

Taft Aims for First Public League Football Championship



A trio of husky young gridgers gives good illustration of why Taft High School is looked upon as a likely grid power. They are (*l. to r.*) guard Ken Neubert, tackle Arnie Werling and guard Neil Vetter. (*Sun-Times Photos*)

Football Team Convenes For Practice



Taft's first-string line-men resting by the water tank after a grueling practice session. They are from left to right: Front row: Mike Murray and Don Soderlund. Standing: Richard Walker, Tom Crosten, Kurt Marquardt, Chuck Freeze, and Dick Arfsten.



Mr. Kupcinet explains to Mr. George Dayiantis, a new coach, about Taft's athletic system, while the team is busy in the background practicing.

Saturday, September 13

LAKE VIEW at Winnemac—2:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 20

HARRISON at Winnemac—2:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 27

SCHURZ at Lane—2:00 P.M.

Friday, October 3

LANE at Lane—3:15 P.M.

Saturday, October 11

AUSTIN at Hanson—2:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 18

STEINMETZ at Winnemac—2:00 P.M.

At 1:00 on Tuesday, September 2, the boys on the football team assembled for their first scrimmage of the year. Previous to this, they arrived at school at 11:00 to receive their uniforms.

Mr. Joseph Kupcinet is continuing as the football coach. There are seven first-string varsity line-men who will be playing again this year. The rest of the first string will be chosen from the former Frosh-Soph team. The boys will not know until the first football game on Saturday, Sept. 13 who will comprise the starting line-up.

This season the Eagles move up in the North Section from White to Red Division. This division, the roughest and toughest in the North Section, includes Harrison, Schurz, Lane, Austin, and Steinmetz.

In 1956 Taft defeated Harrison 32-0 and in 1957 defeated Schurz 20-0 and Steinmetz 25-0. Two of

these victories (Steinmetz and Harrison) were first round playoff games for the City Championship.

Page 2

Taft High To Play Top City Football Teams This Season Coach Kupcinet Sees Hard Road To A Championship

By Jerome Krause

When the slump and luller is over and the students get back to normal over the Taft Eagles' ascendancy in the city of Chicago Public League football, three things will still be starting coach Joe Kupcinet to the fore.

The three hold the key to just how far the Eagles can go this first year among the big schools in Public League play. They are the lack of depth, the inexperience of the new returning members of the backfield, and the fact that Kupcinet's boys must face Schurz, Lane, and Austin on Saturday.

Looking to this season to prove as the 25-0 victory over Harrison's boys last week, the coaches are confident of the problems that face a team which moves from the White to the Red Division this year.

"From here on out we will be playing against schools that are much bigger than Taft. As a result, the boys that we will be playing will be bigger, stronger, and more experienced," says Kupcinet.

"Depth is the key thing because the other backfield, or at least one, will be handled by Division, a 6-2, 160-pounder who was one of the best players in the section last season. Backing up there are some other big boys and some of them are new."

Three more, two seniors and a sophomore, will fight it out for the starting backfield positions. Kupcinet says that the Eagles will have to be ready to play on Saturday.

90 CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1958

Kupcinet, Taft Back With Prep Powers

By Roger Yost

Kup is back!

Not Columnist Irv, but brother Joe Kupcinet, Taft High School's illustrious football coach.

He is back with the Public League's North Section powers

after three seasons among the conference's middle class.

And certain parties at rival Schurz, Lane and Austin are a bit disturbed by his presence.

Although Kupcinet, a head coach for 30 years (20 at Taft, 10 at Lane), is uncertain of his chances in the Rough Red Division, Lane's Al Manasins regards Joe's teams — any of them — with respect.

"We're too small to really compete with Lane, Schurz, Austin, Steinmetz and Harrison (other 'Red' schools)," says Kup.

Yet, his teams were too strong for the league's White Division, so the Eagles were elevated under the conference's realignment provisions. Taft replaced Crane in the Red group this fall.

Kupcinet uses a short-punt formation while on offense, and this particular strategy requires a triple-threat back to work adequately.

Two seasons ago Taft had one such young man, Dick Thornton. He is now a sophomore at Northwestern and the Wildcats' No. 1 quarterback.

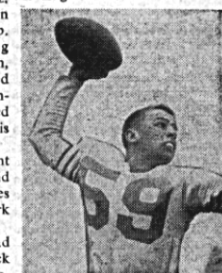
This year Dick Arfsten, a 159-pound senior, carries the burden and "he is a promising boy," said the coach.

Perhaps the most promising youngster is sophomore halfback Al McFarland, who returned two punts for touchdowns against Harrison in Taft's league opener last Saturday.

Harrison, one of the team Taft can't compete with, lost to the Eagles 16-0.



JOE KUPCINET
'We're too small'



DICK ARFSTEN
A three-way job

Undefeated Eagles Face Lane

Dads See Sons Muzzle Bulldogs 19-7

The Eagles trampled over the Schurz Bulldogs 19 to 7 in front of 3000 spectators at the Dad's Day game in Lane Stadium Saturday.

Bulldogs Score First

The first touchdown scored against the Eagles this season came in the first quarter when Schurz ran 55 yards around the left end for a touchdown.

After successfully kicking the extra point, the Bulldogs lead 7 to 0. The Eagles gained possession of the ball, but were not able to gain any yardage and were forced to punt.

Dick Arfsten successfully booted the ball 72 yards down to the Bulldogs' 8 yard line.

Taft Came Back in Second

Taft came back in the second quarter when Dick Arfsten completed a 17 yard pass to Al MacFarlane, who ran the additional 7 yards for a touchdown.

With only 42 seconds remaining in the half, Bill Schalk caught Dick Arfsten's short pass for Taft's second touchdown.

Missing the punt after the first touchdown, Paul Walker kicked successfully to put the Eagles in the second half.

Croston Scores in Second Half

In the second half the Eagles' strong defensive line prevented the Bulldogs from scoring any further points. In the third quarter Tom Croston, left end, intercepted Schurz lateral and ran 55 yards for Taft's third touchdown with all the Eagles running interference.

In the final quarter Taft's strong defense prevented the Bulldogs from gaining any yardage.

In the game Taft earned 6 first downs, gained 81 yards passing, yards rushing, and 53 yards kicking. The Eagles lost 50 yards in penalties, while Schurz lost yards.

Coach Kupciet commented: "The Taft offense has shown nothing yet in offensive rushing. They have taken advantage of their opponents' errors and have hit on few passes."

