



## A GHS Football Game to Remember

Granville has had many exciting athletic seasons and games over the years, not the least of which was the Blue Aces' 2021 achievement of an undefeated regular football season and advancing to the Ohio Div. III play-off semi-final game.

But few were more exciting than the 1961 high school football season, and the highlight win of that year over Licking Heights. Both the season and the game linger in the memories of many older Granvilleans.

In those days Granville played in the Mid Buckeye Conference. While many of its competitors were the familiar schools from around Licking County, the league also included Danville and Centerburg. The previous season had been a strong one for the Blue Aces, but an upset loss to Johnstown had limited them to a tie for the league title. Granville coach Don Miller returned only two regulars from that team, John Reeb and Terry White, so the prospects for 1961 were not clear.

The Licking Heights Hornets were the league favorite, and Granville would meet them in its fifth game. Granville's record was good, 3-0-1, but included a narrow season-opening win over Newark Catholic and a disappointing tie with Danville. Licking Heights rolled toward that game having compiled a 4-0 record and having outscored their opponents by a whopping 182-0. Granville fans travelled to Summit Station for the game with some trepidation on October 6, 1961.

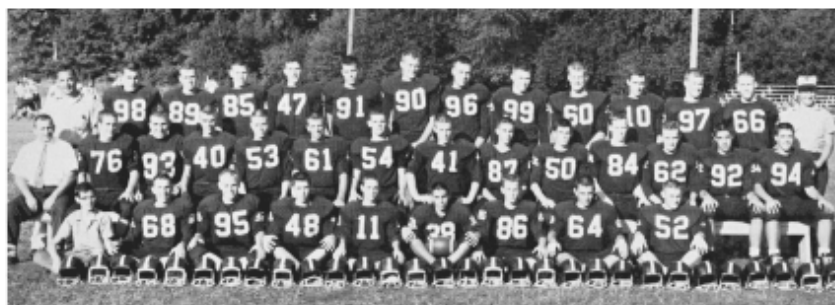
On only the second play of the game Granville's senior left halfback Pete Cass, playing his first year of football, went 50 yards for a touchdown. So much for the Hornets being unscored upon. Neither team having a kicker, the 2-point PAT try failed. Granville 6, Licking Heights 0. Heights then scored on a 75-yard run and made the conversion for an 8-6 lead. Dick Pinkerton recovered a fumble in the end zone for a 12-8 Granville lead, but the Hornets scored again, and led 14-12 at the half. Licking Heights had out-gained Granville on the ground 227 to 148 yards, but three Heights' fumbles kept Granville in the game.

With 2:20 left in the third quarter, Heights scored again for a 20-12 lead, but Granville wasn't done. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Pinkerton scored his second touchdown on a keeper, and Cass scored a 2-point conversion to tie the game at 20-all. The Hornets took up six minutes on a drive culminating in a 47-yard TD run. They also made a 2-point conversion, but it was called back on an off-sides penalty. Their second try failed, so the lead stayed at 26-20, with Heights ahead.

Granville returned to offense and, with 3:30 to go, Pinkerton scored his third touchdown on a 47-yard run, and his pass to Terry White for the 2-point conversion was good. Granville led 28-26 and that held as the final score.

Granville went on to finish out its first undefeated season since 1944 and to win its first outright Mid Buckeye Conference title. Many of the heroes from that game still walk our streets; others walk only in our memories. While there have been many exciting Granville wins since then, those who saw or played in that game will never forget it.

*\* Rob Drake, a 1965 Granville High School graduate, is a member of the Granville Historical Society's Publications Committee.*



1961 GRANVILLE BLUE ACES FOOTBALL TEAM: Front row (l-r) – Manager Jeff Stover, Dave Welsh, Bob Schaffer, Jim Hartman, Tim Cunard, Bob Dixon, Joe Miller, Buster Brown, and Bruce Chittenden. ROW 2 – Head Coach Don Miller, John Waring, Jim Foster, Chuck Berry, Bill Simonds, Ross Lichtenstein, Roger Dickinson, Dick Pinkerton, Jim King, John Schoer, Don Veazie, Rene Blaha, John Shumway and John Hammond. BACK ROW – Trainer Ken Dixon, John Jones, Dave Dunham, Larry Sargent, Greg Siggers, Jim Stough, Terry White, John Bennington, Wes Sargent, Ned Reeb, Pete Cass, John Reeb, Colin Campbell, and Assistant Coach Cliff McKenzie. *~From the 1962 Granville High School yearbook*

### Museum Hours

Closed for the Season

### Archives Hours

Thursdays Only  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Enter through the Robinson Research Center on the west side of the building.

Archivists are available to assist researchers Thursdays or by appointment.

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#### Guest Editor - Rob Drake

### Upcoming Calendar Events

Wednesday, Nov. 2

- Marla Krak, "History of the Denison Arts Quad" at 7 p.m. in the Granville Historical Society's Robinson Research Center, 115 E. Broadway, Granville.

Saturday, Dec. 3

- Candlelight Walking Tour, 3 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2

- Ret. Prof. Tod Frolicking, "The Impact of the Last Glaciation on the Granville Landscape", 7 p.m., Bryn Du Mansion, Granville.

Thursday, Feb. 23

- "Growing Up in Granville in the 1970s," 7 p.m., Granville Historical Society's Robinson Research Center.

Wednesday, March 15

- "History of the Granville Garden Club," 7 p.m., Granville Historical Society's Robinson Research Center.

### Annual Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 30

The Granville Historical Society Board of Managers is eager to have a live and in person Annual Meeting and you are invited!

This year the meeting will be held in the Amelia Room at Otterbein Senior Care Center, Granville. Refreshments begin at 5:30 with heavy hors d'oeuvres following at 6:00.

A short business meeting will begin at 6:15 with two items to be voted on by members attending the meeting.

#### Board Terms

As a one-time exception to the terms of office outlined in the Granville Historical Society's constitution and/or by-laws, because for the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 on the Society's operations, the current terms of all officers and board members will be extended by one year. Any officer or board member who is unable to serve this additional year could tender his or her resignation.

#### Public Admission to Board Meetings

Replace in By-Laws: "Visitors may observe Board meetings by invitation of the Executive Committee only." With The Following: "While the Executive Committee and Board of Managers reserve the right to close board meetings, otherwise, board meetings may be open to the public. Visitors in attendance may speak for a maximum of two minutes per person during a 15-minute time period at the beginning of the meeting. Visitors must fill out a speaker's slip when they arrive."

#### Program - "Effort to Save Shadyside"

Following the Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Ken and Donna Yaeger discuss the restoration process of their home, known as the Wright home, located on Newark Granville Rd. Invitations to be mailed out soon with reservations needed for anyone joining us for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.