

## PERFECTION!

In an instant, the word conjures up an array of ethereal splendor that rivals Charles Martel's meeting with Dante in the Heaven of Venus, during the author's final chapter – "Paradiso" – of his classic "The Divine Comedy."

Like Dante, all people strive to find that perfect something. It could be the perfect mate, the ideal vacation spot, that most appealing outfit, the ability to ace the big exam or owning the car of your dreams. But, unfortunately, those quests usually hit a quick and very imperfect brick wall.

The world of athletics, however, can produce that much sought-after nirvana. Steeped in numbers crunching, sports has long elevated individuals and teams to mythical heights. For example:

- Nadia Comaneci of Romania scored the first-ever 10 on the uneven bars at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. She would go on to record six more perfect 10s before the Olympics closed.
- Twenty times during major league baseball – 18 since the modern era began in 1900 – there have been perfect games. The most notable of these gems is Don Larsen's perfecto back on Oct. 8, 1956 in a 2-0 victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers in Game 5 of that year's World Series.
- Basketball, an afterthought for years, finally inched its way into the headlines when John Wooden's UCLA cagers started their unparalleled run to success. Besides giving the Bruins 11 NCAA titles, those Wooden-coached ensembles recorded four unblemished seasons – 1964, 1967, 1972, 1973 – to set themselves apart from any other hardwood five.
- And, to this day, no NFL team has been able to match the sanctity of Miami's run to perfection in 1972. The Dolphins went an unprecedented 17-0 overall, outscoring their opponents 440-209 en route to the title in Super Bowl VII.

But, some 19-plus years before Larsen's claim to fame, a horde of young Norwich men secured their place in local football history by not only recording an undefeated and untied season, but, in so doing, blanked all eight of their foes en route to their perfect campaign.

With the Depression's tentacles still wrapped soundly around the country, many of the Norwich High students – athletes as well as not – were forced to work either prior to or after school. Yet 40-plus would-be gridders reported for fall practice, 10 of whom were returning lettermen.

"We had a lot of good teams back then, but this club was special because we were fortunate to have 18 very good players," noted head coach Kurt Beyer in an interview with this writer back in 1987. "We could substitute without ever minimizing our strength.

"They were tough times, but we had tough kids," continued the Norwich mentor. "Most of these kids worked before or after school, and so when it came time for football, well that was fun."

In an article in the Wednesday, Sept. 22 edition of The Norwich Sun, then sports editor Perry Browne surmised that, "Spectators at the Alumni Field workouts have agreed that the Purple should have a pretty fair team on the grid this fall."

Anchoring the starting front line on the left side were Frank "Sonny" Wassung at end, tackle Tom Byrne and guard John "Piker" DiStefano, while completing the front wall on the right were Jim Rotundo at guard, tackle Walt Odenkirchen and Vernon "Yank" Robertson at end. Jerry Farnham and Vince Panaro split most of the season initiating the fray at center. Team captain Burt Palmatier called the shots at quarterback, Sal "Toots" Mirabito was the fullback horse and the halfback duties were filled by Stan Burdnell and Elmo Robertson. First off the bench to spell either Burdnell or Robertson or to make an occasional start were Tom Mirabito and Lee "Bunky" Morris.

That core remained intact throughout the season also because of a much-different substitution rule in 1937. If a player left the game, he could not return until the next quarter, hence the present constant shifting of players in and out of the game did not exist.

Also, of a different nature then was the way team rules were established. Wassung, Palmatier and Rotundo headed a committee for formulating an honor system of training for the season. Thus, the players policed themselves, rather than the school setting down the standards.

The season was set to convene at home on Saturday, September 25 when Kingston came to town and conclude with a road trip to archrival Oneonta on Saturday, November 13. What transpired during those 50 fall days nearly 75 years ago would not only change the lives of the players involved, but Norwich gridiron history forever. A complete synopsis of those eight contests follows.

## THE ROAD TO GLORY

**Kingston (24-0) – September 25 (Home):** With weather more like July 4 rather than four days into autumn, the Purple opened their season under a blazing and scorching sun against the Colonials.

