

Massillon's senior grididders responsible for quite a run

By **JOE SHAHEEN**
Independent Sports Editor

The 2002 high school football season may be over for the Massillon Tigers but head coach Rick Shepas wants the 29 senior members of his fifth Massillon squad to remember that - regardless of where their academic and professional futures take them - they will always be Tigers.

Shepas conveyed that message to the seniors, all of whom attended the Massillon Touchdown Club luncheon on Tuesday at AMVETS.

He also took the opportunity to thank them for their contributions to the program over the years.

"These players have been responsible for many, many great memories for all of us," Shepas said. "These kids made some changes this year in this community and they've made a difference in some people's lives."

For most, the connection with this group of seniors was watching them perform on the gridiron each weekend and seeing them win a second consecutive regional championship.

Obviously, there was so much more for Shepas and the rest of the Tiger coaching staff.

"We have a tremendous senior class that has given us so much through the course of the years," Shepas asserted. "The great thing is I had the opportunity to watch them grow from junior high through their senior year and it is great to see how they turned out."

"This is an outstanding group of kids. We were all looking forward to their potential during the course of their high school careers and they did not let us down."

And the coach says the growth extended beyond the gridiron.

"They've grown in so many ways as human beings," he added. "They've always handled themselves very well. They stayed close knit. They were very grounded. They understood their role. Every now and then there was a guy who said he wished he could get more playing time. But for the most part it didn't affect the common goal of the team's success. That's a tremendous tribute to a group of guys looking toward that team goal as opposed to wor-



SHEPAS

"We were all looking forward to their potential during the course of their high school careers and they did not let us down."

**- Rick Shepas,
Tiger head coach**

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

2002



PHOTO BY JOE SHAHEEN/THE INDEPENDENT

Former longtime Massillon Tiger assistant football coach Nick Vrotsis presents the Bob Commings Hardnose Award to Tiger outside linebacker Shawn Crable during the Massillon Tiger Touchdown Club meeting Tuesday afternoon.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB

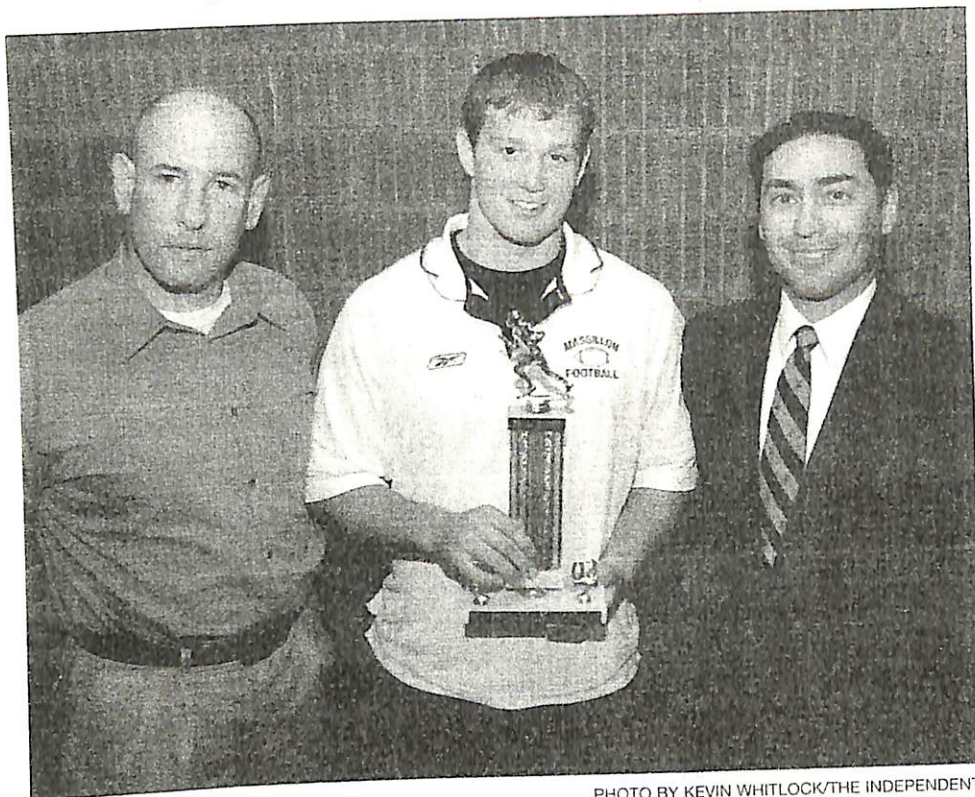


PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT

Tiger Brock Hymes, center, was presented the Touchdown Club's Hardnose Award Tuesday by coach Rick Shepas, left, and club president Lou Poppovich.

Hymes gets Hardnose

INDE STAFF REPORT

The Touchdown Club of Massillon presented the Bob Commings Hardnose Award to Tiger co-captain Brock Hymes on Tuesday afternoon.

Hymes, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound senior, led the Tigers in all tackle categories this season. He registered 43 solo stops and 47 assists from his inside linebacker spot.

Hymes also had a team-high 11 tackles for a loss and a fumble recovery in his third consecutive season as a starter for the Massillon defense.

He may have had his best game in Week Nine in making 10 solo tackles and six assists against then No. 2-ranked Warren Harding.

The award is named after former Tiger head coach Bob Commings, whose success as the Mas-

illon gridiron mentor in the early 1970s led to his hiring as the head coach at his collegiate alma mater, the University of Iowa.

"I want to thank everyone for the award and the support you've given the team throughout the season. It means a lot to us," Hymes told the Touchdown Club.



"I want to thank all of the seniors here for backing me up in everything I do. Coach Shepas, I want to thank you for a great four years. It means a lot to me."

Then Hymes talked about the Massillon football experience.

"I will never forget this place," Hymes said. "Massillon will always hold a special place in my heart."

Touchdown Club vice president Wilbur Arnold spoke of Bob Commings' special place in Massillon

● Please see **HYMES**, Page C-5

● **HYMES** CONTINUED FROM PAGE C-1

Tiger football history.

"Bob Commings once said about this football program, 'Don't ever let them take it away,'" Arnold said.

"This award is given for deeds on the field. But it is given in anticipation of a person who will help us never let them take it away. Support the program and stand tall for Massillon."

2003

HISTORY
2004

Pribich receives Hardnose award

By **JOE SHAHEEN**

Joe.Shaheen@IndeOnline.com

The Massillon Touchdown Club presented its annual Bob Commings Hardnose Award to Massillon Tigers linebacker Paul Pribich at the club's final meeting of the year on Tuesday at AMVETS.

Pribich, a 6-foot, 191-pound senior, was fifth on the team with 30 first-hit tackles and his 9 tackles for a loss ranked second. Pribich's 3 quarterback sacks were tied for the team high and he defended 5 passes, second best on the Tigers.



PRIBICH

● Please see **AWARD**, Page C-5

● **AWARD** CONTINUED FROM PAGE C-1

"Against St. Ignatius and St. Eds and Warren Harding we were worried about how Paul Pribich was going to hold up, him being able to play the run tough, play the pass tough and do all the things we were asking him to do," said Tiger head coach Rick Shepas. "He showed up play after play, play after play, play after play. When the coaches got done grading the out the film, who was always the best linebacker? Paul Pribich."

Shepas characterized

Pribich as a gym rat.

"He loves to play games," Shepas said. "You'll see him at the Recreation Center, the Boys and Girls Club. He just loves to participate in more than one sport.

"When you coach football you love to see players participate in more than one sport, but in Paul's case playing outside linebacker, I'd say, 'Paul, would you get in the doggone weight room.'"

Pribich, Shepas pointed out, was also one of the team's more cerebral play-

ers.

"The guy that set the defensive front was Paul," Shepas said. "In the coach's office, we knew the guy who knew the whole defense better than anybody else was Paul."

The Hardnose Award is named after former Tigers coach Bob Commings, who led the team to their most recent state championship in 1972. Commings was 43-6-2 in his five seasons at the Massillon helm. He passed away in 1992.

Massillon Tiger Touchdown

Amvets Post 6

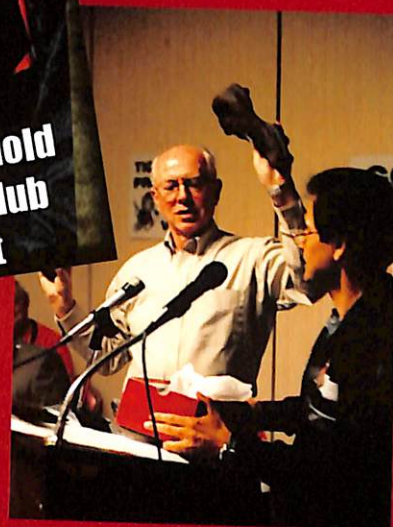


Gene Boerner
Booster Club
President
'73

Lynn Hill
Dutch Hill's
Nephew

Junie Studer
Booster Club
President
'72

Wilbur Arnold
Booster Club
President
'70



Dedication - Dutch Hill's Football Shoes Star of Massillon's First State Championship Team 1922 Tuesday October 12th 2004



Edwin 'Dutch' Hill
Triple Threat Fullback
Leading Scorer in the County 1922
"Four All Time Grid Records"
One Season 34 TD's - 204 pts
One Game 8 TD's - 48 pts
Bellefonte Academy National Champions 1924
Triple Threat Fullback
New York University East Champions 1928
"All Time First Team Fullback" 1935

**Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club
Touchdown Club Kick-off Meeting Agenda and Notes**

**2928 Bridgton ST NE
Massillon, OH 44646
7:00 PM – June 29, 2006**

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Planning Committee Attendees:

- 1. Junie Studer**
- 2. Wilbur Arnold**
- 3. Linda Waechter**
- 4. Bill Dorman**

II. Club Organization

A. Officers and Responsibilities

- 1. President**
 - a. Bill Dorman**
- 2. Vice President**
 - a. Linda Waechter**
- 3. Secretary/Treasurer**
 - a. Bill to ask Ben Bradley**
 - b. Bill, Linda, and Junie to assist Ben if he accepts since he is very busy being MTFBC President this year**

B. Meeting Facts

- 1. Location**
 - a. AMVETS**
- 2. Day**
 - a. Tuesday**
- 3. Time**
 - a. Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m.**
 - b. Program begins promptly at 12:00 p.m.**
- 4. First Meeting**
 - a. Tuesday, August 22, 2006**

b. Bill has conflict. Linda will preside.

C. **Membership Drive**

1. **Roster**
 - a. Linda to provide existing roster to Bill to mail
2. **Recruits**
 - a. Bill to invite Massillon Chamber of Commerce members, Massillon City Schools Admin. And City Officials not listed.
3. **Cost**
 - a. Membership to remain the same (\$8)
 - b. Meals same (\$7 regular, \$8 Mck) unless AMVETS has increase
4. **Prepayment Option**
 - a. Continue for to allow prepayment for membership plus first 11 meals (\$86).
5. **Letter/Announcement**
 - a. Bill to compose and send
6. **Membership Card**
 - a. Same style. Bill to order from QuickPrint.

III. **Meeting**

A. **Financial Procedures**

1. Spreadsheet to be kept to track payment of lunches and payment of dues at weekly function
2. Two persons count the money with one making the deposit
3. Copy of deposit ticket to treasurer
4. Head count to treasurer as well
5. Invoice for lunch comes to treasurer. Treasurer matches head count to invoice and pays bill
6. Payment of dues ahead of weekly luncheon dates– use cash receipt form or roster spreadsheet to keep track of those who pay dues

B. **Meeting Agenda**

1. Buffet lunch with Computer projected slide show of previous game running

2. Welcome, acknowledgement of special guests, and introductory remarks by President
3. Announcements and reports from various subgroups by Vice President
4. Moments from Tiger History (10-15 minutes)
5. Introduction of Guest Speaker by President
6. Introduction of Head Coach by President
7. Closing Remarks

C. Discussion of Potential Speakers

1. Tom Stacy to be Week 1 speaker.
2. Fred Blosser, Earl Bruce, and FCA mentioned as possibilities. Bill to work on list.

D. Radio Broadcast/Fee

1. Wilbur to check current arrangement if any with the School Board/ESPN990.

E. TD Club Polo Shirt

1. Authentic Team Polo shirt with "Touchdown Club" embroidered on it to be offered with dues notice.

Former coach shows his pride during visit to Touchdown Club

By **CHRIS EASTERLING**

Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

Nobody who spends two minutes in a room with Earle Bruce can deny he is a passionate man. And nobody who asks the former Massillon Tiger and Ohio State Buckeye head coach to speak about his time in Tigertown can deny he still holds a special place in his heart for it.

'Two of the greatest years of my life were spent in Massillon, Ohio. I like the way they believe in the game of football.'

Earle Bruce

So it was Tuesday afternoon at Amvets, when Bruce paid a visit to the Touchdown Club at the request of his former assistant Nick Vrotsis and club president Bill Dorman.

Bruce, who was 20-0 as head coach of the Tigers in 1964-65, was full of fire and pride as he addressed a crowd of nearly 100. Several times, he pounded the podium for emphasis, and even once, came tearing out from behind it, waving his arms and shouting to make a point.

And there was no question what one of the major points he wanted to drive home was, because he put it out there from the start.

"I was so proud to be the head

coach at Massillon," Bruce said. "It is the epitome of high school football. When I was driving around town in the wagon, I felt like something. What I saw was the people, the respect that they have for the community and the school and the football program.

"... Two of the greatest years of my life were spent in Massillon,

Ohio. I like the way they believe in the game of football. I think what happens afterwards is life."

Bruce's life certainly has been about football, even before he was hired on April 1, 1964, to replace Leo Strang. And the two years he spent in Massillon only reinforced that love of the game.

Of course, it didn't hurt to have

the success he had. Success, in his opinion, wouldn't have disappeared if he hadn't been hired away by Woody Hayes to become an Ohio State assistant in 1966.

"I don't know if I told you," Bruce said, "but if I would have stayed four years at Massillon, I would have still been undefeated.

● Please see **HEART**, Page C-4

● HEART CONTINUED FROM PAGE C-1

Not because of me, but because of the kids. There's no baloney about it, there's a great football program here. There was when I was here."

And Bruce was more than happy to showcase it as well. ABC television had a crew in from its program "Scope" during the week of the 1964 McKinley game, the last time until last season both rivals were undefeated and untied entering the contest.

Still, there was some hand-wringing about the show. Some were fearful ABC would try to paint the town in a negative light because of the love affair with the football program, a fear which Bruce shot down.

"The people of Massillon like their kids as much as anybody else in the country," Bruce recalled saying at the time. "They want them to have a good education. They want them to have a good place. They want them to do right. They want them to play the right way.

"They want them to win. What's wrong with winning? The alternative is terrible, losing. They told me what they were going to do if I lost a football game, the first football game. They'd back a big garbage truck up and dump it on your lawn. I said, 'Like hell they are, I'm not going to lose. They're not going to get to do that to me. I don't like to clean

up garbage.'"

Bruce had to deal with his own garbage at the booster club meeting following a 16-0 win over Cleveland East in his first game as Tiger coach. In that game, Massillon did not score until late in the contest, at which time it converted a fumble into a touchdown, then returned an interception for a score.

"When I showed up on Monday night, they were hanging from the rafters to get after my (backside)," Bruce said. "They were after me."

Including four guys who had a problem with the Tigers' tackling.

