting done by coaches, officials and sports writers. In the entire history of this pre-class all-state selection process no team had dominated like the 1921 PHS team which had four first team selections, including the captain in quarterback Wayne Funk, and four second team selections – meaning eight of the top 22 players in the entire state were called Big Reds.

In sweeping to an undefeated (9-0), number one ranking the 1921 PHS team gave up just three touchdowns under coach Harold Thomas. In their battle with the Big Three, the Big Reds prevailed 6-3 over Wheeling, 47-7 over Charleston and 27-6 over Huntington. In addition to Funk, who called the signals, Roland Hobensack made first team West Virginia all-state as a halfback although he lived in Belpre, Ohio, and had to get permission from state officials to attend PHS and play football because Belpre had no football team. Hobensack scored 10 touchdowns. Halfbacks Robert “Pete” Barnum and Julian Murrin were second-team all-state selections,

scoring seven and 12 touchdowns respectively. Therefore, all four PHS backfield performers were either first or second team all-state when there were only 11 players chosen to each of the first two teams. Tackle Ross McHenry and end Clarence Murrin were other first-team picks while George “Chunk” Murrin and Ed Trainer were second-team picks at center and guard, meaning four of the PHS seven linemen were so honored. Also on that 1921 team and scoring seven touchdowns was a junior named Gilbert “Gibby” Welch.

A Shared Title and a 111-0 Win In 1922

No less than seven teams shared the title of state champ in 1922, mainly because there was no undefeated team and the top teams beat each other. The Big Reds posted five straight shutout victories to open the season and then beat Charleston 14-3 before losing to Huntington 13-7 to throw the state title picture into a quandary. On Nov. 11 the Big Reds suffered one of the worst defeats in school history when Ohio powerhouse Toledo Waite won 55-7. The Big Reds righted themselves to knock off Wheeling 9-0, beat Marietta for a second time and then faced Allegheny (Md.) in what was supposed to be a showdown of Eastern high school powers.

Allegheny came into the game with a 7-1 record but at halftime found itself on the short end of a 54-0 score. The second half was even worse as the Big Reds scored 57 more points for a 111-0 finale score. Statistics were more or less unheard of in that day but sports writers estimated PHS total yards to be “about 900.” Welch scored six touchdowns in that game while Julian Murrin added four (including a 90 yard punt return) and McHenry kicked 13 of 16 extra points.

Despite scoring 15 touchdowns Welch was only named captain of the second all-state team. McHenry made all-state for the third time, something which would not be equaled by a PHS player for another 85 years, while Chunky Murrin moved up to first team center.

Despite never making first team all-state in West Virginia, Welch would go on to make first team All-American at Pitt, break Red Grange’s yardage record and hold Panther records which were not bettered until Tony Dorsett came along. At Pitt Welch was called the greatest open field runner in the history of football.

One Title (1927), Three Great Teams

In 1926 along came the quintet of juniors Barney Graham and John McCuskey and sophomores Howard Rutter, Harry Stephens and Big Basilio Marchi. Three years later that group would be gone and take with them 27 wins, four losses and one tie as well as a state title in 1927 and an amazing total of 92 touchdowns.

The 1926 team lost to two teams that shared the state title that year, Magnolia of New Martinsville (12-0) and Clarksburg WI (20-12) and also suffered a 9-0 loss to Huntington. Although going 8-3 with wins over Charleston and Wheeling, PHS had no first team all-staters, Rutter making second team with eight touchdowns scored despite getting up every day at 3 a.m. to work in the mailroom of the Parkersburg News before going to school.

In 1927 the Big Reds went 10-0 to claim the state title. The only close game was a 13-12 win over Huntington. In that game the Big Reds let the second half kickoff roll untouched into the end zone and Bill McCoy of the Pony Express recovered for a touchdown which put his team up 12-7. McCuskey and tackle Jack Gilchrist were named first team all-state while Rutter, despite 16 touchdowns including three punt return TDs (two in one game), was named to the second team again. McCuskey, Graham, Rutter and Stephens often played in the backfield at the same time and were known as the “Galloping Ghosts” because of their speed and elusiveness.

Other than the two touchdowns scored by Huntington, the only points allowed that year was a touchdown to Clarksburg WI. Marchi, a huge man at over 200 pounds in the days of 150 pound tackles, anchored the defense and would eventually go on to be an outstanding center in college at New York University.

With Rutter, Marchi and state 100 yard dash champion Stephens returning in 1928 another state title was expected but a 6-0 loss to Huntington and a scoreless tie with Wheeling ruined the aspirations. Huntington was acclaimed state champion with a 10-0-2 record. Guard Joe Miller was the only Big Red named to the all-state first team, Marchi making second team, despite Rutter and Stephens combining for 22 touchdowns and Marchi himself scoring six when used as a battering ram fullback.

Piggy Brings State Title In '38

The state sportswriters began officially naming the state champion in 1937 although there was still just one classification. It took just two years for the Big Reds to ride "Piggyback" to the state title in 1938.

Floyd "Ben" Schwartzwalder came to PHS from tiny Sistersville in 1936 and his first two Big Red teams went 13-5-2. But in 1938 the Big Reds were loaded for bear with its entire talented backfield returning and a 20-year-old, 6-foot-1, 208 pound four-year starting lineman who was fast enough to run the 440 in track and tough enough to be chosen to fight Clint Eastwood to a virtual standstill in the movies some 30 years later. Walter "Piggy" Barnes not only anchored the PHS line but scored two touchdowns and kicked 19 extra points. He was named all-state for the 10-0 Big Reds, whose only close game was a 19-14 victory over Washington Irving from Clarksburg. The Big Red backfield was led by first team all-stater Bill Earley (11 touchdowns and 979 yards rushing). Also back there was Bill Bell (14 touchdowns and 794 yards rushing as well as 807 yards passing), Dick Curry (10 touchdowns) and Paul Meredith (4 touchdowns and 5 extra points). Playing before 45,000 fans at home the Big Reds played their first ever night game at Beckley on Sept. 23 and four times that season ran for over 400 yards in a game.

The Earley Era Continues and Brings 1940 Crown

Although losing a game in 1939 (20-0 to state champion Charleston), Schwartzwalder brought the Big Reds another undefeated state title in 1940 as Bill Earley's little brother "Fast" Freddie came onto the scene.

Only four teams scored on PHS that year with the only close game being a 14-6 triumph over Clarksburg WI. They opened the season with the first game ever played under the lights at Stadium Field (A 59-0 win over Grantsville). While Ray Golden anchored the defense to eight shutouts, Ora Hanks was such an outstanding leader that he was named captain of the all-state team. All Earley did as a sophomore was score 16 touchdowns, rush for 1,564 yards on just 191 carries, pass for 810 yards (completing 52 of 85 passes) and throw 11 touchdowns passes. After sweeping through 12 straight opponents, PHS wanted to play an out-of-state team to show just how good they were but the State Board of Appeals denied the request.

Schwartzwalder left PHS after that season, turning the reins over to Russ Pfalzgraf, who took the 1941 team to a 10-0-1 record but a scoreless tie with Charleston enabled undefeated Mullens to sneak in and win the 1941 state title. That tie with Charleston also ended a 23-game winning streak (still the longest in the history of the school).

Judy in the Sky with State Title In 1943

With Earley back for his senior year along with Jack Morton and all-state guard Richard Pence, the Big Reds were primed for 1942 even though they lost their coach to the military. With Jimmy Scott at the helm, the Big Reds won their first eight games in convincing fashion only to have an injury thwart their hopes. Coming back from an injury which had kept him out of three games, Earley was in the lineup against powerful Wheeling but hurt his knee again on his first carry of the game, did not play anymore and the Big Reds lost 25-19. With their star halfback out the following week they lost their second straight road game, 13-0 to Weirton, and wound up runner-up to Weirton in the final voting for the state title.

Although not predicted to be among the state contenders in 1943, the Big Reds used the line play of 204 pound undefeated wrestler Julius “Judy” Mason and first-team all-stater Francis Berger to go undefeated in nine games and allowed only two teams (Huntington and Wheeling) to score against them. Blocking back Harold McKibben was all-state while speedy Johnny Morris scored 14 touchdowns. Morris scored six touchdowns, passed for another and kicked an extra point in a 78-0 season-ending win at Marietta. Morris ran for 271 yards on 14 carries in that game, scoring on plays covering 4, 19, 42, 45, 54 and 59 yards.

Another Earley, Another Title (1950)

A rating system was implemented in 1947 to determine which teams would qualify for a state championship game. That was also the first year the state was divided into two classes to give the smaller schools an even chance to play for a state title.

It took three years for Scott to lead the Big Reds into the championship contest. Jim Earley, the third brother to earn all-state honors at PHS, scored 12 touchdowns to lead PHS to 10 straight regular season wins, including a 14-13 barn-burner at Weirton.

On Tuesday, before the championship game Scott announced his resignation – reportedly over financial disputes. He later withdrew his resignation.

In the championship game at Fairfield Stadium in Huntington, Bill Crouser put on a show to lead the Big Reds to a 40-0 triumph over previously undefeated Oak Hill. The all-state end scored three touchdowns, one on a 46 yard pass from Earley, one on an end-around run of 14 yards and the other on 83 yard scamper on a fake punt. He also averaged 43.4 yards per punt.

Shinnston, which was also undefeated, protested that Oak Hill was allowed to play in the title game because it had used an over-age player. The protest was denied.

1958 Title Was Art(istic) Masterpiece

Russ Parsons took over as head coach at PHS in 1956 and in three years put together an undefeated (although tied by Charleston) squad. In the 13-13 standoff with Charleston, PHS had two touchdowns called back but it didn't matter as they still qualified to play in the title tilt against East Bank. The Big Reds of 1958 were truly a team as an amazing 21 players scored points, four of them collecting 50 or more. Jim Gaskins (50), Larry Tracewell (56), Dave Boston (56) and Art Daniels (67) were the biggest point makers. In the championship game Daniels ran for 163 yards and two touchdowns on just 17 carries to lead PHS to a 34-12 romp.

In 1959 with lots of new faces, Parsons had his team back in the championship game again despite a regular season final game 14-7 loss to Weir. In the title game the Big Reds lost quarterback Mike Dyer to an injury and had to move 1,000 yard rusher Mike Hayden to that spot and although he ran for 48 yards and a touchdown while passing for 71 more yards it was not enough as Bluefield prevailed 19-13. The Big Red team that year drew 50,496 fans.

Drought Ends in 1976

Although PHS would come close it would be 18 years before another title team surfaced.

In 1962 the team went 9-0-1 with another tie with Charleston keeping them from being undefeated. But in the championship game, Bluefield again beat the Big Reds, this time by a convincing 40-12 score. Gary Virden, who caught two

touchdown passes in the title game to account for all the Big Red scoring, was named to the all-state team.

With Larry “Flash” Rhodes, Bill Kupfner and Tom Black leading the way in 1964 the Big Reds went 8-2 but losses to Beckley (28-14) and Huntington 8-7-6) when Rhodes was injured cost them a playoff spot (they were ranked sixth).

The playoffs expanded to four teams in 1972 but PHS under now head coach Buddy James finished just out of the money at number six with an 8-2 record despite outstanding defensive play by Clyde Way, Rich Winans and Bob Miracle. The Big Reds made the playoffs in 1973 but lost in the semifinals to East Bank 21-6 despite outstanding play by all-staters Fred Pence and Dave Winans. The following year Rich Duggan and Dave Winans led them to the finals where they suffered a 16-0 loss to Stonewall Jackson. Both PHS losses that year were to Stonewall. Duggan, who would make the switch to starting tight end at West Virginia University, scored 10 touchdowns and passed for 11 more as a senior at PHS.

In 1975 the Big Reds just missed the playoffs again after losing back-to-back games to Charleston (6-0) and Stonewall (20-6). They did, however, beat playoff-bound Parkersburg South 14-6 in the regular season finale when Luke Spencer went from being a defensive all-stater to a running star with 129 yards and a touchdown.

Dave Phillips, eventually bound for Ohio State, returned for his senior year in 1976 after making all-state the year before. Younger brother Larry and George Elliott joined him to form an awesome Big Red front. Diminutive but elusive Dave Manzo took over at quarterback and sophomore John Richards became the starting tailback. The Big Reds threw four straight shutouts to start the 1976 season before running into their stumbling blocks Marietta and Brooke. After those two defeats, the James Gang reeled off convincing wins over Parkersburg South and Wheeling Park before beginning another shutout streak with 30-0 and 38-0 victories over Stonewall and Logan. But those two losses had left the Big Reds in a precarious position with only the top four rated teams advancing to the “second season.” PHS did not make the playoffs until the final night of the regular season when Beckley was upset 12-0 by Oak Hill in a game that had been postponed from Friday.

But once in the playoffs in '76 the Big Reds put together what is generally considered to be the most impressive playoff run in history. Facing number one ranked, undefeated and the second-highest team in the state (31.9 points per game) PHS proceeded to dominate a Martinsburg team led by future NFL standout Fulton Walker by a 38-0 count on their own field. The Big Red defense held the Bulldogs to just four first downs, 56 yards rushing and 36 yards passing as Elliott led the way with nine tackles. The defensive effort was made easier by the fact that the PHS coaching staff had picked up a flaw in the Martinsburg attack which revealed that the fullback would point his feet in the direction the play was going to be run each time.

The following weekend the Big Reds needed no such help as they destroyed an undefeated DuPont team 30-0 that had led the state in scoring with a 32 point per game average. Just as they had done the week before the Big Reds gave up under 100 yards in total offense (6 first downs, 47 yards rushing and 44 yards passing). Meanwhile, Manzo had scored two touchdowns in each playoff game to run his season point total to 172. Richards, who ran for over 1,000 yards on the year, had picked up 116 against Martinsburg and Dennis Rexroad, an all-state defensive end, became the running star against DuPont when he was moved to the backfield and instead of blocking for Richards, carried the ball 20 times for 119 yards and a touchdown against DuPont.

With Larry Phillips, John Maddox, Mike Leep and juniors Richards, Todd Curkendall, Don Reeves and Frank Pirillo returning, the Big Reds expected to be good again in 1977 and went 9-1 (again losing to Brooke). But in the first round of the still four-team playoffs they lost a 7-3 heart-breaker to Beckley Woodrow Wilson when coaches' son Phil Culicerto threw a 12 yard touchdown pass to Rob Anderson with 25 seconds remaining.

Expanded Playoffs Gives PHS More Chances, Another Title in 1978

The same scenario at their last title season took place in 1978 as the Big Reds went 8-2 with losses to Marietta and Brooke but this time the top eight teams advanced to the playoffs so PHS made it with easy, right? Wrong,

The 1978 Big Reds were the eighth ranked team, just ahead of Elkins in the final ratings, and drew top seed and unbeaten Fairmont West in the first round, meaning a trip to muddy East-West Stadium.

However, just like 1976, the Big Reds had 1,000 yard rusher Richards in the backfield. There was also veteran quarterback Don Reeves as well as talented Todd Curkendall at end and in the defensive secondary. In a 21-0 win over Fairmont West, Richards ran for 172 yards and two touchdowns on 33 carries, causing Coach James to comment, “John isn’t bothered by the mud because he just glides along when he runs.”

Then a trip to Bridgeport and another shutout, 22-0, as Richards ran 31 times for 151 yards and two more touchdowns. Facing DuPont in the finals, the Big Reds went up against a team which was averaging 30 points and 400 yards per game and had been impressive in disposing of Huntington East 36-23 and Stonewall Jackson (12-7 winner over PHS nemesis Brooke) 25-6 in its two playoff games.

But Richards ran for 129 yards on 31 carries (giving him an amazing 95 carries and 452 yards in 3 playoff games) and Frank Pirillo scored the game’s only touchdown on a three yard run to give the Big Reds a 6-0 triumph.

Richards ended his career with 3,950 yards and three straight 1,000 yard seasons while Curkendall capped his senior campaign with 10 touchdown receptions and 10 interceptions of his team’s state record total of 30 pickoffs. Curkendall’s final interception came in the end zone to stop DuPont’s last-ditch scoring effort in the fourth quarter of the championship game.

The Dry Spell

Following the 1978 title, the Big Reds went through two streaks – both not to their liking.

From 1979 through 1982 PHS made the playoffs four straight years, losing just five regular season games. But in the playoffs they lost each time to the eventual state champion. In 1979 after gaining a huge measure of revenge with a 28-0 victory over Brooke in the first round there came a 7-6 loss to Bridgeport. Chris Cates, Rob Lockhart and Curt Miller paced a defense that year which allowed just five touchdowns in 12 games.