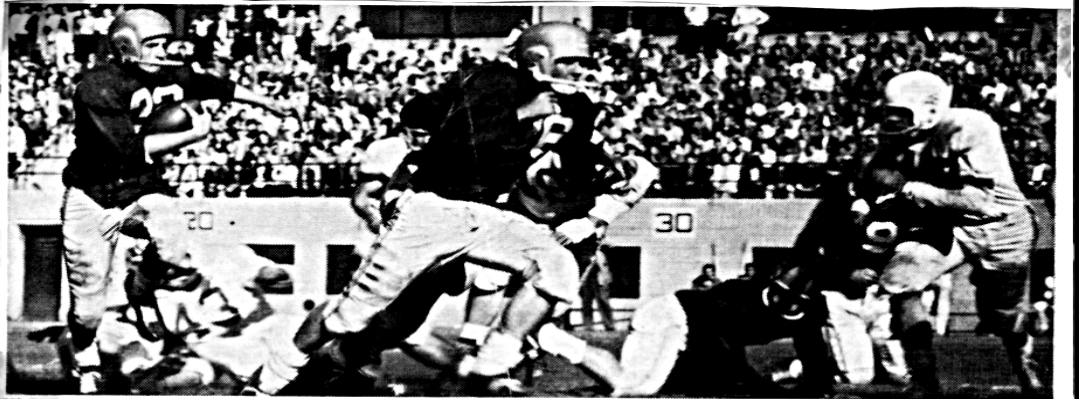
This is the third consecutive year that the Eagles have beaten the Bulldogs.



Al MacFarlane thunders up field for first down during second half play. (Bob Miller Photograph)



With Lake View pigskinners in hot pursuit, Taft backfield ace Al MacFarlane turns on the speed and picks up five yards in the first half of a contest which saw the Eagles come out victorious by a score of 6 to 0.



With Jeff Carson, No. 26, clearing the way, Al MacFarlane gains eight yards in Lane game. The final score was 0 to 0, but Lane won on statistics. (Photo by Bob Miller)



The third quarter saw more Eagle action when Mike Day charged through the middle for a first down against Lake View. Tomorrow, the Taft eleven take on the Red division rumblers from the southwest - Harrison High school. Game time is 2:00 at Winni-

EAGLES CLOSE IN '42; COULD SOAR TO TOP

Kupcinet Polishes 40 Player Squad

BY RALPH LEO

"A football trophy would look nice alongside of our baseball and golf prizes," mused a Taft booster yesterday as he watched the northwest side prep Eagles soar like champions over their practice field at 5625 N. Natoma av.

Joe Kupcinet, who has directed Taft's football teams since 1939, the year the high school was opened, looked up, grinning. "Yes," he agreed, "that would be quite nice."

Then the veteran coach, who has built Taft into one of the city's football powers, returned to the business of preparing his 40 player squad for its opening round game in the Public league playoffs this week-end.

A title would be a crowning reward for Kupcinet, who has had success in the 18 years he has coached Taft, despite failure to win a league championship.

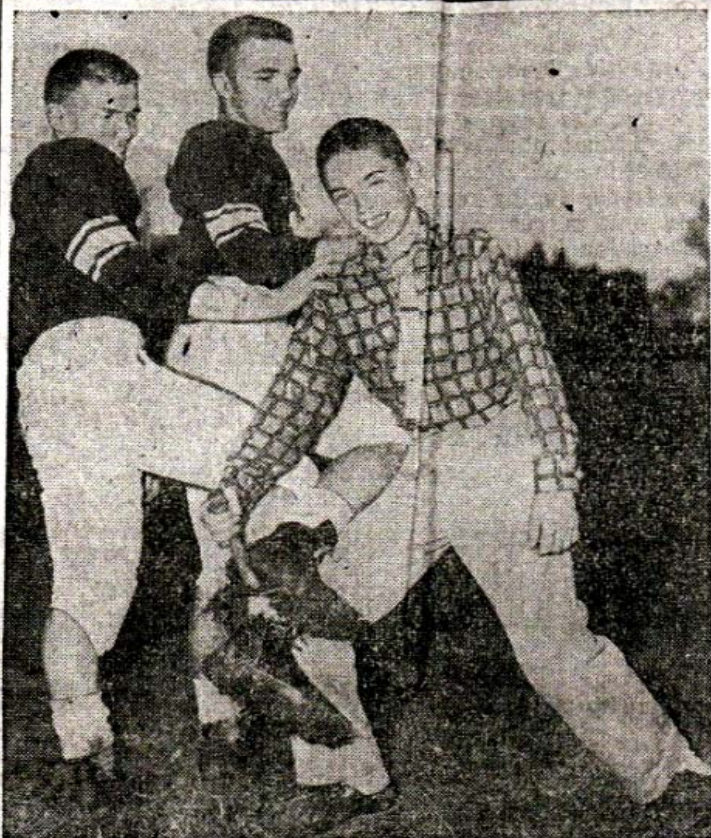
Tilden Blasts Chance

The closest a Taft team came to winning the league crown was in 1942, when Tilden, at that time one of the ranking gridiron powers in the Chicago area, pinned a 20 to 0 defeat on the Eagles.

"I still haven't forgotten that loss," said Kupcinet, "and the best way to put it out of my mind is to go all the way. Who knows? Maybe this is the year. I have a wonderful group of boys. They could do it."

Taft's teams the last two years lost in the quarter-final round of the playoffs. In 1948 the Eagles advanced to the semi-finals before bowing to Austin, perennial contender for the title. This year Austin

HAPPY BROTHER ACT



Mendel's Bob and Ed Bohan (left to right) watch brother Dick scrape mud off shoes, a chore of the team manager. They form the only brother trio in Chicago area prep football. Bob, fullback, and Ed, halfback, will lead Mendel into the Catholic league title playoffs opening Sunday.

[TRIBUNE Photo]

uled for Hanson park tomorrow at 1:30 p. m.

If Taft wins — and Austin defeats Lake View on Saturday—the stage would be set for another meeting between the Eagles and the Tigers, altho the semi-final round pairings officially will not be known until Monday.

"Of course we would like to reach the title game," said the Taft coach. "This is our last season in the White division, and naturally we would like to move into the Red division with as good as record as possible."

