

THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL AT GRANTS  
PASS HIGH SCHOOL, GRANTS PASS, OREGON

by

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. M. ...", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Major Professor" is printed.

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## INTRODUCTION

By the act of the Territorial Legislature, Josephine County became Oregon's 18th county on January 22, 1856, three years before Oregon became a state. It is the only county in the state of Oregon named in honor of a woman. It derives its name directly from Miss Josephine Rollins, who was the first white woman to settle for any length of time in this part of Oregon.

Gold was first discovered in Oregon on Josephine Creek some months before the Jacksonville discovery in December of 1851.

On July 7, 1857, Kerbyville was declared the seat of government for Josephine County. There it remained until 1885. At that time the voters cast a majority of their votes for Grants Pass as a permanent location for the county government.

Many stories have been circulated as to how Grants Pass got its name. According to Oregon Geographic Names by Lewis A. McArthur, the most generally accepted story states about the time news arrived in Southern Oregon of the capture of Vicksburg by General Grant during the Civil War, men were engaged in improving the road over the low hills north of this point and they celebrated General Grant's victory by naming the summit Grants Pass. The city was incorporated in 1887. The present population in Grants Pass is 12,271.

Josephine County is divided into two school districts for administrative purposes. School District #7, or the City School District, serves Grants Pass within the city limits and some parts of the immediate vicinity outside the city limits. Josephine County School District is made up of the rest of the county.

Both of the school districts rate well in the state educational system. This in itself is inconclusive unless some comparison of state systems is made. In May, 1960, in the edition of Education News, Rex Putman, the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Oregon, revealed that Oregon for the last fifteen years had consistently rated from first to fourth from the top in nationwide studies concerning the quality of its educational program in comparison with other states. Again in 1967, a private research organization ranked Oregon's school system as No. 1 in the nation.

The accomplishments of the students in the area schools, academically and athletically, have long been recognized throughout the state. The Caveman athletic teams are always to be reckoned with in state-wide competition.

The present Grants Pass School System started in 1884 when the school district bought the old Eureka Academy from the Eureka Academy Association of Jerome Prairie and moved the two-story building to the present site of Washington Grade School. The school was known as Central School.

In 1896, when C. S. Price was superintendent of schools, the grade school and high school were separated, and what had formerly been known as Grants Pass Academy, which had its first graduating class in 1888, became Grants Pass High School.

The first football stories are brief sketches. The writer found that only two games were played in 1908. At that time the number of pupils enrolled in high school was 104. This year, 1970, District #7 had 4878 students enrolled in school with 1877 attending

Grants Pass High School. Pre-registration indicates Grants Pass High School will house 2100 students in the fall for the school year 1971-1972.

Grants Pass is a three-year high school. It is fed by four junior high schools and fourteen elementary schools.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is two-fold: (1) to provide a record of the history of football at Grants Pass High School up to the present school year as well as to (2) record the coaches and to present their won-loss records throughout the years. The writer has been interested in obtaining and recording this information for some time. The complete facts had not previously been composed in any form for future reference.

It is hoped the information gathered in this report will be of significant nature to warrant its future use.

#### METHOD OF STUDY

Material for this study of football at Grants Pass High School was procured by various methods. The main sources of information were former coaches, former players, superintendents, principals, teachers, newspapers, school papers, score books, and high school yearbooks.

#### SCHOOL SYMBOLS

The Grants Pass High School colors are royal blue and white.

With the beginning of athletics, the high school adopted as their mascot insignia the Caveman. This adoption led to the later

development of the famous Oregon Cavemen from Grants Pass, composed of business and professional men who, dressed in animal skins, wearing horsehair wigs, buck teeth and big horns, run rampant at athletic contests, parades and gatherings of the public. Their main purpose is to publicize athletics and Grants Pass to the surrounding area.

#### LEAGUES

The Southern Oregon Conference is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, conference in the state. It was formed in 1910.

The charter members of this league included the following schools: Grants Pass, Medford, and Ashland.

An article found in the Rogue River Courier, October 14, 1910, stated:

...in order to facilitate the arrangement of games between the rival high schools of Southern Oregon a tri-high school league has been formed by the managers of the football teams and a schedule of football games made for the season. Each high school will play each of its opponents in two games until six games in all have been played.

The article closed by observing, "...with all games duly scheduled the boys have something always in sight and, to say the least, it encourages regular practice and maintains enthusiasm."

The article also stated that the formation of a conference offered a definite way of securing the championship besides excluding those players commonly known as ringers in keeping a clean high school team free from professionalism which so often mars school athletics.

The three schools listed in the schedule that year were Grants Pass, Medford and Ashland. Klamath Falls was added a few years later,

and in the ensuing decades, the Southern Oregon Conference has carried on.

There were a few years when the teams were unable to meet all of the other teams in the conference, but the championships were established on the basis of the best record in conference play.

Crater was added to the conference in 1956 and in 1966 Roseburg was shifted to the Southern Oregon Conference which comprises District 6, AAA schools, for determining which team will go into state championship playoffs.

#### FINANCING

In reviewing the football news from old newspaper files, the writer noted the growth of the enthusiasm on the part of the fans for the high school football program. This was particularly noticeable in the increased paid attendance at football games.

As in all athletic contests there is a correlation between gate receipts and attendance capacity of the facility involved. One has a hard time visualizing the attendance at football games without grandstands. In 1931 the entire gate receipts for the season amounted to only \$70.63. No one has been able to explain the odd cents, but in 1933 the receipts had more than doubled to the astounding amount of \$189.92.

Up to this period of time, there were no grandstands. The few fans would patrol the sidelines kicking up the dust or wading through mud, depending on the weather. There were no grandstands until 1936 when the 1500 seat grandstand which presently serves the students was

built. When it was built, many persons had misgivings about getting its cost back. The venture was financed through non-interest bearing student body bonds which were redeemed in a period of three years. Lights were included in this initial venture.

In 1941 the dust bowl or mud lake, depending on the whims of nature, was changed to a turf field. This venture was also financed through student body bonds sold to the townspeople and redeemed within a four year period.

During the summer of 1947, just prior to the advent of the Coach Mel Ingram era, it was anticipated that the increasing interest in football would justify the building of a new 3,000 seating capacity grandstand which was financed by the sale of \$9,000 of student body bonds, plus \$3,000 in cash supplied by the high school student body and \$2,000 furnished by the school district. The resulting attendance paid off these debts in three years - two years earlier than was originally planned.

The present Athletic Director Jesse Loffer, who has been on the staff at Grants Pass High School since 1945, notes the above grandstand construction plus added facility improvements in the recent years has resulted in an attendance average of approximately 7,000 people per game since 1948.

It is truly an awesome sight to witness the pre-sale of season tickets at Grants Pass High School. In preparation for the 1970 football season, news releases announced season tickets would go on sale Monday, August 24th, at 7:00 P. M. Because of the always present feeling of a successful season by the community, these news releases stimulated the formation of a waiting line to purchase season tickets the



Thursday previous to the above mentioned date. After standing in line and sleeping in the grandstand for four days previous to the sale of season tickets, approximately \$12,000 was realized by Grants Pass High during the first two hours of this sale. This should give one an insight to the enthusiasm shown toward football in Grants Pass.

Unfortunately, the entire financial receipt records were not available. As confirmed by Mr. Loffer, athletic financial records other than those mentioned previously are not retained after a five-year period.

The following records show the receipts and expenditures from 1965 through 1970 for football are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
1965	\$32,330.10	\$23,910.10	\$8,420.00
1966	21,959.67	15,768.95	6,190.72
1967	44,314.00	38,893.00	5,421.00
1968	23,475.00	17,858.00	5,617.00
1969	19,282.00	23,294.00	-4,012.00
1970	31,290.00	24,006.00	7,284.00

The writer of this report feels it is worthy of note to explain the variation in receipts and expenditures from year to year. Receipts will vary because of the number of home games, championship play-offs experienced, and weather factors. Expenditures will vary because of travel, equipment replacements, scouting costs, and the increase of coaching staff members.

