Our Boys in Blue and Gold: A Chronicle of Zips Football

Tara Kaloz

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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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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!  
Zzzoop! Zip go the Zippers!  
Akron U Gold and Blue,  
All for you and the Zippers too!
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Throughout the course of the book’s compilation, I relied on the help of many people and departments at The University of Akron, without which this book would not have been possible. I cannot say how much I appreciate all of the assistance and support that has been given and would especially like to thank:

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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, quarterbacked 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
WORTHY NOTICING.

It is a significant fact that of our faculty, 26 are Southern-born, and only one of this number we then upon entering College.

At least twelve states are represented in the attendance at the college, the western being Columbus and the most eastern Vermonia. The smallest class, that ever graduated from the college was that of 83, which had only one member, largest of those of 85, which had nineteen members each.

Buchtel has graduated more law- men than any other professional men, and is one in which, though far inferior in other common-manufacturers' clergy- men and doctors.

It be true that you can find the ex to a man's character in the way he reads, there may be food reflection, in the fact that the book is the best read magazine in library. After the daily papers, 'yer's Weekly is the favorite news.

Buchtel College can claim the distinction of having for one of her professors Albert C. White, who was the youngest soldier in the Union army. Mr. White enlisted as a drummer boy at the age of 14, and graduated at 19, and is now a man preaching in Massachusetts.

A list of the alumni of Buchtel shows the names of exactly as many west, as women, one-third of the women who graduated have married. In connection with this it is interesting to note that there are six more girls than the college department.

A Plea for Examinations: one year ago a great outcry was raised against term examinations, they were denounced as worse than examinations. It was said that the general abolition in the majority of schools and colleges. To fill the void, most of these examinations not only failed to bring out the little over-worked brain.

As to grading for examination, we have only to say that the student who can earn his cures by a process of slipping through under the new order of things. He can prove his work in the books, write on his cubes, or classes over the leading points just as he enters the class-room, so that the test papers will not be given away to him before he can make a study of them. The daily grade is all the more perfect, or the laggard, but gives no thorough training whatsoever.

We think that the most earnest student is the one who is systematizing and classifying one's knowledge and an incentive to develop the powers of the memory are helpful to the most diligent.

Hence we would say, make the student self-relish, and self-confident. Say to him, past and present, you have received your degree, but without this, no matter what your daily recitations may be, you cannot be passed.

Let the teacher, by lecture or recitation, review the field of work frequently, recapitulate and classify the leading points to be memorized, and the student must work more as a whole than the class-room work. Whether right or wrong, the fact remains that their attention is engrossed. Now, this often gives rise to great temptation to dash through a lesson in order to have time for "accessories" because even the most cursory person for a lesson will float one through a single day.

Again, one does not systematize his work when he knows that a portion of the course he will recite he will not be called to account for it again. The lessling may appear more well learned, but, in an examination a few months later would reveal an appalling ignorance.

The new system makes a time-server not only of the student, but the disease also affects the faculty. The professor can not readily decide on a paper or essay on a subject which he has read and in which he must look forward to any amount of time for a part of it's completion.

It must be admitted that the system of examinations is not so bad as many people think. In many cases it serves to bring out the little over-worked brain.

The fact is that no one, though there are always some who try. A choice must be made, and in the making of the choice the student decides upon the course he is to follow in college. If he chooses to study the classics throughout his college course and he will be popular or otherwise, as athletes are successful or not.

The first thing for the college man to consider is his own peculiar fitness for this or that, or make a choice which the instructor of work. He should associate himself with those organizations whose purposes harmonize with his own tastes and inclinations. He should become a member of that organization, and which in turn can render the greatest service to him. He has come to college primarily for self-improvement, and first and foremost he should seek this end.

In the next place his college should place before him. Every organization in college reflects more or less credit upon the college. Therefore, of the two, choose the one which will do the most good for the college. Why? For two reasons. First, you owe your allegiance to the college which you have chosen for your Alma Mater. As a second, it is for your own interest. After graduation your diploma will be worth to you just as much as the knowledge contained in it. People have said that Buchtel is out by itself and distinct, it is disconected from all associations; it acknowledges neither superior nor inferior, for it imparts.

College days come into the life of the young men as something foreign to them, both the girl, he is forward to his college work and associations; he has dreamed of it and built stately and grand castles in the air. In his mind he has gone over the whole four years many times and planned his entire policy. He knows all about it, for he has talked with his friends who have been in college, and have they not given him "pointers" on every subject imaginable? Then he enters college with a preconceived idea of what the grandest of air castles. How lucky it is that they are not tumble downed about his ears!

At first a tumult of new ideas and new combinations of ideas strives to mold itself upon his mind, and as a consequence he goes about for a time in a dazed condition, gropping blindly, as through a mist, for the truth. But at length the mist clears away and he begins to see things in their true relations. Perhaps that which impresses itself most forcibly upon his mind is the absolute democracy of college life. He observes with wonder and astonishment that not wealth, not position, social influence or even brains, are sufficient to bring a man prestige among his fellows. At times he notes with increasing satisfaction that wealth is the means of college men. He sees that those of his fellow students who hold up their ends to the best of their means, and are not greedy for position, are the most successful in coming forward through the college course and he will be popular or otherwise, as athletes are successful or not.

The influence of these facts on the man after he leaves college can hardly be overestimated. They shape and model his whole life and tend ever to make him a better citizen.

He sees more clearly any evil existing in the world, and it is not because he is not seeing the proper remedy. He respects him for his character and his conduct, and not for the dollars he may have accumulated. He can never become a mere hero worshipper; but, on the other hand, he can never deny to each man his due. He is a better citizen because he recognizes the worth of other men.

Thus we see that democracy in Buchtel.

LOCALS.

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

Buchtel students and their friends are a delight to the eye. Buchtel defeated Kenyon Saturday afternoon by a score of 21 to 10.

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

W. A. Putt has already attained a criminal status as a lawyer.

There should be more people in attendance at Saturday game.

The Sophomore girls will receive an invitation to the college parlors next Friday evening.

The class of '94 almost hid social 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 yesterday. 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 of the local contest. There will be an interesting contest.

The college council is gone. Its nature no more.

The question now is, who will punish students for offenses if no one has authority to do such things could be made more interesting if students were the people.

Miss Gavant has organized 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. U. 40 to 4.

The Buchtel College and Oral University Teams play Saturday at the former's ground.

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

The O. U. W. men managed to secure one touchdown but that was the long one, good game, the best of the action.

The teams lined up as follows:

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buchtel</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Turner</td>
<td>Warner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. U. W.</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Young</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Worthington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Buchtel carried the ball over the line in two minutes, scoring the touchdown. O. U. W. scored.
CHAPTER 1
1891–1899
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>r.e.</td>
<td>Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>Meade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r.g.</td>
<td>Coe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>McKnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l.g.</td>
<td>Putt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l.t.</td>
<td>Osborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l.e.</td>
<td>Fry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q.b.</td>
<td>Eddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h.b.</td>
<td>Mclean, Kingsbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.b.</td>
<td>Welsh, Clark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.