In 1980 the only regular season blemish was a 14-12 loss to Brooke. In the playoffs the fifth seeded Big Reds posted a 14-12 win over George Washington in the first round as Jeff Eddy threw two touchdowns to little used tight end Dave Stukey. That was followed by a 21-3 loss to North Marion.

Scott Schenerlein was headed for a phenomenal season in 1981 with 14 touchdowns and 688 yards rushing in the first five games but a hairline fracture in his right leg put him out of action for three and a half games, including a 14-0 loss to Brooke. PHS went on to win nine games and Schenerlein was back for the playoffs but the first round saw them fall to a North Marion team on its way to back-to-back state titles.

Replacing Schenerlein for the next two years and putting together two straight 1,000 yard seasons was Mike McCoy as he led the Big Reds to back-to-back 9-1 seasons. In 1982 the only regular season loss was 14-6 to Brooke in the final game. In the playoffs there was a 12-7 win over Buckhannon as Jeff Clinton threw two touchdown passes to Danny Eddy but that was followed by a 13-6 loss to eventual champion George Washington as, again, the only points came on a TD pass from Clinton to Eddy.

Although McCoy, Clinton and Eddy were still around in 1983 there were some changes, the annual loss to Brooke was replaced by a 14-7 loss to Beckley and the Big Reds managed to beat Brooke 10-7 on Eddy's 20 yard field goal. In the first round of the playoffs and old rival awaited in Charleston and the second-ranked Big Reds were upset 10-0 by the Mt. Lions.

After missing the playoffs in 1984 with five losses, the Big Reds returned to the "real season" in 1985 behind the play of linebacker Eric Gates, tackle Joe Mazzella, quarterback Todd Burner and running back Bill Gherke. The team won its last five games after suffering a 28-14 loss to George Washington and Gherke scored eight touchdowns during that span. Other than the loss to GW the Big Reds allowed just 20 points in the other nine games and that defense led them to a 10-7 triumph over John Marshall and a 28-13 revenge win over GW. Burner had two TD runs in the second meeting with GW and Mike Elam had two big interceptions. In the finals, the PHS offense was held to 61 total yards and Burner was sacked seven times while throwing two interceptions in a 7-0 loss to old rival Brooke.

Then came a real dry spell as the Big Reds went 27-23 over the next five seasons and James decided to call it quits in 1990.

Replaced by long-time assistant Marshall Burdette, the playoff drought continued as PHS went 15-15 in the next three years. Finally, in 1994, the Big Reds earned a spot in the now expanded to 16-team playoffs with a 7-3 record and a number nine seed. Although Jason Weigle ran for two touchdowns and Kawika Williams had a 98 yard kickoff return (his second of the season), PHS lost to St. Albans 20-19. But the drought was over.

That was the first of eight straight years in the playoffs for PHS.

Earning the number one seed in 1995 despite an 8-7 loss to cross-town rival Parkersburg South, the Big Reds advanced to the semifinals before falling to Hedgesville 18-0. In a 47-0 first-round thrashing of North Marion, Kirk Oliver scored five touchdowns and ran for 245 yards. That was followed by a 28-7 win over Wheeling Park before Hedgesville shut down Oliver (holding him to 55 yards after he entered the game with nearly 1,300 yards and 19 touchdowns).

In 1996 Matt Kimes ran for over 1,000 yards but his team lost to Wheeling Park 20-10 in the first round.

The following year with a junior-laden team the Big Reds went 8-2 during the regular season, losing 13-7 to St. Albans and 13-12 to Cabell Midland but still made the playoffs as a number five seed. After beating Capital 19-10 and Greenbrier East 29-0, PHS pounded Hedgesville 42-14 as three runners went over 100 yards rushing during the game. Mike Lerch had 141 yards on nine carries, Chris Smith 123 on 12 and Scott Davis 104 on 18 attempts (and three touchdowns). That marked the second time in school history that three runners had broken the century mark. But in that game (which saw PHS amass 478 yards rushing and 96 passing for a 574 total), Nick Swisher was injured and the talented junior would miss the championship game the following week with a broken collarbone. On an icy field in Wheeling, North Marion used field position to post a 16-6 triumph. Four times in the title game, PHS found itself starting on offense from inside its own 10 yard line.

With players like Swisher, Davis, Lerch, and quarterback Eric Grimm returning for the 1998 season big things were expected as the team became nationally ranked, going through the entire regular season without the first team defense giving up a point. The nine shutouts tied a record set in 1911 and the offense was just as impressive with a 40.9 scoring average going into the playoffs.

In the first round of the playoffs, Hurricane stunned that first team defense by scoring first in the game. But the final score was 58-7 in favor of the Big Reds That was followed by a 31-15 win over Buckhannon and finally a showdown with Nitro for a berth in the championship game. It was the irresistible force in Nitro's J.R. House-led pass crazy offense against the immovable object of the Big Red defense. The Big Reds picked off House three times, Grimm running one back 89 yards for a touchdown but Swisher was hurt in the third quarter and Nitro's defense proved tougher than anticipated with House playing a big role before a standing-room only crowd of over 12,000 fans. The final was 24-15 in favor of Nitro, who would go on to unleash House for 10 touchdown passes the following week in a 69-52 win over Morgantown as the Wildcats were accused of allowing Morgantown to score just so House could get back on the offensive end of the field again.

The Kimes Era

With Babe Davis back for a third year as a starter as well as tight end-linebacker Al Hammell, who moved to tailback, not to mention receivers Isaac Weaver, Cam Slaughter and Nathan Fields, the 1999 PHS offense figured to be highly productive.

The only thing missing was a quarterback. In stepped red-haired sophomore Marc Kimes, younger brother of former all-stater Matt Kimes.

With Kimes at the controls, the Big Reds saw to it that memories of the last two years were wiped out as they went undefeated but did need some heroics to beat John Marshall 29-22 and Cabell Midland 21-14.

PHS opened the playoffs with a 56-7 romp over Hurricane but in the second round, playing at home against a Huntington team it had beaten 30-0 to open the season, the Big Reds were in trouble, trailing 18-0 with just 8:02 remaining in the game. In

the most incredible comeback in playoff history and possibly West Virginia high school football history, Kimes led the team to a 21-18 victory with the winning touchdown coming with just 3.2 seconds left on a pass to the goal line to Nathan Fields, who stretched over for the game-winning. The first two touchdowns and a two-point conversion pass had gone to Weaver with Matt McCullough hitting one of two extra points (his first miss in 29 straight tries).

That was followed by the Hammell show in the semifinals as the former tight end ran for five touchdowns and 163 yards in a 54-14 romp over Musselman. Hammell had spent his entire summer working out to improve his speed and agility so that he could fill the tailback spot. He would finish his senior season with 1,524 yards rushing and 22 touchdowns.

In the championship against a Riverside team it had beaten 29-6 during the regular season, PHS jumped out to a comfortable halftime lead only to fall behind 28-24 with just 4:15 remaining in the game. Kimes calmly led his team down the field and found a leaping Fields in the end zone between two defenders for the winning touchdown from 10 yards out with 1:19 left to play. The 22 year championship drought was over.

What would the following two years bring with Kimes at quarterback?

The start of the 21st century was cause for concern for Big Red fans because virtually all they had returning from the state championship team of 1999 was Kimes. But a talented athlete from Ravenswood decided to attend PHS for his senior year and the concerns turned into a near championship.

Transferring from nearby Ravenswood, Josh Romeo became a scoring machine like there had never been at PHS, piling up 39 touchdowns and 236 points to lead the Big Reds to the championship game against Morgantown.

A 34-12 loss to Riverside in a game which saw PHS turn the ball over five times kept the team from a perfect regular season and ended the second-longest winning streak in PHS history at 21 games. Kimes threw for 15 touchdowns and kicked a school record 59 of 66 extra points (including 27 in a row). In the title game, Romeo, who had rushed for 1,600 yards, was held to 26 yards and Kimes threw four interceptions despite passing for two touchdowns and 251 yards.

Not to Be Denied In 2001 Despite Turmoil

Coming back for his senior year Kimes was determined to do whatever it took to see that his team won its second state title.

After opening the season with a 44-7 romp over Huntington, head coach Marshall Burdette resigned amid accusations of improper conduct and assistant Craig Farnsworth was named as head man.

The team didn't miss a beat although it did lose two close regular season games, 12-10 to Cabell Midland and 17-12 to Riverside. But they finished strong with a 50-6 swatting of St. Albans and a 34-15 triumph over George Washington.

In the playoffs Kimes was sensational, throwing 10 touchdown passes and 659 yards while scoring six touchdowns, kicking a 44 yard field goal, 17 of 17 extra points and rushing for 425 yards. As the team beat Hampshire (56-12), University (28-14), Riverside (31-24) and Martinsburg (28-17), Kimes had a hand in 116 of his team's 143 points and amassed 1,084 yards in total offense.

Buttrey Era Begins With Slow Start

After building county neighbor Williamstown into a Class A football power, Bernie Buttrey was named the new PHS head coach in 2002. But Buttrey found triple-A football to be much tougher. His first team missed the playoffs and had a losing record despite Ryan Holbert setting a single-game rushing record with 299 yards and four touchdowns against John Marshall. Holbert and the Big Reds started like a house on fire, winning the first three games as he rushed for 664 yards. But five straight losses ended post-season hopes.

The Big Reds made it to the second round of the playoffs in 2003 as Holbert and kicker Conner Loudon led the way but lost 13-9 to Cabell Midland.

Loudon returned for 2004 and became one of the state's top receivers as well as kickers and teamed with quarterback Chance Litton to fill the air with footballs and take the Big Reds all the way to the semifinals before losing 31-28 on a freezing night at Martinsburg to a Nate Sowers-led Bulldog team. Litton set records for touchdown passes (27) and yards (2,075) while Joey Lindamood and Loudon scored 122 and 121 points respectively to make them the best one-two punch in the

history of PHS. While Lindamood scored 20 touchdowns, Loudon caught nine scores, kicked six field goals and 49 extra points. Litton ran for nine touchdowns.

Despite three regular season losses in 2005, Lindamood and Tony Morrison led the Big Reds to the second round of the playoffs where they lost to Nitro 38-13.

Back-To-Back Run Begins

With all-state tackle Josh Jenkins returning along with Charlie Taylor, Matt Lindamood and Andy Thomas, things looked bright for the 2006 Big Reds in 2006.

With Thomas directing an offense which featured Taylor and Lindamood running the ball the Big Reds went through the regular season without a close game. In the playoffs they marched past Cabell Midland (17-13), St. Albans (21-0), Morgantown (42-14) and Martinsburg (34-6) to claim the state title.

The backfield trio of Thomas, Taylor and Lindamood put up some incredible statistics – especially for a bunch of juniors.

Lindamood scored 27 touchdowns and ran for 1,551 yards.

Taylor scored 11 touchdowns and ran for 1,150 yards.

Thomas scored 11 touchdowns, ran for 618 yards and passing for nine touchdowns and 570 more yards.

With Lindamood, Thomas, Jenkins and kicker Tyler Warner (who had kicked nine field goals, including a school record 50 yarder in the championship game, and 41 of 47 extra points) all returning expectations were running high for 2007 and the hope that PHS would finally win back-to-back titles.

The winning streak went to 21 games (tying the record for second best in PHS history) before ending with a 19-14 loss at Laidley Field against George Washington. Trailing by five points but driving for the winning touchdown late in the game, Thomas threw an interception and the clock ran out on the win streak but not the hopes for a state record 16th championship.

In the playoffs the Big Reds battered John Marshall 35-0, Bridgeport 45-13 and University 31-21 to set the stage for a meeting with MSAC rival St. Albans. Thomas took to the air against the Red Dragons, throwing touchdown passes to

Stephen Roush and Wes Ankrom and Lindamood added his 38th touchdown of the year to produce a 22-15 triumph and the first back-to-back titles in the 108-year history of the school.

Lindamood finished with a staggering 2,473 yards rushing and 193 yards receiving to go with his 232 points and Jenkins became only the second PHS player in history to earn first team all-state honors as well as taking the Hunt Award for a second time as the state's top lineman. Jenkins, Lindamood and Thomas all went to West Virginia University – Lindamood and Thomas as walk-ons with Thomas eventually switching to football. Jenkins became a starting guard while Lindamood earned a spot on the special teams.

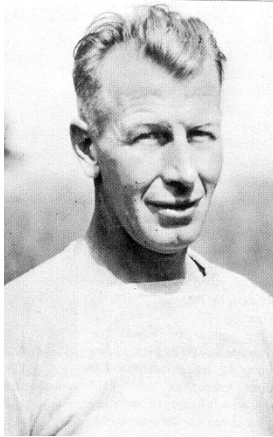
In 2008 the Big Reds again missed the playoffs but junior Derek Wenzel set a state record by returning four kickoffs for touchdowns in a single season. Wenzel also returned an interception 99 yards for a TD.

Allen Wasonga became a Big Red in 2009 after transferring from Pt. Pleasant and ran for 2,203 yards in 11 games while scoring 29 touchdowns. The team made the playoffs but lost 24-17 at Bridgeport.

The Big Reds made the playoffs in 2010 and 2011 but lost in the first round each year.

The Legends of PHS Football

Alfred Earle “Greasy” Neale



Greasy Neale

From the days of Dick Hoblitzell playing first base for the World Champion Boston Red Sox as a teammate of Babe Ruth to Nick Swisher playing on the World Champion New York Yankees with Derek Jeter and Company there have been many famous athletes who called Parkersburg home at one time.

There was Walter “Piggy” Barnes, who was an All-American lineman at LSU but gained more fame as an actor playing in westerns and opposite Clint Eastwood in movies.

There was Gibby Welch who broke Red Grange’s rushing records while making All-American at Pitt and whose marks stood for 40 years until Tony Dorsett came along.

There have been famous coaches like Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwaldner who turned out championship teams at Parkersburg High School before going on to lead Syracuse to a national championship while turning out runners like Jim Brown, Ernie Davis and Floyd Little.

But without a doubt the man who accomplished more than any of those was a guy everyone around the country knew simply as “Greasy.”

Earle Neale, who earned the nickname “Greasy” because he was so hard to tackle, has accomplished a trio of feats that most assuredly no one else will ever equal.

During his lifetime he is the only man in history to play in a World Series (for the winning team by the way), to coach a Rose Bowl football team (where he tied) and to coach an NFL championship team (twice).

He was named to the NFL Hall of Fame in 1969 and was earlier voted into the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame,

His legendary sports career began at Parkersburg High School in 1909 where he was an all-around athlete – playing basketball and baseball in addition to football.

As a sophomore he was captain of a football team that went 5-1 under the first officially paid head coach, Harry Bonner. The following year they had no one to coach so Neale was both the coach and captain. The team went 5-2-1.

B.B. Cooley was hired as head coach in 1911 but as a 20 year old senior Neale probably didn't need any help as he led the Big Reds (although that is not what they were called at that time) to a 10-0 season. There were rumors circulating during the season that he was not even a student at PHS – which were false because a young man could attend high school until the age of 21 back in those days. Neale was an outstanding receiver and kicker. As a senior he caught eight touchdown passes (11 for his career during a time when passing was looked upon with disdain) while kicking five field goals (from as far away as 35 yards) and 21 extra points. He won one game with a last-second field goal from 25 yards away with the ball being spotted only five yards in from the sidelines.

After high school Neale enrolled at West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he not only was a four-year standout but he was largely responsible for turning around the Bobcat football program.

During his first year he scored two touchdowns to lead Wesleyan to a 19-14 victory over West Virginia University. It was the first win ever for Wesleyan over WVU after being beaten by scores of 78-0 (1902), 39-0 (1903), 54-4 (1906), 65-0 (1907), 49-0 (1909) and 36-0 (1911) – all when touchdowns only counted for five points.

He coached football for one year at Muskingum (OH) College before joining the Cincinnati Reds to play baseball in 1916. He played outfield for the Reds for all but 22 games of his eight-year career. His best season was in 1917 when he hit .294 with 25 stolen bases. Overall, he batted .259 in the big leagues with 139 stolen bases. The Reds even played two exhibition games in Parkersburg following the 1917 season.

In 1919 he was the outstanding player for the Reds as they beat Chicago five games to three to win the World Series that was later tainted by the "Black Sox" game-fixing scandal. Neale led the team with 10 hits and a .357 batting average during the series.