In talking with the present superintendent, Eugene F. Allison, planning has begun for a new concrete football stadium with a seating capacity of ten to twelve thousand people and may be realized in the near future.

## COMMUNITY INTEREST

As far back as the records could be found, Grants Pass has always been an enthusiastic football city. The writer noted other southern Oregon cities are equally as rabid about football.

The remarks made to the writer of this report prompted some research through newspaper files at the Daily Courier going back to 1895 to find out as much as possible about football competition at Grants Pass.

Diligent search through the old files and through old copies of the high school yearbook, the Toka, supplied by various alumni of Grants Pass High School, and those books that have been preserved in the high school library, have resulted in the game scores dating back to 1908.

The phenomenal growth of interest in the football teams at Grants Pass is the result of many things. The personal interest of many prominent business and professional men throughout the years, plus the various civic organizations, such as the Grants Pass Junior Chamber of Commerce, now known as the Jaycees, the Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, the Elks Club, all added status to the program.

At the same time, the quality of the football teams improved with the growth of the turnouts for football which in recent years have numbered around 170 boys.

The fine halftime programs furnished by the Grants Pass High School Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Raymond E. McAllister, has added color to the sport. In the more than two decades Mr. McAllister has been directing the band at Grants Pass, the group has

won honor ratings in the Portland Rose Festival and other parades in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. McAllister's bands have participated in the massed bands at the East-West Shrine game at San Francisco, and for several alternate years has furnished the halftime entertainment for the San Francisco 49ers during one of their nationally televised games. The 100-piece band provides pre-game and halftime entertainment at every home game.

Also the excellent enthusiasm and pride evidenced by the Pep Club and the Rally Squad, and the help of the ticket squad and ushers involving nearly 500 high school students in the extra-curricular activity have helped build character and responsibility in the football program.

It's the spirit of Grants Pass that makes football so important.

As can be seen by checking the records over the years and the scores of the games played, football hasn't always been the success it has been in the past two decades. During the past 22 years, the school has won four state championships, the last being a co-championship, and reached the playoffs on other occasions.

In earlier times only two criteria were used to judge the success of the season. The most important was to beat Medford. The other was to win the Southern Oregon Conference title.

#### FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

In compiling the highlights and season records of football at Grants Pass, only brief sketches and game scores could be uncovered about the early years at Grants Pass High School.

The rules were different in the earlier days. In 1912 Grants Pass couldn't field a football team. After the Grants Pass boys had been taunted by the Medford players, a team including some who were not in high school was organized. The account of this is given in the Rogue River Courier for October 25, 1912. In this article it was pointed out that considerable interest was shown in the organizing of a football team to represent Grants Pass in the Rogue Valley. Lack of material was responsible for nothing being done along this line at the high school that year, while Medford and Ashland both had strong teams, each of them intending to play teams of the larger northern schools that season. Meetings were held and the results indicated that a very husky bunch of football stars of the days when Grants Pass used to triumph over the valley could be brought together to duplicate victories of the past. It went without saying that if Grants Pass could produce a winning football team their place as the metropolis of the Rogue River Valley would be more fully recognized. Later stories revealed the Grants Pass team lost to Medford 12 to 0 in the first game, and then beat the Medford squad 9 to 0 in the second game.

In the earlier years, more than one game was scheduled between two teams each year. It wasn't uncommon to have the loser of the first game win the second.

In 1917, Paul Blanchard, who retired in Grants Pass after many years as a successful lawyer in Chicago, coached the Grants Pass team to a 52 to 0 victory over Medford and won the first Southern Oregon Conference championship for the school.

The late Neil Allen coached the 1919 team through an undefeated season to gain the mythical state championship which was an unofficial

recognition for undefeated teams by the sports writers of that day. The claim was established by the record of the team that challenged all other undefeated teams, if any, to a Thanksgiving Day game for the championship. No other team in Grants Pass history achieved this distinction until 1950 when the Grants Pass Cavemen became the uncrowned champions.

The 1919 undefeated team was composed of the following members: Harold Isham, Landa Gillette, Wilbur Bearss, Leroy Histon, Steve Woodlin, Floyd Bailey, Adric Fields, Robert Bestul, Howard Bearss, Sherman Smith, Leonard Kendall, Malden LeRoy, Gene Murphy, and Joe Harper, manager.

The late Leonard Mayfield, former City Superintendent of Schools at Medford, coached the 1930 Grants Pass team to a 7 to 6 win over Medford and won the Southern Oregon Conference for that year.

The 1932 football season was a very successful one for the local gridiron artists. Only two games were lost during the entire season. Aside from the championship year of 1930, no other Grants Pass team of footballers can boast of as good a record. In 1932, this was the first season in local gridiron history when the opponents had been held to such a low season's total score. Only 33 points were scored against the local pigskin chasers while the Cavemen garnered a total of 135 points. In the 1930 championship year, 74 points were scored against the Grants Pass eleven.

In 1936, Loren Tuttle's football team won the Southern Oregon Conference crown after Medford had to forfeit all its games for using ineligible players.

The 1939 football team compiled a 5-3-0 won loss record. Under the guidance of Superintendent M. B. Winslow and Principal L. B.

Mayfield it was made possible for the student body to obtain the first lighted football field in southern Oregon. This project was started before that year. The Student Council paid off the remaining bond debt amounting to \$920.

The 1940 football squad compiled the best season's record since 1930. Out of eight games played, the Cavemen won 6, lost 1, and tied 1, ending the season in second place in the Southern Oregon Conference. During the season the Cavemen lost 20 to 6 to the Medford Black Tornadoes.

Tuffy Keith, now Dean of Boys at Grants Pass High School, coached the 1942 Cavemen who won a 12 to 6 victory over Medford. This marked the fifth time in history the Grants Pass team actually beat the team now known as the Black Tornado.

There may be some question of the authenticity of that being the fifth win for the school or actually the fourth, especially in view of the 1936 situation when Medford had to forfeit its games because of ineligible players.

In 1943 Medford scored 6 points on an off-tackle play winning 6-0. Coach Tuffy Keith produced from a green squad five all-conference players on the first and second teams. The Cavemen registered a 4-4-0 record for that season.

In 1944, the freshman year for Coach Mel Johnson in three years at Grants Pass, Medford boasted of a 41-0 victory. The Cavemen ended with a 3-4-1 season record.

The 1946 season saw the Medford football team give the Cavemen their worst defeat of the season. The Black Tornado won the game 56-0.

The Cavemen ended the season with a .444 percentage standing. Winning one of the three conference games gave the Grants Pass team 3rd place in the final Southern Oregon Conference standings.

#### THE MEL INGRAM ERA (1947-1968)

Before proceeding with the highlights of football at Grants Pass High School, a brief resume of the facts would be in order regarding Mr. Mel Ingram, the man who became the head football coach in 1947. It is felt a short history of his life is important before one can appreciate the outstanding success he has achieved in his 40 years of high school coaching.

Mel Ingram was born on the Fourth of July in 1903 in Acton, North Carolina. He traveled to the Pacific Northwest with his parents, the B. F. Ingram family, when he was six years old, and the family settled in Aberdeen, Washington.

His arrival in Aberdeen was about the same time Grants Pass High School started playing football games seven decades ago.

The middle member of five children in the home, Mel's enthusiasm generally instigated all the fireworks that probably got him started on the fabulous athletic career which lead him into a 40-year high school coaching career that ended with the close of the 1968 football season. Young Mel was hailed around Aberdeen and Spokane as the greatest all-around athlete of the area for his explosive achievements. It is the same success story everywhere Mel has coached, which has been confined to three high schools in the two-score years.

Mel's father lived until the ripe old age of 97, and a sister and a brother still live in Aberdeen.