Move Up in 1958

Starting next fall, Taft will move up into the Red division, and will compete regularly

by Jerry Meyer's running and passing, scored 103 points while holding opponents to 7 in sweeping a four game schedule. Beaten were Marshall, 12 to 0; Senn, 25 to 7; Tuley, 34 to 7, and Kelvyn Park, 32 to 0. The Amundsen game scheduled for Oct. 12 was canceled because of the flu. Amundsen also is unbeaten in four games.

Kozemzak, Neubert Star

Sharing hero roles with Meyer are Ronnie Kozemzak, halfback who also was regular shortstop on last year's title winning baseball team at Taft, and Kenny Neubert, junior guard.

Other regulars include Jim Davy, guard; Denny Bell, end;

MacFarlane Leads Taft High To Victory Over Crane Tech

by Mike Kewin

Sophomore halfback, Alan Mac Farlane, ran for two Taft touchdowns Saturday afternoon as the Eagles defeated Crane Tech, 14 to 0, in Hanson Park. A surprisingly small crowd of 1825 waited until the second half to see the fleet-footed Al Mac Farlane race 70 yards with a punt for one touchdown and plunge two yards. Tom Nelles kicked the extra point after each Eagle touchdown.

The slow first half saw Taft kick the ball to Crane's six yard line.

Crane returned the ball to their 24 yard line and after five plays, failing to make first down, were forced to punt with the ball going to Taft's 32 yard line. Alan MacFarlane returned the wobbly kick to the 39 yard line. Here Taft launched a six play drive that brought them to

Crane's 11 yard line. Crane's hard charging defense smothered Alan MacFarlane's attempted touchdown pass and they took over on the 26 yard line. Crane was again unable to make a first down and was forced to punt. Taft's quarterback, Jeff Carson took the high kick on his 38 yard line and sprinted 15 yards to Crane's 47 before being upended. This started Taft's second march and they skillfully moved the ball to the 19 yard line, where Crane stopped the drive by intercepting a Taft pass, which brought the first quarter to an end with a score of 0-0.

The second quarter was a defense stalemate with neither team penetrating its opponents 20 yard line. Taft got the edge at the opening of the second half by covering the kickoff, which was inadvertently fumbled by the Crane receiver. A stubborn defense prevented their capitalizing on this break and Crane took over on their 19 yard line. At this point luck wasn't with Crane and they were forced to kick on the 4th down. Taft's versatile halfback, Alan MacFarlane, took the kick and romped 70 yards behind excellent blocking for the TD. Tom Nelles made the conversion. The rest of the period seemed to drag with neither team being able to put together enough yards for a significant drive.

Late in the fourth period Taft took a punt on Crane's 45 yard line. Three penalties later on their own 34 yard line Taft started their second touchdown drive. In seven quick plays they moved the ball 76 yards climaxed with a two yard plunge by Alan MacFarlane into the end zone. Nelles kick was good and the game ended in Taft's favor 14-0.

In winning this game Taft will be matched against unbeaten Chicago Vocational in the Public School's quarter-finals next weekend. Since the Vocational team is considered one of the best in the League this game should be a real thriller.

SCORING					
TAFT HS	0	0	7	7-14	Taft: TD-MacFarlane 2 (70-yd. punt return; 2-yd. plunge). P.A. Nelles 2.
CRANE TECH	0	0	0	0-0	

Part 5—Page 12 N Chicago Daily Tribune Thursday, September 26, 1956

Taft, Riddled by Graduation 'NOW WATCH ME, BOYS,' TAFT COACH SAYS



(TRIBUNE Photos)
Three Taft line regulars watch Coach Joe Kupcinet demonstrate proper way to maneuver. Left to right: Neil Vetter, Ken Neubert, and Arnie Werling. Taft's Eagles have been unbeaten in Public League northwest section White division competition the last three years. This season, Taft has been moved up to the stronger Red division.

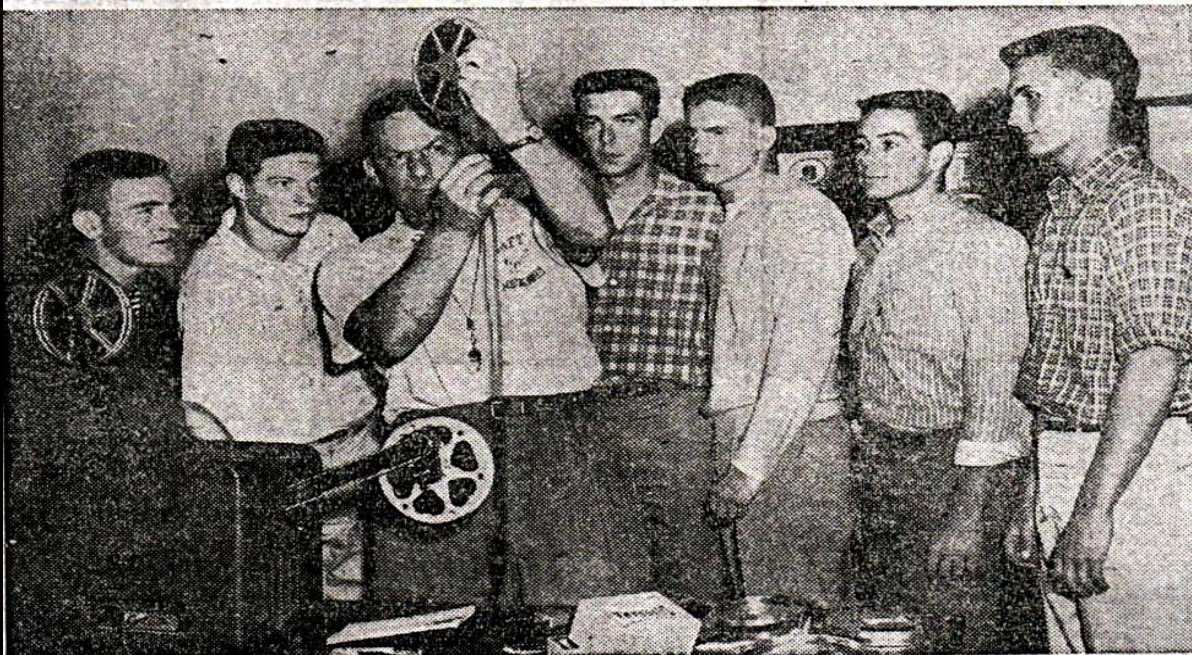
GUARD, TACKLE ONLY REGULARS FROM '57 TEAM

Coach Kupcinet Fears Power of Rivals

BY RALPH LEO
The short punt formation, which Coach Joe Kupcinet has used so advantageously for 29 years, might boomerang this season at Taft High school. The short punt has proved an effective weapon for the northwest side Eagles, especially in the last three years, during which Taft elevens have managed to stay in the front ranks of Public League title competition.