During the baseball off-season he returned to coach football at Wesleyan from 1916-18 and coached at Marietta College in 1920.

Following that he went to Washington & Jefferson to be the head football coach and in 1922 on New Year's Day his team played to a 0-0 tie with California in the Rose Bowl at Pasadena, CA. California took an 18-game winning streak into that contest.

From 1923-28 he was the coach at the University of Virginia and from 1931-33 he returned to West Virginia to coach the Mountaineers. Although his WVU teams went 4-6, 5-5 and 3-5-3 five of his players went on to play professional football. In 1934-40 he was the backfield coach at Yale, serving on a staff which included an assistant by the name of Gerald Ford (eventual President of the United States).

His association with famous people included a stint playing end on Jim Thorpe's Canton Bulldogs team in pre-WWII days.

In 1941 he moved to the professional football ranks to coach the Philadelphia Eagles. In 1944 the Eagles went 7-1-2 to earn the first of three consecutive second-place finishes in their division. His first NFL title came in 1947 when the Eagles and the Pittsburgh Steelers went 8-4 with Philadelphia winning the playoff game 21-0. In the championship game the Chicago Cardinals won 28-21 but the following two years the Eagles and Neale would get their revenge.

In 1948 the Eagles won the division with a 9-2-1 record and beat the Cardinals 7-0 in the title game as fullback Steve Van Buren led the way. In 1949 the Eagles went 11-1 during the regular season and beat the Los Angeles Rams 14-0 in the championship game.

In 1950 he was named to the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame but the Eagles went 6-6 and Neale resigned. In 1969 he was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

He died on Nov. 2, 1973 and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, within view of his home on 24th Street and near the high school where his athletic career began.

Gilbert “Gibby” Welch

In 1956, the *Charleston Daily Mail* called Welch, “one of the most fabulous characters ever produced in West Virginia athletics.”

Although his Big Red football career was outstanding, Gibby Welch became more famous for his college and professional achievements.

At PHS he played football, basketball and track. As a senior in 1922 he scored 15 touchdowns, including six in one game versus Allegheny (MD). Despite this he was not selected to the all-state team.

After leaving the Big Reds he attended Bellefont Academy before enrolling at the University of Pittsburgh in 1924. He played three seasons of football at Pitt from 1925-27, including the first game ever played at Pitt Stadium.

He also ran track at Pitt from 1926-28 and was one of the country’s leading college discus throwers while also competing in the shot put, javelin and broad jump. He was captain of the football and track teams as a senior. He was the signal-calling left halfback in the single-wing offense run by coach Jock Sutherland during his last two years and was known for his two-way ability to run and throw the ball.



Gibby Welch

He led Pitt in rushing and passing in 1925 and a year later led the Panthers in rushing, passing, receiving and scoring. In 1926 he broke the single-season yardage record set by Red Grange, gaining 1,964 yards in just nine games.

In 1927 he was the leading rusher in the nation. For his

career he compiled 1,880 rushing yards and still shares

the all-time Pitt record for longest kickoff return of 105 yards (versus West Virginia in 1927). He was a consensus All-American at Pitt 1927.

In a 21-13 win over Nebraska he took the opening kickoff and ran 84 yards for a touchdown. In the second quarter he caught a long pass and then “twisted and squirmed his way 71 yards down the field for another score.” Against rival West Virginia he returned a kickoff 105 yards for a touchdown. In late November he was outstanding in a 30-0 win over Penn State. One newspaper writer noted that Welch “ripped the Penn State line to shreds, bent the Lions’ ends almost double with his wide sweeping runs, and kicked and passed in almost uncanny form when necessary.”

In the 1928 Rose Bowl game against Stanford, he was held to 50 yards as Stanford won 7-6. As one reporter noted: “Gibby Welch, Pitt’s All-American halfback, was a tower of strength for this alma mater, but Stanford had been coached to watch the stocky halfback who made eastern grid circles buzz this season.”

He held the Pitt total yardage record of 4,108 for more than 50 years until it was broken in 1968 by Tony Dorsett.

Welch was described as “one of the most dazzling open field sprinters in collegiate ranks,” and athlete whose “sensational runs were aided by his excellent use of twirls and pivots through an open field.”

After college he played pro football for the New York Yankees in 1928 and the Providence Steamroller in 1929. When the Yankees dissolved in 1929, Welch was persuaded to sign with Providence when he was offered the highest salary ever offered at that time to play football.

Welch coached at Morris Harvey in 1931 before selling real estate in Parkersburg. In November of 1948 he gained attention when he was charged with felonious assault with intent to kill with a deadly weapon for beating his third wife, Gladys, after two months of marriage.

Richard “Dick” Hoblitzell

Richard “Dick” Hoblitzell, better known as Doc after he became a dentist, is one of only three former Parkersburg High School students to win a World Series championship and had it not been for some early recruiting would have been a four-time captain of the PHS football team.

He was born in Waverly and moved to Parkersburg when he was eight after his mother died.

Although better known for his baseball ability, Hoblitzell was equally outstanding in football. He captained the Parkersburg High School football team during his freshman and sophomore years and also played for various other area teams (most of them adults) while still a youngster. He was so good in football that he was recruited by Marietta (Ohio) Academy, a prep school. For his last two years of high school, Hoblitzell attended Marietta Academy and there he met and fell in love with Constance Henderson, a fellow West Virginian whom he later married.

Hoblitzell starred at halfback for the 1905-06 Marietta College football teams and in the fall of 1907 enrolled at the Western University of Pennsylvania, which became known as the University of Pittsburgh the following year. He played end for the famous WUP football team.

Earlier that year he had played professional baseball with Clarksburg, West Virginia, of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia League, assuming the alias of "Hollister" to protect his amateur status. After playing shortstop for two weeks, the 6-footer was pressed into duty at first base when the Clarksburg's regular first baseman got injured. Though Dick had never played the position before, it became the one that he manned for 1,284 contests in the majors.

The Reds purchased Hoblitzell from Clarksburg on August 21. Making his debut with the Reds on September 5, 1908, Dick took over at first base for player-manager John Ganzel and batted .254 over the last 32 games of the season. In 1909 he appeared in 142 games and batted a career-best .308, third highest in the National League behind only Honus Wagner and teammate Mike Mitchell. Over the five-year period 1909-13, the left-handed-hitting slugger batted in the heart of the Cincinnati order and was the top run producer in the Reds' offensive attack. During the first half of 1914, the 25-year-old Hoblitzell mysteriously lost his ability to hit, slumping all the way to .210 after 78 games. He cleared waivers, a trade with the New York Yankees fell through, and on July 16 the Boston Red Sox claimed him off the waiver wire for a mere \$1,500. He rebounded during the second half of 1914 to hit .319 in 69 games, plugging a hole in the Boston lineup and turning the Sox into pennant contenders. Assigned to share a room on the road

with Babe Ruth, Hoblitzell remained Boston's regular first baseman throughout the start of the 1918 season, usually batting third or cleanup in the batting order and performing well. In successive years, he hit .283, .259, and .257 in 1915 through 1917. He also performed admirably in the World Series of 1915 and 1916, playing in every game. He hit .313 in 1915 while six walks boosted his on-base percentage to .435 in the 1916 Series.

Declared eligible for the military draft, Dick took and passed an examination for the U.S. Army Dental Corps in March 1918. After reporting late to spring training,



Dick Hoblitzell

he opened the regular season with only one hit in his first 25 at-bats and was eventually benched with an injured finger on May 6. His replacement at first base that day was none other than his old roommate Ruth, making his first major league appearance at a position

other than pitcher. Hoblitzell received his commission as a first lieutenant on June 6 and left the Red Sox three days later. Stuffy McInnis moved over from third base to fill the vacancy at first, and the Red Sox went on to win another World Series, awarding Hobby a partial share of \$300 from the proceeds. Dick never played another game in the majors, retiring with a lifetime batting average of .278.

At the height of the Great Depression the Hoblitzell family was forced to return to Constance's hometown of Williamstown, West Virginia, to save her family's 540-acre farm. Dick and his family moved into the 13-room farmhouse, which was built in 1875 on a hill overlooking the B&O Railroad and the Ohio River. The house is now a tourist attraction.

In addition to raising cattle and growing produce, Dick hosted a sports radio show on WPAR, wrote a column on sports and other topics for the Parkersburg News, and umpired youth baseball. He was active in Republican politics, serving as county treasurer and being elected sheriff. The former ballplayer kept himself in excellent shape, his weight never much exceeding his playing weight of 172 pounds, and he managed to avoid illness until he contracted the colon cancer that killed him on Nov. 14, 1962.

Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder

A native of Point Pleasant, where he was a 90 pound starting quarterback as a freshman who eventually graduated from Huntington High in 1929 and went on to play for the West Virginia University Mountaineers under the legendary Greasy Neale as a 152-pound center.

After graduation, he spent eight years as a high school football and wrestling coach at Sistersville, Weston and Parkersburg, West Virginia, and had just finished his first year at Canton (Ohio) McKinley High, one of the most prestigious high school jobs in America, when World War II broke out. He enlisted in the army shortly after Pearl Harbor and served in Europe as a paratrooper in the famed 82nd Airborne, jumping into combat three times, including a D-Day jump behind enemy lines. He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and four battle stars, and rose to the rank of major.



Ben Schwartzwalder

After his discharge, he spent three years as coach at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, Pennsylvania where he was 25-5-0, and was hired in 1949 by Syracuse, where he remained until his retirement 25 years later.

As he built his program from regional to national power, his teams reflected his personal toughness, and were famous for their bruising, hard-nosed play. He was noted for his emphasis on the ground attack (his teams outrushed the opposition over his career by more than 22,000 yards), and the great running backs it produced, several of them going on to become outstanding pros. Included in that list are Jim Brown, Larry Csonka, Jim Nance and Floyd Little. Ernie Davis, the first black player to win the Heisman Trophy, might possibly have become the best of them all, but he was diagnosed with leukemia before his rookie season, and died without ever playing a down of NFL football. Another Syracuse running back, John Mackey, was switched to tight end upon his arrival in the NFL, and became one of the greatest in the history of the game at that position.

Coach Schwartzwalder's 10-0 1959 team finished with a Cotton Bowl win over Texas and won the national championship. Few college teams ever manhandled opponents the way that team did: running Coach Schwartzwalder's unbalanced line wing-T to perfection, the Orange outgained opponents - get this - 4,515 yards to 962. The Syracuse line that year, nicknamed the "Sizeable Seven," featured such future professionals as Al Bemiller, John Brown, Roger Davis, Bob Yates and Maury Youmans. Coach Schwartzwalder was named National Coach of the Year, and served a term as President of the American Football Coaches Association.

When he retired, he had more career wins than such better-known coaches as Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Earl Blaik and Bud Wilkinson, and among active coaches he was third in wins behind only Bear Bryant and Woody Hayes. He is one of very few men to have coached at the same major college for 25 years or more, and held what at the time of his retirement was a record 22 straight non-losing seasons. It was during Coach Schwartzwalder's tenure that the number 44 became associated with great Syracuse running backs, as Jim Brown, Ernie Davis and Floyd Little all wore the number.

Ross McHenry

Although not a big man, McHenry has been rated as one of the best tackles to ever play the game at Parkersburg High. He was the only three-time first team all-state selection for the first 107 years of football at PHS.

At PHS he drop-kicked 32 of 47 extra points and one field goal as a senior in 1922, including 13 PAT's versus Allegheny (MD).

After graduation, he attended West Virginia University, where he was recognized as an outstanding offensive and defensive lineman. Playing for the Mountaineers, he lettered all four years. In 1926, his senior year, McHenry

was named team captain and was an All-East selection at guard. He represented West Virginia University in the East-West Shrine All Star Game played in San Francisco, California. Later, he became line coach for the Mountaineers for two years and was head coach for the Parkersburg Big Reds for seven years, finishing with a 44-20-7 record for the seventh most victories in school history.

McHenry has supported the Parkersburg High School and West Virginia University football programs throughout his life, with as much loyalty and



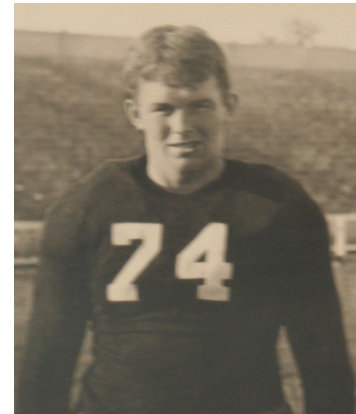
Ross McHenry

dedication as he exhibited in his playing and coaching careers. At one of the Parkersburg High School homecoming parades, he was named Marshal, and West Virginia University honored him as the Most Loyal Mountaineer. He was named to the WVU Hall of Fame. A retired FMC employee, McHenry died in 2000 at the age of 97.

Walter “Piggy” Barnes

In 1970 an all-time Mid-Ohio Valley football team was picked by the Parkersburg Sentinel with balloting done by the fans. The captain of that team was a tackle from Parkersburg High School named Walter “Piggy” Barnes, who became even more famous as a television and movie actor.

In high school Barnes was a 6-foot-1, 217 pound lineman who was fast enough to run the 440 in track. He scored two touchdowns and kicked 19 extra points during the 1938 season in addition to be regarded unanimously as the state’s outstanding lineman. He was 20 years old when he played as a senior, graduating in June and turned 21 the same month.



Walter "Piggy" Barnes

He received a football grant to LSU and went on to play pro football for Greasy Neale.

Following WWII, Barnes was an All-conference, 60-minute lineman and weightlifter at LSU (1946-48). Before his acting career, he played professional football for the NFL’s Philadelphia Eagles (1948-1951).

He is also well known for being caught by the University of Oklahoma spying on their practices being held in Biloxi, MS, just prior to the 1950 Sugar Bowl in which they were to play against LSU. They were tipped off by an LSU fan of all things, and a 6-man posse including a photographer and Biloxi policemen caught Barnes with two ladders, a 4x6 between them to stand on, a canvas tarp to hide under, a camera, a notebook and some binoculars in his possession. They took a photo of him for posterity which still hangs on Owen Field to this day. Barnes ran away and hid in the home of another former LSU player. Whether or not LSU knew anything

about it has been denied by LSU and debated for over 50 years, but it apparently didn't help anyway – Oklahoma beat LSU 35-0. Barnes denied it was him in the photo his entire life and took it to his grave.

As an actor for 30 years he had roles in TV westerns and movies including “Every Which Way But Loose” where he fought Clint Eastwood in a bare-knuckle fight to climax the movie. One of his best roles was his performance in the 1957 film "Westbound". Although, Barnes found work in countless foreign films of the 1960s, he usually played roles ranging from crusty law officials to occasional villains, in notable roles in "Captain Sinbad", John Wayne's "Cahill US Marshal", Clint Eastwood's "High Plains Drifter", "Pete's Dragon" and "Day of the Animals". Also as a veteran of television, Barnes has had guest starring roles in such series including "Gunsmoke", "Rawhide" and "Cheyenne". He also played Bo Svenson's father on the early 80s TV series "Walking Tall" and appeared in the 1985-86 miniseries "North and South". A diabetic, Barnes retired from acting in the late 1980s and eventually moved into the Motion Picture and Television Retirement Home in Woodland Hills, California, where he passed away in January of 1998.

Dick Biddle

A 1964 all-state tackle and three-time wrestling letter winner at Parkersburg High School, Biddle went on to Duke University, where he made all-conference and third team all-American at linebacker before graduating in 1971. He was later named to the Duke all-century team.

After coaching at different levels, he became the head coach at Colgate University in 1995 after serving as an assistant there for 10 years. At Colgate his teams have won



Dick Biddle

113 games while losing just 51 making him the all-time winningest coach in school history. In 2003 he took the team to the Division I-AA championship game and finished 15-1. He was a finalist for National Coach of the Year. He coached the Raiders to a 9-2 record in 2009.

Nick Swisher

As a youngster growing up in Parkersburg, Nick Swisher had some big shoes to follow because he was the son of Steve Swisher, who set a high standard of athletic excellence in football, basketball and baseball. An all-stater at Parkersburg South High School and an All-American baseball player at Ohio University, Steve Swisher went on to become an all-star in the major leagues.

But Nick Swisher has surpassed his father's achievements in virtually every aspect, from being a two-time all-state selection at

PHS to being a power-hitting outfielder for the World Champion New York Yankees.



Nick Swisher

As a Big Red senior in 1998 the younger Swisher led the team in rushing with 1,164 yards and scoring with 160 points, including three field goals and 45 of 48 extra points. His two all-state years saw the Big Reds win 23 games.