They said, 'What about the tackling?' The tackling stunk," Bruce said. "I was like 'It did? I thought it was pretty good.' ... So I said to him, 'How would you teach tackling?' And he said, 'The way Paul Brown taught it. ... You dip your shoulder, and you roll and you wrap them up around the ankles and you make the tackle.'

"I said after he was done, 'I want to play you. If you're a coach, I want to play you. You won't last very long. If they were tackling that way, I'd score a lot of touchdowns against you, because you're going to tackle nobody.' ... Those four guys never came back."

But Bruce made sure he got his point across.

"I was fired up," Bruce said. "I said, 'I have a three-year contract, and I'm going to be the coach here for three years. I guarantee it, because I like it here.' You know, everybody in that room stood up and applauded. I felt big then."

Not for long, though.

"Then I went out to where the guys who really do decide if you coach here for three years were at," he added with a chuckle.

Bruce only ended up coaching for two years of his three-year deal, but that hasn't kept him from scanning the sports pages to find out how the Tigers are doing.

He was more than aware of the run Massillon went on a year ago, when it won its first nine games before losing to McKinley in the regular season finale. And he was more than confident how the rematch - as if there was any doubt? - would turn out.

"After we lost to McKinley last year at the end of the regular season, I said one thing to myself," Bruce said. "I said, 'They're going to play them in the tournament. ... We're going to play them in the tournament, and we're going to beat their boys.' I knew we would play them again, if that was the true Massillon spirit."

A spirit which still fills Bruce to this day.



PHOTO BY GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

Tiger coach Tom Stacy, left, talks with Earle Bruce during the Touchdown Club meeting on Tuesday.



MASSILLON TIGER FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB

TOUCHDOWN CLUB



July 25, 2006

Dear Tiger Fan:

"It takes work to be good, and if we aren't good, we have no one to blame but ourselves."

These are the words of Chuck Mather (1915-2006) and the theme of the 2006 Massillon Tigers. Chuck Mather was the coach of the Massillon Tigers from 1948-1953, during which time the Tigers won six straight state titles and three national titles. In 1950, Chuck Mather formed the Touchdown Club which provides a downtown Massillon venue for fans to meet over lunch and hear from the head football coach, players and special speakers about the current football season.

The 2006 Massillon Tiger Football season is fast approaching. The first game will be on Friday, August 25 and, therefore, our Touchdown Club luncheon meetings will commence on Tuesday, August 22, 2006. The meetings will again be held at the Amvets Club located at 303 Weirich Blvd. in downtown Massillon. All meetings will begin with a buffet style lunch at 11:30 AM every Tuesday throughout the regular season and playoffs. The meeting program will begin promptly at noon.

Annual Membership Dues will be \$8.00 this year, and the cost of lunch will be \$7.00 each week you can attend (except for the McKinley Week, lunch which will be \$8.00). You may elect to pay for the first 11 weeks in one lump sum of \$78.00. This will help eliminate long lines prior to each meeting to pay for lunch. An invoice is enclosed for use by returning members and for those interested in becoming new members.

I would like to encourage you to sponsor new members this year to help the Touchdown Club grow and you are always encouraged to bring guests to each meeting. The kickoff meeting will be highlighted by a presentation by our Head Football Coach, Tom Stacy, who will discuss the upcoming season and give an overview of this year's team. We plan to have some other exciting programs in store for you at subsequent meetings this year. As usual, we will present the Hard Nose Award at the last meeting.

August Speaker Schedule:

August 22, 2006	Tom Stacy, Head Coach Massillon Tigers
August 29, 2006	Earle Bruce, Former Head Coach Massillon Tigers, Ohio State Buckeyes

Touchdown Club officers this year are as follows:

Bill Dorman, President	330-495-2147
Linda Waechter, Vice President	330-833-8421
Ben Bradley, Secretary/Treasurer	330-417-8457

We look forward to seeing you at all the Touchdown Club meetings this season and to a very successful 2006 campaign for the Massillon Tigers. **Go Tigers!**

Sincerely,

Bill Dorman
2006 Touchdown Club President

Enclosure: Invoice
Photos courtesy of MassillonProud.com

Bad start gnaws

at Savage

T.D. CLUB
2006

Browns GM admits season opener had plenty of mistakes

By CHRIS EASTERLING
Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

An 0-1 record for his football team wasn't what Browns general manager Phil Savage was planning on having hanging over his head when he initially agreed to speak at Tuesday's Touchdown Club meeting about a month ago.

But that is exactly what his football team had as he stepped to the microphone to address a packed Amvets banquet room on Tuesday, thanks to Sunday's 19-14 opening-day loss to the New Orleans Saints.

"Our expectation was to win that game," Savage said. "There's no excuses for what happened on Sunday with our team. It's time for this team to win. I think that, unfortunately, we got off to a good start that resulted in a bad start."

That "good start/bad start" was literally the first play from scrimmage, when a 74-yard touchdown pass from Charlie Frye to Braylon Edwards was negated by a holding penalty on new left tackle Kevin Shaffer. That was one of four penalties called on the Browns in the game - all of which seemed to wipe out positive plays by Cleveland.

There was a holding penalty on a fourth-down completion to Joe Jurevicius, a play on which - adding injury to insult - Jurevicius suffered a rib injury which will sideline him for some time. There was also an illegal man downfield call against the Browns after punter Dave Zastudil and Cleveland punt

coverage team had pinned the Saints inside their own 10.

"We only had four penalties in the game, which is not a lot over the course of the game," Savage said. "But, boy, the four that we had just absolutely killed us. On offense three times and once on special teams."

Of course, no one area of the

Browns drew the ire of fans and has provided more fodder for sport talk radio than their offense, which looked like it couldn't find a first down without a map for much of the first half.

The best play Cleveland had for much of the afternoon was the broken play. Frye made more things happen when scrambling around

under pressure than the Browns. In fact, he ended up as the team's top rusher for the game with 44 yards on six carries.

"We need to establish something on offense," Savage said. "I think that was probably the biggest disappointment that all of us had. By the end of the first half, there was

really not a single play that you could say 'Well, that's something the Browns can do.' As the game went it's course, some of it looked like backyard football with the way Charlie was running around, keeping himself alive.

"That's a great thing to have (a mobile quarterback), but it can also be a negative. That's not a way for us to live and die this season, to have him run around the way he was forced to do."

Such is the life so far behind the Browns' new-look offensive line, one which was never able to solidify itself during the preseason. There was a revolving door at center thanks to the injury to LeCharles Bentley, a new left tackle in Shaffer and a knee injury to Ryan Tucker, who did not return until the final preseason game.

The Browns actually played two different centers against the Saints - and neither one of them were with the team prior to Cleveland's third preseason game. Lennie Friedman, who was acquired from the Bears on Aug. 24, started, but was soon replaced by Hank Fraley, who was picked up from the Eagles on Sept. 2.

"The guys across the board, it seemed like one of the five would have a breakdown," Savage said. "It was never all five of them together. It was always one here or one there. Anybody who has been connected to the game knows that the consistency factor is what you have to develop.

"Ryan Tucker was really just playing his first game and Fraley was just in there for the first time. Hopefully, we'll see it go the other direction than what it did Sunday."

SEE NEXT
PAGE



PHOTO BY GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

Browns general manager Phil Savage makes a point while addressing the Touchdown Club Tuesday afternoon at Amvets.

Savage admitted he was amazed the Browns didn't try to attack the Saints' smaller defensive line. Cleveland's bruising 1,000-yard rusher from a year ago, Reuben Droughns, only carried the ball 11 times for 27 yards. Twice on third-and-1, Browns offensive coordinator Maurice Carthon chose to run tosses to the short side of the field to rookie fullback Lawrence Vickers.

"I think that was a big concern going in, that the Saints were more of an undersized, quicker type of defensive

line," Savage said. "I think that was the big disappointment from our standpoint. We really never came off the line as a cohesive group and just try to pound the ball right at the Saints.

"They were a defense that presented that to us, and unfortunately, we chose to do some other things and it exposed some of the lack of quickness that you're speaking of. I think as we go forward, when we face a quicker front like that, that's something that we should be more aware of."

The negatives - most notably, the loss itself - concealed a few positives in the mind of Savage. Those positives are ones he's hanging his hat on as the Browns head to Cincinnati this Sunday to meet the high-powered Bengals.

'If we would have won, we would have been feeling pretty good and probably the problems that we have wouldn't be emphasized.'

**Phil Savage,
Browns
general
manager**

There was the Browns' red-zone defense which limited the Saints to four field goals and a touchdown. That included a key stand late in the fourth quarter which kept Cleveland within striking distance for a potential game-winning drive with less than 2:00 left.

Also, there was the return of former No. 1 draft picks Braylon Edwards and Kellen Winslow Jr. from major knee injuries. Edwards wasn't expected back until October initially, while Winslow hadn't played in a regular-season game since 2004.

That's why Savage isn't in a state of panic, even with his disappointment over the loss.

"I think it's important for us to stay the course and keep some continuity," Savage said. "I think that's been a big problem with the Browns, things have been so reactionary that there's always 'We have to do something' after every loss or 'We're doing great' after every win. There's not that big a difference between winning or losing in this league.

"If we would have won, we would have been feeling pretty good and probably the problems that we have wouldn't be as emphasized. I think overall, you have to let things play out. We have a young quarterback, we have an offensive line that has been in flux. It's way, way too early to make an assessment of anything that we have done."



T.D. CLUB
2006

IN THIS SECTION:

- Newsroom
- Browns Media
- Browns Huddle

NEWS

Savage sees Brown's legacy

Zac Jackson, Staff Writer
09.13.2006

Related Articles

- Six at 6: Debut edition
- Moment 55 - Team hires Brown

On the day that ClevelandBrowns.com celebrates the hiring of Paul Brown as one of the 60 greatest moments in team history, and in the week that the first professional team he coached faces the team he later founded in a stadium named in his honor, the legacy of Paul Brown is still very much alive.

Browns General Manager Phil Savage found that out firsthand Tuesday as he spoke to the Massillon Touchdown Club in the football-crazed town where Brown played as a high school quarterback and later coached the Tigers.

Savage's day included a glimpse of Massillon's sparkling Paul Brown Tiger Stadium and a visit to the Massillon Museum for a look at Paul Brown items of all shapes and sorts -- pictures, coaching books, personal items and a collection of jackets that included a blazer Brown wore when he coached at Miami (OH) University and the blazer he wore when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1967.

During his speech, Savage credited Brown for "innovations" to the game of football that included game plans, splitting practice tapes, scripting offensive plays, the 40-yard dash, the "taxi" squad and "how Paul Brown took the game of football and really turned it into an event."

"It is an incredible responsibility to walk in the footsteps of so many great Browns people, namely, Paul Brown and his unprecedented success in pro football," Savage said.

Savage told the story of one of his mentors, Ernie Plank, who was "pulled out of the line" by Brown at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center during World War II. Plank later played at Miami-Ohio and went on to a long coaching and scouting career that included a stint with the Browns where he tutored a young Savage on the finer points of scouting.

"And all of that really emanated from Paul Brown," Savage said.

Massillon played in Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati against Cincinnati Moeller last week. When Massillon head coach Tom Stacy spoke at the Touchdown Club meeting Tuesday, he referred to his team playing "in Paul Brown Stadium South."

The Tigers play their home games on the site they played them when Brown became the coach at Massillon in 1932. In 1938, Brown worked with the Public Works Administration to build a new, 21,000 seat stadium on that site.

This weekend, Massillon hosts three games in the Herbstreit Ohio vs. USA Challenge; the Tigers play Hamilton, Ariz., at 8 p.m. The coin toss for all three games will be conducted using a coin that was used Nov. 2, 1947, before the Browns vs. Buffalo Bisons AAFC game.

Copyright 2001 - 2006 Cleveland Browns | Site powered by DigiKnow
Privacy Policy | Employment Opportunities | Terms of Use



</html



HOME NEWS TEAM TICKETS GAME DAY FANS MULTIMEDIA COMMUNITY PROMOTIONS EVENTS

- IN THIS SECTION:**
- Newsroom
 - Browns Media
 - Browns Huddle

NEWS

Moment 55 - Team hires Brown

Steve King, Staff Writer
09.13.2006

The Cleveland Browns.

That says it all.

If there was ever any question about Paul Brown's impact on football in Cleveland, just look at the team's name. The Browns, in fact, may be the only team in any sport at any level that's named for their founding coach. It may be the only team named after any individual.

And it's why the team has no logo on its helmet. The real logo, in many ways, is the man itself, but that's conveyed by an image.

An image of a man who, among the thousands upon thousands of people who have played and coached this game over the years, truly stands alone.

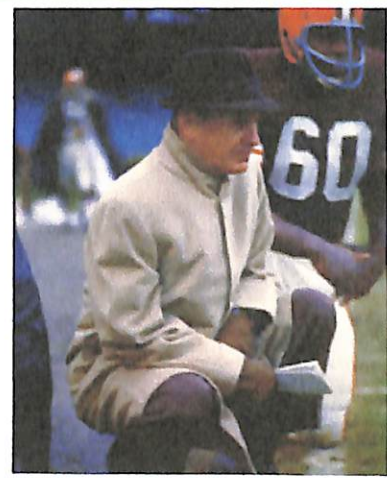
But here's the best part: Brown had not yet coached a game for the Browns, or even as much as held a practice, when the new team was named in his honor in 1945. Talk about someone's reputation preceding them.

Brown was a known quantity -- a huge success story -- by the time he took the Cleveland job, though. Born in Norwalk, he had played and coached at Massillon High School, turning the Tigers into a national power. He went on to Ohio State, where his Buckeyes won the national title in 1942.

So when fans, in a newspaper contest to name the team, overwhelmingly selected Browns as a tribute to the coach, they were certain they had made a wise choice.

And as it turned out, of course, they did.

As the Browns celebrate the 60th anniversary of their first season, unquestionably the single most important event in their history was the hiring of Brown on Feb. 8, 1945, when World War II was still raging in both the European and Pacific theatres -- a full 1½ years before the team took the field for first game. That is where the tradition of this team began.



Related Articles
[Savage sees Brown's legacy](#)

There were no assistant coaches, no players, no front office staffers, no practice field, no anything when Brown arrived. The team was just a concept -- something on paper in a league, the All-America Football Conference, that likewise existed only in people's minds.

The Browns, the AAFC -- only intangibles.

So to say Brown built this team from scratch would be an understatement, if that's possible.

He hired all the coaches.

He signed all the players.

He picked the training camp and in-season practice sites.

He even picked the team colors.

His imprint was everywhere.

No important decision was made without him.

And that was before the team had met as a group for the first time. Once practice began and he began concentrating fully on his true calling -- being a football coach -- his influence was even greater, the shadow he cast even larger.

For Brown wasn't just the head coach and general manager of the Browns. He *was* the Browns.

Fortunately for the Browns.

They could not have picked a better face of the franchise -- a better man to mold them and shape them.

It's obviously important for any new venture to get off on the right foot. If not, it can put that entity into a cavernous, Cleveland Stadium-sized hole from which it may never forever.

So it was oh, so important, then, for owner Mickey McBride to hire the right man to run the team and chart the direction of this fledgling franchise. He did so with Brown.

And in turn, it was oh, so important for Brown to get the right players. He did so as well.

The first player Brown signed? Quarterback Otto Graham, the first Brown to be elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Enough said.

