

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

*by Mike Maicher, Germantown Courier*

### League's Smallest Backs Make Up La Salle Squad

"The smallest backfield in the Catholic League," moaned "Tex" Flannery as he used his tee shirt sleeve to wipe off a perspiration-beaded forehead. John DiSangro, assistant coach, was drilling La Salle's Little Explorers in pass defense, while, at the sidelines, the beef trust was grunting and groaning as they continued their seemingly endless battle with the blocking dummies under the watchful eye of John Harbison.

"It's impossible," continued Flannery, who was tagged the 'doom and gloom' coach in last year's camp and seemed even 'doomier and gloomier' this year.

"Aita, Herrera, and Woltemate are nursing injuries and how can I run a team without my starting backfield?" He was referring to quarterback Paul Aita and halfbacks Johnny Herrera and Jerry Woltemate, but this observer sees no reason why the aforementioned won't be ready for duty against St. Thomas More in the season opener September 22.

### 190-Pound Line

Flannery, in his sophomore year as head coach at the 20<sup>th</sup> and Olney campus, has the task of molding a fighting unit out of nine new faces with only Buzz Aita and center Bill "Rube" Clements returning as regulars from last year's team which compiled an impressive 6-2-1 record. The line this year is big (190 average) but inexperienced, with six regulars gone via graduation.

Glue-fingered Bob Smith (6'-3") looks impressive at left end, with Tom Boyle (6'-0") latching on to the passes on the other side. Defensively, Ray Weinmann, along with Connie Cunningham, who kept the camp in stitches with his animal imitations, collaborate at both ends.

The guard slots are manned by Tom Yannessa, who looks like All-Catholic material, balanced on the other side by 213-pound Arnie Buben. George Moser and Joe Sharpe are able replacements. John Osborne and Al Backauskas seem to have the tackle positions sewed up, with Harry Eustace, Terry Monaghan and 246-pound Pat Conner ready for action.

Rube Clements will start at center, spelled by Frank "Moose" Heckler and Bob Stranix.

The signal-calling was ably handled by Al Solecki during Buzzy Aita's convalescence at camp, with Joe "Reds" McNichol lending support. The "Cuban Flash" Johnny Herrera will operate from the left halfback slot, while the other side is a toss-up between Jerry Woltemate and Scotty Maxwell, who will be remembered for his 80-yard punt return for a touchdown against North Catholic last year. Fred Shaughnessy and Steve Cook are in the backfield on defense along with Dan Madden.

The fullback post will be filled by Mt. Airy's pride and joy, John Gallagher, with Walt McDonald and Ed Birchler filling in.

Tex is sticking to the split "T" formation which he used to good advantage last year and which Jim Gallagher used in the 1955 championship year. The Catholic League works with the "limited substitution" rule which limits substitutions to one man between plays. This works a hardship on schools with small student bodies, and a meeting of Catholic League officers in the next week or two will determine if any rule changes will be made this season.

"Bishop Neumann, which has its entire backfield returning intact, will be the team to beat," Tex confided, "North lost its starting lineup, but they'll put up a battle in defending their league and city championship. St. James will be a strong challenger this year with fourth place a toss-up. The rest of the teams are pretty much on a par, but upsets can change the situation anywhere along the line.

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"We'll be the dark horse this year," Tex summed it up. "Our line should improve with experience as the season progresses, but our backfield will be the key to our league standing on Thanksgiving Day. With a backfield as light and limited in depth as ours is, injuries or lack of injuries, with either break or make us." Pass the Band-Aids, brother.

*by Bill Shefski, Daily News*

### **La Salle's Aita Has Two Big Targets**

Paul Aita to Lou Greco. This passer-receiver combination kept La Salle High from oblivion in the Catholic League last season.

Greco is gone. But Aita's still around. So once again coach John "Tex" Flannery feels the Little Explorers should be successful to a certain extent.

Until a month ago, Flannery didn't know who would hook up with Aita in the aerial duo. Now he has two prospects.

These potential pass catchers are juniors Bobby Smith and Ray Weinmann – both are 6 feet, 3 inches tall. "Between them," says Flannery, "they should be able to equal Greco's eight touchdown receptions." It's only because of the threat of Aita's arm and his newly found endmates that Flannery has title hopes this season. Otherwise, his outlook is black.

"How can we be classed as contenders?" queries Tex. "Sure we have Aita, several big linemen and Joey Maxwell (a junior halfback who showed real promise last season). But this won't give us any titles." Presently, Flannery is concerned about his club's physical condition. Aita's just over a sacroiliac condition. Halfback John Herrera has a bruised heel, fullback Maxwell's leg is injured and halfback Jerry Woltemate has a gashed eye. These four backs will start against St. Thomas More Sunday.

The injuries have slowed the Little Explorer eleven's progress. They scrimmaged Bok Tech last week. The Bok team had only a few days of practice under its belt – yet, La Salle didn't even score.

That's reason enough for Flannery to be depressed. But all of his troubles seem to disappear when he discussed his ace – Aita. "We'll just have to do a lot of passing this year," he says.

"This should be a great year for Paulie. If he hadn't tried to perfect his passes during the summer he would not have gotten hurt. And that would mean we'd be clicking and ready now."

Despite one of his heaviest teams in recent years, Flannery expects plenty of trouble from a rejuvenated St. Thomas team. The Tommies withdrew from the Catholic League midway through last season because of a manpower shortage.

Flannery, an old lineman himself, bases his line hopes on Tom Yannessa, a guard with the ability to become an All-Catholic selection; 6'-4" center Bill Clements, 205-pound tackle John Osborne and tackle Al Backauskas.

## **Game 1, September 22, 1957: La Salle 24 – St. Thomas More 6**

*Daily News*

### **La Salle Rolls To 24-6 Win**

Title-minded La Salle High overpowered St. Thomas More High, 24-6, in a Catholic League football game at 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Olney Ave. yesterday.

The Little Explorers, led by quarterback Paul Aita who was used sparingly, broke a 0-0 deadlock with a 12-point second quarter surge.

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Jerry Woltemate started the winners scoring onslaught with a one-yard touchdown run to end a 45-yard second quarter march.

Aita tallied the second La Salle TD on a one-yard quarterback sneak after setting up the play by passing 25 yards to end Tom Boyle.

In the third period, Aita hurled a 22-yard strike to end Bob Smith in the end zone to complete an 80-yard La Salle scoring march.

St. Thomas tallied after recovering a La Salle fumble on the latter's 20. Jerry Hannan went five yards for the touchdown.

Joe "Scotty" Maxwell finished out the La Salle point parade with a five-yard end run in the final quarter after a 65-yard drive.

### ***Evening Bulletin***

#### **La Salle On Top**

La Salle virtually clinched the victory over St. Thomas More with two touchdowns in the second period. It took the Little Explorers 12 plays to move 56 yards for the first tally. Gerald Woltemate did the scoring chore on a plunge from the St. Thomas two. A few minutes later La Salle moved 44 yards. However, an interference penalty on a pass set the stage and gave La Salle a first down on the one. It took Paul Aita one plunge to score the touchdown.

La Salle struck again in the third period after Fred Shaughnessy intercepted a pass on his own 20. La Salle used nine plays to go 80 yards, Bob Smith going the last 22 for the touchdown.

St. Thomas More gave new coach Bob Dallas some satisfaction by shoving over a touchdown on five plays from La Salle's 22 after Ben Bruno recovered a fumble. The St. Thomas attack struck hard and Ralph Russo hit pay dirt on a five-yard slant.

Joey Maxwell Jr., son of the former Notre Dame star, accounted for the final La Salle touchdown in the final period. Joey lunged over the goal line from five yards out.

### ***Philadelphia Inquirer***

#### **Aita, Herrera Aces**

La Salle, a possible heir to North's throne, was sparked by holdover quarterback Paul Aita and halfback John Herrera, a 5-5 dynamo. Aita, 165, scored one TD and passed for another. His six-pointer came on a "sneak" and he later connected via the air lanes with end Bob Smith, a 6-3 junior, for a 21-yard score. Underdog St. Thomas More, making its debut under Bob Dallas, was slightly improved from last year, but only Ralph Russo's five-yard dive play off tackle in the third averted a shutout.

### ***The Wisterian***

The Explorers opened what could be another banner season on Sunday, September 22 by defeating St. Thomas More, 24-6. Paul Aita, Joe Maxwell, Jerry Woltemate and Bob Smith led the scoring parade for the Explorers, each contributing 6 points to the Blue and Gold cause.

Early in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period Paul Aita connected with Johnny Herrera who raced from the La Salle 35 to St. Tommies' 30 yard line.

At 20<sup>th</sup> and Olney Ave.

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St. Thomas

Ends – Prince, Dale, Morroney, Henelley, Benner, Scarpone.

Tackles – DiDaniels, Haffelinger, O'Hara, Snoke, Bruno, Cecchine.

Guards – Snoke, McGillian, Dunphy, Mancici, Guidice, North.

Centers – Woods, Hannan.

Backs – Guriera, Cella, McKern, Ryan, Coleman, Russo, Pulsone, Mask.

La Salle

Ends – Boyle, Gallagher, Cunningham, Weinmann, Monaghan, Smith.

Tackles – Haaf, Conner, Backauskas, Osborne, Monaghan, Eustace.

Guards – Moser, Igoe, Yannessa, Tragemann, Yannessa, Dunleavy, Buben, Sharpe.

Centers – Stranix, Heckler, Clements.

Backs – Aita, Woltemate, Herrera, Guarini, Solecki, Shaughnessy, Cangelosi, Madden, McCarty, Cook, McTear, McNichol, McDonald, Maxwell, Gallagher.

