
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

March 2020

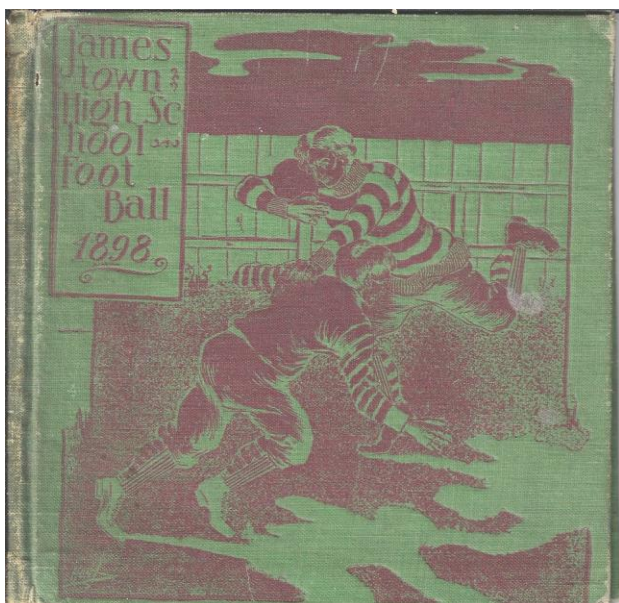
Do you think your high school football team was pretty good? Consider this one. They went 8-0, a record that included wins against college teams. They scored 350 points and gave up none! What team was this? Jamestown High School '98. Not 1998 but 1898.

The CSHOF has a copy of a very rare book that was produced following that incredible JHS season of 1898. The book was edited by Frank G. Curtis, a player on the team. His prideful account appears below.

Jamestown High School Football, 1898

"Thus far our fortune keeps an upward course. And we are graced with wreathes of victory."
SHAKESPEARE

It is probably true that no football team ever went upon the gridiron so many times in succession and came off with such fine results as the J. H. S. team did in 1898.



In eight games that were played with institutions of learning J. H. S. gained 350 points and no school could ever score a point against her. Five of the teams against which she played are supposed to be above her class. There was but one game during the whole season in which it seemed that an opponent would score against J. H. S. Thiel once had three yards to gain in three downs and she came within four inches of the line where she was held for downs. Thiel College was the strongest team J. H. S. played against in 1898.



When J. H. S. defeated Alfred University 34 to 0, she proved that she could defeat the University of Rochester as the U. of R. defeated Alfred only 5 to 0 in the first game and 18 to 0 in the second game. Then we could have defeated Hobart College as Hobart was defeated by the University of Rochester.

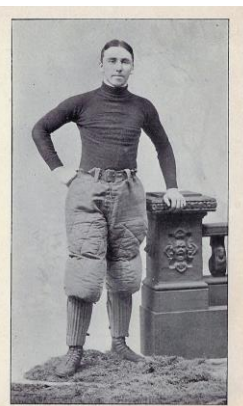
I am pleased to show that J. H. S. was much superior to Rochester Free Academy. I have shown our superiority to the U. of R. and that university defeated Rochester Free Academy 5 to 0.

Left: Frank Curtis, right end and author

So on down it can be found that J. H. S. could easily have defeated any high school team in the country, and it is not too much to say that our team could have defeated any college in New York State with the exception of Cornell and Cornell would have had a notable struggle with the J. H. S. in '98.

Tonawanda H. S., Rochester Free Academy, Syracuse H. S. and Co. C of Bradford, Pa., were all afraid to meet us and without an exception each broke a date or refused to make a date with our team.

It is an honor to our school that our football men were always so courteous to their opponents, and they have received many compliments for such manliness.

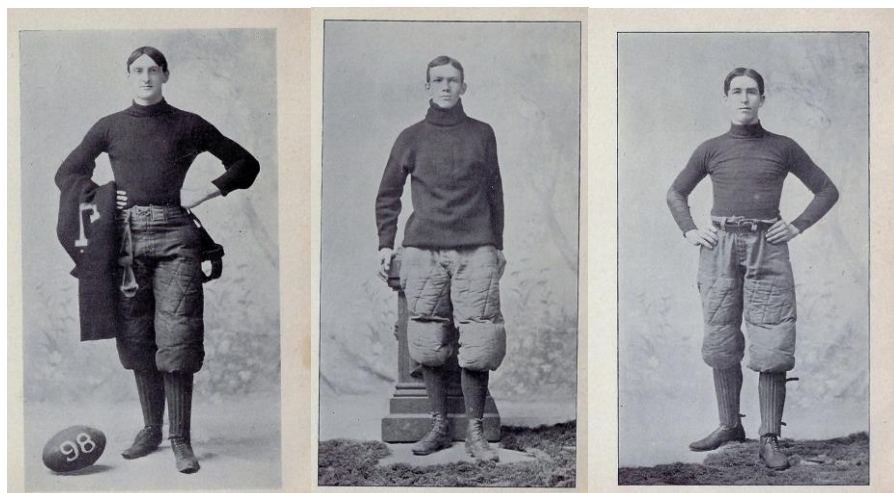


Clarence Wilcox (LHB) Lyle Himebaugh (QB) George Reif (LT)

At the beginning of the school year Clarence Wilcox was elected captain and George Relf was elected manager. Edward R. Bootey, Jr. was the assistant manager. In September Wilcox resigned and entered Hobart, and Lyle Himebaugh was elected captain.

We may attribute much of our success to the hearty co-operation of the Board of Education, Superintendent Rogers, and to the teachers and students, but the chief cause of our success was heavy everyday practice, regardless of rain or sunshine. A first cause of success was our perfect knowledge of signals so that ten men aiding the

man with the ball which, by the way, was in Jamestown's possession nearly all of the fall.



Roy Dschuden (RHB)

Chester Price (RG)

Homer Wellmam (C)

Our defensive work was perfect. No opponent ever broke through Jamestown's line or circled her ends.

Our line bucking, our interference making and our interference breaking, our determination and our harmony, our lightness of foot and snappy quickness, and fairness to our opponents and general scientific handling of the pigskin, have excited the admiration of spectators and opponents.



Claude Ahlstrom (RT)

Parker Sample (LG)

Russell Forbes (FB)

It should be recalled that the J.H.S. team of '97 was but little inferior to that of '98.



Sydney Baker (LE) Allen Curtis (LHB) Orsell Price (RT)

On Thanksgiving evening, 1898, the students of J.H.S. gave a fine reception in the gymnasium to the J.H.S. and Alfred University teams, and on December 3d, 1898, the lady friends of the team gave another swell reception to the victorious team. Each football man is grateful for all the kindness shown him.

**RAZZLE-DAZZLE-HOBBLE-GOBBLE-ZIS-BOOM-AH
JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL - RAH ! RAH !! RAH !!!**

RESULTS OF GAMES

Fredonia Normal School	0	J.H.S.	54
Allegheny College	0	J.H.S.	34
Thiel College	0	J.H.S.	18
Titusville H.S.	0	J.H.S.	57
Buffalo Central H.S.	0	J.H.S.	59
Bradford H.S.	0	J.H.S.	59
Sugar Grove Seminary	0	J.H.S.	44
Alfred University	0	J.H.S.	34



Luther Lakin (RG) Marion Fisher (RE) Edward Bootey (asst. mgr.)