After setting a West Virginia state high school home run record as a senior, he made All-Big Ten at Ohio State.

Now in his seventh big league baseball season he is hitting over .300 and topped the 150 mark in career home runs. He made the all-star team this year for the first time and competed in the Home Run Derby.

His out-going manner has made him a fan favorite and in 2007 he established "Swish's Wishes" to assist children with life-threatening illnesses and to help lift the spirits of kids going through difficult times.



Marc Kimes

Marc Kimes

Marc Kimes' legacy at Parkersburg High School can usually be summed up by listing his won-lost record as a three-year starting quarterback for the Big Reds but perhaps better than that can said in these words: Two state championships and one state runner-up.

Kimes called the signals for 42 straight Big Red games from 1999 to 2001 and PHS won 38 of those games, including the first team

to go 14-0 and came within one game of being a three-time champion. Although Kimes was not a one-man team – although at times it did seem that way – he was certainly the driving force with an unequalled will to win that he spread amongst his teammates.

He scored 200 points in his career and ranked second with 108 of those coming from his talented foot. He threw 52 touchdown passes and finished with 5,320 career yards – both school records. For his career he had 6,171 yards in total offense, over 1,500 more than the second best Big Red player.

As a sophomore he engineered that incredible second round playoff comeback victory over Huntington (rallying from an 18-0 deficit in the fourth quarter) and then guided his team back again in the state finals against Riverside.

His junior year ended with a 38-13 loss in the finals to Morgantown but even losing his head coach and two mid-season regular season games could not deter him from taking a second title in 2001 with a 28-17 victory over Martinsburg. He was named Most Valuable Player in the championship game that year as well as taking top honors in the MSAC and becoming only the third PHS player to capture the Kennedy Award.

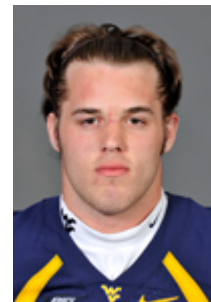
He went on to set school records for career and single-season passing yards at West Virginia Wesleyan.

Matt Lindamood

People will continue to argue who was the best running back ever in the history of Parkersburg High School football – but Matt Lindamood has the numbers to back up those who think he fits that bill.

During his three Big Red years, the team went 35-5 and won back-to-back state championships in 2006 and 2007 with records of 14-0 and 13-1 respectively. He was named all-state both years.

As a senior he led the state Class AAA in rushing with 2,473 yards, scored 35 touchdowns and averaged 7.9 yards per carry. He was also the state's top scorer with 232 points. His rushing and



Matt Lindamood

scoring totals are both school records. He was runner-up for the Kennedy Award. He was also the 215 pound state wrestling champion.

As a junior he ran for 1,551 yards and scored 20 touchdowns.

His 412 points, 68 touchdowns and 4,211 rushing yards stand as PHS career records, as does his 2,473 single season rushing yards. He was also an outstanding linebacker on defense.

He walked on at West Virginia University and earned a spot on the Mountaineer special teams, playing in 12 games in 2009 with five tackles (four of them solo stops).

His older brother Joey was a two-time all-stater the two seasons immediately prior to Matt earning such an honor.

Josh Jenkins

There had been over 150 first-team all-staters and six Hunt Award winners in the glorious history of Parkersburg High school football but until 2007 there was only one three-time all-state selection and in the history of the state there had never been a two-time Hunt Award winner.

However, in 2007 Josh Jenkins wrote his name in both categories and became the number one high school recruit in the state – as an offensive lineman. He joined Ross McHenry as the only two PHS players to ever make all-state first team three times and outdid the likes of Rick, Larry and Dave Phillips by becoming the first two-time Hunt Award winner.



Josh Jenkins

And PHS won back-to-back state championships with a combined 27-1 record his last two years.

At 6-5 and 305 pounds, Jenkins was agile enough to play on the Big Red basketball team and strong enough to pancake any would-be tackler. As a sophomore he scored 12 points in the season-opening

basketball game. As a senior, he graded out at 98 percent for his senior season and collected an unbelievable 158 pancake blocks. He finished with 113 tackles, 15 for loss, seven sacks and four fumble recoveries. He

even scored a touchdown as senior while moving to fullback in a goal-line situation. A USA Today first-team All-American, Jenkins was also a Parade Magazine All-American and was the Gatorade Player of the Year.

He was the first West Virginia player to participate in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas.

Ending a huge recruiting war, Jenkins opted to stay in state and play for West Virginia, which he did as a freshman. He became a starter as a sophomore and was named third-team All-Big East. Starting his junior year, he has been selected pre-season second-team All-Big East.

Leonard “Feets” Barnum

They didn’t call him “Feets” for nothing.

A two-time all-stater Barnum was, without doubt, the best punter in the school’s history. From his sophomore to senior season he punted the ball 161 times with averages going from 41 to 41.7 to 45 yards per kick. He was also the team’s leading passer all three years and top rusher as a senior with 909 yards. As a senior he threw for 12 touchdowns and ran for 16 more while kicking 21 extra points.

He had a grant to Pitt but went to W.Va. Wesleyan where he played four years and made the school Hall of Fame. He played pro football for Eagles under Greasy Neale and was an outstanding punter. He averaged 41.8 punt was second in the league in 1942. He kicked nine field goals, 18 extra points, rushed for 590 yards and three touchdowns while catching 11 passes. He completed 38 of 120 passes for 602 yards and six touchdowns. He scored 63 points and had five interceptions on defense.

Jim Bargeloh

For three years in a row he was the leading rusher for the Big Reds – 1955 through 1957. As a senior he gained 1,023 yards and ran for 13 touchdowns en route to the Kennedy Award.

During his career he scored 30 touchdowns for the Red and White. He went on to play halfback at West Virginia University in 1959-60.

Fred Earley

A broadcasting legend at PHS, Fred Earley was one of the brightest stars on the gridiron in the pre-World War II era. After a sophomore season in which he ran for 1,564 yards (still the fifth best mark of all-time) and scored 15 touchdowns, Earley was bothered by injuries as both a junior and a senior but was still a two-time all-stater (second team as a junior) and all-state captain in 1941. As a senior at PHS he was West Virginia's representative at the Heisman Trophy Awards banquet. He played football at Notre Dame, where he was a record-setting kicker.

Larry Rhodes

"Flash" Rhodes was one of the fastest Big Reds ever who went on to a stellar career at West Virginia Wesleyan and signed a pro football contract before returning to Parkersburg to become the long-time head baseball coach of the Big Reds.

As a junior he ran for over 1,400 yards and 19 touchdowns but lost a couple of games as a senior due to an injury.

Rick Phillips

One of four all-state linemen who were brothers and one of three to earn the Hunt Award as the state's outstanding lineman. He made All-American at West Virginia University and signed a free agent pro football contract with the Miami Dolphins. Other brothers were Dave, Larry and Mike (all older). He returned to coach at PHS, helping them to a state championship.

Josh Romeo

A transfer from Ravenswood who only played his senior season (2000) at Parkersburg – but what a year it was. The speedy halfback scored 39 touchdowns and 236 total points (both PHS records). He scored six times against Logan to tie the Big Red mark.

Scott Davis

"Babe" as he was known was one of the fiercest linebackers and biggest running backs in PHS history. At 6-3 and 265 pounds he combined great strength with

remarkable speed and balance. He scored 55 career touchdowns and ran for over 3,000 yards during his career – but was better known for his play at linebacker (where he earned all-state honors). He went on to play at Penn State.

John Richards

A runner with incredible balance, Richards accomplished the rare feat of rushing for over 1,000 yards three straight seasons and led the Big Reds to two state titles. He finished with 3,955 yards rushing, the second best total ever at PHS.

Tyler Warner

Among the outstanding kickers in the history of PHS – names like Conner Loudon (who kicked at Princeton), Brad Hackett (who kicked at WVU), Nick Swisher, Matt McCullough, and Ross McHenry (who drop-kicked the ball) are mentioned. But the best of the best was probably Tyler Warner (currently kicking at Marshall).

During his career at PHS he produced 133 points with his foot, including a school-record 50 yard field goal in the state championship game.

Brad Johnson

A state hurdle champion in track who finished second to Randy Moss of DuPont in the 100, Johnson is the all-time PHS leader in passes caught (94), yards gained receiving (1,636) and touchdown receptions (14). He went on to play at Penn State.

Eric Ranson

The young man who turned the usually ground-oriented Big Reds into a flying circus, Ranson held the all-time career passing yardage mark of 4,238 until it was broken by Marc Kimes.

Chance Litton

It is a little known fact that this state champion and college wrestler still hold the PHS record for passing yardage and single season touchdown completions. The only person to throw for over 2,000 yards (2,075 total), he accounted for 27 touchdowns through the air in 2004.

Rick Marshall

A very talented athlete, Marshall could do it all – run, pass, throw and kick. He set a single game record of 414 total yards – and did it against arch-rival Parkersburg South. He threw for 343 yards (still the most ever in a single game) and ran for another 71.

Derek Wenzel

A versatile performer, Wenzel will be forever known as the player who ran back four kickoffs for touchdowns in a single season. He also ran an interception back 99 yards for a touchdown (the longest play in PHS history) that same year. He had another kickoff return for a touchdown as a senior.

Al Hammell

A starter in all 41 games of his high school career, Hammell was the Big Red tight end and linebacker for his first two years but was told there was a chance he could move into the backfield as a senior. After spending the entire summer working on increasing his speed, flexibility and balance he ran for 1,551 yards as a senior, scoring 22 touchdowns (three of them on interception returns). He made all-state – as a linebacker.

Daniel “Buddy” James

From being the first all-stater on a losing Big Red team to becoming the winningest Big Red coach in history, Daniel “Buddy” James certainly earned his place as one of the PHS football Legends.

A state champion wrestler, James returned to Parkersburg and took the Big Reds to the playoffs 11 times between 1973 and 1985, winning championships in 1976 and 1978. He retired with 178 wins in 23 years, nearly double the amount of the next highest PHS coach. He also had the most all-state selections of any coach.



Buddy James

It's Very Relative for Big Reds

Success on the football field is not just singularly achieved at Parkersburg High School – it is passed down from generation to generation.

Fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, cousins, nephews – the Big Red team has had its share of outstanding relatives – each one prouder than the one before to carry on the tradition that is PHS football.

The list of all-staters at PHS who are related is long and glorious.

There were the Barnums, the Earleys, the Johnson/Jenkins family and many more. But perhaps the most successful was the Phillips brothers – all four of them.

It officially began in 1975 when Dave Phillips made first team all-state as a junior offensive tackle. The following year he was joined on the first all-state team by his junior “little” brother Larry Phillips, who was selected as a defensive tackle. That same year 6-foot5, 230 pound Dave Phillips was named the winner of the Hunt Award as the outstanding lineman in the state of West Virginia.

As Dave Phillips went off to Ohio State on scholarship, Larry Phillips returned in 1977 as a 6-2, 220 pounder who not only earned his second all-state award but also captured the Hunt Award – becoming the first brothers to win the honor.

After a one year absence without a Phillips on the line, Mike Phillips came along and by his 1981 senior year the 6-2, 225 pounder had earned first team all-state honors as an offensive guard. A sophomore at PHS that year, youngest brother Rick Phillips would earn all-state captain honors as a 6-4, 23 -pound senior offensive tackle and was also voted the Hunt Award in 1983 before moving on to earn All-American honors at West Virginia University and even signing a professional football contract before returning to PHS as an assistant coach and helping the Big Reds win a state championship.

Over a 10-year span, there were nine years where a son of Everett Phillips played on the line at PHS – at played better than most in the state.

Probably the first of the famous brothers to play at PHS were the Neale boys, Greasy and Widdy. Greasy Neale was the star of the undefeated 1911 team while Widdy Neale was an all-state halfback in 1918. Both played college football.

Then along came the Barnum boys, whose skills as football players turned the Big Red program into a circus of outstanding plays. In 1920, pile-driving Robert (or Pete as he was better known) made all-state as a fullback. In 1931 and 1932 younger brother Leonard (or Feets as he was known) made all-state twice while setting kicking records that will probably never be broken. He went on to play professional football.

From 1920-22 there was the Murrin boys. Clarence was an end who had one first team all-state season and two second-team selections. George “Chunky” Murrin was a second and then first team all-state pick as a center while speedy halfback Julian was a second-team all-state pick on that incredible 1921 team which had eight players make first or second team all-state.

In the late 1920's to 1930 there was big Basilio Marchi and Louis Marchi, a first team all-state pick in 1930.

In 1938 Bill Earley made all-state and two years later little brother Fred followed suit with the best sophomore season ever by a Big Red – enough to earn him first team all-state honors. In 1941 Fred was only able to garner second team all-state honors and during his senior season of 1942 he was slowed by injuries but still was selected to the all-state first team selected to represent the state at the Heisman

Trophy Award dinner in New York. Fred went on to become a standout kicker at Notre Dame. His extra points beat Iowa 14-13 for the national championship in 1943 and he held the school record for seven extra point kicks in 1947 versus Purdue (a mark which stood for 18 years). He later became a broadcasting legend in the Big Red booth.

In 1950 the youngest Earley, Jim, accomplished something no one else had ever done at PHS; win the Kennedy Award as the state's outstanding player. He scored 12 touchdowns to lead the Big Reds to an 11-0 state championship season.

The Winans boys dominated the line at PHS from 1972-74 with Rich Winans earning all-state tackle honors the first year and Dave Winans making all-state at the tackle spot in 1973 and 1974.

Chris Davis earned all-state tackle honors in 1995 and two years later little brother Scott "Babe" Davis earned the first of two second team all-state awards before making first team in 1999 on the first ever 14-0 team.

In 1996 Matt Kimes scored 15 touchdowns and garnered first team all-state honors. Three years later brother Marc Kimes began an incredible three-year run at quarterback which saw him lead the Big Reds to a 38-4 record, two state titles and a runner-up finish. He earned all-state honors twice and won the Kennedy Award in 2001.

Al Hammell earned first team honors as a linebacker while rushing for over 1,000 yards on the state championship team of 1999. Four years later, "little" brother Adam Hammell, all 6-foot-2, 300 pounds of him, made all-state as an offensive lineman.

And how about the Lindamood family? Mike Lindamood earned all-state honors in 1970 as a defensive guard.

In 2004 and 2005 nephew Joey Lindamood earned all-state honors and younger brother Matt Lindamood followed with two all-state seasons in 2006 and 2007, becoming the all-time leading rusher and scorer in the history of the school in the process. In 2012 younger brother Adam Lindamood made first team all-state and was the third member of his immediate family to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season.

In all the Lindamood brothers accounted for an amazing 810 points scored and 8,892 yards rushing during their Big Red careers.

With the start of the 21st century the Johnson/Jenkins family began to make its mark on the history of PHS football. In 2000, Billy Johnson was selected first team as a defensive end. Paul Johnson came along in 2001 and 2002 and earned second team all-state honors.

In 2005 Josh Jenkins (younger brother of Billy and Paul Johnson) earned the first of three first team all-state honors (only the second player in PHS history to achieve that feat). He won the Hunt Award as a junior and senior.

Youngest brother Justin Johnson was a two-year regular in 2009 and 2010 and went on to play at the University of Charleston.

Then there was Andy and Lou Thomas, all-state brothers in 2007 and 2003, whose father Lou Thomas was an all-state tackle at Parkersburg Catholic.

Speaking of father-son duos, how about Barry and Conner Louden? Father Barry Louden was an all-state PHS end in 1964 while son Conner Louden earned his all-state honors in 2003 and 2004.

Then there are the Swishers. Father Steve Swisher was a starter at PHS as a sophomore before moving to Parkersburg South as a junior and senior. Sons Nick and Mark Swisher both earned all-state honors twice at PHS in the late 1990's. Nick Swisher was an all-state running back in 1997 and 1998 while Mark Swisher was a second team pick in 1999 before moving up to the first all-state team in both 2000 and 2001.

In 1942 Fred Manzo was second team all-state and in 1947 Gene Manzo made third team as a guard. In 1976 Dave Manzo led his team to a state title as a quarterback and was runner-up for the Kennedy Award.

Other Big Red relatives include the versatile Eddy boys - Jeff Eddy in 1980 and Danny Eddy in 1983 and 1984.

Did you know this about the Big Reds?

Although the first “officially” sanctioned all-student PHS team was in 1906 the students had been playing together without the help of “ringers” since at least 1900. They were on their own to equip themselves, to coach themselves and to finance themselves. They played a variety of teams.

