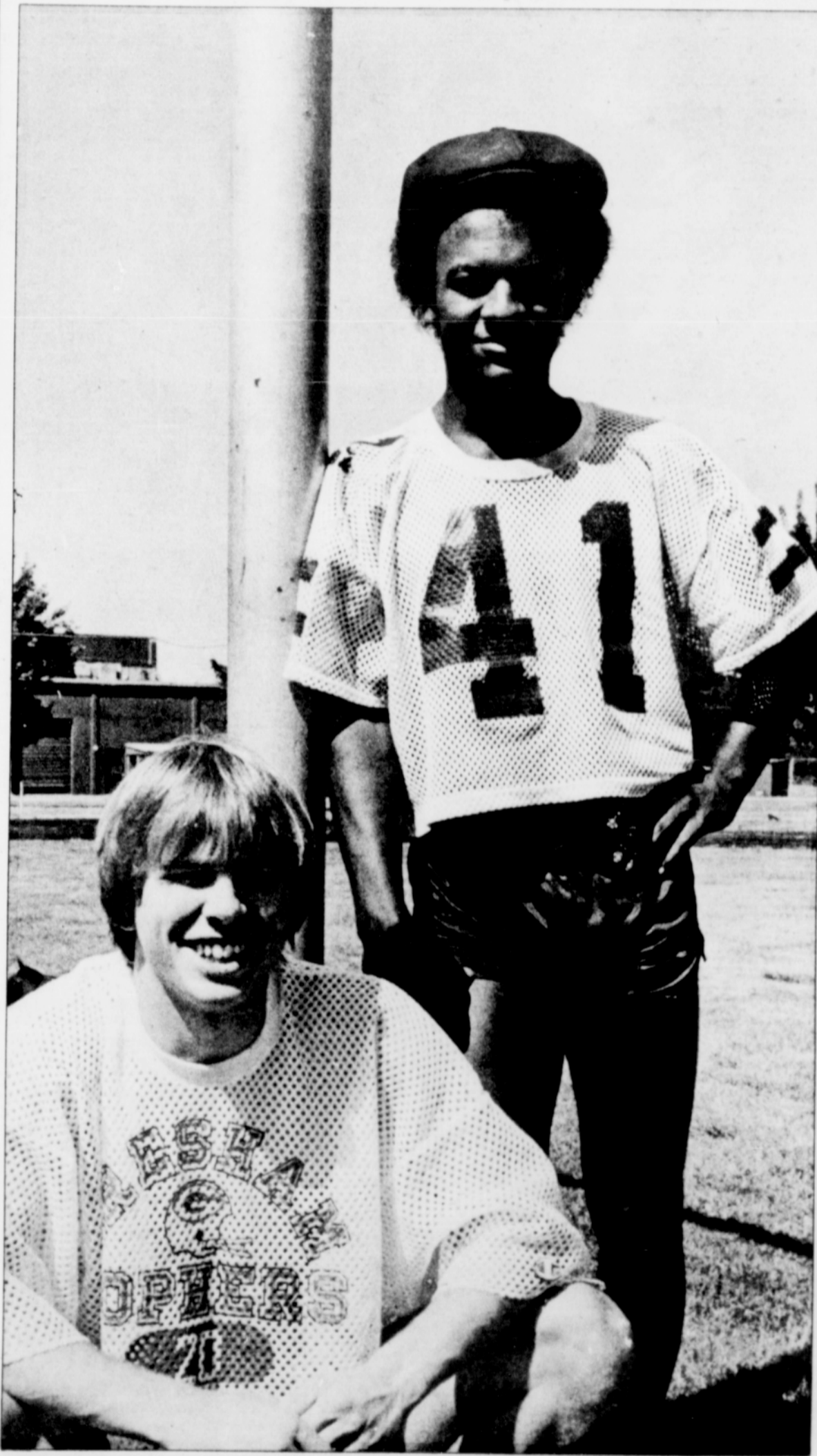


PROFILE

Some- thing is wrong here



Not exactly two of a feather, but close, are Mike Austin (left) and Melvin Renfro.

Hmmm, just a second, please. This just doesn't jibe. Let's review the facts:

Fact: Melvin Renfro is a senior at Reynolds High School and Mike Austin a senior at Gresham.

Fact: Both are tailbacks on their respective football teams and are probably the top two returning runners in the Wilco League.

Fact: Both also play defensive back, Renfro full-time, Austin part-time.

Fact: Both also compete for their respective track teams when spring rolls around.

In Fact: Both are long jumpers, Austin the best in the state last year and Renfro third best.

Conclusion: With all the competition that goes on between these two they must really hate each other's face. But here is where the dang thing gets all screwy. The fact is, Renfro and Austin are friends — good friends; much too good friends for a couple of guys who spend so much of their time going at each other's throat.

It's true. Check this out: "Mike's a good guy," Renfro says. Now this: "Melvin's a good guy," Austin says.

Jeez, they even talk the same. Put them together like this — Austin-Renfro — and they make an expensive-sounding car. If a person didn't know better, he might think these guys were clones. But he'd be wrong. Because as similar as Austin and Renfro are, they also are completely different. Still following?

Each is the antithesis of the other. Renfro is the quiet type. "I like to be called mellow," he says. That's good, because it really is the only word to describe him. Look it up in the dictionary. There's a picture of Melvin. "I can't get really rowdy for something and start screaming. I just can't do that."

Austin, who is about as un-mellow as they come, can. "I'm kind of a hype," he says. And he has the bruises to back up his claim. Last year Austin's jabs so infuriated his teammates playing defense in practice they installed what was called the "Austin Pursuit." Enough said.

Off the field, the two have their own completely separate identities but on the field they are both going after the same thing. They have only played each other once in a varsity football game, that in last year's Wilco League opener, a game Renfro likes to recall and one Austin would just as soon forget. Reynolds won.

Melvin recalls a key play of the game in typical Renfro fashion — "We tackled him (Austin) for a fumble," he says — and Austin in his typical "hype" style. "I broke loose in the secondary and I saw Melvin and Chris Eischen. I had two choices; I could go out of bounds or I

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