But Brown didn't stop there. He followed that up by landing, in 1946 alone, players such as wide receiver Dante Lavelli, fullback Marion Motley, center Frank "Gunner" Gatski, offensive tackle/place kicker Lou Groza and middle guard Bill Willis, all of whom have joined Graham and their former coach in the Hall of Fame.

That wasn't just a football team Brown had put together. Rather, it was an all-star team.

And the Browns played like one, going 47-4-3 and winning the championship all four seasons of the AAFC's existence (1946-49). The Browns then went into the NFL and played in six straight titles games, winning three. In doing so, they put together an unprecedented run of 10 league championship game appearances in 10 years.

Ten-for-ten. It's mind-boggling.

It's also a record that may never be broken.

Ditto for the seven league titles the Browns captured during that 10-year period. The Browns didn't just get to that last game. They won it 70 percent of the time.

And it all can be traced back to the feet of Brown, whose wisdom, guidance, vision, diligence, determination and commitment made the Browns what they were.

But what would have happened had McBride not hired Brown? They've no doubt asked the same question in Cincinnati, where, in 1967, three years after his stunning banishment from Cleveland, Brown started another pro football team, the Bengals, acting again as head coach and general manager.

It's a sobering thought, for it's hard to imagine anyone doing as well with a start-up team as Brown did with the Browns.

He established a tradition that continues even today, 60 years later.

Indeed, in one way, shape or form, everything he started in 1946 still exists. Certainly, they've tweaked, adjusted and improved upon, which would bring a smile to the face of Brown, who was ever satisfied -- who was always looking for ways to make things better, even if they were already very good. But the bottom line is that they're all still there -- the uniforms, team colors, facemasks, everything.

That includes, first and foremost, the team name.

Cleveland Browns.

That is Paul Brown's real legacy. And, considering imitation is the greatest form of flattery, there's no better one around.

Copyright 2001 - 2006 Cleveland Browns | Site powered by DigiKnow
Privacy Policy | Employment Opportunities | Terms of Use



</html



IN THIS SECTION:

[Newsroom](#)[Browns Media](#)[Browns Huddle](#)

NEWS

Six at 6: Debut editionZac Jackson, Staff Writer
09.12.2006

The debut of Six at 6, a daily six-part glance at what's happening in Berea and beyond regarding the Browns. Six at 6 will appear on ClevelandBrowns.com every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the season at 6 p.m.

ONE

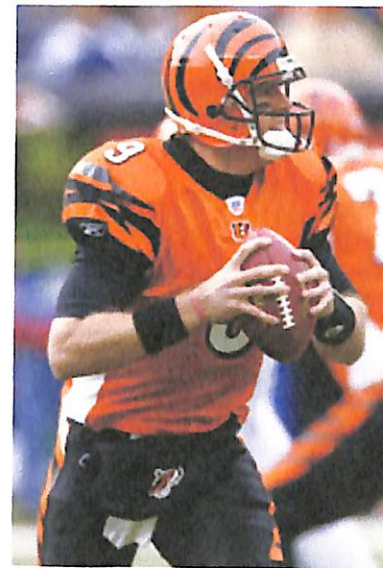
Wednesday morning, it's back to work for the Browns. And that's probably the best thing for everyone involved. Battling the hangover from the season-opening loss required extra-strength medicine, certainly. But getting back on the practice field and focusing on what's ahead -- namely Carson Palmer, a couple studs named Johnson and a fast Bengals defense that has a great performance to build on -- should provide a cure. The Browns know they have to be ready for Sunday.

TWO

What made the loss to the Saints -- and the hangover -- so tough was that the new Browns made many of the same old mistakes. Penalties, dropped passes, third down failures on both sides and shaky run defense made it tough to have a chance to win, even though they almost rallied and did. There were only four penalties, but all four were very, very costly. Several dropped passes came in crucial situations; the final one led to the interception that ended the Browns' comeback hopes.

THREE

The defending division champs were impressive in getting to 1-0 and certainly have the weapons to get to 2-0 at the Browns' expense. The defending Super Bowl champs might be getting Ben Roethlisberger back and certainly have the defense to get to 2-0 against a tough Jags team. The team with a new quarterback and a bunch of feisty veterans shut out the Bucs and should pounce on the Raiders this week. The moral of the story -- the Browns don't want to be 0-2 and chasing everybody in the AFC North this early in the season.

FOUR**Related Players**[Kellen Winslow](#)[Daven Holly](#)

Looking at the Bengals defense, it seems like Kellen Winslow has a real chance to do some damage in the middle of the field. But that theory has less to do with the fact that inside linebacker Odell Thurman is suspended and more to do with the fact that Winslow is going to be a real problem in the middle for a lot of defenses. It's pretty clear the Browns offense needs a spark and something to hang its hat on, and Winslow seems as good a place as any to start.

FIVE

The Browns activated cornerback Daven Holly Tuesday; he didn't count on the roster last week as he served a one-game NFL suspension. Holly will likely be active this week in Cincinnati as injuries have left the Browns short on cornerbacks and the Bengals will operate out of three and four-wide receiver sets for much of the game. There's no indication if Daylon McCutcheon is closer to being ready to play; McCutcheon missed the entire preseason and last week's game after having arthroscopic surgery in early August.

SIX

I spent much of the day Tuesday with Browns general manager Phil Savage as he spoke in Massillon, the hometown of Paul Brown. Folks in Massillon take their football a little bit seriously, and they were thrilled to hear from Savage.

The day included Savage's first look at Massillon's impressive, 18,000-seat Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, a trip to the Massillon Museum to check out Paul Brown photos and memorabilia that any football fan could spend hours searching through, and Savage's address to the weekly Touchdown Club lunch gathering that was broadcast on the local sports station for those who couldn't be among the 150 or so to attend.

(The Touchdown Club is not to be confused with the Booster Club, which meets on Monday nights. Told you they were serious about their football.)

Touchdown Club President Bill Dorman opened the meeting by sharing two Paul Brown quotes.

"You can learn a line from a win but a book from a defeat" was the first, and Savage repeated it during his address.

"When you win, say nothing. When you lose, say less" -- was the second.

Savage was the guest of honor, but the quotes were more intended for the Massillon crowd. The hometown Tigers slipped to 2-1 after a lopsided loss to Cincinnati Moeller last weekend and face Hamilton, Ariz., USA Today's 11th ranked high school team in the country, this weekend.

And Savage played the Tiger Pride angle in his opening remarks.

"Today begins a five-week journey for me," he said, before detailing his itinerary from now until the Browns' bye week.

Tomorrow, Ohio State's practice. Thursday, Maryland vs. West Virginia. Saturday, Miami vs. Louisville. Sunday, Browns vs. Bengals. Monday, back to Cleveland.

Scheduled stops for the following three weeks: Georgia, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Penn State vs. Ohio State, Browns vs. Ravens, USC, UCLA, Fresno State vs. Colorado State, Browns vs. Raiders, East Carolina, North Carolina State vs. Florida State and an Oct. 7 doubleheader, Clemson at Wake Forest and Howard at Winston Salem State, a day before the Browns play the Carolina Panthers.

Whew.

"I can't think of a better place to start the journey," Savage told the crowd, "than right here in the cradle of football, Massillon, Ohio."

The crowd smiled and applauded. And it brought to mind the final quote Dorman shared at the meeting -- "win or lose, Massillon always."

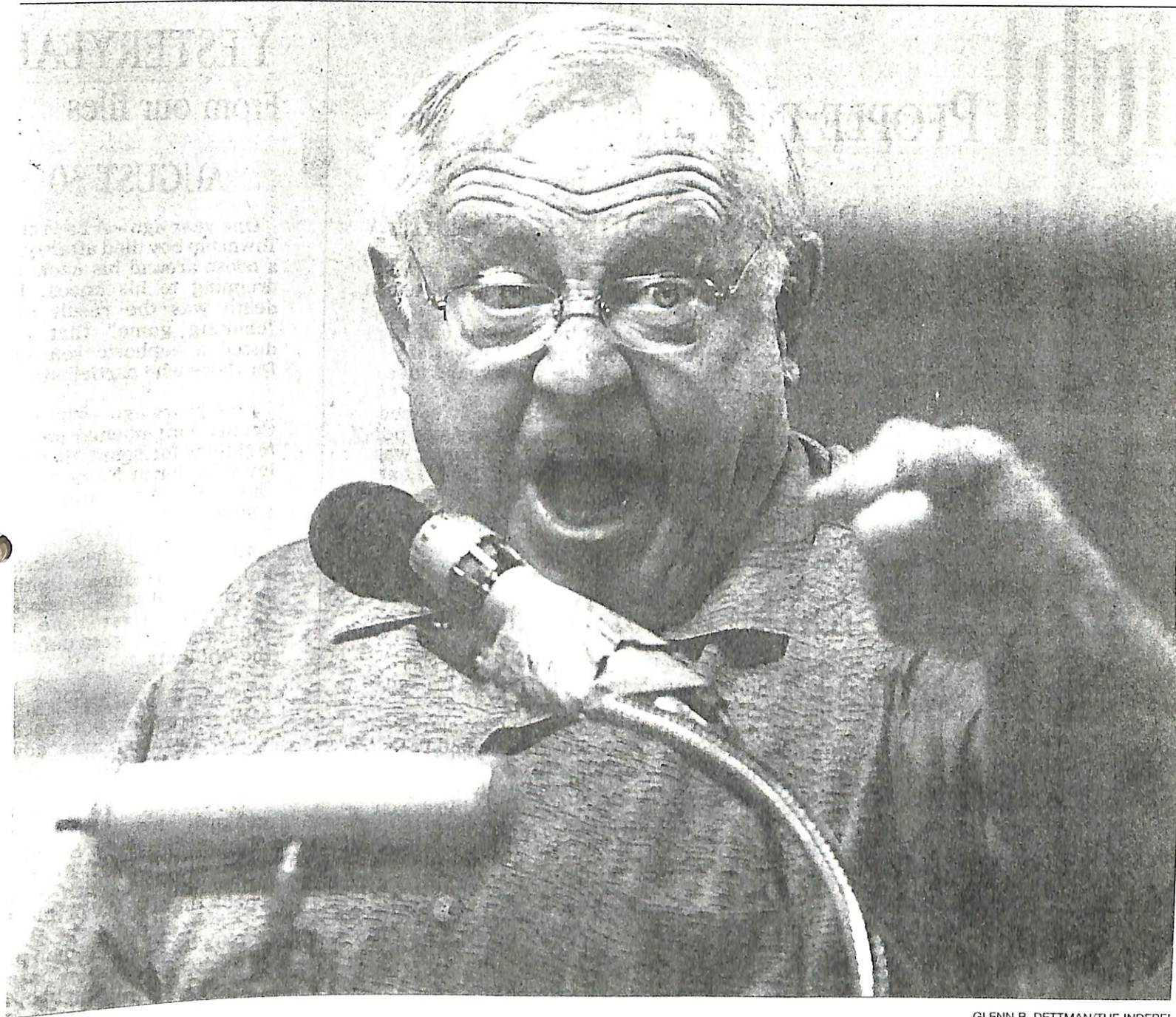
Rejoice -- football season is here.

Copyright 2001 - 2006 Cleveland Browns | Site powered by DigiKnow
Privacy Policy | Employment Opportunities | Terms of Use



</html

Still fiery after all these years



GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

Former Massillon Tiger and Ohio State Buckeye football coach Earle Bruce makes a point in no uncertain terms at the Massillon Tiger Touchdown Club Tuesday afternoon. **FIND OUT WHAT HAD BRUCE ALL FIRED UP IN CHRIS EASTERLING'S STORY ON PAGE C-**

Bruce's heart still with Tigers

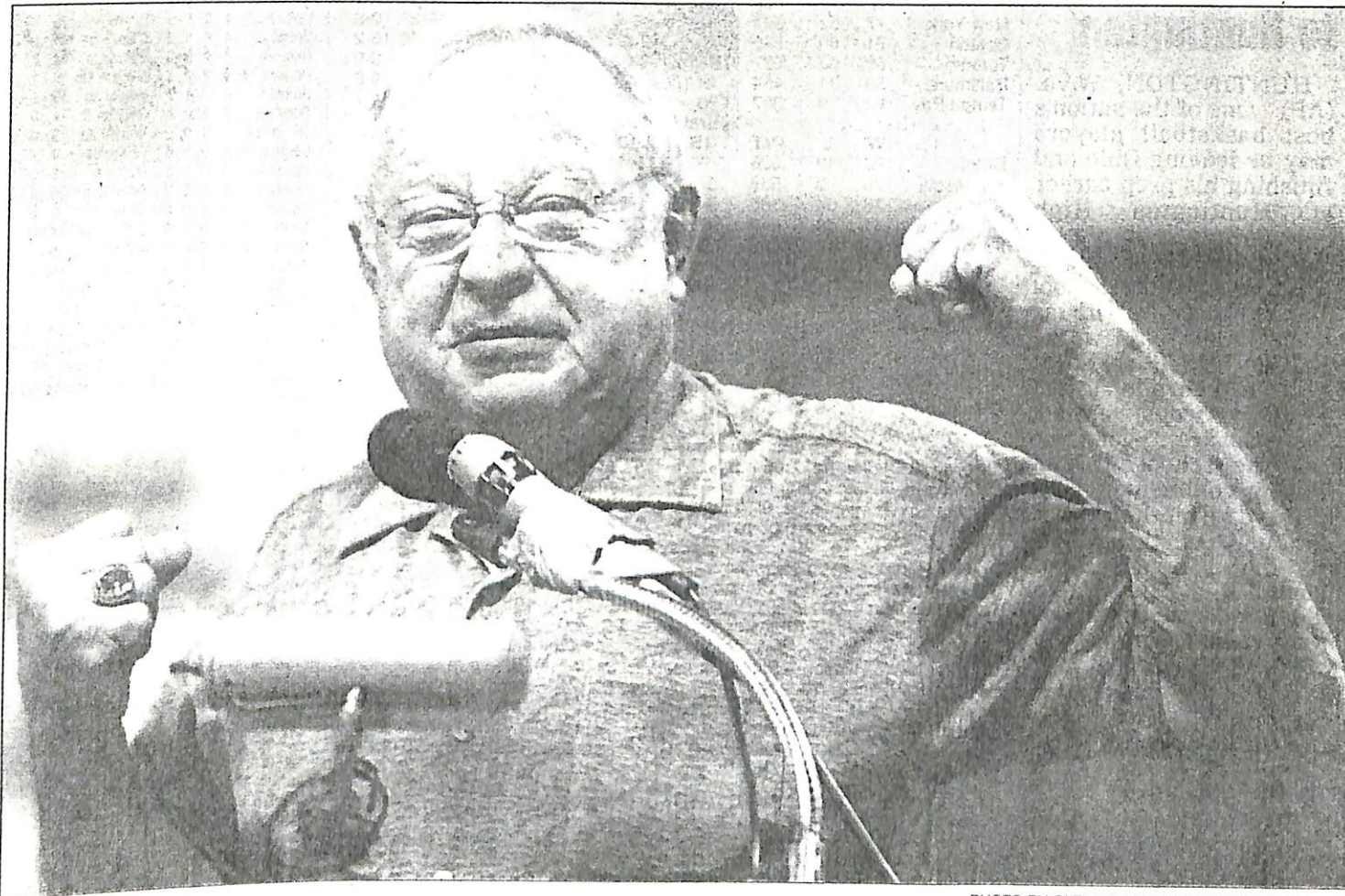


PHOTO BY GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

Former Massillon Tiger and Ohio State Buckeye head coach Earle Bruce pumps his fist to make a point during his speech to the Touchdown Club on Tuesday afternoon at Amvets.

