



APOLLO-RIDGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enriching Education

The mission of the Apollo-Ridge Education Foundation is to enhance and enrich the educational experience of our students by encouraging and supporting the development of innovative programs.

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The Apollo-Ridge School District faces many challenges in educating the students of the district. The most urgent one is the need to continue providing quality educational opportunities for students and the chance to succeed in life.

The Apollo-Ridge Education Foundation was formed to provide concerned individuals with the opportunity to contribute tax deductible, charitable donations to enrich educational programs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Apollo Area Historical Society	A-R Stadium Boosters
Alan Morgan	Glenn Bush Ford
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OWENS FIELD

1919-2010

A LIMITED EDITION PUBLICATION CELEBRATING THE REBIRTH OF OWENS FIELD

LIMITED EDITION

\$5.00 EACH COPY

1926 VANDERGRIFT-APOLLO GAME

By “Guess Who” — Kiskitas 1926

This is not a chronicle of the outstanding plays of that game but a short history of my own personal happenings. Before the game the whole team was encouraged by a number of Apollo rooters to do well. We went into the game with the realization that we were up against a heavier team and had to play low.

I met the officials in the middle of the field and contested the toss with the Vandergrift captain, Potts. He won and elected to receive. I decided to kick at the Vandergrift Sheet and Tin Plate Mill. At about 2:30 the referee blew his whistle and I made a poor kick off to McCombs on the 20 yard line and he came back to the thirty-five. On

the first play about half the Vandergrift team piled on me and the rest did it the next time. After that the same thing happened so often that I didn't mind it. Then before I realized time was passing the whistle for the half was blown. At the half we left the field and sat on the

bench. There Joe told us that we were doing alright and if we held them he was satisfied. My brother, however, thought differently. He came down to the bench and told me I had better score a touchdown — and I hadn't carried the ball the whole game. I should have reminded him of the time he lost to Vandergrift 18-0, but I didn't.

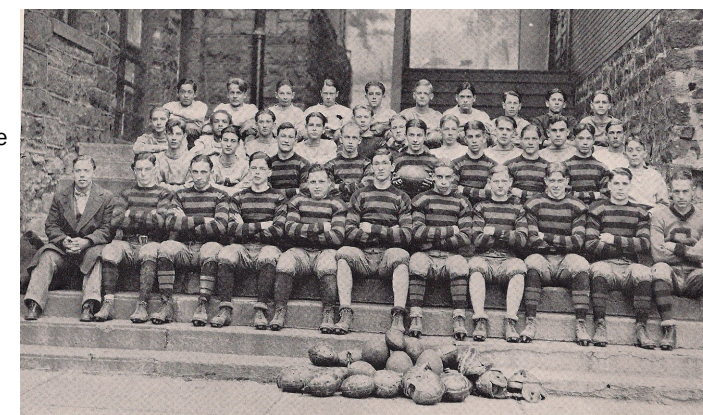
At the beginning of the second half I kicked off again. I made the worst kick I had made all year, but “Johnny Old-house” took the ball on the second bounce for the best play of the game. Vandergrift obtained possession of the ball and made a touchdown in a few plays. The rest of the game was marked by Apollo completing five forward passes but being unable to score. We had oil of cin-

namon on our hands but it was rubbed off and I became cold the last half. The referee used me for a towel to clean the ball on, Vandergrift used me for a pillow, and our team used me for a towel, foot-wiper, and a combination mop and wash-rag. Thus the game ended and a pleasant time was had by all but me.

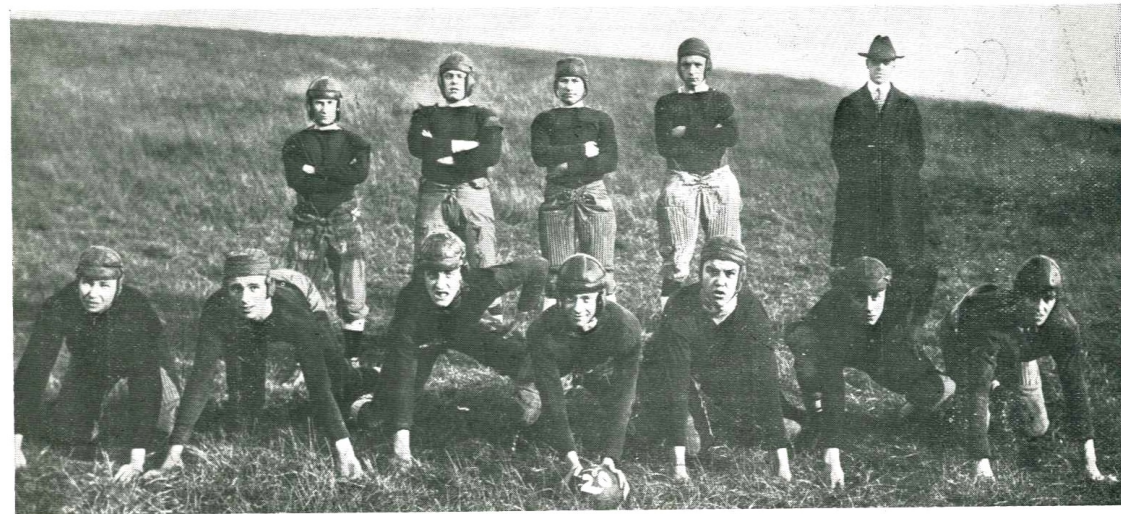


Photo provided by Apollo Historical Society

The parking lot at Owens Grove on November 25, 1926 for one of the first Turkey Day football games pitting Apollo (1926 team shown below) against Vandergrift.



THE 1920's



FOOT BALL TEAM

Back row: Clyde Dentzel, Lee Roy King, Sidney Owens, Dwight Guthrie, Coach Sawyers
Front row: Marland Kneppshield, Doyle Shaffer, Floridan Dodson, Duane Armstrong,
Ira Cunningham, Paul Wolfe, Charles Jones.

KISKITAS – 1921

In the 1921 Kiskitas, the first “Annual” published by the students of Apollo High School, the Vandergrift Game dominated the football news.

TURKEY DAY GAME RIVALRY

According to Alan Morgan, Secretary of the Apollo Area Historical Society, the annual Turkey Day Games with Vandergrift were highly anticipated and well attended, even in the worst conditions.

The Kiskitas, named for the Kiskiminetas River was affectionately dedicated to “*our parents who have enabled us to increase our knowledge by another year of High School training, and to the teachers of our high School.*”

The editorial staff of the Kiskitas thanked the members of the Faculty and Student Body for the “*suitable material*” for the book and the “*generous support of the merchants and business men of Apollo*” for their financial aid.

One Thanksgiving Day game was played in the snow with coal dust lining the field. It wasn't uncommon for the rivals to pelt each other with tomatoes or other projectiles as they made their way to each other's field.

The “Orange and Black” always played the “Blue and White” as the last game of the season. The 1928 game appears to be the first one in which Apollo emerged victorious. An account of the game from that year’s Kiskitas notes that “the game was played in a sea of mud and was hard fought throughout the forty-eight minutes of the actual playing. The parting shot states, “Vandergrift claims a statistical victory, but statistics do not mean as much as touchdowns.”

