

High Football Team Closes Season With 5 Games Won

(Eldore Johnson)

The football team had a very successful season compared to the season of the last three years. In 1922, G. U. H. S. won 1 game, lost 6, and tied 1; in 1923, they won 4 games and lost 5; and last year they only won 1 out of 8 games. This year the team came out ahead 5 victories and 4 defeats, and 1 tie. The second team played 4 games and won all of them.

The schedule and result of games of first team:

- Oct. 4. Gresham 13, Benson 2d 0.
- Oct. 11. Gresham 21, Benson 2d 0.
- Oct. 17. Gresham 7, Grant 2d 7.
- Oct. 24. Gresham 20, Grant 2d 0.
- Oct. 30. Gresham 11, Milwaukie 0.
- Nov. 6. Gresham 6, Estacada 14.
- Nov. 11. Gresham 6, Molalla 14.
- Nov. 20. Gresham 6, West Linn 20.
- Nov. 26. Gresham 0, Woodburn 28.
- Dec. 1. Gresham 25, Alumni 0.
- Total—Gresham 145, Opponents 99.

The schedule and result of games of second team:

- Gresham 2d 42, Parkrose 0.
- Gresham 2d 20, Parkrose 8.
- Gresham 2d 6, West Linn 2d 0.
- Gresham 2d 12, West Linn 2d 6.
- Total—Gresham 80, Opponents 14.

This makes a grand total of 225 points for Gresham against 113 for its opponents which is a good record.

When the first call came at the beginning of the year, 30 spirited boys reported. These were: Eldore Johnson, captain and fullback; Frank Smith, quarterback; Clinton Chalker, left halfback; Harvey Brown, left end and half back; Melville Richey, right end; Harvey Anderson, right tackle; and Eldore Johnson, center. Frank Smith, Clinton Chalker, and Harvey Anderson were two-year lettermen, and the rest had had only one year's experience. With these lettermen and several promising players, the prospect looked for a very good season for Gresham H. S.

After the boys had their muscles worked loose, Coach Kruger began giving them the fundamentals of football. Some of the inexperienced players who showed up good were, Earl Whetzell, center and tackle; Dale Altman, Lloyd Salisbury, John Fleming, and Charles Tallman, guards; Arnold Rogers, fullback tackle; Ralph Ellsworth, tackle; Ed. Mink, Linden Lunday, Charles Morey, ends; Orville Johnson, quarterback and end; Horace Whilon, halfback; Harvey Bjur, halfback and end. Over 25 men reported regularly every night so there was keen competition for positions on the teams. After four weeks of practice the squad journeyed down to Portland to play the Benson second squad. The game ended in a 13-0 victory for Gresham. The ball was in Gresham's possession practically all during the game. The first touchdown came as a result of a criss-cross on the Benson 15-yard line with Smith going over the line. The try for point failed. A few minutes later Chalker went over for the second touchdown on the try for point by a place kick. The Benson alibi was that half of their real second team was playing down at Beaverton. They promised to bring all of their beginners out to Gresham the next Friday. On October 11, the team made its first appearance before the student body and local fans. They came through with another victory over the Benson seconds, the score being 21-0. The Gresham team had improved considerably and did not even think of letting Benson cross the goal line.

The next Friday the team again journeyed to Portland, this time to meet the Grant second team. Gresham marched up to Grant's second yard line but lacked the punch to put the ball across. Grant received the ball on downs and again Gresham marched for the goal line only to be held for downs when in the scoring zone. The ball seasawed up and down the field both teams unable to score. Late in the third quarter Brown received a pass on Grants 40 yard line and ran for a touchdown. Whilon converted the goal with a place kick. In the beginning of the fourth quarter McKinney fumbled the snap back from the center, and a Grant man recovered and ran 50 yards with good interference for a touchdown. On the try for point Grant missed the goal, but Gresham was offside so Grant had another chance to try and succeeded putting the ball between the cross bars and tying the score. The Gresham boys came back and started for another touchdown. With passes and line bucks and a few end runs, they finally came within scoring distance, with only 15 seconds of play and 10 yards to go for a touchdown, everybody was excited. The snap back was wild as on the 30 yard line.