T.D. CLUB
2006

Tiger Swing Band on the move



PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT

Squad leaders from the Massillon Tiger Swing band march Tuesday through the AMVETS banquet room to the delight of Tiger Touchdown Club members. The band, along with the Tiger cheerleaders, made an appearance as part of Massillon-McKinley Week festivities.

Hardnose player



PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT

Massillon senior Brian Gamble, left, holds the 2006 Bob Commings Memorial Hardnose Award as Touchdown Club president Bill Dorman stands nearby. The award is presented by the Touchdown Club annually based upon a vote by the club members.

2006

Mr. Hard Nosed

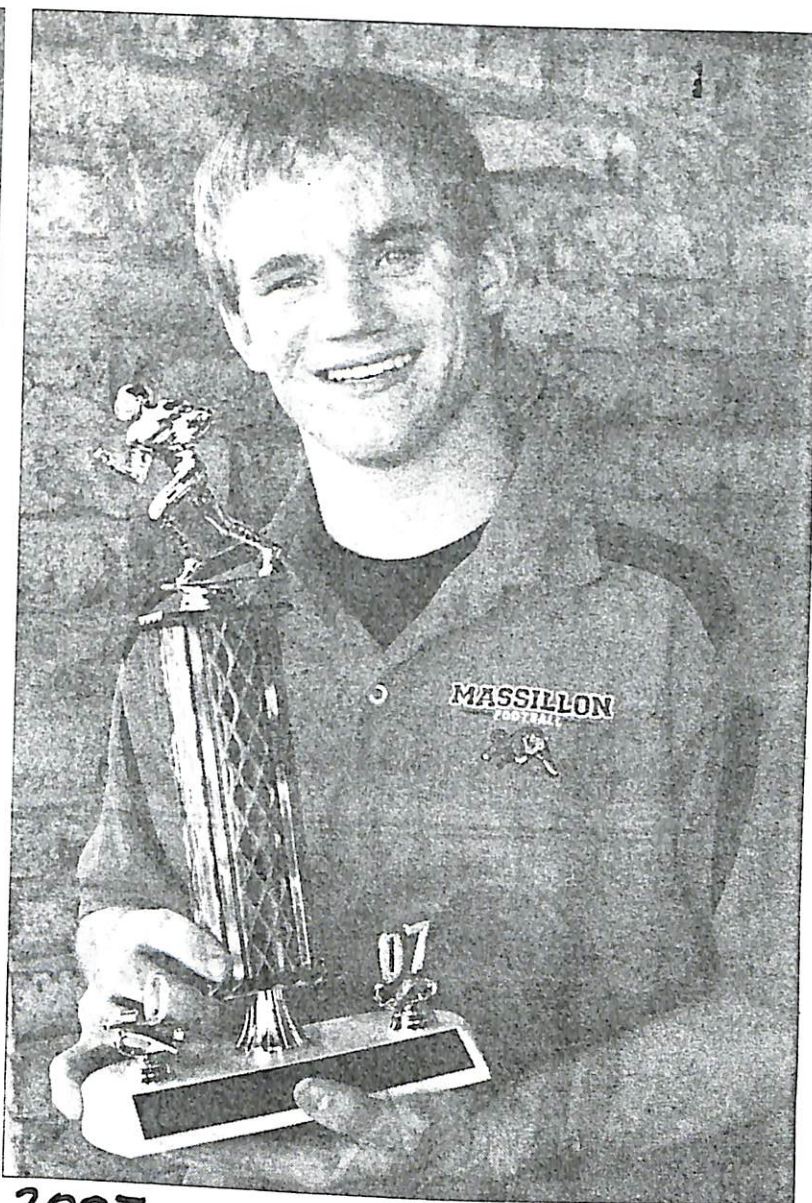


PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT

VIEW PHOTO GALLERIES AND ORDER PRINTS ONLINE AT WWW.INDEONLINE.COM

2007

Massillon senior Corey Hildreth was named the team's winner of the Bob Commings Hard Nose Award during the final meeting of the Touchdown Club Tuesday. Hildreth was one of the Tigers' defensive leaders this year.

MASSILLON THINGS TRUE FOR HOUSTON

By CHRIS EASTERLING

Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

Jim Houston has been a lot of places in his lifetime. He has accomplished quite a bit as well.

But through all the places and all the faces, the one thing Houston – who was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame this year – has never forgotten is where his roots are, which is Massillon, Ohio. And he returned to those roots Tuesday to speak at the Touchdown Club meeting at Amvets.

“Do you know what it’s like to have Massillon as your hometown?” Houston asked rhetorically. “It’s the greatest thing going. Everybody knows of Massillon, Ohio. Everybody, unless they’ve never seen a football game ever.

“The experiences I’ve had all these years, you guys should pat yourselves on the back, because you show a wonderful, great presence for Massillon football. I can’t tell you, I’ve been everywhere, and everybody knows about Massillon, and I’m so proud that I can’t even tell you. When I was asked to come down and talk with you, I said ‘great, fantastic’ because I wanted to tell you that Massillon is the place to be. It really is.”

The youngest of four brothers – all of whom played at Massillon and went on to play Big Ten college football – Houston graduated from Washington High in 1956 having been an All-Ohio defensive end. He went on to be an All-American and team captain at Ohio State, before being selected as a first-round draft pick in 1960 by the Cleveland Browns.

Houston and his brother Lin, who also played at Ohio State and for the Browns, both achieved the distinction of having won titles at the high school, college and profes-



PHOTO BY GLENN B. DETTMAN/THE INDEPENDENT

Former Massillon Tiger great Jim Houston makes a point during Tuesday’s Touchdown Club meeting at Amvets.

sional levels. The older Houston played on the Tigers’ 1937 and 1938 state championship teams, then was on Ohio State’s 1942 title team and Cleveland’s 1946-49 All-American Football Conference and 1950 NFL championship teams.

The younger Houston won a state title at Massillon in 1954, then played on the Buckeyes’ 1957 championship team and the

Browns’ 1964 title squad.

Yet, with all of that success at the high school, collegiate and professional level, who would have believed Jim Houston would also know the sting of getting cut. But, in the seventh grade, that’s exactly what happened to the future four-time Pro Bowl selection.

“I felt so bad,” Jim Houston said

● Please see **HOUSTON**, Page C-5

● HOUSTON

of getting cut. “I went home and I said, ‘Mom, (seventh-grade coach) Roger (Price) just cut me from the team.’ I was too small, too little, couldn’t do anything. So anyways, I got cut.

“I had brothers who were playing high school ball at Massillon, and I have another brother playing for the Cleveland Browns. I’m the youngest, and they cut me. I was like, ‘Oh jeez, what am I going to say? What am I going to say to everybody?’ She said, ‘Simply just try next year. That’s all you have to do, just try next year.’ I thought

about that, and I said, ‘OK.’”

Yes, things turned out OK for Houston. After playing halfback in junior high, he switched to tackle in the ninth grade. The rest, as they say so often, is history.

“I was playing at halfback,” Houston said. “I wanted all the glory, but I didn’t want to do all the work. As a ninth-grader, I played tackle and made all-city. So, maybe I was in the wrong position in the seventh grade.”

Houston broke into the Tigers’ starting lineup as a junior, as Massillon went 9-1 to claim the state championship

in Tom Harp’s first season at the helm. His senior season resulted in an 8-1-1 mark and a No. 2 ranking in the state. As a senior, he was recognized as an All-Ohioan.

“The football experiences I had at Massillon were just tremendous,” Houston said. “I didn’t get to play much as a sophomore; nobody plays very much as a sophomore. But, as a junior, I started, and as a senior, I started and I had reasonably good success.”

Yet for all of his – and his teammates’ – success, he also knew there was a fair amount of hard work needed to

2006

SUCCEED

Agenda
Touchdown Club Meeting
July 30, 2007 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Club Organization

- 2.1. President/Chairman – Linda Waechter
- 2.2. Vice President/Co-Chairman – Ben Bradley
- 2.3. Treasurer – Bill Dorman
- 2.4. Secretary – Jason Byers

3. Meeting Facts

- 3.1. Location – Amvets - \$5.95 - (Ann is contact person – 330-832-7385)
Set up for every Tuesday from 8/21 through 10/30 with option for playoffs

4. Membership Information

- 4.1. Cost – Cost is still \$8 membership, \$7 per meal, \$8 Beat McKinley meal (verified w/Amvets)
Prepayment of membership and all meals thru end of season - \$86
- 4.2. Membership Letter – Linda will send out membership letters & then turn database over to Jason
- 4.3. Prepayments – Bill will receive prepayments & deposit at bank (need more dep slips from Dale Walterhouse)
- 4.4. Update Database – Jason will record prepayments in database and keep database updated throughout season
- 4.5. Membership Card – Linda will order from QuickPrint – same style

5. Meeting

- 5.1. Bill and Ben will sit at table to collect for dues and meals
- 5.2. Get \$300 cash from Booster Club Treasurer for change
(Last year I had \$400 for the first meeting – 10 tens, 35 fives, 125 ones
For the remaining meetings I kept \$300 each week – 10 tens, 20 fives, 100 ones)
- 5.3. Put meal signs up at table – in suitcase w/money
- 5.4. Bill or Ben take head count for Amvets and compares with Amvets count – do not include those who are not eating
- 5.5. Give invoice for lunch to Booster Club Treasurer (Dale Walterhouse) after verifying the head count – he will pay the bill
- 5.6. Two people count the money, and Bill will deposit – deposit slip given to BC Treasurer at next meeting
- 5.7. Jason can fill out meeting sheet – speaker, topic, attendance, etc. (see form)

AUG 21
1ST MEETING
SEPT. 18
OPEN #
SCOTT SHOOK
OCT 10TH

6. Miscellaneous for Meeting

- 6.1. Jason to make arrangements to get signs – contact Bruce Gallagher 330-837-0579
- 6.2. Jason will put signs up – approx. 10-12 signs hung each week
- 6.3. Junie will provide Hardnose Award ballots each week
- 6.4. Linda will get streamers for handouts
- 6.5. Last year Wilbur Arnold checked arrangements with ESPN990 – will do this year???

7. Speakers

- 7.1. Linda will provide speakers (any suggestions welcome – need 2 more speakers)
- 7.2. Ron Prunty will provide videos before/during lunch (?)
- 7.3. Ron Prunty will provide video for first meeting, in place of speaker, of turf being laid and construction of new facilities

2007 TIGER TOUCHDOWN CLUB

Dear Tiger Touchdown Club Member:

The 2007 Massillon Tiger football season is soon approaching and excitement is in the air. We will be watching the practices and scrimmages, trying to see who will emerge as leaders on the team. The 2007 season opens on Friday, August 24, against Middletown. The first meeting of the Tiger Touchdown Club will be **Tuesday, August 21, 2007**, at 12:00 p.m. As in prior years, all meetings will be held at the Amvets Post 6, 303 Weirich Blvd NW in downtown Massillon behind Towne Plaza every Tuesday during the season including the Tuesday after the last game. The meetings begin promptly at noon with a buffet lunch served beforehand starting at 11:30 a.m.

Annual membership dues remain at \$8.00, and meals are \$7.00 a week with the exception of the special Beat McKinley meal, which will be \$8.00. You may pay your membership dues at the first meeting along with the cost of your lunch, or you may wish to pay for the season in one lump sum of \$86.00 (\$8 dues plus \$78 for 11 meals). The meals include either a trip to the buffet table or a large chef salad, with both including beverage and dessert.

Please bring your 2007 dues to the first meeting on August 21; or to avoid long lines at the first meeting, complete and mail this form along with a check payable to "Massillon Tiger Touchdown Club" to:

Touchdown Club
c/o Bill Dorman
100 Lincoln Way East, Ste 280
Massillon, OH 44646

If paying by mail, please check the appropriate box:

- TOTAL ENCLOSED:**
- \$8.00 – Annual dues only (due by the first meeting)
- \$86.00 – Annual dues plus meal prepayment plan
(\$8.00 dues + \$78.00 for 11 meals)

Please complete your name, address, and telephone number below. This will assure that our records are up to date. If you are paying at the meeting, please bring this letter with you with the completed information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email (optional): _____

Check One: I am a returning member I am a new member

We are all looking forward to another great season with Coach Tom Stacy leading our Massillon Tigers into battle for ten regular season games and then the post season. I look forward to seeing you on August 21.

Linda M. Waechter
2007 President – Tiger Touchdown Club

Ben Bradley, Vice President
Jason Byers, Secretary
Bill Dorman, Treasurer

2007

RESPONSIBILITIES

Linda Waechter

- Contact Amvets to verify dates & cost of meals
- Get speakers for meetings
- Send out membership letters
- Order membership cards
- Get streamers for handout
- Contact Independent, Canton Rep, others(?) about meetings
- Contact band director for Beat McK week & handler of Obie

Ben Bradley

- Collect funds at table
- Collect tips for servers at least once during 10 weeks
- Take head count & verify w/Amvets
- ~~Count Hardnose ballots each week & keep track of how many votes players receive~~
- Order plaques for Hardnose Award & for president

Bill Dorman

- Collect funds at table w/Ben
- Take deposit to bank (need more deposit slips)
- Take head count & verify w/Amvets (either Bill or Ben)

Jason Byers

- Pick up signs – call Bruce Gallagher 330-837-0579
- Hang signs at meeting (10-12)
- Run contest – see Junie
- Keep database updated
- Fill out meeting sheet

ASK LINDA

Junie Studer

- Slips for hardnose award

HARDNOSE COUNT
CONTEST COUNT
Ron Prunty OK

- Video clips before/during lunch
- First meeting video of turf & construction of facility

MASSILLON TD CLUB

Massillon's weekly Touch-down Club meetings, held every Tuesday during the Tigers' season, start Aug. 21 at the Amvets. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., and the program begins at noon. Membership is \$8, and meals are \$7 most weeks.

Head coach Tom Stacy reviews the previous week's game and will preview the coming week's opponent.

THURS NIGHT
7 PM - SR BOARD
PROGRAM

JASON BYERS
330 418 8386

RELATED EVENT: MUSEUM PEP RALLY AND TOMMY JAMES DISPLAY

The football career of Tommy James will be commemorated at the Massillon Museum with a lobby display that will debut immediately following the museum's Massillon Tiger Kick-Off Pep Rally Wednesday at 6 p.m.

The rally and the museum party are free. No reservations are required.

Members of the Massillon Museum board of directors and the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club will serve free Tiger Stripe ice cream cones to all who visit the exhibit. The Booster Club worked with Handel's Ice Cream prior to the 2004 season to create the orange-and-black marbled treat.

The exhibit honors a different Massillon Tiger hero each year.

As a star of the Massillon Tigers, Tommy James never played in a losing game between 1938 and 1940. In 1939, he scored the first touchdown in the new Massillon stadium. In 1940, United Press International named the entire Massillon starting 11, including James, to all-state honors.

