

# The 40's



Art by Vincent Tango



YATES

*Thomas Yates*



COCCOZZELLO

*Pete Coccozzello*



VIERGELETTE

*Virgelette Vance*



BROWNLEE

*Bucky Brownlee*



FURLONG

*Bob Furlong*



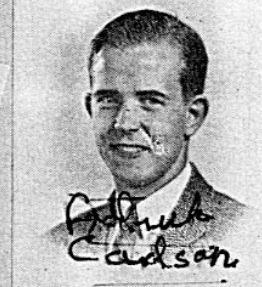
RUCCIO

*Fred Ruccio*



QUINN

*Jack Quinn*



CARLSON

*Arthur Carlson*



COKEFAIR

*Jack Cokefair*



FULTON

*Bill Fulton*



LONGTON

*Dave Longton*



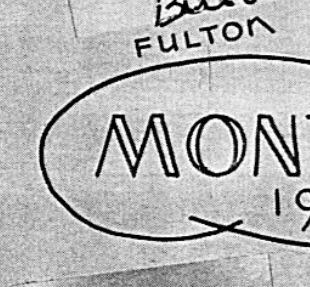
McGURK

*Bill McGurk*



PETERSON

*Bob Peterson*



RUSSO

*Johnny Russo*



GALLUCCI

*Nicky Gallucci*



JOHNSON

*Doug Johnson*



CLAVER

*John Claver*



SALOV

RUSSO



MENHINE

*Menhine*

MONTCLAIR  
1940

## 1940

A man of miracles came to Montclair High School last year. Short, stocky, and tenacious, he accomplished the almost impossible for his old Alma Mater. Montclair High School graduates will talk about "Clary" Anderson for many years for his feat of producing a class A team from a squad that had been less than mediocre for two years.

While "Clary" was at Montclair High School, he played a game of football that has been equaled by few. "Woody," who gave Clary the highest of praise in the assembly, has called him "the smartest quarterback Montclair has ever produced." Clary graduated from Montclair High School in 1930 and went to Colgate. It was at Colgate in 1932 that he played fullback in Colgate's all-Montclair backfield. It was also in this year that Colgate was undefeated, untied, and unscored upon. In the three years that Clary played football at Colgate, he competed in 25 out of 28 games and the Colgate goal line was never crossed while "Clary" was playing.

His abilities are not limited to football. In 1935 the New York Giants signed him to play on their "farm" teams. He held down the position of catcher for three years. To Clary belongs the support of the whole school, and next fall we are confident of another winning team.

Under the spark of Clary Anderson, Montclair High School had one of the most unexpected and successful seasons in many years. The Montclair High School team, that had been less than mediocre for two years, outplayed every team it met and won all but two encounters.

Starting the season was the game with Lodi, which we won 6-0. The school was hopeful, but still doubtful of the team's ability to take a strong Weequahic eleven. When Weequahic was defeated by the overwhelming total of 30-0, the Montclairites joy knew no bounds.

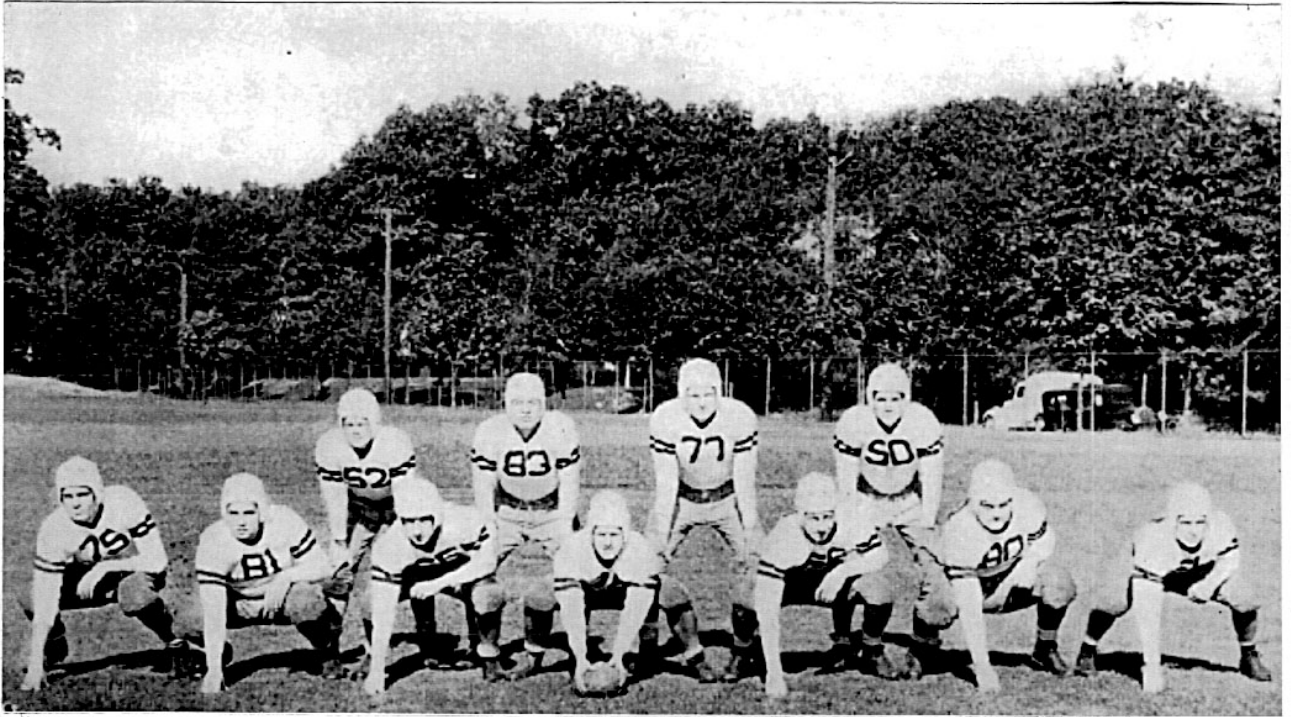
The next week the stands were filled with fans prepared to watch their new miracle team administer a drubbing to Kearny. They were not disappointed. When the final whistle blew on a score of 25-0, the shouts were heard for miles around.