In 1904 the first “recruiting” scandal took place when PHS sophomore standout Dick Hoblitzell announced at the end of the season that he had been recruited to play his next two years with Marietta Academy. Hoblitzell, who had been team captain as a 15 year old freshman, would go on to play professional baseball with Babe Ruth on the 1916 World Champion Boston Red Sox.

The first “official” touchdown by a sanctioned PHS team was Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving Day) at Grafton when Milan Bartlett pushed Russell Paden over the goal line in a 10-0 win. Francis Rathbone had the other TD (which counted for only 5 points at the time) on an end run.

Because there were no lights in the early days of football and people worked weekdays until dark, most games were played on Saturday afternoon. There was almost always a game played on Thanksgiving Day that drew huge crowds.

In 1911, New Martinsville tried the ball under the jersey trick but PHS was not fooled. The Big Reds tackled the ball “carrier” and the Magnolia HS team was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Prior to 1915 PHS wore a variety of colors, including black, and had no nickname. Ralph Jones became Frank Wray’s assistant that year and with the team sporting new red uniforms, Jones tabbed them the Big Reds after his alma mater, Denison

College. By the third game of the season the newspaper picked up on the nickname and the red-clad warriors forever became known as the Big Reds.

Howard Dunigan in 1917 against the P.A.C. team ran 89 yards but was tackled on the six inch line.

At least six games were cancelled by the flu quarantine and epidemic in 1918, including the WVU-Pitt contest and the PHS-Buckhannon state championship game. Jack Armstrong, who was such an outstanding player as a sophomore and senior, lost virtually an entire season.

In 1919, with the cooperation of high school authorities, Parkersburg merchants offered prizes of substantial worth to those Big Red players judged most valuable to the team as well as special prizes if they made all-West Virginia (all-state) and to all lettermen if they won the state championship. Under modern rules, they would all have been declared ineligible for these awards.

Roland Hobensack lived in Belpre but got permission from State Board of play at PHS in 1921 because Belpre had no scholastic sports teams.

The 1921 team was so good that it had four first team all-state selections and four second team picks. This was when there was one class with only 11 players chosen to the first all-state team and 11 more to second. So PHS had eight of the top 22 players in the state that year. The teams were chosen by a committee headed by WVU athletic director Harry Stansbury.

Robert "Pete" Barnum won the discus, hammer and javelin in the 1921 state track meet (only the discus is still thrown in today's state track and field championships).

Apparently to make up for the furor raised over the 1921 all-state team, the 1922 all-state team missed out by completely overlooking PHS halfback Gibby Welch, who scored 15 touchdowns but received no post-season honors. A few years later he would make up for that by being first team All-American, breaking Red Grange's rushing record and holding the school mark for over 50 years.

In a newspaper article about the stadium committee, Parkersburg is referred to as “City of Champions.” That was in 1923, the same year John Roberts became a four year letterman.

Ross McHenry became first West Virginia University football captain from Parkersburg in 1924. That year the Big Reds lost to Buckhannon 9-0 as Dowell of the Buck-Ups kicked field goals of 25, 28 and 28 yards.

The year 1925 was not a great year for the Big Reds as they won just three games and tied one in 10 games. But that was amazing considering PHS scored just two offensive touchdowns the entire season. A nine yard pass to Dilbert Swyers from Ed Rutter beat Spencer 9-7 and a one yard run by Eddie Hines was enough to defeat Buckhannon 10-0 in the last game of the season.

PHS lost to Huntington 9-0 in 1926 but protested because two backs for Pony Express were too old (Stark and Brangham). The protest was finally heard on Dec. 31 and State Board of Appeals found there was just cause for the protest but took no action, reportedly because they did not want to upset the new Huntington principal. That year, WVU played Centre College at Stadium Field on Nov. 13 as part of a doubleheader with Big Reds hosting Wheeling.

Howard Rutter, outstanding PHS running back in the 1920’s, went to work each day at 3 a.m. in the Parkersburg News & Sentinel mailroom and then went to school.

Rutter was his team’s leading scorer and rusher for three straight seasons from 1926-27-28. For his three-year career he had 221 points and 1,898 yards rushing. He also ran three interceptions and four punts back for touchdowns.

His backfield mates for all three years were Harry Stephens and Big Basilio Marchi. Stephens scored 134 points and ran for 1,203 yards during that span while Marchi scored 112 points, ran for 1,152 yards, passed for 293 yards, averaged over 40 yards per punt and even had three defensive interceptions in the second half against arch-rival Marietta. With that trio playing, the Big Reds won 27 games, lost just three and tied one.

Hickman of West Union returned a fumbled 105 yards for a touchdown in a 56-6 loss to PHS in 1928 - still the longest play against a Big Red team.

Harry Stephens of PHS was 100 yard dash state champ in 1926, laying claim to being the fastest gridder in West Virginia.

The three biggest rivals of PHS in the early years were Charleston, Huntington and Marietta. In 1929 all three of those games ended in scoreless ties.

In 1930 Garner Roush, 190 pound all-state guard, transferred to Parkersburg from Ravenswood (shades of Josh Romeo exactly 70 years into the future).

On Nov. 1, 1930, William “Widdy” Neale Jr. became the first public address announcer at Stadium Field. A former PHS all-stater and brother of Greasy Neale, Widdy sat behind an amplified microphone located in the pressbox and would not only announce the plays but would explain the penalties.

Also in 1930 the Big Reds played Academy High School of Erie (PA) in a post-season game but Erie’s outstanding player, Leslie Mumford, was not allowed to play because at that time the WV State Athletic officials frowned upon the mixing of blacks and whites in a sanctioned event. PHS coach Ross McHenry told Academy coaches that blacks versus white was not favored and because of that Erie agreed to play without the services of their star player. PHS won 6-0 on a 98 yard interception return by Jimmy Graham. The game was arranged to benefit the charities of the city of Parkersburg.

Around that time there was a Sam Mumford who played football for Sumner, the all-colored school in Parkersburg. Mumford went on to become one of the greatest college football coaches in history and was even named to the College Football Hall of Fame. Incidentally, Sumner won several state championships of its own prior to closing its doors in 1954. The exact total of state “colored” championships won by is not known.

Leslie Sams, returning starting tackle from 1929, was declared too old to play for the Big Reds in 1930. At that time you could still play at age 20.

In fact, in 1932 Leonard “Feets” Barnum turned 20 seven days before the Big Reds opened their season against East Fairmont.

Ever go to the movies – to watch football game films? In 1931 fans were treated to a showing of the PHS vs. Oak Hill game film at the Smoot Theatre. Also that year the Big Reds played their first night game when they visited Erie (PA) Academy.

Before he became a Big Red head coach and later the legendary coach at Syracuse University, Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder coached against PHS in 1935 as the head man at Sistersville High School. On Oct. 5 his team traveled to Parkersburg and got beat 48-0.

There were few cars in the 1930’s with the depression and impending world war but that didn’t stop fans from following their beloved Big Reds. On Nov. 7, 1936 a total of 2,068 fans boarded a special train to make the trip to Wheeling to watch PHS face their old rivals.

That 1936 team had three 20 year olds on its roster and an 18 year old sophomore named Walter Piggy Barnes. In 1939 Barnes graduated in June and turned 21 the same month.

The Sept. 23, 1938 newspaper said the PHS game at Beckley was first night game ever for the Big Reds. Apparently the 1931 game at Erie didn’t count?

As PHS prepared for the 1945 season opener against Mannington, there was much written in the local paper about the fact that the visitors had won 19 games in a row. When the game was over the Big Reds had held Mannington to minus 27 yards in total offense.

The crowd at Stadium Field for the Marietta game on Sept. 19, 1947, was said to be 14,500. It was a standing room only event and if this figure was correct it would be the largest crowd ever at PHS.

In 1948 the Big Reds were tipped off on every play as to which way Clarksburg Washington Irving was going to run the ball – and still lost the game 20-9! Thirty years later in the playoffs against Martinsburg the same scenario took place but this time PHS prevailed 30-0.

The Marshall Burdette resignation of the 21st century was not the first such happening at PHS. In 1948 after starting the season with one win and two losses, Russ Pfalzgraf resigned amid much pressure from Big Red fans and Jimmy Scott

was appointed head coach on Sept. 25. That same day Pfalzgraf was named director of physical education at PHS. Scott had filled in for Pfalzgraf a few years before when Pfalzgraf left to serve two years in the military during World War II.

Two years later on the Tuesday before the state championship game against Oak Hill, Scott announced his resignation. He later withdrew that resignation, said to be made over a financial dispute, and the Big Reds won 40-0 to cap a perfect season. Shinnston had protested Oak Hill being allowed to play PHS because Oak Hill had used a player who was over the age limit. At that time a player was not allowed to turn 19 before the first game.

In 1952, Dick Bowersock had a 97 yard kickoff return against Triadelphia – and did not score, being tackled from behind on the one yard line.

In 1953, the Big Reds defeated Huntington 7-0 despite not making a first down in the game. Ed Plauche recovered a fumble in the end zone for the only touchdown. Dick Custer and Gordon Anderson caused the Huntington fumble in the end zone when Jack Hunt tried a deep pitchout and the ball rolled into the end zone. PHS had just 11 yards rushing and seven yards passing compared to Huntington's 11 first downs and 179 total yards.

That same year, following 25-0 loss to Weir in final game, Coach Scott called for underclassmen which were not playing basketball to voluntarily participate in football drills. There were 114 students who participated.

Dan James, who would become better known as Buddy and also become the winningest coach of all time at PHS, was a member of the 1955 Big Red team, as were the first blacks to ever play due to the closing of Sumner School in 1954. It is believed that Jeff and Leon Bartlett along with Lynn Williams were the first blacks to become members of the Big Reds.

In 1955 the T-formation was used for the first time by coach Russ Parsons.

The Big Reds beat Marietta in 1956 despite trailing 12-0 with only five minutes left to play. A 95 yard kickoff return by Art Daniels and a 55 yard run with a fumble recovery by Paul Hoblitzell along with Paul Adams' extra point kick proved the difference in a 13-12 victory. Six weeks later Jim Bargeloh scored the

winning touchdown on a 17 yard run with less than a minute to play to beat Huntington East 20-14.

The 1958 squad was truly a deep team. Twenty-one different players scored that year for the Big Reds. The season ended with a 34-12 win over East Bank in the state championship game as Art Daniels ran for 163 yards and two touchdowns. The only blemish was a 13-13 tie at Charleston in a game which saw two Big Red touchdowns called back by the officials.

The following year, a triple reverse, Larry Holman to Bob Owens to Mike Hayden on a kickoff return against Charleston enabled Hayden to score a touchdown from 84 yards away. The next week against Stonewall Jackson, the same three players ran the same kickoff return play to begin the game, this time with Bob Owens being on the final handoff and going 91 yards for a touchdown. But Stonewall came back to fashion a 25-25 tie and stop Parkersburg's 18-game winning streak.

In the 1959 state championship game against Bluefield, the Big Reds had to move Hayden to quarterback because of an injury to Mike Dyer and while Hayden performed admirably the team lost 19-13. After one Big Red touchdown Larry Allen, tackle-turned-kicker, became record-setting passer as he completed two passes on one extra point play – but still could not score. Hayden was the holder for Allen's placement attempt. A bad snap was picked up by Allen and thrown to Hayden, who later led back to Allen, who then threw another completed pass but the receiver did not cross the goal line.

Through nine games that year Hayden was averaging over 10 yards per carry with 1,057 yards on 100 attempts. He finished with 1,144 on 122 carries (a 9.4 average).

Holman scored on a 31 yard run with 10 seconds left in the season opener to beat Elkins 33-27. Also, the team drew 50,496 fans in six games for an average attendance of 8,416 per game.

In 1960, Mike Wright kicked a 16 yard field goal against Wheeling. The first field goal by a Big Red since 1939 when Jack "Hap" Grotey drop-kicked one across the bar from 19 yards away against Clarksburg Washington Irving.

Ron Williams of Weir scored on a 40 yard punt return in 1962 but PHS defeated the Red Riders 7-6 on Paul Hickman's 45 yard fumble return and Aaron Davis'

extra point run. Williams was an all-state gridder who would make a bigger name for himself in basketball, starring at West Virginia University and then playing in the NBA.

The Big Reds were denied a probable playoff spot in 1963 because of a Charleston bench player. Tom Black of PHS was headed up the sidelines for a touchdown which would have won the game for PHS when Dave Isaac came off the Charleston bench to make the saving tackle. Officials allowed the play to stand, saying they had seen nothing, and Charleston went on to win 18-14. Even when game films the next day showed #20 coming off the sideline to make the tackle, nothing was done and PHS sat at home come championship Saturday. Oddly enough, Charleston also sat at home as the Mt. Lions wound up tied with Welch for second place and Buckhannon Upshur was declared the champion without a playoff game. Had Parkersburg won the Big Reds would have finished in sole possession of second and played for the title. Larry Rhodes that year ran for 1,438 yards, scored 20 touchdowns and had nearly 2,000 yards in all-purpose yardage.

In 1965 Phil Parsons scored on runs of 73 and 79 yards in a 38-0 win over Huntington East. However, there were apparently no stats kept for the game to indicate how many yards he had total for the game.

Steve Swisher, who was a future big league baseball all-star like his son Nick, had a key interception to help PHS defeat Huntington East 13-6 in 1966. Two years later he was captain for city rival Parkersburg South in a 6-0 loss to the Big Reds.

Joe Stephan's nine yard touchdown pass to Barry Loudon with 15 seconds left capped a great 34-33 comeback victory over Beckley in 1967. Beckley had led 33-21 with just 10:31 left to play as Stephan brought his team back for the victory that would stand as one of the greatest comeback wins in PHS history until topped by the 1999 showing of Marc Kimes and Nathan Fields.

The first ever PHS-South game was turned into a 59-0 rout for the Big Reds that same year thanks to three defensive touchdowns. PHS ran up 59 points in three quarters with eight different players reaching the end zone. Al Hawkins was the only player to score twice as he caught a pass and returned one of five PHS interceptions for another touchdown. Jiggs Griffin and Pat Riggs had fumble returns for scores.

Foreign exchange student Deha Sezar kicked the first soccer-style extra point in a game for the Big Reds in 1969 as he booted one through the uprights in a 43-12 victory over Huntington East. It was the only successful extra point by placement for PHS that year.

The Big Reds intercepted all-state quarterback Brian Book of Magnolia seven times in a 1970 season-opening 48-6 win. Book completed eight passes to his teammates – seven passes to the Big Reds. Two years earlier in a 20-2 season-opening win over Magnolia the Big Reds came up with eight turnovers (5 interceptions, 3 fumble recoveries).

All-state tackle Rich Winans got the thrill of a lifetime in 1972 against Huntington when he returned an onside kick attempt 45 yards for a touchdown as one of the “up” men on the kick return team. The next week PHS beat Charleston for the first time since 1964 despite Curt Calloway scoring three touchdowns (including punt returns of 83 and 98 yards).

Also in 1972, Big Reds needed a win over arch-rival Parkersburg South to make the playoff but lost 12-0 before 9,000 fans as Ken Cooper made a finger-tip touchdown reception on a pass from Terry Crislip and big John Douglas ran for 163 yards (including a 66 yard scoring scamper).

After being number one for most of the 1973 season before a 20-8 loss to Walt Easley and Stonewall Jackson, Big Reds found themselves needing to beat Parkersburg South in the final game to make the playoffs. Boo Boo Henderson ran for 170 yards on 18 carries to lead PHS to a 38-0 romp and a spot in the playoffs.

Needing a win to get in the 1974 playoffs, PHS dispatched South 16-6 in the regular season finale on a pair of Rich Duggan touchdown passes to Buster Donaway and Joe Dotson. Duggan would go on to be the starting tight end for West Virginia University.

In 1975, for the third year in a row it was a season-ending showdown with Parkersburg South with playoff berths on the line. The Patriots were second ranked but the eighth-ranked Big Reds pulled 14-6 upset win as Luke Spencer gained all 129 of his yards in the second half, scored a touchdown and had two interceptions on defense. Unfortunately, it wasn't until two years later that the top eight teams

advanced to the playoffs. South advanced to the playoffs despite the loss but was defeated in the first round by Robert Alexander and South Charleston. The next year the South-PHS game was moved away from being the final game on the schedule.

