

" TOUCHDOWN CLUB "

THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB IS AN ORGANIZATION
FOUNDED IN 1950 DURING THE COACHING
REGIME OF CHUCK MATHER.

THE CLUB MEETS ON TUESDAYS AT 12 NOON
AT THE AMVETS CLUB, BEGINNING WITH THE
WEEK OF THE TIGERS' OPENING GAME AND
CONTINUING THRU M'KINLEY WEEK AND
PLAYOFF GAMES.

THE HEAD COACH APPEARS AT EACH MEETING
AND BRINGS ALONG CHOSEN PLAYERS,

LUNCH IS SERVED, INTERESTING SPEAKERS
ARE INVITED, AND OCCASIONAL MOVIE CLIPS
ARE SHOWN.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR IS THE CLUB'S
SELECTION OF THE WINNER OF THE
" BOB COMMINGS MEMORIAL HARD NOSE
AWARD ",

TOUCHDOWN CLUB READY TO BEGIN 59th YEAR.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB IS MADE UP OF A GROUP OF TIGER FOOTBALL FANS AND CAN BE TRACED BACK TO 1950 DURING THE COACHING REGIME OF CHUCK MATHER.

IN SOME OF THE EARLY YEARS IT WAS ALSO KNOWN AS THE QUARTERBACK CLUB.

THE PRIMARY REASON FOR ITS CONCEPTION WAS SO THAT BUSINESSMEN, WHO COULD NOT ATTEND MONDAY NIGHT BOOSTER CLUB MEETINGS, COULD BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON THE TIGER FOOTBALL PROGRAM. MASSILLON DOWNTOWN STORES WERE OPEN MONDAY EVENINGS AT THAT TIME. MEETINGS WERE HELD AT PADULAS RESTAURANT IN THE 1950'S.

IN 1963 THE CLUB CREATED THE "HARDNOSE AWARD". GRAYDON ECKARD WAS THE WINNER OF THIS ANNUAL AWARD. CLUB MEMBERS TURN IN THEIR CHOICE WEEKLY AND VOTES ARE TABULATED AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

IN 1995 THE AWARD WAS NAMED "THE BOB COMMINGS HARD NOSE AWARD.

A MIXTURE OF EVENTS WILL OCCUR AT THESE WEEKLY MEETINGS, MAIN SPEAKERS WILL BE A WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT.

JASON HALL WILL BE THE WEEK ONE SPEAKER AND WILL GIVE A PREVIEW OF THE UPCOMING SEASON.

ALEX WOOD WILL BE THE WEEK 2 SPEAKER AND WILL DISCUSS WHAT HE HAS IMPLEMENTED ON OFFENSE AND TALK ABOUT HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES.

COACH HALL WILL BRING SEVERAL PLAYERS EACH WEEK AND WILL HAVE THEM SAY A FEW WORDS SO THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER.

THE CLUB'S OFFICERS FOR 2009 WILL INCLUDE
PRESIDENT JASON BYERS, VICE PRESIDENT
TODD SCHUMACHER, AND SECRETARY-TREASURER
LINDA WAECHTER,

TOUCHDOWN CLUB MEETINGS WILL BE
HELD AT THE EAGLES 190, FORMERLY THE
AMVETS CLUB, ON EACH TUESDAY PREVIOUS
TO A TIGER GAME,

LUNCH SERVICE BEGINS AT 11:30 A.M.
THE PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT NOON.

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Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club Touchdown Club Kickoff Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Planning Committee Attendees:

1. Wilbur Arnold
2. Jason Byers
3. Jason Hall
4. Ron Prunty
5. Junie Studer
6. Todd Schumacher
7. Jeff Thornberry
8. Linda Waechter



DAVID
HARPSTER

II. Club Organization

A. Officers and Responsibilities

1. President
a. Jason Byers
2. Vice President
A. Todd Schumacher
3. Secretary/Treasurer
A. Linda Waechter

B. Meeting Facts

1. Location
a. AMVETS/Eagles 190
2. Day
a. Tuesday
3. Time
a. Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m.
b. Program begins promptly at noon
4. First Meeting

a. Tuesday, August 25th, 2009

C. Membership Drive

1. Roster
 - a. Currently saved on Excel worksheet. Linda and I both should have an update copy.
2. Recruits
 - a. I can invite Massillon Chamber of Commerce Members, Massillon City School Admin., and possibly the donor list for the Boys Club.
 - b. Advertise in the Inde prior to the season. Possibly do joint ad with the booster club drive. Someone will need to contact Nick Pribich regarding their ad.
 - c. Do a Corporate membership. My thoughts were to have 3-4 sponsors through the year. Cost would be \$500. This would get them announced at the beginning and end of touchdown club, which is aired on ESPN 990. It would also give them 10 membership cards that their employees would be able to use to come to touchdown club.
3. Cost
 - a. Membership to remain the same at \$15.
 - b. Meals are the same (\$7 regular, \$8 Mck)
 - c. AMVETS is keeping their price at \$6.25, per conversation with Anne.
4. Prepayment Option
 - a. Continue to allow for prepayment of the membership plus the first 11 meals (\$93). Should we consider discounting the prepayment to \$88 to try to entice more members to prepay?
5. Letter/Announcement
 - a. Use the letter template from last year and make appropriate changes. Either Linda or I will get these sent out. The return address can be my office.
6. Membership Cards

- a. Same style as last year. Jason will order from QuickPrint. How many should we order? Do we want the schedule on them?

III. Touchdown Club Meeting

A. Financial Procedures

1. Spreadsheet to be kept to track payment of lunches and payment of dues at weekly meeting. Linda and I should both have the template of the spreadsheet.
2. Two officers will count the money with one making the deposit.
3. Copy of deposit ticket to the treasurer.
4. Head count to the treasurer. Make sure this matches the AMVETS head count. Include coaches, players, and speakers.
5. Invoice for lunch comes to the treasurer. Treasurer matches head count to invoice and pays the bill.
6. Payment of dues ahead of weekly luncheon dates- use cash receipt form or roster spreadsheet to keep track of members who pay dues.

B. Meeting Agenda

1. Buffet lunch with highlights/video of last game or memorable Tiger games.
2. Welcome, acknowledgement of special guests, and introductory remarks by President.
3. Announcements and reports from various subgroups by the President.
4. Moments from Tiger History and brief synopsis of previous game, look at the upcoming opponent.
5. Introduction of the Guest Speaker by the President.
6. Introduction of Head Coach by the President
7. Closing Remarks.

C. Discussion of Potential speakers

1. Jason Hall to be the week one speaker. He will give a preview of the upcoming season.
2. Alex Wood to be the week two speaker. Discuss what he has implemented on offense and talk about his previous experiences.
3. Other possible speakers: Greg Gillum, B.J. Payne, Justin Zwick, Mike Currence, Jim Donovan, Tony Rizzo, Willie Spencer, Earle Bruce, Chris Spielman, Shawn Crable, Lee Owens, Jim Tressel, Jared Vance, Jeff David, Dan Coughlin(Fox 8), Stephen Perry(Executive Director of the HOF), Jim Houston, Coach/GM from the Browns or Bengals, Band Director, Athletic Director, Superintendent.

D. Radio Broadcast

1. Contact ESPN 990 to make arrangements.

E. Touchdown Club gift for guest speaker

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IN 1963 THE CLUB CREATED THE "HARDNOSE AWARD", LATER NAMED THE "BOB COMMINGS MEMORIAL HARD NOSE AWARD."

Mather Will Address Club

Football will be the major subject of conversation when regular weekly sessions of the Touchdown club are resumed at Padula's restaurant next Monday noon.

The principal speaker will be Charles Mather, head football coach at Washington high school. Members of his coaching staff also will be present and will speak briefly.

Mather will talk about the football camp conducted at Wingfoot camp on Lake Erie for candidates for the 1950 Tiger football team and show motion pictures taken at it.

He and his assistants also will discuss the prospects of the Tiger team during the 1950 campaign which opens a week from tomorrow night.

Sessions of the Touchdown club are open to all men who care to attend.

EVENING INDEPENDENT
SEPT. 7, 1950

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

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EVENING INDEPENDENT
SEPT. 7, 1950

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

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1950X

THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB - The Touchdown Club is a social group organized ^{IN} 1952

during the coaching regime of Charles (Chuck) V. Mather. This group meets each Tuesday during the football season at 12 noon at the AMVETS Club. A total of eleven meetings are held by this group, with the first taking place on the Tuesday before the opening game. The final meeting is held on the Tuesday following the annual Canton-Massillon game at which time the senior Massillon football players are guests of the club. The Head Coach appears at each meeting and presents a run down on the prior week's game as well as an overview of the upcoming opponent, (approximately 30-40 minutes). There is a question and answer period at the end. The coach takes players to this luncheon and the players answer a question asked by the head coach. At the conclusion of the season, the Touchdown Club selects the most valuable Tiger for the year and presents the "Bob Cummings Memorial Hard Nose Award" to that player!

FROM THE FILES OF
PHIL GLICK

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"OWN CLUB"

CLUB IS AN ORGANIZATION

Sideliners, TD Club Aid The Tigers

Two of the younger Washington high football booster organizations are the Touchdown club and the Tiger Sideliners.

The Touchdown club was organized during the coaching regime of Chuck Mather (1948-1953). Primarily for businessmen who are unable to attend Monday night Tiger Booster club meetings, this group meets each Monday noon at the Massillon club.

* * *

A REPORT from the coach, a discussion of the previous game and the coming game are featured. A luncheon for players is held at the end of the season.

Don Rinehart is the president this year of the group which presents a "Hardnose" award each year.

The Sideliners came into being during the tenure of Lee Tressel (1956-1957). Each player is assigned a Sideliner as a buddy for the season.

Sideliners and players eat at American Legion Post 221 each Thursday night and then enjoy a movie with the player. Each Sideliner greets his player before and after each game and helps with suggestions or complaints his player may have.

Ron Wright is the president this year, of the group which presents the Tiger Citizen Athlete award each year.

1967

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

- THE FIRST HARDNOSE AWARD WAS WON BY GRAYDON ECKARD IN 1963.
- INFORMATION STILL NEEDED IN REGARDS TO TOUCHDOWN CLUB HISTORY:

PRESIDENTS NAMES 1950 thru 1959
& 1999

HARDNOSE WINNERS 1975
 1991
 1996
 1997
 1999
 2000
 2001

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

● PHOTO OR ARTICLE

YEAR	PRESIDENT	HARDNOSE WINNER	MTG. SITE
1950		(NO AWARD UNTIL 1963)	PADULAS ●
1951			
1952			
1953			
1954			PADULAS ● IN HISTORY
1955			
1956			
1957			
1958			
1959			
1960	EVERETT MORTON		PADULAS HISTORY
1961	R.E. WILLIAMS ●		
1962	DON SANDISON ●		
1963	JUNI SIBER ●	GRAYDON ECKARD	
1964	D.C. STEELE D.DS.	JOHN MUHLBACH	
1965	TOM RAND ●	DAVE WHITFIELD	
1966	DR. GEO. SWAN ●	WILL FOSTER ●	MASS. CLUB
1967	DON RINEHART	RON ERTLE	MASS. CLUB
1968	JOE ZEGLEN ●	GEO. WHITFIELD ●	MASS. CLUB

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

• PHOTO OR
ARTICLE

YEAR	PRESIDENT	HARDNOSE WINNER	MTG. SITE
1969	ANDY HRIVNAK •	PAT MIDGLEY •	MASS. CLUB
1970	DICK REICHEL •	TOM CARDINAL •	MASS CLUB
1971	DICK HARDGROVE •	GLEN WEIRICH	MASS CLUB
1972	RUSS CLEMENTS •	TOM BALZET •	MASS. CLUB
1973	DICK BRAUN •	CHARLES DANZY •	MASS. CLUB •
1974	REV. ROBERT HOOVER •	GREG WOOD BILL HARMON	MASS. CLUB
1975	HAROLD BOSTIC •	Tom Grizzard	MASS. CLUB
1976	GENE BOERNER	ANTHONY GRIZZARD	MASS. CLUB
1977	JOHN MUHLBACH •	CARL DORSEY •	MASS. CLUB •
1978	MIKE KEYES •	RICHARD CLEVELAND	MASS. CLUB
1979	JIM BRYAN	BOB SIMPSON	MASS. CLUB
1980	DAVID "BUD" ATWATER •	JEFF GROVE •	MASS. CLUB
1981	BILL TROOP •	CHRIS SPIELMAN •	MASS. CLUB •
1982	BUD SLOAN •	CHRIS SPIELMAN	MASS. CLUB
1983	WAYNE SPIES •	TOM GRUNO •	MASS. CLUB
1984	WAYNE KYHOS •	PETE JOHNSON •	AMVETS
1985	JOEL CUNNINGHAM •	DUANE CRENSHAW	AMVETS
1986	LOU YOUNG	MATT SWANK	AMVETS
		JOHN MILLER	AMVETS

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

PHOTO OR
ARTICLE

YEAR	PRESIDENT	HARDNOSE WINNER	MTG. SITE
1988	GARY WILSON	TRACE LIGGETT	AMVETS
1989	DVANE KNIGHT	CRAIG TURKALJ	AMVETS
1990	ROLLIE LAYFIELD	ERIC WRIGHT	AMVETS
1991	BRENT OFFENBECHER	Eric Wright	AMVETS
1992	ED JORDAN	Eric Woods	AMVETS
1993	JOHN CATLIN	B.J. PAYNE	AMVETS
1994	GARY VOGT	COURTNEY HERRING	AMVETS
1995	VIRG EDIE	VINNY TURNER	AMVETS
1996	DENNIS GIBSON	Jarod Stefanke	AMVETS
1997	RON WILLIAMS	Josh Krieder	AMVETS
1998	CLARENCE RAMBAUD	MARC CLEVELAND	AMVETS
1999	DICK HOLLAND ?		AMVETS
2000	LEROY SCHUMACHER	Matt Shem	AMVETS
2001	TIM PUTMAN	Justin Princehorn	AMVETS
2002	GLEN WEIRICH	SHAWN CRABLE	AMVETS
2003	LOU POPPOVICH	BROCK HYMES	AMVETS
2004	WILBUR ARNOLD	PAUL PRIBICH	AMVETS
2005	JEFF WILSON	TROY ELLIS	AMVETS
2006	BILL DORMAN	BRIAN GAMBLE	AMVETS

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

● PHOTO OR ARTICLE

YEAR	PRESIDENT	HARDNOSE WINNER	MTG. SITE
2007	LINDA WAECHTER	COREY HILDRETH	AMVETS
2008	JEFF THORNBERRY	COOPER IVAN	AMVETS
2009	JASON BYERS	Bo Grunder	Eagles
2010	Todd Schumacher	Clayton Mattox	Eagles
2011	Ron Swartz	Robbie Plants	Eagles
2012	Ray Jeske	Brody Tonn	Eagles
2013	Mel Herncane	LYRON WILSON	Eagles
2014	Jeff Bricker	J.D. Crabtree	Eagles
2015	Ron Thornberry	Dakota Dunnwiddie	Eagles
2016	Bill Brown	Austin Jasinski	Eagles
2017	Matt Keller	Jamir Thomas	Eagles

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

PRESIDENT - DON SANDISON

1962

QUARTERBACK CLUB

The second oldest adult booster group is the Quarterback Club, organized during the regime of Chuck Mather as head coach. This group meets at lunch every Monday during football season, hears a report from the coach and replays the game. At the end of the season it has members of the team as guests at a special luncheon. The current president of this club is Don Sandison.

PRESIDENT JUNI SIBER

1963



HARD-NOSE — Graydon Eckard, Massillon Tiger wingback-cornerback, has been given the Touchdown club's first annual hard-nose award. Eckard, a 5-foot-8, 156-pound senior, earned the prize on the basis of his tenacity of play. A panel of Touchdown club members chose a weekly winner during the season and made their final choice from among these boys. Eckard has received a trophy and will have his picture placed on a big sign in the Bengals' dressing room at Tiger stadium. Eckard earlier was named recipient of the Tiger Sideliners' citizen athletic award.