Our next encounter was with an undefeated team. Nutley was well on its way to becoming a contender for the state championship and would prove to be a real battle. On the day of the game, Montclair embarked *en masse* for Nutley. Here the Mounties suffered their first defeat. In the last minutes of the first half, Nutley crossed our goal line for the only touchdown of the game. Nutley 6-0.

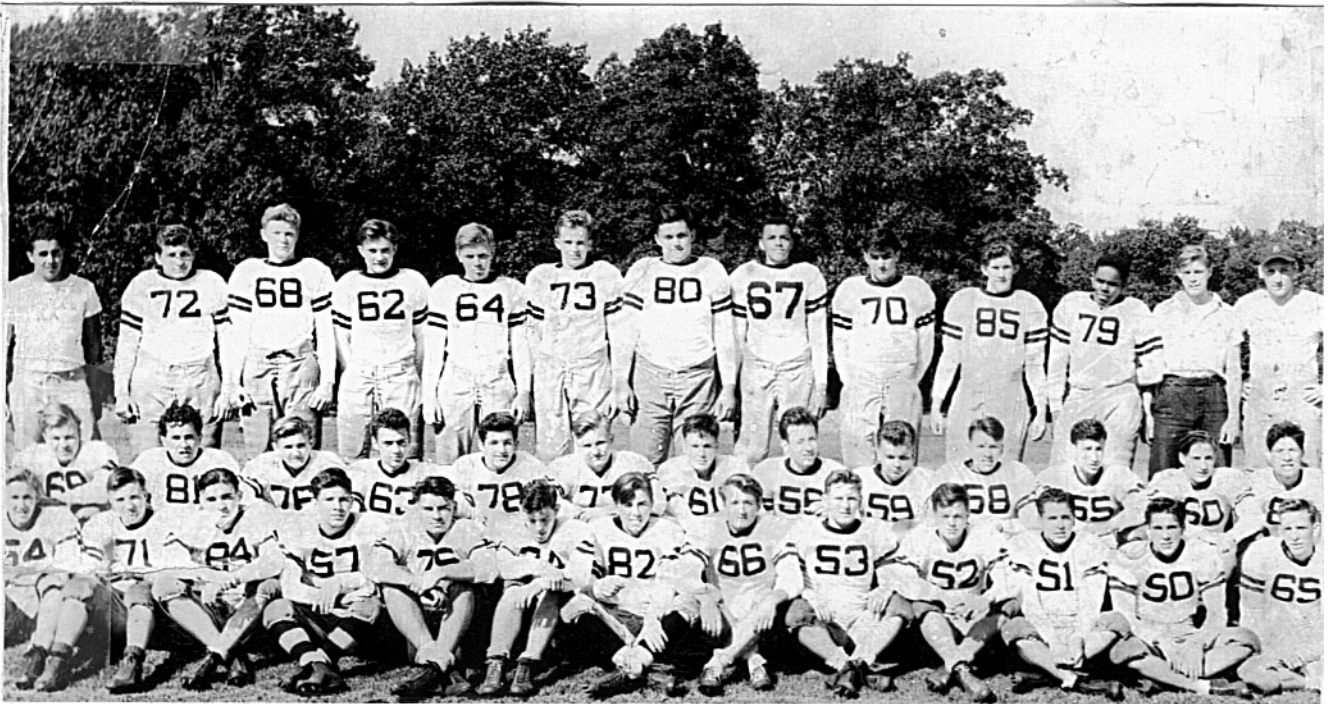
The Nutley beating served only to raise the Montclair fighting spirit. The following week a highly rated East Orange team went down before a wave of Blue and White to the score of 35-6.

West Orange was next on the list. Here was another unbeaten eleven. This game was destined to be filled with hard luck for Montclair High School. In the first half the West Orangers battled their way through for a touchdown. Our team, not to be outdone, came back in the third quarter to put the ball across, convert, and take the lead. Then hard luck really hit them. Bob Peterson dislocated his shoulder and was taken out. This unexpected disaster upset the team just enough to cause a forced kick from our end zone to go haywire. West Orange fell on the ball for a safety and won 8-7.

The next to the last game was with a powerful little Glen Ridge team which held Montclair on a muddy field to a 12-0 victory over them.