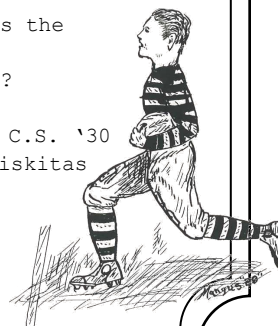
The Question

Thanksgiving is a day to rejoice
Is it or is it not?
A football game is the game of our
choice
Is it or is it not?

A football game enlivens the belles
Does it, or does it not?
A football game entices the yells
Does it, or does it not?

Vandergrift High is the best school
Is it or is it not?
EXCEPTION always proves the
rule
Will it or will it not?

C.S. '33
1929 Kiskitas

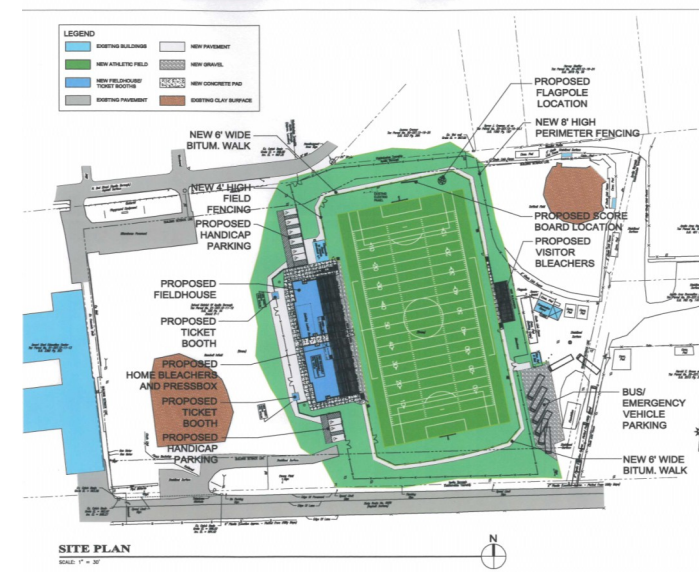


(Continued from page 18) Owens Field Lives On

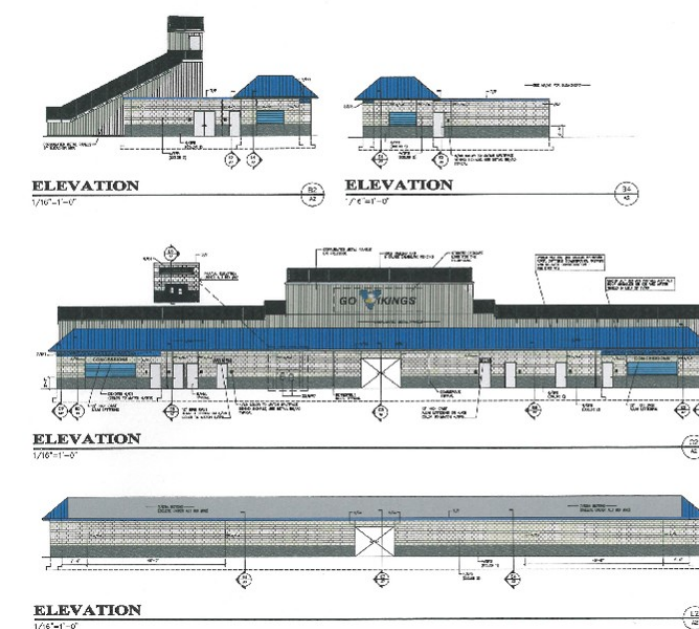
John Mancini, Don Daugherty, Ed Dentzel, Bill Halli, Harold Hilty, Earl McCoullough and Ray "Whiz" White. In 1954, while attending college, I was able to get home often to watch my younger brother, Alexander Gourley, quarterback the Apollo Tiger Football Team.

In 1969, Apollo consolidated with Elders Ridge and the Apollo Tigers became the Apollo-Ridge Vikings. Owens Field lived on.

In 1972 after teaching and coaching in the Hempfield Area School



Site Plans and Elevations for the new facility.



District, I accepted a position in the Armstrong School District. My wife and I and our five children moved to Apollo just two blocks from Owens Field. Our oldest daughter, Dawn, became an Apollo-Ridge cheerleader in 1974. Our oldest son, Joe, began his football career in 1976 as a ninth grade A-R Viking. In 1978 I accepted a coaching position at Apollo-Ridge under Head Coach, Harry Rollinson, serving in that capacity through 1986.

In 1980, our middle daughter, Beth, followed in her sister's footsteps and also became an Apollo-Ridge cheerleader. A year later, our younger daughter, Amy, became a member of the Apollo-Ridge Viking Band. In 1983, our youngest son, Matthew, had his turn as a member of the Apollo-Ridge football team. For all of these years, the Roger Gourley family never missed an Apollo-Ridge football game, home or away.

From 1998 through the present time, my wife and I have watched our grandchildren perform at Owens Field. First in 1998, our grandson Jordan "Joe" Gourley played under Larry Cignetti. From 1999 through 2001, Grant and Zack Gourley were Vikings under Jerry Moore. Our granddaughter Sarah was a member of the A-R marching band.

Presently our two grandsons, Grant and Zack Gourley, are serving on the Apollo-Ridge football coaching staff under John Simon. Our young grandson, Luke, began his football career this fall. All of this activity was, and will be, at Owens Field.

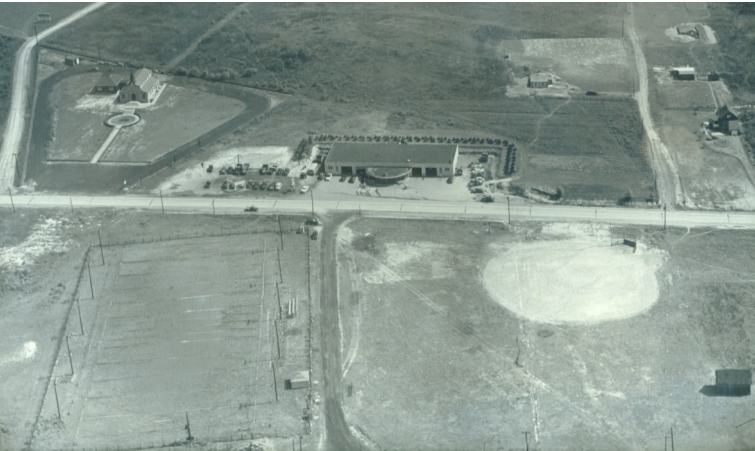
As of this writing, I am watching the renovation of Owens Field with great interest. The western portal of Apollo has been updated with the construction of a new bridge and improvements in the plaza. Now the renovation of Owens Field will do Apollo proud at the eastern portal. I hope the material, workmanship, and design will be of the finest quality.

As a six year old in 1942, I thought Owens Field was a special place. The past sixty-eight year relationship I have had with this field has proved to be a very special place for the Roger Gourley family. I am sure there are many families in the area that can say the same thing. I hope it will continue to be special for many, many years to come.

Owens Field Lives On!