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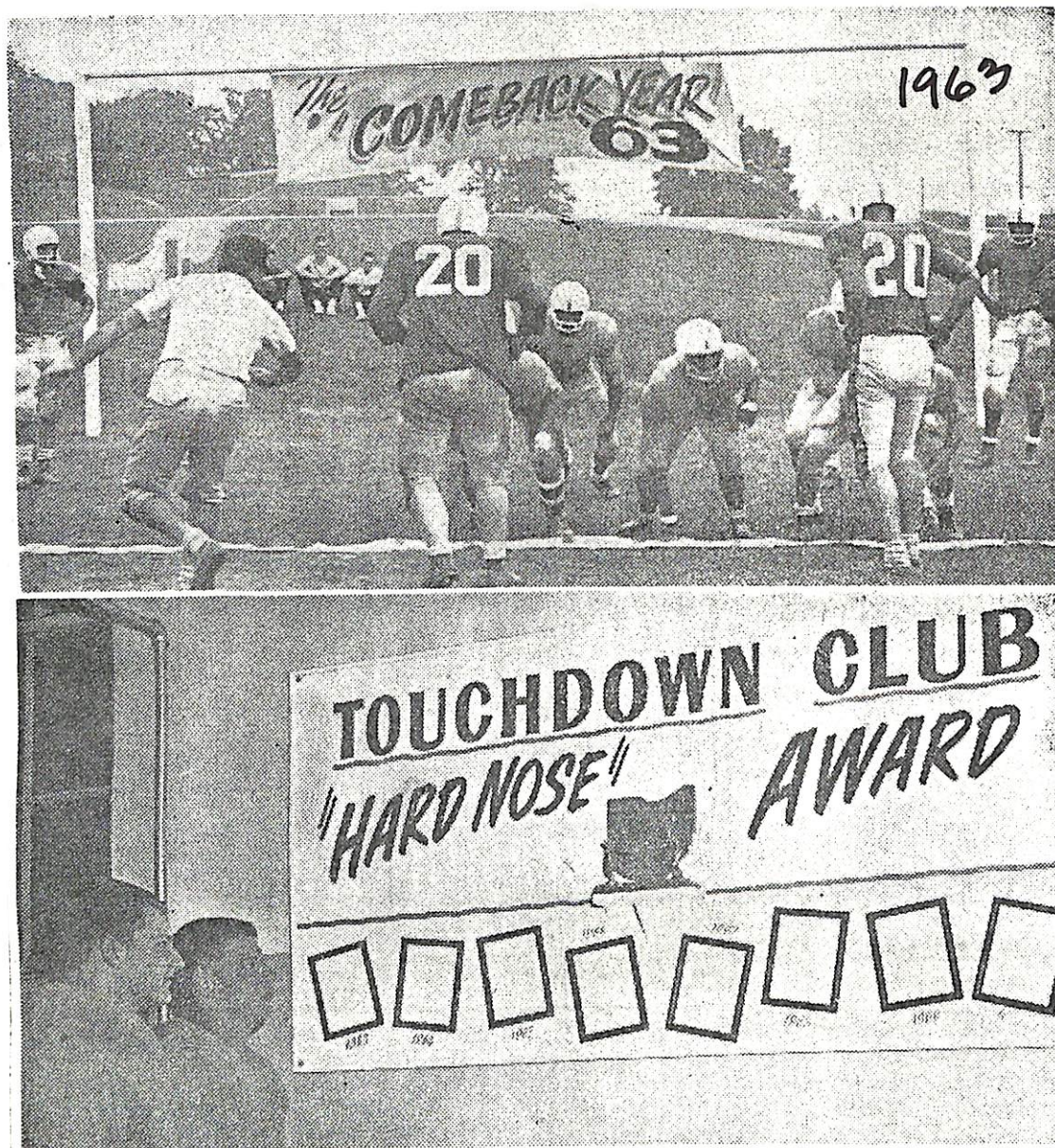
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CLUB IS AN ORGANIZATION



SPURRING ON THE TIGERS — The two pictures above show that Bengal boosters have already begun efforts to help the Washington high school football team to bounce back this season. The top picture shows a group of players practicing under a Tiger Booster club banner signifying 1963 as the "Comeback Year." Assistant Coach Nick Vrotsos is far right. The Touchdown club has initiated a "Hard Nose" award. The trophy in the center of the board, hanging in the stadium dressing room, will go to the winner and his picture will be put in the first frame on the left. Senior tackles Steve Tarle (left) and Tom Miller eye the sign. The Touchdown club will meet Monday noons at Padula's restaurant starting next Monday. The Booster club will meet Monday nights at the high school auditorium, also starting next Monday.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1964

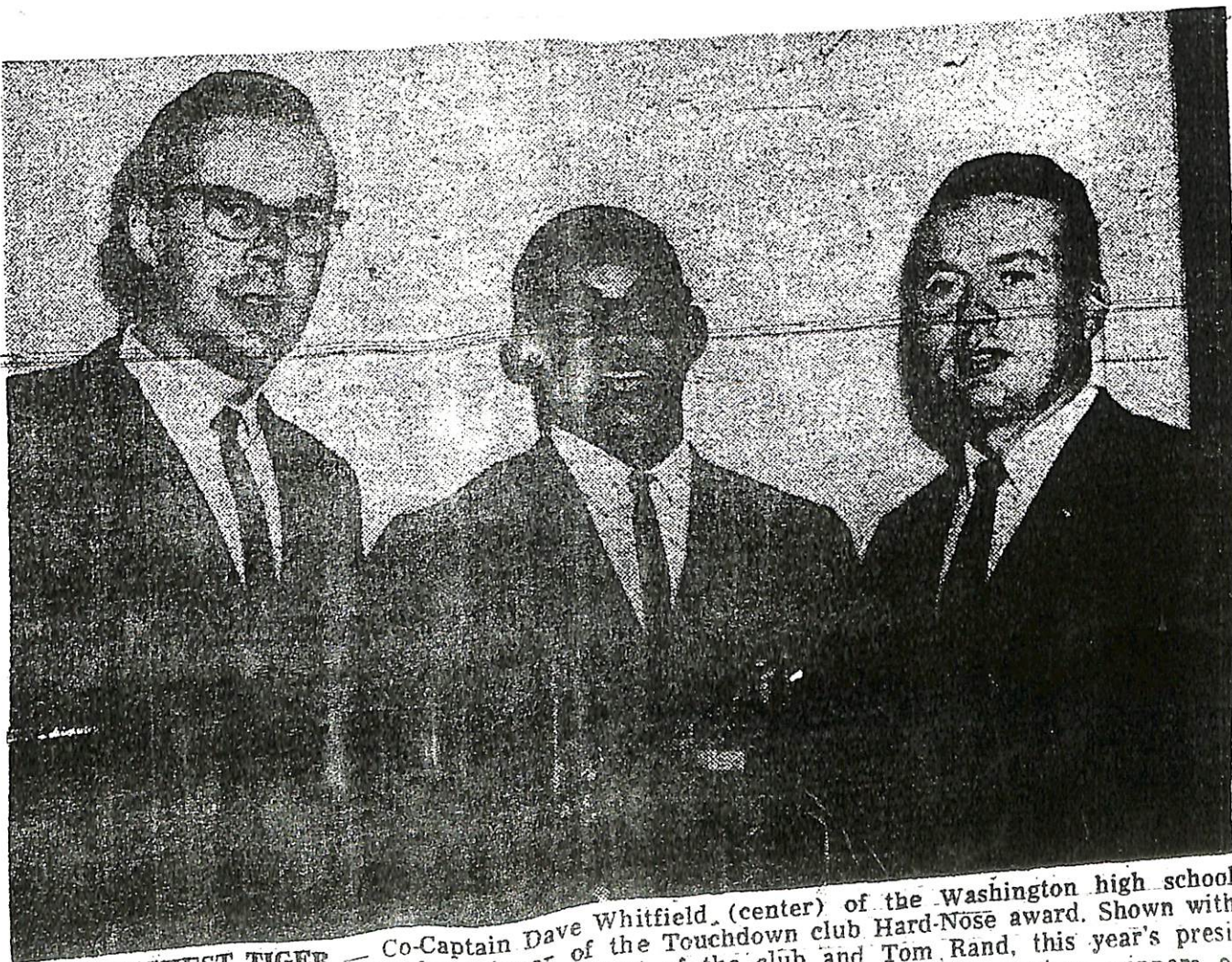
PRESIDENT - D. C. STEELE

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PRESIDENT TOM RAND

1965



THE TOUGHEST TIGER — Co-Captain Dave Whitfield, (center) of the Washington high school football team was named Monday winner of the Touchdown club Hard-Nose award. Shown with him are Dr. George Swan (left) 1966 president of the club and Tom Rand, this year's president. Whitfield joins John Mulhbach (1964) and Graydon Eckard, (1963) previous winners of the award, in the select circle. (Independent Staff Photo)

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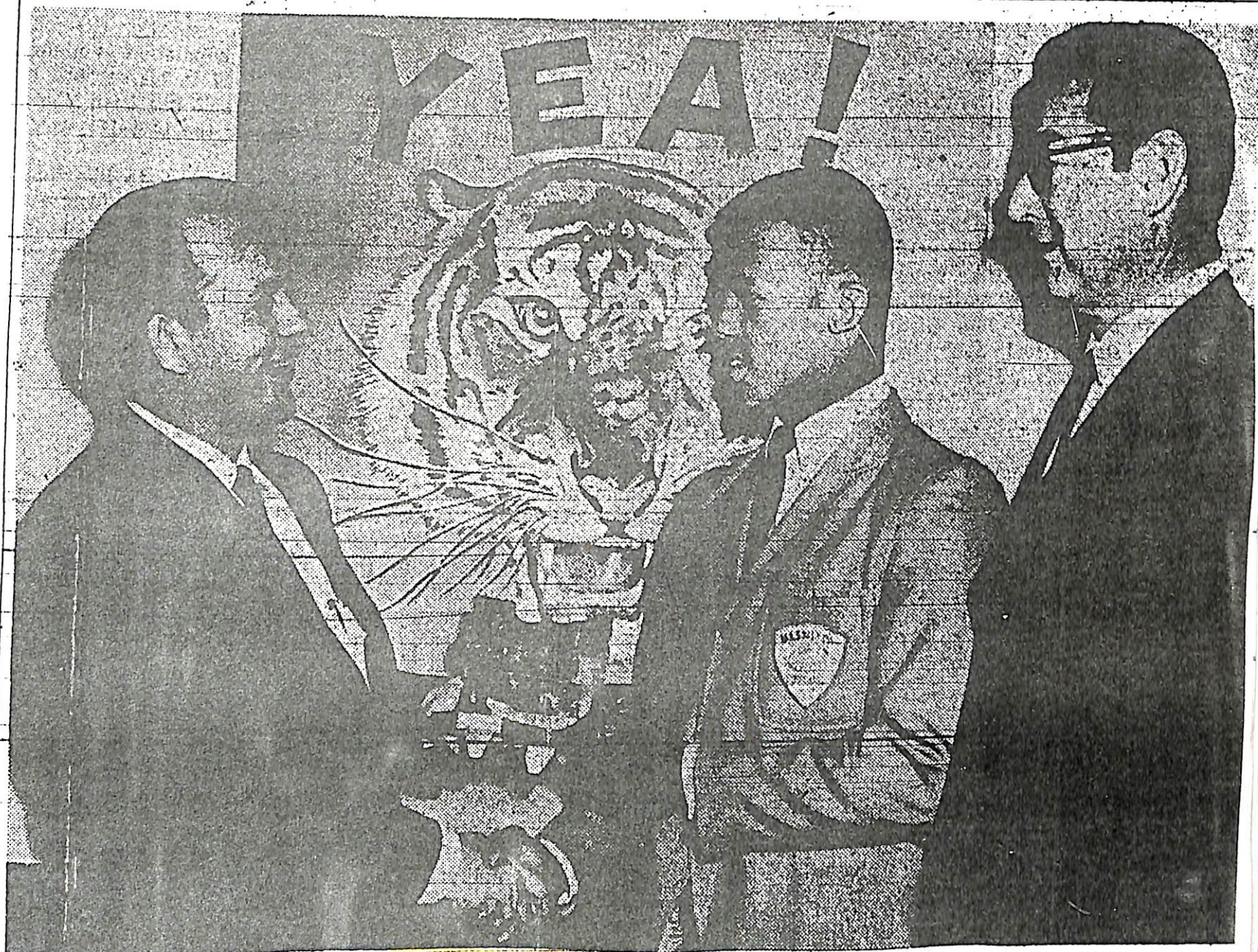
CLUB IS AN ORGANIZATION



TROPHY FOR A TOUGHIE — Ron Ertle, Washington high football co-captain and linebacker (center), receives the Touchdown club's "Hard Nose" award from club President Don Rinehart (left) at Monday noon's final TD club session of the season, held at the Massillon club. Looking on is the club's 1968 president, Joe Zeglen. Ertle is a candidate for All-Ohio honors. (Independent Staff Photo)

1967

TOUCHDOWN CLUB



ANOTHER WHITFIELD WINNER — George Whitfield, senior co-captain, linebacker and quick guard for the Massillon Tigers, Monday was named winner of the annual Touchdown Club Hard Nose award. Making the presentation is President Joe Zeglen. Looking on is Andrew Hrivnak, jr, pro elect. Whitfield's brother, Dave, now a junior defender at Ohio State university, won the award in 1965. (Independent Staff

1968 Massillon TD club to meet

The Massillon Touchdown club, organized here during the coaching period of Charles "Chuck" Mather (1948-53), will hold its first meeting of the football season Monday noon at the Massillon club.

Ten meetings will be held by the club with the last scheduled Monday, Nov. 11, after the McKinley game.

Head Coach Bob Seaman will be present at each meeting to discuss the prior game and the upcoming opponent. All meetings will start at noon and conclude promptly at 1 p. m.

Touchdown club membership is open to all male Tiger fans, and new members are welcome. Dues are \$3 a year. Joe Zeglen is the 1968 president of the club.

1968

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Sideliners, TD club help the Bengals

By CHUCK HESS, JR.

They may not be as old as the Tiger Booster club, but the Tiger Sideliners club and Tiger Touchdown club are just as important in aiding the Bengals.

Dr. Lee Tressel, now athletic director of Baldwin-Wallace college, was instrumental in getting the Sideliners started in his tenure as head coach of the Washington high grid team in 1956 and '57. This is the club that gets into direct contact with the players.

Each active member is assigned a player to buddy with during the season. Each week, on the night before the game, the players and sideliners have dinner at Massillon American Legion Post 221.

UNTIL LAST year, a movie at either the Lincoln or Weslin theater followed the meal. But Coach Bob Seaman started a new practice in 1967 of obtaining highlights films of college and professional teams to show at the Sideliners' meetings.

Each Sideliner greets his player before and after each game. If any problems arise, the Sideliner tries to act as counselor for the player.

The club also presents an award at the end of each season. Known as the Tiger Citizen Athlete Award, the honor is given to the player who best exempli-

fies the Tiger tradition.

Dr. George Swan, a local surgeon, is the club's chief for the 1968 season.

The Touchdown club meets on Monday noon to hear a report on the previous game and the upcoming contest. The group is primarily for those unable to make the Tiger Booster club's Monday night sessions and was started during Chuck Mather's coaching years here (1948-'53).

AT THE END of the season, the Touchdown club holds a luncheon for coaches and players and presents the Hardnose award to a player. To earn this citation, a Tiger gridder must be adjudged the toughest battler on the team.

Joe Zeglen is handling the chief executive's chores for the club this season.

1968

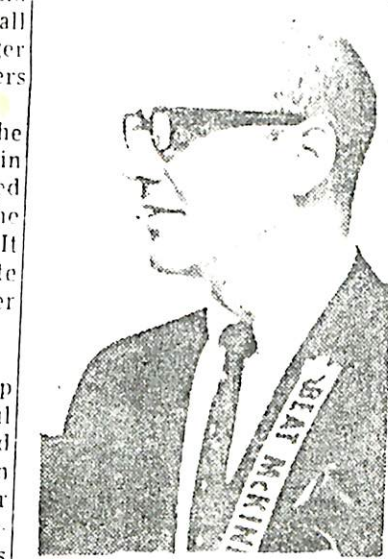
Tigers aided by three booster organizations

As the late summer and early fall approach, three special clubs swing into action to aid the Washington high football program. They are the Tiger Booster club, Tiger Sideliners and Tiger Touchdown club.

The Tiger Booster club is the original. Many other schools in the country have patterned their booster units after the local one founded in 1934. It was the brainchild of the late Karl Young, then a member of the board of education.

YOUNG WANTED a group to which the then Coach Paul Brown could talk directly and explain his type of play. Brown had been severely criticized for losing to arch-rival Canton McKinley in his first two years here.

The man who founded both the Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals amplified the original purpose of the Tiger Booster club, asking members



RON WRIGHT
... president

to aid team members having trouble getting food during the depression, to provide "taxi" service to get players to their homes.

Promotion of Tiger football has been carried on through many means, including rallies, chattering of special trains and buses and passing out footballs to all male babies born in Massillon hospitals.

First president and still a member of the executive committee — as are all past presidents — is A. A. (Tink) Ulrich, a retired vice president of Ohio Water Service Co. During the regime of Chuck Mather, in 1952, a junior executive committee was formed.

The club meets each Monday night during the season to hear the coach and view movies of preceding games. Membership fee is \$2, a rise in price of \$1 to meet the increase in ex-



W. V. ARNOLD
... vice president

... expenses.

RON WRIGHT is this year's president while Wilbur Arnold is vice president, Wayne Spees, secretary, and Maurice Basher, treasurer.

The next oldest club is the Touchdown unit, started during Mather's tenure. Businessmen unable to get to the Booster club sessions on Monday night get their chance to hear the coach on Monday noon.

On the Monday following the end of the season, the club holds a luncheon for players and coaches at which time the Hardnose award is presented to a player. The trophy was originated in 1963 under Earle Bruce's regime.

Andrew Hrivnak is the president this year.

Membership fee is \$3.

DR. LEE TRESSEL, present athletic director and head pigskin coach at Baldwin-Wallace college, started the Tiger Sideliners in 1957. Members of this club act as "Big Brothers" to football players with each member being assigned a player for the season.

This year the format has been changed by Coach Bob Commings. In previous years, the group and players met each Thursday night for dinner.

The number of dinners has been cut and the day switched to Tuesday. Members will go by bus on a couple of special trips to college games with the team.

Saturday morning swims and noon luncheons after grading sessions have become a part of the program. Sunday dinner at his Sideliner's home will be a feature for every gridder.

ONCE AGAIN the Tiger citizen Athlete award will be presented after the season — at the annual football banquet.

Cost of memberships is \$20 in order to defray transportation and dinner expenses.

Dick Bordner is the 1969 president.



WAYNE SPIES



MAURICE BASHER

1969

Pat Midgley — '69 'Hardnose'

Ohio grid championship Tigers' 1970 goal

First-year Tiger Coach Bob Commings and his staff have learned a lesson about the young men who wear the famed Massillon Washington high football colors.

They learned that it is an impossibility for Tigertown's fabled Obie to be buried—even though it appeared his grave had been dug by the vaunted Canton McKinley Bulldogs in the finals a year ago.

HOWEVER, COMMINGS and his staff have preached pride to the Tigers since last spring. And, the stereotyped sermons paid off last Saturday before plus-22,000 onlookers at Canton's Fawcett stadium as Obie was alive and kickin' as the Tigers absorbed a heart-breaking 14-7 loss at the hands of the Bulldogs.

"That football game was a complete fluke," Commings asserted Monday noon at the Massillon Touchdown club luncheon at the Massillon Club.

"I have only seen it happen a few times that the team

which played the hardest didn't win," he added to the audience which included several of the gridders who played their hearts out Saturday.

"You made me a better coach and a better believer in Massillon," Commings said.

"I publicly apologize because I didn't think you were that

darned tough!" he told the players present.

Commings emphasized this year's seniors have set the pattern for 1970—reclamation of the Ohio scholastic football championship which has rested in Columbus for a fourth consecutive year.

BECAUSE OF the manner in

which the 1969 Tigers gave it their all, Commings said he has learned that a Massillon boy is certainly unique. And, because of the leadership such as that provided by "Hardnose" recipient Pat Midgley, Commings told the seniors they will never be forgotten.

"You guys set the pattern,"

Commings told those who exhausted their schoolboy football eligibility this autumn.

"I wish you feel you're part of it," Commings told this year's departees.

Midgley, a starting guard amplified the type of dedication Commings demands when the 6-1, 200-pounder thanked his teammates and the Touchdown club for the honor.

"Thanks! On behalf of my teammates," the bespectacled senior told the Touchdowners.