NORTH SIDE EAGLES SOAR TO PLAYOFFS



Joe Kupcinet, Taft's veteran football coach, believes showing game movies helps players to correct mistakes. Left to right: Jim Davy, Ken Neubert, Coach Kupcinet, Denny Bell, Dick Lutz, Jerry Meyer, and Ron Kozemzak. [TRIBUNE Photo]

Tilden Blasts Chance

The closest a Taft team came to winning the league crown was in 1942, when Tilden, at that time one of the ranking gridiron powers in the Chicago area, pinned a 20 to 0 defeat on the Eagles.

"I still haven't forgotten that loss," said Kupcinet, "and the best way to put it out of my mind is to go all the way. Who knows? Maybe this is the year. I have a wonderful group of boys. They could do it."

Taft's teams the last two years lost in the quarter-final round of the playoffs. In 1948 the Eagles advanced to the semi-finals before bowing to Austin, perennial contender for the title. This year, Austin, as usual, is back in the playoffs, qualifying as the No. 1 north-west section Red division team.

Face Steinmetz First

For the opening round, at least, Taft will not have to worry about Austin. That may come later—provided that the Eagles get by Steinmetz, the No. 4 Red division qualifier in the section. The game is sched-

uled for Hanson park tomorrow at 1:30 p. m.

If Taft wins — and Austin defeats Lake View on Saturday—the stage would be set for another meeting between the Eagles and the Tigers, altho the semi-final round pairings officially will not be known until Monday.

"Of course we would like to reach the title game," said the Taft coach. "This is our last season in the White division, and naturally we would like to move into the Red division with as good as record as possible."

Move Up in 1958

Starting next fall, Taft will move up into the Red division, and will compete regularly against such powers as Austin, Lane Tech, Harrison, Steinmetz, and Schurz. As a member of the White division, Taft for the last three years has played against Amundsen, Marshall, Tuley, Senn, and Kelvyn Park, and has compiled an impressive record of 13 victories, no defeats, and one tie.

The 1957 Eagles, sparked

by Jerry Meyer's running and passing, scored 103 points while holding opponents to 7 in sweeping a four game schedule. Beaten were Marshall, 12 to 0; Senn, 25 to 7; Tuley, 34 to 7, and Kelvyn Park, 32 to 0. The Amundsen game scheduled for Oct. 12 was canceled because of the flu. Amundsen also is unbeaten in four games.

Kozemzak, Neubert Star

Sharing hero roles with Meyer are Ronnie Kozemzak, halfback who also was regular shortstop on last year's title winning baseball team at Taft, and Kenny Neubert, junior guard.

Other regulars include Jim Davy, guard; Denny Bell, end; Carl Lambert, fullback; Ron MacFarlane, end; Tom Croston, junior end; Don Soderburg, sophomore end; Neil Vetter and Arnold Werling, junior tackles, and Bill Rice, junior guard. Others are John Croll, Jim Osterman, Tom Davies, Roland Hoffman, Dick Melbye, Denny Sowka, John Devlin, Jeff Carson, Ron Boles, and Dave Gattona.

Eagles Beat Lake View 6-0

Credits Victory To Tight Line Face Tougher Team Tomorrow

"The Eagles will face a much tougher team tomorrow," said Coach George Dayiantis, who scouted Harrison last week for Coach Joe Kupcinet.

Dayiantis said that the average weight of the Harrison line is 190, while Taft's line averages 175.

Facing the Eagles tomorrow, Harrison, with a fast backfield will concentrate on passing attacks pitchouts. They have a highly ed backfield and a good halfback, Necinae, who will pose the big threat to the Eagles, according to Dayiantis.

Credits Victory To Tight Line

The Eagles opened their football season by beating the Lake View Wildcats 6-0 at Winnemac Park Saturday. The only touchdown the game was scored in the first quarter when Dick Arfsten carried the ball 12 yards down to the 15 yard line, only to have the play called back and a 15 yard holding penalty enforced.

Paul Walker, quarterback, took the conversion, but missed. Only other action in the first quarter came when Roger Moore, guard, intercepted a wildcat pass and returned it five yards.

Jeff Carson, quarterback, punned 49 yards to prevent the Wildcats from scoring. Near the end of the first half Dick Arfsten carried the ball 12 yards down to the 15 yard line, only to have the play called back and a 15 yard holding penalty enforced.

Second Half Scoreless

In the second half the Eagles' tight defensive line, along with fine running and passing of Jeff Carson, Al MacFarlane, and Dick Arfsten helped Taft to keep its point advantage.

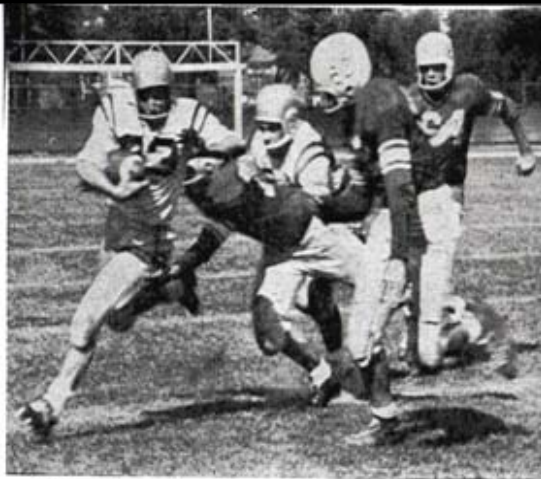
In the fourth quarter Al MacFarlane intercepted a Lake View pass and returned it 10 yards. Taft set up a series of successful short runs that were stopped only by time limit.

The Eagles gained 189 yards rushing, 49 yards passing, and held the Wildcats to five first downs while earning 15 for themselves.

Coach Likes Defense

Coach Kupcinet credited the victory to the Eagles' good all around defense and tight line.

"We were lucky," said Mr. Kupcinet, "to hit on one good play that won the game. We will have to improve on our blocking and all parts of our offensive if we are going to win any games in the Red Division. Of course this is early season football."



With Lake View pigskinners in hot pursuit, Taft backfield ace Al MacFarlane turns on the speed and picks up five yards in the first half of a contest which saw the Eagles come out victorious by a score of 6 to 0.

Next Face Harrison!