Roger Gourley
September 2010

OWENS FIELD LIVES ON ...



CIRCA 1950



SPRING 2010



JULY 2010

My first recollection of Owens Field was in August 1942. I was six years old. My father moved our family from Sagamore to Apollo. Upon arriving in Apollo, the first thing that came in view was Owens Field. Not the foot-ball field, but the baseball field. Because of my love for baseball, something I learned from my father, I thought this field must be a very special place.

I watched my first football game at Owens Field in the fall of 1942 and continued to attend games with my father through the fall of 1946. Some of the great players of that era were Tom Barringer, Jim Rearic, Sam Mangus, "Needles" Walker, Sherm Blystone and Jim Stotlemeyer. These men along with players from an earlier era, "Lefty" Cooper, "Gong" Walker and "Fritz" Grimm were out-standing football players who represented Apollo High School at Owens Field. Some of the coaches were Coach Buzard, Coach Gum-bert and Coach Packard.

In 1947, '48 and '49 there was an even greater interest in my family in Apollo football. My older brother Clarence "Sonny" Gourley became a member of the Apollo High School team. The players from those years that I best remember were Bob Lees, Walt Du-randetto, John Miller, Furman Curry, Lee McQuaide, Bobby Franks, "Bud" Hurley and Jess Bowers.

Also, during the post World War II era, I recall a semi-pro football team called the Lenzi's playing at Owens Field.

In 1950 the Apollo Borough Schools consoli-dated with North Apollo and Kiski Township. Apollo Area was born and Owens Field lived on.

In 1952, it was finally my turn to venture onto Owens Field, first in baseball then football. Outstanding players from that time were

(Continued on page 19)

These "merchants and business men" were the original financial backers of the Kiskitas Annual first published in 1921.

- W.E. Orr, Real Estate and Insurance

First National Bank

Apollo Bakery

Wyble Drug, The Oldest Prescription House in Town"

Dieges & Clust—Pittsburgh, Class Rings

Class of 1915

Armstrong Furniture Co.

W.C. Campbell Company—Shoes-Hose

J.D. Flude Company, Suits, Shoes, Ties and Hats

Chas. W. Walker, Home Dressed Meats

The Model Hardware, C.H. Truby, Prop.

Bosworth's Confectionery

W.F. Pauly, Druggist

McCullough's 5c, 10c and 25c Store

Pittsburg Store, Clothier

H.S. Johnston's Jewelry and Optical Goods

W.G. King Undertaking and Embalming

E.A. Townsend & Son, Dry Goods and Groceries

Apollo Trust Company

John F. Johnston, The Realtor

Thos. F. Sutton, Clothier
- B.P. Clark, Pocket Billiard Parlor

Grove City College

Apollo Cash Grocery, N.J. Baustert, Prop.

The Peoples Store, J. Wesley Cowan, Prop.

L. Todd Owens, Flour and Feed

Wm. B. Parson (AHS '15), Billiard Parlor

S.D. & J.D. Kelly, Pure Milk and Cream

Yankee Maid Bread, Morning, Noon and Night

T.F. Tucker's, Quick Lunch, Home Baked Pies

M.D. Stewart, Photographer

Hankey's Grocery Store, J.M. Hankey, Prop.

Bevedere Café, Opposite the W. Apollo Station

W.W. Wallace & Co., Own Your Own Home

Chuck Carpenter's Meats

Sam Kaleel Lunch and Confectionery

H.J. Kuhns Sanitary Plumbing

Bollinger's Drug Store

S. A. Jones Groceries

Hassinger's Millinery

Apollo Steel Company

Hartman House, E. L. Weikart, Prop.

Steel's Hardware
- The Chocolate Shop

The Famouse Dept. Stores

George J. Bortz Hardware

Pryor's Barber Shop

Woodies Theatre

Walter F. Harris, Barber

W.L. George Queensware & Groceries

John Clark, Expert Sharpening

Hallstein Bros. Auto Repair Shop

Philip Koch, Metropolitan Life Insurance

The Smoke Shop

Ralph Whittinger, Tires

McMillen and Shultz, Department Store

H.D. Bellas Battery Service Station

E.E. Nale, Jeweler-Optometrist

Pattengall's Restaurant

Alcorn Bros., Architects and Lumber Dealers

News Record Publishing Company

Lauffer's Taxi Service

S. R. Henry, Fancy Groceries and Fruits

C.C. Kettering, The Battery Doctor



"Dewitt," the hard working, hard hitting left-back is the only man that will graduate this year. It is said by many a wise foot-ball player that Guthrie was the best tackle on the team. The squad would like to see "Dewitt" back, but wishes him success in college foot-ball.

Dentzel, the small right-half, is always ready to take as large a bump as the larger players, and for this reason he makes the team. Dentzel should grow this summer and by next season be one of the fastest half-backs Apollo ever had.

First Team and Subs.

		Height	Weight
L. E.	Jones	5 ft. 8 in.	140 lbs.
L. T.	Wolf	6 ft.	165 lbs.
L. G.	Cunningham	5 ft. 9½ in.	190 lbs.
C.	Armstrong	5 ft. 10 in.	140 lbs.
R. G.	Dodson	5 ft. 10 in.	158 lbs.
R. T.	Shaeffer	6 ft. 3 in.	170 lbs.
R. E.	Knepshield	5 ft. 8 in.	135 lbs.
Q	Owens	5 ft. 8 in.	145 lbs.
L. H.	Guthrie	5 ft. 11 in.	145 lbs.
R. H.	Dentzel	5 ft. 6 in.	130 lbs.
F.	King	5 ft. 10½ in.	180 lbs.
L. G.	Henry	6 ft.	145 lbs.
Q.	Patterson	5 ft. 7 in.	127 lbs.

In the Mud Last Thanksgiving

You know our team beat Vandergrift
A month or so ago
On a field of stick, sloshy mud
Three feet deep, or so.

With clothes all wet, you fancy how
They felt, with mud in layers
In mouth and eyes, everywhere,
Our valiant foot-ball players.

You know the day was raw and cold
On that Thanksgiving Day
While dreams of turkey, tinged with
mud
In the players minds did lay.

But these things did not stop their
rush
They played with greater zest
We cannot blame Vandergrift,
They did their very best.

Then thru' the mud a runner flew
The greatest speed to boast,
Nor was he stopped by paltry mud
Till he reached the old goal posts.

Then there he lay in smiling joy
All covered up with mud
And tho his heart was warm with joy
The cold most froze his blood.

When Monday came we could not stand
To study any book,
And so we just decided
That we would all play "hook".

We gathered all the boxes
And made a great bon-fire
And the glory of that celebration
Was all we could desire.

—"PAT," '22.



Kiski's heavier and more experienced team scored two touchdowns. In this game Armstrong, the Apollo center, recovered a fumble and started for a touchdown with a clear field ahead, but one of the Apollo players accidentally tripped him. Mr. Craig, who journeyed with the team, said this was alright, for someone had to stop him.

The next game was played at Leechburg on November 12. Victory was not expected as there were five of the first team men absent from the line-up. The game ended with a victory for Leechburg 24-6. Apollo scored their touchdown when Jones received a forward pass from Owens.