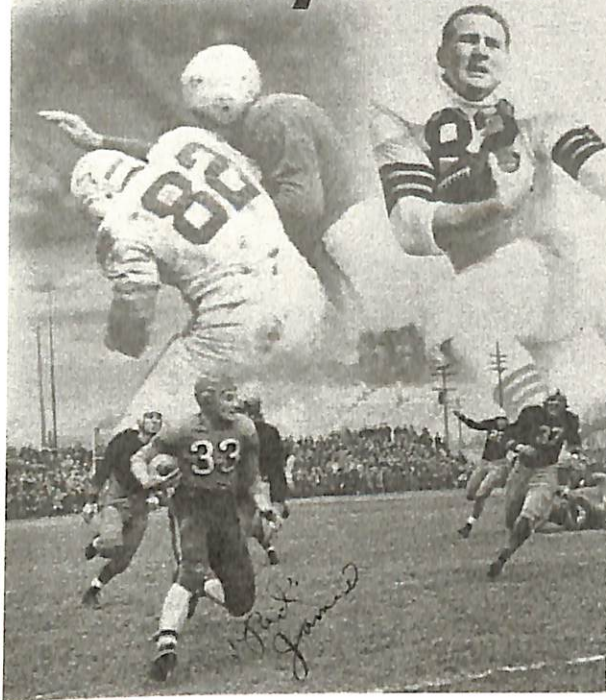
Tommy James followed his high school coach, Paul Brown, to Ohio State, where he played in 1942 and 1946 (interrupted by military service). He was elected team captain for the 1947 season before he left the Buckeyes to play

for the Detroit Lions in the NFL. The following season, he signed with the Cleveland Browns, playing as a defensive back through the 1955 season. He completed his football career with the Baltimore Colts in 1956.

The Tommy James exhibit will remain in the museum lobby for two weeks. It will then move to the Paul L. David Sports Gallery on the museum's second floor, where it will remain until August of 2008.

The Massillon Museum is at 121 Lincoln Way E. It is open to the public with no admission charge Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

The Massillon Museum
 HONORS
Tommy James



As a star of the Massillon Tigers, Tommy James never played in a losing game between 1938 and 1940.

The 1940 team, on which James played, was so tremendous that United Press International accorded the entire "Massillon Eleven" All State honors.

In 1939, Tommy James scored the first touchdown in the new Massillon Stadium—a 30-yard run against Cleveland Cathedral Latin. He also threw the first touchdown pass!

Tommy James was welcomed into the Stark County High School Hall of Fame.

James followed Coach Brown to Ohio State, where he played in 1942 and 1946 (interrupted by 30 months of military service) and was elected team captain for the 1947 season.

He left the Buckeyes in 1947 to join the Detroit Lions and begin his NFL career.

In 1948, James signed with the Cleveland Browns of the All American Conference and remained there through the 1955 season. He starred as a defensive back on five AAC and NFL championship teams. He completed his career with the Baltimore Colts in 1956.



**Tommy
 JAMES**

INDIVIDUAL GRID ACHIEVEMENTS

All County 2nd Team Selection	1939
All County 1st Team Selection	1940
All Ohio 1st Team Selection	1940
Leading Team Ground Gainer	1940
Career Touchdowns	23
Career Points Scored	140
Scored 1st Touchdown at Tiger Stadium . .	1939



TOUCHDOWN CLUB MEMBERS 2007

NAME	LNAME	NAME	LNAME	NAME	LNAME
Thomas	Adley	Francis	Cicchinelli, Jr.	Ron	Frailly
Donald	Ahlstrom	Timothy	Cocklin	Mark	Francazio
Robert	Ahlstrom	Paul	Cook	Vaughn	Freeman
Dr. Thomas	Altland	Dr. Buddy	Cozart	Jeffrey	Frey
Ted	Anderson	Sarita	Cunningham	John H.	Frieg
Wilbur	Arnold	Lou	Cvitkovich	Robert	Frizzell
Todd	Bentzel	Jeff	David	Richard	Fuller, DO
Fred	Berens	Robert	Dawson	Anthony	Fulmer
Ken	Berens	Ronald	Dean	Dennis	Gibson
Mark	Berens	Michael	DeGordon	Phil	Glick
Penny	Berg	William	Demsky	Jim	Graber
Clay	Betz	Arnold	Dewald	Robert	Graber
Roy	Blair	Patrick	Dillard	Gerald	Graybill
Fred	Blosser	William	Dorman	Bernie	Green
Gene	Boerner	Glenn	Dumoulin	Ron	Green
Richard	Bordner	Chris	Easterling	Ed	Grier
Andrew	Botschner, M.D.	Robert	Eckenrode	Greg	Grimsley
Ben	Bradley	Walter	Eckroate	Peter	Gutwein Jr.
Glenn	Brenner	Alan	Edie	Robert	Haas
Kenny	Briggs	Virgil	Edie	Melba	Haines
Ed	Briner	Jack	Eggenschwiler	Larry	Haines, Jr.
Larry	Brown	Joseph	Ehert	Larry	Haines, Sr.
Charles "Chuck"	Bryan	Roy	Ellis	Dr. Steven	Hansen
Jim	Bryan	George	Elum	Dennis	Harwig
Tim	Bryan	Phil	Elum	Donald	Harwig
Regis	Burlas	Frank	Emmert	John	Hauser
Tana	Burris	Patrick	Emmert	Jeff	Heitger
Jeff	Bushman	Ed	Farris	Robert	Heitger
Mike	Bushman	Eugene	Feller	Tom	Heitger
Jason	Byers	Thomas	Ferrero	George	Helmreich
Laura	Campbell	John	Ferrero, Jr.	William	Hemperly
Bill	Caples	Eric	Fichter	Al	Hennon
Larry	Cardinal, Jr.	Joel	Fichter	Mel	Herncane
Dick	Carter	Steve	Fichter	Brock	Herring
Katherine	Catazaro-Perry	Thomas	Fichter	Lynn	Hill
Jayne	Catlin	Gene	Fornash	Mark	Hill
John	Catlin	Mark	Fortner	David	Holland
Milan	Chovan	James	Fowler	L. "Butch"	Hose
Milan	Chovan, Sr.	John "Jack"	Fox	Rev Reginald	Hye

NAME	LNAME
Delmar	Jarvis
Keith	Jarvis
Ray	Jeske
David	Johnson
Jim	Johnson
Thomas	Johnston
Phil	Jones
Ed	Jordan
Kenn	Kaminski
Ken	Keller
K. Gregory	Kemp
Judge Rick	Kettler
Key Bank	
Jimmy	Kiefer
Robert	Kilway
Duane	Knight
Michael	Knight
Ivan	Krabill
Bud	Kraft
Jack	Kull
John	Kurtzman
Bill	Lamielle
Rollie	Layfield
Richard	Leffler
Dan	Leonard
Ben	Liebermann
Bill	Lindsey
Thomas	Lindsey
David	Lockshin
Mike	Loudiana
David	Lundquist
Gary	Lynch
Thomas	Madaffer
Robert	Mahoney
Chuck	Maier
John	Maier, Jr.
Paul	Manson
Robert	Marks
Daryl	Marshall
Bob	Martin

NAME	LNAME
Earl	Martin
Rosemary	Martin
Ray	Martinez
Edward	Mastnick
Vincent	Matecheck
Jim	Matthews
Thomas	Mattox, Sr.
James	Mauger
Joseph "Butch"	McCabe
David	McClain II
Kent	McClelland
David	Miller
Gregory	Miller
Kevin	Miller
Tim	Miller
Will	Miller
George	Mizer
Robert	Mizer
William	Montgomery
Nick	Morris
Nick	Mossides
John	Muhlbach
Paul	W. Myers
Mike	Nastoff
National City Bank	
Ronald	Nave
Al	Neago
Dennis	Nemeth
R. W. "Skip"	Nicholls
Dave	Null
Lee	Nussbaum
John	Olenzak
Dr. Charles	Paquelet
Joseph	Paquelet
Joseph (Bud)	Paquelet
Al	Paris
Steve	Pedro
Vince	Pedro
Greg	Pedrotty
Junie	Pedrotty

NAME	LNAME
Eugene	Pfeiffer
Lou	Poppovich
Todd	Porter
Nick	Pribich
Ron	Pribich
Robert	Princehorn
Ron	Prunty
James	Purtz
Timothy	Putman
Clarence	Rambaud, Jr.
Clarence	Rambaud, Sr.
Russell	Ramsey
Arthur	Rankl
Richard	Reichel
Donovan	Resh, II
J. David	Ress
Matt	Rice
Ronald	Rice
Diane	Richmond
T. "Moe"	Rickett
Tim	Ridgley
John	Ripple
Bob	Rohrer
Josie	Rollstin
Robert	Ronk
Kenneth	Roop
Emerson	Royer, Jr.
Joel	Rubin
Robert	Sand
Robert	Sanderson
Santangelo's Restaurant & Party Center	
Ernie	Sarbaugh
Edward	Sausser
Roger	Schuler
Kim	Schumacher
LeRoy	Schumacher
Todd	Schumacher
John	Schwartz
Donald	Scott
Jim	Seckman

NAME	LNAME
Ted	Sefert
Kim	Shankle
Wes	Shilling
Harry	Shook
Scott	Shook
Ted	Sidaway
John	Silverthorn
John	Simler
Ron	Sinay
Merrill	Sloan
Chris	Smith
Kevin	Smith
Dan	Snively
James	Snively
Joe	Snively
Frank (Ed)	Snyder
Walter	Sorg, Jr.
Curtis	Speck
Frank	Spuhler
Tom	Stacy

NAME	LNAME
Jeffery	Stoll
Junie	Studer
George	Swan, MD
Ron	Swartz
Mike	Sylvester
Donald	Taylor
Greg	Taylor
Jim	Thomas
Jeff	Thornberry
John	Trinovitch
Nora	Trinovitch
Charles	Utterback
James	Vaughn
Gary	Vogt
Ed	Voshall
Nick	Vrotsos
Howard	Wacker
Linda	Waechter
Robert	Wagner
Dale	Walterhouse

NAME	LNAME
Mark	Warren
Mark	Watson
David	Weaver
Marshall	Weinberg
Glen	Weirich
Jack	White, Jr.
Ronald	Williams
Chris	Willoughby
Cliff	Wilson
David	Wilson
Gary	Wilson
Jeff & Paula	Wilson
Tom	Wilson
Richard	Wincek
Timothy	Wolf
Michelle	Wolfe
William	Wucinich
Robert	Yoder
Robert	Yund
Thomas	Ziegelhofer

--

INFO FROM DR. PAQUELET TO JIM BRYAN
FOR USE AT TD CLUB - BROWN BAG AFFAIR
9-18-07

The Massillon Tiger Booster Club

*This narrative was provided to the Massillon Museum
compliments of Dr. Charles Paquelet.*

In the beginning when the Great Creator was drawing plans for this world of ours, He decided there should be something for everyone. He gave us mountains that reach to the sky, deep blue seas, green forests, dry deserts, gorgeous flowers and gigantic trees. Then He decided there should be football, and He gave us Massillon. He created only one Massillon; He knew that would be enough.

Ron Maly, the Des Moines Sunday Register, 1978

Organized football had been in Massillon for over forty years. Paul Brown was named coach of the Tigers in 1932, he gave the idea of "organization" a whole new meaning. For the first time there were scouting reports, team meetings, play books, intelligence tests for the players, position coaches and the establishment of a "feeder system" for the junior high schools. All of these innovations contributed to his remarkable record of 80 wins, 8 losses and 2 ties for an amazing .909 winning percentage. His Massillon Tigers would win six consecutive Ohio State and four United States Scholastic Championships. He would build a stadium that would open in 1939 with a seating capacity of 21,375. His 1940 Massillon Tiger Team would go down in history as the greatest high school team ever to walk the gridiron – the entire starting eleven would be named All-Ohio by the United Press.

When Brown found public opinion against him following a disappointing loss to Canton McKinley in 1933, Karl "Kit" Young, a Massillon Board of Education member, conceived the idea for the formation of a football booster club. On Wednesday, September 12, 1934, at the Washington High School gym, a small group of men (fewer than 100) turned out for the first public meeting of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club. Thus was born the first football booster club in the United States. Brown, the master of organization, developed the format of the Club. Meetings were held after each game. He diagrammed plays on the chalkboard, explaining his strategies to Club members – effectively diffusing potential problems with sound logic. Brown went so far as to have the boys stripped down to shorts and ran them through plays on the Gymnasium floor. As a result, Massillon fans became football experts.

It is important to remember that Paul Brown was coaching during the Great Depression. He believed that some of his players were not getting enough to eat. So he checked up on them. One player had nothing to eat that whole week but potatoes. And by the end of the week, the family was boiling the skins and making soup out of them. So Paul Brown decided to give these needy players a noon lunch at the YWCA Cafeteria and arranged to have milk delivered to their homes.

Brown wanted his players to stand out in the school and in the community. On game day, which was usually Friday, team members wore white shirts and ties. If a player could not

afford these, someone from the Booster Club would take them to one of the local mens' stores to be fitted up properly with the required clothing.

The Booster Club also arranged summer jobs for the players with various businesses in the area. They volunteered to drive home the farm boys after practice who would not otherwise be able to find a way home.

These activities that seemed to make good sense in that era and appeared to be so necessary at that time, nowadays would lead to probation and the probable suspension of the Massillon Tiger Football Team today.

There was a rule that prohibited fall practice before September for teams that held spring practice. During the summer of 1940, a form letter was sent to various players from the Athletic Department of Washington High School in Massillon signed "PB" (Paul Brown).

Dear So and So:

On Monday morning August 22, we will go on a week's fishing trip. I do not wish for you to tell anybody but your parents that you are going camping with me, because some people will misconstrue things and call it a football camp.

You will be picked up between 6:30 and 7:00 in the morning. Eat your breakfast at home and be all set to go. Take the following things in as small a bundle as you can make: one or two blankets and a pillow, swimming trunks - fishing equipment - your football shoes - towel - an old knife, fork, spoon - glass - and soup bowl. Heavy socks and wear a sweater or sweat shirt.

This won't be a fancy trip, but we will have fun. Quietly make your plans and get ready to go.

The place? Not sure yet?

PB

Jim Schlemmer wrote in the Akron Beacon Journal (1941) an article entitled "Amen: That Fishing Trip:"

On August 22 many members of the Massillon squad, managers, faculty members, the superintendent of schools and some members of the band went to Rice Lake in Ontario for a week of fishing.

Protests were immediately filed out of Canton with the state high school officials to the effect the Massillon players were practicing football before the September deadline. Some protests were filed before the trip even started.

Bud Houghton commented, "Our biggest game is always the Canton game. We would rather lick Swartzwalder than all our opponents put together. Remember how he tried to stop our fishing trip! Beat Canton."

From all that one can pick up it was a most pleasant vacation week; fishing was good and the boys had a lot of fun playing softball.

During a lull in the All-Star game in Chicago the other night, I asked "Red" Bird: "Was there any football practiced?"

"You'll laugh at me when I answer that," said Bird. "You won't believe me either. But we didn't have any football equipment along; we had faculty officials on hand to see that everything was perfectly above the board, and we didn't do a single solitary thing connected with football."

Does anyone here know what really happened at Rice Lake in Ontario, Canada during the summer of 1940?

The booster club membership of less than one hundred in 1934 quickly rose to over two thousand, and has remained at that level or above ever since. The weekly meetings held on Monday nights in the school auditorium allow the fans to ask the coach questions directly, such as – why this player was taken out of the game, why Massillon punted when it did, and why this play or that play failed to work. All of the Massillon coaches since Paul Brown have had to learn how to interact with this sometimes not so friendly, but inquisitive group of supporters. Generally the reception has been positive.