Eagles Down Harrison

Taft Beats Harrison

In their first game in Red Division the Eagles trounced the Harrison Hornets 16 to 0 Saturday, September 20, at Winnemac Park.

The first touchdown came in the second quarter when Al MacFarlane returned a punt for 61 yards. Paul Walker made the conversion to put the Eagles ahead 7 to 0.

Dick Arfsten's 55 yard punt kept the Eagles out of danger until the Hornets marched from their 30 to the Eagles' 5 yard line.

In the second half, the rushing of Neil Vetter, Arnie Werling, and Ken Neubert forced the Hornets to punt.

Jeff Carson received the punt and fumbled, then recovered, and handed off to Al MacFarlane, who then reversed to the right and went 81 yards for Taft's other touchdown. Walker converted successfully again.

The Eagles gained their other two points when the Hornet punter was tackled in their end zone by



Taft's terror of the gridiron turns on the gas again for a first down against the Harrison Tech. squad. No. 33 — Ron MacFarlane was credited with scoring both touchdowns on punt returns Saturday — which helped to completely bewilder the South side rivals of the Red Division. The final score was Taft, 16, Harrison, 0. Next Saturday, Taft takes on Schurz at Lane Stadium, Addison and West, at 2 p.m.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1958

PREO TALLIES CLINCHING TD Austin Tumbles Taft 20-6

By Roger Yost

An Austin punt ricocheted off the shoulder of a bellicose line-man and rebounded previously past field into left territory.



Trellised by Tigers, Taft's Jeff Carson groped for the arrangement and let it squirt through his fingers. . . . Bill Currie aimed it for Austin, and the game was well.

The final count was Austin, 20, Taft 6 in a Public League game at Hanson Stadium; but when Larry Preo's quick kick was deflected in the fourth period, the Tigers were dutifully protecting a fresh, seven-point advantage.

George Hides had plunged

two yards minutes earlier, as the third period was merging with the last, for his second touchdown of the sun-kissed Saturday afternoon. He had hiked four yards for a TD in the second quarter.

The punt recovery added impetus to the Austin attack and five plays after acquiring the ball on Taft's 36, quarterback Larry Preo pranced 14 yards to a win-clinching TD.

Preo, a reliable field leader, passed to Bill Sebastian for the conversion. Larry had earlier added an extra point himself. The Austins — it was their homecoming day — spent most of the game tracking down Taft's Al MacFarlane who, though only a sophomore, may be the finest back in Chicago.

The precocious Scot passed six yards to end Tom Croston, in the third quarter, for the Eagles' only touchdown.

But his air arm, which he did not flex until the second half, was secondary to his canny capers afoot. MacFarlane — without any consistent blocking support — averaged seven yards for eight runs.

Only once did he fail to collect at least six yards — when Taft had a fourth-down-six-inch situation on Austin's 43 in the second quarter.

He was stopped cold, as the Eagles' other backs had been throughout the contest.

The victory, Austin's third against one tie, boosted the Tigers into a first-place tie with Lane in the North-West Section's Red Division. It was Taft's first setback.

Austin and Lane coincide for the division championship at Lane next Friday, a showdown that is not without precedent.

SCORING
Austin 10—minutes 2—44-yd. PAT—2nd.
Taft 6—Preo (34-yd. kick) 1st.
Sebastian 15—Croston 36-yd. pass from MacFarlane.



A 20-yard gain is stepped off by Taft's Al MacFarlane (arrow) in third quarter. Defenders in pursuit are Austin's Don Minervini, Bill Johnson. (Sun-Times Photos)

Vocational, Look Out For Taft!

Play Game At Soldier's Field

The Eagles, after romping over Crane 14-0 in the first game of the playoffs, will meet Chicago Vocational for the second game tomorrow at Soldier's Field. Taft has not played CVS since 1955, when the Eagles lost to the eventual city champions.

Calumet and Schurz will play in the first game (which starts at 12:00), followed by the Taft-Vocational game (which begins at 2:15).

Coach Kupciet believes that the Eagles stand a good chance of winning if they play to the best of their potential. Vocational's record stands at seven wins, no losses, while Taft's is five wins, one loss, and one tie.

The Crane game, played before 1200 fans at Hanson Park Saturday October 25, got off to a slow start. Taft failed to score in the first half, although reaching the 15 yard line twice.

MACFARLANE SCORES TWICE

At the beginning of the second half Crane was forced to punt. Al MacFarlane, after eluding eight would-be tacklers, returned the ball 70 yards for the touchdown. Tom Nelles' conversion made the score 7 to 0.

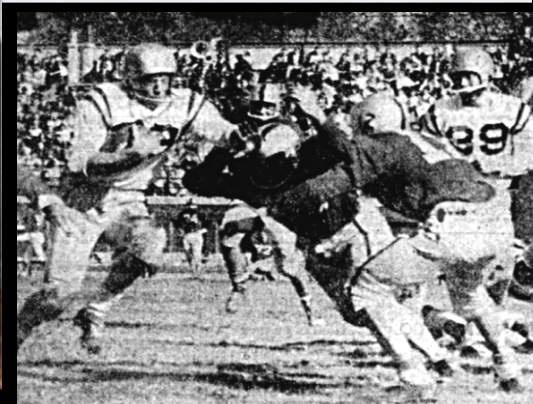
Don Soderlund recovered Paul Walker's short kick to give the Eagles the ball on the Crane 30 yard line.

CRANE TOUCHDOWN VOID

Crane later received the ball and was able to push down to the Taft 25 yard line. The Crane fullback, Alexander, ran the remaining 25 yards for a touchdown, only to be called back on a 15 yard clipping penalty.

A two yard plunge by MacFarlane and an extra point added by Nelles ended the scoring of the game.

The Eagles suffered a loss of 75 yards in penalties, while the Cougars lost only 40. Taft showed good offensive play by gaining 234 yards and 1 first downs. Crane was able to earn only 127 yards and 6 first



Taft Romps Steinmetz 26 to 0; Secure Place In Play-offs

by MIKE KEWIN

Taft High School's football team secured a place in the play-offs for the Public League Championship Games by drubbing Steinmetz 26-0 Saturday at Winnemac Stadium. The shutout was due to Taft's ability to capitalize on the blunders made by Steinmetz.

The feature before the game was a Pep Rally. The first one held this year. It was sponsored by the Taft Student Council for this Homecoming game. A card section was

used for the first time with great success and the Eagle mascot performed to the delight of all the spectators. A combination of perfect weather and the importance of the game attracted a record crowd.