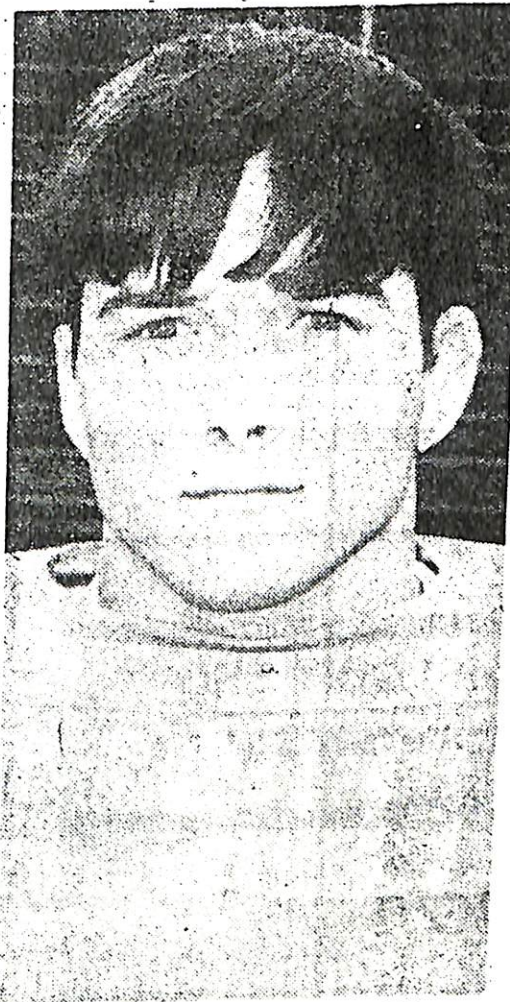
"A lot of boys had faith in me, and I had a lot of faith in several players."

State Rep. Richard G. Reichel was presented by outgoing club president Andrew Hrivnak as the new Touchdown president.

Ironically, Reichel was president of the Tiger Booster Club in 1960 when the Tigers claimed the coveted state championship.

"Next year we're going to do it!" served as Reichel's inaugural address.

1969
TOUCHDOWN
CLUB



PAT MIDGLEY
HARDNOSE
WINNER

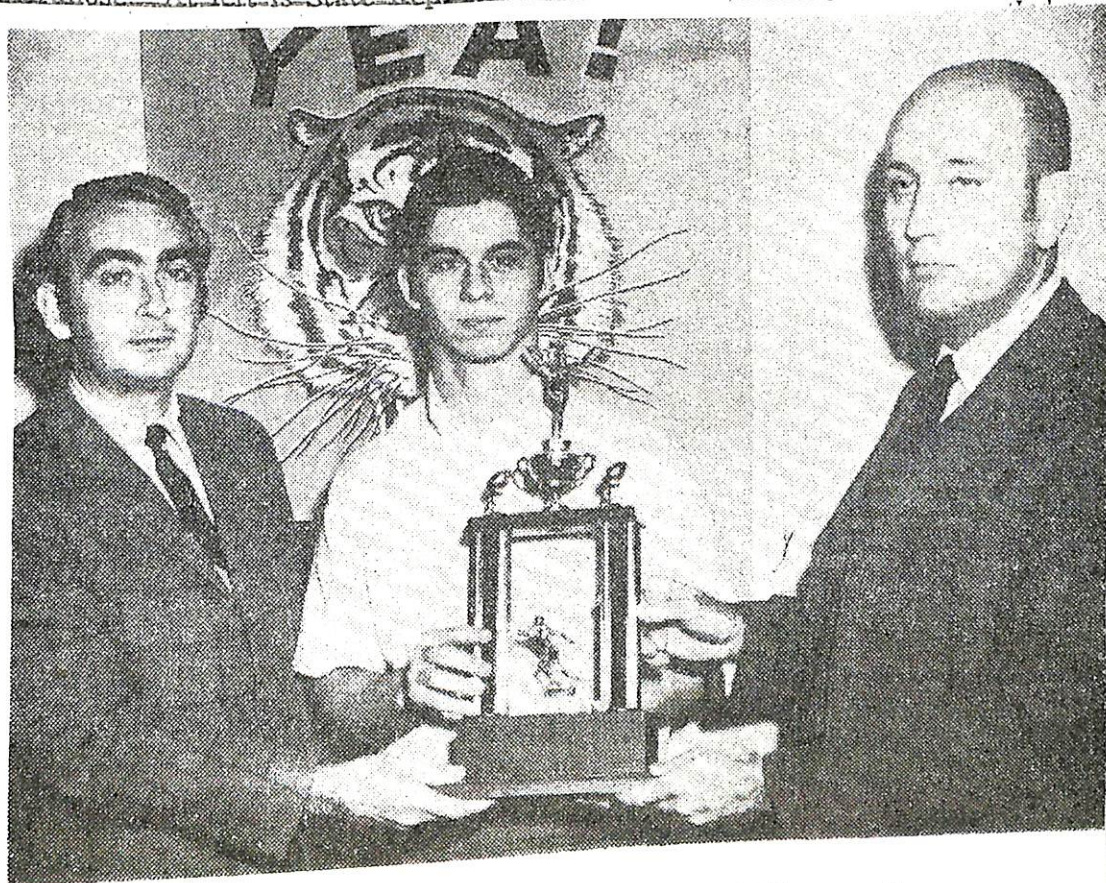
TOUCHDOWN CLUB



1969 'HARDNOSE' — Senior guard Pat Midgley (center) is congratulated by outgoing Massillon Touchdown club President Andrew Hrivnak, jr, for being selected as the club's 1969 "Hardnose." At left is State Rep. Richard G. Reichel, next year's president.

Staff Photo

1969



Cardinal is 1970 Hardnose

THE WORD over his head is on a Yea! Tigers' banner at the Massillon club, but it also is more than an appropriate salute to Tiger Co-Captain Tom Cardinal. He was awarded the Touchdown club's Hardnose Award at the club's annual award luncheon Monday. At left is outgoing TD club President Richard Reichel, the state representative. Incoming President is Richard Hardgrove, a First National Bank vice president.

Independent Staff Photo

1970

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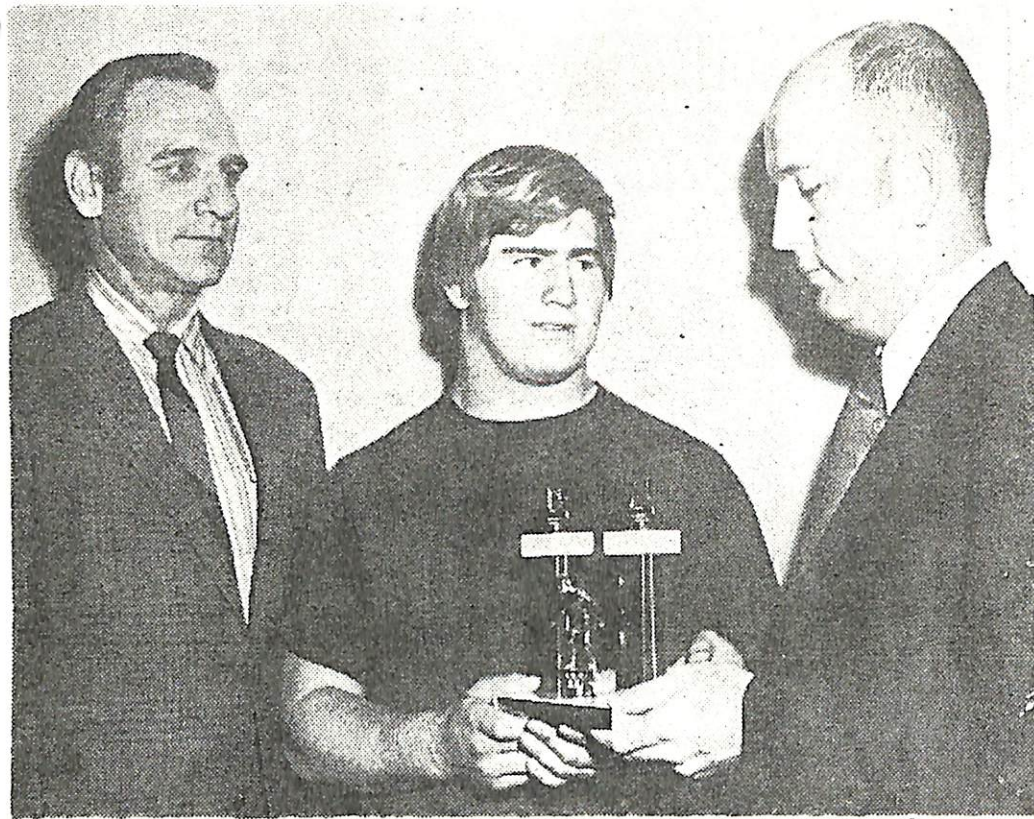
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CLUB IS AN ORGANIZATION



A TIGER TOUGHIE — Glen Weirich (center) Monday noon was named the hard-nose award winner of the Massillon Touchdown club. Presenting the award is Dick Hardgrove (right), 1971 club president; while Russ Clements, 1972 chief, looks on. Each week the club votes on a hard-nose with the player receiving the most votes for the season elected. The club's final session for 1971 was held at the Massillon Club. (Independent Staff Photo)

Weirich is Hard-Nose

By **CHUCK HESS, JR**

A two-way tackle whom Bob Cummings called one of the best the Massillon Tigers have had in some time is the 1971 Tiger Touchdown Club Hard-Nose award winner.

Glen Weirich, a 5-11, 226-pound senior, was presented his trophy by Cummings at the final club session for the season held Monday at the Massillon Club. Several team members were luncheon guests.

ANOTHER PRESENTATION

was made to Carl (Ducky) Schroeder, veteran assistant coach, who retired last summer at 23 years. Dick Hardgrove, Touchdown president, made "The Duck" a lifetime member.

In presenting Weirich his award, Cummings said, "I agree with Hardgrove that there were a lot of outstanding players this year -- more hard noses than in

any of my three years here. That was the forte of this team -- guts!"

In reviewing last Saturday's 29-6 triumph over Canton McKinley, Cummings enthused, "That gets better every minute! It was the consistency with which we did it. I knew we were stronger and tougher. We didn't do anything too fancy, but the way we kicked fellows out of there was something. It was a great way to end a season."

Hardgrove had welcomed what the Touchdown club feels is the greatest football team in the state and remarked, "We didn't bring the championship back, but to witness you boys coming back from those two defeats meant a lot. Boys in the future will look to the example you've set. Everybody is very proud of the job you've done."

Comings referred to the

statement when he commented, "These guys expanded on a legacy, coming back in the best Massillon tradition. This team was as good as any state championship team you'll find year in and year out." The skipper revealed that McKinley fullback Artis Zachary had received a contusion of the liver Saturday and that the McKinley team doctor had told Coach John Brideweser later that a couple of more blows would have been fatal. **BECAUSE THE** Tigers came back for a TD right after the Bulldogs' score -- as many Massillon teams have done -- Cummings believes Zachary's life was probably saved. If the Tigers had not come roaring back, McKinley would have had to have played its familiar power game with Zachary carrying. Comings then introduced team members on hand.

1971

Tiger booster power perhaps nation's best

When it comes to booster power, the Massillon Tigers have more backing than any high school team in the country. Three clubs are connected with the high school. Another is an independent group, but just as important as the others. The "Granddaddy" of them all is the Tiger Booster Club which first started giving its support in the days of Paul Brown. The late Karl Young was the founder in 1934.

AS FANS STARTED to criticize Massillon club size Brown — as they do all coaches — Young realized the then young mentor needed a forum in which to explain his coaching ideas and to answer questions. The club was an instant success.

So successful has it become, countless times through the past 37 years, requests have come to Tigertown for information on how to form a booster club.

Young became the fourth president. A. A. (Tink) Ulrich was the initial chief. Don McFarren is this year's boss.

The club meets each Monday night in the Washington high auditorium during the football season and not only hears Coach Bob Commings, but also watches films of the preceding week's game.

The club has some 2,000 members — many of whom are women — and co-sponsors, with the Washington high athletic board, a post-season banquet.

The Touchdown club came into existence during the Chuck Mather era, starting in 1948. Many of its members are loyal boosters who have conflicts with the Tiger Booster club's nighttime schedule. The T club meets Monday noons at the

the format in his first year as a Tiger chieftain and the club has become even more successful. Several Tuesday night dinners are held with the team. There are trips to college and professional grid games and a Sunday trip to a Sideliner's home.

Members took Tiger players to the recent Ohio High School All-Star football game to watch Commings coach the victorious North team and to view five of their 1970 state championship mates in action.

Sideliners listen to suggestions made by their players. Then try to help out with problems.

A BIG project is meeting the players before and after each game. A tunnel is formed from the dressing room to the field to give the players an extra boost before the contest.

Following the season, the club presents its Citizen Athlete award. The 1971 president is Gene Boerner.

Reese's Raiders was organized in 1956, the idea of Glenn Reese, now a Stark county sheriff's deputy. Football buffs gathered at his confectionery store and Reese donated a back

room as a meeting place. Reese asked not to be named president, promising to fake the post later and did in 1967. Norm Smith wielded the first gavel.

In 1959, the Raiders started their post-season "E" Award banquet at which they honor an outstanding Tiger. The "E" stands for endeavor, effort and efficiency.

Each year the Raiders and their wives take a football trip consisting of a Washington high game on Friday night, a college game on Saturday afternoon and a professional game on Sunday afternoon.

Their Thursday night meetings don't stop at the end of the grid season. Speakers come in

throughout the year to the club room beneath Tom Straughn's Men Shop, which is heavily decorated with football memorabilia.

The group has used one other location for its meetings — the former Oriole Home. Dennis Rambaud, an outstanding Tiger lineman of the mid '60s, is the current president.

the format in his first year as a Tiger chieftain and the club has become even more successful. Several Tuesday night dinners are held with the team. There are trips to college and professional grid games and a Sunday trip to a Sideliner's home.

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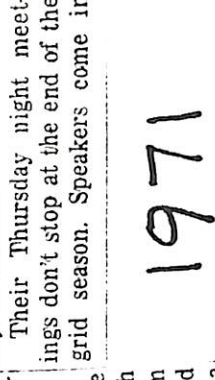
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GENE BOERNER



RICHARD HARDGROVE



DENNIS RAMBAUD



DENNIS RAMBAUD

1971

Balivet is Tigers' Hard-Nose

He was unable to make the machine due to illness, but Washington high senior middle guard Tom Hallbert was recognized as the 1972 Touchdown Club's 1972 Hard-Nose award winner Monday evening at the Massillon Club.

The final selection was based on weekly choices made during the season by a panel of club members.

SENIOR TIGER team members and one manager were

members of the Touchdown club and introduced by Coach Bob Commings. WHS Principal Clifford Wilson and Tiger Swing Band Director James Billing also were introduced.

"We learned a lesson this year," Coach Bob Commings stated. "Football is a 48-minute game -- like life."

He referred to the Tigers' recent second half loss to Cincinnati in Ohio's first Class AAA playoff semifinals.

Commings intends, at a coaches' meeting this Friday in Columbus, to suggest that the playoffs be only a one-game affair—starting in 1973—with a week's rest between the end of the season and the title tilt.

Touchdown Club President Russ Clements thanked Commings and team members for bringing high honors to Massillon this fall and then introduced the 1973 Touchdown Club President Dick Braun.

1972



TOM BALIVET

TOUCHDOWN CLUB



HONORED BY TIGER TOUCHDOWN CLUB—Tom Balizet (center) Thursday was presented the Hard-nose award for his efforts as Washington high middle guard during the past football season. Dick Brunn (right), outgoing president of the Touchdown club, does the honors. Robert Hoover (left), 1974 president, looks on.

Independent Staff Photo



1972

WINS AN AWARD — Charles Danzy (center), is presented the Tiger Touchdown Club's Hard Nose Award by President Dick Brunn (right). Looking on is 1974 President, the Rev. Robert Hoover, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church. The award was presented at the TD Club's final meeting of the year, Monday noon at the Massillon Club.

1973

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

MASSILLON WASHINGTON HIGH TIGERS

"THE BEST KNOWN NAME IN SCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL"

Tigers' dump Mentor 20-2

Harold F. Bostic
President
Robert P. Hoover
Past President
Robert Williams
Secretary-Treasurer
Chuck Shuff
Head Coach &
Athletic Director
W.H.S.

Washington High School 1975 Football Schedule

	MASS.	OPP.
Sep. 5 - Mentor	20	2
Sep. 12 - Nerdonia		Nerdonia 17, Bedford 0.
Sep. 19 - Upper Arlington		Cincinnati St. Xavier 9, Upper Arlington 6.
Sep. 26 - Niles McKinley		Niles 14, Warren Howland 6
Oct. 3 - Cleve. Benedictine		18, Ashtabula 6.
Oct. 10 - at Stouboville		Dayton Colonel White 26, Dunbar 8.
Oct. 17 - Dayton Col. White		Warren Harding 27, Cleveland John Adams 0
Oct. 24 - Warren Harding		8, Akron East 7.
Oct. 31 - Alliance		Youngstown Mooney 22, Canton McKinley 8.
Nov. 8 - at Canton McK.		

Night Games at Tiger Stadium 8:00 p. m.
Day Game 2:00 p. m.

GRIDSTICK		Mass.	Men.
First downs - rushing	14	2	
First downs - passing	0	3	
First downs - penalties	0	1	
Total first downs	14	6	
Yards gained - rushing	286	75	
Yard lost - rushing	33	31	
Net yards gained - rushing	253	44	
Net yards gained - passing	0	81	
Total yards gained	253	125	
Passes completed	0-4	5-16	
Passes intercepted by	0	0	
Yardage on passes intercepted	0	0	
Kickoff average (yards)	5-33.2	1-47.0	
Kickoff returns (yards)	23	91	
Punt average (yards)	4-33.5	6-29.1	
Punt returns (yards)	0	0	
Had punts block	0	0	
Lost fumbled ball	2-4	3-4	
Yards penalized	4-40	6-30	
Touchdowns - rushing	3	0	
Total number of plays	51	55	
Total time of possession	25:26	22:34	

MENTOR-2
 Ends - Schutz, Ostrowski, Korman.
 Tackles - McDonald, Oldag, Feasline, Tripepi.
 Guards - Fox, Cowdrick, Volenik, Harriger, Rascoe.
 Centers - P. Wargo, Scully, Gregor.
 Quarterbacks - Yutzy, McCollum, Kozlovich.
 Halfbacks - Dulka, D. Peters, Lach, Wargo, McGrath, J. Dulka, Palla, D. Wargo.
MASSILLON-20
 Ends - Bammerlin, Matle, Laase, Conley, Chovan, Eberhardt, Arner.
 Tackles - Mike Lauber, Easter, Drobney, Genet, Mark Lauber.
 Guards - Schumacher, Christoff, Toles, Hauser, Ramsey.
 Centers - Nagle, Brand.
 Quarterbacks - Keller, Smith, Traylor.
 Halfbacks - T. Grizzard, Harper, Ellis, Lash, Lab, K. Harmon, Warthen, Stewart.
 Fullbacks - B. Harmon, Dorsey, A. Grizzard.
 Mentor 2 0 0 0-2
 Massillon 0 14 6 0-20
 Men. Safety (Keith Harmon tackle in end zone); Mass. Bill Harmon 33 run (run failed); Mass. B. Harmon 28 run (Tom Grizzard run); Mass. Bill Harmon 4 run (run failed).
 Officials: Referee - Hugh Davis; Umpire - Ray Payne; Head Linesman - Sam DiBiasi; Field Judge - Octavio Sirgo; Back Judge - LaVerne Haldet.
 Attendance: 11,414.