Although Norwich was able to produce seven first downs, en route to a gamewise 15-5 edge, in the opening quarter, neither team was able to cross the goal line. But early in the second quarter, Toots Mirabito broke the scoreless battle with a 1-yard burst. After a Kingston punt, Mirabito and Morris took turns marching the ball to the Colonials' 10-yard line, from where Mirabito found Burdnell on an aerial strike to up the halftime score to 12-0.

Kingston, bolstered by the intermission, ran off four of its five first downs to start the third quarter, but a fumble recovery by Byrne on the Purple's 47 ended any further threats by the visitors. On the very first play from scrimmage, the speedy Morris skirted around right end, escaped three potential tacklers and fell in behind interference provided by Mirabito and Burdnell to streak 53 yards for the third touchdown of the game. The final tally of the day was on another pass, this time from Morris to Burdnell.

"I really think the feeling of a good season came about after that Kingston game," recalled Beyer in that aforementioned interview. "But, I really believe the players began thinking about the undefeated, untied and unscored on season coming home from the Cortland game."

Both teams made frequent substitutions during the game for experimental purposes and due to the intense heat. Coming in to spell some of the Tornado starters were Dominic "Dusty" Annesi, Fred Burdnell, John Caezza, Glenn Cushman, Fred Johnson, Willard Mowry, Armand Ramaccia, Bernie Thompson and Andy Zaia.

A humorous anecdote to the game was intoned by Sun writer Browne in a sideline to the contest. "The majority of fans snubbed the new bleachers for the old ones rather than be sun-blinded. If more new bleachers are to be added on the east side of the grid, some ambitious high school student ought to take on a sun-glass concession."

**Cortland (21-0) – Friday, October 1 (Away):** Unlike their home opener, which was played under a scorching sun, the Tornado's first road game was contested on a warm and beautiful late-Friday afternoon. The game, which was originally slated for Saturday, was moved up a day so that all interested could attend the Colgate-Cornell rivalry in Ithaca.

To accommodate NHS students wishing to attend the game, Norwich principal Russ Hogue announced that senior high sessions would convene at 7:55 a.m. and continue until 12:05 p.m. Those Tornado teens who combined a day of school with an afternoon of football were not disappointed.

Both teams went to the airways often and with considerable success. Norwich, which was 6-for-12 in the passing department, struck first in the opening period when Burdnell pulled in a 10-yard spiral from Toots Mirabito. After Rotundo's point-after kick, the score remained 7-0 through the first half. Midway through the third quarter, Tom Mirabito produced the second six-pointer on an end run, while Morris hit Wassung on a short slant to cap the scoring. Rotundo, again, added both PATs.

Although the host Purple Tigers completed 13 of 21 pass attempts and lost out on first downs only 11-8, they couldn't penetrate the Tornado goal as their four incursions inside the Norwich 10-yard line proved fruitless.

Tom Mirabito started in place of Elmo Robertson, but the latter as well as Morris, Cushman, Farnham and Mowry saw considerable action.

"It was a very hard-fought game, and on the way home on the bus the guys got to talking about an unscored on season," surmised Beyer.

**Johnson City (27-0) – Saturday, October 9 (Home):** Expected to give the Purple their toughest test of the young season, the Wildcats – undefeated with victories over Nottingham and Onondaga Valley of the Syracuse region – proved to be no more than docile kittens by the time they departed Alumni Field.

Norwich held a 243-90 edge in total yards, and chimed in with 12 first downs to JC's five, one of which came on an off-sides call against the Tornado in the opening stanza while the other four were produced in the fourth quarter, with the game out of control and a plethora of Purple subs on the grid. For its 33 rushing attempts, JC averaged only 2-plus yards.

That brilliant defensive effort was championed by the tackling of Byrne, DiStefano, Odenkirchen, Panaro, Yank Robertson, Rotundo and Wassung. Also contributing valuable playing time were Annesi, Fred Burdnell, Caezza, Cushman, Farnham, Johnson, Tom Mirabito, Mowry, Ramaccia, Thompson and Zaia.

