

TIGER FLASHBACK

EASTANOLLEE

1950

The Eastanollee Indians traveled south to Tigertown with high hopes of ambushing the high-powered offensive machine of Coach Ralph Chambers in the first encounter between the two schools since the 1947 matchup that was won by Commerce (31-0).

The Tigers had their fourth consecutive win, in as many games, in the back of their minds and came out with an air barrage likened unto that of "Fireball" Frankie Sinkwich, the former fabled 1942 star of the University of Georgia.

The strong Tiger defense stymied the redmen for most of the night, while the Gene Baird and Curtis Stowe led ground and air attack moved the ball at will and with great precision in posting a (46-7) massacre of Eastanollee's warriors at Tiger Stadium then located on Shankle Heights Road and is now called Ridling Field.

On the first drive of the night, Commerce quickly blitzed its way down the field in only a few plays with the Tigers scoring on a 15-yard strike from Curtis Stowe to fullback Gene Baird who gathered in the perfect aerial over his shoulder and rumbled into the end zone from 15 yards out. The PAT failed but the Tigers had taken an early lead of (6-0).

Commerce gained possession a short time later following a short Indian punt and began a drive which was capped when Baird bucked over left tackle for his second touchdown on a 15-yard scamper into pay dirt. The PAT again failed but the Tiger lead had now mounted to a more comfortable (12-0).

In the second period, the third score was made for the 'Cats when Stowe connected for his second TD aerial of the night, as he located Garnett Bray and rifled another bullet this time from 13 yards away to ring up the pay station once more. Baird converted the PAT to make the Tiger lead at intermission (19-0).

To open the third stanza, the Tigers took the kickoff and quickly moved into Indian territory setting up Baird's burst through a gaping hole off right tackle behind the crunching blocks of Charles Hill, Jerry Aiken and Otho Dodd, as the big bull raced past would-be tacklers into the end zone for the Tigers fourth tally of the night.

Stowe converted on the PAT attempt, and now the Commerce lead had grown to a (26-

0) advantage.

The longest jaunt of the contest came a short time later when Baird went 83 yards off the right side again behind the blocks of Hill, Dodd, Aiken, Verner Crawford and Bray, as the senior running back outraced the Indian secondary. Bray added the extra point to increase the Tiger lead to (33-0).

The Eastanollee tribe mounted a drive late in the third period and eventually scored on a one-yard plunge into the middle of the line by Cabe the Eastanollee halfback. The PAT pass from Nalley to Turner was good and the Indians had cut the Tiger lead to (33-7).

The sixth Tiger score occurred on a 5-yard run by Garnett Bray who sliced into the end zone on a cross buck play after taking the handoff from Stowe. Verner Crawford added the PAT upping the Tiger margin to (40-7).

The Tigers chalked up another TD on the scoreboard when Stowe blitzed across the magic yard stripe, after the Tigers steamrolled a path around right end for Baird who later lateraled downfield to Stowe with the latter waltzing the distance for a 56-yard thing of beauty. The PAT failed but the Gold and Black had plundered the Indians' wigwam, as the Eastanollee team trekked its way back to the north Georgia mountains with a (46-7) defeat.

Commerce went on to post a 7-2-0 record also defeating Lavonia, Buford, Toccoa, Monroe, Hartwell and Winder while losing close encounters to South Habersham and also to Greensboro later in the season.

Starters for Commerce when the season began were:

LE--Thomas Sweetser, LT--Eugene Swindle, LG--Dewoodie Martin, C--Charlie O'Rear, RG--Jerry Aiken, RT--Charles Hill, RE--Otho Dodd, QB--Garnett Bray, LH--Curtis Stowe, RH--Verner Crawford and FB--Gene Baird.

Others on the 1950 squad were:

Elmer Boone, Parker Brown, Amory Stowe, Ray Garrett, Paul Scoggins, Jr., Gene Waldrop, Wayman Bates, Harold Tarpley, Jere Nunn, Lamar Baird, Fred Turpin, Paul Brown, Floyd Guest, Jr., Bobby Dorsey, O'Neal Banks, Bobby Gardner, George Payne, Burley Hemphill, Jr., Lewis Hix, Willis Harden, Daniel Ford, Bootsey White, Mitchell Adams and Olin Lord.

Primarily compiled from *THE COMMERCE NEWS* reports

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