RECORD
 EARLY HISTORY (1894-1931)
 MODERN ERA (1932-1974)

	GAMES	WON	LOST	TIES	MASS.	OPP.
EARLY HISTORY (1894-1931)	246	148	81	17	4,099	1,840
MODERN ERA (1932-1974)	433	365	53	15	12,742	2,922
TOTAL	679	513	134	32	16,841	4,762
TOTAL ATTENDANCE SINCE 1932	-	-	-	-	5,260,481	-



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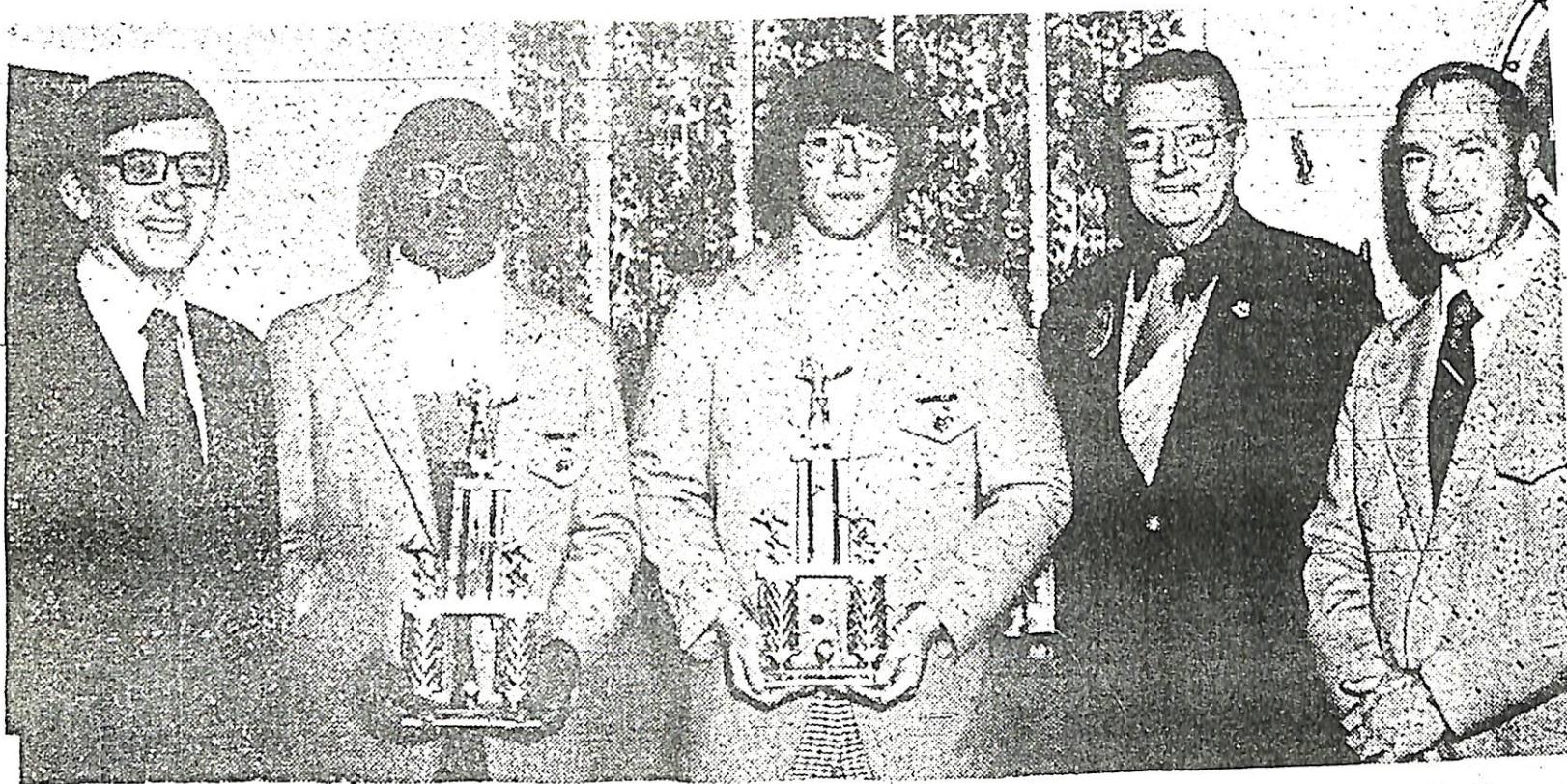
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No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
10	FRANK EMMERT—Jr.	SB	5-8	159	40	NEAL ELASKY—Jr.	SE	5-10	166	66	MIKE RAMSEY—Jr.	G	5-7	185			
11	DAVE SMITH—Sr.	QB	6-0	167	41	ROBERT BUTTERFIELD—Sr.	SE	5-10	145	67	JOHN HAUSER—Jr.	G	5-10	183			
12	BRET TRAYLOR—Jr.	QB	5-9	158	42	JOHN PARSON—Jr.	TB	5-11	184	68	ENZO FATIGATI—Sr.	G	5-8	176			
13	MARK SMITH—Jr.	QB	5-4	129	43	KEITH HARMON—Sr.	WB	6-2	195	71	PAT RINDER—Sr.	G	5-8	162			
14	GLENN ARNER—Sr.	TE	6-1	173	44	HAROLD DORSEY—Sr.	FB	5-11	188	72	ED GENET—Sr.	T	6-1	201			
15	TODD KELLER—Sr.	QB	6-0	185	45	TOM GRIZZARD—Sr.	TB	5-11	175	73	SYLVESTER DROBNEY—Sr.	T	6-1	216			
16	RON HYKES—Sr.	QB	5-8	135	46	MIKE MARTIN—Sr.	WB	5-6	151	74	JESS TOLES—Jr.	FB	5-10	192			
20	DON STEWART—Sr.	TB	5-11	151	47	FRANK SZASZ—Jr.	FB	5-8	155	75	RICK BAUGHMAN—Jr.	T	5-10	217			
21	DAVE WARTHEN—Jr.	WB	5-6	150	48	MIKE HARDWICK—Jr.	SB	5-8	159	76	STEVE EASTER—Sr.	T	6-1	203			
22	BILL HENDERSON—Jr.	SB	5-7	153	49	MARK HICKEY—Jr.	SE	5-8	139	77	MIKE LAUBER—Sr.	T	5-11	207			
23	GREG SHILLING—Sr.	SE	6-1	164	50	MIKE SOWARDS—Jr.	G	5-6	152	78	ROBERT DENNISON—Jr.	T	5-10	192			
24	VAN JONES—Jr.	WB	5-10	148	51	GARY BORDER—Jr.	C	5-11	182	79	TIM TOURNEY—Jr.	T	6-2	265			
25	WILLIE CONLEY—Sr.	SE	5-11	173	52	GREG MITCHEAL—Sr.	C	5-10	177	80	DON STOLTE—Jr.	WB	5-6	144			
26	ED HUDSON—Sr.	WB	6-0	157	53	DAN NAGLE—Sr.	C	5-11	232	81	CHARLES EBERHARDT—Sr.	TE	6-0	190			
27	DENNIS SIMPSON—Sr.	TB	5-11	172	54	TOM BRAND—Sr.	G	5-11	180	82	MARK MATIE—Sr.	TE	6-0	225			
28	DAVID BYELENE—Sr.	SB	5-9	153	55	DAN FARLEY—Jr.	SE	5-7	142	83	KEVIN SMITH—Jr.	TE	5-11	155			
30	JAY HARPER—Jr.	TB	5-5	147	56	DON ENGLEHARDT—Jr.	C	5-8	155	84	RANDY LASH—Jr.	SB	5-7	150			
31	BRAD McBRIDE—Sr.	WB	5-8	153	57	MIKE RICKER—Sr.	G	5-8	151	85	MIKE JONES—Jr.	TE	5-10	177			
32	BILL HARMON—Sr.	FB	6-1	237	58	GARY KING—Sr.	G	5-8	162	86	KEN MOON—Jr.	TE	5-11	174			
33	JEFF LAB—Sr.	WB	6-1	197	59	MIKE BETZ—Jr.	G	5-8	165	87	WILLIAM BAMMERLIN—Sr.	SE	6-2	167			
34	PETE KILLINS—Jr.	TB	5-8	165	60	ROBERT BOERNER—Jr.	G	5-10	174	88	RANDY LAASE—Jr.	TE	6-5	203			
35	ANTHONY GRIZZARD—Jr.	FB	5-10	163	61	TODD SCHUMACHER—Sr.	G	5-11	200	89	HAROLD KELLER—Jr.	SE	5-7	134			
36	JOHN HAAS—Jr.	FB	5-8	159	62	CARL CHRISTOFF—Sr.	G	5-8	172	90	JAMES SMITH—Jr.	SE	5-10	141			
37	TODD ELLIS—Sr.	WB	5-10	167	63	DAVID BAUS—Jr.	G	5-8	159	91	TERRY JONES—Sr.	TE	5-11	176			
38	RICK CHOVAN—Jr.	SE	5-8	155	64	MARK LAUBER—Jr.	T	6-0	188	92	RICK LATHAM—Jr.	SE	5-11	168			
39	ALLAN ROGERS—Sr.	WB	5-8	151	65	MIKE BETTILYON—Sr.	G	5-6	172								

TOUCHDOWN CLUB



AWARD WINNERS — Senior quarterback Greg Wood and junior fullback and defensive tackle Bill Harmon were named co-winners of the Tiger Hardnose Award Monday at the Tiger Touchdown Club luncheon. Admiring the trophies are from left, Rev. Robert Hoover, club president, Wood, Harmon, Harold Bostic, club president-elect and Coach Chuck Shuff. (Independent Staff Photo)

Wood, Harmon honored Monday

Senior quarterback Greg Wood and junior fullback and defensive tackle Bill Harmon were named co-winners of the Tiger Hardnose Awards at Monday's luncheon of the Tiger Touchdown Club held at the Massillon Club.

The two were selected from overall tabulations made weekly by the club members. It marked the first time that the voting resulted in a tie.

TIGER COACH Chuck Shuff said the two were very deserving of the awards and he said he was glad he didn't have to make the decision.

"It's very difficult to single out individuals especially with this team," Shuff pointed out, "because we have so many fellows who contributed so much. It was a team effort."

Shuff cited Thee Lemon, senior tight end and monster back, who was selected the team's Most Valuable Player by his own teammates . . . a method by which he wished all

awards could be made.

"I'm still flying high from the McKinley victory," Shuff said. "I just couldn't believe the way the team performed that Saturday. It almost seemed supernatural."

"We've made an awful lot of progress. We never quit and these senior sitting here are the reason why."

"I KNOW at this stage of the game that we're as good as anybody in the state."

Shuff attended the State Class AAA semi-final playoffs in Columbus last Saturday and said he was very impressed with what he saw, although he felt the Tigers could compete with any of the teams on the field.

"We have a very good conference representative in Warren Harding," he pointed out. "(Cincinnati) Moeller had an excellent team." Harding won 20-10.

Shuff felt Upper Arlington "toiled around" with New

Philadelphia before getting Golden Bears downed the down to serious football. The Quakers 27-7.

1974

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

Hard-nose award goes to Dorsey

By ROLAND A. DREUSSI
Independent Sports Editor

Massillon Tiger middle guard Carl Dorsey received the annual Hard-Nose Award presented by the Massillon Touchdown Club at a noon luncheon Monday downtown at the Massillon Club.

Dorsey, a senior, was named lineman of the week seven times during the past season. He was also co-captain (with Tim Daniels) for the McKinley game

"TONY GRIZZARD won it

last year," Dorsey said, "and I told him then that I was going to win it this year. I thought about that going into every game this year."

Touchdown Club President John Muhlbach introduced next year's president, Mike Keyes, and Tiger associate head coach Nick Vrotsos who was subbing for head coach Mike Currence (who is in Columbus for an athletic director's meeting).

Vrotsos complimented the team for its fine job against Canton McKinley on Nov. 12 when the Tigers routed the

favored Bulldogs 21-0 in Canton.

"I think this football team, in the McKinley game, did as fine a job as any Tiger team I've coached with," Vrotsos said.

"It was a super football game. We just took it to them, and beat them at their own game. The kids said if we had a dry ball we could throw it and catch it and that's just what we did."

The varsity football team, which attended the luncheon, was also introduced.



HARD-NOSE Award winner Carl Dorsey poses with outgoing Touchdown Club president John Muhlbach (left) and Mike Keyes (right), president for next year. Dorsey received the club's annual award at a noon luncheon Monday at the Massillon Club.

(Independent Staff Photo)

1977

Senior wins Hardnose Award 1978

TD Club honors Cleveland

By ROLLIE DREUSSI
Independent Sports Editor

Back in August, Massillon Tiger head football coach Mike Currence switched Dick Cleveland — a two-year starter — from fullback to linebacker.

Currence hoped Cleveland would be able to solidify the defense and provide leadership for the inexperienced unit.

The defense, with Cleveland as its catalyst, responded by allowing just 37 points and helping out the offense by scoring four touchdowns.

Today, the hard-hitting Cleveland reaped the benefit of his efforts by winning the Hardnose Award from the Massillon Touchdown Club.

The competition for the award was keen, but Cleveland — the team's only three-year starter — was cited for "making the tremendous change over to defense to give leadership there," according to Mike Keyes, Touchdown Club president.

Also, Cleveland topped off his stellar career with an outstanding 13-tackle performance in the Tigers'

13-10 win over Canton McKinley.

"I'd like to thank everyone on the team for making this possible," Cleveland said in accepting the award. "And especially coach (Currence) for putting up with me for three years," he added as he shook Mike Currence's hand.

Currence addressed the

junior and senior football players and the members of the Touchdown Club at the luncheon at the Massillon Club.

"I'm very proud of this senior class. They're the finest group of men I've been associated with. Their spirit and determination were just tremendous," he said.

Currence noted that the

team was inexperienced at the beginning of the season. They improved, however, as they played other teams early in the season that were also inexperienced.

"We went undefeated (9-0-1), but I won't forget that 7-7 tie at Warren. Maybe we can do something about that next year down here," he said.

"I also won't forget the

Canton McKinley game and the job the seniors did. The juniors did a good job, too. We'll miss the seniors, but we hope the juniors will give us the same kind of determination and hard work so that maybe we'll have no blemishes on our record next year, and be able to earn a spot in the playoffs."

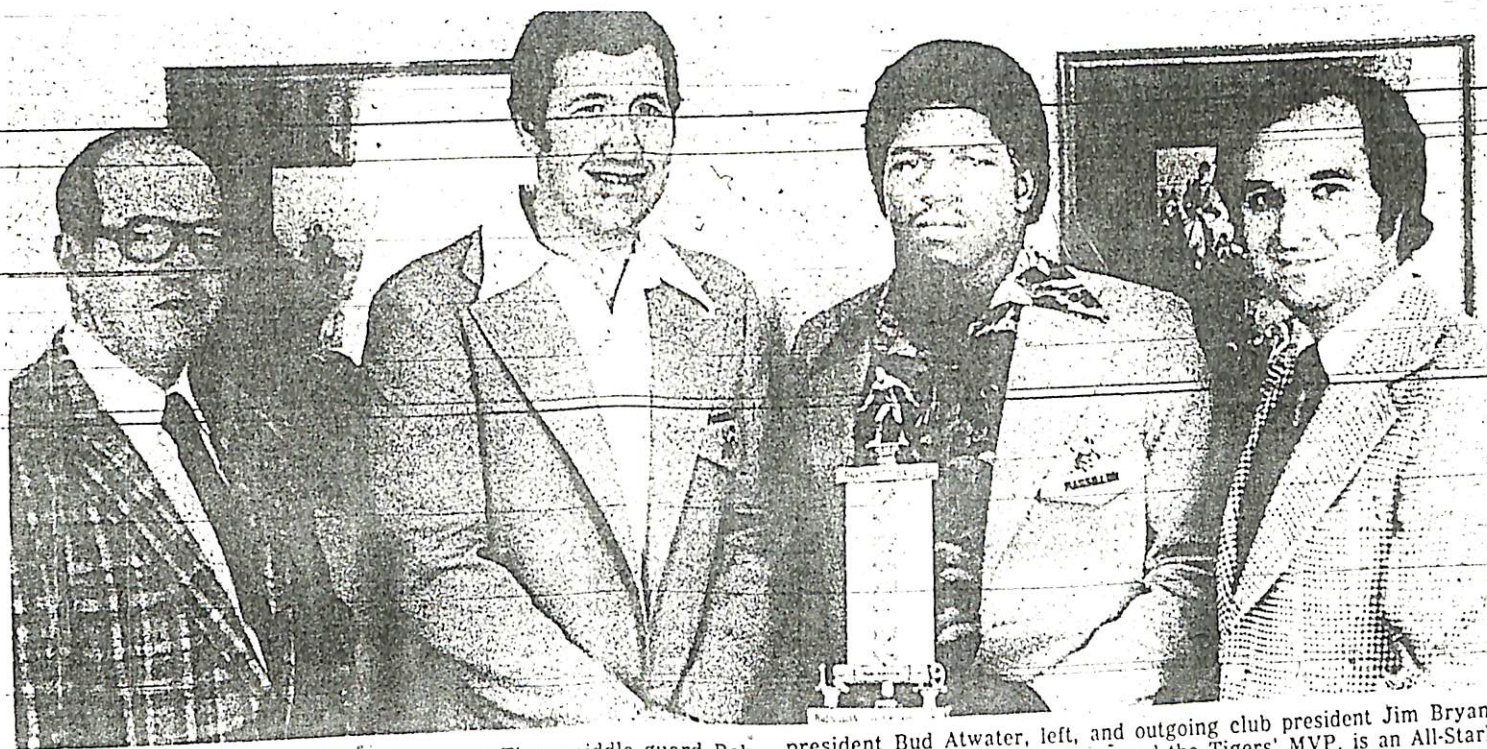
(See TD — Page 12)



HARDNOSED HITTER — Massillon Tiger Dick Cleveland holds the Hardnose Award trophy he received Monday at the annual Touchdown Club luncheon. Cleveland, a senior linebacker, was awarded the trophy by outgoing Touchdown Club President Mike Keyes (left). Massillon head coach Mike Currence and new TD Club President Jim Bryan (right) look on.
(Independent Staff Photo)

