HUSKIES UPSET GARNETS, 7-0 ON RYE FIELD BEFORE 12,000

By The Old Sport

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men Gang after a alley: An' lea'e us nocht but brief and pain. Ye'll prom'ised joy."

As Scotland's beloved Bobby Burns put it, some 200 years ago, this could well describe what happened to Rye's plans to beat Harrison in THE GAME—and how the players and their loyal fans felt when the game was over.

To wrap it up in a simple, unabridged declarative sentence: The underdog and favored Rye High School football team got nipped, 7-0, by the Harrison Huskies at the home stadium last Saturday before 12,000 of the faithful.

But that hardly tells the whole story—the Garnets saw their hopes of presenting getting coach John Nugent with his first perfect season in 14 years as Rye mented into ashes and their two-year winning streak (14 games over two seasons) came to an end and go up in a swirl of smoke on the chilly, clear autumn air. The loss, the 44th game between Rye and Harrison, also broke the tie in the series between the two schools.

Now stands:

Won Lost Tied
RYE 22 21 3
HARRISON 21 13 0

Fumbles gained—and a rush of penalties—played a role as well, with Rye contributing four and two of Harrison's three.

The Huskies damned the offensive backfield of the Garnets, overcame a 10-yard deficit in the Horace Greeley game and led by the running and passing of quarterback Dean Nelson, plus a field goal on the talented toe of Tom Verrilli—secured the points needed to win. Surely they couldn't do it again, or so it seemed.

Halfway through the final period, Mike Kennedy came in at quarterback and, finally, it looked as if the team was going to put the game away. But, as the fourth quarter wore on, it became painfully clear that, on this particular beautiful November day, Rye just couldn't mount a scoring offense.

"It wasn't that Harrison was that much better," said Coach Nugent, "it just seemed like a 'power-rough' weekend—Friday night's rally and bowie (the most spectacular ever) somehow caused our guys to become unperturbed and perform poorly. Also, my getting hurt apparently had a bad effect."

"Good grief, our defense was on the field for more than half the day—and every time I thought we were making some worthwhile moments, some fumble or penalty caused us to lose.

"We just couldn't seem to make the 'big play' and, instead, made a hell of a lot of mistakes—they cost us the game."

The Rye Junior Varsity also saw their season come to a crashing end. Coach John Antoncema's sophomores were swallowed up by the Huskies Saturday morning in Harrison, 20-8, but, nevertheless, wound up with a winning, 4-5, season.

Garnets In Bowl Game

Tomorrow (Friday) night the "bowl" game against Pleasantville High School (Class C champs) for the sectional title is set for Memorial Stadium on Sanford Boulevard in Mount Vernon (across the street from Parkway Field where Rye-Iona games are played), kickoff is slated for 8 p.m., and John Nugent says "Pleasantville is more than a cut above the ordinary—a fine-looking team with plenty of power and versatility."

Tom Cailen, offensive and defensive backfield coach for the Garnets, speaking for head coach Dick Rocer, in relation to former Giant star Tom Landry said, "We've lost one game, an early season match with Croton and last week we downed Valhalla 42-10. All of us have tremendous respect for Nugent-coached teams and this year is no exception. The Rye defense has been outstanding but we don't think the offense is that bad."

WELL DESERVED TRIBUTE—John Nugent, center, Rye High School's football coach for the past 11 years, receives a plaque from Jim Little, chairman of "John Nugent Day" as Charlie Trunoron, Garnet co-captain looks on during halftime ceremony at the Rye-Harrison game Saturday in the local stadium. Coach Nugent is retiring as football coach at the end of the season.

(Photo by Craig Douglas)

MAKE A TURKEY HAPPY...

Considering the holiday next Thursday, there's not much to make a turkey happy...

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