St. Thomas	0	0	6	0	6
La Salle	0	12	6	6	24

St. Thomas scoring – Touchdowns: Russo (5, plunge). La Salle scoring – Touchdowns: Woltemate (2, plunge); Aita (1, plunge); Smith (21, pass from Aita); Maxwell (5, plunge).

### Game 2, September 29, 1957: La Salle 7 – Bishop Neumann 0

*by Les Ribler, Inquirer*

#### **La Salle Steals 5 Passes, Wins, 7-0**

Crazy, man, crazy! Those three words give the Catholic League football picture in a nut shell. In an almost complete reversal of form from last week's openers, here are the shockers as La Salle, 1955 champion, and Roman became the league's only unbeaten elevens.

La Salle, with a needle-sharp defense that included five intercepted passes, used a last-quarter touchdown to bump Bishop Neumann, 7-0.

#### **Aita "Sneaks" To TD**

T-quarterback Paul Aita "sneaked" over for La Salle's TD, after Walt McDonald's interception and a 22-yard runback to Neumann's 15 set the scoring drive in motion as the third period blended with the fourth. It was McDonald's second pilfer of the game.

Neumann threatened only in the first quarter when Dick "Reds" Mattioli, a junior halfback, ran back a punt 65 yards to La Salle's 12 where he was brought down by guard Harry Eustace. But the defense, led by 183-pound guard Tom Yannessa, La Salle co-captain, drove the Pirates back to the 44.

*by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

#### **La Salle, Roman Win To Remain Tied For First Place In Catholic League**

La Salle High School scored what could turn out to be its biggest touchdown of the year yesterday. It was big enough for a 7-0 victory over a powerful Bishop Neumann eleven and hoisted the Little Explorers into the favorite's role in the championship derby.

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

The 6,000 fans who watched La Salle down Neumann were treated to a bruising battle and were convinced they saw two of the top teams in the league in action. The line play displayed by both elevens was superb. Both units functioned to perfection defensively and the respective backs were thumped hard throughout.

### **McDonald Intercepts**

The big break came near the close of the third period when Walt McDonald intercepted a pass on the Neumann 44 and ran back to the 16. Six plays later, La Salle produced the game-winning touchdown, with little Paul Aita doing the scoring on a quarterback sneak from the one in the fourth quarter. John Herrera kicked the extra point.

La Salle had another touchdown called back because of a penalty, and the game ended with the Little Explorers on the Neumann three-yard stripe.

While the two lines were putting on their defensive masterpiece, the standout back was La Salle's Joey Maxwell Jr., son of the former Notre Dame star. Maxwell was the only ball-carrier who gained with any consistency.

*by Bill Shefski, Daily News*

### **La Salle "Magic" Nips Pirates**

La Salle High added a touch of magic to its attack yesterday.

Guard Tom Yannessa played the role of Houdini, the great escape artist, and defensive back Walt McDonald revealed mind-reading ability as the Little Explorers stopped Bishop Neumann High, 7-0, at 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Olney Ave.

La Salle's biggest offensive weapon, quarterback Paul Aita's passing was stymied completely (0-8), but the wizardry of Yannessa and McDonald kept the Little Explorers unbeaten (2-0).

An intercepted pass by McDonald, one of two Pirate aerials he snatched, set up the lone touchdown in the fierce defensive struggle.

McDonald pilfered an Ed Zoller pass on Neumann's 37 and ran it to the 16 late in the third quarter. Six plays later, Aita rammed across from a half yard out early in the final quarter.

"I... I... I don't know what it is," said McDonald after the game. "I just seem to sense a pass play. I felt they were going to pass on the play and I let the receiver get a little bit in back of me. But the pass was too short and I snatched it."

Neumann only managed two first downs via the ground as the Pirates' vaunted "Three Horsemen" – Dick "Reds" Mattioli, Bob Capone and Pat Drass – were corralled by La Salle's rugged line.

Yannessa, 183-pound line leader, wielded the most accurate "lasso" in the roundup of Neumann's backs. He knifed through Neumann's guard holes to break up six plays before they could get started.

Yannessa's shrewd tackles stemmed Neumann on its penetration of the day into La Salle territory midway through the opening quarter.

Mattioli toted a punt 63 yards to the La Salle 12. On the next play, Yannessa threw Drass for a 6-yard loss. Then, Pirate field general Zoller retreated to pass on the next play only to be thrown for a 10-yard deficit by Yannessa.

Yannessa's stiff tackling took the steam out of the Neumann attack as La Salle took over after an incomplete pass and a 15-yard penalty forced the Pirates to punt.

Offensively La Salle made 15 first downs through Neumann's line mainly on the running of Joey "Scotty" Maxwell and little John Herrera.

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Aita tossed a touchdown pass to end Bob Smith from 10 yards out late in the final period but it was nullified by an off-side.

### **Yannessa Gets Lineman Nod**

La Salle High guard Tom Yannessa was a fifth man in Bishop Neumann's backfield in his team's 7-0 victory Sunday.

The 17-year-old son of attorney Francis P. Yannessa won Daily News Lineman Of The Week honors. Tom broke up six Neumann plays before they could get started and co-captained La Salle to the important win.

Tom has been playing football since he was in fifth grade at Norwood Academy. "I'd like to go to college and become a lawyer, but I want to stay in this area," says Tom.

Tom slipped through Neumann's middle twice to halt a budding Neumann threat on La Salle's 12. Tom explains this with, "Harry Eustace caught Dick Mattioli on that long punt return, so I felt I owed the team and Harry something."

*by Vince Walters, The Wisterian*

### **Explorers Pulverize Pirates, 7-0**

A tense battle of top-notch defenses, a war between two bulky forward walls was brought to a climax last week, when Walt McDonald intercepted a pass to set up the game's only TD, as La Salle's Little Explorers overcame a fear of "the great Bishop Neumann," and crushed the Pirates, 7-0. The thrilling victory before 6,500 fans vaulted the Blue and Gold over a big hurdle in the race for the coveted Catholic League crown.

Walt McDonald's interception of Ed Zoller's pass late in the third period and 22 yard run back to the Neumann 15 set the stage for a 6-play scoring drive which resulted in the only score of the day.

McDonald also intercepted another pass and recovered a fumble to lead the Explorer defense. "Reds" McNichol and Fred Shaughnessy short-circuited other Neumann passes at crucial times.

McDonald's key interception commenced a 6-play assault led by Jerry Woltemate and Johnny Herrera climaxed by Paul Aita's plunge from the 1 yard line. Herrera then added the extra point.

Although Neumann's "Reds" Mattioli returned a La Salle punt 70 yards to the 12 yard line, the Blue and Gold defense again stiffened pushing the Pirates back to the 44 yard line where they were forced to kick. Pat Drass and Bob Capone, Neumann's stalwarts were held to only token gains while Joe Maxwell, John Herrera and Jerry Woltemate led the Blue and Gold offensive attack, consistently cracking the Pirate Line for decisive gains. These three were responsible for 14 of La Salle's 18 first downs.

At 20<sup>th</sup> and Olney Ave.

Bishop Neumann

Ends – Shelton, Terifay, McBride.

Tackles – Orsatti, Accardo, Fausto, Santo, Leary, DelQuadro.

Guards – D. Burgese, E. Burgese.

Centers – Jurgaitis, Pandelakes.

Backs – Terardi, Drass, Jacovini, Chew, Zoller, Capone, Azzarano, Mattioli, Grispino.

La Salle

Ends – Boyle, Cunningham, Weinmann, Smith.

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Tackles –Backauskas, Osborne, Monaghan, Eustace.

Guards – Moser, Yannessa, Tragemann, Yannessa, Dunleavy, Buben, Sharpe.

Centers – Stranix, Heckler, Clements.

Backs – Aita, Woltemate, Herrera, Guarini, Solecki, Shaughnessy, Madden, Cook, McNichol, McDonald, Maxwell, Gallagher.

Bishop Neumann	0	0	0	0	0
La Salle	0	0	0	7	7

La Salle scoring – Touchdown: Aita (1, plunge). PAT: Herrera.

### Game 3, October 6, 1957: La Salle 27 – Cardinal Dougherty 12

#### *The Wisterian*

A spirited crowd of loyal La Salle and Cardinal Dougherty fans turned out on a miserable, rainy day to see a powerful Explorer football squad turn back a game, but inexperienced Dougherty team to the tune of 27-12.

La Salle capitalized early in the first quarter on a bad punt. A few minutes later, after a succession of well-timed plays, Al Solecki scooted around right end for the touchdown. John Herrera added the extra point and the Blue & Gold was off to a quick 7-0 lead.

#### **Herrera Scores**

Later in the same period La Salle took over on downs at mid-field and grinded their way down to the fifteen, where Herrera took a hand-off from Solecki and pushed his way to paydirt. He also converted for the extra point.

At the start of the second period La Salle pushed another tally across the goal line; this time it was Jerry Woltemate doing the honors.

#### **Gallagher Runs**

The rain continued to pour down on the mud-splattered field but that couldn't stop the Explorers. John Gallagher, taking a hand-off on his own 22, raced 78 yards behind beautiful blocking for another TD. In the final quarter Dougherty pushed two touchdowns across with Jack Beale and John Sheppard hitting paydirt for the Cardinals. La Salle Coach John Flannery made good use of underclass substitutes throughout the second half, playing everyone on the squad. All made a good account of themselves.

### Game 4, October 20, 1957: La Salle 20 – Father Judge 0

#### *by Les Ribler, Inquirer*

#### **La Salle Hits Top, Trips Judge 20-0, But North, Neumann Press Leader**

La Salle High, despite stubborn resistance from keyed-up Father Judge, defeated the Crusaders in the second half, 20-0; and, although retaining its status as the Catholic League's only undefeated, untied eleven, the Little Explorers today are being hard-pressed by North and Bishop Neumann.

