

Week by week look at the 1922 seasons for Oil City and Franklin:

Sept. 23 -- Franklin still practicing, while the Oilers open with 0-0 tie against Alumni.

Speaking on which: Franklin drilled in 100-degree heat on Sept. 8. The News-Herald reported the Nursery had a pair of 200-pounders in Rial Shaffer (212) and Albert "Fat" Snyder at 250. "But Snyder probably will be down to 225 by the time the season gets going," the TNH said.

Tackling dummy smashed to smithereens

The Sept. 18 edition of TNH reported: "High school boys were smiling today over the attack which Rial Shaffer, 200-pound man, staged on a tackling dummy last Friday. The dummy had hardly been erected and given a preliminary tryout when Shaffer attacked it with all the vigor he knew. His great weight and the rush of his attack swept the dummy, cross-arm support and all right to the ground." Said coach Bob Atticks, "A bigger cross-beam has been provided; that won't happen again."

Later, Atticks predicted, "We will go into the New Castle game in fine fettle." Well, not so much...

Sept. 30 -- New Castle walloped the Nurserymen, 28-0. Meanwhile, the Oilers were trouncing Youngsville, 37-3, behind Hugh "Spood" Olmes" who scored two touchdowns and threw for another. Future Colgate star Ray Vaughn also scored twice, once on a 50-yard pick six. Fred "Fuzzy" Moore added a 19-yard TD.

Oct. 7 -- While Oil City had the week off, Franklin was taking a drubbing at the hands of Warren, 46-0, extending its losing and scoreless streaks to 10 straight games.

Oct. 14 -- But then along came Cambridge Springs, and the Nursery pummeled the Spa, 31-0. A 15-yard pass from Eddie Stewart to Ken Williams gave Franklin its first TD since 1920. Later, Herb Eckert scored on runs of 70 and 71 yards, King Richardson hit pay dirt from 25 yards out and Harold Cunningham returned a punt 80 yards for still another TD. While this was going on, Oil City was losing to Meadville, 19-0, seemingly spoiling its chances for winning the Alpha Cup.

1922 travels

Getting back to Franklin-Cambridge Springs: the game was supposed to start early, at 2 p.m., so the Blue Devils could catch the Erie train at 4:38, but -- and to the surprise of FHS officials -- they arrived by car two hours late, so the game didn't start until 4 p.m. Atticks didn't know they were driving to the game until noon when they still hadn't arrived and only after he called the Cambridge Springs principal. The reason they were late was because they had to go through Titusville since the Meadville-Franklin road was closed.

Oct. 21 -- The Oilers had their way with Franklin, 32-6, in a Cup game at the West End Grounds. Olmes scored twice and threw a touchdown pass to John "Red" Foley, who had at least four catches for 79 yards. Dick Cleaves averaged 40 yards a punt, some of which went 60, according to The Derrick. Eckert's 79-yard run set up Franklin's only TD, a 1-yard run by Stewart.

'Veevo!'

During the 10-minute "armistice" between halves, "the students of the Oil City schools staged a snake dance over the field and kept an incessant din with their various yells and songs," TNH said. This didn't go over well with the Franklin folks who responded with "veevo." (Whatever that means.)

Oct. 28 -- The Oilers followed up with a 26-0 loss to Warren while Franklin was routing Parker's Landing, 52-6. Eckert gained more then 300 all-purpose yards, and scored three TDs, one on a 90-yard interception, another on a 50-yard double pass and the third on a "long double pass." Richard Kirker had two picks and caught a 28-yard TD pass from Richardson. One of Kirker's INTs set up an end-around for a touchdown by right tackle Ralph "Moon" Buck.

Nov. 4 -- Both local teams lost -- the Oilers to Greenville, 7-6, and the Nursery to Titusville, 6-2.

Nov. 11 -- Oil City rebounded from its loss to Warren by battling the Dragons to a 7-7 tie. Olmes scored the TD on a 10-yard run and completed passes to Stewart Wilson for 17 yards and Art Clinger for 16 during the drive. Meanwhile, Franklin, as it turned out, was doing Oil City a big favor by crushing Meadville, 30-0. Eckert scored three touchdowns on runs of 25, 30 and 4p0 yards. His 27-yard run set up a 1-yard plunge by Richardson. Eckert finished with at least 249 yards rushing on 12 carries.

Nov. 18 -- The Nursery followed that up with a 19-0 decision over Greenville. Eckert ran for at least 106 yards on eight carries and Snyder blocked a punt and recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown. Meanwhile, Grove City was blanking the Oilers, 13-0.

NEW SUIT

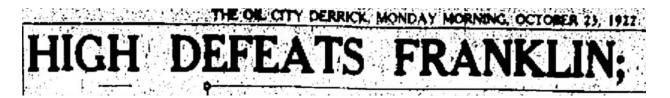
Nov. 25 -- Franklin didn't play while the Oilers shut out Titusville, 7-0, on a 55-yard TD pass from Olmes to Clinger with 2:30 to play. Wilson kicked the extra point and earned a new suit in the process. His dad, W.S. Wilson of West Third Street, told his son he'd buy him a new suit if "he kicked a goal."

Nov. 30 -- Franklin and Oil City played to a 0-0 tie on this Thanksgiving Day. The players were knee-deep in mud. The Nursery did reach the 8, but fumbled. The News-Herald said, "Each team left the field carrying about 100 pounds of mud." A special trolly was lined up to take Oil City fans to Franklin, leaving Center Street at 1:30 p.m. Cost was 50 cents round trip.

The game received only a blurb in The Derrick because Titusville tied Meadville that day, giving the Alpha Cup to the Oilers, but not without controversy.

Oil City was 2-1 in Cup games, while Meadville and Titusville were each 1-1-1. Franklin, despite coming on strong by season's end, was 1-2.

Some season's end stats: Olmes scored 37 of the Oilers' 89 points. He scored six TDs and threw for three others. Vaughn added three touchdowns for coach Bill Fountain's squad. Eckert scored eight TDs for Franklin and Richardson added three and 19 points.



FRANKLIN HIGH GOES DOWNBEFOREOIL CITY AT WEST END, 32 TO 6

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Schort's Long Run Brings Visitors' Lone Score— Cleaves Ponts Far

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