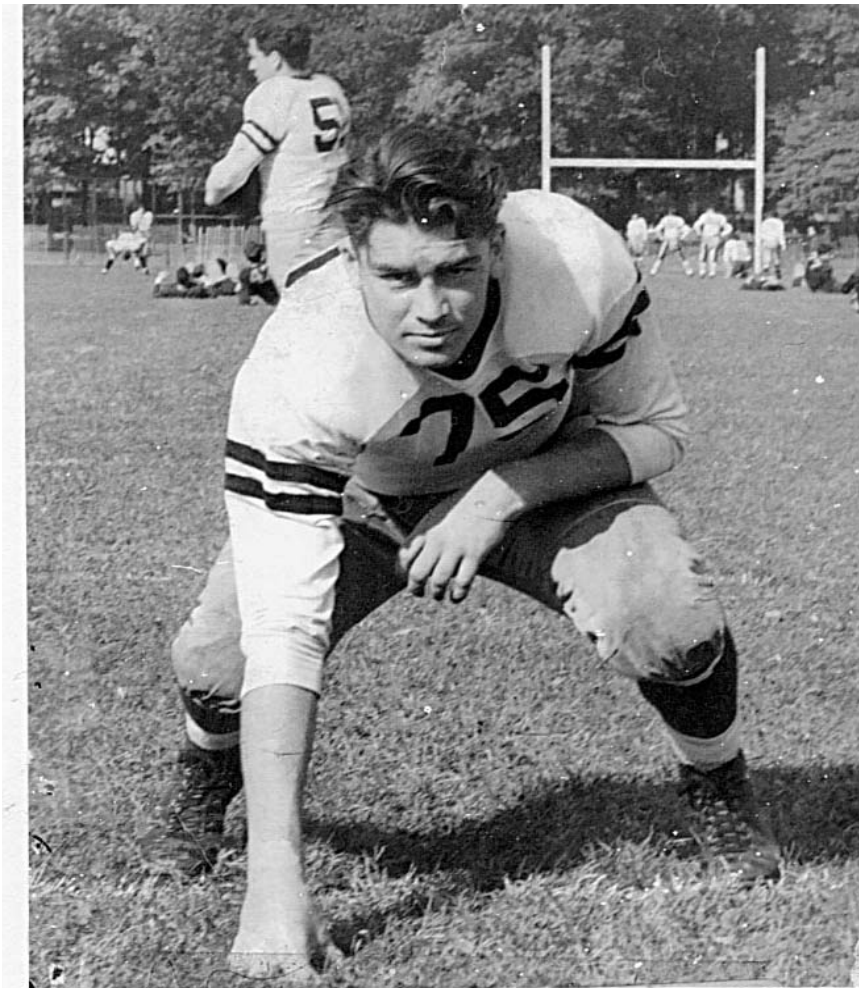
The Mountie Starters in 1940



The 1940 Montclair High School "Mounties"



Cokefair to McGurk for the TD "Turkey Day" 1940



Bill McGurk

Right End- 1940

Then came Thanksgiving Day and Bloomfield. The surrounding country was absolutely deserted. Everyone was at the Montclair stadium. That was a game that will be remembered by both sides. Montclair took control right from the whistle and never relinquished it. Through the line, around the end, or into the air – it was all the same to the Blue and White. Bloomfield was left plowing up the field in a bewildered and befuddled fashion. When the final gun went off, Montclair was out in front 40-0. The shouts that went up were terrific (it was confidentially reported at Washington that a certain European nation thought the noise was the approach of an enemy army and almost jumped out of their skins). The scorekeepers had to do more computing than ever before in the history of Bloomfield football.

The last game was a post-season game a week after the Bloomfield massacre. It was with a powerful and heavy Columbia team which we defeated 6-0. The score was made possible largely by Bob Peterson. He was put in, made the score in a matter of minutes, and was taken out again because of his shoulder.

# "CLOSE BATTLE" Says Montclair Coach

by CLARENCE ANDERSON

1940

WHEN TWO NATURAL RIVALS such as Montclair and Bloomfield meet anything can happen. In the past Bloomfield has often won by a one-sided margin but all indications are that the game this year should be a close battle all the way.

Montclair has been operating this year from a double wingback. This formation, both short and deep, is new to Montclair. However, the boys have attacked the problem with rare enthusiasm and have readily adapted themselves to the new style of play.

Fred Ruccio and Bill McGurk are senior ends and they have played steady ball all year. McGurk, weighing 190 pounds, is a fine blocker and defensive end as well as a great pass catcher. Ruccio is extremely fast and a fine blocker making him an excellent player for leading reverse plays.

Nick Gallucci has acted as a stabilizing influence on the line and his defensive work has been outstanding in each game. "Bing" Johnson has always had great potentialities and some day will probably realize them.

"Butch" Fortunato has done a great job with the Montclair line and its fine work in every game this year is a great credit to him. "Butch" was an excellent running back at Montclair and showed his versatility during his three years on Fordham's football team by developing into a fine blocker.

He is fast enough to run interference but has difficulty in locating his man. Pete Coccoziello is another tackle who is improving every game and will see plenty of service next year.

"Fuzzy" Furlong is the fleet right halfback who calls signals and plays safety man. "Fuzzy" has caught numerous passes and has several long ones to his credit.

As one could expect, most of the starters are seniors. However, three of the starting team, Vincette, Russo and Scola will be back next year and Carlson, Coccoziello, Clauer, Brownlee, Fulton, and Quinn, all of whom have seen a great deal of service this year, will return. Promising sophomores on this year's squad include Al Dockery, a hard running halfback, "Red" Behrens, who passes superbly from fullback, Nuncio DeFalco, a hard charging guard, Archie Hoatson, a clever end, Bob Rice, a 185 pound tackle, "Buster" Fitzgerald, a place kicker and a good end prospect, Tom Calandra, another end with size, Dick Smith, a center, and Tony Fortunato, a fullback.



"CLARY" ANDERSON

**Final score MONTCLAIR 40 BLOOMFIELD 0**



## 1941

Hats off to coaches Clary Anderson and Butch Fortunato for turning out a championship team, a team that topped all other schools in the state, according to the Collition listings and the rating by NJSIAA. It happened in this way.