Taft won the toss and elected to kick. Steinmetz took the ball and on the fifth play Taft's center, Jeff Bernahl, intercepted a Steinmetz pass on his own 38 yard line, but Taft was unable to take advantage of this break and was forced to kick. The rest of this period was marred by fumbles, penalties and injuries.

The second period was worse with a total of 8 penalties. Taft drove to Steinmetz's one yard line and with four plays was unable to score. This was the only threatening drive by either team in the second period, making the score at half time 0-0.

For the most part, the third period seemed to be apeing the pattern of the first two periods until late in the period when Taft went into orbit. Alan MacFarlane took a Steinmetz punt on his own 30 yard line and with excellent blocking took off along the side line sprinting for the goal when he was overtaken by a very fast Steinmetz tackle on their 30 yard line. In the next three plays Taft moved the ball to the 29 yard line. Alan MacFarlane, Taft's half back, in a brilliantly executed play, flipped the ball to his end, Don Soderlund lateraled to John Devlin, who scooted across for the score. Michael Day kicked for the extra point.

Alan MacFarlane kicked off to Steinmetz's 24 yard line on the third down and Steinmetz's quarterback, Mike Plastine, threw a pass to the waiting arms of Taft's

Mike Days kick was good.

This win puts Taft in third place in the Red Division with a 3-1-1 record. In the semi-finals Taft will play Crane Tech, a second place White Division team, who has a record of 4 wins and 1 loss. The place and time of this game will be decided by the Board of Education this week.

No matter where or when they play, lets all get out and support our hard fighting team.

Scoring

Taft	0	0	13	13-26
Steinmetz	0	0	0	0-0

Taft: TD—Delvin (30-yd. pass-run-lateral from MacFarlane, passer, and Soderlund, lateral); Neubert (34-yd. pass interception); MacFarlane (35-yd. interception); Young (52-yd. run). PAT-DAY 2.

Taft Invades Red Division

nents [13 games won, 1 tied] that the team has been moved up to the Red division. [The Red is the strongest of the three divisions into which the Public league football setup has been revised. The third division is the Blue.]

Coach Too Pessimistic?

Moving up Taft into the Red division prompted Kupcinec to remark: "... if we win two games in the Red division, we'll consider the season a success."

Taft students are hoping Kupcinec is overly pessimistic.

Also competing in the north-west section Red division are such established powers as Austin, Lane Tech, Harrison, Schurz, and Steinmetz. Schurz will be Taft's second Red division opponent on Saturday.

"These are strong teams, and I am afraid that we're going to find the going a little tough," said the Taft coach.

The league crown always managed to elude the Eagles, altho in 1942 Taft got as far as the title game. But Tilden proved too strong, and posted a 20 to 0 victory.

Graduation Causes Havoc

Contributing to Kupcinec's fear that Taft's showing in the Red division may fall below expectations is the loss of experienced personnel from last year's fine squad that bowed to powerful Fenger, 25 to 0, in the quarter-finals after having defeated Steinmetz by a similar score.

With the exception of Kenny Neubert and Neil Vetter, both linemen, all regulars were lost thru graduation. Among these were Denny Bell, end, and Jerry Meyer, halfback, both named to THE TRIBUNE All-Stars.

Neubert, 6 foot 170 pound senior, holds down the right guard spot both on offense and defense. He's a scrappy competitor whose opponents learned to respect him in his junior year, when he was voted all-star recognition. Vetter, 6 foot 190 tackle, also plays both ways.

Werling Heaviest in Line

With Neubert and Vetter in the line are Tom Groston and Don Soderlund, each 5-9, at



Taft's Public league hopes this fall rest chiefly on the passing of Fullback Dick Arfsten (left) and Tom Croston.

ends; Arnold Werling, 6 foot 210, at the other tackle; Bill Rice, 170, at the other guard, and Dave Gattorna at center. Gattorna, 5-9, 160, did not see much action last season. Soderlund is a junior.

The other junior in the starting lineup is Dick Arfsten, 5-10, 170 pound left halfback who can pass, kick, and run. Completing the backfield are John Devlin, 6-1, 160, at right half, Kurt Marquardt, 5-8, 170, at fullback, and Jeff Carson, 5-10, 170, at quarterback. Carson was substitute quarterback last year.

Juniors Ready to Help

Among this year's substitutes are Alan McFarlane, sophomore halfback, and five juniors: Bill Shalk, 6-3 end; Ken Cortas, 6-3, 290 pound tackle; Bill Horn, another hefty tackle; Mike Day, 165 pound halfback, and Ron Anderson, 5-9 quarterback.

Backing up Carson at quarter are Mike Murray and Paul Walker, both seniors. Another senior substitute is Tom Hookason, 170 pound fullback.

Taft Bit Too Green for 'Red' Opponents

BY TOMMY KOUZMANOFF

Taft High School's football team will do all right in the City League's powerful Red Division this season at the box office other than on the gridiron.

Starting Sept. 20, the Eagles' five-game schedule in the North-West section calls for games with Harrison, Schurz, Lane Tech, Austin and Steinmetz, all touted opponents that have figured in title races many times.

NOTHING BUT GLOOM

On the scoreboard, Joe Kupcinec, Taft's coach, sees nothing but gloom... one of the most dismal outlooks for the far Northwest Side school in Norwood Park that Kupcinec can recall. He says:

"We have no experienced backfield men, one of the poorest squads in years, no outstanding passer or

In Spring practice...

Kupcinec explained that he has only three players who performed both ways last year, on offense and defense.

—Ken Neubert, a guard, and two tackles, Neil Vetter and Arnold Werling.

FIRST GAMES

Taft's two ends, Tom Croston and Don Soderlund, will see their first offensive action in Saturday's exhibition opener with Lake View at Winnetka Park Stadium. They were defensive specialists last season.

Asked about some of the new players, Kupcinec smiled as he said:

"We have a bunch of boys who have everything—everything except experience. They have desire and good spirit. But when you play large schools like Lane Tech, Austin and Schurz week after week, that may not be enough. We have

(Every three years, the City League football teams are shuffled to produce "better balanced competition." This article—another of a series—sizes up Taft which is competing in the strong Red division after pacing the White Division of the North-West section over a three-year period.)

only 800 boys here at Taft." Candidates hoping to wipe a gloomy look off their coach's face include two left halfbacks, Richard Walker and Dick Arfsten, quarterback Jeff Carson and Kurt Marquardt.