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1979



HARDNOSE AWARD WINNER — Massillon Tiger middle guard Bob Simpson received the Massillon Touchdown Club's Hardnose Award Monday at a luncheon for the team at the Massillon Club. Simpson is shown here with his trophy and Tiger coach Mike Currence, 1980 TD Club

president Bud Atwater, left, and outgoing club president Jim Bryan, right. Simpson has also been named the Tigers' MVP, is an All-Stark County selection and was named to the All-American Conference All-Star team.
(Photo by Rollie Dreussi)



HARDNOSE AWARD WINNER — Massillon Tiger coach Mike Currence, far left, and Bill Troup, far right, look on as Tiger middle guard Jeff Grove receives the Massillon Touchdown Club's annual Hardnose Award trophy from Bud Atwater. Troup, the

club's incoming president, and Atwater, the outgoing president, made the presentation on behalf of the club Wednesday, since Grove was deer hunting when the awards luncheon was held Monday.
(Photo by Jack Worthington)

1980

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1980

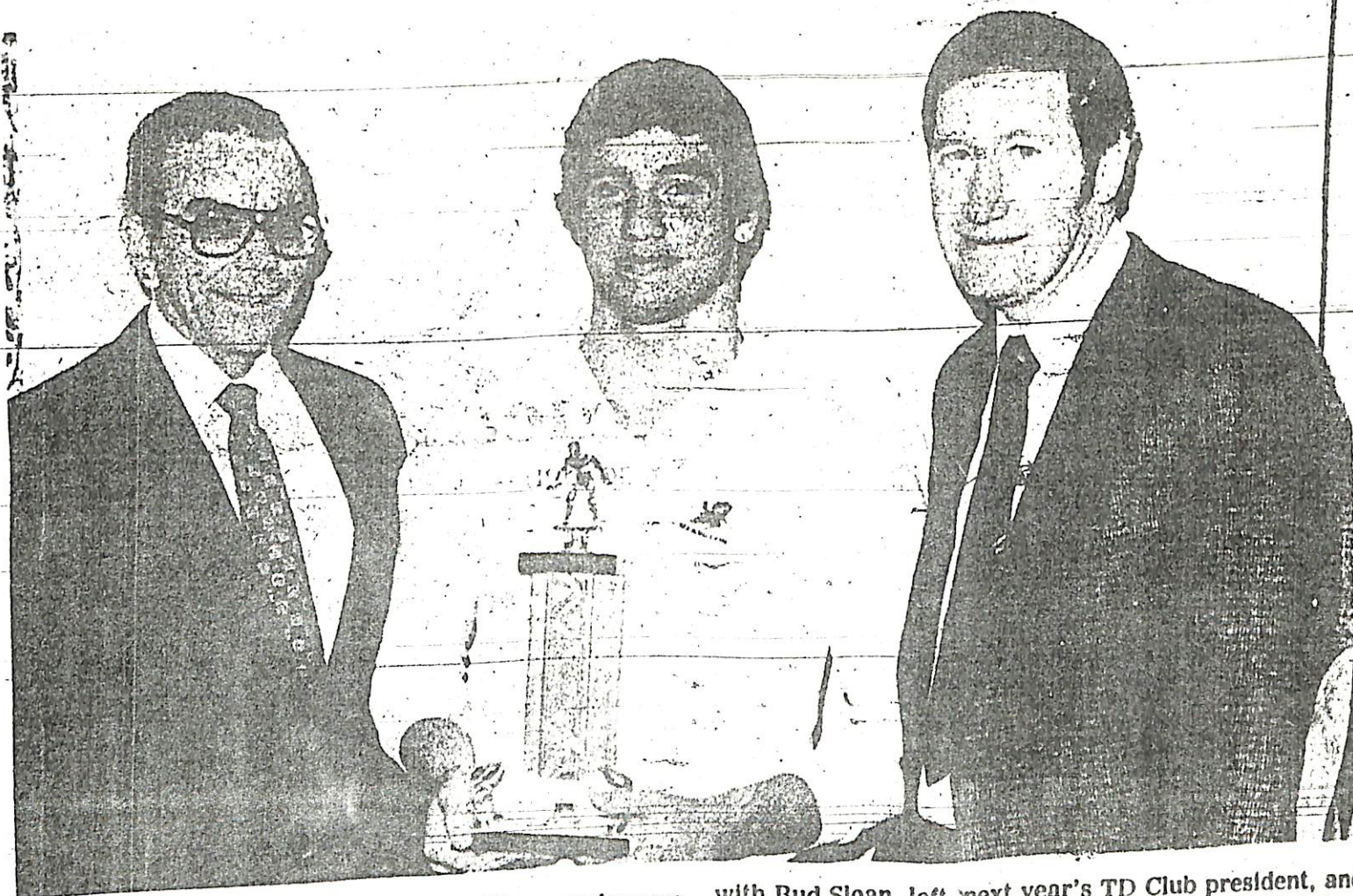


HARDNOSE AWARD WINNER — Massillon Tiger coach Mike Currence, far left, and Bill Troup, far right, look on as Tiger middle guard Jeff Grove receives the Massillon Touchdown Club's annual Hardnose Award trophy from Bud Atwater. Troup, the club's incoming president, and Atwater, the outgoing president, made the presentation on behalf of the club Wednesday, since Grove was deer hunting when the awards luncheon was held Monday.

(Photo by Jack Worthington)

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1981



HARDNOSE WINNER — Massillon Tiger sophomore linebacker Chris Spielman received the annual Hardnose Award from the Massillon Touchdown Club Monday at a luncheon at the Massillon Club. Spielman is shown here

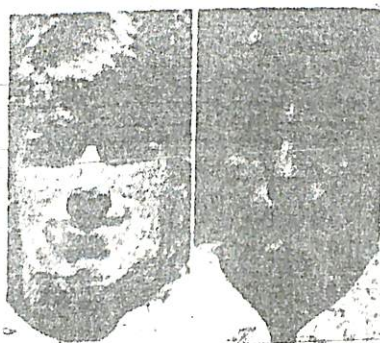
with Bud Sloan, left, next year's TD Club president, and Tiger coach Mike Currence. Spielman is the first underclassman to win the award.

(Photo by Rollie Dreussl)

Hardnose Award winners

Brothers Rick and Chris Spielman have been named weekly winners of the Massillon Touchdown Club's Hardnose Award for their play in Saturday's 9-6 loss to Canton McKinley.

Rick, a senior, is the Tigers' quarterback and scored a touchdown against the Pups. Chris is a sophomore linebacker.



R. Spielman C. Spielman

Coach accepts ovation for Tigers

Currence credits tea

By MIKE HUDAK

Independent Sports Editor

MASSILLON — Who was that fellow with the big smile waiting for the standing ovation to die down at Monday's Touchdown Club Luncheon at the Massillon Club?

Why, it was Tiger head coach Mike Currence, smiling for a number of reasons.

• The Tigers had just capped a perfect 10-0 regular season, beating arch-rival Canton McKinley in a 7-0 thriller.

• The Tigers had assured themselves of a spot in the state playoffs, where they'll meet the Sandusky Blue Streaks Saturday night at 7:30 at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium.

• The last memories of last year's 7-3 finish, "mediocre" by Massillon standards, had been wiped away.

INDEPENDENT SPORTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1982

1982



HARDNOSE AWARD winner Chris Spielman is shown with, from left, 1983 Touchdown Club president Wayne Spies, 1982 club president Bud Sloan and coach Mike

Currence at the club's luncheon Monday. Spielman was also named UPI All-Ohio linebacker and Currence Ohio Coach of the Year Monday. (Photo by Mike Hudak)

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**INDEPENDENT (4)
SPORTS**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1982



THE GREAT PUMPKIN paid a visit to the Touchdown Club Luncheon Monday afternoon. "When the Great Pumpkin visits you the day after Halloween, it means good luck for all of November—especially Saturdays!" the hooded figure told Tiger coach Mike Currence before leading the audience in a Tiger cheer. The Great Pumpkin's visit in-

spired members of the crowd, many of whom commented that the talk compared favorably with the Rev. Bob Hoover's Sunday sermons at Central Presbyterian Church. (The good reverend was strangely missing from his typical luncheon seat on Monday.)

(Photo by Mike Hudak)

Gruno captures laurel as Tiger Hard Nose

1983

By STEVE DUNGJEN
Independent Sports Editor

MASSILLON — For a hard nose, Tom Gruno admitted to having a case of the butterflies Monday.

Gruno, a senior fullback-defensive tackle for the Tiger football team, was the recipient of the Touchdown Club's annual Hard Nose Award.

The trophy is voted on by members of the Touchdown Club during the season. Gruno was presented his hardware as the club served lunch to 37 Tiger team members at Lincoln Theater.

"It was a real surprise when he (TD Club president Wayne Spies) said my name I had butterflies in my stomach," Gruno said while clutching his trophy. "My face is still kinda numb."

Probably as numb as the 218-pounder left opposing running backs and would-be tacklers during the season.

During Massillon's 9-1 season, Gruno had 54 tackles, 35 assists, two pressures of the quarterback and two fumble recoveries on defense.

Offensively, Gruno carried the ball only 21 times for 82 yards and one touchdown as he alternated with Tim Sampsel.

Gruno also handled most of the Tiger punting chores, averaging 40 yards per boot. He also kicked off nine times for an average of 49.9 yards.

"A lot of people don't really notice the blocking," Gruno said. "The fullback is like a third guard. I like to hit and because I only weigh 218 pounds and go up against guys 280 or so you have to give 100 percent on the line."

Gruno punished a plate of food with the verocity he would a running back on the field of play. But, then again, so did all of the Tigers in attendance.

Because head coach Mike Currence was away on a week-long alcohol intervention seminar, assistant coach Nick Vrotsos took over duties at the speaker's podium.

Vrotsos, the offensive coordinator in charge of guards and centers, didn't mix words when it came to assessing this year's group of Tigers.

"I'd like to say this before I get started," Vrotsos began, "Fellas, I told you this before the McKinley game and before our last game at (Paul Brown) Tiger Stadium that this is the best Massillon football team that we've had in my 26 years as a coach."

The Tigers finished fourth in their region of Division I, missing a playoff berth by two spots.

Vrotsos, though, was undaunted by having to stay home when the playoffs opened up last weekend.

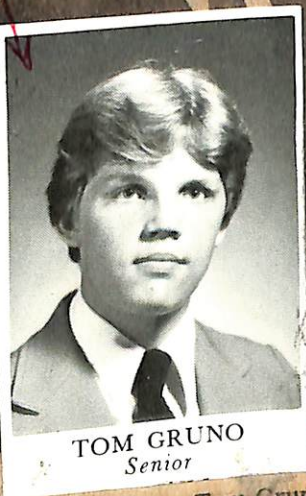
"I really feel strongly about this football team; we're probably two touchdowns better than anybody left in the playoffs," he said.



TOUCHDOWN CLUB — Massillon senior Tom Gruno, second from right, was feted Monday during the Touchdown Club banquet as the Tiger's Hard Nose award-

winner. Gruno is flanked by current club president Wayne Spies, left, and offensive coordinator Nick Vrotsos. At far left is incoming club president Wayne Kyhos.

Independent photo by Steve Dungjen



TOM GRUNO
Senior

Darth Vader visits TD Club meeting

By STEVE DUNGJEN
Independent Sports Editor

MASSILLON — Darth Vader paid a visit to the ninth meeting of the Touchdown Club at Lincolnway Theatre Monday. He had good news.

According to the sinister Vader (aka, Bob Hoover), Massillon is going to win Saturday's confrontation with McKinley at Fawcett Stadium.

Vader, who said he's a convert to the good ways of Tiger football, presented Massillon head coach Mike Currence with a "laser beam gun", one he said that would repel any Bulldog.

"This is our season," Currence said, adding that prac-

"We want to end the season — if we have to end it — with a win over McKinley," Currence, who has a 6-2 coaching record over the Bulldogs, said. "It (the game) means so much to us this year."

Currence said McKinley, which will present a 5-2 slant defense, stacks its deck on defense. The left side of the Bulldog line is a formidable one he said.

Anchoring the left side of McKinley's defensive front will be mammoth Dale Jackson, a 6-foot-4, 230-pound senior end, and senior Anthony McCullough (6-4, 230).

The Tiger grid boss said opposing those two would be a worthy task for anybody.

"He (Jackson) makes one side very difficult to run at and McCullough makes it doubly tough," he said. "They (McKinley) want to force you to go left."

"They (McKinley) had some unfortunate losses," Currence noted. "They had some problems with the Catholic schools, which most do."

McKinley's three losses, coming in the first four weeks, were to Cincinnati Moeller (16-6), Youngstown Ursuline (14-6) and Cincinnati Elder (14-7).

The Bulldogs have yielded just 88 points this year, and are riding the crest of a five-game winning streak in which they've outscored the opposition by a wide 119-37 margin.

On offense Currence said the players to watch for are quarterback Kevin Parrish (6-2, 192) and tailback Troy Jenkins (5-9, 181), who has gained more than 1,000 yards this year.

Currence did note that his Tigers would enter the McKinley game at near full strength. Tim Sampsel, who missed last week's 38-0 win over Youngstown South with a bruised knee, is expected back for duty. John Franke is at 90 percent after recovering from an ankle injury.

"We've always had some special plays for McKinley, and we'll bring those off the shelf for the game and put them back after," Currence said.

"Beat McKinley," he said at conclusion of the meeting, which was filled to capacity.

INDEPENDENT SPORTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1983

tices this week in preparation for McKinley would be of the closed-door variety.

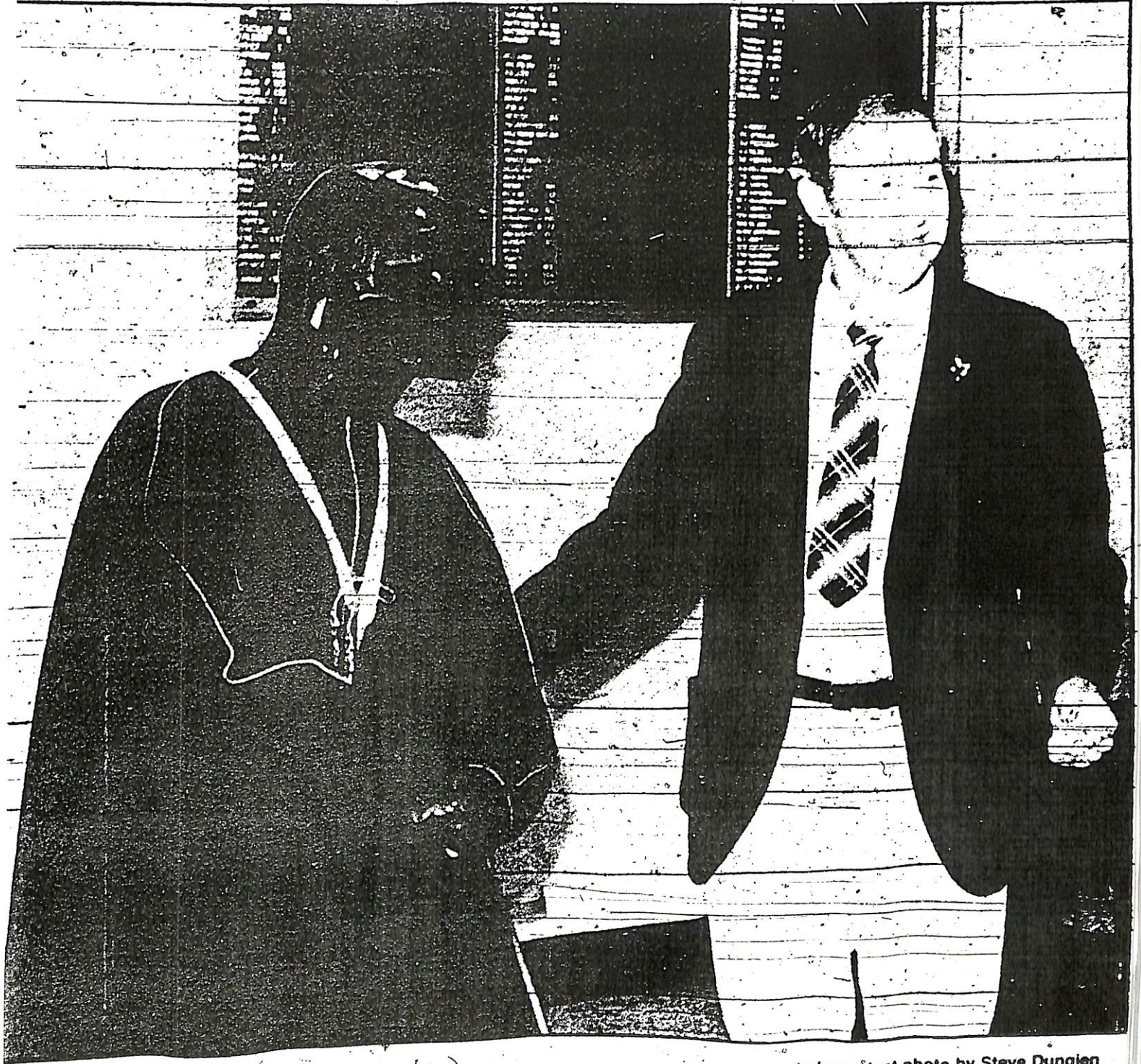
Currence said the week — as usual — is the biggest of the year. Should the Tigers not qualify to the computer playoffs by some unfortunate stroke of fortune, he wants his players to have something to always remember — a win over McKinley.

"The big thing for us, and in particular our seniors, is to have something to always remember," Currence said. "This could be, if we don't make the playoffs, their (the seniors) last game in a Tiger uniform."

"We're going to see just how well these young men perform. The challenge is there," Currence said in regards to McKinley, which brings a 6-3 record into the clash.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1983



Independent photo by Steve Dungjen

THE FORCE BE WITH YOU — Massillon head football coach Mike Currence had an unexpected visitor during Monday's weekly meeting of the Touchdown Club. Darth Vader, 'dropped in' to wish the Tigers good for-

tune in their Saturday clash with arch-rival McKinley. Vader presented Currence with a laser beam gun, guaranteed to repel any Bulldog attack.

Vrotsos, Tigers eye

By STEVE DUNGJEN

Independent Sports Editor

MASSILLON — Nick Vrotsos is the Massillon Tigers' offensive coordinator, but Monday at the Touchdown Club meeting, at Amvets the 59-year-old put on a different hat.

Vrotsos filled in for head coach Mike Currence, who, along with his wife, Joan, was out of town due to the death Friday of Joan's father.

Currence left early Sunday morning for Maryland, and is expected back Wednesday.