Norwich's initial score came following a JC punt; Morris returned the boot 39 yards before he and Toots Mirabito took turns maneuvering the pigskin to the Wildcat 1-yard line. Following the blocking of his backfield mate, Mirabito, Morris scored standing up around left end. Following Morris' early success, Mirabito took over to ice the contest. Running for one TD in the second quarter, he followed that with a pass to Burdnell in the third before capping his afternoon with a 33-yard pass interception to paydirt. Rotundo and his reliable toe booted three of four conversion kicks.

Despite the shellacking, it could have been worse as Norwich missed out on two other touchdowns because of dropped passes, and another when JC intercepted an errant Purple aerial on its own 7-yard line.

Although only three games into the fall campaign, Sun sports editor Browne proved to be an oracle as well as a well-respected scribe. Writing in the Tuesday, October 5 edition of the local paper, he predicted that, "... if Beyer can get his club past the shoetown battle the Purple will come pretty close to a perfect season."

An amusing sideline to that victory over JC was the fact that Beyer, fresh off his team's dismantling of Cortland the previous Friday afternoon, scouted the Wildcats that same night against Onondaga Valley. The next day, while taking in the Colgate-Cornell fray, he ran into the JC assistant coaches who queried why he would be in Ithaca while his squad was playing Cortland. They didn't know of the game change from Saturday to Friday, so Wildcat head honcho George Ellert made the trek to Cortland for naught.

#### **Binghamton Central (25-0) – Saturday, October 16 (Home):**

If any one game was the cornerstone to the Purple's remarkable season, it was the campaign's midway battle with the Blue Bulldog. Like Norwich, Bingo came roaring into town undefeated, untied and unscored upon.

Entertaining its second Broome County 11 in a row, the bite of the Bulldog proved to be as harmless as the claws on the previous week's Wildcats of JC. Outgained 165-22 ½, Bingo didn't record a first down until late in the third quarter, at which time the visitors trailed 18-0. Late in the game, however, the visitors mounted a drive that threatened the Purple goal. Utilizing the 1880 sleeper play, the Bulldog almost cracked the elusive Norwich end zone, but Toots Mirabito and Elmo Robertson forced the would-be Bingo hero out of bounds at the 8-yard line. Four subsequent cracks at the line netted seven yards and two feet, and Norwich took over on downs. No team would come closer to scoring the remainder of the fall.

Following that goal-line stand, Toots Mirabito cut through left tackle for three and Palmatier followed suit with 10 more before Mirabito capped the day with an 87-yard scamper to muzzle the Bulldog for good. Rotundo's lone extra point finalized the arithmetic.



*1937 LETTERMEN — First row: John Caezza, Leland "Bunky" Morris, Tom Mirabito, Stan Burdnell; second row: Vernon "Yank" Robertson, Vince Panaro, Salvatore "Toots" Mirabito, Capt. Burt Palmatier, Jim Rotundo, Willard Mowry, Frank "Sonny" Wassung; third row: Tom Byrne, Glenn Cushman, Elmo Robertson, Walt Odenkirchen, Jerry Farnham, John "Piker" DiStefano, Dominic "Dusty" Annesi; back row: Coach Kurt Beyer, Manager Hugh Rice, Asst. Coach Don Coe*

Burdnell on a 22-yard TD strike in the opening period and added a short plunge just before halftime to up the ante to 12-0 at intermission. After exchanging punts to initiate the third quarter at their own 33, Mirabito knifed through right tackle for 23 yards and Palmatier did likewise to score from 44 yards out with some nifty broken field running to improve the Tornado's lot to 18-0 before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 3,000.

With Farnham and Panaro sharing the center duties, the Purple used only three substitutes — Tom Mirabito, Morris and Mowry — all day as the hosts held a 12-6 edge in first downs over their Parlor City opponents.