Only four teams went to 1976 playoffs and PHS stood fifth prior to Beckley's season-ending 12-0 upset loss to Oak Hill. Once at the dance, Big Reds proceeded to blow away number one ranked and home standing Martinsburg 38-0 and then DuPont 30-0 – the two highest-scoring teams in the state with averages of 32 and 31.9 points per game respectively. The win over Martinsburg, which was led by future NFL player Fulton Walker, was achieved thanks to the PHS coaching staff picking up a tell-tale alignment of the Bulldogs' fullback which tipped off which way the ensuing play was going to be run. The Big Reds didn't need such help the following week in Huntington against DuPont as wrestling champion tight end-turned running back Dennis Rexroad rambled for 119 yards and scored a to

The year 1977 was the first time PHS had three backs rush for over 100 yards in a game as John Richards gained 144, Frank Pirillo 109 and Larry Gibson 108 ran wild in a 34-0 win over Stonewall Jackson. Exactly 20 years later the trio of Scott Davis (104), Chris Smith (123) and Mike Lerch (141) would accomplish the feat in a semifinal playoff win over Hedgesville. In that 1997 game future major league baseball star Nick Swisher picked up 20 yards on two carries as the start of the game before being injured and replaced by Smith.

That 1977 team went 9-1, made playoffs but lost to number one seed Beckley, 7-3, when Phil Culicerto threw a 12 yard touchdown pass to Rob Anderson with 25 seconds remaining.

The Big Reds barely made playoffs in 1978 as the eighth seed with 8-2 record. It was the first year eight teams went to playoffs. But PHS proceeded to knock off the number one, number two and number four seeds, with three straight shutouts.

Big Red kicker John Sarver was credited with winning three games in 1979 with his foot. PHS won two 3-0 games (against Parkersburg South on a 20 yard field goal with 5:19 to play) and against Weir on a 25 yard field goal in the second quarter. The team also nipped Beckley 7-6. Four years earlier Pat Earley kicked the only field goal of his career, a 25 yarder, with 6:42 remaining to beat Marietta 3-0.

Rob Lockhart, who could run a 4.7 40 and bench press 300 pounds, had an amazing 12 solo tackles per game in 1979. He also had seven quarterback sacks.

The first triple-overtime game in school history came in 1981. The Big Reds had to play three extra periods before beating Beckley 18-12 on Scott Schenerlein's four yard run. The Big Reds would not play another until the season opener of 2003 against Riverside.

Schenerlein, a future All-American wrestler, fractured a bone in his leg in the fifth game of the 1981 season, returning in game nine. He still finished with 18 touchdowns and 1,050 yards rushing.

Bub Smith went from the PHS cheerleading squad to a starting spot in the defensive secondary for the Big Reds in 1982.

After a brawl at midfield to conclude the 1983 game with Weir, there was a touchdown scored in the 1984 Weir game on the Nebraska "Fumblerooski" play.

Rick Marshall set an all-time single-game passing record with 343 yards and total offense mark with 414 yards in leading his team to a 48-7 victory over Parkersburg South in 1988.

The 1989 season saw the Big Reds open with a 34-0 loss to Ripley and then a 27-0 loss to Athens – the first back to back shutouts of a Big Red team in 41 years.

PHS made some more football history in 1990 when they lost to Capital 21-3 at Laidley Field in the first nationally televised high school football game in West Virginia history. The game took four hours to play (imagine the number of commercials) because of a lightning storm delay.

Trailing Parkersburg South 7-0 in 1991, Eric Ranson scored on a quarterback sneak. First-year coach Marshall Burdette elected to go for the win on a two-point conversion despite having an all-state kicker in Brad Hackett on the sidelines. The attempt failed.

Four years later, in 1995 the Big Reds of coach Burdette led South 7-0 but Greg Carpenter scored in the fourth quarter. Former PHS gridder now South coach Charlie Kupfner elected to go for two and sent Carpenter up the middle to win the game 8-7. It was the only regular season loss for PHS that year.

Chad Broadwater passed for over 1,200 yards as a 1992 senior and then went on to become a record-setting quarterback at Shepherd College.

All-State wide receiver Brad Johnson won the state high hurdle championships in track 1993 while finishing second in the 100 meters. The 100-meter winner was future Pro Football All-Star Randy Moss.

Nathan Kirby accounted for 160 tackles in 1994 on the way to winning the Huff Award as the state's outstanding defender.

In 1996, the McKinley (DC) Trainers came to Parkersburg on Sept. 13 and brought with them the first female player to dress for a game at Stadium Field.

Field position was never more important than the 1997 state championship game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Playing on a frozen field and without scoring leader and future New York Yankee outfielder Nick Swisher, the Big Reds lost to North Marion 16-6. The Big Reds had to start on offense from their own three, four, four and nine yard lines during that game.

The 1998 PHS team tied a record set in 1911 by posting nine shutouts but in actuality the first team defense of the 1998 team did not allow a point until the playoffs. After building a 56-0 halftime lead against Ballou High School of Washington DC the reserves played the rest of the way and gave up four touchdowns (the only points allowed during the regular season). PHS was the number three ranked high school team in the East at the end of the regular season.

Steve Haught set a school record in 1998 with 22 quarterback sacks.

Despite becoming the first Big Red team to go 14-0, the 1999 team will be forever remembered for its incredible comeback victory over Huntington in the second round of the playoffs.

"The Comeback" saw sophomore Marc Kimes bring his team from an 18-0 deficit to a 21-18 victory. The comeback started with 8:02 remaining and ended with 3.2 seconds on the clock.

With Kimes and the first pair of 1,000 yard rushers in school history – Al Hammell and Scott Davis – the Big Reds swept through the regular season virtually untouched. Seven-point wins over John Marshall and Cabell Midland were the

closest encounters until being forced to play Huntington for a second time at Stadium Field.

Although having beaten the Highlanders 30-0 the first time around, the second meeting saw Huntington hold an 18-0 lead with just 8:02 remaining in the game. Many Big Reds “faithful” got up and headed for their cars. But Kimes calmly directed his team to a pair of touchdowns – both passes to Isaac Weaver – that made the score 18-15 thanks to an extra point pass to Weaver and a kick by Matt McCullough. The first TD drive covered 73 yards and scored with 5:35 on the clock. Huntington got the ball back and ran nearly four minutes off the clock before turning it over on downs. Four straight passes produced a second PHS score with 55 seconds remaining in the game. The passes were 13 yards to Hammell, 34 yards to Cam Slaughter, 17 yards to Weaver and the TD came on a 16 yard play.

The miracle continued with an onside kick recovery at midfield. With 44 seconds on the clock, Kimes passed to Nathan Fields for 28 yards and then found Fields again for what appeared to be the winning touchdown only to have the play called back by an illegal procedure penalty. After two incomplete passes, McCullough came on to attempt a game-tying 44 yard field goal. His kick was wide left but Huntington was called for roughing the kicker with 9.2 seconds on the clock. Coach Marshall Burdette was ready to send McCullough out for another field goal try but Kimes and Fields convinced him to take one more shot at a touchdown. Kimes hit Fields just short of the goal line but the senior end stretched, stretched and stretched some more to reach the stripe with 3.2 seconds left in the game and a 21-18 lead.

After that came a 54-14 romp over Musselman and a second meeting with a team which they had already beaten, Riverside. Apparently the saying that it is tough to beat a good team two times in a row proved ALMOST true again. PHS built a 24-0 lead, let it slip away to fall behind 28-24 with 4:15 remaining only to have Kimes and Fields repeat their earlier magic (this time from 10 yards out) to win the game with 1:19 remaining. Riverside had scored 22 points in the span of 62 seconds to take the lead thanks to a TD, an onside kick recovery, another TD, a fumble recovery and another TD. The winning drive from Kimes covered 87 yards in less than three minutes and climaxed with Fields making a leaping grab between two defenders in the end zone.

In 2001 after Marshall Burdette resigned following the season-opening win over Huntington, the Big Reds went on to win the state championship under interim coach Craig Farnsworth but they did not go undefeated, losing two late regular season games to Riverside (17-14) and Cabell Midland (12-10) to qualify sixth in the final ratings.

The 2006-2007 teams were the first in school history to win back-to-back state titles but their 21-game winning streak was good for only a second best tie with the 1999-2000 teams. The all-time consecutive win mark of 23 in a row was set by the teams from 1939 through 1941.

Junior Allan Wasonga recorded the most 200-yard rushing games in one season in 2009 with six and barely missed a seventh with 199. In two of those games he was held out until the second half of the game.

PHS lost in the 2009 playoffs to Bridgeport 24-17 when the Indians scored with 2:07 left to play, exactly 30 years after losing to Bridgeport 7-6 in 1979 playoffs as home team scored winning TD with 3:30 remaining.

When the Don Reeves era began the Big Reds continued to make the playoffs in each of his first two years (2010 and 2011) but made quick exits at the hands of defending champion South Charleston and Huntington.

Highlights – By Decade

1900-1909

Although it has been generally regarded that the first “official” Parkersburg High School football team was in 1906, the 1914 edition of the school newspaper, “The Quill” listed the school’s year-by-year football records and went back to 1900. Articles on PHS football results taken from the Parkersburg newspapers showed at least three games played by the high school student team in 1900, two against the Columbia Athletic Club and one against the Parkersburg Athletic Club Juniors.

The 1901 team played at least two games each against the high school students from Marietta and Athens while the 1902 team played at least nine games although results could be found for only eight. The 1903 team played at least five games (with only one win and one touchdown scored) and was captained by a 15 year-old freshman named Dick Hoblitzell. The coach in 1902 and 1903 was Henry Nelly but the leaders and organizers of the team were the captain and manager. The 1903 manager was Jack Crist, who also played halfback.

Early games were played at Stephenson’s Park and the City Park. Players had to furnish their own equipment and pay all their own expenses.

In 1903 the PHS team wanted to play Cambridge but could not raise enough money to pay the way for the Cambridge team to travel to Parkersburg – which was the custom of the time for the home team to pay the way for the visiting team.

A man who had officiated some of the PHS games the year before, Paul Lehman, coached the 1904 team with Hoblitzell again being the captain. Hoblitzell would go on to play first base for the Boston Red Sox when they won the world series a

few years later with a pitcher named Babe Ruth, The team won five games and tied one out of nine contests. One of the loses was to Athens 16-0 when it was claimed the winners used four “ringers” (at end, guard, tackle and halfback) while another was 6-0 to Marietta Academy when that team used four members of the Marietta College squad to help secure the victory. Hoblitzell scored on an end run against the alumni but at the end of the season he announced he had been recruited to play for Marietta Academy in 1905.

Little could be found about the 1905 high school team except that Boyd Carfer, a freshman, organized the squad, did the coaching and was the team captain. The team played to two scoreless ties against Marietta High School.

From 1900 to 1906 some members of the high school team also played for the Parkersburg Athletic Club team (which traveled all over and played various teams, including colleges). Carfer and John Dudley were two such students. Plus, students were allowed to attend high school through the age of 21.

In 1906 the principal, C.W. Boetticher was the first “official” coach although Carfer did the actual coaching duties, working the team after chores in the evening under the gaslight lamps of Juliana and Ann Streets. Only three games were played with the only home game being at Stephenson’s Field on Nov. 3 against Marietta. Marietta won the game 5-0 using the hidden ball play where the pigskin was tucked under the jersey of a Marietta player to score the only touchdown.

The first “official” PHS touchdown was recorded by Russell Paden, who scored on a criss-cross play when he was pushed across the goal line from behind by Milan Bartlett. Francis Rathbone had the other TD on an end run in a 10-0 win at Grafton. Players had to buy their own train tickets to travel to and from the game.

Harry Bonner became the first “official” paid coach in 1907 as his team went 3-1-3 with the only loss being 6-5 to Grafton.

Carfer finished his fourth year as captain in 1908 by scoring the only touchdown in a 6-0 win over Marietta High School and leading the team to its first undefeated season at 5-0. Dick Weston kicked four field goals against New Martinsville on Oct. 3 – and field goals counted four points then compared to five points for a

touchdown – before going on to Penn State where he died following his sophomore year in 1910.

The first decade of PHS football ended in 1909 with a 5-1 season (losing only to New Martinsville 11-0) and a sophomore captain named Earl “Greasy” Neale.

1910-1919

Neale was an end and kicker and to this day might still be the best at both positions to ever play at PHS. Although he gained national fame for his baseball playing days with the Cincinnati Reds and for his football coaching, Neale was player-coach in 1910. He led his team to four wins, a tie and a forfeit (when Marietta walked off the field after officials disallowed a touchdown made by a player named Sutton, who had crawled across the goal line from the three yard line). The team split with New Martinsville and Marietta Academy.

In 1911, B.B. Cooley was officially the coach and he used the pass-catch combination of Glenn Allen (who would go on to play quarterback for West Virginia University) and Neale to compile an undefeated season at 10-0 with only one touchdown allowed (a 12-8 victory over Wheeling). Neale, who was rumored to not be a student at PHS, won one game 3-0 with a 25 yard field from an impossible angle in the final seconds. Charles Penwell returned two blocked kicks for touchdowns against the National Guard team.

Official school colors varied around this time and there was no official nickname until 1915 when Ralph Jones became the assistant coach to Frank Wray. Jones hailed from Denison College, “The Big Red.” Jones started calling the team the Big Reds and by the third game of the season the newspapers picked up on the nickname and the red-clad warriors became the Big Reds.

The following year led by standouts like Claude Crawford, who went from being the starting center to an all-state fullback, Braden Alleman, Harland Devore and Charles Bell, the Big Reds went 6-1-3 with the only loss being to the Marietta College Reserves.

With Crawford running for 19 touchdowns in 1917 the Big Reds won 10 games but were shut out by two of their biggest rivals, Charleston and Huntington. They defeated Middlebourne 120-0 (the score was originally thought to be 122-0 but

both newspaper accounts listed it as 120-0) as Crawford and Jack Armstrong scored six touchdowns each. Joe Setron, a 254 pound tackle (a giant in an era when teams averaged only 150 pounds per man), joined Crawford on the all-state team that year.

Armstrong and other outstanding players returned for the 1918 season but the team played only three games, losing one of those to Marietta by a 14-13 score, because of the Spanish Flu Epidemic which quarantined whole towns for as many as three straight weeks. Still, the team was declared state champions by virtue of its victory over Huntington.

PHS was declared state champ again in 1919 as World War I came to an end and Jack Armstrong scored 11 touchdowns for a 7-1 team whose only loss came on Dec. 6 when Allegheny High of Pittsburgh beat the Big Reds 12-0 in the “Championship of the East.”

1920-1929

The 1920's ushered in the era of Ross McHenry, Roland “Hobby” Hobensack, Gilbert “Gibby” Welch, and the trio of Howard Rutter, Harry Stephens and Basilio Marchi.

McHenry was the only PHS three-time all-stater until the 21st Century. Although not a large player at 165 pounds he was an outstanding tackler and kicker from 1920 through 1922. The Big Reds were declared state champs in 1921 and 1922.

Hobensack was an all-state halfback who was allowed to play at PHS despite living in Belpre. The State Board allowed him to cross the Ohio River and play because Belpre had no football team. He scored 23 touchdowns during his career at PHS.

Welch never made all-state despite scoring eight touchdowns as a junior and 15 as a senior, possibly because he played on the same team as McHenry and Hobensack. But he did go on to become a consensus All-American at Pitt where he broke Red Grange's yardage record with nearly 2,000 yards in only nine games as a junior and he record stood until Tony Dorsett was able to break it over 40 later.

Leo Novak's 1925 team will go down in history as one of the worst – if not the worst – offensive teams in the history of PHS. The team that year scored just four touchdowns (two of them by the defense). Through nine games the only offensive TD was a pass from Ed Rutter to Dilbert Swyers. In the season finale against Buckhannon, Eddie Hines managed to run into the end zone from a yard away for the only rushing touchdown of the year in a 10-0 victory. The team won three games and tied one thanks to a defense which allowed a touchdown or less in six games.

After the offensive woes of 1925 came the offensive wonders of 1926 through 1927 thanks to players like Howard Rutter, Harry Stephens, John McCuskey, Basilio Marchi and Harold "Barney" Graham. Rutter, Stephens and Marchi were three year regulars who combined to score an amazing 456 points during that span as the team compiled a 27-4-1 record.

Rutter and Stephens were the outside threats to Marchi's inside power. Rutter scored 221 points during his three years, breaking away for 10 runs of over 40 yards while returning four interceptions and four punts for touchdowns. Stephens, who was the state 100 yard dash champion and record holder, returned two interceptions for TD's and had 134 points in his career. Marchi, at over 200 pounds in an era of 150 pound linemen, was the team's punter and passer in addition to scoring 18 touchdowns. He went on to become a three-year regular at center for New York University. Yet none of the three ever made first team all-state, an honor which went to McCuskey in 1927 when he scored eight touchdowns.