Also, three linemen, Dave Damporn, center; left guard Bill Rice, who may miss the first game or two because of an injured knee, and Ken Meyer, who will be subbing for him.

Taft's three years in the

White Division show 13 wins and a tie—four wins and a tie in 1955, five wins in 1956 and four wins last year when one game was cancelled because of the Asian flu plague. The Eagles didn't lose a game in that sector those three years.

Taft's future is brighter than the immediate outlook. Says Kupcinec:

"Although we're not ready for tough Red Division opposition this season, we should do better from next year on. We'll toughen up with the calibre of opposition, I hope.

"As for the gate receipts, sure they'll be good. But I'm not worrying about that. We always did well financially. Touchdowns, not tickets, concern me far more, right now."

(Next—Lake View.)



Bill Rice
Mike Murray
Jerry Meyer
John Croll

Paul Walker
Arnie Werling
Rol Hoffman
Ken Neubert

Varsity Football



Rich Melbye
Neil Vetter
Dick Lutz
Carl Lambert
Don Westergren

John Devlin
Tom Davies
Ron Kozemzak
Kurt Marquardt
Don Soderlund

Kent Meyer
Merton Drake
Rich Arfsten
Tom Croston
Mike Bain

Dave Gattorna
Denny Bell
Chuck Freeze
Bob Sporleder
Bob Roy

Tom Nelles
Joe Lecinski
Dennis Swanson
Steve Miller

Roger Antkowiak
John Olson
Bruce Cameron
Mike Molay

Bob Benziger
George Geyer
Mike Day
Bob Speckman

Steve Regopolus
Bob Young
Bob Brushwyler
John Kink

Bill Bibel
Stu Dunn
Denny Arfsten
Jeff Thornton

Al MacFarlane
Steve Zientko
Ron Anderson
Jeff Bernahl

Frosh-Soph Football

Dave Wilson
Ken Kortis
Bill Schalk

Bill Horn
Alf Logan
Nick LoPresti

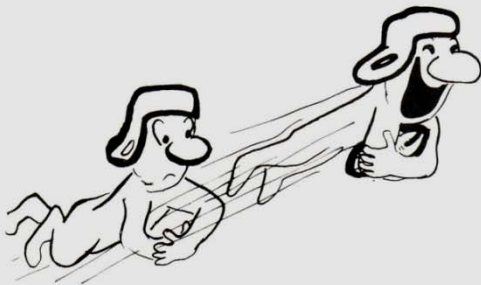




Photos by Bob Miller

1958 Varsity

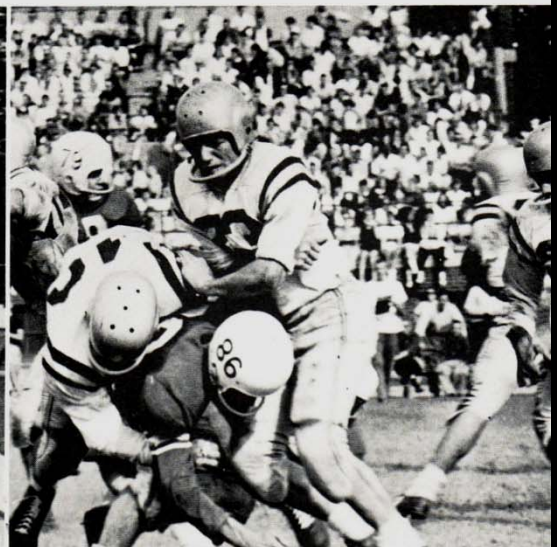
Top row: Bill Schalk, Ken Kortas, Bob Benziger, Merton Drake, Micky Geyer, Neil Vetter, Mike Murray, Bob Speckman, Ken Neubert, Steve Miller, Bill Horn, John Devlin. Second row: Jeff Carson, Tom Klein, Mike Day, Dan Kiwatkowski, Roger Moore, Bob Young, Alan MacFarlane, Dick Arfsten, Dick Walker, Alf Logan, Roger Jensen, Paul Walker. Third row: Arnie Werling, Bill Rice, Tom Hookanson, Jeff Bernahl, Tom Croston, Glenn Simcox, Tom Nelles, Jeff Thornton, Dave Gattorna, Ron Anderson, Kurt Marquardt, Don Soderlund, Coach Joe Kupcinec. Fourth row: Kent Meyer, Dennis Cavan, Bob Brushwyler, Bob Roy, Stuart Dunn, Bill Bibel, Tom Grud, Roger Ankowiak, George Ankowiak, Lynn Harris. Missing: Mike Molay, Managers Don Westergren and Jack Hamrin.



Marquardt tumbles Lakeview man as Mac Farlane sweeps end.

FOOTBALL TEAM

Day follows blockers in short-punt special.





