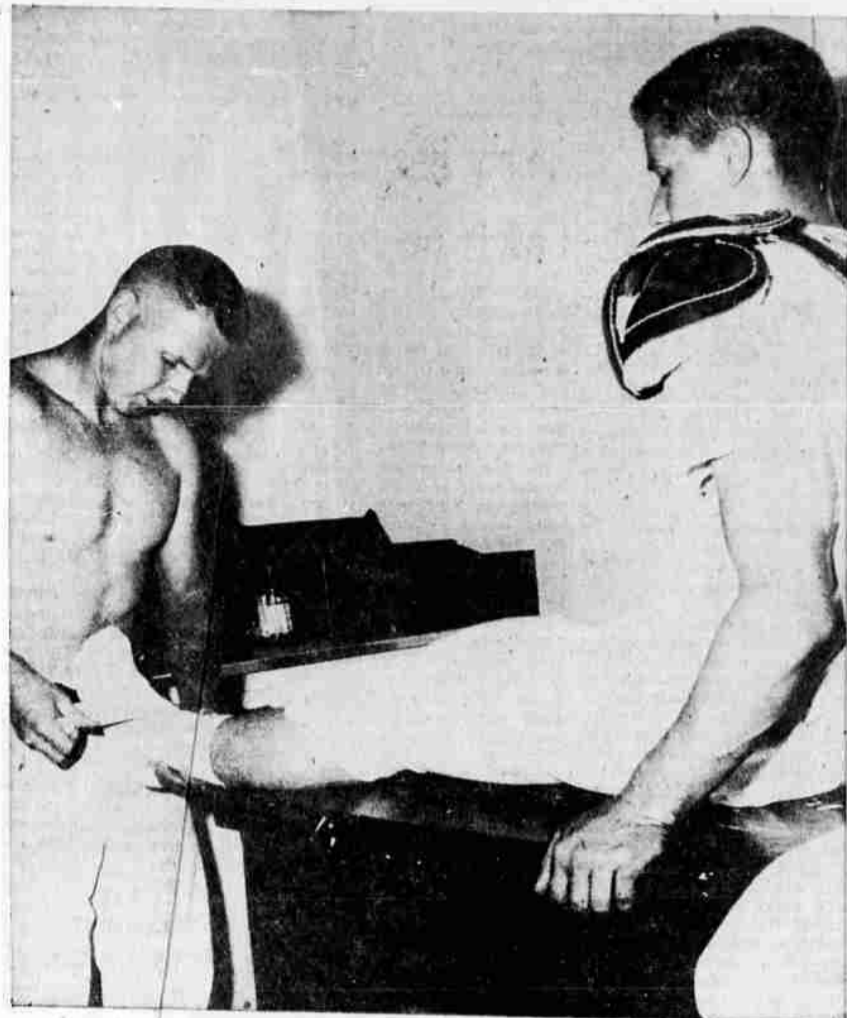


'King' Football Moves Into Sports Spotlight



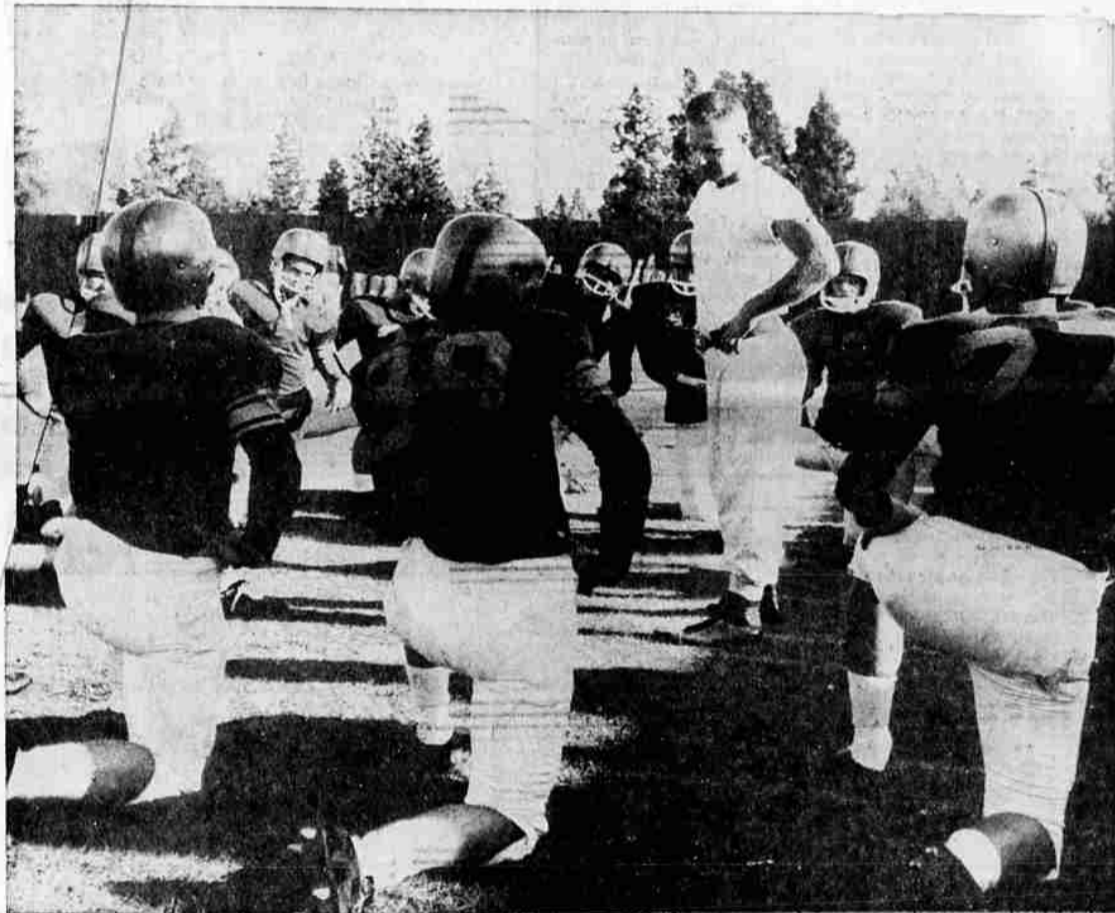
TAPING ANKLES IS IMPORTANT
Coach Jack Lutz, footballer Mel Kroker



