OUR BOYS IN BLUE AND GOLD
OUR BOYS IN BLUE AND GOLD
A CHRONICLE OF ZIPS FOOTBALL

EDITED BY TARA KALOZ

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Alma Mater

Close beside Cuyahoga’s waters, Stream of amber hue,
O’er old Buchtel, Summit’s glory, Waves the gold and blue.
Hail we Akron! Sound her praises, Speed them on the gale;
Ever stand our Alma Mater, Akron, hail, all hail!

Akron Blue and Gold
(The University of Akron Fight Song)

We cheer the Akron Blue and Gold,
We cheer as the colors unfold,
We pledge anew we’re all for you,
As the team goes crashing through,
FIGHT! FIGHT!

We cheer the Akron warriors bold,
For a fight that’s a sight to behold,
So we stand up, and cheer and shout
For the Akron Blue and Gold.
Zzzip! Zip go the Zippers!
Zzzip! Zip go the Zippers!
Akron U Gold and Blue,
All for you and the Zippers too!
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This project began, as all worthwhile projects, with an idea: outline the history of The University of Akron’s football team from 1891 to the present. I hoped to discover the authentic pieces of a gridiron chronology. Akron initially competed as Buchtel College (1891–1913) before playing as The University of Akron for the first time in 1914. Through the 1973 season, the team competed in the NCAA College Division. In 1974, The University of Akron moved to Division II and then, in 1980, became a Division I-AA program. Gerry Faust coached Akron’s first season as a Division I-A school in 1987. In 1992, the team joined the Mid-American Conference.

My journey was one of trekking to the University’s Archives over the course of several months. The Archives contained nearly all of the articles except for the ones provided by the Athletics department. Throughout my countless hours of research, I tried to find stories about games both remarkable and ordinary, wins and losses. A true story depicts triumphs as well as obstacles young athletes face along the way. Reading the articles certainly gave me a sense of pride in the University and its football team, and also provided a valuable case study in how newspapers have changed over time. The older Buchtelites were packed with articles, cartoons from all over the map, witticisms and jokes, ads for various items, services, and even smokes. It was especially interesting to note the differences in language and word choice, which you will discover just as I did. There is more tradition imbued in the Akron Blue and Gold than I had ever realized. Akron’s team has survived war, handed out its fair share of upsets, been upset, but always showed up the following Saturday. There is truly no such thing as defeat for the Akron team. They are the Zips; they were “our boys,” and they always will be.

As any true follower of the sport knows, a team is also shaped by its fans, its rivals, and its coaches. There were many trips to distant cities in neighboring states for the sake of the game. Over time, the uniforms changed; leather helmets evolved into engineered headgear; the size and shape of the football varied over time; rules were evaluated and modified; and the opinions of the sport became more accepting.

Within these pages, you’ll find games featuring prominent names from recent years such as Charlie Frye and Jason Taylor, as well as those of the past—John Heisman played quarterback during his brief time here in Akron. There are rivalries with Wooster, Kent State, and Western Reserve; notable Bowl opponents like Louisiana Tech, quartered by future hall-of-famer, Terry Bradshaw; traditions such as the Cowbell, Wagon Wheel, and Acme-Zip games. Relive the final seconds and close calls with nationally-ranked opponents. Find out the origin of “The Zips” and how Zippy turned into a champion among mascots. Learn about the marching band and
cheerleading. Follow the team from Buchtel Field to the Rubber Bowl, from natural grass and muddy quagmires to synthetic surfaces.

The new home of the Zips, InfoCision Stadium–Summa Field, provides a fresh beginning for the team, another chance for the football program to reinvent itself, to add to the legacy that began over a century ago. The location of the new stadium brings the program back to the heart of campus. One fact is certain, more landmark games and memorable moments are in store for our boys in blue and gold and more pages will be added to their history.
FOREWORD

It is with great humility and emotion that I attempt to contribute the foreword to this publication of Zip football history.

I have lived through and observed the extraordinary growth of Akron football. As a youngster watching my Dad’s B-W teams compete in the OAC versus the Zips, and then having the privilege of coaching at UA under the tutelage of the legendary mentors, Gordon Larson and Jim Dennison, as they moved the Zips from “small college football” into Division II then Division I-AA.

I have so many vivid memories of four of the most formative years of my coaching career. Living in Buchtel Field House as a Graduate Assistant. The thrill of coaching my first collegiate game in the Acme Zip game versus Marshall, enduring the tragedy and sadness of the death of Chris Angeloff in that very same game. Our last minute victory over Temple on a third down TD pass from Tom Kot to Glenn Evans. Play-off victories over UNLV and Northern Michigan, followed by a trip to the National Championship game in the Pioneer Bowl. There is no question that the years I spent at Akron set the stage for every opportunity that would follow.