The next Friday Grant seconds came out to Gresham only to be defeated by a 20-0 score. Gresham again had improved and had the Grant men guessing who had the ball. Anderson starred for Gresham on defense when he repeatedly tackled the Grant men behind their own line of scrimmage. Lloyd Salisbury also made his only score of the season when he broke through the Grant line to break up a punt and fell on the ball behind the goal line for a touchdown.

The games so far had only been practice games and the first regular game was with Milwaukie. The score at the end of the first half was 6-0 in favor of Gresham. After a little confidential talk from the coach, the boys went back and piled up the score to 41-0. Brown of Gresham was the star of the game with his long runs. At one time he received the kick off on the 20 yard line and ran clear across the field until he came to the side lines; then without any interference he ran along the side line to Milwaukie's two yard line where a Milwaukie man finally stopped him. In one play the ball went over for a touchdown. A few minutes later Brown made another spectacular run when he caught a pass on a dead man play and ran 60 yards for a touchdown. A Milwaukie man tackled him just as he went over the line. Salisbury on the line starred for Gresham on defense when he went through the Milwaukie line and tackled the Milwaukie players for a loss. He used the neck-tackle at first but finally got down to their knees. Up to this time Whilon had completed 12 kicks out of 15 tries for point after touchdown.

The next Friday Gresham met its closest rival—Estacada. The team as yet had not tasted defeat and had been scored on only once. The team was raring to go but Dame Fortune was against them. Two days before the game, Floyd McKinney became ill, as he was mainstay of the team with his line plunging on defense and backing up the line on defense the morale of the team was greatly lowered. The players did not have the confidence they would have had, had "Mac" been in first-class condition. Although the boys were playing hard, they lacked their usual spirit and fight. They scored first in the second quarter. Estacada came back and made the score 7-6 before the end of the half. In the third quarter with the ball on Gresham's 40-yard line and 10 yards to go a fourth down, Smith dropped back to punt. Johnson made a high snap which Smith was unable to stop till it reached the 20-yard line where it was given to Estacada. The Gresham line was unable to hold the Estacada team and in a few plays Estacada was ahead 14-6. Neither team scored during the rest of the game and Gresham had its first defeat of the season. The largest crowd that had ever witnessed a football game was present about 1500 strong. After the game members of both teams were treated to hot dogs and chocolate by the student body.

On Armistice Day, the team went over to Molalla for the annual game with that team. The field which was plowed last fall was a sea of soft mud and water. The Gresham boys were not used to a muddy ball and consequently were at a disadvantage. In the first quarter Molalla had possession of the ball practically all of the time and managed to score 10 points by a field goal and a touchdown. The second and third quarters were scoreless with both teams evenly matched. Gresham had a chance to score in the third quarter when Eldore Johnson intercepted a pass on the 15-yard line of Gresham but lacked punch to put it over. In the fourth quarter by a series of end runs and line bucks Gresham won a touch-down. Gresham was going for its touchdown and was within the scoring zone when the final whistle blew. This was the second defeat straight that Gresham had suffered. Horace Whilon collapsed after the game and had to be taken home in a special machine, otherwise all the members of the team came out uninjured.

The next game was with West Linn at Gresham and Gresham again tasted defeat. This time they were defeated by a decisive score of 30-6. West Linn scored 6 points in the first quarter and Gresham came back with a touchdown to tie the score. After that West Linn opened up a passing attack with Vedder doing the passing and doing the receiving. Gresham was unable to break up the passes which led to their defeat. In the second quarter Vedder of West Linn made a perfect field goal from the 40-yard line and was given applause by the fans.

On Thanksgiving Day Woodburn came up to Gresham for the annual Turkey-day game. They outweighed the Gresham players 15 pounds to the man and made yardage all through the game. The Gresham team had several good chances to score on passes but the ball was too slippery for the receivers. The final score was 33-0. This was the only game that Gresham did not score in.