All three moved ahead of Roman (3-0-1), which whipped victoryless Cardinal Dougherty, 27-0, in non-league play.

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With the league back in operation after a week's layoff due to player illnesses, La Salle came through on a wing and a prayer, after a scoreless first half, to run its win streak to four – three in league play.

### **Maxwell, Aita Ailing**

With leading ground-gainer Joey Maxwell idled by illness and ailing first-string quarterback Paul Aita in for only a few plays, La Salle really had its work cut out during the first half, which saw the Little Explorers reach Judge's 14 for the only threat by either team.

Johnny Herrera, a 5-5 demon, and Johnny Gallagher, Maxwell's replacement, carried the offensive burden, Herrera twice bucking for scores from six yards out and Gallagher scoring a third from the two. Gallagher helped set up La Salle's first TD by racing the second-half kickoff 55 yards to Judge's 29. The Little Explorers were stymied at the nine, but Judge tried to quick kick out of danger on third down from the six, and the ball traveled only 11 yards from scrimmage giving La Salle possession again on the Crusader 17.

*by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

### **La Salle, North and Bishop Neumann Score Victories In Catholic Football**

La Salle High School is still rolling along as the only unbeaten and untied football team in the Catholic League, but the Little Explorers had to put on a second-half rally yesterday to keep their record intact. After being held scoreless in the opening 24 minutes, La Salle finally got things clicking and banged out a 20-0 victory over Father Judge for its third straight league win of the campaign.

The Father Judge boys gave highly rated La Salle all it could handle in the first half. La Salle finally got a big break in the third period that paid off in a touchdown. A Judge punt, caught by the wind, landed on the Judge 12-yard line and La Salle took over at that spot. Three plays netted six yards, then John Herrera ran over for the six-pointer. He also kicked the extra point.

The second La Salle touchdown was earned on a smashing 73-yard advance. The Little Explorers were "perking" on this advance, and again it was Herrera who did the scoring bit. This time he blasted off tackle the last six yards and again converted.

### **Clock Beats Judge**

Al Backauskas set the stage for La Salle's third touchdown in the final period when he recovered a fumble on the Judge 21. John Gallagher took charge of the ground attack at this point and finally hit pay dirt on a plunge from the Judge four. This time, Herrera's kick for the point was blocked.

Judge lost a race with the clock in the final minutes after Al Monroe raced 35 yards to put the ball on the La Salle one. The La Salle defense stiffened and tossed Judge back to the six as the game ended.

*Daily News*

### **La Salle Tops Judge, 20-0, Grabs Catholic Loop Lead**

La Salle slipped into the Catholic League lead yesterday without the help of two stars.

With starting quarterback Paul Aita, who has an injured ankle, playing only eight plays and fullback Joey Maxwell bedridden with the flu, La Salle rallied in the second half to beat Father Judge, 20-0.

Little John Herrera tallied two touchdowns and place-kicked two extra points as the Little Explorers raised their league unbeaten streak to three.

Herrera went five yards off tackle for the initial La Salle score after a poor Judge punt gave La Salle possession on the enemy 16. Herrera and Jerry Woltemate banged out 54 yards in a 73-yard La Salle march for the second score. Herrera ran five yards for this marker also.

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After Al Backauskas gained possession of a Judge fumble on the latter's 21, La Salle drove in for its final score, a two yard spurt by John Gallagher.

### *The Wisterian*

#### **Judge Stopped By 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Rally**

La Salle High, despite stubborn resistance from a keyed-up Father Judge team, whipped the Crusaders with a second half rush, 20-0, and thus remained the only undefeated, untied eleven in the Catholic League.

Lacking the services of first stringers Paul Aita and Joe Maxwell, the Little Explorers managed only one serious threat in the first half when a drive was halted on the Crusaders' 14 by a fumble. Following the half-time intermission La Salle's first TD was set up when John Gallagher returned the second half kickoff 55 yards to Judge's 29. Although the Little Explorers were stopped at the nine, they regained possession on the Crusader 17 when a Judge third down quick kick from the six traveled only 11 yards. Four plays later Johnny Herrera scored the first of his two TD's when he cracked five yards off tackle into paydirt. The PAT by Herrera was good and La Salle led, 7-0.

#### **Herrera Plunges**

Following the kickoff, Father Judge mounted a drive that carried to the La Salle 27 where the Blue and Gold defense stiffened and the Little Explorers took over on downs. Then La Salle, led by Johnny Herrera and Jerry Woltemate, traveled 73 yards in 11 plays climaxed when Johnny Herrera plunged five yards for his second TD of the day. Herrera again added the PAT and La Salle led, 14-0. The Little Explorers kicked off and two plays later Al Backauskas set the stage for La Salle's third touchdown when he recovered a fumble on the Judge 21. Three plays later John Gallagher scored on a four-yard plunge. Johnny Herrera's third PAT attempt was blocked and La Salle led, 20-0.

With the clock running out, Judge started a drive, in an attempt to score their first touchdown of the year, which was sparked by Al Monroe's 35-yard sprint to the La Salle one. But an end run was smothered and with that the game ended, giving La Salle its fourth win of the year and third in Catholic League competition.

At 20<sup>th</sup> and Olney Ave.

Father Judge

Ends – Denofa, Kurley, McElhinney, Kerrigan.

Tackles – Deegan, Hennelly, Murphy.

Guards – Riley, Delrossi, Pizzo, Carney.

Centers – McShain.

Backs – Gutekunst, Huston, Farley, Vanni, McGinley, Condon, Monroe, A. Sabatino, F. Sabatino.

La Salle

Ends – Boyle, Gallagher, Cunningham, Weinmann, Monaghan, Smith.

Tackles –Backauskas, Osborne, Eustace.

Guards – Moser, Igoe, Lange, T. Yannessa, Dunleavy, Buben, Sharpe.

Centers –Heckler, Clements.

Backs – Aita, Woltemate, Herrera, Solecki, Shaughnessy, Madden, McCarty, Cook, McNichol, McDonald, J. Gallagher. Birchler.

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Father Judge	0	0	6	0	0
La Salle	0	0	7	13	20

La Salle scoring – Touchdowns: Herrera 2 (5, 5 runs); J. Gallagher (4, plunge). PAT – Herrera 2 (placements).

### Game 5, October 27, 1957: La Salle 26 – Monsignor Bonner 7

#### *Chester Times*

#### **Bonner Bows To Unbeaten La Salle, 26-7**

Villanova – La Salle sounded the death knell for any and all hopes that Jack Ferrante's Monsignor Bonner High School football team might have entertained about winning the 1957 Catholic Football League championship when the Explorers routed the Friars, 26-7, yesterday afternoon here.

The setback was the third straight in loop play for the Drexel Hillers, who had started with a rush by bouncing defending champion North, 32-12.

For La Salle, yesterday's triumph was its fourth straight in as many starts, thus retaining its first place tie with Bishop Neumann (4-1) via the point system.

The smallest player on the field, La Salle's 5'-5", 145-pound John Herrera, proved to be the biggest headache to the Friars. He scored three touchdowns on runs of 20, 31, and two yards. John Gallagher went across the wide stripe for La Salle's fourth six-pointer, after Gerry Woltemate had set up the TD with a 71-yard jaunt.

#### **Score in 2nd**

Bonner posted its lone TD in the second period when the Friars were trailing, 19-0, and the goal came immediately after La Salle had registered its third six-pointer.

Al Raynor took the kickoff on Bonner's 10 and raced to his 35 before being brought down. Paul Beisser then combined with Don DeJesse on a 65-yard pass play that resulted in a touchdown, with DeJesse taking the aerial on Bonner's 45 and galloping 55 yards to pay dirt. Ron Grillo added the PAT.

#### *by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

#### **La Salle Only Unbeaten, Untied Team In Catholic League, Wins 4<sup>th</sup> Straight**

La Salle High School is still rolling along as the only unbeaten and untied football team in the Catholic League.

With Johnny Herrera registering 20 points, La Salle rolled over Monsignor Bonner, 26-7, for its fourth in a row yesterday. But despite the victory the Little Explorers were forced to share first place with Bishop Neumann as the Pirates romped over St. James of Chester, 33-18.

Under the point system used in the Catholic League, La Salle and Neumann each have eight points. However, La Salle has a 4-0 record and Neumann 4-1, so regardless of the two points for each victory, the Little Explorers are virtually the leaders.

#### **"Triple" for Herrera**

La Salle did the wrap up job against Bonner in the first period when it took advantage of fumbles to push over a pair of touchdowns. Herrera started his scoring spree with a 20-yard touchdown run, and, before the period ended, broke away again. The second time Herrera raced 31 yards to hit the end zone. His

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third touchdown came on the end of a 55-yard march in the second period with John going over from two yards out. Herrera kicked two extra points.

Bonner struck 65 yards through the air for its touchdown 18 seconds before the first half ended.

The payoff came when Paul Beisser passed 20 yards to Don DeJesse, who made a juggling catch on the La Salle 45, and sprinted over the goal line. Ron Grillo kicked the point.

La Salle scored its final touchdown in the third period. Jerry Woltemate set up the chance on the second scrimmage play when he dashed 71 yards to the Bonner two. Bonner was offside on the next play and the ball was put on the one. Then John Gallagher smacked over for the touchdown.

### *The Wisterian*

#### **Herrera Speed Knocks Bonner**

The Little Explorers first exploration to Villanova Stadium proved to be a beneficial one as they extended their unbeaten, untied streak to five games and retained undisputed lead of the Catholic League by defeating the Friars of Monsignor Bonner High, 26-7. Johnny Herrera led the scoring parade for La Salle with 20 points. John "Chimper" Gallagher contributed a TD to the Explorer cause.