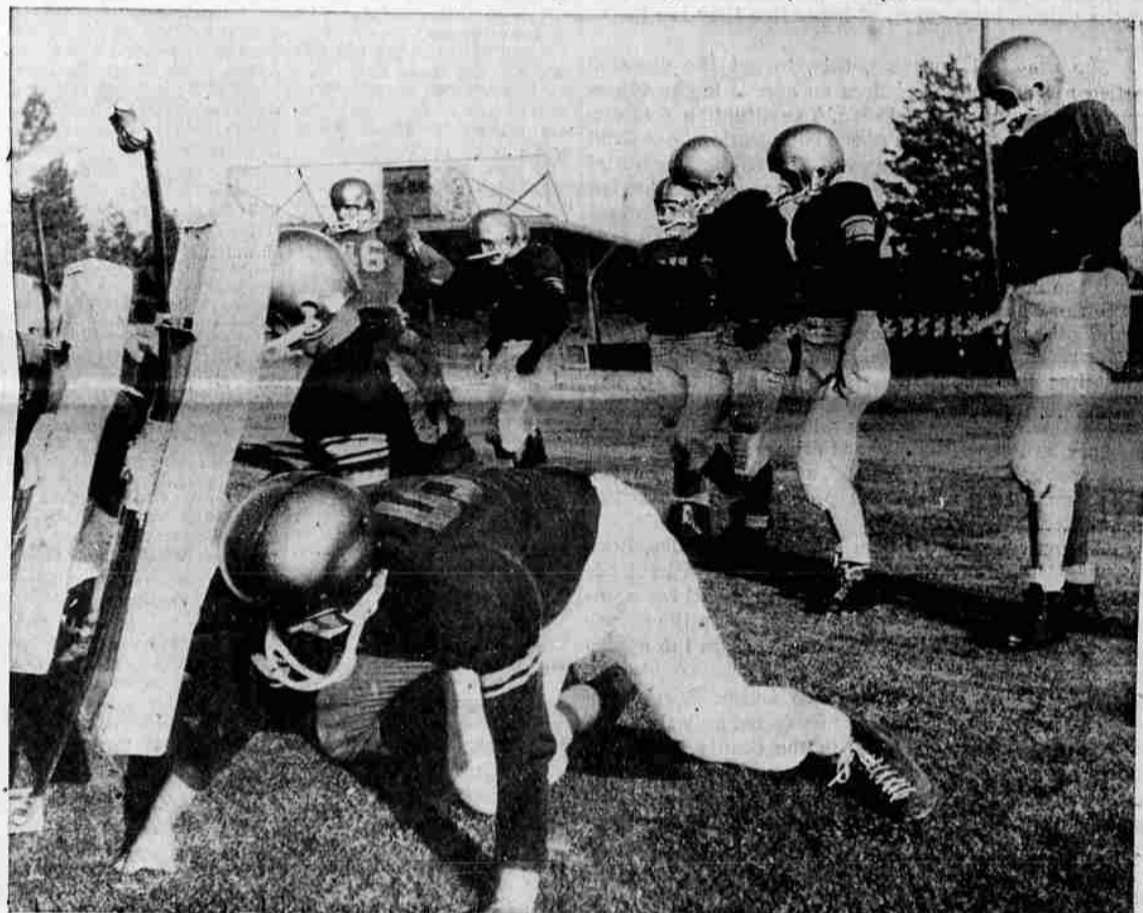
FOOTBALL IS HARD WORK
Dick Geser watches exercises



TRADING BASEBALL CAP FOR GRID HELMET
Legionnaire Gary Joanis ready for new sport



NOW HERE'S THE WAY WE'LL DO IT
Uniformed Bend footballers hear the word



LAVA BEAR HOPEFULS PRACTICE BLOCKING
Gridders learn how to shoulder the burden



COACH WINBIGLER TELLS FAMILY GOODBYE
Not really leaving, just away from home a lot

It's About Time For First Clash

Football is much more than a sport to some fans. It's a state of mind. Grid buffs get through other seasons with the thought that, eventually, it will be the "right" season.

The calendar year starts with basketball and bowling, swings into baseball and other summer activities, then, finally, it is September and time for the single-wing, the split-T, the long, looping kick and all the excitement which is packed into the game called football.

Leaves start to change color, one blanket isn't quite enough for comfortable sleeping and the true fan knows the time is almost now.

Players become anxious, too. They talk it up, anticipating the crowds, the noise, the feeling which comes with a well-done play. But first, before the team can trot onto the field for the season-opener, comes a lot of work.

Gridders must have physical exams and take care of other pre-season details. There are the working uniforms, as opposed to game outfits, to struggle into.

Plans have to be made by coaches and team captains.

The boys are usually in pretty fair condition, but some need to melt off a few pounds, improve breathing, strengthen the legs.

Exercises, running, eating only the right kinds of food, body contact, bumps and bruises and lots of work are on the schedule.

But the athlete can grin and bear it because it's almost time for the first game and maybe, just maybe, he's slated for a starting position.

(Bulletin Photos by Bob Glassow. Text by Bob Barber)



PLANNING FOR THE COMING SEASON
Co-captains Tom Wade, Jeff Ward, with Lutz