After dropping the opener to a veteran Paterson Eastside 6-0, our gridgers, with All Dockery as pile-driving fullback, started their victorious streak by swamping Weequahic 32-0. (Future Major League Baseball legend Larry Doby powered the Eastside). We then met a much-favored Kearny team and when the smoke of battle cleared, Clauer had made himself high scorer at the expense of the Cardinals (Montclair 25-14). Tom Calandra saved the day against a powerful Nutley aggregation when he snared a Brownlee pass for the only tally. (Montclair 6-0). The East Orange game was highlighted by Quinn's 85-yard run for a touchdown. (Montclair 25-0). The Clarymen then went down to drown Columbia in a rather wet game. (Montclair 19-0). We and Clauer then avenged ourselves against West Orange with an emphatic triumph. (Montclair 37-7). Praise should be meted out to our linemen such as Coccozielo, along with Fitzsgerald, Calandra, Hoatson, and Russo, who always played a bang-up game. Without such fine downfield blocking, our team would never have been what it was. Glen Ridge, our seventh victim, dropped out of the undefeated class as it bowed to the Mountie momentum, 34-7. The Mounties closed a record season by trimming Bloomfield 38-7. Bob Behrens ran wild against the Bengals, ripping off long gains and also taking passing honors. Quinn, Clauer, and Dockery also turned in many fine runs through the Bloomfield forward wall, scoring four touchdowns between them. Brownlee joined Behrens in the passing glory with his touchdown pass in the last period. Trouncing Bloomfield was the final touch to prove that we were among the very top teams in the state.

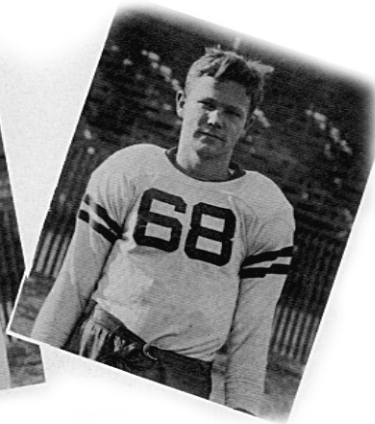
Under the guiding hands of Clary and Butch, the Mountaineers had achieved the best record in their history. By accumulating a total of 660 points, Montclair tops all schools in the state according to the Collition listings, with Garfield close behind with 558. The NJSIAA chose Montclair High School as champions of Section 2, including Essex, Warren, Union, and Hudson counties.

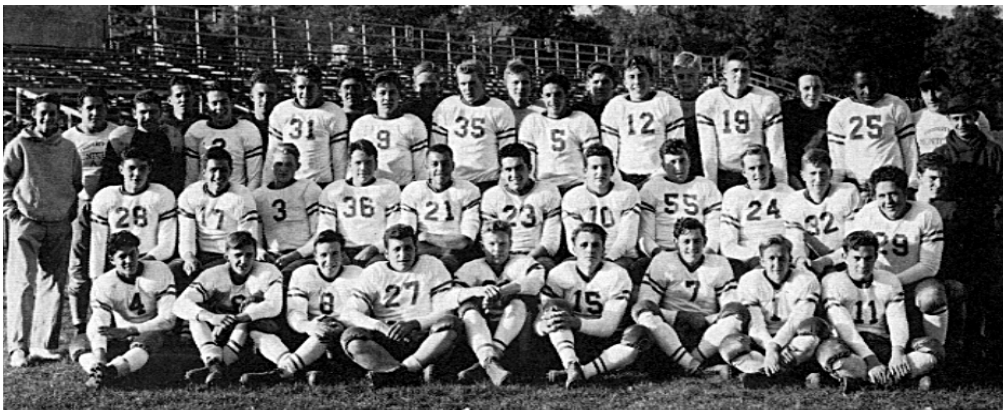
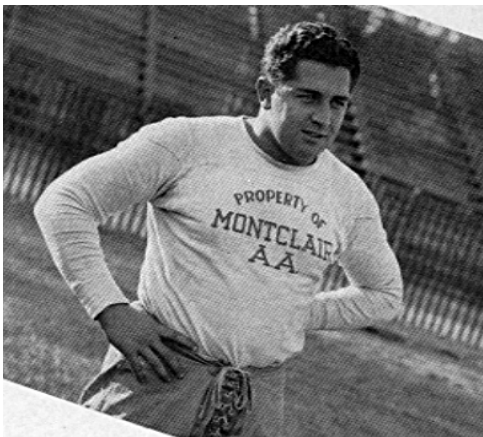
Better cooperation and teamwork has never existed among our footballers and it was this cohesion more than anything else that was responsible for our eight straight wins. As to be expected in a team of this caliber, individual honors were also numerous. Johnny Russo, powerhouse guard, topped the recognition list by receiving every honor possible to a high school football player. Chosen by the New York World Telegram as one of three Jersey boys on the All-Metropolitan team, he was also picked for the All-State team by the Newark News and the Newark Star-Ledger, and for the All-County team by the same papers. Other all-state selections included Calandra, end on the Star-Ledger's first team, and Quinn, back on the second team of the News. In addition to Russo outstanding players in the county, as selected by the News, were Hoatson, end, on the first team; and on the third team, Quinn, back. The Star-Ledger mentioned Calandra, end, and Clauer, back, on its first team and Brownlee, back for its second team.

Recognition must also go to the coaches, the managers, the rest of the team who supported the stars on the field, the rooters who supported them in the stands, and to everyone who contributed to this glorious season.