Mel's wife, Marion, was his most faithful fan and made an effort to attend every major event in which her husband was involved. Mr. and Mrs. Ingram celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary last spring. A son and a daughter, both married, keep in close contact with them. Mel still continues to substitute teach at Grants Pass High School since his retirement in 1968.

Coach Ingram attended Weatherwax High School in Aberdeen. While in high school, it was said Ingram could and did almost everything with a football. He had amazing shiftiness and tackle-evading ability. Added to this was speed equaled by few, plus possession of a keen football sense. Mel was also outstanding and lettered all four years in basketball, baseball, and track while attending high school.

Newspaper clippings report Ingram was the outstanding star of all grammar and high school athletics on Grays Harbor. During his career as a member of the high school football team, he made more scores and won more games than the total of the remaining players on the team. Mel was always good for at least one 50 yard dash to the goal line each game and his defensive work made him a terror of opponents. The newspapers also stated he was a star track athlete, featuring in the sprints. Ingram ran the 100 yard dash in 10.2, a record never challenged during his four years in high school.

The newspapers during the 1920's in Washington seldom missed an opportunity to tell of some athletic prowess of the peppery athlete who was and still is interested in all forms of competitive sports.



Ingram entered Gonzaga University in 1924 after graduating from Aberdeen High School, where he had been a star in interscholastic athletics, states the newspapers in the Spokane area. Ingram ranks as the greatest all-around athlete ever to attend Gonzaga.

It was felt by many West Coast sportswriters that if Ingram had gone to a major college or university he would have received All-American status, but colleges of Gonzaga's size seldom attract attention sufficient to get many places on the mythical selections.

Mel Ingram won four letters each year in football, basketball, baseball, and track while attending Gonzaga University. In every department of athletics his performance was outstanding - as a half-back in football, a forward in basketball, an outfielder in baseball, and a broad jumper and sprinter in track.

After sorting through the records accumulated by Ingram in his four years of college athletics, it would be difficult to speculate as to which game he performed best. To read old newspaper accounts of Ingram's sports activities, one might wonder if one sport had actually ended before he started practicing for the next. The headlines were still shouting his exploits on the gridiron when he was starting basketball play, and when that was over, he competed in baseball and doubled in track; baseball then ran into football for a new round of sports.

Perhaps Mel Ingram's greatest athletic opportunity came in the field of baseball. He was signed by the Pittsburg Pirates in 1929 but refused to enter into the contract until he had been promised an early release by the end of the summer in order to return to the West, where he was to begin his coaching career at Wallace, Idaho, on Septem-

With terms agreeable to all concerned, Ingram proceeded to do so well with the Pirates that they voted him a split of the second-place share of the World Series money that fall even though he left before the season was completed.

Perhaps that is the secret of the success that followed in his coaching for the next 40 years which ended with the 1968 football season. His entire coaching career has been in three high schools. He turned down offers to become a college coach because he preferred to work with young boys. He was always striving to make men out of boys and points with pride to literally thousands of men scattered over the United States who are important citizens in their communities due in a large part to the intense interest Ingram took in them in their early years.

An avid fisherman and hunter and a great outdoorsman, Ingram will have many hours to enjoy his favorite relaxation through the expressions of gratitude from the boys and their parents who are thankful they got some coaching from one who knew how to play the game according to the rules and to play to win.

His boys were all competitors. This is because he was a competitor from start to finish. It is estimated Mel Ingram has touched the lives of at least 20,000 boys at three different high schools.

The official story of Mel Ingram's coaching career started at Wallace High School in Wallace, Idaho, in 1929. Ingram was hired as athletic director and head coach in all sports at Wallace High School.

It should be noted that Wallace experienced very little success in athletics before the advent of Ingram. This fact was pointed out by one of his former athletes at Wallace. These remarks were also

echoed by Bud Riley, presently the defensive backfield coach at Oregon State University, and a coach at Wallace several years after Ingram left for his Oregon jobs. Coach Riley relates how Ingram set a pattern that was a real challenge to uphold for anyone who followed.

At Wallace, Ingram's teams won 63 football games, lost 19, and tied two. In the 15 years, he had nine all-panhandle football teams including three North Idaho championship teams. One of the teams was rated first in the entire state of Idaho. Ingram's teams were never below fourth in competition, nor were they ever beaten twice in any one year by one team, according to information gained from the North Idaho Press.

The story is similar at the two schools in Oregon where Mel Ingram has coached. At this point in his coaching career he acquired the name of The Old Grey Fox because of his early coaching success.

In 1944 at Roseburg High School in Roseburg, Oregon, Ingram's first two teams had 4-4 records and his third team in the 1946 season posted an 8-1 mark, making it into the state playoffs for the first time in the history of the school.

The Mel Ingram success story started in Grants Pass in 1947 with a respectable 5-3 football season. One of the reasons for the apparent success of the football teams at Grants Pass was the emphasis placed upon adequate conditioning early in the season.

When Mel Ingram came to Grants Pass in 1947, the townspeople helped to arrange for a conditioning camp at the old Civilian Conservation Corp Camp on Mt. Greyback on the Oregon Caves highway beyond Cave Junction, Oregon.

The initials, CCC, took on new meaning as the prospective football players spent a week or ten days at the start of each football season at this camp which became known as the Cavemen Conditioning Camp.

The boys found a concentrated football program at this camp which was held as soon after the official start of football practice as funds permitted. The determining factor for the length of the camp was the opening day of school. The camp ended in time for the boys to enter school on the opening day. The money for the rent and training table was obtained through donations from the local businessmen.

The typical day's progress at the camp saw the boys getting up at 7:00, calisthenics at 7:10, breakfast at 7:30, and camp clean-up at 8:00 A. M.

At 8:30 the boys had chalk talks by the coaches and by 9:00 were out on the practice field in full uniform for a two-hour drill session. After the noon luncheon, a repeat session of chalk talks was held, and football practice got underway at 2:00 and continued until 5:00.

The evenings found the boys getting a slight variety in their chalk talks - either individual conferences with the coaches and study of the plays, or some movies of football play. After the evening sessions they went to bed to sleep or dream football.

When the squad completed its week at the CCC, the boys found the nightly grind on the football practice field at school much easier.

Because of pressure applied by other high schools on the Oregon School Activities Association, Grants Pass was told to discontinue this camp in 1951.

The first official state championship team in Grants Pass history was in 1948, coming in the second year after Mel Ingram became head coach for the Cavemen. The team won 10 games, lost one and tied one that year. The loss was to Medford in regular season play but the Cavemen won in the semi-finals when the two teams represented different districts. The tie was a 19-19 affair with Roseburg.

Oregon State High School Championship playoffs date back to 1940 when Bend beat Medford, 20 to 7, for the official title under the Oregon Schools Athletic Association.

The Oregon School Activities Association was organized in 1918. The OSAA is a voluntary non-profit incorporated organization. Any high school, junior high school, or elementary school in the state of Oregon, public or private, may become a member by subscribing to the rules and regulations of the Association. Membership is mandatory to be eligible for state playoffs. The purpose of the OSAA is to regulate interscholastic activities such as meets, contests, or tournaments that embrace schools of the state of Oregon or sections thereof by the establishment of uniform and equitable rules.

The OSAA implemented a four classification system in the fall of 1970 using the 10 through 12 grade enrollment figures based on average daily membership. The four classifications systems in the state of Oregon are as follows: AAA - 600 and up, AA - 200 through 599, A - 70 through 199, B - up to 69.

There were no playoffs in 1941 or 1942, but since 1943 when Grant beat Kalmath Falls, 6 to 0, for the title, there has been a playoff every year.

Originally there were four divisions in the state but in 1947 the four divisions were increased to eight. Grants Pass was shifted to the Southwest District known as District 3 while the other Southern Oregon Conference teams of that time were in District 2.

Thus, it became possible for Grants Pass to lose a 7 to 6 decision to Medford in Southern Oregon Conference play in 1948, but still win the District 3 title and eventually get to meet Medford, the District 2 winner in a semi-final game. Grants Pass won that game 13-6 and went on to beat Jefferson High School of Portland 6-0 for the Cavemen's first state title.