The 1927 team was declared state champions by popular acclaim.

The decade of the 20's ended when former Big Red tackle Ross McHenry, the first three-time all-stater at PHS and the first Parkersburg player to ever be named captain of the West Virginia University team, became the head coach. The Big Red team immediately went from a high-scoring, big play team to one based on defense and solid line play. McHenry's first team pitched seven shutouts and allowed just 33 points all year with 19 coming in a loss to West Fairmont.

1930-1939

McHenry's defensive teams' excellence continued in 1930 as the Big Reds, led by Louis Marchi (Basilio's younger brother) and Garner Roush (a transfer from Ravenswood) anchored a solid line on a team which had six shutouts and allowed just 48 points in 11 games en route to a 6-3-2 record. That year also marked the appearance of Leonard "Feets" Barnum in a Big Red uniform. His three-year tenure at PHS saw the Big Reds go 8-2 in each of his last two seasons. With Barnum running, passing and kicking PHS to win after win the McHenry defense remained solid – 22 shutouts in his first four years. Barnum was not nicknamed Feets without a reason. During his three-year career he averaged well over 41 yards per kick, including a plus 45-yard average as a junior when he had one punt go 85 yards against Erie Academy. He went on to become one of the top kickers in the NFL. After Barnum finally graduated (he turned 20 before the start of his senior season) and went on to the W.Va. Wesleyan Hall of Fame, the Big Reds struggled on offense until 1935 when Clyde Archer and Harold Detwiler led PHS to an 8-2 record in McHenry's last year. Identical 13-7 losses to Charleston and Morgantown ruined the '35 season although Archer was captain of the all-state team for his running, passing and kicking and Detwiler ran for nine touchdowns.

One of the 1935 wins was a 48-0 victory over Sistersville, coached by a young man named Floyd Schwartzwalder, better known as Ben. A former 95 pound starting freshman quarterback at Pt. Pleasant, Schwartzwalder became the Big Red coach in 1936 and took his team to seven wins (close losses to Ashland Paul Blazer, Huntington and Wheeling). Among those win was a 6-0 season-ending triumph over previously undefeated Marietta. PHS led Paul Blazer 12-0 in the fourth quarter but was beaten with five seconds remaining on a long touchdown pass. Detwiler ran wild for PHS that year, scoring 12 touchdowns. The next year, 1937, PHS had two ties and two close defeats at the hands of old rivals Charleston and Wheeling (both by 13-6 scores). After that defeat was not a word in Schwartzwalder's vocabulary. Between 1938 and 1940, PHS lost just one game (20-0 to Charleston in 1939) as they won 32.

In 1938 it was Walter "Piggy" Barnes, a 6-foot-1, 208 pound tower of strength tackle who was fast enough to run the 440 in track, and Bill Earley in the backfield. The team went 11-0 and was voted state champions by the sportswriters. In 1939, it was versatile Bill Bell who ran for nearly 1,000 yards and passed for over 1,200 yards.

1940-1949

In 1940, super sophomore “Fast” Fred Earley came along to run for over 1,500 yards and lead the Big Reds to a state title in Schwartzwalder’s last year. PHS averaged 35 points per game that year and gave up single touchdowns in just four games while posting eight shutouts. The closest contests were a 14-6 win over Clarksburg WI and a 12-0 triumph over Charleston. Earley, Jim Thomas and Wade Mclean combined to score 276 points between them.

Russ Pfalzgraf inherited a lot of talent and took them to a 10-0-1 season before going overseas with the military and leaving Jimmy Scott to crank out more wins. The only blemish in 1941 was a scoreless tie with Charleston. With the likes of Jack Morton, Harold McKibben, Johnny Morris and Dick Morrison following Earley into the Big Red lineup between 1943 and 1945 there would be three nine-win seasons. With World War II raging, the Big Reds won their first eight games of 1942 before losing 25-19 at Wheeling and then 13-0 to Weir. A state title and undefeated season came in 1943 with the highest-scoring team in Big Red history (39.6 points per game). The team crushed Ceredo-Kenova 85-0 with the first-team backfield only scoring two touchdowns, then beat Marietta 78-0 in the season finale as Morris scored six touchdowns and passed for another.

In 1944 Morrison came onto the scene as a sophomore and as a junior and senior the Big Reds lost just one game each year. In 1946, Pfalzgraf returned from the war and took the head coaching job back from Scott (who remained as assistant). He suffered through a losing season in 1947 and three games into the 1948 season he resigned with Scott taking the helm to finish out a 2-8 season. In 1949 the turnaround began under Scott thanks to young players like Bill Crouser, Jim Earley and Jim Sadie.

1950-1959

With the rating system in place to determine who would play for the state championship, the 1950 Big Reds went 10-0 and then bounced Oak Hill 40-0 in the title game as Crouser turned in a spectacular performance. Crouser scored three touchdowns, one running, one receiving and one (for 83 yards) on a fake punt. He also punted five times for a 43.4 average including one for 66 yards. Jim Earley also earned the Kennedy Award that year as the top player in the state.

Scott took the Big Reds to four straight eight-win seasons between 1951 and 1954 before suffering through a losing season in 1955 and calling it quits as coach. Russ Parsons came along in 1956 and another upsurge began with back to back 7-3 seasons followed by the state title effort of 1958. The only blemish on the 1958 record was a 13-13 tie at Charleston in a game which saw two Big Red scores wiped out by penalties. With shifty Larry Tracewell at quarterback, speedy Artie Daniels at halfback, and bruising Dave Boston at fullback, the Big Reds ended Weir's 21-game winning streak in the regular season finale, 25-0, to earn a berth in the championship game opposite East Bank. Daniels ran for 163 yards and two touchdowns (one a 91 yard run) on 17 carries and Tracewell found glue-fingered receiver Jim Gaskins for two touchdowns as PHS won 34-12. During that season 21 different Big Reds scored points.

The following year PHS was back in the title game again with shifty halfback Mike Hayden leading the way. In the championship game against Bluefield, quarterback Mike Dyer was injured early and Hayden had to move to quarterback. Although performing admirably, the Big Reds lost 19-13.

1960-69

Only once in the 1960's did PHS play for a championship. In 1962 with Parsons still at the helm, the Big Reds went 9-0-1 (tying Charleston) and met Bluefield in the title game only to lose 40-12 with co-captain Jim Burke out of the lineup with an injury. Burke had been the team's leading scorer with 13 touchdowns. But the Big Reds were consistent winners in this decade with eight wins in 1960, 1963 and 1964 as well as going 7-2-1 in 1967 (the final year for Parsons). In 1968 another former Big Red all-stater took the helm in Daniel "Buddy" James.

The Big Reds were 6-3-1 and 8-2 in James' first two years to close out the '60's.

1970-1979

In the 1970's James took PHS to the playoffs six times in 10 years, winning it all in 1976 and 1978.

In 1973 the Big Reds were ranked number one through seven games as quarterback Rich Duggan, receivers Paul Starcher and Buster Donaway and tailback Fred Pence led the way. They lost a showdown with fourth ranked Stonewall 20-8 but

still finished in fourth place in the final rankings to earn a spot opposite East Bank. East Bank won 21-6 and claimed the state title the following week.

In 1974 Duggan and Donaway returned and PHS went 9-1 in the regular season, losing to Stonewall Jackson but beating Parkersburg South 16-6 in the finale to earn a playoff spot. The team beat up on Buckhannon 32-0 in the semifinals but lost to Stonewall 16-0 in the title game.

In 1975 back to back losses to Charleston (6-0) and Stonewall (20-6) knocked out the Big Reds but they did have the satisfaction of beating playoff-bound Parkersburg South, 14-6, in the regular season finale.

The following year with Kennedy Award runner-up Dave Manzo at quarterback, the Big Reds again suffered back-to-back defeats in the middle of the regular season (18-14 to Marietta and 20-8 to Brooke) but made the playoffs as the final seed (number four) on the final day of the regular season when Beckley lost to Oak Hill. PHS proceeded to use its stingy defense and the hard running of Manzo and John Richards to put together probably the most impressive playoff run in history. Forced to make the long road trip to face number one ranked, state scoring leader Martinsburg, the Big Reds rolled to a 38-0 win. The Bulldogs were held to four first downs, 56 yards rushing and 36 passing despite the presence of future NFL performer Fulton Walker. It was more of the same in the finals against DuPont as the Big Reds won 30-0 and limited the Panthers to 47 yards rushing and 44 passing. Manzo finished with 172 points scored, 859 yards rushing and 562 passing while George Elliott, Dennis Rexroad and Dave Phillips sparked the defense.

With Richards coming back after rushing for over 1,000 yards as a sophomore and Larry Phillips back to anchor the line, the 1977 Big Reds went 9-1 and allowed just 11 touchdowns during the regular season. The only loss was 13-0 to northern rival Brooke. A bid for a second straight championship ended with 25 seconds left in the first round of the playoffs against visiting Beckley. A 12 yard pass from Phil Culicerto to Rob Anderson beat PHS by a 7-3 score.

That 25 seconds proved to be difference between would could have been three straight state championships as the 1978 team won it all with another impressive playoff run.

With Richards returning and compiling his third straight 1,000 yard season the Big Reds also included players like veteran quarterback Don Reeves and the incredible receiving and pass intercepting skills of Todd Curkendall. Regular season losses to Marietta and Brooke meant PHS barely made the playoffs as the eighth and final seed but once the “second” season began it was a 21-0 victory over top seeded Fairmont West, a 22-0 triumph at Bridgeport and, finally, a 6-0 win over DuPont (which had been averaging over 30 points and 400 yards per game). The team finished that year with 30 interceptions (10 by Curkendall) while Joe Weaver, Frank Pirillo and Tim Woolard combined for over 400 tackles.

The 1979 season opened with a loss to Stonewall Jackson (13-8) and included what seemed to be its annual defeat at the hands of Brooke (6-0) but PHS still made the playoffs thanks to a defense which allowed just four touchdowns during the regular season. In the first round of the playoffs PHS got a measure of revenge by beating Brooke 28-0 as Mark Williams scored two touchdowns. But title hopes ended the following week when Bridgeport rallied to post a 7-6 victory.

1980-89

Strong defense again propelled PHS into the playoffs in 1980 with a 9-1 record (the loss coming to Brooke, 12-7). After beating George Washington 14-12 on two Jeff Eddy to Dave Stukey TD passes, the Big Reds fell to North Marion 21-3.

Another 9-1 season followed in 1981 with yet another loss to Brooke (14-0) being the only blemish. Scott Schenerlein ran for over 1,000 yards and scored 110 points including the only touchdown in a 20-6 playoff loss to North Marion in the first round.

Mike McCoy ran for over 1,000 yards in 1982 while Darrin Walker won two games with field goals but a regular season final game loss to Brooke spoiled a perfect regular season. In the playoffs, PHS beat Buckhannon 12-7 but then lost to GW 13-6.

In 1983 the Big Reds beat Brooke 10-7 but that followed a 14-7 loss to Beckley in game nine. Although McCoy ran for over 1,000 yards again the playoff run ended in the first round with a 10-0 loss to Charleston.

The string of eight straight playoff appearances ended in 1984 with a 5-5 record but the next year the Big Reds over-achieved by making it all the way to the state finals. Led by linemen Joel Mazzella and Scott Adams as well as linebacker Eric Gates, PHS pitched six shutouts and gave up only one TD in three more games. The only regular season loss was 28-14 to George Washington. The Big Reds beat John Marshall 10-7 and then avenged its defeat by topping GW 28-13. In the finals they squared off with Brooke, a team they had beaten 14-6 back in the season opener. But the Bruins again found a way to nip the Big Reds by a 7-0 score as they sacked quarterback Todd Burner seven times and forced two turnovers.

1990-1999

An eight year dry spell lasted until 1994 and saw the changing of the coaching guard with Marshall Burdette taking over for Buddy James in 1991.

The 1994 team lost three regular season games by a total of 18 points and then dropped a heart-breaker to St. Albans 20-19 in the first round of the playoffs.

That marked the beginning of the turn-around for the Big Reds as they made the playoffs for seven years in a row.

In 1995 Kirk Oliver raced to 20 touchdowns and PHS lost in the semifinals to Hedgesville 18-0. The only regular season loss was 8-7 to Parkersburg South. They throttled North Marion 47-0 and Wheeling Park 28-7 in the first round rounds of the playoffs.

Matt Kimes ran for over 1,000 yards in 1996 and the team made the playoffs despite three losses. However, Wheeling Park ended the PHS season by a 20-10 score in the first round.

The 1997 and 1998 teams were both impressive but both came up just short in their championship bids.

The '97 team was loaded with underclassmen but went 11-3 and made it to the finals only to have an injury to Nick Swisher and horrible field position result in a 16-6 loss. After beating Capital and Greenbrier East in the first two rounds of the playoffs, the Big Reds beat Hedgesville 42-14 in the semifinals but lost Swisher

with a broken collarbone. Then, in the finals, PHS found itself starting inside its own 10 yard line four times and could not dig itself out of such holes.

In 1998 with Swisher, Scott Davis, Eric Grimm and several other starters returning the Big Reds put up some staggering statistics. The team went through the regular season with nine shutouts and its first team defense was unscored upon. They scored 34 or more points eight times and then bounced Hurricane 58-7 and Buckhannon 31-15 to set up a semifinal showdown with undefeated Nitro and national record-setting quarterback J.R. House. Before a crowd of 14,000, the Big Reds put up a valiant fight but lost 24-15 despite interception House three times (one an 89 yard TD return by Grimm). The following weekend, House threw 10 touchdown passes in a championship game romp over Morgantown.

Marc Kimes came onto the scene in 1999 and three years later he left with records in hand, a 28-4 record, two state championships and one runner-up trophy.

The 1999 team had a pair of 1,000 yard rushers for the first time in the history of the school in Scott Davis and Al Hammell while sophomore Kimes ran the team like a veteran. After a perfect regular season, the Big Reds humbled Hurricane 56-7 but then needed the most miraculous comeback in PHS history to defeat Huntington 21-18. Trailing Huntington 18-0 with 8:02 left in the game, Kimes brought his team back with two TD passes to Isaac Weaver and one to Nathan Fields. A two-point conversion pass to Weaver was the difference. The next week the Big Reds blew out Musselman 54-14 to set up a rematch with Riverside. Although playing a strong first half, Kimes had to engineer another comeback drive in the final minute to win the game 31-28 on a 10 yard pass to Fields.

2000-2009

The 21st century began with the return of Kimes and the transfer of Josh Romeo from Ravenswood. Romeo scored a record 39 touchdowns and 236 points while gaining 1,626 yards rushing and another 825 receiving. The Big Reds went 9-1 during the regular season, losing to Riverside 34-12. In the playoffs they hammered Hampshire 69-0, gained a 14-0 revenge win over Riverside and beat University 27-21 in two overtimes. In the finals against Morgantown, Kimes threw for 251 yards and two touchdowns but the Mohigans posted a 38-13 victory.

The next year came the distraction of the resignation of coach Burdette after one game and two narrow regular season losses (12-10 to Cabell Midland and 17-14 to Riverside). But interim coach Craig Farnsworth and Kennedy Award winner Kimes guided the Big Reds to another championship. In the playoffs PHS beat Hampshire 56-12 and University 28-14 while avenging the loss to Riverside with a 31-24 victory. In the championship game against Martinsburg the team fell behind 7-0 early but came on strong to win 28-17.

In four playoff games in 2001 Kimes put together the following statistics: six touchdowns scored, 15 extra points, two field goals (57 total points), 425 yards rushing, 659 yards passing, and 10 touchdown passes thrown.

Bernie Buttrey became the new head coach in 2002 and after missing the playoffs that year, PHS returned in 2003 behind the running of Ryan Holbert but lost in the second round to Cabell Midland 13-9.

The 2004 Big Red team rode the record-setting passing arm of Chance Litton and the receiving and kicking skills of Conner Loudon all the way to the semifinals. After going 8-2 in the regular season, the team beat Wheeling Park 42-13 and Bridgeport 36-7 before losing at Martinsburg 31-28. Litton finished with over 2,000 yards passing and 27 touchdowns (including 556 yards and seven touchdowns in the playoffs). Loudon finished with 121 points including nine touchdowns and 807 receiving yards. Joey Lindamood ran for 20 touchdowns as a junior.