Vrotsos, meanwhile, isn't sure yet if he'll be returning for his 28th season as a Tiger assistant football coach. He said he would be retiring as a mechanical drawing instructor at Washington High School, but will have to wait until next spring to find out if he can keep his coaching position.

Monday, however, he had other duties to attend to.

"I am the assistant in charge of losses," Vrotsos began his address to the Touchdown Club. "After looking at the statistics, we probably should've fared a little better," he

said about Saturday's season-ending 17-6 setback to Canton McKinley.

Vrotsos said the Tigers were their own worst enemy in the Bulldog loss, alluding to two plays in particular on offense.

The first was a double pass that fell incomplete despite an open receiver, and the other was the McKinley interception in the end zone just before halftime.

"I can still hear coach (Chuck) Utterback telling Mike Scott if it's not there to throw the ball away," Vrotsos said of the interception that squelched what appeared to be a sure-fire scoring opportunity. "I think if we had gotten on the board, it would've psychologically given us a big lift."

Vrotsos did admit the squad wanted to run the ball more often, but McKinley's early 14-0 lead seconds into the second half dictated the Tigers' aerial showing. Massillon rushed just 22 times and passed a single-game record 49 times.

"If we are going to shore up anything," he said about the off-season,

Tigers' Johnson wins Hard Nose

By STEVE DUNGJEN
Independent Sports Editor

MASSILLON — Pete Johnson is your typical Massillon Tiger linebacker.

He's big, bad and mean. And not necessarily in that order of preference.

On the football field, Johnson was a standout. Short on words, he's long in action.

The 6-foot-2, 187-pound senior led by example. He led the Tigers in tackles with 82, adding 21 assists, one pass knock down, one pass interception and a 95-yard return of a fumble for a touchdown.

Monday afternoon at the final meeting of the Touchdown Club at Amvets, Johnson was named this year's recipient of the Hard Nose Award, a tribute that needs no real explanation. Last year's winner was Tom Gruno, now playing for Toledo University.

Johnson, suffice it to say, was a hub of activity. He had a nose for the ball, hence the award's name.

The second of three children, Johnson's motivation was provided by a former Tiger — his brother, Craig.

"At home we got a big trophy case. He's got more than I do right now," he said. Craig, a top runner for Massillon last year who won a pair of state track titles, is currently a member of the Michigan State University Spartans.

Johnson moved into the Washington High School district as a sophomore from Canton Timken.

While his exploits as a top-notch linebacker were well noted this fall, Johnson is a virtuoso at any position. He's played most of them.

"My dad (John Henry) said if you are an athlete you can play anywhere," he said. "It doesn't matter where I play, because I feel comfortable at it."

The 18-year-old served time as a quarterback, split end and defensive back before finally settling in as a linebacker. And did he ever.

During a game, Johnson never stood still. He was a whirlwind of activity before, during and after every play.

"If a play came my way and I missed it, I'd slap myself to get myself ready for the next time they came at me. I wanted to be ready," he said of his repeated head-slapping technique. "It (the slapping) put me in a hit mood and it made me more aggressive."

While his first year as a starter for the Orange and Black was a memorable one, Johnson is also hoping to play collegiate ball.

And at the rate he's going, he

appears to be a sure-fire bet to do so. That family trophy case at home is his inspiration to excel.

Joel Cunningham was named as the successor to Wayne Kyhos as the TD Club's president for the upcoming football season.

The TD Club hosted nearly 50 football-playing Tigers for lunch, each player standing up and introducing himself.



HARD NOSE AWARD WINNER — Massillon senior Pete Johnson, second from left, proudly displays his trophy for being named the Touchdown Club's Hard Nose Award winner Monday. Flanking Johnson are,

from left, head Tiger football coach Mike Currence, outgoing TD Club president Wayne Kyhos and incoming TD Club president Joel Cunningham.

Independent photo by Steve Dungjen

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1985

By STEVE DOERSCHUK
Independent Sports Editor
MASSILLON — Washington
High's football season is over... all
20 hours of it.

Yep, that's roughly the length of
the campaign that concluded Satur-
day in Fawcett Stadium against
that team out east.

Approximately 8,700 hours sepa-
rate now from the 1986 kickoff
against Akron Buchtel.

Many of the guys who'll wear
orange and black in '86 will have 20
hours of preparation in by the end of
this week.

Monday at his weekly autumn
Touchdown Club chat, Tiger head
coach John Maronto was asked
when his underclassmen will

launch their off-season condition-
ing program.

"They'll all be in the weight room
at 2 p.m.," said Maronto, whose
first edition of the Tigers went 7-3,
with wins over Barberton, Cleve-
land St. Joseph and Perry, among
others, and defeats to Akron Gar-
field, Austintown-Fitch and
McKinley.

"The ones in other sports,"
Maronto continued, "will be lifting
between 2 and 3 every day regard-
less of what they're doing in other
sports, except on game days in that
sport. That's the way we do it."

Football John Maronto-style
appears to have survived a three-
loss season with the honeymoon
maybe no longer fresh and exciting,



DUANE WAS DYNAMITE — Duane Crenshaw, center, clutches the Massillon Touchdown Club's Hardnose Award while chatting with TD Club official Wayne Spies, left, and Washington High head football coach John Maronto. Crenshaw, a senior defensive tackle, earned the honor based on a vote of the club members

Steve Doerschuk/INDE
who convene each Monday during football season for lunch and a chat with Maronto. In accepting the award, Crenshaw said, "I'd like to thank my parents, my coaches, my teammates and especially God for making this possible." Maronto calls Crenshaw "one of Ohio's premier linemen."



TOUGH GUY — Matt Swank, right, displays the trophy presented to him Monday by the Massillon Touchdown Club in recognition of his receiving the club's "Hard-nose Award." Accompanying the Massillon Tiger de-

fensive back are, from left, Wayne Spies of the club, Tiger head coach John Maronto and Touchdown Club president elect Chuck Bryen.

'Full speed ahead' for Swank

MASSILLON — The 1986 football season was a roller coaster for Matt Swank.

In part, he controlled the ride. In part, he was at the mercy of the vehicle.

For his part, it was always "full speed ahead." That was reflected Monday when the Massillon Touchdown Club, which meets weekly, capped its autumn sessions by presenting the senior defensive back with its Hard-nose Award.

Sometimes the ride was herky jerky.

"I think the pressure placed on the players was too great," said Swank, a starter for 7-3 teams the past two seasons. "It got to the point that it was strange going into the McKinley game. You knew you'd play hard. You knew you'd give it your best. But you knew you weren't going to have fun.

"That's the pressure part. There was so much of it that the game went past the point of fun."

Swank, a transfer from GlenOak, said the pressure increased after a loss.

"When you win, all of the fans are great," he said. "But when you lose, a lot of the fans go the other way. A

lot of fans stuck with the guys no matter what. Some didn't.

"Sometimes people forget that we're just kids playing a game."

All in all, though, Swank described his senior year of football as "a great experience."

"We had great unity as a team," he said. "It was a positive thing to be a part of that. And I really enjoyed playing for Coach (Brandon) Oliver, the defensive coordinator. He's a great coach. He motivated me in a way no coach has before. And Coach (Jeff) David did a good job in his first year as coach of the secondary."

Swank and the rest of the Tiger players introduced themselves at the final Touchdown Club Meeting. Now the seniors will turn their attention to college and various other plans, while the underclassmen focus on off-season conditioning.

Swank said he wants to play college football, perhaps at Michigan State or Miami. He runs 40 yards in 4.6 or better — and he's a "Hard Nose" — so he has a chance.

Meanwhile, Tiger center Todd Feemster, who he hopes to enroll at West Point.

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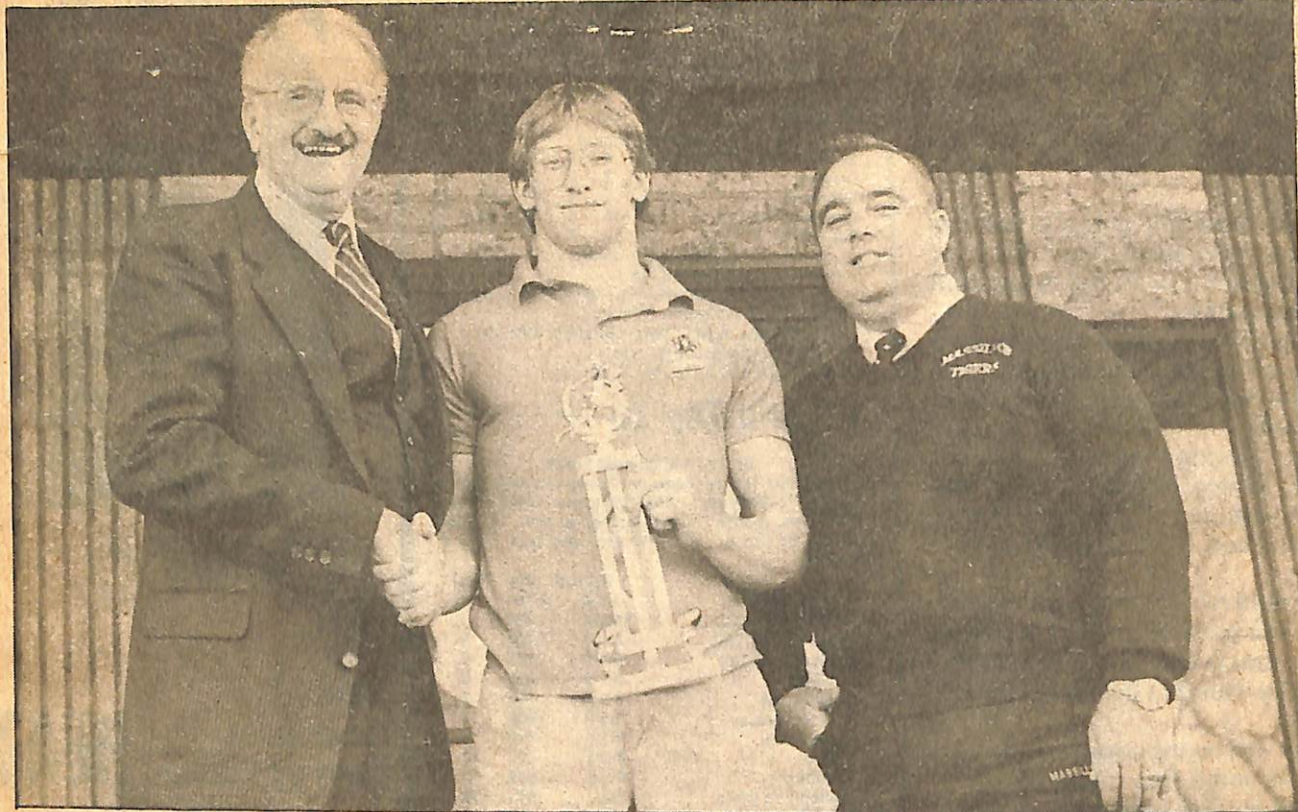
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Steve Doerschuk/INDE

HANDSHAKE FOR HARDNOSE — Touchdown Club President Chuck Bryan congratulates Massillon Tiger senior John Miller after presenting Miller with the

club's Hardnose Award Monday. Head coach John Maronto accompanied Miller and other Tiger players to the club's final meeting of 1987 Monday.



Steve Doerschuk/INDE

HANDSHAKE FOR HARDNOSE — Touchdown Club President Chuck Bryan congratulates Massillon Tiger senior John Miller after presenting Miller with the

club's Hardnose Award Monday. Head coach John Maronto accompanied Miller and other Tiger players to the club's final meeting of 1987 Monday.

Tigers' Miller a hit at Touchdown Club

By STEVE DOERSCHUK
Independent Sports Editor

John Miller "played the hits" this year at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium.

"Hard rock" was his only style. His trademark was dedicating a hit to a running back. It was guaranteed to leave somebody's ears ringing.

Miller, No. 22 in your program, changed channels this season. He was the starting quarterback in 1986. He was a starting inside linebacker in 1987.

It was a tough switch. The words didn't always rhyme. But you knew one thing. John Miller would always make you understand what coaches mean when they say "give 110 percent." He would always keep trying to improve. And always, he would play the hits.

The 1987 season had its ups and downs, ending with a 6-4 record. Some who prefer to remember the

"ups" enjoy focusing on a smash hit Miller made in a 56-14 win over Warren Harding. On the play, Miller exploded out of his linebacking spot to tackle a Warren ball carrier in the backfield. So devastating was the charge that the ball popped loose and into the arms of Jerome Myricks, who sprinted 22 yards for a touchdown.

Such plays were the motivation behind a special tribute Miller received Monday afternoon at AMVETS Club, where he was presented with the Touchdown Club's Hardnose Award.

The award needs little explanation. It is what it says it is.

The Touchdown Club, which meets each Monday during football season, could have given the award to any number of Tigers, Miller said.

"I wouldn't have wanted to have

See MILLER — Page 11

to vote on this," said Miller, who attended Monday's luncheon with his teammates. "I'd like to thank the other 10 guys on the defense. Without each other, none of us can do our jobs.

"I'd like to wish the underclassmen good luck next year. Remember, hard work always pays off. Somewhere along the line, it's gonna pay off for you."

Head coach John Maronto congratulated Miller and the entire team for "showing a positive belief in each other" with hard work and preparation at the base.

"Football is not the end of the school year for the players," Maronto said. "It's the beginning of a great future. There's one word to describe this football team. The

word is 'class.'"

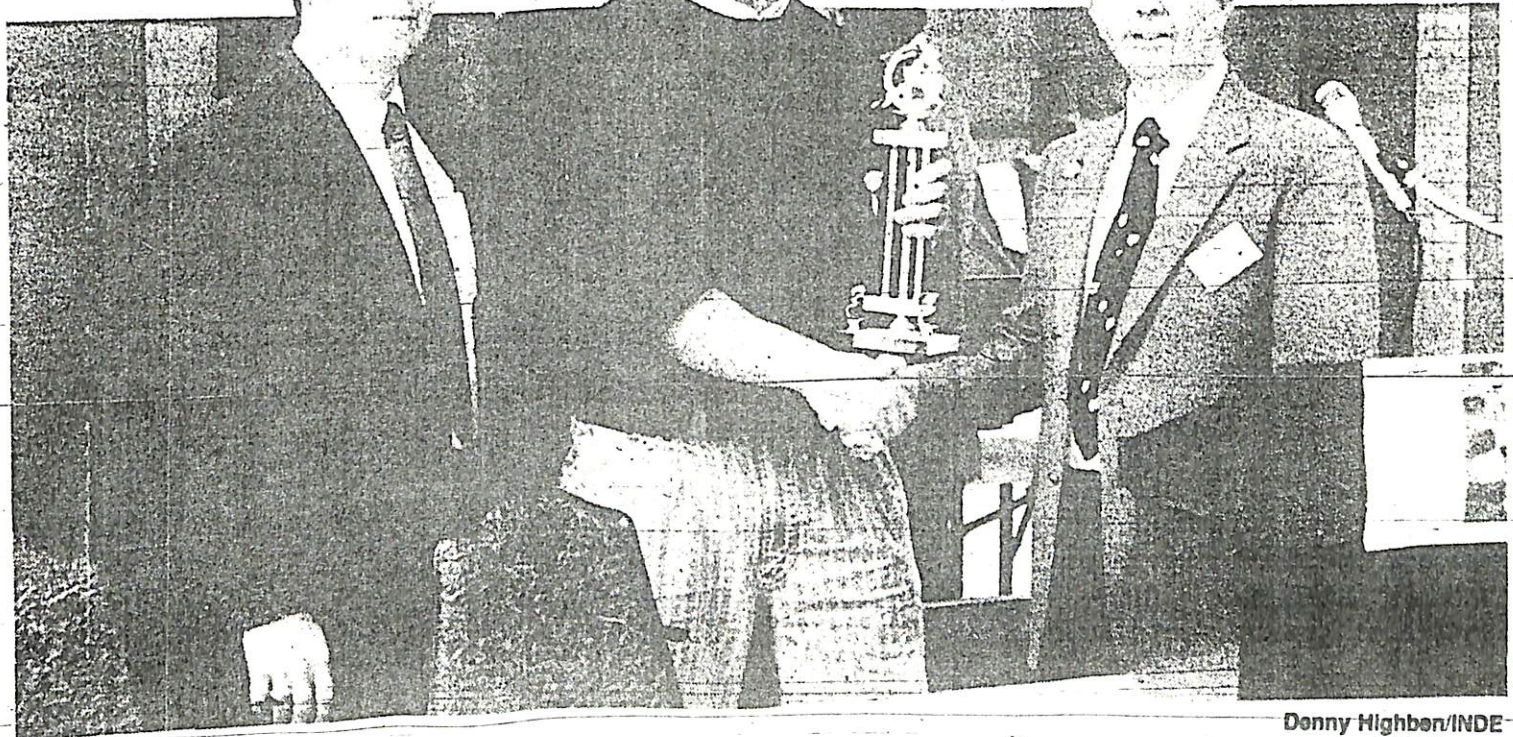
Touchdown Club President Chuck Bryan conducted his final meeting before turning over the reins to 1988 president Gary Wilson.

**TOUCHDOWN
CLUB
1987**

'Hard to imagine...'