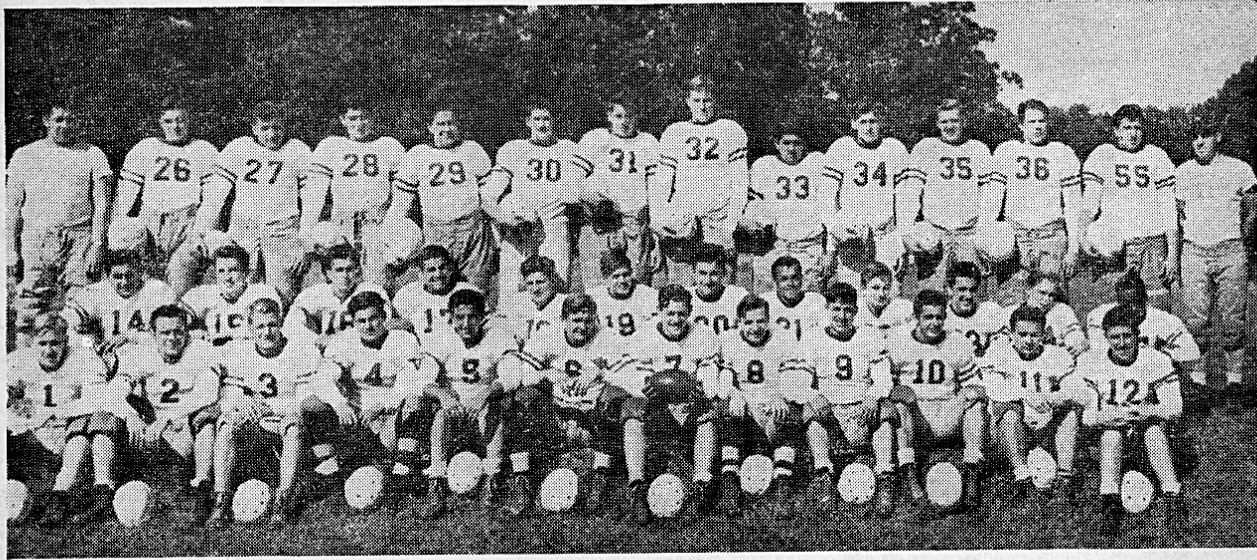
*We've never seen a better team;  
We hope some day to see one.  
The goal of every Mountie's dream-  
State Championship that WE won!*

**\*From the 1942 football season through 1945, Butch Fortunato will be acting Head Coach while Clary serves his country.**





**OUR HONORED GUESTS — THE "BLUE RAIDERS"**  
*Montclair High's 1941 Championship Team — Co-Champions of North Jersey, Group IV*



**THE SEASON'S RECORDS**

**Montclair Kiwanis Club**

On December 9, 1926, the Montclair Kiwanis Club added Montclair High School to its schedule. The meeting of these two local institutions is a post-season classic in good fellowship and an inspiration, we hope, to both squads. It has become a tradition with Kiwanis to continue these relations — "Win, Lose or Draw."

**Montclair High School**

|                         |    |                      |    |
|-------------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| 0 Paterson East Side .. | 7  | 37 West Orange ..... | 7  |
| 32 Weequahic .....      | 0  | 34 Glen Ridge .....  | 7  |
| 25 Kearny .....         | 14 | 38 Bloomfield .....  | 7  |
| 6 Nutley .....          | 0  |                      |    |
| 25 East Orange .....    | 0  | 216                  | 42 |
| 19 Columbia-So. Orange  | 0  |                      |    |

## 1942

With as strong an opposition as Montclair High has ever had, this year's squad under the influence of Butch Fortunato's efficient coaching, came through the season with a fine record of five victories, one tie, and three losses despite the handicaps of numerous injuries to key players.

After tying the opening game with Orange, 13-13, with both Mountie touchdowns by Dockery's plunges, our gridders avenged with a 27-6 victory, the 1941 beating by Paterson Eastside that had kept Montclair from becoming undisputed State Champions. Chris Kroll starred with his passing and running which netted the team two of the touchdowns. A greatly improved team trounced Kearny 31-0. The Mounties then beat Nutley 12-0 in a game that featured the line ripping of Al Dockery. The East Orange game ended in Montclair's defeat (9-6) in a match that showed superior playing by the Panthers. Outplayed in the first half, Columbia High's powerful team made the most of a fumble and an interception in the last half to win the contest, 13-0. After losing two successive games, the Mounties came back with a 21-0 triumph over West Orange and a 19-0 win over Glen Ridge. Although outplaying Bloomfield from beginning to end, Montclair was defeated, 13-0 in the closing game of the year. With Al Dockery's line-blocking and broken field running in the foreground, Montclair gained 110 yards rushing against Bloomfield's 54 yards.

So ended the 1942 football season of Montclair High whose team, with untiring effort, did such a commendable job. Fine playing in the line was demonstrated by "Buster" Fitzsgerald and Dan Fardelmann, tackles; Archie Hoatson and Tom Calandra, ends; Nunsio DeFalco and Tom Gagliano, guards; and Fred Siminster,

center. In the backfield Bob Iliff and Carmen Barbarise were steady in their jobs while Leonard Burchell and Bob Fletcher gave minutes of excitement with their spot playing. Bob Behrens, although out because of an injury most of the time, added his skillful passing to the team's resources. Keith King, too, added eight points to our season's total score with his kicking of points after touchdowns.



Bob Iliff



Carmen Barbarise



Chris Kroll



Nunzio De Falco



Thomas Gagliano



Bob Behrens



A. Fortunato

## 1942



Frank Stellatella



Albert Dochery



Archie Hoatson



John Fitzgerald



Fred Simister



Tom Calandra



Don Fardelmann



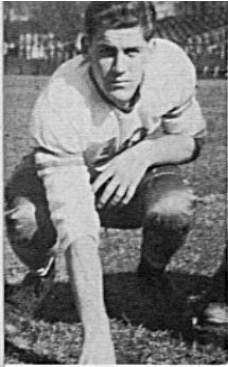
Bottom Row: Bell, King, Russell, Mills, Valse, Testa, Scanion, Weissenborn, Miller, Marra.  
 Second Row: Iliff, Hoatson, Fitzgerald, Dochery, Simister, DeFalco, Kroll, Fardelmann, Calandra, Behrens, Barbarise.  
 Third Row: Sheleigh, Fusco, Richardi, D'Allessandro, Katz, Anello, Gagliano, Kelly, Stokes, Hoest, Burchell.  
 Top Row: Coleman, Gauteri, Demiola, Brehmer, Rice, McGurk, Moore, Heddy, Cox, Fletcher.