The Vandergrift Game

IN their annual Thanksgiving foot-ball game, Apollo High de-feated Vandergrift by the score of 6-0. The game was large-ly attended by rooters for both sides. Although the field was muddy and rain was descending at intervals everybody was loyal and remained to the last. The game was scheduled to start at 2:30.

First Quarter

Apollo received. Cunningham received the ball and tore down the line for about twenty yards before downed. After making three line plunges Apollo lost the ball. Vandergrift then tried line plunges which were fruitless. Next an end run and Apollo got the ball on downs. Then by line plunges Apollo drove the ball to the ten yard line, when King by a fake play tore through the line to within one foot of the goal.

Second Quarter

Apollo's ball. Apollo lost the ball by downs. Vandergrift then started a series of line plunges which looked as though they might end in a goal. But when nearly there the Apollo boys rallied and recovered the ball. A forward pass and an end run and the ball was back in the middle of the field.

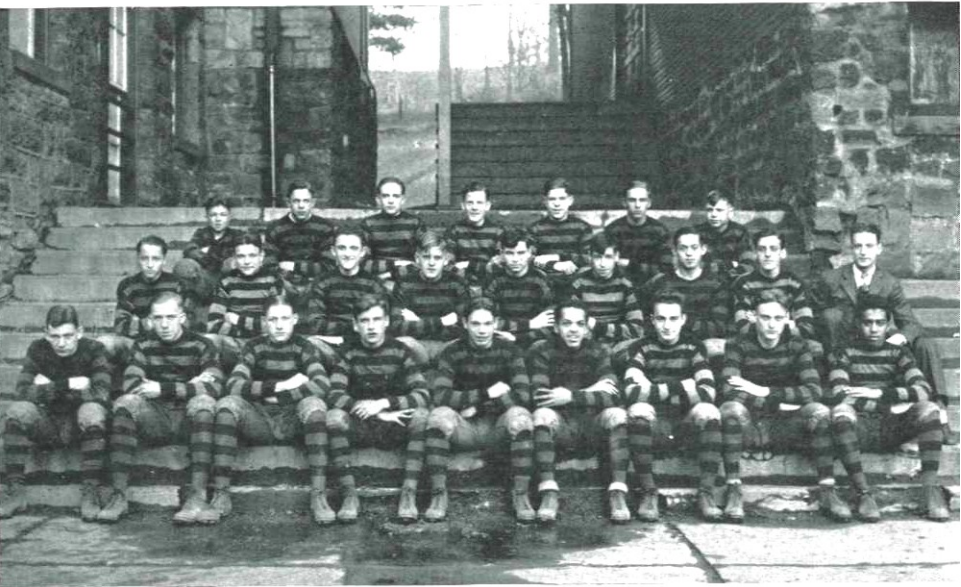
Third Quarter

Apollo's ball. A line plunge, an end run and the ball was within three feet of the goal. Apollo lost the ball and Vandergrift made a forward pass. The ball bounced off one of Vandergrift's player's shoulder, when Jones, Apollo's end, grabbed the ball in mid-air and eluding all pursuers dropped it behind the goal post. This put determination into the minds of all Apollo players and the game was never endangered after that. Vandergrift made slight gains with end runs and line plunges and the quarter ended with the ball in the middle of the field. Score 6-0 favor of Apollo.

Fourth Quarter

Vandergrift's ball. By fierce struggling the ball was edged farther and farther down the field, but Apollo was not sleeping and recovering the ball, it was started in the opposite direction. The ball, during the most part of this quarter was kept moving, and there was not one idle movement for a player on either side. In spite of the fierce struggling, Vandergrift slowly but surely edged the ball towards their goal. Closer and closer till at last the ball lay within a few feet of the goal posts. At

THE 1930's



FOOTBALL SQUAD

Row 1: Robert Sloan,* Francis Austin,* Robert Shoemaker,* Dale Ridenour,* George Smith-Captain,* Stanley Scott,* Paul Gourley,* Lawrence Kepple,* William Jackson* **Row 2:** Edgar Crawford, Blaine Hoover, Jack Taylor,* Charles Ewing,* Alcorn Burkett,* Clayton Horner,* Cecil Shaeffer,* Howard McAninch, Paul Shaw-Coach **Row 3:** Carl McCain, William Fryor, Dale Walker, Ernest Wright, Clarence Morrow, Donald Muffley,* Howard Householder-Captain-elect*

*Lettermen

The annual rivalry continues between the Apollo and Vandergrift teams as this notation in the 1930 Kiskitas attests:

"The annual "pugna" between Apollo and Vandergrift was a thriller. The field was a sea of mud and snow and none of our players had boats. The Mighty Mites of Apollo gave their best, but weight was the deciding factor. The Wandering Warriors of Vandergrift were victorious by a 12-0 score."

*"Though this be madness,
Yet there's method in it."*



Photo provided by Apollo Historical Society

JUST ANOTHER WIN

The annual tussle with Leechburg proved to be a spasm of farmerish football on Apollo's part. An inexperienced Leechburg team made Apollo fight for her touchdown.



Photo provided by Apollo Historical Society

THE LEGEND OF VALHALLA

Over the clouds and mist of a higher world soar two ravens bearing the soul of a dead Viking warrior. With piercing black eyes they search for the Rainbow Bridge which leads to the golden city of Asgard. For it is here that the great hall of Valhalla lies.

This is the dwelling place of the great warriors. Those Vikings who have worked to acquire discipline, confidence, knowledge, and have sacrificed themselves in the battle of life. Here is a place of peace, a glorious heaven where they receive their eternal reward.

Bearing twin swords, the watchmen at the golden city's gates nod and allow the ravens to pass. Once again they have brought the soul of a noble warrior to his final resting place. Circling about the ancient hall with rafters made of shining spears and with a roof constructed of a million blazing shields, the ravens awe at Valhalla's glory. Within this sacred hall, the fallen rise once more with newness of life.

And so we too are like these mighty warriors. We give our best in the hopes that someday we will come to rest in a great place such as this.

The Great Hall of Valhalla...

Viking Heaven.



At a ceremony on Friday, September 5, 2008, the jerseys of Josha Henry (65) and Michael Girdano (22) were retired. The framed jerseys are on display in the lobby of Apollo-Ridge High School.

JOSHUA HENRY

CLASS OF 2001



Josh Henry joined the Army soon after graduating from Apollo-Ridge in 2001 and rose to the rank of specialist. His career goal was to be an elementary school teacher. Service in the Army was supposed to be one part of his life's journey before college, but it didn't work out that way.

Spc. Henry died on Sept. 20, 2004, in Tikrit, Iraq, when insurgent gunmen attacked his convoy. He was 21.

Eight years have passed since he played his last football game at Owens Field. He wore No. 65.



MICHAEL GIRDANO

CLASS OF 2003



Michael Girdano graduated from Apollo-Ridge in 2003, then fulfilled his boyhood dream of attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. He graduated from West Point last year as a second lieutenant and was on his first assignment as a platoon commander when he was killed.

Lt. Girdano made straight A's in high school and lettered in football for three years. He wore No. 22.

