

An Historic Day

This is the next installment in the series of articles by Br. Neal Golden '57 CJ



December 7, 1941 – “a day that will live in infamy” (FDR). December 10, 1971, almost exactly thirty years after Pearl Harbor – a day that will live forever in Crusader athletic annals. On that Friday, Brother Martin became the first school in Louisiana prep history to win two state championships on the same day.



1971 CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONS

That afternoon **Jack Schommer's** Cross Country team, fresh off its third straight City Championship, won the state meet at LSU. Junior **Jim Roche** finished second in a photo finish with a time of 10:51:00. Another junior, **Phil Jones**, placed sixth, senior **Donnie Murphy** 16th, junior **Tom Dumas** 36th, and senior **Ron Olavarrieta** 71st. The team tally showed Martin with 73, Sulphur 81, and West Monroe 98. The state title was the three-year-old school's first after sixth and eighth place finishes. **Roche** said afterwards, “We knew that we had a good chance when we entered the meet; all we had to do was run like we normally do.” **Jones** added that he “felt that we accomplished the goal we always wanted to achieve.” The team proudly displayed the trophy at Tad Gormley Stadium that night.

Bob Conlin's second gridiron aggregation reached the AAAA state championship against St. Augustine with 13-1 record. The season turned after a 16-0 loss to Jesuit in the second game. **Conlin** decided to scrap the wing T for the wishbone offense perfected by his coaching idol, “Bear” Bryant of Alabama. The new formation paid dividends immediately in a 25-6 win over Abramson and 27-7 trouncing of Rummel. A defensive battle with De La Salle was



1971 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

ended by senior **Steve Treuting's** five-yard TD run late in the game for a 6-0 win. Chalmette fell 20-0 to set the stage for the thriller against Holy Cross. Junior QB **Joe Mattingly** hit senior **Andre Allen** with a 28-yard TD pass with just 48 seconds left in the contest. Junior **Darryl Brue** calmly added the winning point, 7-6.

Victories over Redemptorist (12-7) and Shaw (19-0) set the stage for the district showdown with the Purple Knights. Senior co-captains **Ken Bordelon** and **Don Angle** led **Chubby Marks'** stifling defense as the game remained scoreless deep into the last period. **Treuting** returned a punt 27 yards and three plays later scored to propel the Crusaders to a 7-0 triumph and Martin's first district championship.

In the first playoff game, **Conlin's** crew prevailed by the same 7-0 margin over Kennedy. A trip to South Terrebonne the next week produced a 14-0 victory and a semifinal berth against Neville of Monroe. Fortunately, the bracket called for Martin to host the game, which was played at East Jefferson Stadium because St. Aug played at Gormley that night.

The 'Saders led 7-0 when the Tigers got the ball for one last drive. Neville had not come close to scoring. However, a pass over the middle to the tight end turned into a shocking TD with 0:54 left when the Martin safety slipped down on the slick field. Having no kicker, Neville went for two. Senior LB **Pete Farnet** knocked the Tiger QB out of bounds just short of the pylon to preserve the victory.

25,000 filled the horseshoe in City Park for the rematch with the Big Purple. The game wasn't as close as the regular season finale. Senior end **Steve Mallerich** set the tone on the first series by sacking QB Keith Pete. Later in the period, **Farnet** picked off a Pete aerial to set up a **Treuting** TD plunge for a 7-0 lead. **Brue** kicked a 32-yard field goal on the last play of the half. The second half belonged to the Crimson and Gold as well. Blindsided by **Bordelon** as he threw, Pete saw another pass picked off, this time by **Brue**. Seven plays later **Treuting** scored again for a 17-0 lead. Junior **Marc Robert** recovered a fumble at the Knight 11 which set up a **Mattingly** four-yard run to complete the eighth shutout of the season, 23-0.

After being carried off the field on the players' shoulders, **Conlin** summarized the season this way: “After that loss to Jesuit, every game was a must. We had to take it to our opponents and we did.”

Alumni Archives

The Alumni Office is collecting items for our Alumni Archives. Any items you may have from St. Aloysius, Cor Jesu or Brother Martin that you would like to donate, would be greatly appreciated.

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