After only a few minutes had elapsed in the opening quarter, as the result of a fumble, the Explorers found themselves on the Bonner 20 yard line. Driving to the one, only to be held by the Friar line, the determined La Salle team was not to be denied. After the ball changed hands for four downs, the Blue and Gold again were within striking distance on the 31 yard line. Herrera and Woltemate moved the ball to the 20, from which Herrera raced to paydirt.

#### **Herrera Runs 31**

Late in the same period, after two drives had been short-circuited by fumbles, the Explorers were again on the move. Taking over on the 40, La Salle tallied three downs later, when Herrera scooted around right end for 31 yards and a score. He also added an extra point.

Late in the second period, Herrera again crossed the goal, climaxing a 45 yard drive. It started when a Bonner punt was blocked.

#### **Woltemate Sets Up Score**

Woltemate raced 73 yards to the one yard line on the opening scrimmage play of the second half. Chimper Gallagher barreled through the middle for the final TD of the contest. Herrera contributed another extra point. This brought his league total to 35 points, 19 behind the loop leader, Greg Puckett of North Catholic.

Bonner scored on a sensational desperation play with only 18 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock in the first half. The Friars took over on downs on their own 35 yard line. Although it had failed on first down, quarterback Paul Beisser attempted a do-or-die pass play. He connected on a 20 yard aerial with Don DeJesse who ran unmolested for the remaining 45 yards and the only Green & White touchdown. Ron Grillo kicked the extra point.

BONNER		LA SALLE
Cionci	L.E.	Weinmann
Capello	L.T.	Backauskas
Coll	L.G.	T. Yannessa
Grant	C.	Clements
DeGregorio	R.G.	Buben
Casey	R.T.	Osborne

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

Graff	R.E.	Smith
Reisser	Q.B.	Aita
DeJesse	L.H.	Herrera
Raynor	R.H.	Woltemate
O'Donnell	F.B.	J. Gallagher

LA SALLE	13	6	7	0	26
BONNER	0	7	0	0	7

Touchdowns: La Salle: Herrera 3, J. Gallagher. Bonner: DeJesse.

Goals from Touchdowns: La Salle: Herrera 2. Bonner: Grillo.

Substitutes: La Salle: Boyle, Cunningham, J. Monaghan, M. Gallagher, Lange, Eustace, T. Monaghan, Connor, F. Yannessa, Sharpe, Igoe, Moser, Dunleavy, Stranix, Heckler, Quigley. Bonner: McHale, W. Gallagher, Sherry, Wilson, Seccia, McCusker, Bish, Lincoln, Heaney, Linteri, Miller, Grubb.

### Game 6, November 3, 1957: La Salle 39 – West Catholic 0

*by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

#### **Unbeaten La Salle Gains Full Game By Beating West in Catholic League**

La Salle High School stands alone today at the top of the Catholic League in the race for the 1957 football championship.

The unbeaten, untied Little Explorers kept their record clean by notching their sixth straight, fifth in the league, when they rolled over hapless West Catholic, 39-0. Bishop Neumann, its nearest rival, was idle, thus La Salle moved a full game ahead in first place.

La Salle turned loose a mighty one-two scoring punch in Paul Aita and John Herrera to run wild against West Catholic. These two accounted for four of the six touchdowns. Herrera scored three and Aita one. Aita passed to Herrera to account for one of the latter's six-pointers.

Coach Tex Flannery's La Salle boys got moving in the first period and racked up two touchdowns. Aita did the first job on a 21-yard run up the middle, to end a 55-yard advance. A few minutes later Aita hit Herrera with a 25-yard aerial and the latter sprinted 20 yards to reach the end zone.

#### **Gallagher Runs 75 Yds.**

La Salle put over two more tallies in the second stanza. Herrera led off with a nifty 25-yard run, after Tom McTear set the stage by recovering a fumble on the West 30. John Gallagher wound up the first half scoring by scooting 25 yards for a touchdown to climax a 75-yard advance.

La Salle was back in scoring business in the third period. This time Herrera got loose for 35 yards to cross the goal line. Fred Shaughnessy registered the final six-pointer in the last period on an eight-yard drive off tackle.

*by Bob Lyons, Catholic Standard and Times*

#### **Little Explorers Move Step Nearer Catholic League Title**

La Salle High School moved a step closer to regaining the Catholic League football title it last held in 1955 by trouncing West Catholic, 39-0, last week. The unbeaten Explorers are now in undisputed possession of first place with a string of five straight league victories.

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

John Herrera was the big gun in La Salle's triumph over the winless Burrs of West. The speedy halfback registered three touchdowns on runs of 35, 25, and 20 yards. The latter was an aftermath of a 35 yard pass from quarterback Paul Aita. Herrera also kicked three extra points to raise his total for the day to 21.

Aita also hit the scoring column on a 21 yard run to climax a 55-yard drive. La Salle's other TDs were tallied by John Gallagher on a 25 yard jaunt and Fred Shaughnessy on an eight yard sprint.

### ***Daily News***

La Salle won its fifth straight game, 39-0, over West Catholic. A combination of West fumbles and injuries, and an unstoppable La Salle split-T ground game told the tale.

Herrera ran 33 and 232 yards on off tackle burst for TDs and he combined with Paul Aita, who scored from 12-yards out on an option play, on a 43-yard aerial maneuver for another six-pointer.

### ***by Les Ribler, Inquirer***

#### **West's Fumbles Help La Salle to 5<sup>th</sup> Victory, 39-0**

Undefeated La Salle (6-0) took a 26-0 lead in the first 12 minutes, then rolled to its fifth Catholic League victory yesterday before 2000 as the league leaders drubbed victory-less West Catholic, 39-0.

La Salle quickly asserted its superiority by marching the opening kickoff 54 yards to a touchdown.

Quarterback Paul Aita scored it on a right-slanted keeper play of 21 yards.

West's Bob Merenda tried to quick kick La Salle in the hole shortly thereafter, but his 49-yard boot merely gave the Little Explorers the office to parade 76 yards in five big plays. The last one was a pass from Aita, which John Herrera caught after Larry Signors deflected the ball. Herrera ran 21 yards to complete the 43-yard play.

### ***The Wisterian***

#### **Winless Burrs Trampled, 39-0**

Piling up 26 points in the first twelve minutes, La Salle High's undefeated, untied Little Explorers coasted to an easy 39-0 triumph over Christian Brother rival, West Philadelphia Catholic High last Sunday.

Johnny Herrera's 21 points combined with tallies by Paul Aita, John Gallagher, and Fred Shaughnessy accounted for the Blue & Gold offensive.

Buzz Aita climaxed a drive which started after La Salle received the opening kickoff with a 21 yard off-tackle run for the TD. Aita passed 22 yards to Herrera who ran 21 yards into paydirt. Herrera tallied again from the 34 yard line after Tom McTear recovered a West Catholic fumble. The Burrs bobbled the next kickoff. Walt McDonald fell on the ball and set up Chimper Gallagher's score.

Herrera amazed the 2,000 fans with a 43 yard TD sprint early in the third period.

La Salle

Ends – Boyle, M. Gallagher, C. Cunningham, Weinmann, J. Monaghan, Smith.

Tackles –Backauskas, Osborne, Tragemann, Eustace.

Guards – Moser, Igoe, T. Yannessa, Dunleavy, Buben, Sharpe, Lange.

Centers – Stranix, Heckler, Clements.

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

Backs – Aita, Woltemate, Herrera, Guarini, Solecki, Shaughnessy, Madden, McCarty, Cook, McTear, McNichol, McDonald, Maxwell, J. Gallagher, Birchler.

West Catholic

Ends – Manley, Donovan, Craig.

Tackles – J. Cunningham, George, Burns.

Guards – Dougherty, Gargulle, Gillespie, Paglia.

Centers – Powell.

Backs – Merenda, Signora, McFadden, DiFiore, Hughes, Horning, Townes, McCarthy.

La Salle	12	14	6	7	39
West Catholic	0	0	0	0	0

La Salle scoring – Touchdowns: Aita (21, run), Herrera 3 (21, pass from Aita, 23, 32 runs), J. Gallagher (21, run), Shaughnessy (5, run). PAT – Herrera 3.

### *The Wisterian, November 7, 1957*

#### **Explorers Meet Cahillites Sunday**

This year is a novel one in the football history of Roman Catholic. They have been known for years for their big, powerful lines which were used fullest in developing of one of the best single wing teams in the area, under the direction of Coach Joseph "Goldie" Graham. This year, however, they have taken an about face and turned to the T-formation. By keeping their powerful line and employing one of their lightest backfields in years, they represent a formidable foe for the Explorers, or any other team in the league. The big question, as whether the transition from single wing to "T" will bring them success, can only be answered by viewing their record at the end of the season.

In their gridiron conquests so far this year, Roman has held the distinction of being an undefeated team since the start of the season, but now finds itself in fourth place in the league. This is due to two ties the Purple and Gold have incurred in league play. One of those came at the hands of a pepped up Tommy More team, who threw everything they had against Roman to stop the sparkling of Bob Kahana and Jimmy Bantum and by so doing Roman's offensive machine crumbled. Roman's other knotted score was with the North Catholic Falcons, in a game which was a heartbreaker for both as a victory floated away due to the missing of the PAT and the game ended in a 6-6 deadlock. In their opener against West Catholic, Roman showed a powerful offense, but could only push across one TD in a real squeaker. But the Cahillites were in all their glory when they played Monsignor Bonner as Goldie Graham shook up his offensive alignment, putting Kahana at Quarterback, a move which caught the Friars completely off balance as the lopsided 27-6 score shows.