During his sophomore year, Apollo-Ridge won the Allegheny Conference championship. One of his teammates that season was senior lineman Josh Henry.



OWENS FIELD TRIVIA

10 Biggest Games at Owens Field

- 1. **Oct. 4, 1919.** Apollo inaugurates its new stadium with a 48-0 rout of Leechburg.
- 2. **Oct. 16, 1926.** Apollo pounds hapless Plumville into submission, 131-0. Most points ever scored by an Alle-Kiski Valley team in one game.
- 3. **Nov. 24, 1927.** Halfback Burnett Bruist, "The Fighting Scotsman", scores the game's only touchdown for a 6-0 win over Vandergrift in the annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry game.
- 4. **Sept. 8, 1939.** Night football comes to Apollo as the Tigers blank Indiana, 13-0.
- 5. **Oct. 15, 1965.** Apollo and Owens Field co-tenant Washington Township meet for the last time as the Tigers eke out a 19-18 decision.
- 6. **Nov. 5, 1965.** Apollo clinches its second WPIAL Class B title game berth in four seasons with a 32-12 victory over South Huntingdon.
- 7. **Sept. 12, 1969.** Apollo-Ridge wins its first game, a 27-0 decision over Franklin Regional.
- 8. **Nov. 3, 1989.** Vikings clinch first WPIAL playoff berth with a 7-6 win over Pine-Richland.
- 9. **Oct. 26, 2001.** Apollo-Ridge clinches second straight Allegheny Conference title with a 27-6 victory over Burrell.
- 10. **Sept. 24, 2010.** Deer Lakes visits Apollo-Ridge in newly-rebuilt Owens Field.

Didja know ...

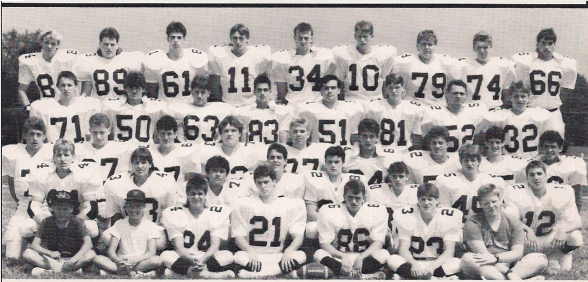
On July 25, 1919, the Owens family officially conveyed land to the community for recreation. Swing sets, see-saws and other playground equipment already had been installed for the July 4 celebration. "The football field will be laid out as soon as the gas company moves its pipes from the field," according to school officials.

In 1920, Apollo has 3,227 residents, it's largest on record.

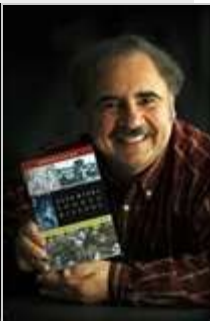
In the early years, the largest crowds gathered for the annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry game with Vandergrift, alternating between Owens Field and Davis Field. By 1946, however, Vandergrift High School grew so large that it had a 20-3-2 lead in the series with Apollo and the series was discontinued.

Apollo beat Elders Ridge, the school it would merge with, all 14 times the schools played.

Apollo and Apollo-Ridge have played Leechburg a combined total of 96 times.



Row 1: Brent Saxton, Mike Schade, Justin Laurenti, Sam Rametta, Ron Bash, Dan Meyerhuber, Keith Baer. Row 2: Cory Bell, Ken Hollis, Steve Shoemaker, Bill Baustert, Jerrad Thompson, Mark Armistage, Clint Holes. Row 3: Sean Bernat, Adam Dunmore, Chris Ostien, Scott Baer, Brad Hall, Jason Boyer, Darren Papala, Dirk Carney, George Smith. Row 4: Tom Yuba, Todd Coccaro, Rich Beard, Joe Tipton, Chad Marangoni, Bill Lange, Dan Anthony, Rich Butler. Row 5: Shawn Mullooly, Jason Zimmerman, Frank Fello, Bruce Yard, Frank Murphy, Gary Morgan, Matt Sells, Eric McClure, Doug Mouser.

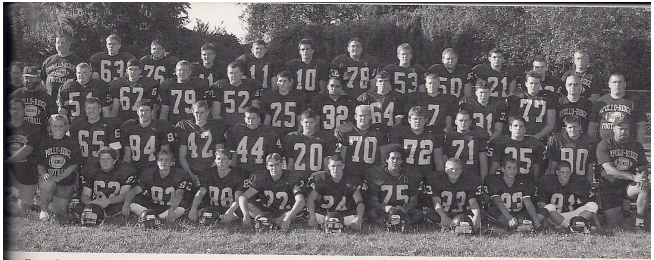


Top Ten and Trivia contributed by local sportswriter and author, George Guido.



2000 Vikings - Left to Right (Bottom Row): Jared McClure, Shane Hamilton, Eric Jackson, Luke Hill, Bill Peace, Nathan Hunt, Todd McCallough, Rich Nelson, Mike Githens, Adam Ross, Shawn Shadle, Matt Evans, Thomas Bodnar, Frank McCall, Chad Reese. (Middle Row) - Matt Horrell, Aaron Stewart, Shawn Lentz, Keith Bodnar, Justin Amendola, Travis Hall, Josh Coleman, Jeff Faber, Zach Gourley, Tyler Brewer, Jeff Kirk, Jake Miller, Nathan Bertone, Grant Gourley. (Top Row) - Paul McCabe, Justin Gray, Zach Stiller, Joe Somers, Chris McCracken, Adam Guthrie, Travis Fennigan, Jacob Nigh, Brian Newton, Josh Henry, Eric Solemsky, Brad Holmes, Jared Shaffer, Ryan Alena, Joel Lowmeyer, Ryan Comacure. (Not Pictured) - Jose Batan, David Vogel, Luke Schen.

From top to bottom, the 1989, 2000 and 2001 championship Viking football teams.



Top Row: Jerry Moore, Kayla Stewart, Tom Bodnar, Luke Hill, Chad Reese, Mike Girdano, Adam Ross, Tyler Walley, Thomas Roberts, Mark Kerr, Nate Altman. Second Row: John McVay, Steve Bodnar, Jared Miller, Frank Colwell, Ron Polka, Jeff Kirk, Jake Miller, Nathan Delo, Tyler Brewer, Tyler Ross, John Simon. Third Row: Trainer Bob, Dom Duso, Dan Walley, Aaron Stewart, David Dailey, Matt Horell, Justin Crissman, Rich Nelson, David Vogel, Brett Johnson, Nathan Smith, Jared McClure, Bill Moore, Nick Yacup. Fourth Row: Ed Shaffer, Shaun Lentz, Keith Bodnar, Josh Coleman, Drew Link, Grant Gourley, Justin Amendola, Jeff Faber, Travis Hall, Zach Gourley, Matt Evans, Joe Gourley.

To the Cheer-Leaders

Zimmerman, Williams, Young, and Kepp
Tried keeping up the High School rep
By turning out to all the games
And yelling out our players' names.

But they cannot do their best,
Without the help and aid of the rest;
Our team could make a bigger hit
If you would come and do your bit.