## 1943

Montclair opened its **most successful football campaign in a half century** by beating Orange 28-7. On the following Saturday the Mounties trimmed a good Paterson Eastside team, 12-0. The Blue and White's next foe was an unbeaten Nutley team that boasted one of the state's best backs, Peccarelli. For the first three quarters neither team was able to gain a decisive advantage. However, in the fourth quarter Montclair proved itself to be the better conditioned, as it won out 6-0 in one of the bitterest battles ever seen at Woodman Field. The next two Saturdays saw Montclair beat rather poor East Orange and Columbia teams 21-0 and 19-6, respectively. On November 6<sup>th</sup> the Mounties met one of the county's best teams in West Orange. However, West Orange was no match for the mighty Montclair juggernaut in a 25-0 rout. The next week Montclair beat an undefeated and scrappy Glen Ridge outfit, 14-6. The Mounties turned the annual Turkey Day clash with Bloomfield into a 46-0 circus. The Bengals never once were in the ball game, as the Blue and White clicked on all cylinders to reach its highest peak of the season. The Mounties could not have closed this great season in a more fitting way.

As the 1943 football season opened, few, if any, dreamed that Montclair would have the most successful football team in its history. That we should go through a tough schedule undefeated, that we should gain the state championship, and that we should beat Bloomfield 46-0 in the **worst defeat ever suffered by a Foley coached Bloomfield team** was unheard of. It was only natural that people did not expect much from the Mounties, as there was but one returning regular from the previous year's team. However, it wasn't long before it was evident that coaches Fortunato and Stellatella had welded together a great team as the Blue and White rolled over almost all the opposition at will. It would be impossible to give too much credit to Butch and Frank for the great work they did in producing **Montclair's first unbeaten team in history** and our second State Championship in three years.

It would be impossible to pick an outstanding star on this season's team for all were stars. Perhaps, though, Jim McGurk was the brightest star. There was no game in which our big fullback was stopped completely. Jim won about every honor deemed for a high school player including selection on the All-Metropolitan team and the All State team. Quarterback, Heddy, was living proof of the saying that 75 percent of a good football player is above the shoulders, as he time and time again outsmarted the opposition with his signal calling. The halfbacks were two of the best in our history. Fletcher, with his shiftiness, and Iliff, with his driving speed, were main cogs in the Montclair machine. On the line the two guards, Ricciardi and Harrington, were also chosen on most of the All-State teams. It was often said that Ricciardi and Harrington were the fifth and sixth men in our opponents' backfield. The centers Cameron and Olsen were outstanding considering that they were first year men. The tackles, Hoest and Anello, and Johnson, Anello's substitute, were far above the average. Montclair has seldom had better ends than Brehmer and Cox, and Moore, Cox's substitute. These are but a few of the many good players who made up Montclair's magnificent team.



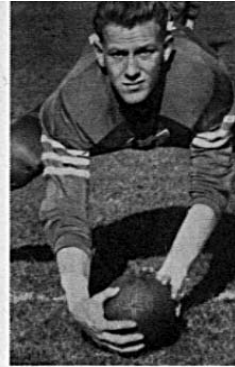
ORION BREHMER



BOB COX



KEN MOORE



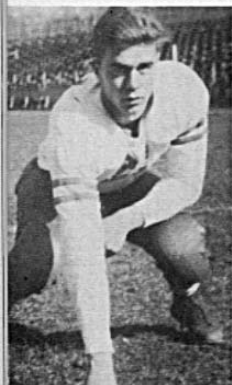
BOB CAMERON



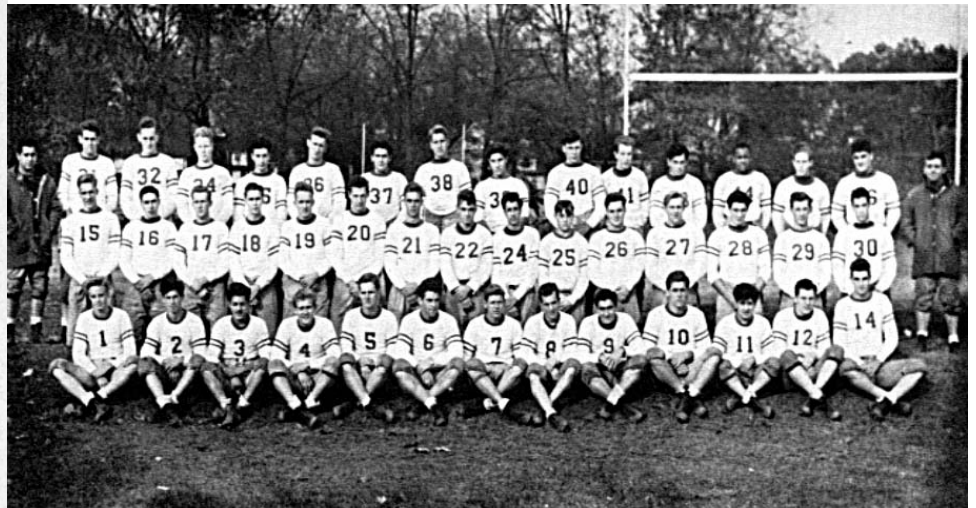
SYLVESTER ANELLO



BILL HOEST

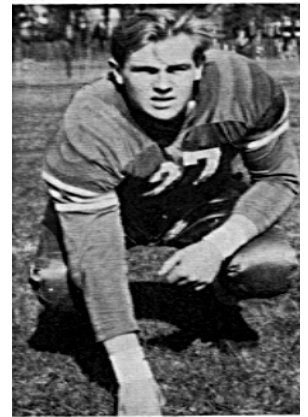


BERGER JOHNSON



Bottom Row: George Heddy, Carl Lombardi, Jim Russo, Eric Olson, Jack Coffman, Keith King, Bob Rose, Vincent Caputo, Gene Marra, Orion Brehmer, Nick Valeso, Bob Fletcher, Ken Moore.  
 Second Row: Bob Cox, Don Fusco, Bob Cameron, Dave Binzen, Bill Hoest, Ken Sheeleigh, Birger Johnson, Jack Powers, Nick Panza, Hugh Iliff, Pete Ricciardi, Joe Harrington, Bob Iliff, John DellSanti.  
 Top Row: Jim McGurk, Victor Benson, Lindy Stoker, Al Ferucci, Ozzie Clark, Ray Ludlow, Louis Fardelman, Frank Cebello, Bob Griswold, Fred Ekstrom, Billy Hunt, Gordon Myatt, Craig Gridley, Joe Patrino, Coach Angelo Fortunato (Butch), Assistant Coach Frank Stellatella