**Little Falls (53-0) – Friday, October 22 (Home):** Any thoughts of a letdown following their impressive triumph over Binghamton Central, were quickly dispelled as the Purple raced out to a 33-0 cushion after just one quarter of play.

The Mounties, who came in to Tornado town with a pair of wins (Dolgeville and Hamilton) and a scoreless tie with Herkimer, had yielded only eight points all season, those coming in an 8-0 setback to Johnstown. They were no match for the Purple, however, as the latter held an 11-2 edge in first downs en route to scoring in each of the four quarters.

During that devastating first quarter, Tom Mirabito hauled in two passes — one a perfectly pegged goal line spiral from Palmatier to start the numbers brigade and polished off the period with a 9-yard reception from Johnson. Sandwiched in between were a trio of jaunts by Toots Mirabito from 57, 26 and four yards out. Rotundo and Elmo Robertson added PAT kicks, while Toots teamed with Yank Robertson on a conversion aerial.

With the entire Norwich bench seeing action, Johnson scored from the 7-yard line and Elmo Robertson converted the boot to close the opening half at 40-0. Morris tacked on an 11-yard scamper, following a Little Falls fumble in the third period, with Rotundo converting on the extra point.

Since this game was the final home contest of the season, and for the Purple seniors their last Alumni Field fray, the Norwich starters took the field one final time during the game's closing minutes. Aptly enough, Toots Mirabito aired out a 42-yard pass to Burdnell to cap the day and the season's most lethal offensive outburst.

The game was played on Friday afternoon as both schools were closed due to a state zone convention for teachers in Syracuse.

**Scrimmage (13-6) – Tuesday, October 26:** In an effort to keep their team sharp before Saturday's trek to Binghamton North, the second sub-par club to face the Purple in succession, the Norwich coaching staff held a practice game, played under regular-game conditions at Alumni Field.

When the dust had settled, the Tornado varsity came away with a hard-fought, 13-6 triumph over their second-team counterparts. Scoring first was the varsity, but the second team tied the score early in the third quarter — the only time their grid

"Toots was more than just the physical leader, he was the spiritual leader of the team, too. He had a great knack for picking up little things on the field," recalled Beyer. "The play before, where Burt (Palmatier) ran 10 yards, was a fake play where Mirabito got the ball but handed it back to Palmatier. Having watched someone make the tackle who shouldn't have, Toots called the same play again, but this time didn't give up the ball."

Mirabito and Palmatier figured prominently in the Tornado's other three scores, each one scattered out over the game's first three quarters. Mirabito teamed up with

was invaded all year – on a pass from Tom Mirabito to Annesi. Who else but Toots Mirabito put the varsity back on top for good, with a fourth-quarter run.

After the contest, head coach Beyer said the game was close and hard fought throughout all four quarters, and that the work of Caezza in the second team line was outstanding. Beyer added that Byrne played a bang-up defensive game in the varsity line.

Comprising the varsity lineup were Wassung and Yank Robertson, ends; Byrne and Mowry, tackles; Rotundo and DiStefano, guards; Panaro, center; Tom Mirabito, Toots Mirabito, Burdell and Palmatier, backs. The second team was made up of Annesi and Ramaccia, ends; Odenkirchen, Harvey Boyer and Cushman, tackles; Caezza, Ed Downey and Boyer, guards; Farnham, center; Elmo Robertson, Zaia, Dennis O'Neil, Alan Scott, Morris, Johnson and Dominic A. Zieno, backs. Panaro and Farnham changed teams at the half at center, and Elmo Robertson switched at halfback with Tom Mirabito. Morris went to the first team in the fourth quarter in place of Palmatier.

**Binghamton North (41-0) – Saturday, October 30 (Away):** Despite the successful scrimmage just four days prior, Norwich's play against the out-manned Indians bordered on the edge of raggedness, both defensively as well as offensively. All told, the Purple chalked up a half dozen six-pointers, but too many fumbles and uncharacteristic mistakes kept the tally from being greater.