Let's make our cheering better tho',
Open your mouth wide as it'll go
And give a great big hearty cheer,
And we'll play real ball next year.

—Alumni.

One of the first references to cheerleaders appears in the 1930 Kiskitas



A lot of things came and went, but Mr. Anderson continued to make an appearance in the "Annals."



How dear to my heart are the scenes of Apollo ...



THE 1940's

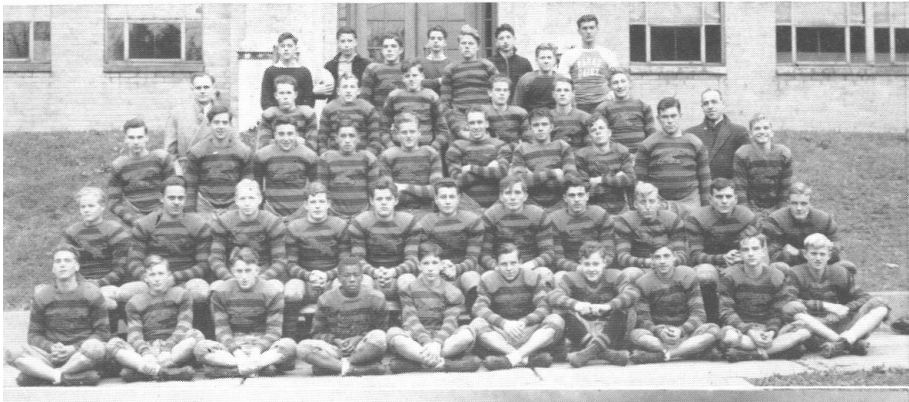
Apollo High School had a very successful football season in 1940. Night football was first introduced into Apollo this season. It helped the business men and workers to see more games at night when they otherwise could not have done so. The Apollo team was very strong this year and “took” the mythical Armstrong County champion-

ship. The boys deserve great praise this year for suffering only one defeat and being tied twice while all the rest of the games were won by a large margin. When the Apollo football team walked off Davis field, after having tied Vandergrift, they completed one of the most successful football seasons in the school’s history.

Kiskitas 1940

APOLLO vs. ...

East Deer	33-0
Zelienople	6-6
Indiana	13-0
East Pittsburgh	6-27
Blairsville	20-0
Leechburg	26-0
Freeport	25-0
Homer City	20-0
Wash. Twp.	38-6
Bell Twp.	21-6
Vandergrift	0-0



"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - The United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan...As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense...With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounded determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God."

President F.D. Roosevelt - 8th December 1941

In 1940, the Kiskitas resumed publication after a hiatus of unknown length in the 1930's.

The 1949 Kiskitas staff vowed to make their issue “the best Kiskitas ever.” The publication was financed by over 70 local businesses, most notably Apollo Ford Sales, First National Bank, Apollo Milling Company, Griftlo Park, Apollo News Record, Lou’s Dairy Bar, Cross Road Inn, Townsend Bros. , Wyble’s Pharmacy, Rubins’s Dept. Store, Armitage Hardware, Armitage Fine Foods, R. Gordon Furniture, Strand and Warren Theatres, Wallace Lumber Co., Shaffer Photographic Studio, Guthrie Chevrolet, Apollo Trust Company, WAVL Radio, Artley Clothing Store, and the Longfellow Hotel.



The cheerleaders, sponsored by Ms. Knight, are (front, l-r) Velma Smith, Elaine Tressler, Helen Jane Faulk; (back, l-r) Betty Davis, Lillie Wofford, Patty Sloan.

RAZING & REBUILDING



SCOREBOARD



FIELD HOUSE AND BLEACHERS



BAND BOOSTERS CONCESSION



DEMOLITION MAY 10, 2010



GROUNDBREAKING MAY 24, 2010

Demolition, Monday, May 10, 2010

Groundbreaking, Monday, May 24, 2010

Grand Opening, Friday, September 24, 2010

NOT JUST FOR FOOTBALL



From graduations to hot dog eating contests, Owens Field has played host to Homecoming bonfires, Moon Landing Carnivals, Fourth of July Festivals, Kiski Valley Lancers Football, Cow Drop Bingo, Marching Band Festivals and Medevac Helicopter landings.



HE CLEARS THE PATH . . .



Mr. Oliver L. Smith

"SMITTY"

Here, we would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Smith who is a fine example of a hard-working, well-thought-of, friendly custodian. "Smitty" plays an important part in the maintenance of the school building, and also, is seldom unwilling to give his evenings to the various activities of the school. We are grateful to him, and since he is such an important part of our school life, A.H.S. just wouldn't be the same without him.

By 1949, Mr. Anderson was replaced by Mr. Smith.

The light posts installed in 1940 consisted of several individual light canisters mounted to telephone poles as seen in this photo from the 1949 Kiskitas.



SENIOR MEMBERS

Joseph Cappel, Leland McQuaide, Stanley Spier, Robert Dunmire, Donald Riggle, Richard Townsend, George Hill, Paul Sposito, Robert Frank, Floridan Dodson.

A marching band is organized in 1938 after many requests from the students.



MAJORETTES

Stella Stokes, Ruth Baldrige, Gloria Ameno, Ethelyn Shank, Patty Coulter, Mary Whitlinger, Glorienne Kelly, Dianne Knepp-shield, Ellen Rupert, Donna Zimmerman



1949 Kiskitas

BAND

L. Travaglia, W. Kennedy, B. King, D. Boarts, M. Bracken, C. Frick, J. Nulph, D. Rossi, D. Kunkle, B. Wilson, J. Casagni, A. Carter, R. Welsh, P. Hunter, E. Ament, S. Barto, R. King, K. Bash, C. Armitage, R. Walker, R. Cartwright, H. Shaeffer, T. Shaffer, L. Dormire

To the Seniors of Apollo High School:

Many of you on account of the extreme conditions of winter have had a most difficult time in keeping your attendance to normal. You have faced these conditions courageously. You have shown a very friendly spirit during the year. Your members have cooperated very loyally in all school activities. You have been very courteous to me personally at all times. Our best wishes are extended to every member of your class. We hope for your success in all your worthy endeavors.

W.C. Crawford, Principal
Kiskitas 1940

THE 1950's

Clashes between communism and capitalism dominated the decade, especially in the Northern Hemisphere. The conflicts included the Korean War and the beginning of the Space Race with the launch of Sputnik I. Along with increased testing of nuclear weapons, this created a politically conservative climate.

In the United States, the Red Scare (fear of communism) caused public Congressional

hearings by both houses in Congress and Anti-Communism was the prevailing sentiment in the United States throughout the decade (this is what primarily led the country to intervene in the Korean War and later the Vietnam War).

The beginning of decolonization in Africa and Asia occurred in this decade and accelerated in the following decade, the 1960s.

The 1950 congressional seminar gave way to the new focus of contention between communist and capitalist ideology. Through which multiple instances of terminal interests, but never became an open conflict.

In the 50's kids were dancing to the Everly Brothers, Elvis Presley, Paul Anka, Ricky Nelson, and Johnny Mathis whose tunes included Wake Up Little Susie, Jailhouse Rock, Be-Bop Baby, Chances Are and Diana.



