

Withrow Closes Season, Winning P.H.S.L. Title

As cool, crisp, autumn breezes vied with humid heat for supremacy, and summer waned, Withrow's attention unanimously focused upon the National Sport—FOOTBALL. Football—the game which extends an invitation to everyone; the stouthearted may expend excess energy while their more timorous companions spend an enjoyable afternoon observing the game. In Tigertown proper the coaches, in preparation for the opening tilt of the coming saga, applied finishing touches to what was considered an extremely grid-iron squad.

The boys had worked exceedingly hard to condition themselves for the rough sixty minute battles that were to follow, and now that school was well under way the opening encounter loomed foremost in everyone's mind. This was to be the test of the material which long weeks of training had produced.

The campaign was launched with un hoped for success; and overrated Reading High fell beneath the shifty Tiger eleven, 35-0, as Charlie Meyer, rugged blocking back, tallied four markers. The Orange and Black continued to show power against Central Vocational in a 35-0 lopsided victory over the Hornets. Quarterback Jim Neison sparked the offense from the T formation, while George Fry was the unsung hero of the forward wall. The first month of school having passed, Withrow launched full scale into pigskin entertainment. After passing over their first two opponents with comparative ease, the Tigertown boys suffered their first setback of the season at the hands of St. X. in a heartbreaker under the lights at Xavier Stadium. This traditional tilt was close, 21-12, and hard fought all the way. The pigskin toters retaliated, however, the following week and moved back into the win column by upsetting a highly praised Elder eleven, 25-0. The play was rugged and it took Willard Van Epps and Norm Phillips to blast the opposing line for pay dirt, so that Withrow wound up on the long end of the score with its third victory in hand. The tables were turned, however, as the Purcell Cavaliers dealt out a severe trouncing to our boys, who failed to break the jinx which has been maintained for the past

four consecutive years. The potent combination of tough Purcell boys and a drizzling rain proved to be just too much for the Tiger squad as they fumbled their way to an 18-0 setback. Hard times seemed to follow the Tigers as they approached mid-season by coming out on the short end of a 19-7 encounter with Shortridge. The game was exciting and well fought, and our hats are off to the Indiana boys for their good sportsmanship.

Although Withrow's chances for a 1948 district championship had waned considerably, the entire school waited in keen anticipation for the concluding games of the season, which would decide the outstanding public and parochial teams of the year. Thus it was felt that the coming tilt with Western Hills would be decisive in the hotly contested race for the PHSL championship. However, before a large crowd at the University Stadium, the Tigers and Maroons fought to a 6-6 deadlock, allowing the outcome of the race to remain in doubt. The following week Withrow played host to a lightly underrated Walnut Hills eleven and, although play was close for the first three quarters, the Tigertown boys, sparked by Norm Phillips, finally smashed through to a 14-2 victory. The Tigers then took time out from Cincinnati competition to journey up-state to Chillicothe, Ohio, to try their hand. The Cavaliers showed an exceptional passing ability which, combined with their ground power, proved too much, as we dropped the tussle, 33-20. Nevertheless the game was a thriller, and a number of our boys played spectacular ball. After returning home, Withrow's grid eleven was confronted with the Hughes Big Reds in the decisive tilt of the season. We were host on that chilly November day as Withrow's ample stadium was filled with ardent supporters of the opposing teams. Play was tight throughout every second of the sixty minutes, and the crowd was especially tense as the closing minutes waned. However, the Orange and Black maintained an early fourth quarter lead, and as the gun sounded, by defeating their oldest rival, Hughes, Withrow became 1948 Public High School Champions. Good work and GOOD LUCK, Team!