Roman, then, is the unknown factor in the league; they are experimenting and on any given day they have the material to beat anyone.

### **Game 7, November 10, 1957: La Salle 53 – Roman 12**

#### *Philadelphia Inquirer*

**La Salle Wins, 53-12**

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

A rampaging La Salle High School team, driving to its sixth straight victory in Catholic League competition, smashed an outclassed Roman eleven, now 2-2-2 in loop play, yesterday at 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Olney Ave., 53-12, as Halfback John Herrera for the third straight time scored more than 20 points in pacing his teammates to the victory.

Herrera, abetted by fellow halfback John Gallagher, Walt McDonald, Al Solecki, and Ed Birchler who gained the other TDs as La Salle registered in every period but the third.

Roman's markers were scored by Bob Kahana and Joe Gallagher.

*by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

### **La Salle Rolls Over Roman To Near Title**

La Salle High School's unbeaten, untied football team moved to within one victory of the 1957 Catholic League championship yesterday, but the Little Explorers got a mighty lift from North Catholic.

In checking in with its seventh straight triumph, the sixth in the league, La Salle rolled up the highest number of points it ever made in Catholic League competition by thumping Roman Catholic 53-12.

The best previous total turned in by a La Salle team was in 1946 when it defeated St. John's of Manayunk 52-0. The Little Explorers got some measure of revenge, too, for in 1951 Roman trounced them, 60-6.

Meanwhile, North Catholic removed Bishop Neumann from contention by putting over two last-period touchdowns for a 14-0 victory.

By winning, North kept its hopes alive, but La Salle needs only a victory over St. James next week to clinch the crown it last held in 1955.

La Salle now has a 6-0-0 record. North is 5-1-1 and Neumann 4-2-0.

Although La Salle stands at the threshold of winning the title, there is still a possibility of North grabbing the crown. However, North must win its next game with La Salle, to retain the honors it won last year. But in order to do this, La Salle must lose its two remaining games.

### **Herrera Scores Three**

John Herrera, La Salle's speedy halfback, sparked the Little Explorers' eight-touchdown attack. Herrera tallied three six-pointers and kicked five extra points for a 23-point total. John Gallagher scored twice and Walt McDonald, Al Solecki and Ed Birchler each tallied one six-pointer.

Herrera led off the scoring parade with a 14-yard run in the first period. He followed with a 17-yard canter, and wound up his touchdown bit by going over from the two.

Herrera now has a total of 84 points for the season, the same as North Catholic's Gregory Puckett, but the La Salle youngster made many of his tallies on extra points. All of Puckett's points came on touchdowns.

McDonald turned in the longest run of the game for La Salle when he galloped 55 yards with one of the pass he intercepted. Gallagher ran 10 and 15 yards for his six-pointers, with Solecki and Birchler scoring on close shots.

Joe Gallagher and Bob Kahana tallied the Roman touchdowns. Gallagher went over from the four-yard line, with Kahana sliding over from the one.

### ***The Wisterian***

### **Smashing LS Offense Stops Roman**

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

The Roman game broke open when Joe "Reds" McNichol intercepted a pass and ran 20 yards to the Roman 16. Fine running by Herrera and Scotty Maxwell brought the ball down to the 15 from where Herrera took it and cashed in with the first score of the game. The extra point was not good. After the kickoff the Cahillites lost the ball on downs and the Blue and Gold started another touchdown drive. Following a run to the 7 by Jerry Woltemate, "Chimper" Gallagher crossed the wide stripe to make the score 12-0. The extra point kick was wide.

### Aita To Smith Aerial

Roman was again forced to punt and La Salle began another touchdown drive which was spearheaded by an Aita-to-Smith pass that was good for 41 yards and brought the ball to the 22. Herrera went the rest of the way and followed his TD with the first conversion of the day. John Gallagher later scored his second TD of the day and it was succeeded by another extra point kick by Herrera. Roman, getting nowhere on the ground, decided to pass by Walt McDonald intercepted and went 55 yards for paydirt. Herrera made another extra point to boost the score to 33-0.

### Roman Scores Twice

Roman came back to score just before the half ended and made the score 33-6.

In the early part of the third period Roman got its final score of the game on a quarterback sneak by Bob Kahana while the Cahillites held us scoreless.

In the fourth quarter a fumble recovery by Harry Eustace led to another Herrera TD. The final two tallies of the day were made by Al Solecki and Ed Birchler. Each was followed by a Herrera conversion.

### La Salle

Ends – Boyle, M. Gallagher, C. Cunningham, Weinmann, J. Monaghan, Smith.

Tackles – Backauskas, Osborne, Tragemann, Eustace, Lange.

Guards – Moser, Dunleavy, Buben.

Centers – Heckler, Clements.

Backs – Aita, Woltemate, Herrera, Guarini, Solecki, Shaughnessy, Cook, McTear, McNichol, McDonald, Maxwell, J. Gallagher, Birchler.

### Roman Catholic

Ends – Bieler, F. Slawek, Simpson, Drennen.

Tackles – Bradley, Kriscavage, Blake, Lavelle.

Guards – Meehan, Gross, Walsack, Fisher, Costigan.

Centers – Barker, Kearney.

Backs – Chicone, Kahana, Dinan, Bantum, Jaworoski, McNally, Gallagher, Keller, Renshaw, Blocker.

La Salle	12	21	0	20	53
Roman Catholic	0	6	6	0	12

La Salle Scoring – Touchdowns: Herrera 3 (14, 17, 1 runs), J. Gallagher 2 (10, 15 runs), McDonald (55, return of intercepted pass), Solecki (1, run), Birchler (10, run). PAT – Herrera 5. Roman Catholic Scoring – Touchdowns: Gallagher (4, run), Kahana (1, plunge).

*Chester Times, November 16, 1957*

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

### **Jims Meet La Salle Tomorrow; League Leaders Are Unbeaten**

Chester – The St. James High football team held a special practice session at 10 this morning in preparation for tomorrow's game with unbeaten La Salle at 20<sup>th</sup> and Olney Sts.

The key Catholic League contest will begin at 2 PM.

Coach Francis "Bean" Brennan's Bulldogs have only a mathematical chance to tie for the league title but could get a big boost by knocking off the highly touted Little Explorers. This morning's practice session was devoted to finding a way to do just that.

La Salle leads the circuit with a 6-0-0 record while the Jimmies sport a 3-2-0 log, plus a non-league win over Cardinal Dougherty.

### **Nacrelli Captain**

As a reward for his outstanding play last week and fine spirit and hustle throughout the season, center Tony Nacrelli has been named game captain for St. James.

Flanking Nacrelli on the line will be guards Chick Rader and Nick Trainer, tackles John Hegarty and Dave Mitro and ends Tom Wynne and Joe Finegan. The backfield will have Fred Rullo at quarterback, soph Jim Larrison and Fran Orobono at the halves and Ron Rodgers at fullback.

La Salle, probably the fastest club in the league, is sparked by 5' 4" halfback Johnny Herrera, a strong contender for All-Catholic honors. He must be stopped if the Bulldogs are to win.

## **Game 8, November 17, 1957: La Salle 40 – St. James 18**

*by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

### **Unbeaten La Salle High Trips St. James to Win League Title**

La Salle High School's unbeaten, untied football team wrote finis to the 1957 Catholic League title race with a barrage of touchdowns yesterday to win the crown for the second time since 1920.

The Little Explorers, with Johnny Herrera scoring 22 points, trounced St. James, of Chester, 40-18, at 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Olney Av.

Thus, La Salle will represent the Catholic League in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual city title game for the Bulletin Cup against the Public League champion on Franklin Field December 7.

There was no doubt about Herrera being La Salle's key man. He scored the first three touchdowns and added four extra points to take command in the league scoring race with 101. Gregory Puckett, North Catholic, now trails by 17 points. Puckett has 84 in seven games.

Paul Aita, T-quarterback, and Joey Maxwell Jr., who scored twice were also prominent in the Little Explorers' attack. Aita's passing to Bob Smith and Ray Weinmann picked up valuable yardage, and Maxwell's slants through the line kept the St. James' defense off balance.

In the first two minutes Herrera ended a 62-yard march by taking a pitchout from Aita and racing 38 yards for his first six-pointer.

Herrera accounted for the next two touchdowns, one on a two-yard skip around end and the other on a 12-yard dash. In seven games he has tallied 14 touchdowns and kicked 17 extra points.

Maxwell's first score came on the end of a 59-yard march in the second period. He hit paydirt from the three.

To start the second half, La sale put over its fifth touchdown when John Gallagher ripped off tackle for three yards.

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

In the third period, Francis Orobono grabbed a pass from Ron Rodgers for the first St. James' TD of the third period. Then Tom Trainer blocked Aita's punt and Wynne recovered over the La Salle goal for his second score.

La Salle marched 67 yards for the final six-pointer in the fourth period, with Maxwell crossing the wide line.

John "Tex" Flannery, who was line coach two years ago (1955) when La Salle last won the title, grabbed the honors in his second year as head coach of the Little Explorers.

Flannery was elated but was reluctant to talk. "We still have three games to play, so let's wait and see what happened," he said. He added, "I thought all the boys played a good game and I only hope they can keep it up."

*by Bill Shefski, Daily News*

### **La Salle Breezes Past Jimmies for Title**

The coolness of little Johnny Herrera slipping by tacklers twice his size boldly describes La Salle High's pressureless breeze through the Catholic League for the 1957 football championship.

It has been quite a while since any school had had such a comfortable trip to football monarchy in the parochial circuit. But, the Little Explorers met every big test with incomparable coolness, and won each time the same way. Big.

