**St. Mary’s Cadets 26—Dayton Oakwoods 21**

**November 27, 1913.**

Ladies and gentlemen:

 One day last week I stood in the Dayton public library where my attention was attracted by a picture painted by the artist Mr. Froehlich. The picture was that of Daniel Cooper, the real founder of Dayton, and was given to our city by a great educator Robert W Steele.

As I looked at the picture the thought came to me that our city has had a wonderful history and that it has contributed much to American culture. It is true that we have suffered disappointments but we have scornfully put defeatism aside.

 It was March 23, 1913. The flood has come! Flood, fire, frost, starvation, mud! 100,000 hands held out for help. The federal government comes to the rescue. Now the river resumes its channel as spades, brooms, shovels, sunshine and handshakes go to work. And the slogan-- “Remember the promises made in the attic”. $2 million for flood prevention and a bigger and safer Dayton.

The Miami Valley Conservancy was the result of 1913. The city manager form of government was adopted because of 1913. Yes, the year 1913, was momentous in the history of Dayton and even in the arena of sports and play.

 It is now Thursday, November 27, 1913, and we are at a field of play. That field is Westwood Park, the scene of many titanic struggles for sport supremacy. On this particular day, two great football teams were contending for the city title and, what a great game lay in store! The contenders were the St. Mary’s Cadets and the Dayton Oakwoods both made up of some of Dayton’s greatest athletes of all time.

 For the Cadets I find Weaver, Dellinger, Clark and Cregor. There were Baczenas, Mchale, Zile, Captain Al Mahrt, and Carl Storck, Babe Zimmerman, and Decker and we must not overlook Norb Sacksteder, Hugo Sacksteder, Dungan and Devereux.

 And now for the Dayton Oakwoods. In the starting lineup were McCune, Munk, Dobnan, Nesser, and Henry, aided and abetted by lemon, Roy Barton, Capt. Herb Allen, Black and Dolan. To complete the roster were Emery, and Pierce. And I wish to mention the officials for this never to be forgotten pigskin classic;

Castleman-Colgate-referee

Eckstrom-Dartmouth-umpire

Stover, Ohio State-head lineman

Ken Allen of Dennison and Harry Salomano-timekeepers.

 It was a crisp, tingling autumn afternoon as the 22 players in pigskin array took to the gridiron for football supremacy. Al Mahrt and Herb Allen were on the 50 yard marker with the officials as play was about to begin. Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to say that no greater football game was ever played in Dayton. It was a struggle of giants from start to finish-a struggle with brilliant straight and open football.

 The whistle has blown and away goes the ball as 3000 fans startled the Banks of Wolf Creek with their cheers. The St. Mary’s cadets have the ball and they are on their way towards the goal- but suddenly came a costly fumble and the boys from Oakwood take over. The Red and White from Far Hills now had their chance and score they did. Later the St. Mary’s cadets held like Verdun to say “They shall not pass.”

 The cadets have now taken over! A plunge off tackle failed to gain as Henry crashed through for the tackle. Al Mahrt, Capt. of the cadets, called signals- back, back, he goes and there flies a pass of 40 yards to “Babe” Zimmerman. Babe caught it on the dead run but there before him was Capt. Herb Allen of Oakwood waiting for the tackle. Babe was on his way. Herb tackled but Babe spun away, and away he traveled for a touchdown. The score was now 7-7.

 And now came a newcomer at left halfback for the cadets- none other than Carl Storck who had been recently graduated from the ranks of the Orange and Black of Stivers high; with the ferocity of the old Tiger “Scummy” dashed through the Oakwood line until a second touchdown was made. Score Cadets 13- Dayton Oakwoods 7. And may I not say that Carl Storck went on to give professional football its real stimulus along with Joe Carr at Columbus. Today thousands crowd the stands from California to new England for Sunday professional games and in silhouette I see the man who made so much of this possible- his name, Carl Storck, football player, executive and friend of play-it-pays!