On the way home from the championship game with Jefferson High School of Portland, the state title was quickly forgotten when the chartered bus crashed on Mt. Sexton, located 10 miles from Grants Pass, and two players, Sterling Heater and Al Newman for whom the Grants Pass High School Memorial Gym is named, were killed.

The championship team of that year was composed of the following members: Bill Moore, Gerald Egger, Dick Warren, Keith Bertrand, Harold Dotts, Don Donovan, Walter Johnson, Gerald Hudson, Dick Bayless, Russ Jacobson, Bob Davis, Bob Flock, Jon Walker, Bill Wilcox, Bob Roark, Clinton Reese, Bob Grove, Ed Malone, Dale Ferguson, Orville Miller, Don Hedgepeth, Sterling Heater, Sid Franks, Tom Burgwin, Jim Peckham, James Jordan, Ed Zottola, Bob Orey, Al Newman, Mike Burgwin, Jack Williams, and Vernon Craft.

In 1949, the Grants Pass Cavemen compiled a respectable 7-1-0 season, the only loss being to Klamath Falls 21-39. Also that same year the other schools in District 3 voted Grants Pass out of that

district and the Cavemen were placed in District 2. This led to an unsatisfactory arrangement when the eventual district representative had to depend on the vote of the schools in the district. Coach Mel Ingram's 1950 team was undefeated in nine games but was denied the right to enter the playoffs that year because the district representative was elected by the vote of the 13 member schools who voted on a regional basis. Since there were seven schools in the eastern part of the district and six in the western, the school located in the eastern section got the nod. Although both Grants Pass and Prineville of eastern Oregon had been unbeaten all season, Prineville had the less impressive record. Loss in the first round by the Prineville Cowboys only heaped coals on the fires of resentment of the Cavemen fans and players alike.

This probably contributed to the fabulous scoring record of the 1951 team which won the second state championship for Grants Pass and extended the consecutive win string posted by the Cavemen to 22 games by going back into the 1949 season. The Cavemen scored a total of 452 points during the 12 games of the 1951 season. Every score was in double figures with the smallest coming in the final game in which Grants Pass tallied 14 points.

Winning the second state high school football championship within a four year period climaxed the 1951 season at Grants Pass when the Cavemen captured the state crown on first downs after coming from behind to score a 14-14 tie with Grant High School of Portland. Under rules set up by the Oregon School Activities at that time, the team with the most first downs in a tie game was declared the champion. Grants Pass had 12 first downs to 9 for Grant. Since then, when two teams are tied in the championship game, both are declared co-champions.

The 1951 football squad which won the state championship included the following: Dick Williams, Dick Barker, Ronald Masters, Ronald Knight, Joe Corder, Ronald Swisher, Don Herron, Dick James, John Harbour, Cliff Brumbeloe, Pete Stearns, Jim Horsley, Bill Dickson, Tom Towne, Roger Bertrand, Bill Harbin, Cliff Priddle, Keith Barker, Norm Hedgepeth, Mel Norrick, Larry Schweinfurt, Bill Bell, Rex DeFur, Jim Little, Gary McFarland, Dale Talbot, Brian Carothers, Bruce Robertson, and Cal Winbolt.

The 1952 Grants Pass football team got as far as the quarter-finals and amassed a fine 5-3-1 record winning the Southern Oregon crown.

The 1953 team missed becoming a state co-champion with Central Catholic of Portland by one missed point-after-touchdown. On their way to the state finals the Cavemen beat North Bend 14-12 in the quarter-finals and Jefferson High School of Portland 32-7 in the semifinals.

From 1953 to 1960 Coach Ingram's teams experienced successful seasons but fell short of all championships. The 1959 team along with the 1968 Cavemen were the only losing seasons Mel Ingram endured in his 22 years of coaching at Grants Pass High School. Coach Ingram's 1961 team also experienced a 4-5 season, but fortunately the league being well-balanced that year, gained the Southern Oregon Conference championship but was defeated in the quarter-finals of the playoffs.

In 1964, Grants Pass posted a 4-0 record in Southern Oregon Conference play and had an overall 8-1 season record. The Cavemen battled for their lives in the quarter-finals and ended in a 7-7 tie with the Roseburg Indians. Ingram's team won their way into the semifinals with a razor-thin statistical edge over Roseburg. The 1964



team collected the third state championship by defeating Corvallis 7-0 in the finals on a muddy field in Portland's Multnomah Stadium.

The 1964 state championship football team included the following: Pat Howe, Bruce Howell, Dan McLaughlin, Rick Sargent, Dwayne Rice, Don Sprinkle, Jeff Ano, Ralph Graham, Larry Forsgren, Ted Wall, Harold Jacoby, Bob Steimer, Bob Burton, Steve Hood, George Stursa, Ray Johnson, Craig Acklen, Billy Bigelow, Mike Hyde, Tom Blanchard, Chris Wood, Dean Lowe, Russ Larson, Charles Meek, Pat Duchien, Don Summers, Steve Newman, Bill Hock, Terry Crenshaw, Mike Nettleton, Tom Fee, Dennis Compton, Bob Kukoski, Brent Hicks, and Charley Williams.

The 1965 season was also a success with Grants Pass Cavemen winning another conference title. The Cavemen lost out in the semi-final playoff game with David Douglas of Portland. David Douglas went on to become the 1965 state champs.

The unveiling of the 1967 football season again produced an undefeated Caveman team and the fourth state championship recognition. After having tied two teams during the regular season the Grants Pass team tied Jesuit High School of Beaverton, Oregon, in the final playoff game to become state co-champions.

The 1967 team was made up of the following athletes: Harold White, Bruce Fry, Dave DeForest, Bob Hawley, Greg Henderson, Ken Hastings, Mike Stinebaugh, Ken McClanahan, Phil Peterson, Bruce Foster, Joey Adams, Tix Howe, Chuck Day, Steve Endicott, Dick Kruger, John Brading, Gary Swearingen, Del Luft, Kelly Cushing, Joe Wood, Steve Taylor, Doug Phelps, Tim Stewart, Greg Wright, Steve Reinhart, Bruce Timmerman, Randy Hagerman, Dan McLaughlin, Dan Acklen, Dan Pierce, Geronimo Garcia, Mark

Brandt, Roger Weatherby, Ted Stewart, Mike Strahan, Gerald Hamilton, Dave DeLa Grange, Dennis Holseybrook, Jack Gamble, Pete Benson, Ray Barbee, and Ken Rhodes.

The Old Grey Fox ended his 40 odd years of coaching with the termination of the 1968 football season. Coach Ingram ended his last season of coaching football at Grants Pass High School with a 4-5 season record. Disappointment was common throughout the community, not because of the losing season, but rather because the fans would never again be thrilled by seeing the veteran football coach, whose greatest interest was making men out of boys, come through the gauntlet of Pep Club girls as he chased his football teams on the field just before time for the opening kickoff.

Ingram ended his 22 years of coaching football at Grants Pass High with a 142 games won, 49 lost, and 20 tied overall record.

The appreciation of the community was shown by the gifts presented to Coach Ingram at half-time during the last football game. The patrons presented Mel with a new 1968 fourwheel drive Ford Bronco, a life-time membership to Grants Pass Country Club, and a new set of Wilson golf clubs. The University of Oregon and Oregon State presented Coach Ingram with the official University blanket plus a life-time pass to all Oregon and Oregon State athletic events. News of the Old Grey Fox's retirement also brought a response from Wallace and Roseburg High Schools. Through donations from his former athletes he had coached at those schools, \$1,000 was raised and presented as a travel fund.

Maybe the most acclaimed award by Mel Ingram was the announcement of his being chosen as the National Coach of the Year. An interesting highlight was experienced in the selection of the National Coach

of the Year for the 1970 football season. Mr. Fred Spiegelberg, head football coach at Medford High School, was chosen for the 1970 season. This is quite unique when one considers the Southern Oregon Conference was the recipient of this award two out of the last three years. This points out the prestige carried by the Southern Oregon Conference throughout the state of Oregon.