Leading that scoring brigade was Toots Mirabito with four touchdowns, while Tom Mirabito and Morris added one apiece. Rotundo booted four extra points and Burdell hauled in a PAT strike from Toots Mirabito to round out the math. Toots began the arithmetic with runs of 48 yards and one foot in the first quarter, and tacked on two more in the closing period from eight and three yards out. He also teamed up with Tom Mirabito on a 10-yard reverse to make the halftime count 27-0, while Morris broke off tackle for a 30-yard bender in that same second quarter.

Because of the lopsided nature of the game, Beyer and his staff were able to flood the field with many substitutes. Mowry spelled Odenkirchen to start the game at tackle, and he was followed over the course of the day by the likes of Annesi, Boyer, Caezza, Cushman, Johnson, Panaro, Ramaccia, Scott and Zaia.

**Johnstown (34-0) – Saturday, November 6 (Away):** In order to ward off the slovenly play that plagued the Purple during their victory over Binghamton North, Beyer and his associates moved practice to the Cortland Street playground, where lights not only permitted longer sessions but a respite from the early-setting sun.

As noted by Browne in his Wednesday, November 3 slant, Beyer was not satisfied with the showing of his men in Binghamton, when their play was very loose at times. "Considerable work on defense will be given the gridders this week," promised the Norwich coach.

The long trip north to Johnstown, which necessitated Norwich leaving at 8:00 a.m. via chartered bus, was originally scheduled as a homecoming of sorts for former Norwich school superintendent Frank R. Wassung. Wassung, whose son "Sonny" anchored left end for the Purple, had moved on to Johnstown to assume the same position. But before the game came about, he took a similar role at Garden City on Long Island. Still, he made the long haul north, and even addressed the team before the game. That pre-game talk marked the first time in the coaching regime of Beyer that anyone other than members of the coaching staff had spoken to the players.

Be it that talk or the arduous workouts during the week, the undermanned Sir Bills were no match for the inspired Tornado. After forcing Johnstown to punt following its initial possession of the afternoon, Elmo Robertson executed a perfect reverse for 30 yards, Burdell pulled in a 33-yard spiral from Toots Mirabito, and the latter polished off the first drive from two yards out. Toots tacked on two more six-pointers before the half, the first on an off-tackle dive following a pair of long runs by Morris of 40 and 30 yards, while the second capped a Purple aerial assault late in that second stanza.

Norwich added one score in each of the final two periods, Palmatier chalking up the first when he broke free of three would-be tacklers to ramble 50 yards to paydirt, while Toots Mirabito produced a 30-yard burst, following a pair of 20-yard receptions by Elmo Robertson in the last quarter. Rotundo went 4-for-5 in

conversion boots.

The Sir Bills, who used only 11 players all day, threatened late in the game. Air strikes led them to the Tornado 17, from where an offsides penalty resulted in a first and 10 from the Norwich 12. Four plays picked up just over six inches, and on the last, a pass, Panaro intercepted but fumbled a second later. An alert Morris fell on the ball, and time ultimately expired as the Purple was marching toward another score.

**Oneonta (26-0) – Saturday, November 13 (Away):** A movie producer couldn't have scripted it better – all that stood between Norwich and football immortality was its long-standing foe from Oneonta.

"Every season the Oneonta 11 comes up to the Norwich game with a spirit and determination that makes them play their best game of the year against us," said Beyer prior to the final game. "This game isn't in the bag and our boys will have to play football every minute of the game."

Enthusiasm on the part of the Yellowjackets and the entire Oneonta populace was sky high. Throughout the city signs blared the command to "Stop Mirabito" and the Oneonta Theatre's marquee carried the message – in foot-high electricity – "Come On Oneonta, Let's Beat Norwich."

Well, the Yellowjackets did a good job of slowing down Mirabito as he didn't cross the goal line until the final quarter on a 5-yard toss from Morris. That TD enabled Mirabito to have scored in every game. But while the defense centered its attention on Mirabito, they left themselves vulnerable on the outside where Morris and Palmatier ran with abandon, and Burdell was used as a delayed receiver from his blocking back position.