The last game of the season was with the Alumni. The high school team celebrated it by giving them a 25-0 drubbing. As this was the last game, Coach Kruger sent in some of the subs in the last part of the game to see what they could do. The game was the muddiest played at Gresham this year and the Alumni were quite at loss with the muddy ball and fumbled frequently. The football team felt satisfied that they had had a successful season.

The second team was made up of the subs of the first team. As there was about 25 players reporting for practice every night there was plenty of material for the second squad. They played four games and won all of them.

Their first game was at Parkrose and they did not have much difficulty in running up the score 28-0 in three quarters. The first team went in the last quarter and scored two touchdowns making the final score 42-0. Bjur of the second squad starred for Gresham with his long end runs. A couple of weeks later the Parkrose team came over to Gresham. They showed a decided improvement and had the Gresham seconds on the defense throughout the first half. Both teams scored a safety which made the score 2-2. At the beginning of the second quarter Coach Kruger sent in the first but Parkrose objected so the second went back to finish their work. They started out with an aerial attack and soon the score was 20-3 in favor of Gresham, but Parkrose was not to be denied touchdown. They came back and before the final whistle blew they had scored a touchdown. The final score was 20-8 in favor of Gresham.

The next game was with West Linn seconds which ended with a 6-0 victory for Gresham. West Linn received the kick off and started a steady march towards our goal. With their back against the goal line the Gresham line held West Linn for downs. West Linn seconds played good football the first half but were unable to score. The second half the Gresham seconds showed a little of the Gresham spirit and scored a touchdown for the only score of the game.

On November 17 the second team went over to West Linn to play another game with the West Linn seconds. The West Linn boys scored a touchdown in the first quarter but after that they did not even threaten to score. The Gresham boys were held from scoring until the fourth quarter. Fighting an uphill battle the Greshamites settled down to win. By a series of long end runs the boys put over two touchdowns to win the game. Bjur and Orville Johnson made some long runs for yardage. The final score was 12-6 for Gresham. This closed the season for the second team with a perfect record.

The players who earned letters were Floyd McKinney, Frank Smith, Clinton Chalker, Horace Whilon, Harvey

Brown, Harvey Anderson, Melville Richey, Dale Altman, Lloyd Salisbury, and Eldore Johnson. All of these will graduate except Clinton Chalker, a junior, and Horace Whilon, a freshman. However, there will be some experienced material from the second team. Harry Bjur and Earl Whetzell lacked half a game of getting their letters. Bjur played right end and half back on the first team and showed very good promise for next year. Whetzell played tackle and center and will be sure to make the team next year.

All through the season our opponents commended us on our clean playing and good sportsmanship. To be commended on these things is worth more than winning all of the games.

The main reason for the success of the team was the efforts of Coach Kruger. He had the confidence of the team and the players played as hard as they could. Another reason for the success this year was the competition for places on the team. The players had to play hard to stay in the game as they knew there was a man on the bench to take their place.

Although practically the whole team will graduate, with the experience the second team has had, and if Coach Kruger is back, Gresham should have a winning team again next year.

Learning.

There was a young woman named Florence, Who for kissing professed great abhorrence. But when she'd been kissed, And found what she'd missed, She cried till the tears came in torrents.



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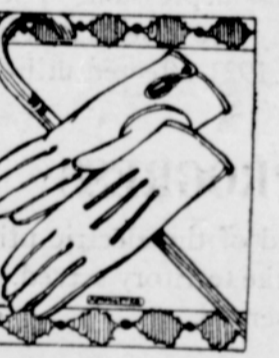
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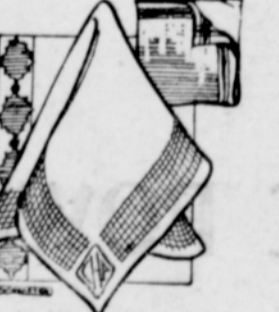
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