Perhaps no one could describe Mel Ingram better than the following poem written by the members of the 1968 football team:

"MEL"

As a man, he's known to all,  
Not too short, not too tall.  
His face is lined, but his eyes are bright.  
His hair is touched by gray and white.

Football's the game of which he talks,  
To many, he's known as "The Old Grey Fox."  
Football's his life, his love, his game.  
Melvin D. Ingram is his name.

A thousand boys he's made into men.  
Two-hundred games he's helped them win.  
No one could love the game more than him.  
Our Mr. Football, Mel Ingram.

At the games he runs out there, on the field last.  
But without pads or helmet, contact is past.  
But he plays every game as hard as we do.  
Although contact is over, his football's not through.

If he could be out there, as he wishes he could,  
He'd be trying his hardest, for the team to do good.  
Even on the sidelines he's doing his best  
For the school, the town, the team, and the rest.

He's given us a name known far and wide,  
But most of all, he's given us pride.  
A pride that for years has held steadfast,  
A pride that will stay, when his coaching is past.

On the field he's done his best,  
But off the field is his real test.  
With utmost ease, he seems to grin.  
With much more ease, he makes a friend.

No one in this town can really know  
 To what this man we really owe.  
 You don't miss water 'till there's a dry well.  
 You won't miss the coaching, 'till there's no Mel.

Yes, I think that I shall never see,  
 A coach that coaches as well as he.  
 God can make men just as well,  
 But only Mel can coach like Mel.

By: '68-'69 Football Team

Mel Ingram's successor, Mr. Gary Mires, assumed the role of head football coach at Grants Pass High School in the fall of 1969.

Coach Mires graduated from Baker High School in 1959, then attended the University of Idaho where he experienced a very successful athletic career. Upon graduation from college in 1963, Gary coached football for three years at Boise High School and then returned to his high school alma mater, to complete four years of successful football coaching.

Coach Mires realized the size of the shoes he had to fill by following Mel Ingram but arose to the occasion by guiding the Cavemen to a winning 7-2 season in 1969. Again in 1970 the Grants Pass football team compiled a respectable 6-2-1 record. In both years, 1969 and 1970, the Cavemen ended the seasons as conference co-champions. Unfortunately, the Cavemen did not receive the bid for the state play-offs.

It is interesting to note many Grants Pass graduates throughout the years have gained recognition on the all-state teams. It is also interesting to note the highlight that four Grants Pass quarterbacks played the same position at various schools in the Pacific Eight Conference. Jim Smith, a 1958 Cavemen graduate, played for the Indians at Stanford. Tom Sparlin, a 1963 graduate, was a quarterback for the

Washington Huskies. Tom Blanchard, a 1965 graduate, quarterbacked the University of Oregon Ducks for three seasons and is presently in the rookie camp of the New York Giants. At present, Steve Endicott is the first string quarterback this coming season for the Oregon State Beavers.

Many who have been schooled in football at Grants Pass have gone on to play professional football. One of the outstanding ones was Dick James, a star of the 1951 state championship team. Dick went on to play three years for the University of Oregon. Then he advanced to the pro ranks where he played ten years in the National Football League for Washington, New York and Minnesota.

Another outstanding individual presently playing in the professional ranks today is Jerry Shirk, a graduate of 1966. Jerry played collegiate football for Oklahoma State. He was a second round draft choice of the Cleveland Browns. Jerry proved his worth by making the Browns first defensive unit as a rookie.

#### SOUTHERN OREGON CONFERENCE ALL-STAR TEAMS (1935-1970)

Each football season since 1935, the Medford Mail-Tribune has sponsored the Southern Oregon Conference All-Star team.

Starting with the 1935 team, the following Grants Pass Cavemen have been chosen for this honor:

- 1935: George Winkelman, Wilfred Lanning, Art Winetrout, Bond Jobe.
- 1936: Claude Gillett, Kenneth Pruitt, Art Winetrout, Jack Bertrand, Jack Massie, Bob Pritchett.
- 1937: Jack Massie, Ted Norton, Floyd Beck, Bob Madden, Quentin Burden, Jack Provolt, Hollis Conner.

- 1938: Royal Mooers, Blondel Ownby, Roy Davidson, Ralph Lanning, Lewis Meeks.
- 1939: Royal Mooers, Dick Espey, Roy Davidson, Ed Young, Bill Davis, Don Moyer.
- 1940: Bill Davis, Don Moyer, Owen Badley, Charles "Chub" Clark, Harold Bormuth, Ellis Inman, Aggie Martin, Walt Lamphear.
- 1941: Rus Bigelow, Bud Jerke.
- 1942: Clyde Blevins, John Gray, Jerry Edwards, Chet Lathrop, Dick Skow, Ray Clayton.
- 1943: Clyde Blevins, Pete Conner, Bill Huskey, Snuffy Smith, Don Ausland.
- 1944: Jack Lutz, Don Ausland, Buz Richards, Chet Riebel, Junior Moser.
- 1945: Jack Lutz, Ray Barry, Junior Moser, Orville Fuller.
- 1946: Ross Every, Stan Aschenbrenner, DeWayne Brown, Harold "Biff" Brainerd, Jim Ford, Ray Berry.
- 1947: Keith Bertrand, Wilbur Lenhart, Wayne Jansen, Bill Landers, Don Hedgepeth, Rus Jacobson, Mike Burgwin, Ross Knight, Alvy Boyce, Earl Doyle.
- 1948: Don Donovan, Mike Burgwin, Vern Craft, Sterling Heater, Harold Dotts, Keith Bertrand, Clinton Reese, Walter Johnson, Dick Warren, Don Hedgepeth, Rus Jacobson.
- 1949: Vern Craft, Don Hedgepeth, Orv Miller, Dale Ferguson, Bill Wilcox, Buster Fenner, Bob Graue.
- 1950: Don Jacobson, Ron Knight, Dick Flaningam, Cliff Brumbeloe, Don Herron, Don Dickson, Charlie Reams, Joe Corder, Rex DeFur, Norman Hedgepeth, Eldon Everton, Frayne Syers, Mike Swanson, Howard Quinton.
- 1951: Ron Knight, Cliff Brumbeloe, Joe Corder, Don Herron, Larry Schweinfurt, Ron Swisher, John Harbour, Dick James, Rex DeFur, Gary McFarland, Pete Sterns, Jim Little, Norman Hedgepeth.
- 1952: Norm Hedgepeth, Roger Bertrand, Keith Barker, Bob Woods, Calvin Winbolt, Ivan Sherk, Tyler Cudd, Dale Jackson, Jerry Yosten, Bruce Robertson.