After trading first-quarter punts on the rain-infested quagmire, Morris – in for Palmatier who injured his leg earlier in the week – sliced through left tackle, picked up speed and swept around end for a 52-yard score. Rotundo's kick gave the Purple an early 7-0 lead.

Palmatier returned to action in the second period and wasted little time in making his presence felt. Slipping and mud-dogging his way over left tackle, he shook off three tacklers, carried forward with deceptive speed, eluded two more tacklers, then reversed his field and escaped two more foes – the last of whom hit him and catapulted him over the goal line for a 20-yard TD run much to the delight of the large Norwich contingent on hand.

Earlier in the week, an inability to secure bus accommodations created a transportation problem for many Norwich students. A cry went out to all fans and alumni who had passenger space to ask some student to accompany them. Those who were unable to fill their cars were asked to drive by the high school prior to leaving the city for the game in hopes of finding a stranded student or two awaiting a ride there.

And for the folks unable to attend, Norwich faculty manager Floyd "Tubby" Lothridge would continue his role of calling in the halftime and final scores to both (Gordon) Ingalls' Sport Shop at 24 South Broad Street – the current home of Arnell Music – and The Norwich Sun office on Lackawanna Ave. Local fans could just dial 140 and 325, respectively, and be brought up to date on the action.

Morris continued his assault on the rain-soaked Oneonta grid with a 40-yard sweep around left end in the third stanza and almost ran back a punt with a 25-yard burst in the final chapter. He and Toots Mirabito took turns marching the ball to the Yellowjacket five, from where Mirabito scored on that aforementioned pass from Morris.

Said Oneonta coach George Reynolds following his team's hard-fought defeat, "That Purple team is all they have said for it, the finest high school team I have ever seen."

Indeed – and now perfection and history was theirs forever.

#### **THE CELEBRATION**

In order to acknowledge the historic significance of the Purple's unprecedented achievements, a pep rally was held on Monday, November 15 before a general assembly of the high school. Principal Hogue received a lusty cheer when he announced that school would be recessed for the day to allow fans of the Tornado to express their enthusiasm for the team.

A victory dance, sponsored by the junior class, was held later that night in the gym. Dancing was from 8 to 10 p.m. to permit ample rest in preparation for

the regular class schedule Tuesday. Admission was five cents per person.

Later in the week, General Electric's flagship radio station WGY-810 AM in Schenectady broadcast throughout the northeast the many records established by the Norwich gridders. The announcer gave high praise to the NHS 11, who outscored their foes 251-0 and held a first down advantage of 95-41. Pacing that scoring juggernaut (31.4 ppg) was Toots Mirabito with

19 touchdowns for 114 points, while Morris tallied 36, Stan Burdnell chalked up 31, Rotundo booted 19, Palmatier rang up 18 as did Tom Mirabito, Johnson and Wassung finished with six each and the Robertsons — Elmo and Yank — rounded out the math with two and one, respectively. All told, in 32 quarters of football, the Purple failed to cross the goal in only three — the first against Kingston, the second versus Cortland and the third at Binghamton North.

Even the Norwich city council got into the act when Alderman James W. Flanagan offered a resolution on the success of the team. The resolution recited the scores of the eight games played by the Purple and said in part,

"And whereas this splendid and unusual record has brought much favorable attention to the city of Norwich, and the team, by their clean, hard play, has brought much credit to our school system.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the common council of the city of Norwich express to this wonderful team the appreciation of all the citizens of Norwich."

The historic season culminated with a city-wide testimonial dinner on Wednesday night, December 15 at Norwich City Hall. Gold footballs were presented to the lettermen and later a dance was held at the Norwich Club, with Jack Lynch and his orchestra of Binghamton providing the music. Contributions came in from throughout the city to defray the evening's cost as banquet tickets were only \$1.25.

