

Cuero High School Football

The Early Days

Cuero Gobblers - Daule Rams

Beginning of a Football Dynasty

Football began in Cuero in 1911 with a 33 to 0 defeat at the hands of the Beeville Trojans. Later that year the Gobblers lost to Yoakum by a score of 7 to 6. This was the first of almost 100 games that have been played in one of Texas' longest high school rivalries.

After 10 years the Gobbler's record stood at 34 wins 18 losses and three ties. It included their first undefeated season, which was in 1914. Important games were played against the likes of Corpus Christi and San Antonio and the fans felt their Gobblers were ready to take on all comers.



Coaches like Rupert Barkley, Marvin Weiners, and W. I. Woodson provided the team with great leadership in the beginning. Fans were

supportive as they traveled, often by train or in vintage automobiles over muddy roads in the dead of winter, to cheer on their beloved Gobblers.



Early Marching Band

From 1920 to 1930 the team won 46 times lost 29 and tied in 13 games. During this period O. A. Zimmerman came to Cuero as a math teacher and coach. The feisty Zimmerman later became CISD Superintendent and then Business Manager and, in all, served the school district for 26 years and was certainly among a long list of great coaches of the Green and White.

1928 is a very special year in the history of Cuero football as both Cuero schools won their district Championship. That year the Gobblers were coached by Albert Leissner who led the team to an 8 win 1 loss season. That loss to Del Rio was a crushing defeat that was talked about in Cuero for years. Unfortunately a poor decision to call a pass play late in the game let Del Rio escape with a 13 to 12 victory even though the Gobblers had twice as many yards on offense and had played extremely well on defense.

Daule won their District Championship by whipping up on Taylor by the score of 44 to 0. The Daule Gobblers later to become the Rams were well on their way to becoming one of the strongest black teams in the state. It is interesting to note that in 1928 both schools had beaten Victoria schools by the combined score of 97 to 7.



Daule High School Players

In the next eleven years the team had 57 wins 41 losses and 5 ties giving them an overall record of 137-92-31. It would be interesting to know what the Daule record was during those years but the Great Flood of 1998 washed away much of that history. We do know that during this time period the team won more often than not and many times over opponents from much larger schools. In one victory over a Houston team the opposing coach was so angry with his team for losing to a small school he made his players, who had come to the game by bus from across town, walk home.



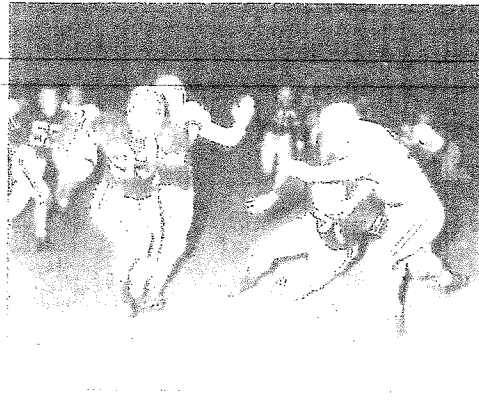
Coach Sampson

In 1936 S. A. Sampson accepted the positions of agriculture teacher and coach at Daule. In his first ten years of coaching at Daule his teams lost only 5 games. Under his tutelage Daule featured a wide open brand of football that attracted large crowds. For a lot of folks including Gobbler fans and players it was the place to be on Saturday night. He had very gifted athletes such as Weldon Washington, Willie Jackson, O. D. "Big Boy" Green, Alfred Stevens, Elvin Wright, Bully Wesley, Dick Murray, Holloway, Cinch Kelley, Mikes, Meador, Mathis, Brown, Carter, Scott, Henderson, Green, Squanchy Jones, Dewey Johnson, and others.

At one time Sampson not only coached and taught agriculture but was also the principal. When the state ultimately decreed that he could not do all three, he gave up his principal and coaching duties in favor of the subject he

believed he was called to teach. Of course from time to time he assisted the coach, only when asked, and by so doing mentored several young Daule coaches. One of his players, Elvin Wright said of him. "He was a man that was down to earth, just himself, and a great coach." He was also a man that cared about his community. When Cuero Community Hospital was built he gave generously to that cause.

Toward the end of his tenure he accepted Gobbler coach Hansel Mangum's invitation to bring his track team to Gobbler Stadium for a practice meet. More than likely these two gentlemen coaches knew that integration was just around the corner. What they possibly could had never had imagined was the influence they and other fine coaches, both black and white, would have on the building of one of the greatest high school football dynasties in the State of Texas.



Lewis Mayne Running for touchdown

In 1935 former Wake Forest player Edward Shinn was named coach of the Gobblers. Also that year a young Lewis Mayne began his

illustrious football career. With his triple threat, Mayne, and a fine supporting cast of players, Shinn led the Gobblers to a 9 win 1 loss 1 tie Bi-district Championship in 1938.

1938 was followed by one of the worst seasons in the Gobblers history as they went 0 wins and 9 losses. They scored only 18 points and gave up 220. Even so players like Toenjes, Kuehl, Phillips, Capper, Leon Rusche, Pete Bluntzer, and Henry Sheppard played well and learned the tough lesson that only defeat can teach.

So in 1941 the Eddie Shinn Gobblers dubbed the "Mighty Mites" by San Antonio Sports Writer Perry Winkle win the East Zone Championship. In the process they pile up 235 points while giving up only 24 for the season. Players that provided the spark for the team were Frank Boothe, George Gerhold, J. B. Kuehl, Johnny Phillips, Harold Menke, Arnie Moore, Pete Bluntzer, Bernard Rusche, Santos Colorado, Henry Sheppard, and others.

Thus ends the early years of Cuero Football history. The Cuero Heritage Museum is dedicated to preserving the culture and history of Cuero. Certainly athletics and the game of football are a part of that rich heritage. We hope you enjoy the exhibit and your comments are welcome. We look forward to telling the rest of the story.

Presented by the Cuero Heritage Museum and the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 125 E. Church St., Cuero, TX 77954