Source: Wikipedia

The first mention of school board appears in the 1950 Kiskitas.

Shown at left are Dr. J.H. Shepler, Dr. J. M. Mumaw, Mr. W. C. Crawford (principal), Mr. F. E. Crawford, Miss Betty Jean Buchanan (school secretary), Mr. W.E. Whitlinger and Mr. J.F. Bash

Dr. Sheplar noted that being on the school board "is an experience that every citizen should witness."



The 1950 Cheerleading squad boasted a novelty — Charles Anthony "Pin" Long—the only boy cheerleader, and a very good one! He, along with his female counterparts, introduced new cheers like "Bo Bo Ski Waten Doddle" and "Felix the Cat."

FEMALES TAKE THE FIELD



The Gourley men weren't the only formidable opponents on Owens Field! Carol (Jordan) Gourley, Roger's daughter-in-law and Apollo-Ridge High School nurse, was a key player when the "Undies" defeated the Seniors for the first time in the 1976 Powder Puff Game. Carol and Roger's son, Joe, are the parents of Zach and Grant.

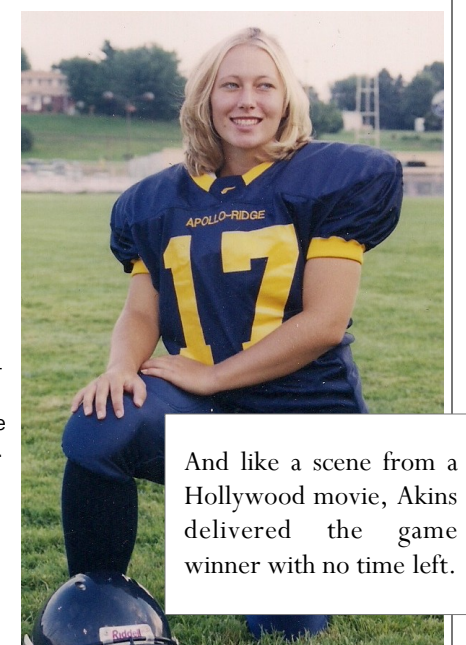


The Akins family can boast that both of their daughters played football on Owens Field... Angelina (#8) enjoys playing Powder Puff football, a 40-year tradition at A-R, and Brianna (2006) has the distinction of being the first female to play and score for the Apollo-Ridge Vikings Varsity team.

Owens Field—September 5, 2003 Apollo-Ridge Vs. Ellwood City

With the Apollo-Ridge faithful on their feet, the 5-foot-5 Akins stepped onto the field and, like a seasoned veteran, kicked what could have been the most important kick in her short football career, giving the Vikings a 21-20 win.

William Whalen



And like a scene from a Hollywood movie, Akins delivered the game winner with no time left.

ORIGINAL FIELD HOUSE CONSTRUCTION



The Apollo-Ridge Touchdown Club financed the building of the original field house, which was complete for the 1982 season. Club members, as well as men from Stefaniak Construction, Dom Duso, Dom Gabrielli, Dave Orlosky and Mike Klonowski, donated time and labor to build the new facility.

The block building was built primarily as a dressing room for the visiting athletic teams. The home team retired to the Apollo Elementary School adjacent to the field at half-time and showered at the High School in Spring Church after the game.



THE 1970's AND BEYOND

Americans lived through the oil crisis that started the decade and the energy crisis that ended the decade. The Vietnam conflict ended in 1973 and Richard Nixon was facing impeachment in 1974.

The space program was winding down after the near loss of the Apollo 13 crew and the feeling among the population that the money could be put to better use.

Lava lamps, disco and Led Zeppelin replaced bell bottoms, bee hive hairdos and the British Invasion.



Apollo 14—02.05.71



COACHES —John Kolessar, Rich Zuchelli, Elmer Morgan and Dan Sekeres

THE RIVALS MERGE: APOLLO TIGERS AND “THE RIDGE”



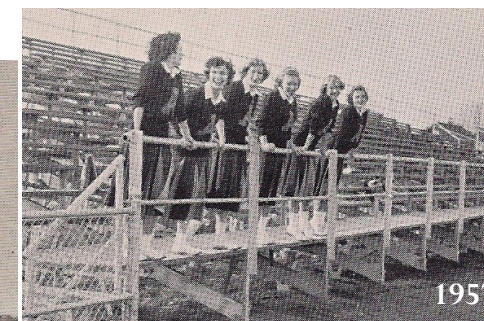
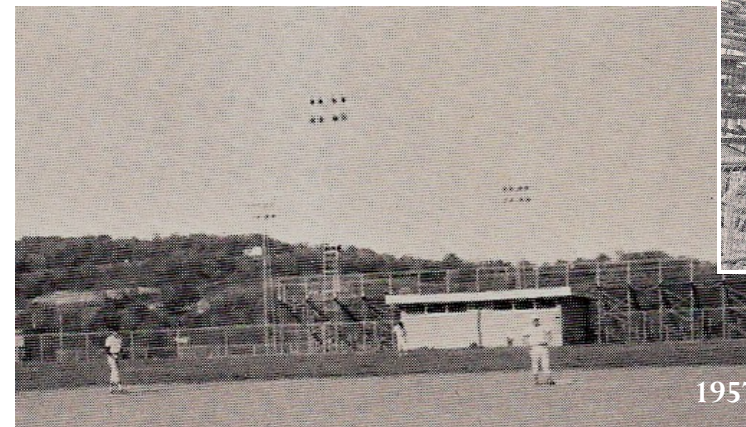
Scores from the 1970 season:

Kittanning	0-20	Albert Gallatin	8-12	Beth Center	9-0
Franklin Area	27-0	Leechburg	6-20	Mars	6-0
Kiski Prep	6-0	Ford City	26-6	Oakmont	22-30



With the merger of Apollo and Elders Ridge, two new activities were born:

Powder Puff Football (Senior Girls vs. the Underclassmen) and a Cross Country Team.



The top right photo from 1957 indicates that bleachers were installed during the 50's.

Newly-built restrooms can be seen from the baseball field. Notice the light standards. They were used until the demolition of the stadium in 2010—over 50 years later!



Marching Band Practicing at Owens Field

THE LUNCHSTAND

“The noisiest but least of the animals are penned in the small building near the gate of the football field.

In reverse to the usual custom, they pass out the food to those on the other side of the pen.”



1950 Kiskitas

Kneeling: D. Serotka, H. Johnston, G. Shaffer, R.J. Sforza, M. Mortan. Standing: Mrs. Russell, R. Rossi, B. Bortz, L. Marino, L. Rosensteel, A. Troup, E. D. Kneppshield, L. Bence, H. Wagner

The lunchstand was a project of the senior class to raise money and was very successful.

In 1950, for the first time, the stand was manned entirely by girls. The girls agreed that it was not only lucrative, but lots of fun. They had a lot of work to do and shed many tears — while cutting onions!

