

River's Champs of '20 Had Patches and Power



By LUFF JOHNSON

In 1920, Rocky River's varsity football team was the champion of the Cuyahoga County League. Forty-three years later the team, its equipment, and win-loss record are quite different.

Virtually all eligible males were drafted onto the team for the high school had only 13 boys to make an 11-man team.

Many neighboring communities — such as Fairview, Olmsted, and Bay Village—did not have high schools in 1920. As a result, students from the present-day rivals often played on River's team.

The Cuyahoga County League of which Rocky River was champion included Rocky River, Euclid, Shaker Heights, Bedford, Berea, Medina, and Dover, which is now Westlake. The league dissolved in 1921.

IN 1920, haircuts were long and football uniforms were supplied by each student. Even a helmet was considered a prize possession. And, if fortunate,



FOOTBALL TEAMS, past and present, are pictured top to bottom. Members of the 1920 Rocky River varsity football team are (top row (L to R), Bill Koiser, Bill Heines, Wyn Hostings, Don Brown, Frances Street, Crete Woods. (Bottom row, L to R) Dwer Swieet, Art Lang, Ray Cook, Don Macbeth, George De Muth, Harvey Urban, Dan Campbell. Crete Woods and Harvey Urban hold Cuyahoga County League championship trophy. Pictured at bottom is 1963 team.

make-shift padding lessened the force of tackles.

All games were played in afternoons because no lights were available to illuminate evening games.

Huddles were not used in 1920. Numbers designating players and their move-

ments were used to call plays. Today the remnants of these numbers survive as count-downs before hiking.

Passing was still considered an experimental, and untrustworthy, weapon. Therefore, the quarterback rarely received the ball.

In 1963, safety comes first. Excellent equipment, safe-guard helmets, padding, special shoes, and constant medical attention are now required by state law.

Scouting, films, and walkie talkies, hardly considered in 1920, are widely used today.

Scouts provide knowledge of opponents'

The following Rocky River High School students, under the direction of Robert K. Payne, faculty adviser, have participated in the production of this page:

Keith Lerch
Peg Fitzgerald
Peg Hedger

Joyce Humel
Carol Jacobus
Luff Johnson