

Port Royal High School Football

Football teams representing Port Royal High School, and not entirely composed of students, did not register many victories in 1911, but games played that year signaled the start of the sport.

Although some contests were waged with elevens from Mifflintown and Lewistown, the first game with an official school team resulted in a 0-33 verdict in favor of New Bloomfield Academy (Carson Long - 1911). Later that season, the two teams met again and the Academy also won this second game by a 38-0 score. In 1913, these two squads met once more, and again Port Royal was defeated, this time by a 53-0 count. A game with Newport resulted in a 7-0 score in Newport's favor.

Port Royal dropped football in 1913 until 1926, when it again revived the sport.

Following is a letter written to us from one who was there in the earliest years:

121-Circle Drive
Paramus, N.J.
April 19, 1978

Mr. Gary Klingensmith
Juniata High School
P.O. Box 96
Mifflintown, Pennsylvania 17059

Dear Mr. Klingensmith:

I am very sorry that I do not have any pictures of our football team to share with you nor do I have any idea where you might obtain any. So far as I know, I am as a matter of fact the only surviving member of that team. I have given your questions some thought and am afraid I cannot be of very much help.

However, for what it may be worth, here are a few facts:

So far as I know there was no football team before 1912 when we played nor after 1913, the only other year that we played. The group disbanded when members graduated and found jobs, mostly out of town. We were strictly a scrub team, without uniforms and with no shoulder pads or helmets. For traction we tacked two or three short strips of leather across the sole of each shoe.

You had possession of the ball and could advance as long as you could keep it from touching the ground.

I recall playing only three out-of-town teams; Carson-Long, Mifflin and Yeagertown.

Stoey Groninger played on the team and acted as coach. Other members were: Jim Ritter, Bill Ritter, Burnel Weimer, Bud Welsh, Homer Reynolds, Tom Robison, Bill Runkle, Chester McCormick and me.

I wish you well in writing the history of football in Juniata County.

Yours truly,

Samuel J. Koons

Football was revived in 1926 after a 13 year absence in Port Royal.

1926:

Port Royal was a strong baseball town, its Fred Frankhouse was pitching in the major leagues with the St. Louis Cardinals. In 1926 George Robinson was a student who at that time knew something about how the game of football was played; and with his efforts, along with their coach, the Reverend H. W. Webner, a team was launched.

The school and community showed a keen interest in the sport and new uniforms were purchased for the team.

There were not many students in Port Royal High School from a stand point of the number needed for a strong football program; and many of the students lived a distance from the town with farm chores to look after. Due to these aforementioned facts, football practice was held at lunchtime, and lasted about a half of an hour in duration. Games were played inside the race track at the Fairgrounds.

The team didn't win a game in its first season, but had a true fighting spirit, and fought hard. The team was capably captained by Paul McClure.

1927

In 1927, the second year of this football era, the team was considerably more successful and garnered victories over Newport and Fayette.

The features of the Fayette fray on November fourth was a 45 yard run by Captain Paul McClure, to within a few inches of the goal line which set up the only touchdown of the game. Cecil Palm made many fine tackles, one of which ended in a mud bath along the end of the slippery field. David 'King' Beale was the bulwark in the line, while Bob Zeak and Charles Stutts tackled hard.

According to the yearbook: "Coach Webner and his entire team deserve praise for putting up such fights as they did this year, and we hope the football spirit thus established by these 'Trail-Blazers', will never die in Port Royal High."

1927 PORT ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL SCORES:

Port Royal Independents - 6	Port Royal 0
Mifflintown - 62	Port Royal 0
Fayette - 24	Port Royal 0
Newport - 7	Port Royal 0
Yeagertown - 39	Port Royal 0
Mifflintown - 33	Port Royal 0
Fayette - 0	Port Royal 6
Mifflintown - 26	Port Royal 6
Lewistown Jr. Varsity - 12	Port Royal 0

1928

In 1928, the team was again coached by the Reverend Webner with the captain being Charles Stutts.

Mifflintown had been Port Royal's nemesis, but of noteworthy significance this season was the fact that the scores between these two teams were closer than the previous two years.

Port Royal was unable to register a victory in 1928, but did engage in two scoreless ties with Fayette High School.

Charles Stutts and Glenn Woodward made all of the team's three touchdowns.

1928 PORT ROYAL H.S. SCORES:

Port Royal, 0	Fayette, 0
Port Royal, 0	Mifflintown, 18
Port Royal, 0	Mifflin Fire Co., 27
Port Royal, 0	Fayette, 0
Port Royal, 0	Yeagertown, 36
Port Royal, 7	Mifflin Fire Co., 24
Port Royal, 6	Mifflintown, 18
Port Royal, 7	Alumni, 12

1929

When practice began after the 1929 fair, the Port Royal football squad found that they had lost only one regular through graduation. The number of candidates that year was larger than their previous three years, and through the efforts of Coach Park Gerhart, the team seemed to be ready for the initial game.

The loss of Captain Charles Stutts was keenly felt, but the team found a very capable leader in center Bill Robinson, a fine fullback in Hugh Sarver, and freshman sensation Wendall 'Ace' Henderson.

Mifflintown High School came to Port Royal confident of an easy victory, but when the final whistle blew the score was in favor of P.R.H.S. by a 40-0 count. 'Ace' Henderson was high scorer of the game, aided by the blocking of Hugh Sarver.

1929 PORT ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL SCORES:

Mifflintown, 0	Port Royal, 40
Yeagertown, 6	Port Royal, 6
Lykens, 20	Port Royal, 0
Mifflintown, 12	Port Royal, 12
Newport, 19	Port Royal, 7
Mifflintown, 13	Port Royal, 13

1930

In 1930, the squad came out strong in their new jerseys. John Hertzler took over the chores of Team-Captain and the team was loaded with young football stalwarts.

Port Royal	Opponent
12	Newport 0
0	Yeagertown 25
0	Lewistown 34
0	Burnham 0
25	Tressler Orphan 0
	Home
0	Lykens 14

1931

In 1931, several of Port Royal's top players transferred to Lewistown High School and Port Royal's chances of a fine season was wiped out. From here the Royals football fortunes took a drastic nosedive.

Port Royal	Opponent
6	Yeagertown 2
0	Lewistown 45
0	Burnham 37
6	Millersburg 25
0	Newport 68

1932

Port Royal	Opponent
0	Millersburg 41
0	Newport 12
6	Burnham 26
0	Lewistown 32

1933

In 1933, after the Millersburg Indians had scaled us by a 84-0 count the previous week, we were defeated again by Newport in a 104-0 disaster. This season closed out Port Royal High School's football history.

Port Royal	Opponent
0	Lewistown 95
0	Yeagertown 7
0	Millersburg 84
0	Newport 104

As the years went by a few Port Royal area boys would appear on teams at Juniata Joint High School now and then, until 1968 when the two schools were joined together as Juniata High School.