

The 'Drubbing' of the 1932 Greyhounds

By Andrew Wright

Our readers are likely familiar with Carmel's athletic legacy (139 state championships, 6 in the last year alone), so this article will not regale you with another victory story. This article is about Carmel's worst athletic season, which included the most lopsided defeat in the school's history, the "drubbing" of the Greyhounds during the 1932 football season.

The earliest record of the Carmel's football program goes back to November 30, 1899, when Carmel lost to Manual Training High School's JV squad 7 to 5. The team played a few games a year until Carmel joined the IHSAA in 1904, allowing for a more complete schedule through the 1908 season. Carmel did not field a team the following year. Unfortunately, not much is known about these early years as many of the newspapers and yearbooks that would have recorded the team's results have been lost.

The second iteration of the program began in 1926 when geography teacher Roy Fosbrink put together a team and acquired some old uniforms from Purdue. The team was winless their first year. In fact they would not pick up a win until they upset Westfield 35-6 in the last game of the 1927 season. In 1928, the team



1929 Carmel Greyhounds

was 1-5-1 with many lopsided defeats. They fared about the same the following year.

After four abysmal seasons, all the pieces came together in 1930. The team finished with a record of 5-1-1. In 1931 Carmel outscored their opponents 136-38 with four shutouts, and finished with a 6-2 record. That season included back-to-back wins over Broad Ripple (32-0) and Noblesville (35-0).

Carmel fans surely took notice of their team's two year dominance in the county as well as their wins against much larger Indianapolis schools. Their interest must have been piqued for the 1932 season opener against Sheridan. However, as stated before this is not the story of a victorious underdog. Whatever magic worked in the two previous seasons was gone as Sheridan defeated Carmel 24-0. If fans were disappointed after the game, they must have been devastated when Carmel traveled to Indianapolis to face the Washington Continentals the following week.

On September 16, 1932, Carmel's squad of less than 20 took on Washington's 44. The Greyhound's fate was sealed when Washington scored on their second play. Washington would not run another play from scrimmage that quarter as they returned three consecutive Carmel punts for touchdowns. The Continentals began to rotate their 44 players, allowing Carmel to get their only first down of the half against Washington's 3rd string. By the time the game was over, the score was 104-0. The "drubbing", as the Indianapolis Star reported it, should have set a local record, but Noblesville lost a game 105-0 twelve years prior.

Score by quarter

Washington	28	20	35	21	104
Carmel	0	0	0	0	0

Carmel's woes continued with losses to Broad Ripple, New Castle and Noblesville before surprising a strong Westfield team with a tie. They tied Noblesville the following week. By the end of the season, Carmel was outscored 219-19 and winless.

1932 Results

Sheridan	24 - 0	Carmel
Washington	104 - 0	Carmel
Broad Ripple	27 - 0	Carmel
New Castle	45 - 7	Carmel
Noblesville	7 - 0	Carmel
Westfield	6 - 6	Carmel
Noblesville	6 - 6	Carmel

The team showed improvement the following season with a blowout win (46-0) against Frankfort but finished with a record of 1-3-1. The 1934 season was Carmel's last until 1951. That year, the Greyhounds went 0-5 and gave up 117 points without scoring any of their own.

It is hard to imagine that a program whose players today are so numerous they stretch the length of the field and whose accomplishments in the last decade are unrivaled in the state was once an underdog, undersized and struggling. Our city has gone through a similar transformation. Carmel was a small town of less than 700 surrounded by farmland in 1932; today it is Indiana's 5th largest city. These are our humble roots. Hopefully we will make an effort to rediscover them as our city continues to change.