Jim Crowley of Notre Dame's famed Four Horsemen was the featured speaker. Crowley, who was then the head coach at Fordham University, praised the feats charted by the Norwich gridders before a crowd of nearly 500. Besides Crowley, many other coaches from the likes of Colgate, Cornell and Syracuse were in attendance as well as a host of sports reporters from throughout the state. And those who couldn't attend — many former Norwich and opposing players and coaches — sent congratulatory messages. Among those was a celebratory note from former Tornado player Tommy Manning, who was an inaugural inductee into the Norwich High School Sports Hall of Fame last year. Manning, then the head coach at Lake Placid, said, "To Kurt Beyer, the boys and the people of Norwich, my congratulations for the unexcelled season."

#### TODAY

Of the 52 assorted players, coaches, managers and mascot, only eight are still living. All in their 90s, they include Don Collier, Jim Georgeson, Fred Johnson, Sal "Toots" Mirabito, Lee "Bunky" Morris, Elmo Robertson, Jim Rotundo and Dominic J. Zieno. Collier and Rotundo still reside in Norwich; Georgeson and Johnson are in neighboring Cooperstown and Binghamton, respectively; Morris and Robertson have found the sunshine in the respective Florida towns of Marathon and Port Richey; Zieno lives west of here in Lyons and Toots Mirabito makes Seaford on Long Island his home.

The other 44, now departed, are no doubt comparing their earthly exploits with those accomplished by Martel and Dante in "Paradiso."



1937 STARTERS — Kneeling: Vernon "Yank" Robertson, Tommy Byrne, Jim Rotundo, Elmo Robertson, John "Piker" DiStefano, Walter Odenkirchen, Frank "Buck" Wassung. Standing: Leland "Bunky" Morris, Salvatore "Toots" Mirabito, Burt Palmatier, Stan Burdnell, Tom Mirabito.

### THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

#### PLAYERS

Dominic "Dusty" Annesi	Willard Mowry
Anthony "Unk" Bakoon	Jack O'Brien
Harvey Boyer	Walt Odenkirchen
Fred Burdnell	Dennis O'Neil
Stan Burdnell	Burt Palmatier
Tom Byrne	Vince Panaro
John Caezza	Art Prindle
Don Collier	Armand Ramaccia
Glenn Cushman	Mark Rice
John "Piker" DiStefano	Elmo Robertson
Ed Downey	Vernon "Yank" Robertson
Henry "Jake" Farley	Jim Rotundo
Jerry Farnham	Alan Scott
Bob Ganley	Bernie Thompson
Jim Georgeson	Ernie Tuskewicz
Dan Gibbs	Burton Wales
Fred Johnson	Frank "Sonny" Wassung
Warren Mersereau	Andy Zaia
Salvatore "Toots" Mirabito	Dominic A. Zieno
Tom Mirabito	Dominic J. Zieno
Leland "Bunky" Morris	

