

The CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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ATHLETIC NOTES

Washington high 19, Chemawa 0, was the result of our first football game of the 1928 season. With but one man from the squad of last season present for practice, and with but seven days to round into shape, our mole-skinners put up a real battle against the Portland high school champs and held them scoreless through the first half. In the second Washington's backfield broke into the open for three long runs, and each one ended in a touchdown. The following Saturday our team went back to Portland and turned in a win over the boys from Benson Tech. Benson started the game with speed and power and scored early in the second quarter after our receiver juggled a punt that they recovered and turned into a score. At the end of the half the score was 6 to 0 against us. Our fighting spirit dominated Benson in the third and fourth quarters and a forward pass after a criss-cross from Joe Alexander to George Meachem tied the score. Our second touchdown came as the result of playing heads-up football. Our linemen went forward after a punt and a terrific tackle caused a Benson ball-carrier to fumble and Joe Alexander scooped it up and raced 25 yards for our second score. In this game our team showed much "fight" and "will to do," which was largely responsible for this well-earned victory. The final score was Chemawa 12, Benson 6.

On September 29 Medford high, thrice state champions, trounced us 39 to 6. We say trounced because it is in keeping with the score, not because the game was so one-sided. At half time the score stood 13 to 6 and our eleven was going strong and even looked superior, but suddenly our back field collapsed and allowed themselves to be passed over and after a couple of successful ones our linemen made the glaring mistake of dropping back to reinforce against passes and the result was that Medford, in the last quarter, ran and passed almost at will.

Two weeks later we went into the Albany game very much crippled and the contest resulted in a 6 to 6 tie. On a half dozen occasions our team carried the ball almost for the length of the field, only to lose it on downs or by a fumble in the scoring zone. Francis Ross, speedy right half, had a big day and broke away for several long runs. His inability to dodge and reverse the field kept him from scoring on each of these pretty runs. Albany's score came in the last quarter after we were penalized for tackling a fair catch. The penalty put the ball within twelve inches of the goal line, which of course, should not have been, and on the fourth attempt Albany squeezed the ball over. That is the result of the games played so far.

Only five lettermen from last year reported and to fill the seven vacant places can hardly be done in one or two seasons, or maybe three, for except our first eleven men all are just

youngsters who have not had the experience of "kid" football. But with willing hands the team is slowly rounding into an eleven that resembles a football team. Daily the squad develops more of the "will to do" and possibly before the season is over they will turn in a good account of themselves.

George Meachem is the only veteran end playing that position. Eldred George, his running mate last year, has been switched to center to take care of that important post. Joe Alexander is our other representative at end. Joe is brand new and inexperienced, but is a determined worker. So far our ends have not done any shining work, but since the first games are in the past and they have had a touch of the real stuff, we hope to see the work of the ends stand out.

Our tackles have begun to find themselves. Captain Roy Peratrovich and Ernest Brunoe have been a pillar of strength on the defense, but a little slow in blocking on the offense. Friday at Albany they looked real effective. Joe Peratrovich and Isaac Curley, guards, also show signs of coming along. This marks Curley's first year and so far he has held the edge because of his size, but is going to be hard pressed by a young fellow who is also in a football suit for the first time, but he certainly does not look nor feel out of place, and that boy is John Whitegrass. John's big asset lies in his ability to follow the ball and get through the line. However, the speed of this young fellow might mean the waking up of our husky guard, who smacked 'em plenty at Albany. Isaac also is a little slow in pulling out and finding his place in the interference and then doing business after he gets there.

Eldred George is playing a good game defensively at center. Just yet he is having trouble keeping the ball off the ground on his passes in punt formation, but considering this is his first attempt he is doing well.

Julian Smith is our quarterback. Julian is a chap of about seventeen snows and is taking his first fling at the game. Though "Buck" is somewhat slow on his feet he will be really effective if he can develop a little speed, for he has not made many mistakes in the choice of his plays.

Our backfield is composed of Francis Ross, half back; Clifford Meachem, fullback; James Oliver, halfback; and Warren Wilder, halfback; they round out our list of ball carriers, and all are playing their first year as regulars. Their inability to dodge, pivot, and reverse the field has been their hindrance in getting across the goal line so far this fall. They are through and away repeatedly, but have not been able to elude the secondary defense. Against Albany Ross broke loose no less than six times for long dashes, but was finally checked because he was not elusive. However, we expect to see more of that kind of football from our ball toters from now on.

So far this season we have had but one home game and that one was against Franklin high's second team with our second team. Our youngsters held the much heavier Franklin boys to a 20 to 0 score until the last quarter, when Franklin intercepted a pass for a touchdown and raced around the end for a 70-yard run for another. Last week the Willamette freshmen played here. With three regulars out and no replacements with any size or experience our team went into the game woefully weak. Clifford Meachem is still out and alternate, Peter McClusky, is not able to play. George Meachem is still hobbling about with a sprained ankle and Francis Ross is out indefinitely with an injured foot. However, a team with a fighting heart and determination is hard to lick, so the green cappers had better not look for too easy a game.

A junior and senior football league has been organized and that takes care of almost every boy who wants to get into the game, and to date several good games have been played. With the football league and the gymnasium in operation everyone comes in for plenty of exercise. So far the juniors defeated the seniors 6 to 0, the sophomores trampled over the freshmen 13 to 0, and the seventh graders whitewashed the eighth graders 13 to 0.