Joe Harrington

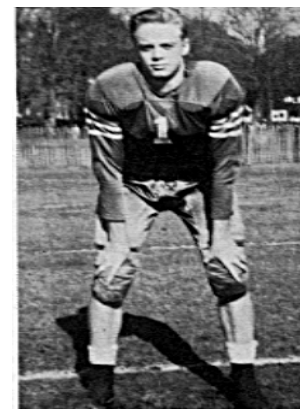


Pete Ricciardi

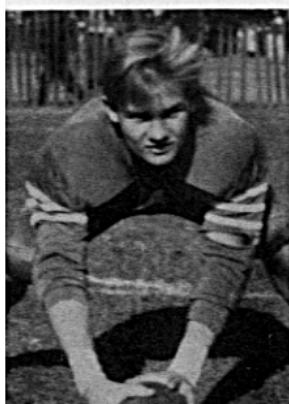
Front Row: Orion Brehmer, Bill Hoest, Birger Johnson, Joe Harrington, Bob Cameron, Pete Ricciardi, Ken Moore.  
 Top Row: Bob Fletcher, Jim McGurk, George Heddy, Bob Iliff.

|           |    |   |               |
|-----------|----|---|---------------|
| MONTCLAIR | 28 | 7 | ORANGE        |
| MONTCLAIR | 12 | 0 | PATERSON E.S. |
| MONTCLAIR | 21 | 0 | KEARNY        |
| MONTCLAIR | 6  | 0 | NUTLEY        |
| MONTCLAIR | 21 | 0 | EAST ORANGE   |
| MONTCLAIR | 19 | 6 | COLUMBIA      |
| MONTCLAIR | 25 | 0 | WEST ORANGE   |
| MONTCLAIR | 14 | 6 | GLEN RIDGE    |
| MONTCLAIR | 46 | 0 | BLOOMFIELD    |

**THE FIRST UNDEFEATED SEASON IN M.H.S. HISTORY!**



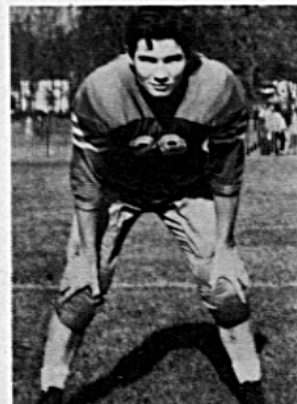
George Heddy



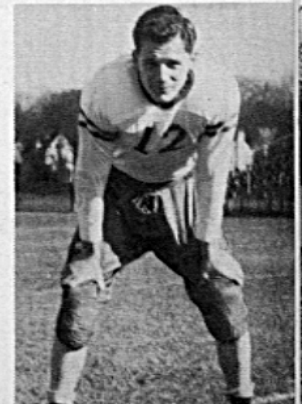
Everett Olsen



Jim McGurk

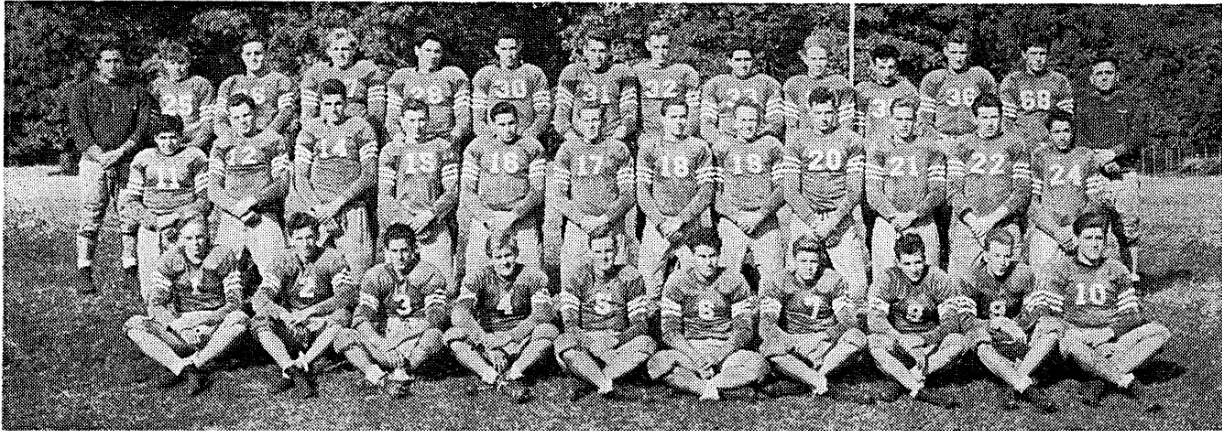


Bob Iliff



Bob Fletcher

**OUR HONORED GUESTS, "THE BLUE RAIDERS"**  
*Montclair High's 1943 Team—Champions of New Jersey, Group Four*



**THE SEASON'S RECORDS**

**Montclair Kiwanis Club**

On December 9, 1926, the Montclair Kiwanis Club added the Montclair High School to its schedule. The meeting of these two local institutions is a post-season classic in good fellowship and an inspiration, we hope, to both squads. It has become a tradition with Kiwanis to continue these relations—"Win, Lose or Draw."