- 1953: Bob Woods, Don Korn, Mickey Blevins, John Corson, Dick Blevins, Dale Tripp, Jim Lockhart, Dale Jackson, Lloyd Zinn, Bob Ballenger, Chuck Dorn, Bill Flaming.
- 1954: Arnold Slaven, Dale Tripp, Lloyd Zinn, Vic Bartlett, Jim Dean, Allan Drews, Don James, Mel Drews, Bill Mendenhall, Jay Reese.
- 1955: Arnold Slaven, Dave Flipse, Larry McFarland, Gary Krause, Jim Dean, Larry Walker, Gary Hermann, Allan Drews, Chuck Nevi.
- 1956: Mike Sparlin, Gary Tomplins, Larry Walker, Gary Hadsell, Chuck Lasher, Dennis Eckstein, Phil Paquin, Larry Thompson, Doug Smith, Dick Graves, Jim Smith.
- 1957: Mike Sparlin, Jerry Putnam, Wendell Winterbottom, Jim Smith, Jack Dean, Mike Rose, Paul Lindquist, Paul Slaven, Dick Caldwell, Dewaine Gurule, Merrill Nay, Dick Byred, Ollei Woolsey, Harold Watson, Don Lewellyn.
- 1958: John Fox, Reed Daughterity, Jack Dean, Lyle Miller, Ollie Woolsey, Dick Hayes, Jim Purkett, Rex Benner, Jerry Putnam, Ron Hoatson, Marvin Terry, Hugh Brown, Oscar Nealy, Larry Drake.
- 1959: Jere Patterson, Oscar Nealy, Larry Janssen, Bill Cole, Brian Howard, Ron Hoatson, Gary Woolsey, Rex Benner.
- 1960: Larry Janssen, Gary Stevens, Bob Pfaendler, Harvey Graham, Bob Boyce, Bob Lewellyn, Ken Bastian, Ken Marshall, Vic VanKoten.
- 1961: Dave Hauntz, Gary Schmidt, Roger Dorband, Stave Ausland, Terry Isabell, John Morris, Walt Smith, Bill Grisel, Eddie Hull.
- 1962: Bob Shepard, Bob Lindemann, Pat Edgerton, Glenn Scott, Terry Isabell, Theron Bone, Jim Cornett, Tom Sparlin, Andy Graham, Rich Ireland, Gary VanKoten, Gary Burroughs, Marty Bauer, Lyman Keisecker.
- 1963: Marty Bauer, Bob Lindemann, Terry Isabell, Gary VanKoten, Jerry McCormack, Bill Standley, Tom Sparlin, Rich Ireland, Chuck Fuller, Terry Crenshaw, Les Sanders, Don Summers.
- 1964: Terry Crenshaw, Charles Meek, Tom Blanchard, Pat Howe, Jeff Ano, Don Summers, Larry Forsgren, George Stursa, Steve Newman, Ralph Graham, Dennis Compton, Tom Fee, Chris Wood.

- 1965: George Stursa, Rich Scott, Ted Wall, Tom Blanchard, Chris Wood, Bruce Howell, Dave Seeley, Ray Johnson, Ron Davis, Russ Larson, Barry Lumsden, Dennis Compton, Allen Abbott, Charley Williams, Gordon Soule, Eric Saunders, Jerry Sherk, Ted Nott, Bob Steimer.
- 1966: Ron Rhodes, Steve Krepps, Bruce Frey, Jeff Peterson, Greg Henderson, Ron Blacksmith, Clyne Wardlaw, Steve Endicott, Bill Johnston, Wally Schmidt, Steve Rietmann, Gerald Hamilton, Bruce Buckmaster, Paul Simonsen, Steve Wallman, Mark Brandt, Ken Hastings.
- 1967: Bruce Fry, Mike Stinebaugh, Steve Endicott, Mark Brandt, Roger Weatherby, Greg Henderson, Harold White, Ken McClanahan, Ken Rhodes, Ken Hastings, Dave DeLaGrange, Gerald Hamilton, Dave DeForest, Greg Wright, Steve Reinhart, Bob Hawley, Chuck Day, Mike Strahan, Tim Howe, Kelley Cushing.
- 1968: Tim Howe, Dan Acklen, Mike Katzerbach, Gary Swearinger, Steve Reinhart.
- 1969: Curt Phelps, Ron Cluster, Kerry Lewis, Dave Steinbough, Bill Masnard, Rocky Beach, Craig Howard, Don Coston, Bob Walker, Tim Stewart.
- 1970: Mike Clark, Bill McCall, Ken Behyner, Ralph Vandelden, Gary Taylor, Ron Cluster, Al Menasco, Doug Henderson, Ron Goss, Lonnie Hutchins.

FOOTBALL HISTORY INFORMATION CHART  
(1908 - 1970)

The following informational chart beginning in 1908 includes the former Caveman coaches, number of years at Grants Pass, won-lost-tied records each season, and the championships experienced through 1970.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Championships</u>
1908		0	2	0	
1909		1	3	0	
1910		0	3	0	
1911		0	2	0	
1912		1	1	0	



<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Championships</u>
1913	James Wescott	0	1	1	
1914	James Wescott	0	3	0	
1915	James Wescott	1	5	0	
1916	Monroe Miller	3	4	0	
1917	Paul Blanchard	2	1	1	Conference Champs
1918	Uncle Sam		No games		Team went to WW I
1919	Neil Allen	5	0	0	Mythical State Champs
1920	Howard Bearss	0	3	0	
	Juel Bestul				
1921	James Eamon	2	5	0	
1922	Ernest Wolf	2	5	0	
1923	J. P. Brown	1	4	1	
1924	J. P. Brown	5	3	0	
1925	J. P. Brown	2	4	1	
1926	J. P. Brown	0	2	2	
1927	Raymond Pitts	0	3	0	
1928	Raymond Pitts	1	8	0	
1929	Leonard Mayfield	3	6	0	
1930	Leonard Mayfield	6	2	1	Conference Champs
1931	Leonard Mayfield	1	6	1	
1932	Frank Beer	7	2	1	
1933	Dale Ginn	0	7	0	
1934	Loren Tuttle	2	5	1	
1935	Loren Tuttle	4	3	2	
1936	Loren Tuttle	7	1	0	Conference Champs
1937	Loren Tuttle	2	5	1	
1938	Loren Tuttle	3	4	1	
1939	Loren Tuttle	5	3	0	
1940	Loren Tuttle	6	1	1	
1941	Justin Weakly	1	5	1	
1942	Tuffy Keith	3	1	2	
1943	Tuffy Keith	4	4	0	
1944	Mel Johnson	3	4	1	
1945	Mel Johnson	5	4	0	
1946	Mel Johnson	4	5	0	
1947	Mel Ingram	5	3	0	
1948	Mel Ingram	10	1	1	State Champions
1949	Mel Ingram	7	1	0	
1950	Mel Ingram	9	0	0	Undefeated
1951	Mel Ingram	11	0	1	State Champions
1952	Mel Ingram	5	3	1	Quarter Finals
1953	Mel Ingram	7	3	2	State Runner-up
1954	Mel Ingram	6	2	1	
1955	Mel Ingram	3	3	3	
1956	Mel Ingram	6	3	0	
1957	Mel Ingram	6	2	1	
1958	Mel Ingram	4	1	3	
1959	Mel Ingram	4	5	0	
1960	Mel Ingram	5	3	1	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Championships</u>
1961	Mel Ingram	4	5	0	Quarter Finals
1962	Mel Ingram	5	2	1	
1963	Mel Ingram	7	1	1	
1964	Mel Ingram	10	1	1	State Champions
1965	Mel Ingram	10	1	0	Semi-Finalist
1966	Mel Ingram	5	4	0	
1967	Mel Ingram	9	0	3	State Co-Champions
1968	Mel Ingram	4	5	0	
1969	Gary Mires	7	2	0	Conference Co-Champions
1970	Gary Mires	6	2	1	Conference Co-Champions

#### GRANTS PASS - OPPONENT RECORDS

The following computation is a breakdown of the games played and points scored according to schools during the history of football at Grants Pass High School:

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ASHLAND
1908	0	11
	0	26
1909	6	0
	0	5
1910	6	11
1911	0	24
1912 - No Game		
1913	6	6
	0	31
1914	0	84
	0	40
1915	6	19
	0	6
1916	0	6
1917	0	0
	26	7
1918 - No Game		
1919	26	0
1920	0	26
1921	0	61
	6	49
1922	6	68
	7	80
1923	7	6
	6	6

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ASHLAND
1924	14	7
	10	13
1925	7	7
	14	10
1926	6	22
	0	0
1927 - No Game		
1928	3	32
	7	26
1929	0	39
	0	21
1930	19	7
	7	32
1931	31	13
	0	12
1932	44	6
	21	0
1933	6	21
1934	0	8
	0	25
1935	0	0
	17	14
1936	6	0
	6	12
1937	0	12
	13	6
1938	12	0
	0	0
1939	12	0
	7	0
1940	0	0
1941	0	20
1942	33	0
1943	13	20
1944	19	0
1945	7	19
1946	33	7
1947	38	12
1948	24	0
1949	46	14
1950	33	6
1951	27	6
1952	32	6
1953	14	13
1954	34	12
1955	38	14
1956	33	0
1957	41	6
1958	33	7
1959	0	7