Lee Owens learned in a short time that when you walk into a booster club meeting after you won, you tell them why we won – because the players played great. "When we lost, I told them what I had to do differently as a coach before they could shout it out. I told them myself. Once I started attacking booster club meetings like that, they became bearable. In fact, I started looking forward to the challenges."

Tom Harp had a good take on the situation. "The Booster Club has always said, Win or lose, Massillon always." I'm not sure it was going to be always if you lost very much.

Leo Strang reminisced: "We had won twenty games in a row and we got beat 19-18 at Warren. I knew there would be some tough questions at the booster club meeting. So I dressed up in an old slouched hat, dark glasses, a big beard, and some sloppy clothes. I just went in and sat down with the rest of the boosters. Nobody recognized me. I could hear people around me saying, "Where's Strang? I bet he doesn't show up." Well, assistant coach Nick Coso stood up and said, "Coach Strang put me in charge of getting things started tonight." He showed the game film then turned the lights on. I got up and started walking down the aisle and took off my fake beard and glasses. Everyone just started to roar. And that took the edge off of it. I think a lot of them thought I was a little nutty. But that took the edge off and I didn't get the hard questions you often get."

The Booster Club helped the Massillon coaches in other ways. If you were an opposing school and you were coming to scout Massillon, the Club would give you six tickets. Massillon fans would know where the opposition was sitting and loyal boosters would sit

right behind them. The boosters would pick up every comment made – and report it to the Massillon coaches!

Sick or injured players were given the best medical attention available either gratis, or if fees were incurred, they were picked up by the Booster Club. There was one unusual happenstance that occurred in the late forties. Massillon had a particularly good halfback that was a bit of a discipline problem. He was “street wise.” For fear he might get into trouble and not be able to play in the McKinley game, he was admitted to Massillon City Hospital the week before the game, where he was fed, tutored in his studies, and protected from harm. The Massillon Evening Independent later reported that he had recovered and was released from the hospital Saturday morning, just in time to play football in the afternoon!

The Booster Club has shown their gratitude to those coaches who have excelled. Chuck Mather, after six very successful years at Massillon, went to the University of Kansas as head coach. Under rather trying circumstances, he did well. As a matter of fact, he beat Missouri for the first time ever in the school’s history. For that he was given a handsome engraved pen and pencil set. He mused, “At Massillon, I beat McKinley and got a new Buick!”

Every baby boy born in Massillon automatically qualifies as a first round draft choice for the Massillon Tiger Football team. Since 1951, and regularly since 1954, the baby boys receive not a rattle, but a football, compliments of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club.

During the thirties, Paul Brown was winning a lot of football games. The halftime band show was not very good. Brown thought both the game and the halftime show should be entertaining. In 1938, George “Red” Bird came onto the scene as the new band director. Thus was born the Massillon Tiger Swing Band, and soon thereafter appeared a mascot, wearing a real tiger skin and head. This motif has identified the band ever since. In 1970, tiger booster Wilbur Arnold got the idea of having a live tiger to represent the team. That concept led to the annual leasing of a tiger cub for the football season. First it was Wilbur Arnold who cared for the cub, for a time, in his mother-in-law’s basement. Following Wilbur’s transfer to Washington DC, Ed Annen took over until his death, and now it is Bob Hollender providing shelter for the beloved tiger cub. The Booster Club has had thirty-six cubs in all. Dr. Earl Lindsay, veterinarian, has cared for most of these animals and has found it to be an interesting and pleasurable experience.

During the season, Obie is taken around town to the schools and some clubs. People follow the well marked Obie van like kids following an ice cream truck. However, sometimes it is necessary to keep Obie’s whereabouts a secret for fear he might be kidnapped by some over zealous Canton McKinley supporters. At the game, there is always a contest to guess the weight of Obie, and prizes are given out for the closest guess. Kettles are placed around the stadium for cash donations to help feed the tiger. Early on, Obie was fed expensive canned food prepared for exotic cats, but more recently processed chicken or horse meat has served as Obie’s bill of fare. As he grows larger during the season, he consumes six or eight pounds of food every day.

Many people from the circus, animal acts, and zoos, where our tigers often end up, have remarked how well the Booster Club has treated the tiger cubs. The tigers were always well cared for and were never injured, which is a tribute to all the people that handled them.

To help keep the "Tiger Spirit" alive, the Booster Club bought a calliope in 1974 from the Cozatt Organ Company of Anderson, Illinois. Owner Perry Cozatt had sold most of his calliopes to carnivals, showboats, riverboats, and shriners. This was the first calliope he ever sold to a booster club, and was the first orange one he sold. The calliope is taken on a truck, appropriately decorated in orange and black, all over town to rallies, games and a variety of community functions.

The Booster Club has been responsible for the installation of artificial turf at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium as well as the installation of a state of the art score board. The score board includes video replay and is larger, by two feet, than the scoreboard at rival Canton McKinley's Fawcett Stadium. The Booster Club has been responsible for renovations of the old press box and construction of a new press box, on the East side of the field, as well as nautilus equipment, and the Obi-mobile Project, where a new car is provided for the coach and his staff to use during the year. Recently, new team uniforms were purchased, and paving bricks, with the sponsor's name engraved, will be placed in the "Tiger Walk" leading up to the statue of Paul Brown, which sits in front of the west gate of Paul Brown Tiger Stadium.

The Booster Club was instrumental in the formation of the Touchdown Club that meets at noon on Tuesdays during the football season to discuss the team's progress, as well as the Sideliners, who sponsor weekly pre-game dinners for the players. During the season, Massillon Tiger flags are put up on the light poles in downtown Massillon on game days, placards are placed in storefront windows, yard signs are put at the homes of the players, and banners are stretched across Lincoln Way in the central business district.

On occasion, airplanes have been known to fly overhead and drop "Beat McKinley" leaflets on the citizenry. On the morning of the Canton McKinley game, aerial bombs have been shot off hourly before the game from the top of the Ohio Merchants Bank Building. The Beat McKinley parade has consistently attracted a large crowd downtown, the culmination of which has been the ritual "burning of the bulldog." For years it was a duty of the booster club to see that someone, from "you know where," did not prematurely light the bonfire.

Recently, the Tiger Booster Club and the Massillon Museum have partnered in giving away orange and black tiger striped ice cream cones to all those attending the pre-season rally at held every year downtown at Duncan Plaza.

The Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club has worked hard over the years to ensure that the intensity, longevity, enthusiasm and legacy of Massillon Tiger football will carry on into the future, to be cherished by players, coaches and fans for years to come. Massillon embraces its team as no other!

T.O. CLUB - BROWN BAG 9-18-07

I'D LIKE TO TALK JUST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS GUY
(HOLD UP LOGO)

I'M SURE MOST OF YOU WOULD AGREE THAT THIS IS
THE MOST WELL KNOWN HIGH SCHOOL LOGO IN
THE NATION.

BACK SOME YEARS AGO WHEN DOLORES
AND I OPERATED THE TIGER STORE
FLORIDA STORY ...

ACTUALLY WE HAVE 3 OBIES

- THE LOGO OBIE
WHICH THE BOOSTER CLUB OWNS
THE COPYRIGHT OF
- THE STUDENT IN A TIGER SKIN
- AND OBIE THE LIVE TIGER WHO
ARRIVED IN 1970

NOW, HOW DID THIS ALL EVOLVE? TO START WITH,
WHO ACTUALLY DESIGNED THIS OBIE, WHICH
FIRST APPEARED IN 1940?

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE COME ACROSS 3
DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE CLAIMED THAT
THEIR GRANDFATHER, UNCLE OR WHOEVER,
ACTUALLY DESIGNED 'OBIE, UPON INVESTIGATING
EACH CASE I FOUND THAT EACH OF THESE
INDIVIDUALS WOULD HAVE BEEN THIRTEEN
YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER WHEN THEY DESIGNED
OBIE, I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A
13 YEAR OLD COULD HAVE DONE THIS,

ABOUT A YEAR AGO I HAD A PHONE CALL FROM
A PERSON WHOM I DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS
OBVIOUSLY CALLING FROM A BAR SCENE
HERE IN TOWN. HE WANTED TO TELL ME THAT
HIS GRANDMOTHER HAD WON A CONTEST
AT WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BY NAMING
OUR MASCOT "OBIE" WHICH COMES FROM
THE "O" IN ORANGE AND THE "B" IN BLACK,

HER NAME WAS :

— VIOLA BLACK PRICE
AND SHE WAS 92 YEARS OLD IN 2006

AFTER THANKING THIS PERSON FOR THE INFORMATION, I TOLD HIM WE WERE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHO ACTUALLY DESIGNED OBIE. HE SAID, OH, THERE IS A FELLOW HERE WHO KNOWS. HE THEN HOLLERED — HEY CHARLIE, WHO DESIGNED OBIE? AND CHARLIE ANSWERED — SOME GUY NAMED STUDER! I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT WASN'T!

RON PRUNTY HAS DONE AN IN DEPTH STUDY IN TRYING TO COME UP WITH THE NAME OF OBIE'S CREATOR, AND I HAVE DONE THE SAME.

AS OF YET WE HAVE NOT AGREED AND NEITHER OF US HAVE COME UP WITH A NAME THAT HAS THE NEEDED PROOF BEHIND IT.

RON'S GUESS IS THAT IT WAS AN ADVERTISING ARTIST WHO WORKED FOR OR WAS HIRED BY THE TYSON ROLLER BEARING CORPORATION.

MY GUESS IS THAT IT WAS A VERY TALENTED LOCAL ARTIST, AND SIGN PAINTER, A.D. SMALL

IF ANYONE HAS ANY INFORMATION IN REGARDS TO OUR LOGO'S DESIGNER OR TO VIOLA BLACK PRICE, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL,

Thank You

9.25.2007

Booster Club a Massillon staple

By **CHRIS EASTERLING**
Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

Booster clubs are a familiar thing in this day and age, especially in the world of high school football. Still, there was a time when that wasn't the case, a time when every sport or activity didn't have its own support group.

Then came along the Massillon Tigers Football Booster Club, and it all changed.

"It's called the 'Granddaddy of all Football Booster Clubs', and for good reason," former Booster Club president Jimmy Bryan told a combined audience of Touchdown Club and Brown Bag Lunch series members on Tuesday afternoon at AMVETS. "It's been around longer than any of them and has been emulated by many."

The first meeting took place in September of 1934, the start of Paul Brown's third season. Brown's first two years at Massillon had resulted in a 13-7-1 record, including an 8-2 mark the previous season.

"It wasn't disastrous, but it was time to rally the troops," Bryan said. "That was one of the reasons why they felt they should have a booster club. They felt through participation, through education, through working together on a common goal, people would be invested in something. ... Therefore, when you have ownership in something, you're a little more positive about it. You want to make it grow, you want to make it better."

In order to do that, the members believed it would be beneficial to hear from the coach himself. Brown would diagram and explain plays and various other strategy, and even at times would have players come in to run through the plays in the high school gymnasium.

"They felt that maybe, since things were a little wobbly, it would be wonderful if coach Brown could meet with the community," Bryan said. "They felt it would be great if he could bring his team down to meet with the community. The community could ask questions of the coach, that he could educate the community."

It also served a purpose for the players. With its roots in the Great Depression, the club also set out to do what it could to aid the Tiger players, who, like many in that time, were struggling with some of the basic necessities in life.

So club members would help the players get meals when they could. They would also aid in providing some clothing as well, among other necessary items.

"What the coach knew at that time and shared with people,"

SEE NEXT PAGE



PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT

VIEW PHOTO GALLERIES AND ORDER PRINTS ONLINE AT WWW.INDEONLINE.COM

Jimmy Bryan speaks during Tuesday's Touchdown Club/Brown Bag Lunch meeting at AMVETS.

Bryan said, "the kids – not just here, but our kids are what I'm focusing on – they weren't eating well. They hardly had anything to eat, not all, but some of them. So another reason for this organization was the reality of the Depression – food, basic clothing needs.

"So that's what this organization's basis was: a need for support. That's not changed today. That's really what it is today. The needs are different, but the purpose is still the same."

That need for support is one of the reasons, in Bryan's mind, it has thrived ever since. In good times or in bad, the club continues to carry out many of the same things, things such as the "Beat (Opponent)" strips and signs which are prevalent around town, or the flags which hang down Lincoln Way, or the signs in the players' homes.

For Bryan, the key is the fact the founders didn't want it to be for just the fair-weather fans or players' parents who would be there when the going was good or their kids were playing for the Tigers.

"They called it a 'booster club', they didn't call it a 'fan club'," Bryan said. "When things are going great, like if we were about 5-0 right now, you have all kinds of fans. ... They didn't want a fan group – now you can be a fan and a member – but they wanted boosters. Think of the word 'boost' – support, hold up, elevate. They wanted to be proactive, build; not reactive to what is going on out there, but make what's going on out there better.

"All fans are not boosters. ... Be a booster, be supportive. You can't be honest, but be supportive. That's what this is all about."

MASSILLON TIGER FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB

The Original – The Granddaddy of Athletic Booster Clubs

INTRO Self Booster Club/Touchdown/Sideliners/Orangemen/Booster Club FB Museum

Past Presidents – Full Time Job/One Year Only

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No Past Pres/BC Officers/Press can participate

QUES 1 When founded? (1934)

Founders (Who) Karl Young (member Bd of Ed), consulting w/ Coach Paul Brown
and other Board & Community members

QUES 2 1st President (Tink Ulrich)

Added instant credibility – inspirational leader

Capt. 1922, 10-0 State Champs

1ST Meeting Sept 1934, dues 25 cents...200 members...now 2000

WHY? 1st Brown first 2 yrs only 13 wins & not scored on McKinley

Forum community w/ coaches & players

Education & involvement builds support/ownership

Boosters now had investment in Team...Sweat Equity

2ND Reality of Depression

Some players need basic necessities –

food, clothing, Positive support

FOUNDING FATHERS

By Design insured continuity and
Goal directed Activities (a focus on a Mission)

1ST Called it a Booster Club not a Fan Club

Fan from Fanatic – Hot when Hot

Much cooler when times aren't so good

Boosters support; are Pro-Active not Re-Active as are Fans

All Boosters certainly can be Fans

BUT

All Fans are certainly not Boosters

2ND Corp. Structure

Board of Dirs – keeps long-term Goals & Directions

Pres (CEO) – handles day to day activities

3RD One Sport Support Group

Since all volunteer – maximum effort could wane if
expected over 9 to 12 mos

PB was BB coach and he knew that any one activity needed

its own Booster Club to maximize support for that activity

4TH And, as important as any factor,

it was Community Based...Not A Parent's Club

Parents are involved BUT the whims of one season's

Parents or Parent never became an issue

No – pressure on coach to play kid

No – My kid isn't playing effects process

Pres – No Varsity Player in that Year

Currently serves as Umbrella for several other groups
All part of Booster Club structure

-Touchdown Club – 1950 Chuck Mather

Purpose

QUES 3 1ST Meeting Place Padula's

-Sideliners – Begun in 1957 – 50th Anniv

1st Chairman – Dr. Conklin

Purpose

QUES 4 Coach Lee Tressel

-Orangeman – 1981
Purpose – Financial Support

Unable to give time, give financial support

-Tiger Booster Club Football Museum

-Tiger Football Players Alumni Assoc

...ALL PART OF BOOSTER CLUB

STRENGTHS The booster Club has yet to make one first down

BUT

Keeps Town positively involved so that our young men feel the

Importance of and community appreciation for what they do

-When that little baby boy gets a "football"

-When that youngster sees that McKinley Parade

-When the excitement that the community feels is subliminally passed down to the next generation

What the Booster Club does can impact the future success of the Program

AND, the Booster Club offers the most socially, culturally and

economically diversified forum for interaction in our Community.