Lindamood led the Big Reds back to the playoffs in 2005 but was injured and missed the first round of the playoffs entirely (a 35-7 win over Buckhannon) and only carried the ball one time in a 38-13 second round loss to Nitro.

With Josh Jenkins anchoring the line and Charlie Taylor lead a talented backfield trio that included Matt Lindamood and Andy Thomas, the 2006 Big Reds swept to a perfect 14-0 season. In the regular season PHS allowed no more than seven points in any game. In the playoffs they nipped Cabell Midland 17-13, shut out St. Albans 21-0, mauled Morgantown 42-14 and manhandled Martinsburg 34-6. Taylor and Lindamood both ran for over 1,000 yards while Thomas ran for 11 touchdowns and passed for nine more while directing the defense from his safety

position. Tyler Warner kicked nine field goals (including a record 50 yarder in the title game) and 41 extra points.

With Jenkins, Lindamood, Thomas and Warner all returning for 2007 it was virtually a given that the Big Reds would win their second straight title. Although they did stumble at George Washington during the regular season, losing 19-14 as they suffered a turnover while driving for what would have been the winning touchdown, the first back-to-back title effort was achieved. In the playoffs they beat John Marshall 35-0, Bridgeport 45-13, University 31-21 and St. Albans 22-15.

Lindamood finished his senior season with 2,473 yards rushing, 38 touchdowns and 232 points.

Although the 2008 season did not keep the playoff streak alive it was certainly entertaining thanks to Derek Wenzel, who ran four kickoffs back for touchdowns and also returned an interception 99 yards for a TD.

The transfer of Allan Wasonga from Point Pleasant for the 2009 season brought more entertainment – and a playoff spot. Although the Big Reds lost to Bridgeport 24-17 in the first round of the playoffs, Wasonga ran for over 2,200 yards, had six games of over 200 yards (plus another at 199), scored 29 touchdowns and 14 of them were on runs of over 40 yards.

2010-2019

Wasonga returned for his senior year but had injury and discipline problems and the Big Reds were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs. Team injuries continued to bother the team in 2011 although another playoff season was achieved along with another first-round defeat. In 2012 the team went 4-6 and followed that with another 4-6 record in 2013 but the playoffs were narrowly avoided thanks to a pair of heart-breaking close defeats (one and two points) on the road at South Charleston and Beckley.

All-Time Teams With PHS Flavor

Surprisingly there have been few all-time teams selected in the 100-plus year history of Parkersburg High School football.

A Silver Anniversary Team was selected early in this century by the local newspaper but it was for players from all over, not just PHS.

However, the number one player selected on that team was Rick Phillips, a 6-4, 235 pound two-way tackle who played in 1981-83. He won the Hunt Award and was captain of the all-state team. He was the third brother to win the Hunt and the fourth brother to make all-state. He was an All-American at West Virginia University and was a member of the first WVU undefeated team.

The number five player picked on the Silver Anniversary team was Mark Kimes, PHS quarterback from 1999-2001. The 6-foot, 200 pounder was only the third Big Red to win the Kennedy Award and was a two-time all-state pick.

Also selected to the Silver team at the number 13 spot was John Richards, running back from 1976-1978. A two-time all-state pick and Prep All-American as a senior, the 6-foot, 185 pound Richards ran for over 1,000 yards all three years and helped his team win state titles in 1976 and 1978. In 1977 they lost in the semifinals.

At number 16 on the Silver Anniversary list was quarterback-safety Eric Grimm. A 6-foot, 185 pounder, Grimm was selected in 1998 by USA Today as one of the top high school players in West Virginia, was named to the CNN/Sports Illustrated

High School all-regional team and won the Huff Award as the state's top defensive player.

Sentinel's MOV All-Time Team (1970)

Selected in 1970 by public vote in the Parkersburg Sentinel, the Mid-Ohio Valley All-Time team included players from all over but was dominated by Big Reds.

Of the 11 players chosen to the first team, only two (Billy Reynolds (RB St. Marys) and Howard Hartley (RB Ravenswood) were not Big Reds.

The first team ends were Bill Crouser and Ron Burkhart. Crouser scored four touchdowns in the state championship game against Oak Hill and went on to play at Navy while Burkhart was a little All-American at Salem College.

The tackles were Walter Barnes and Dick Biddle. Barnes was named the All-time greatest player after he played college ball at LSU and professional football for Greasy Neale at Philadelphia. Biddle became an All-Conference performer at Duke.

The guards were Dick Pence and Bowman Watson. Pence was given a scholarship to Ohio State but went to WVU where he played one year, then went to Navy before coming back to WVU to play. Watson went to WVU on scholarship.

At center on the MOV first team was Franny Berger, who, at 162 pounds, was called pound-for-pound one of the best to ever suit up at PHS.

One of the backs was Fred Earley, who still holds the PHS sophomore rushing record and although injured as a senior had 1,025 total yards in five games and was still named all-state. He went to Notre Dame where he was kicker and second-string halfback on 9-1 team. His extra point kick beat Iowa 14-13 for national championship in 1943. Kicked 93 percent of PAT's at Notre Dame. In 1944 he attended Naval Academy where he played halfback. He held the Notre Dame record with seven extra point kicks versus Purdue in 1947 (a record which stood until 1965).

The other back was Leonard Barnum, a two-time all-stater who had a grant to Pitt but went to W.Va. Wesleyan, where he played four years and made the school Hall

of Fame. He played pro football for the Philadelphia Eagles under Greasy Neale and was an outstanding punter.

The coach of the MOV team was Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder, coached the Big Reds from 1936-40 and won two state titles. He wound up at Syracuse where he became a national legend. In addition to winning a national championship in 1959, his Syracuse teams won 152 games with 91 defeats and three ties.

The second MOV All-Time team had just one non-PHS player (tackle Bill Winter of Ripley).

Other members of the second team included:

Ends Bernard Allman and Ed Longmire, tackle Buddy James, guards George Nedeff and Sonny Boles, center Paul Starr, and backs Gibby Welch, Larry Rhodes, Claude Crawford and Dick Morrison.

The third MOV All-Time team included the following Big Reds: ends Gary Virden and Jim Gaskins, tackles Ben Judy and Ross McHenry, guard Joe Miller, and backs Ora Hanks and Jim Bargeloh.

All-Time Team Selected in 1942

Although selected in 1942 the team was made up mostly of players from the 1910's and 1920's.

Fred Earley, who played in 1942, was most recent player. Second youngest was Leonard “Feets” Barnum who played in 1928. Other two backfield mates were Gibby Welch and Pete Barnum, who played in post World War I days of 1919-20.

Ends Don Earl and Greasy Neale played in 1908-11 while two tackles Ross McHenry and John Roberts plays in the 1920's. Dad Henry and Joe Setron are the guards from 1911 and the 1917. Center Chunky Murrin played about 1920.

Earle was a 118 pounds of dynamite. Called by judges the fastest player ever seen in a PHS uniform and as hard a tackler as any man.

Neale was a unanimous choice. Judges called him a player without fault, everything he did was perfect. An all-around offensive and defensive player he was a great passer and one of the greatest drop-kickers in history.

McHenry, the only three-time all-stater for the first 100 years of PHS football, had no weakness and combined brains with brute force.

Roberts went on to make second team All-American in college and in high school was the first to be called an immovable object on the line.

Henry was especially known for his blocking and the ability to take out two men at the same time while Setron was a veritable giant in the days before WWI at 254 pounds. He also moved like a man half his size.

The center was one of the famous Murrin brothers and was a solid all-around player on offense and defense.

Fred Earley got a trip to the Heisman trophy banquet as a senior as he was chosen the outstanding football player in the state.

Barnum was not called “Feets” for nothing. A very strong runner, Barnum was not only an adept passer but might be the best kicker to ever play at PHS. He went on to establish himself collegiately and professional as perhaps the best kicker in the nation during the time he played. His punts would routinely soar 60 and 70 yards at a clip.

Welch was a speed merchant and one of the greatest open field runners in the history of football. He was one of the first runners to make use of change of pace and spin moves while running. Pitt coach Jock Sutherland called him the greatest back he had ever coached.

The other half of the Barnum brother combination on the all-time team was Pete, who was known as a battering-ram type fullback whose specialty was hitting the line and moving back the defenders for yardage.

Boyd Carfer’s All-Time Picks

In 1950 Boyd Carfer was asked to pick his all-time PHS team by the local newspaper. He wound up selecting one team from the 1900-1930 period and another which included players from 1905-1930.

The earliest all-time team included Don Earle and Greasy Neale at end, Biddle and B. Alleman at tackle, Dad Henry and Joe Setron at guard, Lawrence Yeardley at

center, Wiant at quarterback, Pete Barnum at fullback, Dick Hoblitzell and Paul Lehmann at halfback.

The “official” PHS all-time team included only a few differences. Dutch Neale was picked as the center and Dick Weston was the quarterback. Claude Crawford joined Hoblitzell and Barnum in the backfield.

B.B. “Bo” Cooley was selected as the all-time coach.

12th Man Tackle Costs PHS Title Chance

With the help of Jim Snyder’s written words in the Parkersburg News and some incredible game film footage shown in the local newspaper what follows is one of the most amazing stories in the 100-plus years of PHS football.

On Oct. 18, 1963 the Big Reds were playing long-time rival Charleston in an important game with state championship berth implications. There were 9,000 fans packed into Stadium Field.

Just seconds after the start of the fourth quarter, Chick Krukiel of Charleston punted from his own 39 and Tom Black of the Big Reds took the ball on the run on one bounce at his own 28. Black found running room up the left sidelines and apparently had a clear field to the goal line. But as he ran in front of the Charleston bench, he suddenly went down at the PHS 46 yard line.

In the dressing room after the game Black was bitter as he discussed the incident. “I know that No. 20 was crouched on the sidelines and made an illegal tackle on me,” he said as his voice quivered.

“I had a clear field ahead of me when all of a sudden this boy came from the sidelines and knocked me down. I protested to the officials but was told to either shut up or get off the field.”

Snyder went to the officials’ dressing room after talking to Black and was told that none of the officials had seen the illegal tackle.

But the man on the downs’ marker backed up Black’s story.

Bob McClain was on the chains and said, “It definitely was a case of a boy becoming excited and making the tackle from the sidelines. I was right there and saw him rush in, make the tackle, and then stand there as if confused. There were 12 Charleston boys on the field at the time, but no one noticed it.”

Two fans were on the sidelines within 10 feet of the play when it happened and both complained long and loud to the officials but the protests fell on deaf ears.

In Snyder’s column he wrote that he could understand how a young player could do such a thing in the middle of a hotly-contested game but that he could not understand how no official could have been close enough to detect the tackle or at least not count jerseys when the complaint was registered.

Gordon Eison, then Executive Secretary of the Secondary Schools Activities Commission, told Snyder that no protest was possible on an officials’ decision and that even game films could not change the outcome of the game. But Eison also added, “I would, however, like to see the films to determine where was the official who was supposed to be on the play.”

Another controversial play took place with 40 seconds remaining as Parkersburg was driving for the winning touchdown. Black threw a pass to Bob Allman for what appeared to be a touchdown. Allman caught the ball cleanly but fumbled as he fell and a teammate fell on it in the end zone. But umpire Sheriff Tiano ruled an incomplete pass and thus no fumble.

Charleston won 18-14, ending PHS’ hopes of playing in the championship game.

Coach Russ Parsons, PHS principal Melvin Mackey, Eison and Snyder viewed the films on Sunday afternoon and the next day in the Parkersburg News there appeared some incredible pictures of the play taken from the PHS game films.

A series of three photos clearly showed No. 20 (Dave Isaac according to the Charleston roster) coming off the sidelines to tackle Black.

Isaac was crouched among a group of Charleston reserves in one frame as Black is shown along the sidelines.

The second frame showed Black approaching Isaac’s position on the sideline and Isaac beginning to move onto the field.

The third picture shows Isaac making the tackle along the sideline.

Coach Parsons and the group reviewed the film several times and could not find No. 20 on the field with the rest of the Charleston punt team.

Charleston coach Frank Vincent disagreed with the 12th man idea and said, “We were just looking at the films of the game and we can discover nothing out of the ordinary on that particular play. Our pictures show that No. 20 was lined up at right end on the punting team.”

Vincent said his films did not show Isaac being out of bounds at any time, only that he made a good second effort to bring down the ball carrier.

“This is the first time I’ve ever encountered anything like this and I’m frankly surprised at the furor. If there had been an illegal tackle we would have readily admitted it. As far as Isaac is concerned he was at right end and made the tackle on a great second effort.”

Vincent also said on his film it appeared there were five players closing in to make the tackle and that the runner would not have scored anyway. He also said he would decline to view the PHS film.

Since there could be no official protest of the game because of an officials’ decision the matter was technically at an end. Principal Mackey tried to arrange a meeting between Parkersburg and Charleston officials to thrash out the problem and view each other’s films.

The matter was eventually dropped because it was not clear on the film whether it was number 30 (Steve Seals) or number 20 who lined up at right end on the punt team although the film still appeared to show number 20 coming off the sidelines and Parkersburg was never allowed to view Charleston’s film.

To this day Black, now a veteran baseball umpire and volleyball official, maintains the tackler came from the sidelines – not the playing field - and that there was no one with an angle to make a tackle on him farther down the field.

Snyder also continued to maintain what he saw was accurate although Brad Kincaid of the Sentinel did send a letter of apology to Vincent. Snyder also

continued to maintain that, according to the film, Allman made the reception and then fumbled with PHS recovering for what would have been another touchdown.

Charleston and Parkersburg both finished 8-2. Buckhannon was declared state champion with a 10-0 record because Charleston and Welch (10-0) finished tied for second in the ratings. Had PHS beaten Charleston, the Big Reds would have been second in the ratings and earned a spot in the championship game.



Arnett "Ace" Mumford

Sumner Will Shine

Sumner School had an excellent football tradition prior to its closing in 1954. The all-black school produced a future College Football Hall of Famer in Arnett "Ace" Mumford. Between 1916 and 1919 the team won at least three state colored championships.

In 1916 Sumner defeated Douglass of Huntington 7-0 as Fitzgerald scored the game's only touchdown.

In 1917 it was again Sumner versus Douglass for the state title and this time the local team won 7-6 as Joe Peters scored the touchdown and Moody kicked the winning

extra point.

Also in 1917 Sumner clobbered Clarksburg 91-9.

In 1918 Sumner defeated Douglass 19-13 to win the state colored crown as Merriman, Howard and Dixon scored touchdowns for Sumner.

Freshman E. Spriggs scored a touchdown in 1930 as Sumner beat Beechurst of Morgantown 7-6 and in 1936 Sumner defeated Dunbar of Weirton 14-0 as Hemphill and Oliver scored touchdowns for the winners.

In 1955 students from Sumner became part of Parkersburg High School.

Mumford played at Sumner in the early 1920 and went on to play at West Virginia State. He began his illustrious coaching career in 1924 at Jarvis Christian (Texas) College. In 1936 he began a 25-year career as the head coach at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

He led the Jaguars to a 169-57-14 record and won or tied for 11 Southwestern Athletic Conference championships and five Black College national titles (1948, 1949, 1950, 1954 and 1960). Overall, his college teams won 235 games with 82 losses and 25 ties. In 1935 at Texas College he won his first Black College national title.

Known as a strict disciplinarian and perfectionist he utilized innovative coaching styles and techniques that were way ahead of his time. He was named to the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame in 2001. He died of a heart attack in 1964 at age 64.

PHS Football Hall of Fame

2013	2012	2011	2010
Rich Duggan	Nick Swisher	John Richards	Fred Earley
Jim Snyder	Mark Swisher	Dick Biddle	Buddy James
Dave Manzo	Jimmy Scott	Dave Phillips	Walter Barnes
Bill Kupfner	Russ Parsons	Larry Phillips	Marc Kimes
Eric Grimm	Brad Johnson	Mike Phillips	Ed Longmire
Eric Gates	Scott "Babe" Davis	Rick Phillips	Larry Rhodes
Joel Mazzella	Mike McCoy	Gary Virden	Ross McHenry
Scott Schenerlein	Bill Crouser	Jim Bargeloh	Bowman Watson
Don Reeves	Rich Winans	Leonard Barnum	Barry Louden
Mike Hayden	Joe Weaver	Jim Earley	Dave Winans
George Nedeff	Dr. Richard Corbitt	Ben Schwartzwalder	
		Earle "Greasy" Neale	
		Judge Joe Handlan	