Like yesterday, for instance. The Little Explorers knew they had to beat St. James to clinch the title. And it is common knowledge that "Beans" Brennan had the knack of getting his St. James team up as high as a sputnik loaded with vodka when a big game is at hand.

But, La Salle's magnificent split-T attack completely outclassed the Jimmies of Chester, 40-18, despite a nerve-racking third period when the Jimmies threatened to stop the runaway.

The La Salle title drive has been an offensive one. Unlike the 1955 team – winner of the school's first league title and city championship – the 1957 kids relied on touchdown-getting ability rather than back-to-the-wall defensive stands.

The 1957 unit has tallied 211 points in seven games compared to the 1955 team's total of 109.

Defensively, the current troupe has yielded 36 league points. The 1955 squad gave up only one touchdown.

Herrera is the big scorer. The stunted guy has nearly matched his weight in points. His three touchdowns, four extra point showing yesterday gives him a league-leading total of 101 points. He weighs 140 pounds.

If the La Salle rampage seemed pressureless don't mention it to coach John "Tex" Flannery. A 22-point victory wasn't enough to stop his worrying yesterday.

Herrera got La Salle off fast against St. James. He galloped 35 yards three plays after the opening kickoff for the first score, then culminated a 59-yard march with a two-yard burst for the second touchdown.

His accurate toe and hole-picking ability gave La Salle a comfortable 20-0 margin in the second period when he ended a 58-yard drive by going 12 yards for a score and adding his second extra point.

Joey Maxwell, a block-busting backfield companion of Herrera's, upped the lead to 27-0 with a three-yard slant off tackle. Maxwell tallied another six-pointer in the fourth quarter on a four-yard ram and John Gallagher got the other La Salle tally on a two yard burst shortly before intermission.

*Chester Times*

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

### **La Salle Rocks Jimmies, 40-18**

Philadelphia – Little Johnny Herrera, La Salle High's 5'-4", 140 pound halfback, must have looked like the biggest man in the Catholic League to St. James yesterday.

Herrera scored three touchdowns on runs of 35, 2 and 12 yards and picked up big yardage all day to pace La Salle to a 40-18 victory which gave the Little Explorers the 1957 Catholic League championship. By the way La Salle manhandled Roman (53-12) last week and St. James yesterday, the Explorers probably will enter the city championship game Dec. 7 a favorite.

With Herrera setting the pace, La Salle piled up a 34-6 halftime lead against the Bulldogs. The lone bright spot for the Jimmies was an 86-yard pass play, Fred Rullo to Tom Wynne that saw long Tom run the final 70 yards.

In the third period, Bob Broomall and Marty Tassoni blocked a punt and Wynne fell on the ball in the end zone for his second touchdown. The final Bulldog score came when Ron Rodgers flipped to Fran Orobono for a 39-yard scoring play.

Herrera scored on a 35-yard run three plays after the opening kickoff. He got his second TD on a two-yard plunge to cap a 59-yard advance, then dashed 12 yards to climax a 58-yard push. Herrera's four conversions gave him a league leading total of 101 points.

Joey Maxwell scored twice for the Explorers on plunges of three and four yards. John Gallagher completed the scoring with a two-yard thrust.

La Salle has a 7-0-0 log in league play. The Jimmies are 3-3-0.

*by Les Ribler, Philadelphia Inquirer*

### **Undefeated La Salle Routs St. James, 40-18, To Win 2<sup>nd</sup> Loop Title**

La Salle High, after waiting 35 years before winning its first Catholic League football championship in 1955, added another yesterday, much to the delight of a partisan, Homecoming Day turnout of 4500 at McCarthy Stadium.

Running rampant in the first half, which produced a 34-6 bulge, the 1957 edition of the Johnny Herrera-sparked Little Explorers thumped St. James, 40-18, ran their unbeaten mark to eight – seven in league – and earned the right to play in the City title game, Dec. 7, on Franklin Field.

#### **Herrera Gleams**

Slipping through would-be tacklers for La Salle's first three touchdowns, and adding four place-kicks, Herrera, a 5-5 senior with blinding speed, ran his league-leading production to 101 points. It was his fourth straight 20-or-more-points performance.

Johnny ripped off 144 yards on 18 carries, an eight per average, and his 38-yard run on the game's third play, a brilliant run in which he knifed through St. James' entire right side, started the Little Explorers on their way.

#### **Maxwell Proves Trojan**

Offensively, however, Herrera was not alone in the devastating T-attack employed by John "Tex" Flannery, who saw his charges run off touchdown marches of 62, 59, 86, 42, 59, and 67 yards.

Fullback Joey Maxwell, a 175-pounder, proved the real workhorse with 23 carries for 137 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback Paul Aita handled the ball with real finesse, in addition to completing four of six passes for 44 yards.

St. James' only first-half points came on a neat 86-yard pass play.

#### **62 Yards In 3 Plays**

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

Herrera and Maxwell went wild as soon as they got their hands on the ball. In three plays after the start, La Salle went 62 yards to paydirt. Maxwell drove 21 from his own 38 to the Bulldog 41, plunged to the 38, where Herrera took over, then scampered home.

Minutes later, the Little Explorers romped 59 for the second TD, with Herrera crossing from the two on a pitchout from Aita.

The third marked almost came in the first period when La Salle began on an 86-yard drive. It ended in the second as the elusive Herrera capped the march with a 12-yard dash, then added the second of four PAT's for a 20-0 score.

### *The Wisterian*

#### **Smashing LS Offense Stops St. James**

Led by Johnny Herrera, leading scorer in the league, La Salle won the Catholic League championship for the second time in the past three years. The Little Explorers have an unblemished record with 7 wins and no losses.

Although St. James scored more points against La Salle than any other team this season, they didn't make much of a showing. Herrera again led the scoring parade with three touchdowns and four extra points.

#### **Herrera Runs 40**

He made the first score of the game on a pitchout from Paul "Buzzy" Aita and a 40-yard run. Aita's passing was a constant threat to the Bulldogs. He completed five passes, three to Bob Smith and two to Ray Weinmann. Herrera Scored on runs of eleven and one yards, also.

Other La Salle scores in the first half were accounted for by Maxwell and Gallagher on short plunges. St. James' Tom Wynne went for 88 yards on a pass play before the intermission, making the score 34-6.

#### **Maxwell Adds Insurance**

When the third period began so did St. James. Before La Salle had a chance to get a play off from scrimmage, the Bulldogs had scored 12 points. It wasn't enough, however, and Scotty Maxwell added insurance for La Salle. The final score was 40-18.

#### La Salle

Ends – Boyle, M. Gallagher, Cunningham, Weinmann, J. Monaghan, Smith.

Tackles – Backauskas, Osborne, Tragemann, Eustace, Lange.

Guards – Moser, Dunleavy, Buben, T. Yannesssa, Sharpe, Igoe.

Centers – Heckler, Clements, Stranix.

Backs – Aita, Woltemate, Herrera, Solecki, Shaughnessy, Cook, McTear, McNichol, McDonald, Maxwell, J. Gallagher, Birchler, Madden, McCarty.

#### St. James

Ends – Dougherty, Wynne, Finegan, Shields, Levandowski.

Tackles – Mitro, Hagerty, Stratts, Tassoni, Sokolowski.

Guards – Rader, Trainer, Paltier, Colantuno, Segrim.

Centers – Macrelli, Van Horn, Giampalini.

Backs – Rullo, Orobono, Rodgers, Larrison, Filoreto, Miah, Czyzewski, Wagner.

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

ST. JAMES	0	6	12	0	18
LA SALLE	13	21	0	6	40

St. James scoring: Touchdowns – Wynne 2 (86 pass-run from Rullo; recovered fumble in end zone); Orobono (39 pass from Rodgers). La Salle scoring: Touchdowns – Herrera 3 (38, 2, 12 runs); Maxwell 2 (3, 3, plunges); J. Gallagher (1, plunge); PAT – Herrera 4.

### *Bill Shefski, Daily News*

#### **School Back of the Week: Herrera Fabulous, That's All**

A member of La Salle High's other championship eleven – the 1955 squad – stood quietly by as the 1957 Catholic League champs whooped it up after clinching the crown at St. James' expense on Sunday.

As he watched the celebration he was asked, "What makes that little Herrera click?"

The Answer did not uncover any outstanding quality, but it pretty well described the 145-pound Cuban speedster.

Said the ex-champ, "Johnny? He's fabulous. There's nothing else to say. He's just fabulous. I don't know how he makes monkeys out of those big tacklers."

La Salle's Johnny Herrera experienced his fourth three-touchdown performance of the season against St. James Sunday. This feat gives him the Daily News' Back Of The Week award.

You could say, "Why didn't he get the award the other times he ran wild?" The answer to this question is: The chips were down Sunday. The title was at stake. And St. James possesses one of the biggest lines in the loop.

In addition to the touchdowns, Johnny converted after four touchdowns. His league-leading point total of 101 points includes 14 touchdowns and 17 extra points.

## **November 23, 1957: North Catholic Game Cancelled Due to Asian Flu, Snow**

### *The Wisterian, October 18, 1957*

#### **Flu Cancels League Games**

(Note: the game was originally scheduled for October 13, but was postponed due to the Asian Flu epidemic.)

Asian influenza, the present scourge of the nation, has left its effect here in Philadelphia, particularly in the high schools. As a result, all action in the Catholic Football League was halted last Sunday, and the suspense as to who will represent the League in the City Title game will be prolonged.

The long-awaited struggle between arch-rivals North Catholic and La Salle was postponed until November 24. Last year, the Falcons emerged with a victory and the championship. However, previous to 1956, the Explorers scored three straight triumphs. In 1955, the Championship team edged North, 6-0. The cellar-dwelling Falcons were smeared by the third-place Blue & Gold, 27-7 in 1954. The 1953 La Salle eleven shut out the Red & White, 18-0, for a stunning upset.