I think that's a GREAT THING.

Blue collar – white color – no collar (i.e. ladies in skirts & dresses)

All working together toward a positive goal

– supporting a group of young people from our Town.

PLUS, No one Group works any harder to support our schools

– ask any administrator which group is out there supporting the next levy or bond issue

AND, if IMITATION IS THE GREATEST FORM OF FLATTERY,

Our Football Program AND Booster Club should both "Blush with Pride"

High school football programs throughout the USA have used Massillon

Football and the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club as Templates in

building their Programs & Community Support Groups.

A few Projects that the BC, in conjunction with local business & community members have worked on and continue to do so...

1. Already mentioned the McK Parade & Footballs for baby boys
2. Beat Strips – millions – Dutch Wampler 1935 MCA, Sam Mollett
3. Calliope – Katie Basler – loaned from Hoover
4. Signs at player homes, in store windows
5. Aerial bombs at games
6. Flags along streets on game day
7. McK bonfire & Balloons in McK game day
8. Remember planes flying over town w/ banners & leaflets?
9. Your Programs at the games
10. Obie the Live Tiger
11. Booster club Website Massillontigers.com

All add to your enjoyment of the...

GREATEST SHOW IN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
(as Leo Strang coined the phrase)

Unusual Projects

Even times when Boosters drove John Bridewiser up a tree...
Shovel Fawcett snow

Helicopter dry paint

As Community Changes BC has functioned to meet need

Depression Food/Clothes
 40's & 50's Summer jobs
 No cars – drive to rural areas

More recently spearheaded major fund raising projects

1st Artificial turf

Sports Complex east of Stadium

East Press Box

Several Scoreboards over time

Team Uniforms

A story that shows how at a point in time when things were a little different in our community AND shows how the Coach had a need that the Boosters pulled off with the aid of the school and the Community as a whole

Two coaches undefeated – Earle Bruce 20-0; Augie Morningstar 5-0-5

50M+ Cath Latin 6-6 Muns. Stad ND/Navy

Bert Webb Story

McK 0-0

We have an official BC Logo

In fact, 1st pin w/ our logo for our members...1952 – Jim Hess

BC has a copyright on this little fellow.

Junie Studer tell story...

Handouts as depart

Forgive the few typos – didn't Spell Check

Thank TD Club, Museum Brown Bag for allowing to share

Wilbur Arnold

From: <lindalmw@aol.com>
To: <wvarnold@sssnet.com>
Cc: <jbyersej@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2008 10:47 AM
Subject: Touchdown Club meeting

Hi, Wilbur

I'm sorry I haven't called you back yet, but I haven't been home a lot. I'm getting ready to leave the house again today, so I thought I'd quickly send an email to you in response to your phone call.

I am working in Orrville on June 25 so cannot attend the noon meeting. Normally I can switch my work days, but that week I am working every day. I am available almost any day from 5:00 on (except Friday, the 27th), and I am off work on Thursday, July 3 (the following week).

If none of those times are good for the rest, please let me know what was discussed at the June 25 meeting and what my responsibilities are. At this point, I am assuming that as treasurer I will keep the database updated (Jason Byers is suppose to email the database to me), pick up and hang signs at the weekly meetings, and collect the dues and meal money. When Jeff mails the letters out to the members, he can either have the members send their checks to him or to me. Either is fine with me.

Someone also needs to contact Sarita Cunningham to make up membership cards. Usually the president or vice president handles that. Also, since this meeting is at the Amvets, someone can talk to them to make sure they know when the first Touchdown Club meeting is and to see if there is a price change for the meals. You can check with Jason Byers to see what we paid last year; I'm thinking somewhere between \$5.75 and \$5.95 but I am not sure.

Thanks, Wilbur. Sorry I cannot attend on the 25th; but if the date cannot be changed, I will wait for you to contact me with my responsibilities.

Linda Waechter
330-833-8421
lindalmw@aol.com

[Get the Moviefone Toolbar.](#) Showtimes, theaters, movie news, & more!

6/19/2008

JEFF

IN 1997 SCOTT SHOOK INTERVIEWED STEVE STUDER. THE INTERVIEW WAS ON TAPE, WHICH I HAD NOT HEARD.

AFTER STEVE'S DEATH, SCOTT ASKED ME IF I WOULD LIKE A COPY OF IT IN TYPEWRITTEN FORM. IT TURNED OUT TO BE 17 TYPED PAGES LONG.

WILBUR ARNOLD, HAS EDITED DOWN^{IT} CONSIDERABLY TO A LENGTH WHICH MIGHT BE MORE USABLE IN THE FUTURE.

THE PARAGRAPH ON BEN BRADLEY HAS BEEN REMOVED AND PLACED ON TOP FOR USE AT THE INITIAL T.D. CLUB MEETING.

ALTHOUGH I KNOW IT IS NOT NECESSARY, I WILL CALL SCOTT AND O.K. THE USE OF THIS.

JUNIE

THERE ARE ALSO A FEW TYPOS THAT YOU CAN RECTIFY

'Hardnose' defines Ivan's play in 2008

By **CHRIS EASTERLING**
Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

There are times when a word seems to be a stretch to use in describing an individual. Then there are times when a word is the absolute definition of the person it is used with.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Massillon Tiger Touch-down Club awarded the Bob Commings Hardnose



IVAN

Award to Tiger senior safety Cooper Ivan. The awards is voted on by the club members each week based on the previous game.

Considering the way the 5-foot-8, 162-pound Ivan played strong safety for Massillon this season, it was a case of the word matching the person it described.

"For me, it's giving it ev-

● Please see **DEFINES**, Page C-4

● **DEFINES**

everything you have got," Ivan said Tuesday. "It's just about playing like there's no tomorrow. That's what I try to do."

Ivan did that throughout the season for the Tigers, often delivering the biggest hits from his safety spot. One hit which stands out came in Week Two against Jordan (Utah), when he crashed into a Beetdigger receiver with such force right at the moment the receiver caught the ball that he not only knocked the wind out of the receiver, but knocked himself out as well.

But, when Tiger coach Jason Hall and the training staff arrived to check on him, the first words out of his mouth, Hall recalled the next week, was, "Did he catch the ball?"

That tackle was one of 16 Ivan made in that game. However, that wasn't even the high-tackle mark for the senior. In Week Nine, Ivan was credited with 17 stops - as well as a caused fumble and a fumble recovery on the same play - in a loss to Mentor.

Ivan had at least 10 tackles in eight of the nine regular-season games he played in, having missed the Brantford (Ont.) game with a concussion. The one game he didn't reach double figures - the opener against Buchtel - he had a caused fumble, a fumble recovery and an interception.

In many ways, Ivan's play may have mirrored the way the Tigers played as a whole. Hall himself called the Tigers "tough," a word few who watched Ivan play this past season would have difficulty arguing with.

But he believes there's another word for it. "Relentless," Ivan said. "It's hard to explain. It was great."

Ivan had plenty of extra motivation driving him throughout his final season at Massillon. As a junior last season, he suffered a broken leg on the opening kickoff of a Week Three loss to Normandy.

That injury put him on the sidelines for the rest of the season, and left him hungry to make up for lost time this year. He did that, and he hopes those returning next season for the Tigers do the same thing.

"Just work hard," Ivan said. "Don't take anything for granted. Just play like it's your last play, because you never know what's going to happen. You could break your leg or get a season-ending injury."

"After you're done here, you may never put pads on for the rest of your life, and if you do go to college, a lot of the smaller colleges are nothing like Massillon. It doesn't even compare to Massillon. You just appreciate what you've got here."

12-2-09



PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT
VIEW PHOTO GALLERIES AND ORDER PRINTS ONLINE AT
WWW.INDEONLINE.COM

Tiger senior Bo Grunder accepts the Bob Commings Hardnose Award from the Touchdown Club on Tuesday afternoon.

Grunder earns Hardnose

By **CHRIS EASTERLING**
Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

It was hard not to find Bo Grunder in the vicinity of the play most of the time during the Massillon Tigers' recently concluded 10-4 season. Offense, defense, special teams - Grunder generally found a way to be an impact player for the Tigers.

During Tuesday's final Touchdown Club meeting of the season at Eagles 190, Grunder was recognized for his play as he was honored with the Bob Commings

Hardnose Award. The award is given annually by the club based on weekly voting by its members.

"I'm very grateful for this award," Grunder told the Touchdown Club in accepting the award. "You can't give the credit just to me. It's my whole teammates. I love every one of them. This season will never be forgotten. I'll carry it with me all my life."

It is the second award in as many days for Grunder, who was honored as Ohio's Division I Co-Defensive

Player of the Year along with Lakota West's Jordan Hicks. Two weeks ago, he also shared the Northeast Inland District's Defensive Player of the Year honors with GlenOak's Andrew Gorman.

Grunder intercepted nine passes on the season, including one he returned for a touchdown in Week Two against GlenOak. He also recovered four fumbles and caused a pair of fumbles, while recording almost 90 tackles.

● Please see **EARNNS**, Page B-4

● **EARNNS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE B-1

But Grunder's play wasn't just limited to the defensive side of the ball. He was also one of the few Tigers who also saw significant time on offense as well, as he played receiver.

Grunder finished the season with 36 catches for 459 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including a

26-yarder in last Saturday's state semifinal loss to Glenville. He also carried the ball four times for 38 yards.

On special teams, he was the Tigers' primary return specialist on both kickoffs and punts. He averaged 10.4 yards on 23 punt returns, while his 17 kickoff

returns averaged 19.8 yards.

Grunder, who had a 4.0 GPA in this first grading period this fall, has football scholarship offers from Division I programs in Air Force and Eastern Michigan, while Kent State has also expressed interest in him.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Clayton Mattox



PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITLOCK/THE INDEPENDENT

VIEW PHOTO GALLERIES AND ORDER PRINTS ONLINE AT WWW.INDEONLINE.COM

Massillon senior Clayton Mattox holds the Bob Commings Hardnose Award after receiving it at Tuesday's Touchdown Club meeting.

'Hardnosed' Mattox earns recognition

By **CHRIS EASTERLING**
Chris.Easterling@IndeOnline.com

As he stood at the podium to accept the Bob Commings Hardnose Award at the final Touchdown Club meeting of the season Tuesday, Clayton Mattox couldn't help but have the emotions of the moment come over him.

With those emotions choking the words as he spoke, the Massillon senior linebacker tried to ar-

ticulate what not just the award, but what the three years he spent playing for the Tigers meant to him.

"Massillon football means everything to me," Mattox told the crowd at the Eagles 190. "I was born and raised in Massillon. My dad and my uncle played. I know how much heart they played with. Every week, I just talk about playing with heart.

● Please see **MATTOX**, Page B-3

Continued on
Next Page

● MATTOX CONTINUED FROM PAGE B-1

That's the only thing you can do. ... Once a Tiger, always a Tiger."

Mattox may have been one of the best players to epitomize the never-give-up attitude displayed for much of the season by the Tigers. He also represented just one of many Tigers on this year's team who were following in the footsteps of fathers, brothers or uncles - even grandfathers - who had played for Massillon in the past.

It was that legacy that Mattox believes he was representing with his play on the field.

"You know that shirt that says, 'Football is life. The rest is just details,'" Mattox said following the meeting. "That's my family. Every Friday, say if Massillon lost or something, I would just be so upset myself. I would just go home and cry and just felt like I would want to play that next day. Massillon, to me, just means just everything. Every little thing. Everyone's there to support you - fans, the town. It's just incredible." Despite standing just 5-

foot-11, 200 pounds, the senior inside linebacker led the team in tackles with 64 solo stops, along with another 31 assists. He also had 5.5 tackles for loss, a quarterback pressure, a sack and a fumble recovery.

And he did all of that despite missing a game with a concussion and only playing a half of football in two others due to Massillon jumping out to 40-point leads in the first half against Brantford Collegiate (Ont.) and Avon Grove (Pa.) during the regular season.

Still, for Mattox, the award - which is chosen by Touchdown Club members by a weekly vote - stands for more than just what happens on the field on Friday or Saturday.

"It means that just all four years that you put in all that hard work - every time in the weight room, anything you did, pushing yourself running - all that award means is all that," Mattox said. "It's just all that time you put in there, your blood, sweat and tears."

MASSILLON FOOTBALL

Tiger seniors never gave up despite tough beginnings

BY CHRIS EASTERLING
chris.easterling@indeonline.com

MASSILLON One by one, members of Massillon's football senior class filed into the banquet room at the Eagles 190 on Tuesday. And as each one of them walked in, more and more of the members of the Touchdown Club rose to their feet to give a standing ovation.

For Massillon head coach Jason Hall, it was a fitting way to acknowledge a group that had been through a lot during their time as Tigers.

"These guys, when they were freshmen and they had their season, I remember some of the



INDEPENDENT KEVIN WHITLOCK

■ Massillon senior football player Robbie Plants accepts the Bob Commings Hard Nose award at the Touchdown Club meeting Tuesday afternoon.

talk going around about this group," Hall told the Touchdown Club. "They had a rough freshman season and fought through some adversity. This has been a group that's handled adversity every year. And it was the same going into this year."

That year ultimately came to an end Saturday afternoon, when a back-and-forth game eventually swung the way of McKinley in a 23-20 Bulldog win. The loss ended the Tigers season at 7-3, and knocked them out of a playoff spot.

SEE SENIORS B-3

SENIORS

CONTINUED FROM B-1

"We kept on fighting," senior co-captain Garrett Kreiger said. "We didn't want to lose. No one wanted to lose that game. It just doesn't go your way sometimes. I think we all understand that."

Massillon fell behind by scores of 7-0, 10-7 and 16-14 during the game. However, it managed to twice take fourth-quarter leads — at 14-10 and finally at 20-16 with 1:13 remaining.

Only a last-minute drive by the Bulldogs, capped by Tyler Foster's 4-yard touchdown with nine seconds left, kept the Tigers from bringing the Victory Bell back to Massillon.

"The whole game, we weren't giving up at all," said senior co-captain Alex Winters, who himself overcame the adversity of a knee injury as a sophomore against McKinley to come back and score a pair of touchdowns, including the one that gave Massillon a 20-16 lead.

"We wanted to win and we were determined to get that bell," Winters added. "At the end of the game, it killed us, but we played with heart, just like coach Hall says. We are a team that has heart. We played with that, and we played the best we could."

That game may have also served as a microcosm of the Tigers' season. For it seemed as if every time Massillon got knocked down, it seemed to

rise up again.

A 1-point loss to GlenOak in Week 2? The Tigers turned around to rout Maumee by 34.

A disheartening loss to Steubenville in Week 9? The Tigers came back with the effort and performance they showed against McKinley.

"I think they've kind of displayed that all year," Hall said after Tuesday's meeting. "Undersized, for the most part in every game, but they brought it every day. Like I've said before, they came to practice every day and worked hard.

"They weren't a bunch of complainers. They really bought into the whole thing. It's just a couple games we fell short. Our kids never quit in anything."