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ASHLAND
1960	20	12
1961	7	6
1962	59	0
1963	34	6
1964	28	0
1965	20	6
1966	13	20
1967	34	0
1968	14	22
1969	20	14
1970	23	0

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	MEDFORD
1909	0	3
	0	6
1910	3	5
	0	14
1911	0	39
	0	25
1912	0	12
	9	0
1913 - No Game		
1914	6	76
1915	7	12
	0	34
1916	0	13
	0	26
1917	52	0
1918 - No Game		
1919	20	0
	Forfeit 1	0
1920	0	6
1921	9	19
	7	34
1922	0	74
	7	75
1923	0	26
1924	0	27
1925	0	20
1926 - No Game		
1927 - No Game		
1928 - No Game		
1929	0	7
1930	7	6
1931	7	25
1932	6	7
1933	0	40
1934	0	48
1935	0	19

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	MEDFORD
1936	Forfeit 1	0
1937	0	6
1938	6	21
1939	0	38
1940	6	20
1941	7	19
1942	12	6
1943	0	6
1944	0	41
1945	0	73
1946	0	56
1947	8	13
1948	6	7
	13	6
1949	7	6
1950	27	12
1951	47	0
1952	13	20
1953	13	12
1954	7	14
1955	7	14
1956	7	28
1957	20	20
1958	0	0
1959	7	41
1960	6	52
1961	7	13
1962	6	14
1963	9	13
1964	28	21
1965	20	0
1966	6	19
1967	35	0
1968	13	21
1969	8	30
1970	14	14

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	KLAMATH FALLS
1915	25	13
1916	0	46
	13	3
1917 - 1922 - No Games		
1923	6	14
1924	52	0
	13	7
1925	0	7
	0	27
1926 - No Game		

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	KLAMATH FALLS
1927	0	37
	7	16
1928	0	6
	0	20
1929	7	27
	12	19
1930	13	2
	23	6
1931	12	19
	25	32
1932	12	0
	6	20
1933	0	25
1934	6	12
	6	7
1935	7	13
	0	6
1936	14	6
1937	0	18
1938	0	26
1939	7	12
1940	18	6
1941	6	27
1942	0	31
1943	12	19
1944	0	12
1945	13	12
1946	7	47
1947 and 1948 - No Game		
1949	21	39
1950	14	6
1951	33	0
1952	7	0
1953	20	0
1954	23	6
1955	33	25
1956	29	7
1957	40	0
1958	32	0
1959	31	0
1960	19	6
1961	13	7
1962	9	12
1963	12	0
	19	0
1964	46	6
1965	21	2
1966	19	21
1967	35	13
1968	0	12
1969	27	10
1970	21	20

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ROSEBURG
1916	12	0
1917 - 1920 - No Games		
1921	7	14
	6	0
1922	0	12
	12	7
1923	0	26
1924	13	0
1925	6	0
1926 - No Game		
1927	7	19
1928	6	19
1929	33	7
1930	14	14
1931	20	27
1932	25	0
1933	6	7
1934	3	0
1935	18	7
1936	28	6
1937	6	6
1938	12	0
1939	6	0
1940	34	0
1941	13	0
1942	20	0
1943	25	0
1944	12	0
1945	6	0
1946		
1947	13	0
1948	19	19
1949	20	14
1950	18	13
1951	64	0
1952	27	0
1953	0	0
1954	0	12
1955	7	7
1956	35	7
1957	13	7
1958	0	0
1959	18	13
1960	7	28
1961	0	15
	0	21
1962	24	18
1963 - No Game		
1964	7	7
1965 - No Game		

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ROSEBURG
1966	6	25
1967	27	0
1968	7	13
1969	20	7
1970	28	13
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	SOUTH SALEM
1963	19	7
1964	14	0
1965 and 1966 - No Game		
1967	21	21
1968 and 1969 - No Game		
1970	0	20
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	CRATER
1954	6	0
1956	26	13
1957	20	13
1958	26	7
1959	28	13
1960	26	7
1961	34	7
1962	25	0
1963	12	0
1964	14	8
1965	33	0
1966	27	18
1967	81	0
1968	31	6
1969	46	0
1970	20	14
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	LONGVIEW
1953	0	7
1954	7	7
1955	24	13
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	NORTH BEND
1931	6	6
1932	0	0
1933	6	13
1934	7	0
1935	0	0
1936	7	0
1937	0	6
1938	0	7



YEAR	GRANTS PASS	NORTH BEND
1939	13	7
1940	18	0
1941	6	6
1942	6	6
1943	14	6
1944	0	13
1945	7	26
1946	12	6
1947	21	0
1948	39	7
1949	27	0
1950	14	13
1951	47	0
1952	7	24
1953	20	42
	14	12
1954	21	13
1955	6	13
1956	20	13
1957	31	13
1958	0	7
1959	6	27
1960	27	26
1961	0	7
1962	35	6

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ALUMNI
1915	2	25
1916	45	0
1928	0	6
1929	27	0
1930	0	6
1931	0	6
1932	6	0
	6	0
1933	0	6
1934	0	0
1935	10	0
1936	24	0
1937	12	0
1938	6	7
1939	19	13

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	COTTAGE GROVE
1919	53	7
1925	13	19
1926	6	6
1949	27	12

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ALBANY
1920	6	21
1948	13	7
1958	19	0
1963	35	0
1964	33	0
1969	15	20
1970	17	14

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	YREKA
1936	24	0
1937	12	0
1938	6	7
1939	19	13

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	NORTH SALEM
1963	19	19
1964	13	26
1965	33	0
1966	32	7

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	MARSHFIELD
1924	26	6
1925	0	20
1940	12	0
1941	0	7
1942	7	7
1943	13	0
1944	0	0
1945	20	0
1946	0	7
1947	0	7
1948	20	7
1951	25	13
1952	6	20
1955	6	27
1958	6	6
1959	6	14
1960	0	6

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	COQUILLE
1945	20	6
1946	19	0
1947	31	0
1948	18	7
1951	48	14

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	REDDING
1951	28	20
1952	21	7
1953	13	13
1954	47	6
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	GRANT HIGH
1951	14	14
1964	20	0
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	LINCOLN
1951	34	6
1952	20	2
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	LEBANON
1919	Forfeit 1	0
1949	25	0
1950	26	6
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	EUGENE
1917	7	41
1923	0	28
1924	3	20
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	CORVALLIS
1940	19	0
1948	26	0
1964	7	0
1965	53	0
1966	42	6
1967	41	0
1968	0	6
1969	27	0
1970	27	29
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	REDMOND
1949	47	0
1950	61	0
YEAR	GRANTS PASS	CRESCENT CITY
1921	36	6
1922	27	12
1928	13	6
	13	14

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	CRESCENT CITY
1929	6	0
	12	25
1930	7	0
	39	7
1953	13	14
1959	7	41
1960	0	7
1961	25	0

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	DUNSMUIR
1936	7	6
1939	12	20
1940	7	6

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	WASHINGTON
1947	0	20
1948	6	0

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	MILWAUKIE
1950	26	24
1951	57	7

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	JEFFERSON
1948	6	0
1953	32	7

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ROOSEVELT
1953	23	13
1954	21	0
1956	40	13

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	MYRTLE POINT
1926	0	13
1928	0	25
1938	29	7
1941	0	20
1944	25	6
1945	6	7
1946	24	0
1947	26	0

  

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ENTERPRISE
1967	27	6
1968	32	12
1969	42	14

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	EUREKA
1932	7	0
1933	0	13
1937	0	14
1943	20	33
1945	13	6
1946	6	19

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	ARCATA
1964	19	7
1965	19	0
1966	32	6
1967	26	0
1970	33	0

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	BEND
1943	21	6
1944	6	14
1967	12	12
1968	21	0

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	OLYMPIA, WASH.
1964	12	6
1965	21	0

YEAR	GRANTS PASS	NAMPA, IDAHO
1952	7	32
1953	26	6

## OTHER GAMES

YEAR	TEAM	SCORE
1935	Grants Pass	33
	Weed	6
1948	Grants Pass	40
	Reedsport	7
1950	Grants Pass	26
	St. Helens	6
1951	Grants Pass	28
	Mac-Hi	13
1961	Grants Pass	32
	Vancouver, BC	13
1962	Grants Pass	35
	Willamette	6
1965	Grants Pass	7
	Hudson Bay	7

YEAR	TEAM	SCORE
1965	Grants Pass	7
	North Eugene	26
	Grants Pass	7
1966	David Douglas	19
	Grants Pass	43
	Wooster	14
1967	Grants Pass	14
	Springfield	7
	Grants Pass	14
1968	Jesuit	14
	Grants Pass	14
	Thurston	7

#### SUMMARY

The city of Grants Pass is located in southern Oregon. It has a population of 12,271 people and is located in Josephine County.

