

1950/51



Gridiron Glimpses

The year 1950 found varsity football at CBS on a .500 average, with the Gael winning five out of ten ball games. However the record doesn't tell the whole story; the squad faced a top team in every tilt with only Chico High a second place eleven.

The Gaels main threat was in their passing attack and the hard charging by backs Sam Vartanian and Tom O'Donnell. Although injuries riddled the lineup almost every game, the Blue and White held face as well as ground against the roughest and toughest in Northern California. The first encounter was a victorious one as the Irish traveled to the desert lands of Nevada to defeat Bishop Manoque, 13-7. Vartanian and O'Donnell did the scoring and the only opposing score came on an intercepted pass.

The glory brought to Christian Brothers only a year before was blasted as a different McClatchy High School Lions team nipped the wave of wins, 28-2. The Galloping Gaels were in the shadows of being shut out, but in the final quarter, Jim Blakeway tackled a 'stringer' in the end zone to break the ice. The hard charging line proved too much for the Gaels but gallantly our boys stood off the onslaught. Andy Smolich, Ron Carissmi, Jack Kearns and Pat O'Hare played good games defensively while Junior Dick Traversi, Bob Gloyd, and Vartanian starred in the backfield.

On the road again the locals ran into tough sledding against Manteca High, losing 25-12. The gaels could do nothing against a superior eleven, catching fire only in the dying moments of the fourth period. Here on a quarterback sneak, Jim Blakeway hit pay dirt for the first time and seconds later, Gene Lynch broke into the end zone, as the gun sounded to make the game history. Main cause of the defeat was the absence of Vartanian because of sickness. Vernon Horton, the toughest lineman in the city, and Victor Bertolani stood out on the line along with ends Jim Winchell, Bill Ross, and Punky Towne.

On Homecoming Day, at 21st and Broadway, tradition kept intact as the running of fleet backs and heads up play on the line proved too much for a visiting Serra High School team. The Gaels, through two touchdowns by Sam Vartanian, registered a 13-7 win. Bob Sweeny and Andy Smolich rocked the opposing line with hard plunges while the running of Bob Gloyd and Asa Whetstone proved a deciding factor.

Next Coach Ray Clemons took his squad to Marysville and again the victory scene was nipped in the bud as they lost to the Sierra Football co-champions, 12-7. Sam Vartanian scored the only TD of the game for CBS. Here the team lost the services of Dick Castro when he broke his collar bone.