Seniors leave their mark on program

BY CHRIS EASTERLING
chris.easterling@indeonline.com

MASSILLON As the chill of the night — and a too-early offseason's arrival — began to engulf Massillon's football team Saturday night, the Tigers gathered together in the west end zone of Arlin Field. As they knelt on the fake-grass field, head coach Jason Hall had his seniors stand up in front of the rest of their teammates.

As those seniors, most red-eyed with still-fresh tears after the season-ending loss to Whitmer, rose up, Hall bluntly told the rest of the Tigers that those seniors comprised the best senior class he had ever coached. And with those words, those seniors slowly walked away from their football family and toward the waiting embraces of their own families.

Yet, the impact those seniors made on the Massillon football program figures to linger for a long while. At least, that's what those seniors are hoping as they try to turn the page on a season that ended two weeks too early in their minds.

"What the underclassmen picked up off of us is the legacy for us," senior linebacker Kentrell Taylor said after the final Touchdown Club meeting on Tuesday at the Eagles 190. "We worked hard. We left it all out on the field. We didn't give people the option to say we didn't do it because we didn't have the work ethic or any of that stuff. We just gave it our all and came up short."



INDEPENDENT KEVIN WHITLOCK

■ Massillon senior wide receiver/defensive back Brody Tonn says a few words after accepting the Bob Commings Hard Nose Award from the Touchdown Club on Tuesday at Eagles 190. Tonn helped the Tigers to an 11-2 record and a pair of victories against McKinley this year.

SENIORS

CONTINUED FROM B-1

Two games into the season, some may have wondered whether even a run to Week 13 was in the cards. After opening with a rout of Buchtel, the Tigers played a mistake-filled game at GlenOak, eventually falling short by two points.

Massillon wouldn't be faced with a similar situation for the rest of the regular season. In fact, it wouldn't be until last week's regional final against Whitmer that the Tigers faced any sort of significant uphill battle in the second half.

And the root of that drive which led them on a 10-game win streak — winning games by an average of 24.2 points a contest in that stretch — and an 11-2 final record sprung from the visitor's locker room at GlenOak.

"In the locker room after the game, we were pretty distraught over the loss, especially with that becoming such, like, a rivalry," said senior receiver/cornerback Brody Tonn, who received the Bob Commings Hardnose Award from the Touchdown Club. "But we said, after that game, to go 15 weeks, you don't have to be 15-0. I think that clicked with a lot of guys. We got on a roll. Obviously, we wanted to play Dec. 1 (in the state championship game), but it was a great ride."

"Not a lot of teams have beat McKinley twice, so that was huge. We got to play in the regional final ... against a great team like Toledo Whitmer. Beating teams like Fitch, St. V, Steubenville."

MASSILLON SENIOR
BRODY TONN

It certainly was for Massillon. The Tigers handed three different teams their first loss of the season — Maumee (Week 3), Steubenville (Week 5) and Austintown Fitch (Week 7) — while beating four playoff teams in the regular season, including a St. Vincent-St. Mary team that will play in a Division III state semifinal at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium on Saturday. "It really turned out to be a great schedule," senior quarterback Kyle Kempt said. "We played in all those big games. I can picture a lot of great things that happened during the season."

Then there was the ultimate crowning achievement for the Tigers. After losing three in a row in the regular

season — and two straight overall — to archrivals McKinley, Massillon vanquished the Bulldogs in an emotional Week 10 win at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium.

The game ended with players, coaches and fans all swarming the field.

"I've never experienced that before," senior receiver/cornerback Gareon Conley said. "The 'T-I-G,' 'E-R-S' chants screaming from one side of the stadium to the other. That was the best atmosphere ever."

Then, like adding extra toppings to a sundae, the Tigers went out two weeks later and ended McKinley's season in the regional semifinals, becoming just the second team to ever sweep both the regular season and playoff meetings between the two rivals. The second win over the Bulldogs would prove to be the final win of their Tiger careers for those seniors.

And on Tuesday, those seniors took another opportunity to reflect on the ride of their football-playing lives.

"Not a lot of teams have beat McKinley twice, so that was huge," Tonn said. "We got to play in the regional final at a great stadium in Mansfield at Arlin Field against a great team like Toledo Whitmer. Beating teams like Fitch, St. V, Steubenville.

"It was a great season, overall. Obviously, we didn't get to play in Week 15, but it was still great."

Touchdown Club 2013

Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club
TOUCHDOWN CLUB



2013

Name

Mel Herncane
President

wednesday

Hardnose Book

November 20, 2013



INDEPENDENT KEVIN WHITLOCK

■ Massillon football player Lyron Wilson makes a few comments to the Massillon Touchdown Club after he was awarded the 2013 Hard Nose Award. Head coach Jason Hall stands next to him with the trophy.

2014 Touchdown Club
Membership Card - Jeff
Bricker, Chairman

Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club
TOUCHDOWN CLUB



2014

Gary Vogt
Name

Jeff Bricker
Chairman

2015 Touchdown Club
Membership Card - Ron
Thornberry, Chairman

Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club
TOUCHDOWN CLUB



2015

Name

Ron Thornberry
Chairman

2014

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 The Independent

Hardnose

TOUCHDOWN CLUB HONOREE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

■ Jeff Bricker (left) presents the Bob Commings Hardnose Award to Massillon running back JD Crabtree as selected by the Massillon Touchdown Club. Crabtree finished the season with 1,455 yards rushing on 246 carries with 21 touchdowns, all team highs.

Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club
TOUCHDOWN CLUB



2016

Name _____

Bill Brown
Chairman

2016 Touchdown Club Membership
Card - Bill Brown Chairman

Thursday,
November 10, 2016

Hardnose Book



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hard Nose Award winner

■ Massillon senior Austin Jasinski stands with Touchdown Club president Bill Brown (left) and head coach Nate Moore after receiving the Bob Commings Hard Nose Award during the club's final meeting of the season Tuesday. The award is voted on weekly by the club membership, based upon who epitomized the virtues of toughness and going hard every play.

2017 Touchdown Club

Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club
TOUCHDOWN CLUB



2017

Gary Vogt
Name

Matt Keller
Chairman

President

Matt Keller

Touchdown Club Book

MASSILLONTIGERS.COM

Powered by The Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club



HOME / NEWS / 2017 HARDNOSE AWARD GOES TO JAMIR THOMAS

Search

2017 Hardnose Award Goes To Jamir Thomas

by Don Engelhardt | Nov 28, 2017 | News



The Touchdown Club annually presents the Bob Commings Hardnose Award to a deserving Massillon Tiger football player, emulating one that plays hard, hits hard and well represents his team. Bob Commings was a very successful coach for the Tigers from 1969 to 1973, compiling a record of 43-6-2, including Massillon's last state championship (1970). His 1972 team qualified for Ohio's first ever state playoff game. Commings departed following the 1973 season to become head coach of the University of Iowa and later coached at GlenOak High School, for which their field was later named.

<http://massillontigers.com/2017/11/28/2017-hardnose-award-goes-jamir-thomas/>

11/29/2017



Jamir Thomas Accepts the 2017 Hardnose Award

The selection of the deserving player is based on a weekly accumulation of votes cast by the members of the Touchdown Club at their Tuesday meetings. This year's award winner is Jamir Thomas. Just a junior, he joins a stellar list of past recipients, including John Mulbach (Ohio State), David Whitfield (Ohio State), Charles Danzy (NFL coach), Chris Spielman (Ohio State), Shawn Crable (Michigan) and Brian Gamble (Illinois/Ashland)

Thomas was slated to play this season on defense almost exclusively at linebacker. But due to an early unforeseen depletion of running backs, he was thrust into the primary offensive position. According to Massillon Head Coach Nate Moore, Jamir

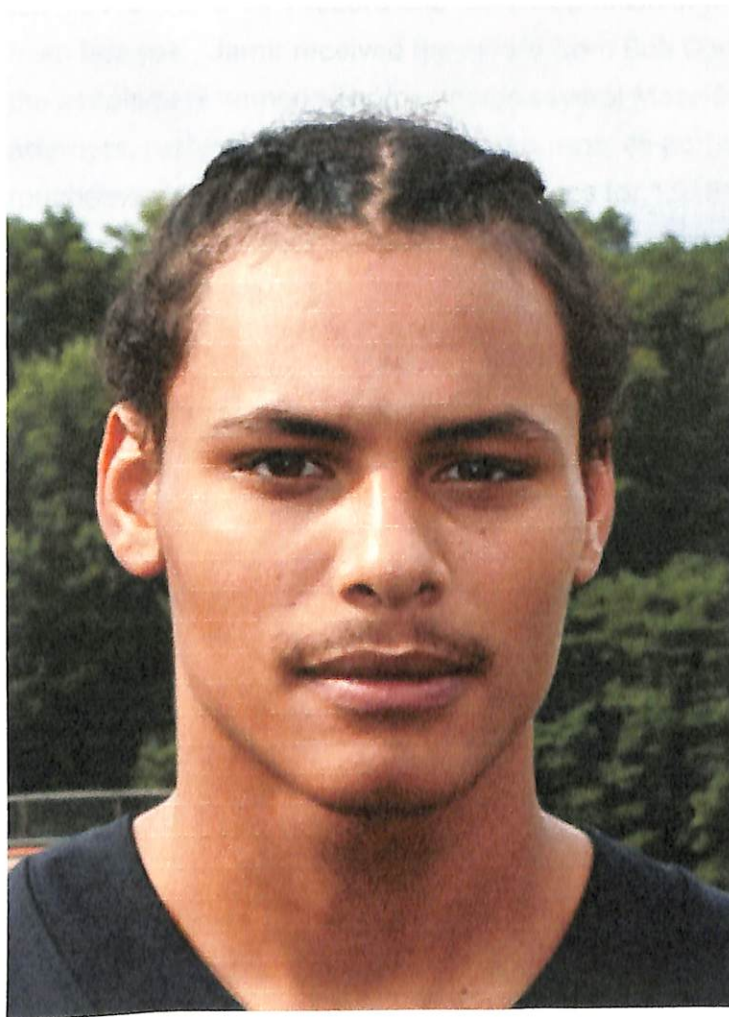
readily accepted the change and was prepared to do anything he could to help the Tigers be successful. His performance was more than was expected, eventually being named First-Team All-District at the position, and helped his team capture the regional title in the playoffs.

Thomas finished the year with 1,506 yards, 3rd among all Massillon players. The yards came on 349 carries, blowing away the previous mark of 253. He also scored 21 touchdowns, which ranks 5th. The 42 carries against Canton McKinley in a 16-15 victory ranks 2nd and the 37 carries against Ashland ranks 5th. The five TDs against Canisius, NY, set a new single-game record and the four touchdowns against Ashland and three against Austintown Fitch are both in the Top 10 of the category. But Jamir also played some defense, recording 22 solo tackles and 10 assists in a part-time effort.

Congratulations to Jamir Thomas.

Jamir Thomas Receives Touchdown Club Hardnose Award

by Don Engelhardt | Dec 4, 2018 | News



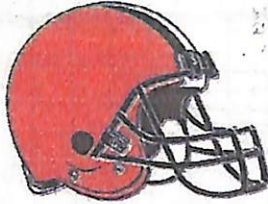
At the end of each season, the Touchdown Club honors one of the players with the "Bob Commings Memorial Hardnose Award." That player would have received the most votes from among weekly tallies taken by the club members. Past players honored include John Mulbach (Ohio State), David Whitfield (Ohio State), Charles Danzy (NFL coach), Chris Spielman (Ohio State), Shawn Crable (Michigan) and Brian Gamble (Illinois/Ashland).

Bob Commings was a very successful coach for the Tigers from 1969 to 1973, compiling a record of 43-6-2, including Massillon's last state championship (1970) and qualification for Ohio's first ever state playoff games (1972). Commings departed following the 1973 season to become head coach of the University of Iowa and later coached at GlenOak High School, for which their field was later named.

This year's hardnose award winner was Jamir Thomas, the record-setting running back that led his team to a 14-1 record and runner-up finish in the state tournament. A repeat winner from last year, Jamir received the award from Bob Commings, Jr., son of the coach for which the accolade is named. Thomas holds several Massillon career records, including rushing attempts, rushing yards, rushing touchdowns, all-purpose yards, points scored and total touchdowns. This year he rushed 261 times for 1,918 yards (7.3 yards per carry) and scored 24 touchdowns. He also played a little defense! Congratulations to Jamir Thomas. Enjoy the photos of the event.

Hardnose Book

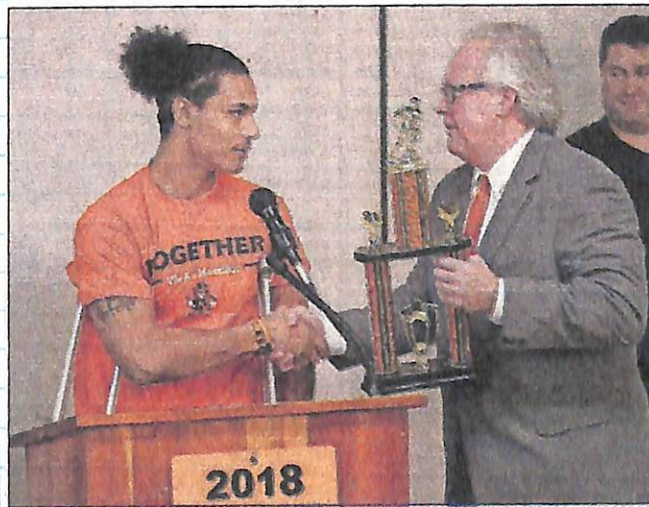
The Independent | IndeOnline.com | Wednesday, December 5, 2018 B1



PLAYOFF RUN?

The Browns still have postseason hopes, but they will need a lot of help to reach that goal.
PAGE B3

MASSILLON HARDNOSE AWARD



INDEPENDENT KEVIN WHITLOCK

■ Massillon senior Jamir Thomas is presented the Bob Commings Hardnose Award by Commings' son, Bob Commings Jr., at the Massillon Tigers Touchdown Club meeting Tuesday. Massillon head coach Nate Moore looks on. The award, which Thomas also won as a junior, is voted on throughout the season by the membership of the Touchdown Club.

2009

**MASSILLON TOUCHDOWN CLUB
GUEST SPEAKER SERIES**

LOCATION: Fraternal Order of Eagles #190

TIME: From 12:00 noon to 1:00pm each Tuesday

PRESIDENT: Jason Byers

[MWHS is Massillon Washington High School]

October 13---Scott Buchanan (Run time—33:43)

1979 Graduate with Bachelor in Civil Engineering

College football official for 32 years

10 of his 32 years are as Big Ten football official

Has worked in 7 football Bowl games

October 20---Larry Harper (Run time—35:33)

1971 MWHS Graduate

Miami of Ohio Graduate

Played football on MWHS 1970 State Championship team

Business executive with companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Poloroid, SE Johnson,

Warner Brothers, and NIKI

Flew in from his home in California to speak at the TD Club luncheon

at **October 27---Earle Bruce** (Run time—34:33) *↖*

Head Football Coach *of* MWHS for two years (1964/65) with record *of* 20-0-0

Has total record as head coach at Salem, Sandusky, Massillon of 82-12-3

Became assistant coach under head coach Woody Hayes at Ohio State in 1966

Became Ohio State Head Coach in 1979

High School

A Video Production by Ron Prunty for:
The Massillon Booster Club Football Museum

2009 TD CLUB GUEST SPEAKERS DVD #2 of 4
Scott Buchanan—Larry Harper—Earle Bruce