### *Sunday Bulletin, November 24, 1957*

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

### **Snow Cancels North-La Salle Game**

The La Salle-North Catholic football game, scheduled for yesterday at the Explorers field, 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Olney Av., was cancelled because of snow.

La Salle, Catholic League champion, thus ended its league season unbeaten with a record of seven victories and no defeats. It had an 8 and 0 overall. North Catholic finished second in the league with 5-1-1. Yesterday's game would have had no bearing on the league title.

La Salle will play for the city title against the Public League champion on Franklin Field, December 7. The Public League titlists is still undecided. Roxborough leads, but Lincoln can force a tie by beating Olney Thanksgiving Day. If Lincoln wins, then they will meet Roxborough in a playoff to decide the champion.

### ***The Wisterian, November 27, 1957***

La Salle's championship football squad will meet neighboring Germantown High for the fourteenth time, tomorrow in McCarthy Stadium.

The Bears have won only twice in the series which was revived in 1953 after a four year break. In 1948, Germantown upset the Explorers, 6-0, and edge past the Blue & Gold, 7-6, in 1941. The Bears, under coach Bill Bernardo, have a poor 2-6 log this year, but have played all four of the top teams in the Public League.

### **Game 9, November 28, 1957: La Salle 39 – Germantown 6 (Thanksgiving)**

#### ***Evening Bulletin***

#### **La Salle Wins 39-6; Germantown 9<sup>th</sup> Explorer Victim**

La Salle High School (9-0), Catholic League football champions, downed helpless Germantown (2-7), 39-6, yesterday, in their annual game at McCarthy Stadium on the La Salle campus. The Little Explorers turned four Germantown fumbles into touchdowns and rolled to a 26-0 halftime lead, with halfbacks John Herrera and Joe Maxwell topping the scoring parade with two tallies apiece.

Herrera's scored from seven yards out on La Salle's first play from scrimmage after Explorer tackle Harry Eustace recovered a fumble by Cliveden quarterback Warren Seltzer. Herrera's second TD climaxed a 72-yard march, the score coming on a 21-yard pass from senior play caller Paul Aita.

Maxwell's six pointers capped drives of 37 and 29 yards with the speedy halfback scoring on sprints of 13 and 29 yards. The other two La Salle TDs were contributed by end Tom Boyle and 5'-8", 155 pound junior halfback Jerry Woltemate.

Boyle scored to climax a 13-play march which covered 39 yards, the tally being a 13-yard pass from second string senior quarterback Albert Solecki. Woltemate dove over after the Little Explorers drove to the one-foot line from the Germantown 29.

Woltemate thrilled the crowd earlier with a brilliant 78-yard touchdown run only to have the points nullified on a clipping penalty.

***by Bob Lyons, Catholic Standard and Times***

#### **Little Explorers Prepare for City Title Grid Game**

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

The scholastic football season reached its climax, next Saturday, when unbeaten La Salle High represents the Catholic League in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual City championship football game at Franklin Field. Kickoff is at 1:30 PM.

As this went to press, the Public League championship had not yet been decided with Lincoln and Roxborough still in contention for the title.

La Salle will be making its second appearance in the Interleague classic. In 1955, the Little Explorers took their first championship by routing Northeast Public, 26-0.

### **Successful Seasons**

John "Tex" Flannery, who was an assistant to Jimmy Gallagher in 1955 and became head coach the following season, has guided the Little Explorers to a second place finish and a League championship in the last two seasons.

This year, Flannery had molded a big line and a speedy backfield into a well-coordinated football machine. In eight games the team has averaged almost 31 points while holding the opposition to a meager seven.

La Salle took the title by defeating the best teams in the Catholic League with a tremendous show of offensive power, climaxed by a 53-12 victory over Roman and a 40-18 rout of St. James. The only time that the Little Explorers failed to score at least 20 points was in the second game of the season against Neumann. La Salle won that tilt, 7-0.

The Little Explorers' League finale against North, last year's City champion, was cancelled because of snow last Saturday.

In the City Title game, Flannery will probably go with the same backfield that performed so well during the regular season. Offensively, the Little Explorers work out of a split T with Paul Aita at quarterback, John Herrera and Jerry Woltemate at the halves, and Joey Maxwell at fullback.

Aita and Herrera have been standouts all season.

Aita, a senior who packs 150 pounds on his 5'-8" frame, is a definite candidate for All-Catholic honors with one of the most accurate passing arms in the League. He also mixed his plays well as La Salle's fine offensive record indicates.

### **Led League In Scoring**

Herrera, one of the fastest halfbacks to hit the scholastic scene in recent years, led the League in scoring this season with 101 points. His tremendous speed enabled him to enjoy three consecutive 20 points or better games late in the campaign. Besides being a constant threat as a breakaway runner, the speedy senior is also La Salle's extra point specialist.

Woltemate and Maxwell are both juniors who have been valuable offensive stars throughout the season. Maxwell is the son of a former Notre Dame star.

Al Solecki, a quarterback who did an excellent job when Aita was injured, and John Gallagher, a hard running fullback, will also see plenty of action in La Salle's backfield.

The starting line averages over 190 lbs, and will look something like this: ends, Ray Weinmann and Bob Smith; tackles, Terry Monaghan and Harry Eustace; guards, Tom Yannessa and Arnold Buben; and center, Bill Clements.

John Osborne, a 6'-1" tackle, handles the kickoff duties for the Little Explorers.

In the City championship football series, Catholic League teams have won 10 times, Public League teams, six times, with three games ending in ties.

*by Les Ribler, Philadelphia Inquirer*

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

### **Unbeaten La Salle Ready To Play Public High King**

Patiently awaiting the outcome of tomorrow's Public League "showdown" playoff between Lincoln and Roxborough is coach John "Tex" Flannery and his undefeated La Salle High School football team, champions of the Catholic League.

The little school (716 enrollment – all male) with a wealth of talent, league titlists for the second time in three years, is to play the Public winner in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual game Saturday on Franklin Field at 1:30 PM. Lincoln and Roxborough concluded undefeated – Roxborough for the first time. Therefore, no matter who the victor is tomorrow at Front St. and Duncannon Ave. (Olney's field), the Interleague classic will be a battle between two undefeated schools.

### **Stout Defense in '55**

When La Salle conquered 10 opponents en route to league and City titles (beat Northeast, 26-0) two years ago, the Little Explorers, then coached by Jim Gallagher, featured a stout-hearted defense that held the opposition scoreless in the last eight games.

This year, however, the team was primarily an offense outfit, giving up a touchdown here and there, but picking up three or four in return. The Little Explorers racked up 20 or more points in all but one game, a 7-0 win over Bishop Neumann, which Flannery termed his roughest obstacle and the game that eventually send the team on its way.

Defensively, La Salle was still better than average, but its 6.8 average (61 points in nine games) doesn't come near the 1955 aggregation, which allowed two points per game, 20 points – all in the first two games.

### **Tommies 1<sup>st</sup> Victims**

Starting this season with a 24-6 win over St. Thomas More, La Salle then nipped Neumann, 7-0, and rolled over first-year Cardinal Dougherty (which scored all points in the final quarter), 27-12; Father Judge, 20-0; Bonner, 26-7; West, 39-0; Roman, 53-12; St. James, 40-18; and Germantown on Thanksgiving Day, 39-6.

The average weight of the starting line is 195 pounds, and the backfield goes 160. But the smallest guy on the squad is the guy who led La Salle, and the league, in point-making. He's John "Cuban Flash" Herrera, 5-5 whiz with the knack of squeezing past those big linemen.

Johnny, a 145-pound halfback and a member of the City football and baseball championship teams in 1955, streaked his way to 17 touchdowns and place-kicked 21 extra points for 123 during the season. And, he scored only one point – the PAT in the Neumann victory – in La Salle's first two encounters. He won the league crown with 101 markers.

### **Team Uses Split-T**

The team, consisting of 15 seniors, 16 juniors and four sophomores, uses a Split-T offense, with senior quarterback Paul Aita, an honor roll student from Levittown, in charge. Seniors Tom Yannessa, 183-pound guard, and Tom Boyle, 6-0 end, are co-captains. Yannessa, the team's unsung hero, plays both ways, while Boyle heads the defensive unit.

Offensively, Flannery probably will line up with 6-2 Bob Smith, who backs up the line on defense, and 6-2 Ray Weinmann on the ends; Al Backauskas and John Osborne, whose brother, Jim, played the same position in the 1955 title game, at tackle; Arnie Buben, heaviest at 213, and Yannessa at guard, and 205-pound Bill Clements at center.

The other backfield probables besides Herrera and Aita, are junior Joey Maxwell and John Gallagher, a couple of real workhorses who originally started out working for the No. 1 fullback position.

### **Maxwell Wins Award**

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Maxwell, a Robert W. Maxwell (no relation) Award winner and son of a former Roman Catholic and Notre Dame performer, probably will be opposite Herrera at halfback after playing most of the season at full. Gallagher proved himself at full when Maxwell took sick during the flu epidemic and has been hard to dislodge since.

Maxwell is 5-11, 175, while Gallagher goes 5-9, 185. Neither would be any good sitting on the bench, so Flannery decided to use both. Jerry Woltemate, son of the late Harry Woltemate, coach of the championship baseball team, will move in at halfback as the No. 5 man.

Flannery, former Bartram High mentor, took over as head coach last season after assisting since 1953, and John Harbison, a graduate of Roman ('46) and Boston College ('51) is his line coach.