Then competing against the Gerry Faust teams as they entered the Division I ranks, and admiring the progress that Lee Owens and his staff made at the turn of this century. J.D. Brookhart has taken the Zips to the MAC championship and our first ever bowl game . . . now the new stadium! Wow, from John Heisman to the present, what a success story that every Zip needs to read!

Jim Tressel
Head Coach, The Ohio State University
THE BUCHTELITE.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER—ESTABLISHED 1889

BUCHTEL COLLEGE, AKRON, O., NOVEMBER 21, 1889.

OL. V.

No. 2.

WORTH NOTING.

It is a significant fact that our country is in a state of social re-organization, and only one of this number we turn upon entering college.

At least twelve different states are present in the attendance at the university, the most western being Col-ado and the most eastern Vermont.
The smallest class that ever grad-uated from the college was that of 87, which had only one member; largest, those of 85 and 86, which had nineteen members each.

Buchtel has graduated more law-suits than any other professional men.

An examination of the legal papers shows that the most frequent of suits is the divorce suit, followed by the suit for personal injury, and then the suit for breach of promise.

If it be true that you can find the man as a character in the ads he reads, there may be food for reflection in the fact that the taming is the best read magazine in the country.

After the daily papers, "yer's weekly is the favorite periodical.

Buchtel College can claim the distinction of having for one of its students Albert C. White, who was youngest soldier in the Union.

Mr. White enlisted as a private at the age of seventeen, in 1862, and is now a man peculiarly fit to preach in Massachusetts.

The list of the alumni of Buchtel-

lege shows the names of exactly as many men as women, not one-third of the women who graduated have never married. In connection with this it is interesting to note that there are residually six more girls than boys in the collegiate department.

A Plea for Examinations.

One year ago a great outcry was raised against term examinations, because they were denounced as worse than useless and the warfare has resulted in their abolition in the majority of schools. We are too literalistic, most of the practical schools adhering to the examination system.

He writes, for one, has no faith in educational advantages of the "grading" system. Under such a system he is not in a position to express methods. He is unable to grade for every hour of recita-
tion in the term. At the end of the term he is not asked what did com-ment, but how many hours did attend invit-
atons.

One cannot measure or how he is engaged in the class-room at the day's recitation in a school, so that the tyranny of the book may be satisfied.

he comes to recitations when he deems little benefit from them.

school at a given point in time because he cannot be sure of the results as they apply to himself, as they apply to others, or as they apply to the whole.

STUDENTS' ORGANIZATIONS.

How Far is the Student Bound to Support Them?

A DISCUSSION BY A STUDENT.

Every college is, if not infested, it may be said, with many different organizations. These include fraternities, literary societies, reading clubs, etc., and in a small college it becomes a question of importance to the student to determine how much time he can afford to each one.

It is our duty to support, as far as we can, any organization which promises benefit to us individually or socially.

The Doubtless of the tendency of every student, on entering college, is to "go it" for everything. This is undoubtedly the case, and to add every enterprise which promises benefit to you, or which interests you, it may be well for you to consider the following:

"It must be a damper upon the student's enthusiasm to be compelled to stop, and upon a mental note of what per cent of the time a student seems to have at his command."--By the time a student enters college, he should be past that tender age when the excitement and worry of examinations is too great for the little over-worked brain.

As to studying for examinations, we have only to say that the student who can study by himself is the one who can work in spite of slipping through the new order of things. He pets in his books, writes on his cufs, or dances over the leading points just as he enters the classroom so that the new impressions will not come away from him before he can make them stick as they should.

The daily-grade examination furnishes one perpetual holiday for the superficial student and the laggard, but gives no thorough training whenever.

We think that the most certain way to study, after a spurious system of classifying one's knowledge and an incentive to develop the powers of memory, is helpful to the most diligent.

Hence we would say, make the student self-reliant and self-dependable. Say to him, past 8 o'clock, or for any other good reason, you receive your dinner or coffee, yet, without this, no matter what your daily recitations may be, you cannot pass.

Let the teacher, by lecture or recita-
tion, review the field of work frequently, recapitulate and classify the leading points to be remembered, and then refer to details as

LOCALS.

What beautiful weather! Mr. Martin is now a regular attendant at socials.

Buchtelians are impatient over Oberlin's defeat by Case.

Another defeated against Kenyon.

The time for the longed-for Thanksgiving is near at hand.

W. A. Pate has already attained a criminal age as a law-school student.

If there should have been more people in attendance at Saturday night's game.

The Sophomore girls will receive a regale in the college parlors Friday evening.

"The class of '94 almost had an affair in the college parlors Friday evening.

The Thanksgiving dance has been postponed until the week after Thanksgiving.

A number of students are making preparations to eat Thanksgiving turkey at home.

The mechanics class rusticated the other day. A pair of sheep shoes were brought into class for inspection.

The local Oratorical Association has decided upon the third Wednesday in November as the date for the local contest. There will be an interesting contest.

The college council is gone no more. The question now is, why would punch students for offences if no one has authority to charge things had been done.--Trials students were involved.

