



FOOTBALL'S LONG HISTORY IN THE HILL COUNTRY

by Joe Herring

In 1911 Professor Alvin Dille, who later was superintendent of the Kerrville Schools, organized the first football team at Tivy. Teams from other area schools formed around the same time.

The September 26, 1957 issue of the Kerrville Times, has a story written by E. T. Butt, Florence Butt's son.

"Football came to Tivy in the fall of 1911," the page one article begins. "Prior to this time baseball was the principal sport and when school started in September the boys started baseball and played until the weather became too cold.

"Basketball was also a popular sport and Tivy had top teams both of boys and girls. Games were played with Center Point, Bandera, etc. Of course, the game was a great deal different from the way it is played at present, and a player would not get very far dribbling as they do now. It was mostly a passing game.

"In the summer of 1911, Professor Alvin Dille . . . was elected head of the Kerrville Schools. When school started in September, one of the first things he did was call all of the older boys together and to say, 'Boys, we are going to organize a Tivy Football Team. Who wants to try out for the team?'

"Of course, almost all of the boys were interested, although there was not a boy who had played football before and but few of them had even seen a game. There were a very few hold-backs, however, for nearly every boy who wore 'long breeches' tried out and there were about twenty on the first squad."

"Professor Dille taught the boys the fundamentals of the game. The team

worked from a straight T formation. Only simple plays were used -- such as end runs, 'line bucks,' and forward passing.



"We had one or two so called trick plays. One was the criss-cross in which the quarterback gave the ball to one end and he gave it to the other end coming from the opposite direction. It was slow, though, and we never gained much with it.

"The Tivy boys had no uniforms, but wore old baseball uniforms or caps, old sweaters, or anything they had. A few of them got hold of old pieces of football equipment," Butt wrote.

"I acquired a nose guard somewhere and it was responsible for the only touchdown we scored that season.

"The town team was punting and I broke through the line and the ball hit my nose guard and bounced back over the kicker's head and over their goal line, and Lewis Moore, a Tivy end, fell on it for a touchdown."

And that's the story of Tivy's first ever touchdown.

Joe Herring Jr. is a Kerrville native who's been in Kerrville for more than half of the Tivy football team's history.

joeherringjr.blogspot.com