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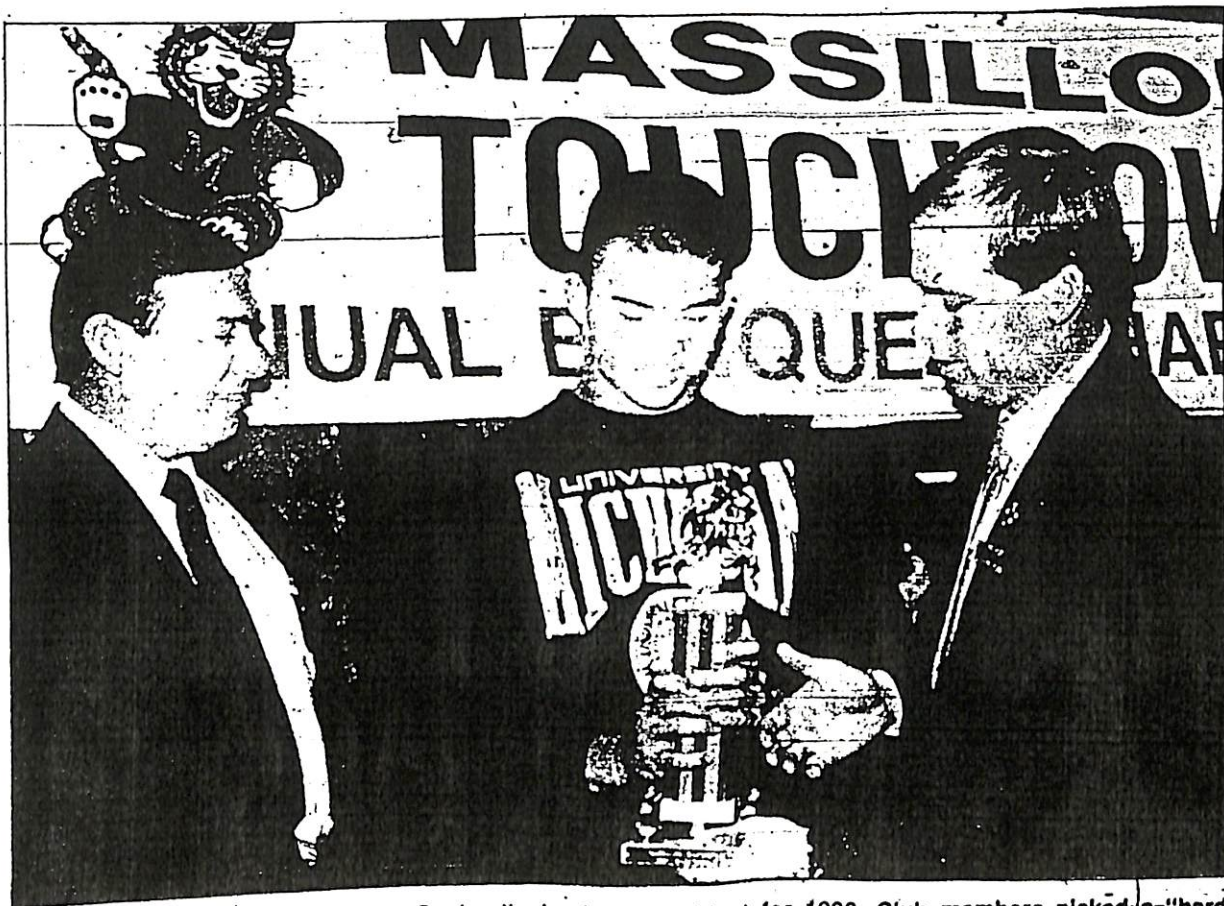
Denny Highbon/INDE

Trace Liggett, center, accepts the Massillon Touchdown Club's Hard Nose Award during the club's season-ending banquet Monday at AMVETS Post 6. Liggett, the Tigers' co-captain and all-county defensive tackle, is flanked on his left by Coach Lee Owens and on his right by Touchdown Club President Gary Wilson. In accepting the award, Liggett spread around the credit to his teammates for a season capped by a 10-7 overtime win against McKinley. "It's hard for me to

imagine just one guy from our defense getting this award," he said. Liggett is beginning to arrange his college priorities. He is expected to be recruited by a number of NCAA Division I schools. On Saturday, he plans to attend the Ohio State-Michigan game in Columbus, one of the towns that might be in his football future. Last year's Hard Nose winner was John Miller, who saw extensive action in the Indiana Hoosiers' defensive backfield this past weekend.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1989



HARDWARE FOR HARDNOSE — Senior linebacker ~~Craig Turkalj~~ and head coach Lee Owens admire the Hardnose Award presented to Turkalj Tuesday by the Massillon Touchdown Club. At left is Rollie Layfield, who will take the reins from Duane Knight as Club president for 1990. Club members picked a "hardnose" player each week and votes were tabulated at the end of the season. The club conducted its final 1989 meeting Tuesday.

Steve Doerschuk/INDE

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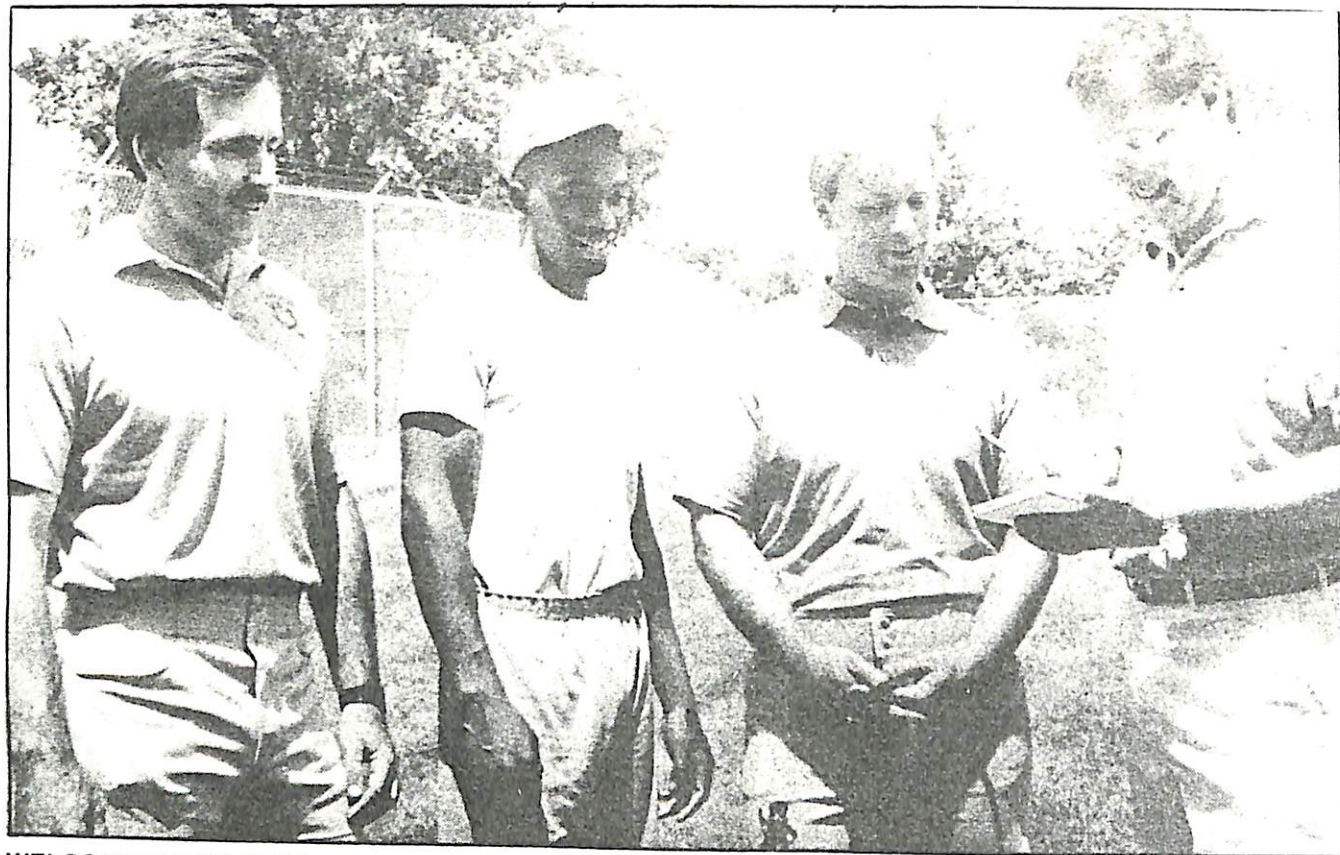
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WELCOME TO THE CLUB — Brent Offenbecher (right), secretary of the Massillon Tiger Touchdown Club, reviews notes with fellows who will appear at some of the club's weekly meetings. They are, from left, defensive coordinator Dan Boarman, co-captain Joe Pierce, and head coach Lee Owens. The meetings, open to the public, are at AMVETS Post 6. They have been switched to Tuesdays, beginning this coming Tuesday at

noon. Membership is \$6. Lunches are available for \$3.25 and \$4.25. Each week, Owens will review videotaped highlights of the previous week's contest. He will be accompanied by a Tiger coach and a Tiger player or two. Offenbecher was an outstanding Massillon quarterback in the late 1970s. He is manager at Ameritrust.

1989

'Mr. Hardnose'

Touchdown Club salutes Massillon's junior captain; Owens reviews '90

By STEVE DOERSCHUK
Independent Sports Editor

Eric Wright scored big at the Touchdown Club Tuesday.

The junior inside linebacker for the Massillon Tigers was presented the club's Hardnose Award, which honors the player who makes the biggest hits and never backs down from the roughest foes.

Wright led the '90 Tigers with 103 tackles in his second year as a starter.

Touchdown Club president Rollie Layfield, closing up shop in the final meeting of the year, said it was only the second time a junior has won the award.

"The other junior was Chris Spielman," Layfield noted.

Wright, like Spielman, started as a sophomore and was the Hardnose winner the next year.

Wright thanked his teammates, coaches, family and Sidelineer Todd Schumacher.

"And I thank God for giving me the ability to play ball," he said.

Head coach Lee Owens teased Wright by saying, "Remember, Eric, Chris Spielman didn't win the award as a senior (Tom Gruno did)."

Spielman didn't exactly have an off year, though, making first team All-Ohio as a junior and senior.

Owens isn't overly worried about Wright putting in the kind of work that will be needed for a big senior year of his own.

"He's very coachable and he's a good student," Owens said of the 5-foot-9, 182-pound lightning bolt. "He's the only junior captain Massillon has had that we're aware of."

Wright attended the TD Club meeting with a number of teammates.

He seemed humbled by the tribute, noting, "I thought a senior would get it."

Touchdown Club members vote for one Hardnose award winner each week, and the

guy with the most cumulative votes wins in the end. Club members had plenty of favorites.

Other nominees were Mark Murphy, Gary Young, Scott Karrenbauer, Travis McGuire, Chad Buckland, Brandon Turley, Dan Hackenbracht, Jason Woullard, Jeff Perry, Falando Ashcraft, Ron Humphrey, Steve Brown, Brent Bach, Mickle Martin, Chris Roth, Barry Shertzer, Duane Scott, Brian Cole, Chad Tharp, James McCullough, Tony DeLappi, Jonathon Jones, Marc Stafford and Dan Sciury.

As Owens summarized the season for the Club, it was obvious he'd rather still be playing. The Tigers wound up at 8-4, including a 1-1 record in the playoffs.

There was still disappointment over Saturday's 27-7 regional final loss to Sandusky.

But he said there were some bright moments, too, that will be long remembered.

Owens said he and four players talked about the year as they rode to Channel 67 to tape a TV show.

"They talked about some of the highlights ... about the big win over Stow, and how well we played in that game," he said.

"We talked about the trip to Cincinnati (a win over Covington Catholic in the Buddy LaRosa Classic). Some of the players said that may have been the best time they've had in their lives."

The pivotal 24-23 loss to Cincinnati Moeller, naturally, came up.

"Jonathon Jones said he felt like someone had ripped out his heart then stomped up and down on it," Owens said. "Another player mentioned how it seemed like the ball was floating through the air in slow motion as Carlos Collins ran under it."

Owens said the Tigers seemed extremely fired up going into the Sandusky game. He said some of the players commented, "We just seemed to lose our intensity."

"We make no excuses. Sometimes things happen and you can't explain them. The thing to do now is think about how we can do things differently and better, and remember some of the good experiences we had this year."



Wright

1990

1991



Brent Offenbecher
Touchdown Club
President

THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB

The Touchdown Club is a social group organized during the coaching regime of Charles V. (Chuck) Mather. This group meets each Tuesday during the football season at 12 noon at the AMVETS Club. A total of eleven meetings are held by this group, with the first taking place on the Monday before the opening game. The final meeting is held on the Monday following the annual Canton- Massillon game at which time the senior Massillon football players are guests of the club. Coach Owens appears at each meeting and presents a run down on the prior, week's game, as well as, an overview of the upcoming opponent.

At the conclusion of the season, the Touchdown Club selects the most valuable Tiger for the year and presents the "Hard Nose Award" to that player

Touchdown Club Officers

Secretary - Ed Jordon

1993



*John Catlin
Touchdown Club
Chairman*

THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB

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At the conclusion of the season, the Touchdown club selects the most valuable Tiger for the year and presents the "Hard Nose Award" to that player.

Touchdown Club Officers

Secretary - Gary Vogt



TOUCHDOWN
CLUB

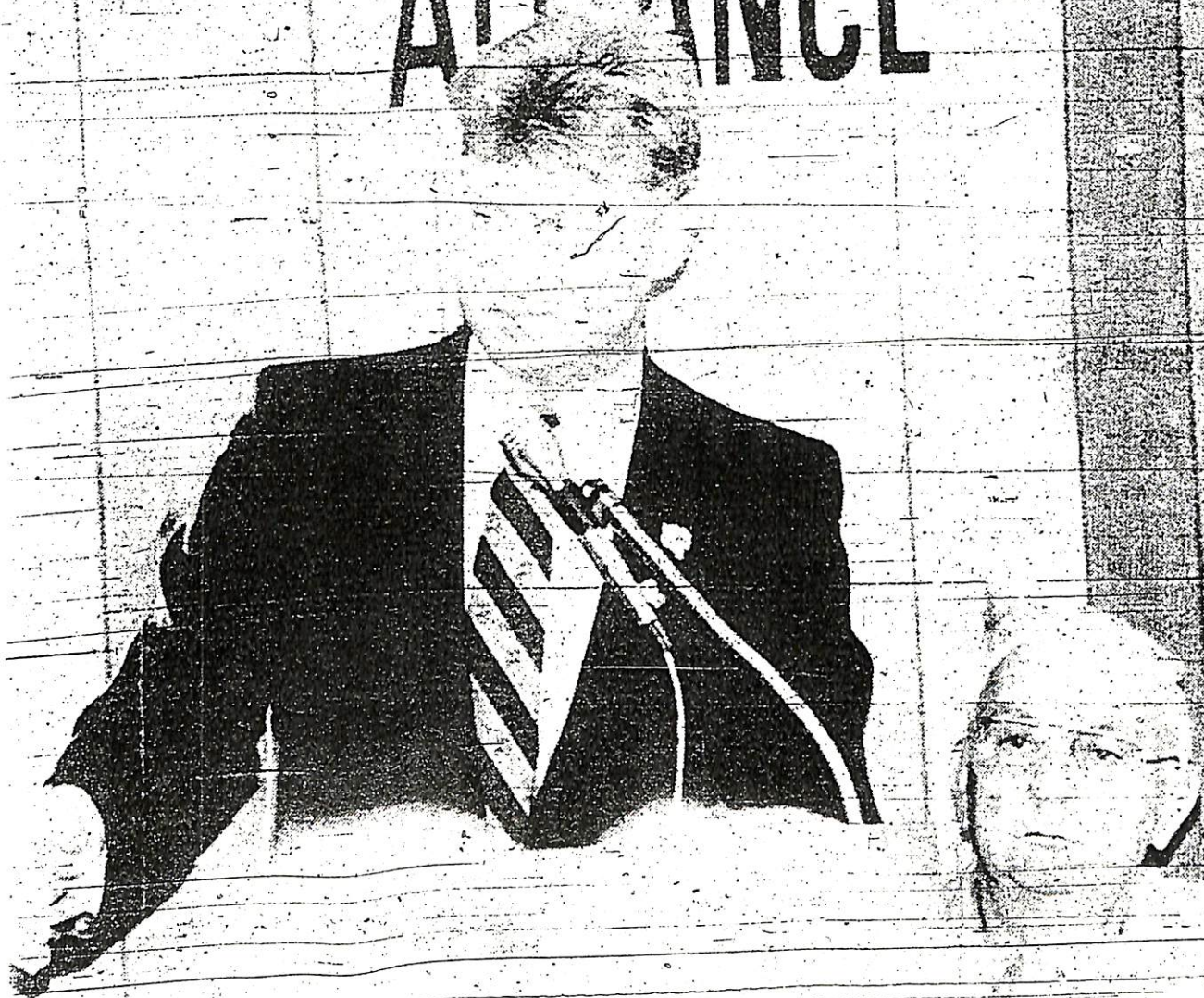
1993

Hardnosed Payne

Massillon Tiger senior defensive lineman B.J. Payne was awarded the Touchdown Luncheon Club's Hardnose Award as voted on by its members. Payne was a co-captain of the Tigers and solidified a defense that helped Massillon to a 10-2 season and a berth to the state playoffs.

Photo: Payne 1993

BEAT ALLIANCE



GO! — Massillon Tigers coach Jack Rose told the Massillon Tigers Touchdown Club he's ready to get the game underway against Alliance Friday.

Mark Rogers/INDE

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1994

Former Tiger mentor Leo Strang made it to the Touchdown Club and brought along former McKinley Bulldog boss Tony Ware.

Strang pointed out the Tigers and Pups played twice when they were the coaches in 1963.

"If we hadn't played twice that year, the 100th Massillon-McKinley game would be played there instead of here," Strang noted.

While the Tigers don't expect to see much different from what has worked for the Bulldogs all season, Massillon may have a few twists in store for McKinley.

When asked by a TD Club member if the fans had seen the Tigers' entire offensive package, Rose laughed and said, "I doubt it. We'll have some schemes for them."



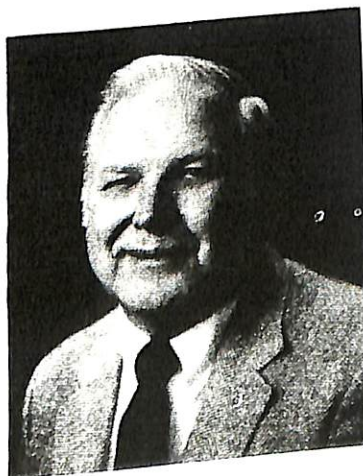
Gary Vogt
Touchdown Club
Chairman

THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB

The Touchdown Club is a social group organized during the coaching regime of Charles V. (Chuck) Mather. This group meets each Tuesday during the football season at 12 noon at the AMVETS Club. A total of eleven meetings are held by this group, with the first taking place on the Monday before the opening game. The final meeting is held on the Monday following the annual Canton-Massillon game at which time the senior Massillon football players are guests of the club. Coach Rose appears at each meeting and presents a run down on the prior week's game, as well as an overview of the upcoming opponent.

At the conclusion of the season, the Touchdown club selects the most valuable Tiger for the year and presents the "Hard Nose Award" to that player.

Touchdown Club Officers
Secretary - Virg Edie



Virg Edie
Touchdown Club
Chairman

This year, there's more muscle to flex. Jack Rose, who will begin his fourth season as the Tigers' head coach, drew a few ooohs and aaahs from the gathering at the Touchdown Club at the AMVETS, Tuesday afternoon.

Massillon's offensive line averages about 245 pounds. Rayen's defensive line averages about 210 pounds and most of that comes from 6-foot-1, 310-pound sophomore John Rogers.

1995

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1995



Massillon coach Jack Rose, center, gets an orange blazer from Kent McClelland, left, and Virgil Edie

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1995



Hard Nose Award winner

Massillon Tigers senior co-captain Vinny Turner (left) was presented with the Massillon Touchdown Club's Hard Nose Award by Tigers assistant coach Bob Commings Jr. Turner, Massillon's starting tailback, rushed for 1,246 yards in 205 carries this season. He also caught six passes for 64 yards and scored a total of 18 touchdowns in 1995.

