

WITHEROW SPARKLES AS BACKFIELD STAR

West Philly Quarterback Has Been Scintillating on Scholastic Gridirons; Is Crack End Runner

GRADUATES IN JUNE

By PAUL PREP Johnny Witherow, the youngster who now is calling signals for Warren Weiller's West Philadelphia High School football team, has proved himself to be one of the best scholastic quarterbacks in Philadelphia and vicinity. In two games he has played in such scintillating form it is doubtful if there is another signal caller who can be compared with him with the exception of Dick Wells, Central High's backfield star.



JOHNNY WITHEROW West Philly High's crack quarterback

When the present season started Coach Weiller was stuck for a quarterback. He had two boys, Cook and McMahon, either of whom might or might not be able to stand the gaff. The day of the opening game rolled around and Weiller started Cook. Now "Woods" isn't a poor quarterback or anything like that. At the same time he isn't a crackerjack. He went in, played a great game, but came out injured. He was forced to quit the squad for the remainder of the season. Captain Joe Jeffcott, who, by the way, now is suffering with an infected leg and has not appeared in a uniform during the last two weeks, was called on to direct the team play in the opening game with Germantown. Joe played a game of a game, but Weiller found that he would be of more value as a fullback. Therefore he was shifted. He was not able to play his new position, however, owing to his injured leg.

McMahon Goes In Then Weiller gave "Wyn" McMahon a chance. McMahon is a good football player, plays nobly ball, but his weight is against him. He tips the beam at a fraction more than 130 pounds. He was too light, so Warren started to look for a new back.

In the meantime, Witherow, who had refused to school, was indolgent. But his difficulties with the faculty were straightened before the big game with Frankford. Johnny was originally an end, but he played the quarterback position for the Speedboys last year. He was received with open arms, instructed the new plays and signals and was ready for the battle.

What happened in that game is scholastic history. Frankford looked forward to an easy victory, but much to its surprise was completely outplayed by the opening team. Witherow was the star of the game. He called his plays at the right time; instructed his boys where to play; for the Frankford backs; and as a result gained a glorious moral victory. It was only through the medium of a blocked kick that the team from the home of the Yellow Jackets was able to cop the decision.

A Great Play Johnny made one of the greatest plays ever witnessed by a school football gathering in the Frankford affair. After about three minutes of the opening period had been completed, Paul Romney, leader of the Pioneers, decided to throw a forward pass. He heaved the ball far down the field, to Weekees, his fullback. Weekees, with open arms, was willing to receive the ball, but just then Witherow, running like an antelope, leaped into space, took a jack-knife dive over Weekees' head, hit and grounded the ball. The little Speedboy quarterback fell to the ground, lead first, but resumed play without the loss of time.

In the Frankford game Witherow was great; in the Northeast game he was even more so. The Red and Black put up a much stiffer argument than the Speedboys were expecting. The team was out to win, and it wanted to lick West Philadelphia especially.

Witherow soon realized that hitting the Northeast line was useless. True, Bergman, the big halfback, who ran for yards for a touchdown after intercepting Stearns' forward pass late in the game, made gains at every try, but he couldn't be used always. So Johnny decided on an aerial attack. In this he was successful. He personally grabbed a pair of passes, thrown by Bergman, considered by many the best tosser in scholastic football, and tall-

NAVY YARD TEAMS IN SECOND ROUND

Michigan and Receiving Meet in Important Football Game Today

UPSETS ARE LOOKED FOR

The second round in the Philadelphia Navy Yard Football League started with the playing of the game yesterday between the U. S. Marines and Naval Hospital. This week will probably go a long way toward deciding the championship, as the undefeated Michigan outfit clashes with the Receiving Station today. Two victories for Receiving last week boosted it in the standings, and Lieutenant Commander Gulbranson says the dope will in all probability be upset as he expects the games in the closing half to be harder fought than ever.

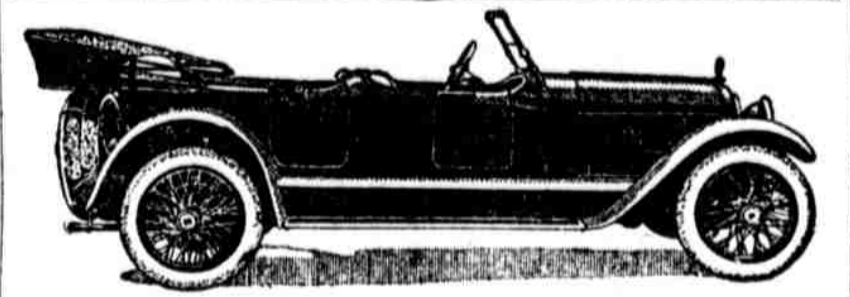
The bluejackets proved themselves excellent mudders during the week, as the games were played in a sea of mud. On account of the slippery field numerous casualties resulted, especially among the Marines.

The U. S. S. Hannibal put up a strong game against the Receiving Station, losing only by one touchdown, 7-0. Sanders at end, and Willis at half played a fine game on the defense for the Hannibal, while Carpenter, at quarter, and Keyser, at guard, excelled for Receiving Station. Both teams are developing rapidly.

The biggest score of the season was rolled up by the Michigan against the Naval Hospital, when the Medicos were defeated 47-0. The whole Michigan outfit played the best game of the season.

However, Hospital was handicapped by the absence of three of its best players, who were nursing minor injuries. They will be back this week and will undoubtedly stage a comeback when they go up against the Marines.

Receiving Station nosed out the Marines by one touchdown, 7-0. The Marines put up a stubborn defense and the game was unusually hard fought. Receiving Station scored on a long forward pass in the first quarter. After that it was nip and tuck. Fumbles were frequent on account of the wet ball.



93 words in this message

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