FROSH-SOPH FOOTBALL 1956

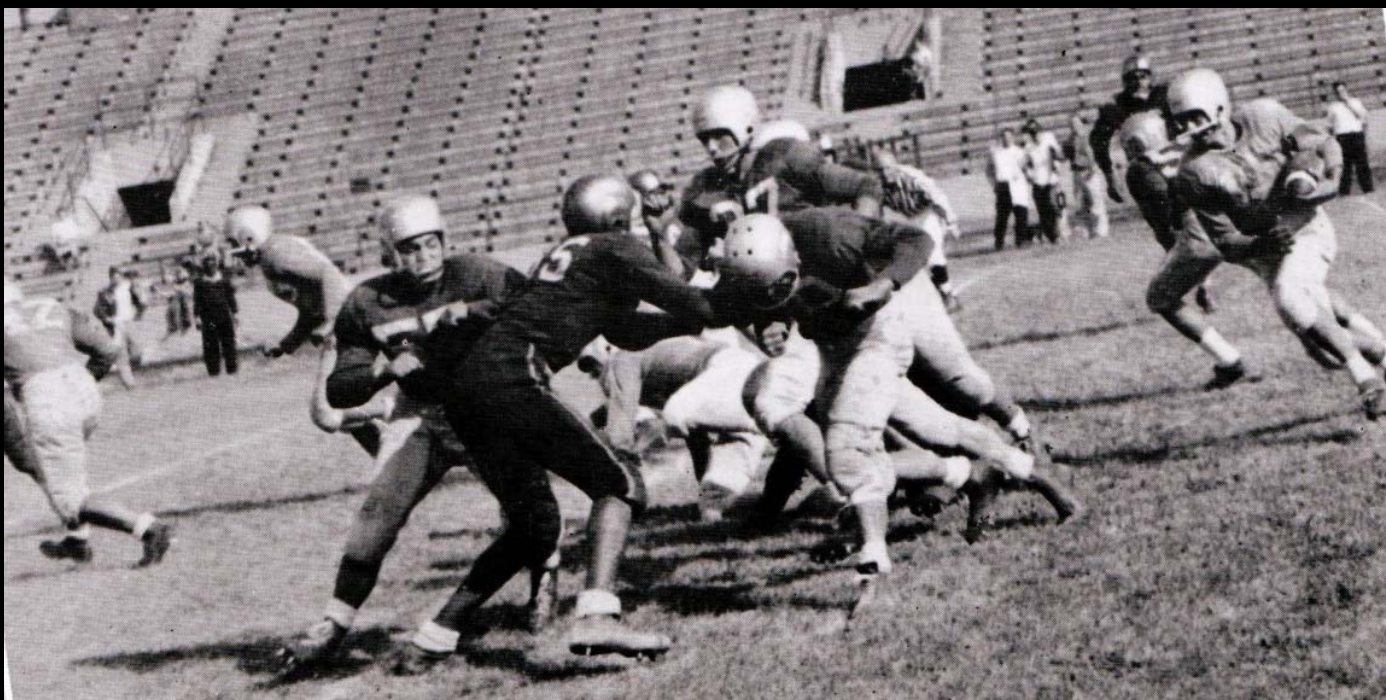
Left to right, bottom row: Dave Gattorna, Al Knapp, Ralph Kolconay, Tom Croston, Bob Roy, Norm Bohrnell, Denny Cavan, George Antkowiak, Kurt Marquart, Don Soderlund, Dick Walker, Jerry Ciffane (manager).

Second row: Jack O'Brill (asst. coach), Arnie Werling, Bill Rice, Bruce Matson, Bill Schaeffer, Tom Hookanson, Benny Shor, Dick Anderson, John Tymitz, Paul Walker, Kent Meyer, Chuck Freeze, Jim Smilgoff (coach).

Back row: Al Larocco, Bill Stevens, Don Westergren, Ken Neubert, Merton Drake, Don Jaeger, Dick Arfsten, Mike Murray, Jeff Carson, Neil Vetter, Bob Petersen, John Devlin.

photo by Bob Miller

The frosh-soph, playing a tough schedule, finished with a record of: five wins, one tie, and two losses. Ken Neubert was chosen Most Valuable Player.





Mac Farlane intercepts pass in Lane game.



Harrison players can only watch Mac Farlane.



Vetter pursues Wiel in Schurz game.

Red Division

This past fall our football team played its first season in the red division. Even against better teams for the first time, Taft lost only once in league play. This was to Austin, the school that eventually won the city championship.

Season Record

Practice Game

Taft 6	Lakeview 0
Schedule Games — Northwest Red Division	
Taft 16	Harrison 0
Taft 19	Schurz 7
Taft 0	Lane 0
Taft 6	Austin 20
Taft 26	Steinmetz 0
City Championship Playoff Games	
Taft 14	Crane 0
Taft 14	C.V.S. 38



Northwest Red Division Standings

Austin	5-0-0
Lane	3-1-1
Taft	3-1-1
Schurz	2-3-0
Steinmetz	0-3-2
Harrison	0-4-1

Expressions.

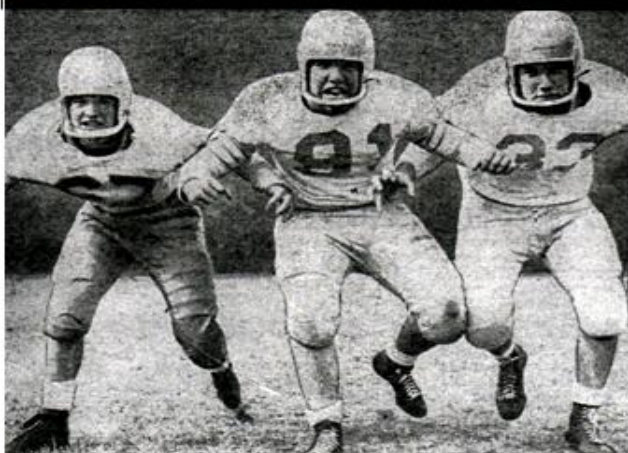


Werling and Soderlund stop Wiel of Schurz.



Mac plows against Lane.

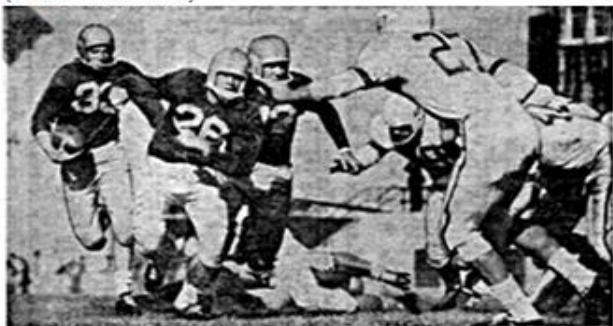
Taft Aims for First Public League Football Championship



A Trio of husky young gridders gives good illustration of why Taft High School is looked upon as a likely grid power. They are (l to r) guard Ken Neubert, tackle Arnie Werling and guard Neil Vetter. (Sun-Times Photos)



With Lake View pigskinners in hot pursuit, Taft backfield ace Al MacFarlane turns on the speed and picks up five yards in the first half of a contest which saw the Eagles come out victorious by a score of 6 to 0.



LANE, TAFT IN SCORELESS TIE

Taft High sophomore Al MacFarlane gains five yards on second-quarter run when teammate makes Jeff Carson (26) and Neil Vetter clear Lane's John Martin (27) from path. Public League teams play scoreless tie. Story on Page 45. (Sun-Times Photo)



Taft's terror of the gridiron turns on the gas again for a first down against the Harrison Tech. squad, No. 33 — Ron MacFarlane was credited with scoring both touchdowns on punt returns Saturday — which helped to completely bewilder the South side rivals of the Red division. The final score was Taft, 16, Harrison, 0. Next Saturday, Taft takes on Schurz at Lane Stadium, Addison and Western, at 2 p.m.



A 20-yard gain is stepped off by Taft's Al MacFarlane (arrow) in third quarter. Defenders in pursuit are Austin's Don Minervini, Bill Johnson. (Sun-Times Photos)