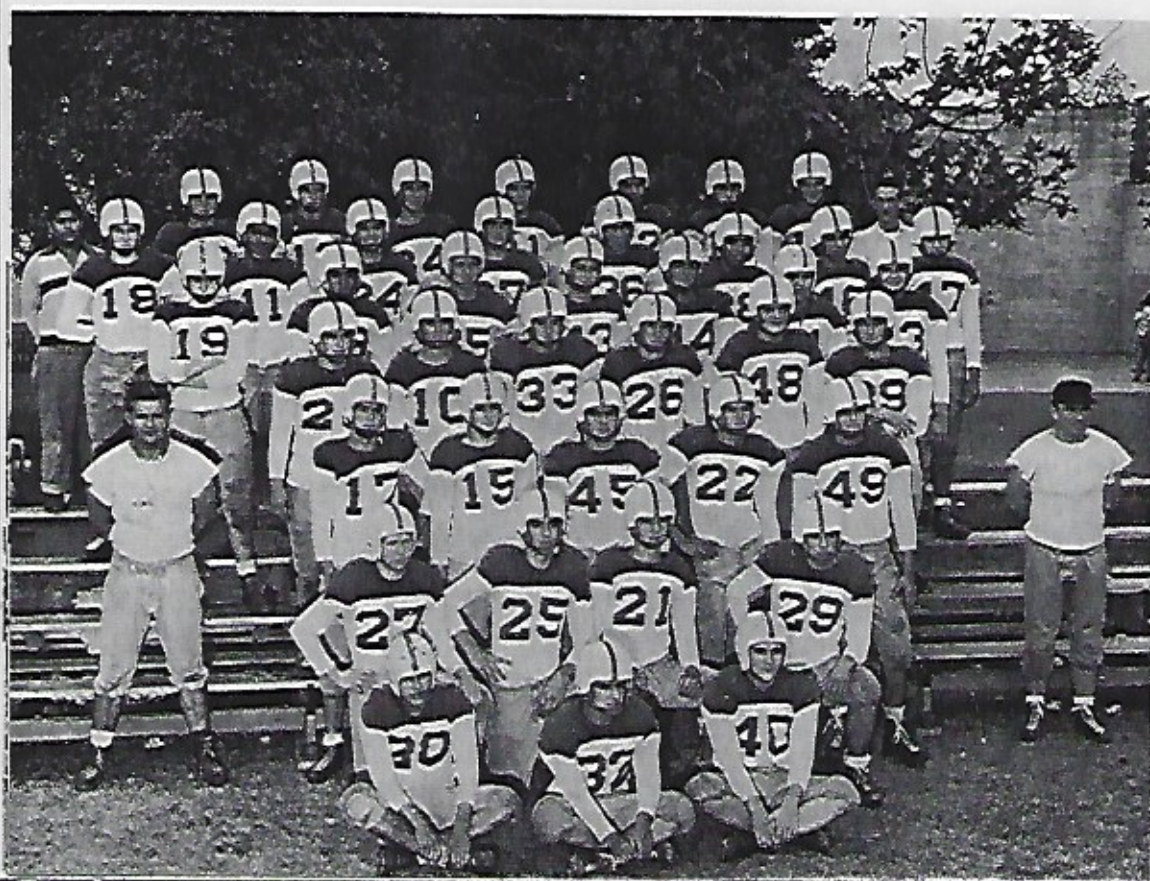
TD for Punky



The "Bench"

Football 1951

Looking over Varsity football at CBS in 1951 found the Gaels with one of the finest clubs in the school's history, winning six out of ten games. The games: In the opener Serra took a 12-7 win from the Gaels with Bill Ross scoring the Irish TD. McClatchy made it two in a row, 20-14. Dick Castro and Punky Towne made the touchdowns. The first triumph and the beginning of a five game win streak began with a 21-14 verdict over Sonora. Tom O'Donnell scored twice and Lew Pebbles once. Victory number two was a 51-0 romp of Jackson with O'Donnell leading with 3 TDs. Gene Angelo, Charles Chatfield, Dick Traversi, Tony Latino and Gavin Carr also scored. The third slaughter was over Marysville 32-7, O'Donnell hitting pay dirt three times and Ross and Latino once each. Amador was next on the list, losing 45-6 as Bill Bell, Ed Reich, Ray Tucker, Tom Gill, George Thomas, Ross and Towne scored the TDs. The fifth win was the annual Homecoming Day Classic against Riordan 37-0. O'Donnell scored twice and Bob Sweeney, Towne, Latino and Thomas once. Yuba City spoiled the Gaels assault 19-13 with Traversi scoring both TDs. O'Donnell paced a 31-0 victory over Grant with 4 TDs while Towne made one and in the final, Tom scored the lone TD in the Dragons 14-7 win to end the season.



Above: Head Coach Ray Clemons.
Left: 1951 Gael Varsity with Clemons on far left and Assistant Coach Larry Willett, far right.



At Amador the tide changed and the boys in blue and white racked up their best score of the season winning 20-6. Sam Vartanian again showed the way, powering two TD's while Bob Gloyd scored the other. The line clicked and backfield plays went like clock work. Sweeny, Smolich, Carissimi, Kearns and O'Hare played bang up games while Traversi, Blakeway and Whetstone starred in the backfield.

The Gaels made it two in a row by downing Chico High. Tom O'Donnell returned to the lineup as the Chicoans now well know, scoring both touchdowns to give CBS a 13-6 win. The boys from Brothers went South from Chico, visiting the other half of the Sierra Football League Champs, Yuba City. The Honkers fell victim to the Gaels 13-8 on markers by Vartanian and Bill Bell. Bob Gloyd probably played the best game of his career in this tilt by intercepting several passes and playing a good defensive back position.

After returning to home territory, the Grant Union Pacers snapped the 3 game win streak of the Irish, 25-7, in Del Paso Heights. The play of Vartanian, which made him a unanimous choice for all city honors, was much in evidence here. He was the top ground gainer of the day and scored the only touchdown for CBS. Punky Towne starred at end with a few spectacular run backs on punts.

The last game of the year was in a way disastrous, but in another, glorious. The powerful machine from Sacramento High rolled to an apparently easy 61-13 victory but the spirit of the Gaels was tops even without the services of Vartanian, who had the flu. The fact that the Irish did score, which they hadn't done since '44, brought light to the gloomy result. Tom Agosta, Dragon back, scored 5 TD's to lead the shellacking while Bob Gloyd and Willis Towne garnered the Gaels tallies. Towne's score came in the closing second of the game on a pass from Jim Blakeway, while Bob Sweeny's conversion put football in the past for CBS in 1950.

Halfback Sam Vartanian and tackle Andy Smolich were unanimous choices for the mythical all city team and were chosen by their teammates as co-captains for the year. In a dinner after the season Coach Ray Clemons presented Vartanian with the best player's award while center Phil Sapunor received the trophy for the most team spirit. Ron Carissimi, first string tackle, was chosen on the all-city's second team.

Seniors who played their last game were John McCormack, Noel Slakey, Jim Bamberry, Bill Warmby, Don Willows, Asa Whetstone, Bill Newberry, Vernon Horton, Phil Sapunor, Bob Gloyd, Sam Vartanian, Jim Winchell, Pat O'Hare, Ron Carissimi, Jim Blakeway, Andy Smolich, and Jack Kearns.