Josephine County is divided into two school districts for administrative purposes. School District #7, or the City School District, serves Grants Pass within the city limits and some parts of the immediate vicinity outside the city limits. Josephine County School District is made up of the rest of the county.

The accomplishments of the students in the area schools, academically and athletically, have long been recognized throughout the state of Oregon. The Cavemen teams are always to be reckoned with in state-wide competition.

In 1896, when C. A. Price was superintendent of schools, the grade school and high school were separated and what had formerly been known as Grants Pass Academy which had its first graduating class in 1888, became Grants Pass High School.

The first football stories are brief sketches. It was possible to record only two games as being played in 1908. At that time the number of pupils enrolled in high school was 104. This year, 1970, District #7 had 4878 enrolled in school, with 1877 attending Grants Pass High School. Pre-registration indicates Grants Pass High School will house 2100 students in the fall for the school year 1971-72.

Grants Pass is a three year high school fed by four junior high schools and fourteen elementary schools.

Because of the time span covered in this report, information was gathered from many different sources. The main sources of information came from interviews with former coaches, former players, superintendents, principals, teachers, and the local sports writers. Material was also gained from newspapers, school papers, score books, and high school year books.

The Southern Oregon Conference, of which Grants Pass High School is a member, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, conference in the state. It was formed in 1910.

Football for the most part is financed today by gate receipts and the sale of season tickets at Grants Pass High School. District #7 supplements gate receipts by providing funds to cover the salaries of coaches, heat, electricity, towels, and maintenance.

As far back as the records can be found, Grants Pass has always been an enthusiastic football city. The phenomenal growth of interest in the football teams here at Grants Pass was the result of the personal interest shown by many prominent business and professional men throughout the years, plus the active concern by various civic organizations. It's the spirit of Grants Pass that makes football so important.

In earlier times only two criteria were used to judge the success of the season. The most important was to beat Medford. The other was to win the Southern Oregon Conference title.

In 1917, Paul Blanchard, who retired in Grants Pass after many years as a successful lawyer in Chicago, coached the Grants Pass team to a 52-0 victory over Medford and won the first Southern Oregon Conference championship for the school.

Including the 1917 football season, the Grants Pass Cavemen garnered four conference championships and one mythical state championship through the 1947 season.

The Mel Ingram success story started in Grants Pass in 1947 with a respectable 5-3 football season.

The first official state championship team in Grants Pass history was in 1948 coming in the second year after Mel Ingram became head coach for the Cavemen.

Extending from the 1949 season through the 1968 football season, the Grants Pass Cavemen won eight conference championships. The Cavemen also won state championships in the 1951, 1964, and 1967 football seasons.

Mel Ingram ended his 40 years of coaching football with the termination of the 1968 football season. Coach Ingram ended his last season of coaching football at Grants Pass High School with a 4-5 season record. Disappointment was common throughout the community, not because of the losing season, but rather because the fans would never again be thrilled by seeing the veteran football coach, whose greatest interest was making men out of boys, come through the gauntlet of Pep Club girls



as he chased his football teams on the field just before time for the opening kickoff.

Ingram ended his 22 years of coaching football at Grants Pass High School with a 142 games won, 49 lost, and 20 tied overall record.

Mel Ingram's successor, Mr. Gary Mires, assumed the role of head football coach at Grants Pass High School in the fall of 1969.

Coach Mires realized the shoes he had to fill by following Mel Ingram but arose to the occasion by guiding the Cavemen to a winning 7-2 season in 1969. Again in 1970 the Grants Pass football team compiled a respectable 6-2-1 record. In both years, 1969 and 1970, the Cavemen ended the seasons as conference co-champions. Unfortunately, the Cavemen did not receive the bid for the state playoffs.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer would like to express his appreciation to all those who assisted in obtaining the necessary information for this report.

Mr. Frank Thomas, principal of Grants Pass High School, and Mr. Walter Ensminger, yearbook advisor at Grants Pass High School, furnished yearbooks and school newspapers not available from other sources.

Personal interviews with Mr. Jerry Acklen, sports editor of the Grants Pass Courier, Mr. Tuffy Keith and Mr. Mel Ingram, former football coaches, and present superintendent Eugene F. Allison provided additional information concerning the origin of the school, early coaching staff, and background of the athletic program.

A special "thanks" to Mr. T. M. Evans and Mr. Raymond A. Wauthier for their guidance and assistance in making it possible to complete this report.

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THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL AT GRANTS  
PASS HIGH SCHOOL, GRANTS PASS, OREGON

by

WILLIAM JOSEPH GIEBER

B. S., Kansas State University, 1961

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Physical Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1971

The purpose of this report is to provide a record of the history of football at Grants Pass High School up to the present school year as well as record the coaches and present their won-loss records throughout the years. It is hoped the information in this report will be of significant value to warrant its future use.

The city of Grants Pass is located in southern Oregon. It has a population of 12,271 people and is located in Josephine County.

Josephine County is divided into two school districts for administrative purposes. School District #7, or the City School District, serves Grants Pass within the city limits and some parts of the immediate vicinity outside the city limits.

The students at Grants Pass High School have rated well academically and athletically throughout the years in the state of Oregon. The Caveman teams have frequently been top contenders in state-wide competition.

In 1896, when C. A. Price was superintendent of schools, the grade school and high school were separated and what had formerly been known as Grants Pass Academy which had its first graduating class in 1888, became Grants Pass High School.

Early records of the history of football at Grants Pass High School were difficult to obtain. The writer could find that only two games were played in 1908. At that time the number of pupils enrolled in high school was 104.

Because of the time span covered in this record of football at Grants Pass High School, the information was gathered from many different sources. The main sources of information came from interviews with

former coaches, players, superintendents, principals, teachers, and the local sports writers. Material also was gained from newspapers, school papers, score books, and high school yearbooks.

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The Mel Ingram success story started with a 5-3 football season in 1947 and followed with the first state championship football team in Grants Pass history in 1948.

Extending from the 1948 season through the 1968 football season, the Grants Pass Cavemen won eight conference championships. The Cavemen also won state championships in the 1951, 1964, and 1967 football seasons.

Coach Ingram ended his last season of coaching football at Grants Pass High School with a 4-5 season record. In his 22 years of coaching football at Grants Pass, Mel Ingram compiled a 142 games won, 49 lost, and 20 tied overall record.

Mr. Gary Mires, a graduate from the University of Idaho, assumed the role of head football coach at Grants Pass High School in the fall of 1969. Realizing the job ahead of him, Coach Mires guided the 1969 Cavemen to a 7-2 season record. Again in 1970 the Grants Pass football team gained a respectable 6-2-1 record. In both years, 1969 and 1970, the Cavemen ended the seasons as conference co-champions. Unfortunately, the Cavemen did not receive the bid for the state play-offs.