 It is now the second quarter. The Red and White of Oakwood are playing like demons as the fans clamor for a touchdown and hold that line! Herb Allen, dynamic Capt. of the Oakwood 11 has the ball as the result of an intercepted pass. The Oakwood boys are now on the march with slash and bang until the ball is but 3 inches from the cadets goal line. 3 downs and 3 inches to go for a touchdown. It was almost unbelievable that the Red and White of Oakwood could be stopped. But the cadets held as the crowd went wild with frenzy. Ladies and gentlemen--as stated previously this was a football game. Finding the cadets line impregnable, Roy Barton, Oakwood quarterback now took to the air and in the twinkling of a football eye-- Oakwood scored. Mundt kicked goal and Oakwood led 14 to 13

 the St. Mary’s cadets are now on the offensive with a do or die spirit and away through the line they plunge when acadet back fumbled Oakwood recovered and taking advantage of the break soon scored another touchdown. Goal was Kicked and the boys from Far Hills were leading 21 to 13. And it most certainly look as if Oakwood were going to win the City Championship- but one can never tell when two evenly balanced teams meet. And that was the precise situation November 27, 1913 when the St. Mary’s Cadets and the Oakwood boys met at football at Westwood Park, Dayton, Ohio.

 With the score 21 to 13 against them and with the Dayton Oakwood playing bang- up football it looked as if the Cadets must fall.

 The third quarter was replete with sensational football and on several plays it looked as if both teams might score but Henry and Storck prevented touchdowns by their sterling defensive play. I doubt if “Scummy” Storck ever played a more sensational game- and there are many in his scrapbook.

 There goes the whistle to end the third quarter and the score Oakwood 21- Cadets 13.

 At this period of the game NorbSacksteder and his brother Hugo had entered the contest, and as they came upon the field a mighty cheer arose from the Cadet stands. The Sacksteder boys had long since won their silver spurs in sports and play- be that in basketball, baseball or football. The Cadets soon scored to make it Oakwood 21- Cadets 20.

 Oakwood has received the kick off and please remember the score, Oakwood 21- Cadets 20. Several plays at end failed to gain when suddenly Al Mahrt threw a long pass to NorbSacksteder and away Norb went for a touchdown making the score 26 to 21 in favor of the Cadets. But now there arose a dispute! Oakwood claimed the pass was illegal and of course the Cadets claimed the legality. “To be or not to be, that was the question.” And to settle this most intricate question the officials were called into a huddle and they said the touchdown was legal.

 The crowd of 3000 was on the field, arguing pro and con, with the result that darkness now fell over the gridiron. Since there were no football lights at that remote day, the game was not finished and the final score stood St. Mary’s Cadets 26- Oakwood 21. And to this very day if one would like a football debate just bring up that final forward pass and touchdown which came from a 40 yard toss from Al Mahrt to Norb Sacksteder-36 years ago.

I believe I am safe in saying that the rivalry established between the St. Mary’s Cadets and the Dayton Oakwoods was but a happy prologue to the formation of the Dayton Triangles. And perchance Carl Storck at left-half for the Cadets received his inspiration here for a National Football League. And Carl, with Mike Redelle molded together a Triangle football aggregation that competed with the best in the United States. Suffice to say that in that remote football era Daytonians were privileged to see some of the best football players in the game. And I must say that the Dayton Triangles had an aggregation which had glorified the gridiron long before coming to Triangle Park what with such players as Reese, Thiele, Fenner, Hathaway, Sauer, Kinderdine, Tidd, Slackford, Partlow, Bacon, Al Mahrt, and Young.

Looking backward over a period of years, I suspect that most Triangle players would call from the scrap- book the game of games played in 1920. The score Triangles 20, Canton Bulldogs 20 and before a crowded field. Jim Thorpe, Henry and others were turned back from victory on that long ago date.

And so we come to an end of another Sports- Memory woven about the great American game of football and a game which could easily be established as the prologue to American professional football of today.

Yes, there is something magic in the year 1913 when Dayton arose Phoenix-like from mud and desolation. There is something magnetic about the sport and play of that era because that era was prophetic of great things to come. Certainly it is well to remember that memorable football game November 27, 1913 at Westwood Park.

 Score: St. Mary’s Cadets 26- Dayton Oakwoods 21.

 Robert W. Worst