#### COACHES

Kurt Beyer  
Don Coe  
Joe Franklin  
Frank Giltner  
Dick Pendell

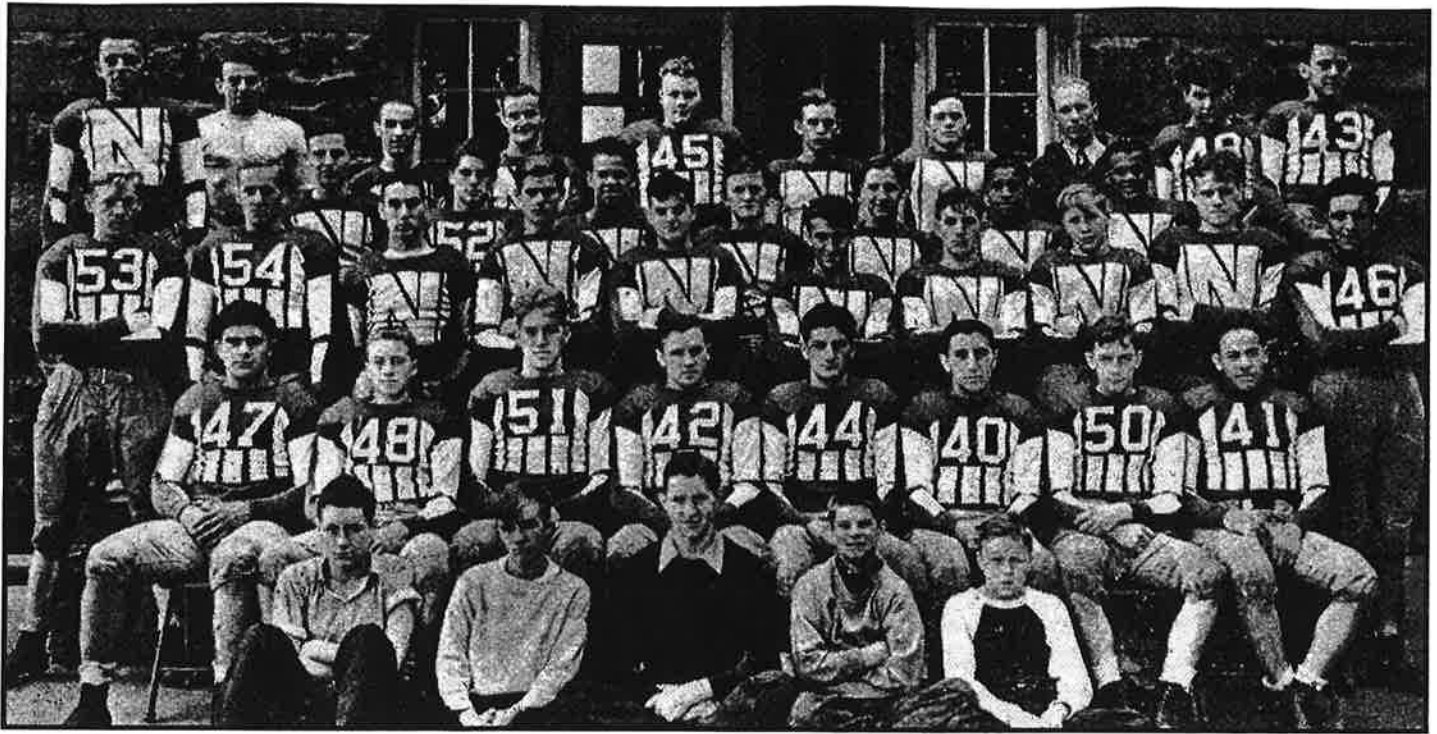
#### MANAGERS

Dick Devine  
Dick Gifford  
Bruce Halberg  
Hugh Rice  
Bob VanTine

#### MASCOT

Ed Nelson

## 1937 - The Perfect Season



*First row: Manager Hugh Rice, Asst. managers Bob VanTine, Dick Devine, Bruce Halberg, Dick Gifford; second row: Salvatore "Toots" Mirabito, Leland "Bunky" Morris, Elmo Robertson, Capt. Burt Palmatier, Jim Rotundo, Tom Mirabito, Frank "Sonny" Wassung, Stan Burdnell; third row: Vernon "Yank" Robertson, Tom Byrne, Dan Gibbs, Dominic J. Zieno, Art Prindle, John Caezza, Andy Zaia, Ed Downey, Willard Mowry, John "Piker" DiStefano; fourth row: Jack O'Brien, Jerry Farnham, Fred Burdnell, Anthony "Unk" Bakoon, Dominic A. Zieno, Fred Johnson, Harvey Boyer; back row: Dominic "Dusty" Annesi, Asst. Coach Don Coe, Jim Georgeson, Warren Mersereau, Walt Odenkirchen, Bernie Thompson, Bob Ganley, Coach Kurt Beyer, Vince Panaro, Armand Ramaccia; not pictured: Don Collier, Glenn Cushman, Dennis O'Neil, Alan Scott, Ernie Tuskewicz, Burton Wales, Henry "Jake" Farley, Mark Rice, Asst. coaches Joe Franklin, Frank Giltner, Dick Pendell, Mascot Ed Nelson .*