Miss Garrigues has organized a reading club, composed of members of the Junior class, which has for its purpose the reading of short stories and current literature.

They meet every Monday evening.

Buchtel vs. O. W. U. 40 to 4.

The Buchtel College and O. W. U. Normal University teams played Saturday at the former's grounds.

The O. W. U. men were much larger and stronger than their opponents but were not in the game all the way.

O. W. U. men managed to square one touchdown but never had that one count against a fine game, the best of the season.

The teams lined up as follows:

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<th>Position</th>
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Buchtel carried the ball over for a touchdown in two minutes, scoring the touchdown.

O. W. U. scored
November 5, 1891

Buchtel vs. Western Reserve

The manager of the foot-ball team procured tickets for twenty-three to Hudson last Monday. The boys were in good spirits but not very confident. It was to be a contest to find out their weak points and what stuff was in the eleven.

If they got beat they could excuse themselves with the fact that it was their first game, and if they really did win it would be because the team was composed of good foot-ball players.

The Hudson boys met them at the train. Part of the crowd was sent to the hotel and the rest took dinner with the boys. After a hearty dinner the crowd began to collect on the field. Buchtel’s team looked rather rusty in their motley suits compared to the appearance of the Reserve boys in their new canvas jackets.

Referee Tuttle called the game at a little after two, Hudson getting the toss and the ball. Buchtel took the wind and the down hill side. Their opponents started with a “V” and rushed so well that things looked rather dubious for Buchtel. The twenty-five yard line was reached, Hudson gaining. Then twenty, then fifteen. Buchtel’s crowd became frightened, but the mad career of Hudson was checked at last. The ball went to Buchtel. By strong shoving, quick passes and hard runs she slowly gained ground. Now she was back to the twenty-five yard line. Next on the center line and next—ah! Mac has the ball. He jumps by the end, dodges the half and goes tearing down the line, the entire ’leven at his heels.

Will they catch him? The end is right upon him. Mac feels the Indian’s hot breath on his neck. He thinks his time has come. He makes a last effort, crosses the goal line and is safe. The crowd cheered. The boy whirled his razzle dazzle, his friend blowed the horn and when the ball went sailing over the pole the game was almost won. The Reserves rushed the ball again but the half closed just after Buchtel had made another touch down.

The score was 10 to 0.

The next half Buchtel had the ball and easily made a down, and a goal. The score stood 16 to 0.

Hudson then took the ball and slowly but surely beat the Buchtels back by attacking their rush line. The Buchtels gave ground slowly and stubbornly but surely nevertheless. The only really bad play on Buchtel’s part took place here. Fry got the ball by some unaccountably quick work, but became confused and started in the wrong direction.

He soon saw his mistake however but it was too late. Hudson was upon him. They pushed the boys right across the goal line. A goal was kicked and the score stood 16 to 6.
The ball was started off again and Hudson’s shoving was just as effective as before. She was slowly gaining and approaching the twenty-five yard line when MacLean made another of his famous runs. He got within three yards of the line when he slipped and fell, and the Indian was upon him. The boys lined up again and at last Mac, with the assistance of Clark, crawled right through in under both teams, stretched out his hands and crossed the line with the ball. It was the finest play of the whole day. Time was called after the goal was kicked leaving the score 22 to 6.

The team were as follows, Clark taking Welsh’s place the second half, Welsh having been hurt:

- Weeks, r.e.
- Meade, r.t.
- Coe, r.g.
- Mc Knight, c.
- Putt, l.g.
- Osborne, l.t.
- Fry, l.e.
- Eddy, q.b.
- Mclean, Kingsbury, h.b.
- Welsh, Clark, f.b.

**October 10, 1893**

For the past week the work done in practice has been decidedly encouraging. Still not enough men turn out for practice to satisfy the very reasonable demands of Mr. Heisman. Mr. Heisman says that he has never had better material to work with and that he is willing to promise anything in the way of results if a second eleven will only come out to practice. Surely the students owe this much to the College and to Mr. Heisman. The best material in the world cannot be moulded into an efficient team without practice, and if our team is to have the necessary practice we must get out a second eleven every day.

Another thing which is not only discouraging but surprising, is the fact that there are men in College who will deliberately pledge their word to come out and practice, and then never go near the field except at rare intervals. If approached on the subject they will say, “Oh well, you knew when I promised that I didn’t intend to come every day.” Pledges kept in this way do not reflect much credit on the men who give them. We give below a list of those who have agreed to work every day regardless of success, in making the team. Most of them have fulfilled their pledges: C.G. Webster, H.H. Hollenbeck, W.C. Green, Frank Fisher, D.S. Taylor, J.L. Donovan, A.C. McKnight, H.C. Loudenback, Chas. C. Taylor, J. Ed Dougherty, C.M. Chapman, R.H. Hamlin, C.E. Petty, H.E. Calmer, Hal J. Thrasher.