THE 1960's

- 1960 - The key turning point of the presidential campaign was the series of four Kennedy-Nixon debates, the first held on television.
- 1961 – Newly elected President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson take office; Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps.
- 1963 – Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream"

- speech in Washington, D.C. on August 28.
- 1963 - President Kennedy assassinated on November 22.
 - 1964 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.
 - 1965 – U.S. President



- Lyndon B. Johnson and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey take office in January.
- 1965 - Malcolm X assassinated.
 - 1965 - National Voting Rights Act of 1965 signed into law.
 - 1968 – U.S. President Richard M. Nixon is elected.
 - 1968 - Martin Luther King,

- Jr. assassinated on April 4.
- June 5, 1968 – Robert F. Kennedy, United States Senator. Assassinated.
 - 1969 – U.S. President Richard Nixon is inaugurated in January 1969; promises "peace with honor" to end the Vietnam War.

SOURCE: Wikipedia

COACH JOE VANGRIN'S SON REMEMBERS

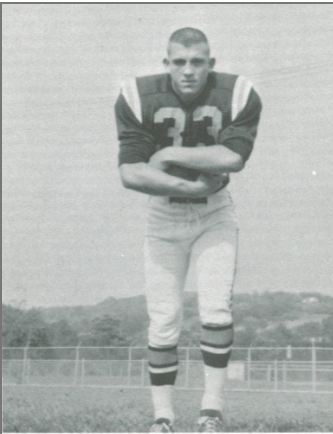
Eric, son of coach Joe Vangrin, recalls Owens Field memories. I am the son of former head football coach, Joe Vangrin. He coached and taught mathematics at Apollo High School from 1960 to 1964. Apollo was his first teaching and coaching position after graduating from IUP. Upon leaving Apollo and moving to Maryland in 1964, he continued teaching and coaching football for 35 years in Harford County. Unfortunately he passed away in 2003; otherwise he would be as excited to hear of your plans, as we are.

The many memories he shared with us of those days at Apollo were often centered on Owens Field. Often those memories were kindled as we passed the field on the way to relative's homes on our many trips to Western PA. He often told us about putting up lights at the field so that games could be played on Friday nights. And of the many great players he coached. He often wondered what the young men he coached had gone on to do with their lives. And, of course, he was most proud of the 1962 WPIAL Class A cham-

pionship game. While it was not the victory that he and the team had hoped for, he was so proud that the school finally made it that far. My mother, Carole Vasbinder Vangrin, a former Apollo and Vandergrift High home economics teacher, remembers the many tasks my dad would ask of her before games. She has vivid memories of fixing uniforms on Thursday night for the following night's game.



FIRST ROW, l. to r.: L. Parsons, R. Elwood, F. Tomicek, D. Piccoli, A. Majersky, J. Pasterik, J. Poydence, W. Aungst, D. Wenchowski, D. Rearic, A. Williamson, J. Stankus, M. Jackson, C. Wenchowski. SECOND ROW: C. Bonello, E. Anthony, L. Faber, D. Buchner, J. Hilty, J. Clark, G. Fouse, J. MacDowell, G. Albert, J. Ferguson, D. Clever, R. Klonoski, C. Scott, R. Albert, J. Vangrin. THIRD ROW: C. Woods, R. Kinter, R. Guido, J. Wilmot, J. Barclay, B. Bowser, R. Jackson, J. Nelson, G. Robinson, L. Beliek, B. Rearic, M. Fulton, R. Bopp, K. King.

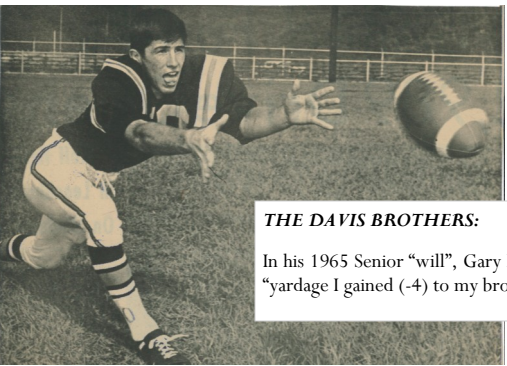


J. Stankus (Co-captain)

Jim Stankus ('65), one of the most outstanding players of his era, went on to play football for the University of Wyoming.

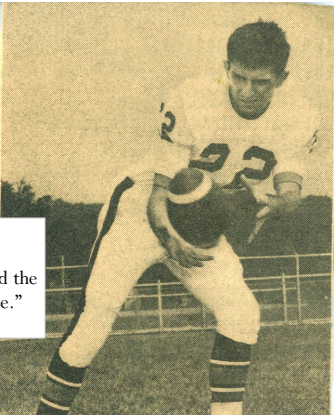
TIGER'S PASSING THREAT ...

Quarterback Gary Davis will be handling the passing duties this Saturday afternoon when Coach Chuck Bonello's Apollo Tigers invade Trafford for a league game. Davis has done a stellar job of quarterbacking the Greek Gods thus far this season. His passing and ball handling played a key role in keeping the Tigers unbeaten in two outings.



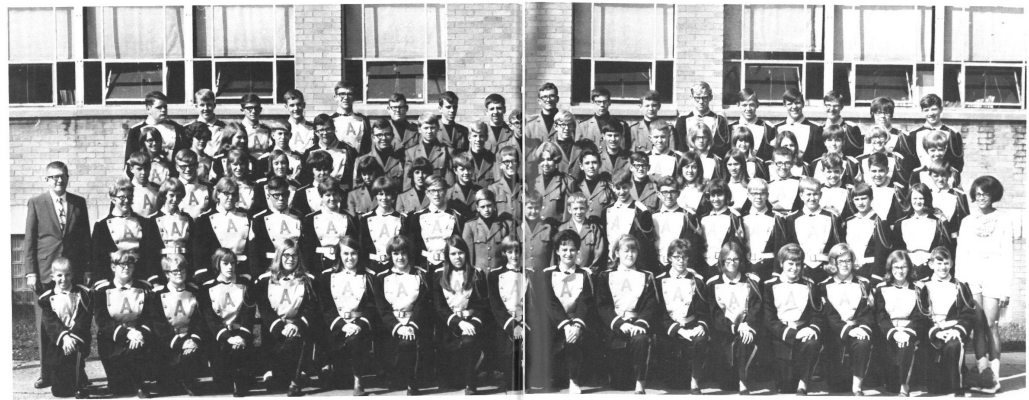
THE DAVIS BROTHERS:

In his 1965 Senior "will", Gary Davis willed the "yardage I gained (-4) to my brother Donnie."



TRICKY TIGER ... Apollo High wingback, Don Davis, has sparkled in two losing efforts, scoring 18 of his team's 19 points. The senior letterman is 6 feet 1, 195 pounds. The Tigers host Trafford in a WPIAL Class B game Friday.

Apollo Joint Area Marching Band



The 1968-1969 Apollo High School football team, marching band, cheerleaders and coaching staff were the last to walk onto Owens Field as "Tigers." The merger with Elders Ridge would take place the following year. They ended the season with a 4-4-2 record and Denny Vitone was named "Tiger of the Year."

The Pigskin Prancers



Row I: K. Hannaman — Co-Captain, W. Hunter — Co-Captain, D. Vittone — Captain, B. Schaeffer — Co-Captain. Row II: Coaches — Mr. Notto, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Setlock, Mr. Curci.