Mark Rogers/INDE

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1996



Dennis Gibson
*Touchdown Club
Chairman*

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Secretary - Clarence Rambaud

1996

The Inde

SPORTS

Rose vows Tigers will bounce back *Brunswick impresses Massillon boss*

By JOE SHAHEEN
Independent Sports Editor

If Massillon Tigers fans weren't convinced by Brunswick's 10-0 record or its 1995 runner-up finish to St. Ignatius, Jack Rose probably made some believers with his scouting report on the Blue Devils at the Massillon Touchdown Club, Tuesday at AMVETS.

"I'd compare them to the very good Austin-own Fitch teams of a few years back," Rose said. "They're getting that type of kid up there. Brunswick is very quick defensively and they get to the football in a bad humor. Like those good Fitch teams, they are really relentless on offense."

And like those good Fitch teams, Brunswick will shorten the game by eating up the game clock with extended, ball-control drives.

"They try to consume the clock and control the football," Rose agreed. "They've had great success at that."

Brunswick probably made some believers of its own when it handed Strongsville a convincing 34-3 defeat last Friday night. Prior to that game, the only team to handle Strongsville was St. Ignatius.

Just to give their opponents something else to think about in their preparations, the normally round-bound Blue Devils took to the air and put the Strongsville game away with a perfectly executed post pattern that went for a touchdown.

"They come off the ball well and run a power offense," Rose reported. "They are very physical and are tailback oriented."

Rose also noted Brunswick will blitz often out of its 4-3 and 4-4 sets and has displayed a tendency to bring more than one player when it commits to pressuring the quarterback.

■ ■ ■
If the Tigers are to get another shot at McKinley, they have to take care of business Saturday evening at the Rubber Bowl.

But the emotional devastation of the loss to the Bulldogs is a concern to Rose and his staff.

The veteran mentor sees this band of Tigers as possessing the resiliency to put the McKinley game behind them ... at least for a week.

"We will play a very good football game on Saturday," Rose vowed. "We have a very good group of young men on this team. They will rebound."

■ ■ ■
Rose reported the Tigers remain in excellent physical condition.

No key personnel are expected to miss Saturday's regional semifinal game due to injury.

Rose points out his charges don't have the luxury of playing a lesser foe in their playoff opener.

"We will have to play a very good football game to win," Rose said.

Rose happy how Tigers didn't show Pups their plan of attack

By JOE SHAHEEN

Independent Sports Editor

NBC-TV's Bob Costas may think the two most famous words in sports during the autumn season are "Seventh game," but Ron Williams, chairman of the Massillon Touchdown Club, said it's "Beat McKinley."

That's just what Jack Rose and the Tigers are hoping to do Saturday at Hall of Fame Field at Fawcett Stadium, and that's why Massillon didn't show much in the way of an offensive game plan last Friday night against Akron St. Vincent - St. Mary.

Rose told the TD Club one McKinley assistant lives in Massillon and videotapes every Tigers game for the Bulldogs coaching staff to dissect the following day. Since the Bulldogs and Fighting Irish employ the same even-front defense, Rose was not about to tip his hand as to how he plans to attack.

"We didn't show them a darn thing," Rose said, employing a more colorful adjective.

Then the six-year Tigers mentor got down to reviewing McKinley's many and varied strengths and its tenden-

cies.

"They have a lot of weapons," Rose conceded, "but we're not exactly chopped liver over here."

"We will rise to the occasion and play a great game. And at 5 p.m. Saturday, you will be proud of the Massillon Tigers."

Tigers' Ellery is nursing twisted ankle, much like star Herring did vs. McKinley four years ago

By JOE SHAAHEEN
Independent Sports Editor
Either Rick Shepas is doing some pre-game posturing or the status of Massillon Tigers two-way starter Ellery Moore has deteriorated since Friday night's lopsided victory over Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's. Moore suffered a twisted ankle in the second half of the Tigers 35-7 victory over the Irish and left the game. Afterward, while standing on crutches, he told *The Independent* he would be ready for Saturday's annual season-

ending showdown with the McKinley Bulldogs.

But Shepas told the Massillon Tigers Touchdown Club on Monday afternoon that Moore - a force at defensive end and an improving tight end - is "doubtful" for the 105th meeting between the two storied high school football rivals.

Prior to Shepas' comments, TD Club president Clarence Rambaud evoked memories of the 1994 Massillon-McKinley showdown and how he helped trainer Mike Lewis ice down the badly sprained ankle of

Tigers linebacker Courtney Herring in the days before the 100th game.

Herring played that day and helped the Tigers register a 42-41 victory that vaulted them into the playoffs, and stands today as one of the program's greatest triumphs ever.

It sounds as if Moore's ankle is about as bad as Herring's was that fateful day.

The good news is if Moore does play, he probably would only have to go on defense.

The Tigers expect to have Neil Buckosh back at tight end after he spent the last three weeks at less than 100 percent with an unspecified injury.

Buckosh was idle against Moeller and played very spar-

Tigers Touchdown Club

ingly against St. V but Shepas says his senior is back at full strength this week.

The tight end position is key in Massillon's short passing game. Moore

has had six receptions for 49 yards in the last two games

during which the Tigers attack has finally begun to hit

on all cylinders. Buckosh comes into Saturday's show-

down with six catches for 85 yards.

One Tiger who will not suit up for McKinley is erstwhile starting outside linebacker Jason Bradley. The senior, who



■ See MOORE, Page B-6

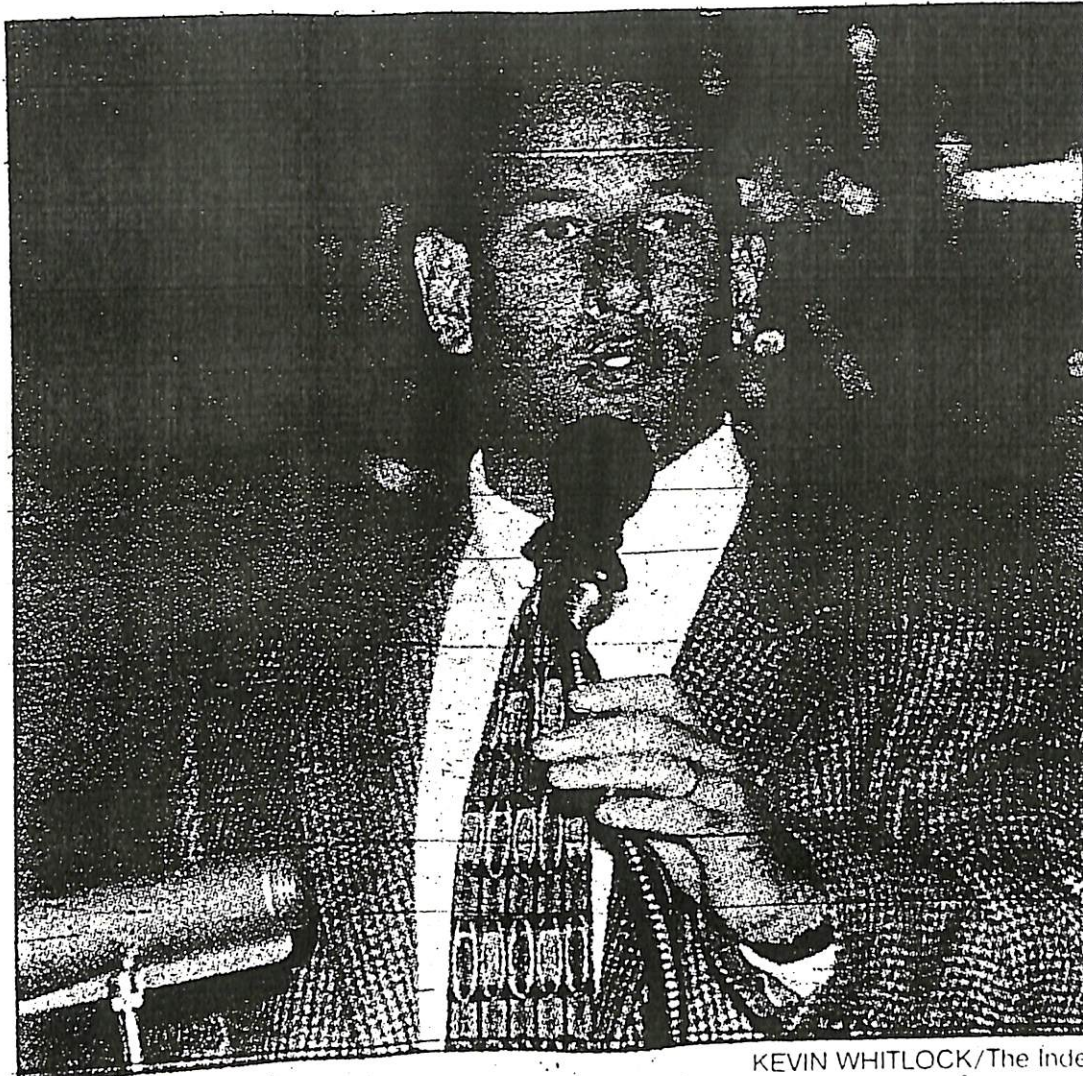


Kevin Whitlock/The I

HARD NOSE AWARD - Tigers coach Rick Shepas presents the Bob Commings Memorial Hard Nose Award trophy to Marc Cleveland, the uncle of Tigers tailback Ma Cleveland, who could not be present due to a family emergency.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1998



KEVIN WHITLOCK/The Inde

† Rick Shepas speaks at the Tigers Touchdown Club, Monday

By JOE SHAAHEEN
Independent Sports Editor

The 1999 high school football season got underway at 8 a.m. Monday for Rick Shepas and the Massillon Tigers. That's what Shepas told the Massillon Tigers Touchdown Club on Monday afternoon at AMVETS.

"There is no off season," Shepas said. "We'll do some home visitation of our players from the junior highs on up. We're going to be talking about our program. We're going to explain that we are implementing our plan and that is how it is going to be."

That plan commences on December 7 with a mandatory weight training program. For the first time in several years, it will be after the end of afternoon classes instead of before school in the morning. "We're going to speed train during the day," Shepas said, "and weight train right after school." "Even the seniors who need to drop some

pounds will join the wrestling team. Those cut from the basketball team will immediately go into the weight room sessions.

Shepas' aim is to make sure his charges spend their idle time doing things that will improve them for the '99 football season. And the process won't stop when spring rolls around next year. If anything, it will intensify.

"The kids who don't make the baseball team are going to run track," Shepas vowed, "and that's the way it is going to be around here."

"We will develop a track program and no one will be able to hide from the work ethic. We have a mandatory track program for kids who aren't on the baseball team because we are going to get faster."

The work ethic Shepas refers to is not a one-way street. He says his coaching staff will spend the off-season getting better, too, by studying game tapes, reading and attending clinics at every opportunity.

Even the seniors, Shepas says, have a

Sounding Moore like 1994

Tigers' Ellery is nursing twisted ankle, much like star Herring did vs. McKinley four years ago

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Tigers Touchdown Club

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TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1999

By JOE SHAHEEN
Independent Sports Editor
Rick Shepas wants to know if the Massillon Tigers are tired yet.

He wants to know if they are satisfied with a 10-0 regular season that included a decisive victory over McKinley, and if they'd just a soon chuck the post-season tournament that begins with a visit by the Perry Panthers to Paul Brown Tiger Stadium on Saturday at 7 p.m.

You see, Shepas saw that look of satisfaction on the faces of his first playoff team at Poland Seminary back in 1993 after it earned the school's first conference championship in 15 years and qualified for the post-season.

"They bowed out early," Shepas said.

Two years later, Poland had secured its third straight conference crown. While that was old hat to them, it had been a long season and the determination and fight necessary to persevere for a few more weeks just wasn't there.

"They got tired and they got their wish," Shepas related. "They bowed out in the state semifinals when we missed a couple of PATs.

"And I told them afterward they got their wish."

Now the second-year Tiger mentor wants to know if his Massillon charges have anything left in the tank, mentally and emotionally as well as physically.

"I looked at the Tigers to see if they had that same

Tiger tickets

The Massillon Ticket Office is reporting they only have about 3,500 tickets remaining of their original allotment. The tickets are primarily in sections 10 and 11, plus the end zone. The Ticket Office is opened for sale to the general public from 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., with tickets costing \$5 and a limit of two per person.

look," Shepas told the Massillon Touchdown club on Tuesday afternoon at AMVETS.

"I looked at them and asked 'What's it going to be?'"

Shepas and the Tiger coaching staff have been planning for a 15-week season all along, and that's what it would take to reach the state championship game the week of November 29.

They've varied routines to keep things fresh, eliminated drills that could cause injuries, shortened practices and thrown in off-days for the players in the hope of not burning the team out before it reached its ultimate goal.

Now it's up to the players, Shepas said, to decide if they have enough desire and will to win to stay focused for five more weeks.

Certainly the Tigers were the more focused team last Saturday in Canton in de-

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TOUCHDOWN CLUB

1999

that be in Massillon that they made a mistake by not giving him more consideration in the head coaching hiring process.

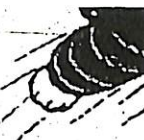
As for the Tigers, second year head coach Rick Shepas told the Massillon Touchdown Club on Tuesday the Lima game is the biggest contest in the first half of the season. It is the only first-half game that is on the road. Also, the game is on natural turf and Shepas has made a point of practicing on grass at every opportunity this year. Saturday will go a long ways to revealing whether that decision will help the locals when they are away from Tiger Stadium.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

2000

"They found a way to get balanced up," confirmed Tigers coach Rick Shepas during the weekly Touchdown Club luncheon at AMVETS, Tuesday afternoon. "They pulled out all the stops against McKinley ... halfback passes, shuffle passes, a little bit of everything."

Massillon expects Garfield to line up in the shotgun formation much of the time Friday night, the same formation the Tigers have used to score a total of 107 points in two games



Akron Garfield

By JOE SHAHEEN

Independent Sports Editor

The Massillon Tiger defense got a gut check last week against Mount Lebanon (Pa.) High, which had a three-to-one run-to-pass ratio in rolling up 258 yards of total offense.

The Blue Devils were simply playing to their strength, a big, strong offensive line that averaged over 6-foot-3 and 260 pounds.

The Tiger defense responded to the challenge, limiting Mt. Leb to two offensive touchdowns.

It was a gratifying sight for Massillon coach Rick Shepas.

"One of the things I was proud of was the way the defensive front established the line of scrimmage against a big, physical football

team," Shepas told the Massillon Tiger Touchdown Club, Tuesday afternoon at AMVETS. "Two of those players up front for (Mt. Lebanon) will sign Division I football scholarships. But I think our guys held up very well against them and did a nice job."

Going into the Mt. Lebanon game, Massillon did not expect to see the football in the air very often. The Blue Devils were starting a sophomore quarterback, and no matter how talented, the Tigers knew he wouldn't be the focus of the offense.

Pressure placed on Tiger defense



By JOE SHAHEEN
Independent Staff Editor

Rick Shepas didn't ponder the question very long. When asked what the Tigers have to do to be successful against the McKinley Bulldogs in the 108th meeting between the two Ohio high school football powers this Saturday at 2 p.m. at Fawcett Stadium in Canton, the Massillon sideline mentor was brief and to the point.

"It's all about defense and taking care of the football," Shepas said.

Translation: Massillon must stop McKinley from dominating the football and keeping the Tiger offense on the sidelines, and the Tigers cannot give the Bulldogs a short field or extra possessions with turnovers.

Turnovers have not been a big problem for Massillon this season. The Tigers have lost 12 fumbles and have been intercepted six times. The Bulldogs have done slightly better, losing nine fumbles and suffering five interceptions.

Of course, Massillon has run 123 more offensive plays this season than McKinley, so the Tigers four additional turnovers are in part the result of more opportunities.



Shepas
Respects McK

As for the Massillon defense, it has to perform better than it did last week against Dayton Chaminade fans wearing orange and black are in for a long afternoon. C-J rushed for 230 yards and totaled 426 yards of total offense. If the Bulldogs put up those kinds of statistics, they are likely to keep the Tigers "Air Ra Attack" in the basement.

"It wasn't focus or that our kids didn't play hard against Chaminade," explained Shepas. "It's just a missed assignment here or there. We saw a level of speed from three or four (Chaminade) players that were just spectacular. We were looking for it because we wanted to see how we were going to deal with it. I mean they were fast.

"We know we're going to see that this week. All in all I think our kids understand. Coaches understand. I like the fact we did leave the field Friday night satisfied."

McKinley's strength is its defense but the Bulldogs have some impressive weapons at their disposal when they possess the football.

"You've got to look to deal with a number of people but Reggie Corner (is their main threat)," said Shepas.

● See PRESSURE, Page

● PRESSURE

as. "Reggie Corner has been outstanding this year.

"I think (quarterback Ben) Palumbo and (running back Shalamar) Gilmer, too, along with (Tyler) Everett in that backfield."

Corner was an All-Ohio wide receiver a year ago and has generated outstanding numbers again this year. The 5-foot-11, 163-pound senior has 30 pass receptions for 537 yards and a team-high nine touchdowns. He is also a dangerous kick return specialist, having run back 16 for 239 yards, nearly 15 yards per return.

Palumbo is having a fine season as well, completing 52 of 96 passes (54.2 percent) for 820 yards and nine touchdowns. He is bigger, stronger and faster than a year ago and has the experience of three seasons as a starting quarterback at his disposal.

Gilmer and Everett have combined to rush for 778 yards. As a tandem they average 6.3 yards per carry.

Massillon has done a better job of stopping the run than a year ago. The Tigers are bigger up front and at the inside linebacker positions, plus outside backers Shawn Crable and Andy Alleman have been effective closing

McK balanced on offense

ing down the perimeter runs.

As for mental preparations, Shepas isn't concerned that his charges will peak emotionally before the game is played. He notes that hasn't been a problem all season and doesn't expect it to be a problem this week, despite all of the distractions going on around the team.

"They understand the magnitude of each game," observed Shepas. "Sometimes it's easier to get them up for a team than other times. I don't think either team will have a problem focusing for this week practice wise.

"What we're trying to do each week on Monday is do things different to make things fun and lively and try to find creative ways to do our conditioning and keep things light. When you get to this point in the season every team in the county has logged a tremendous amount of time since January.

"You don't want it to be too long for them. You want to have some fun and some breaks, so you modify practice a little bit. You maybe get them off the field a little sooner and then you have a chance to do something different as a team and still have the bonding."

T.D.
CLUB
2001