**Montclair High School**

|                          |   |                          |    |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| 23 Orange .....          | 7 | 20 Columbia, So. Orange. | 6  |
| 12 Paterson East Side... | 0 | 25 West Orange .....     | 0  |
| 21 Kearny .....          | 0 | 14 Glen Ridge .....      | 6  |
| 6 Nutley .....           | 0 | 46 Bloomfield .....      | 0  |
| 21 East Orange .....     | 0 |                          |    |
|                          |   | 193                      | 19 |

**HEAD COACH**



ANGELO (BUTCH) FORTUNATO

**CAPTAIN**



JIM MCGURK  
 "Old No. 31"

MONTCLAIR HIGH was notable for its "firsts" this year. It was the first Blue and White team to go undefeated. It was the first team ever to roll up 770 points under the Colliton system. It was the first team from Monclair—or any other place—to beat Bloomfield by seven touchdowns.

★ ★ ★

It established records right and left. It reached a new high in playing performance. But most important of all, it won the State championship.

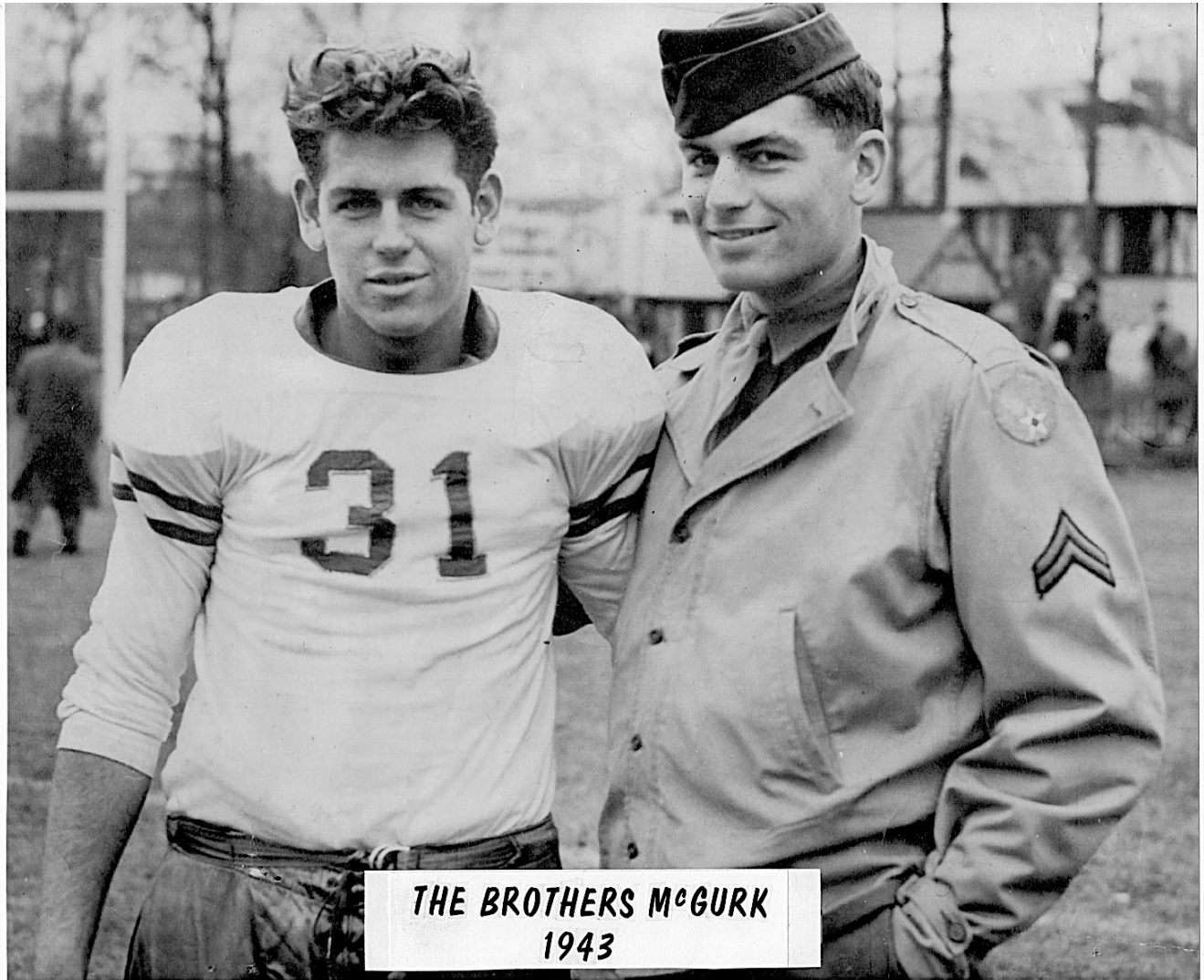
★ ★ ★

The Newark Sunday Call New Jersey Championship Trophy will be presented to the team and comes to Montclair on the basis of the Colliton Rating System, Montclair receiving the highest number of points (770) in Group Four High Schools. Also, All-State Football Emblems will be presented to Joe Harrington, guard, and Jim McGurk, back. Both awards will be presented by Gus A. Falzer, well-known sports editor of the Newark Sunday Call.

★ ★ ★

Kiwanis and all loyal "Blue Raider" fans and friends congratulate the TEAM, JIM MCGURK and JOE HARRINGTON on being the recipients of these coveted awards. Congratulations also to the "Coach of the Year," "BUTCH" FORTUNATO, and his assistant, FRANK STELLATELLA, for their outstanding coaching achievement this season.





While on leave from the Army Air Corps, Bill McGurk (class of '41) visits a fellow Mountie gridiron star- his brother Jim- at a Montclair football game in 1943.