The Little Explorers are ready and waiting to hand the Public League its fourth straight shutout in the annual classic, but their opponent is still in doubt. Who's it going to be? Lincoln? Roxborough?

*by Les Ribler, Philadelphia Inquirer*

### **Snow Stymies School Rivals**

"Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful..." Words to a pretty snappy song for this kind of snappy weather. Snow everywhere you look. But John "Tex" Flannery and Fred Hauser, coaches of the championship football teams at La Salle and Roxborough High Schools, aren't in much of a singing mood. They're wishing they had indoor football fields.

### **Practice At Standstill**

Between telephone calls, banquets and television appearances – and Hauser's in school all day, while Flannery runs a business – the two mentors have been trying like blazes (maybe they'll melt the snow) to get their squads tuned up for tomorrow's 20<sup>th</sup> annual City championship game on Franklin Field. Most of the instructions have been verbal. Blackboard drills, filled with Xs and Os, have been the order. Practices have been at a standstill.

As for tomorrow, in the interest of all concerned, especially the fans, Franklin Field's playing turf has been covered since early Tuesday morning, long before the snow started falling. And it won't be uncovered until shortly before game time.

Other than halfback John Herrera, the No. 1 scorer in the Catholic League, who is bothered by ear trouble, La Salle is in sound shape. Roxborough's George Reistad and Bob Marshall, Indian linemen, suffered minor injuries in the Public League title playoff against Lincoln, but both are expected to be ready, as is Herrera.

### **Trophies At Stake**

When the two undefeated teams take the field tomorrow, bent on winning the title – La Salle shooting for its second in two tries and Roxborough attempting to gain the crown in its first appearance – and finishing unbeaten, a number of handsome awards are up for grabs.

Among them are the Inquirer's Most Valuable Player Award, which doesn't necessarily go to the player of the winning team. Another is the Bulletin Cup, which is a new trophy this year. North retired the old one last year with its third win in the series. Three victories, not necessarily in succession, is all that's needed to become sole owner of the new one.

The Inquirer Award is the 11<sup>th</sup> annual.

*by Jack Ryan, Evening Bulletin*

### **La Salle Sees Hard Test; Roxborough Goes Inside**

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

La Salle High School's football team is preparing for its hardest game of the year. It meets Roxborough, the Public League champion, in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual city championship game on Franklin Field, Saturday. While the La Salle team is in good physical shape, coach John "Tex" Flannery is worried, particularly over the fact that he was forced to work out in the gym yesterday and unable to demonstrate Roxborough's various defenses.

"Anybody who thinks Roxborough is going to be easy is mistaken." Flannery pointed out. "We haven't faced a line like Roxborough's all season. And we haven't faced a back like Jimmy Pownall. He can really go."

"This Roxborough team reminds me of the team we had at La Salle in 1955. Any team that gives up only 25 points all season (ten games) has to be tough," Tex concluded.

### **Herrera Out Sick**

But right now Flannery has other worries. John Herrera has been out of school sick for the past two days. But, according to Tex, he'll be ready for action. Herrera is the leading scorer in the Catholic League with 101 points and will be the key man in the La Salle offense.

Flannery sent the Little Explorers through dummy drills indoors yesterday. Then he went over the scouting report turned in by his assistant, Jack Harbison.

La Salle plans to use several new plays against Roxborough and Flannery hopes for better weather so he can get outdoors for a whirl at his new offensive maneuvers.

If Herrera is able to play, Flannery will stand pat on his offensive team. Paul Aita will direct the plays from the T-quarterback slot. Joey "Scott" Maxwell will be at fullback, with Jerry Woltemate pairing off with Herrera. However, if Herrera is out of action, John Gallagher will probably take over his spot.

### **La Salle Has Weight Edge**

Bob Smith and Ray Weinmann will be the offensive ends. Al Backauskas and John Osborne will play tackle. Arnold Buben and Tom Yannessa will be stationed at guard, with Bill Clements at center.

Flannery platoons six players on defense. Francis Heckler takes over at center, Walt McDonald replaces Buben at guard, Harry Eustace goes in at tackle and Backauskas moved out to end. Smith moves from end to a backerup spot, with Tom Boyle, Fred Shaughnessy and Joe McNichol taking over the other three defensive backfield positions.

From a weight advantage, La Salle will have a big edge in team average. The Little Explorers scale 195 to 164 for Roxborough.

However, the Public League team has lots of speed and weight is not likely to be an important factor.

The heavy snowstorm forced the Roxborough High School football team indoors yesterday and coach Fred Hauser spent most of the time explaining the various types of defenses it will face when it meets La Salle in the city championship game for the Bulletin Cup on Franklin Field, Saturday.

Hauser sent the squad through stiff limbering up exercises. Some time was spent on timing offensive plays, but generally speaking the boys were unable to get much of a workout.

However, Hauser and his assistant, Ernie Mowbray, went over the scouting reports of the La Salle offense and cautioned the boys that the Little Explorers are probably the best team it has faced all season.

Roxborough came through the playoff game with Abraham Lincoln in fairly good shape, although three boys – George Reistad, Joe Leuthe and Bob Marshall – are a little banged up. Reistad has an injured left elbow and is having x-ray pictures taken. The big tackle will play if no break or chip is revealed.

### **His Best Team – Hauser**

Leuthe and Marshall suffered minor bruises and lacerations. However, Leuthe and Marshall are expected to be ready for action.

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

“This is the best team I’ve ever coached at Roxborough and I think we will be ready,” Hauser said. “It’s real tough getting the boys in shape after that tough game with Lincoln. We have the backs and the line has improved considerably, so if they play the kind of game they are capable of, we will be all right.” Roxborough, the smallest school in the Public League (416 boys), did a commendable job winning the title. The Roxborough boys rolled over 10 straight opponents to finish its first perfect season since entering the league in 1939.

The Roxborough attack is built around Bob Minissale, a clever T-quarterback, and Jimmy Pownall, a shifty running halfback. These two boys have formed a dangerous passing combination and Hauser has several new aerial patterns he plans to use against La Salle.

### **Foyle May Replace Leuthe**

Bill Broughton and Leuthe will be the other backs. But in the event Leuthe is not ready, Bob Foyle will replace him. Foyle normally plays only on defense and on the kickoff when Roxborough receives. Hauser will stand pat on his offensive and defensive lines, unless Reistad is not in shape. Bill Calhoun will replace Reistad in this event.

If at all possible, Roxborough will attempt to get outside today for a workout. But if conditions are bad, Hauser will probably hold a long blackboard session.

*by Bill Shefski, Daily News*

### **Bruisers Spark La Salle Eleven**

Black and blue marks speak for themselves. That’s why several of the tough linemen around the Catholic League said a mouthful when we asked them “What made La Salle so tough?”

Kids like St. James’ John Hegarty, Neumann’s Gene Burgesse and West’s Tony Gargulle. When asked the simple question they rolled up their sleeves, picked out the prettiest bruise marks and expounded about a fullback named Joey Maxwell, a guard named Tom Yannessa and a couple of tackles named John Osborne and Al Backauskas.

These four youths are the crude foundation of the La Salle team that’ll face hungry Roxborough in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Interleague Title Game Saturday on Franklin Field.

Almost every time La Salle won, Cuban Flash John Herrera copped the spotlight with his tingling long excursions off tackle or around end. These outside journeys were set up by Maxwell, Yannessa, and the tackles. How?

Well, the defending linemen, who claim they didn’t get bruised by playing cat and mouse with Herrera, were drawn in tight by the ripping charges of Maxwell – “Five-Yard Joey.”

Yannessa blocked with merciless ambition as did Osborne and Backauskas. Then change your tune to defense and the linemen who felt La Salle’s gory thrashings will try to evade the name Yannessa.

Maxwell and Yannessa are La Salle’s crude boys. True football ability and hardness are their traits.

Even little Herrera, who outscored Maxwell by some ten touchdowns, knows this.

Herrera says, “Gee, it’s great running in back of Maxwell and those linemen. You know they’ll clean the holes out.”

Another of Maxwell’s contributions to Herrera is that Joey sets up defending lines for Herrera’s outside speed.

*by Bill Shefski, Daily News*

### **Herrera Hurts Ear; He Says He’ll Play**

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

La Salle coach Tex Flannery wasn't very disturbed when he first heard that his 145-pound scoring sensation, John Herrera, wasn't going to show for practice yesterday.

Tex went right on dressing in his workout togs. When he was through he jogged out to the field where the green jersey clad La Salle gridders were keeping warm doing various things.

When Tex gathered his crew together, he shouted, "Does anybody know what's wrong with Herrera?" A slim La Salle boy stepped out from the group and said, "Yeah, coach. Johnny's ear hurts him."

Then Tex started to worry. He had thought Johnny was under the weather with a cold or something.

But, when he heard that Johnny was bumped on the ear during a Monday workout he started to wonder.

But Herrera last night said, "It doesn't hurt anymore. I've forgotten about it. I was banged in a workout, but I'll practice tomorrow and I'll be able and ready to play Saturday."

### **Games Too Close For Rox Coach**

Everything has happened so quick. Roxborough coach Fred Hauser hasn't had time to sit back and taste the sweetness of the school's first Public League title yet.

Like yesterday, the day after a hair-raising upset over Lincoln. Fred couldn't gloat. He was too busy thinking of La Salle – three days off.

"I couldn't even hold a workout today," said Hauser. "The kids were all bruised. I'm real concerned over the injury to tackle George Reistad."

Reistad – punter, placekicker, and defensive bulwark – hurt his elbow on Monday.

## **Game 10, December 7, 1957: La Salle 19 – Roxborough 6 (City Title)**

*by Les Ribler, Philadelphia Inquirer*

### **La Salle's 2 TDs in 4<sup>th</sup> Jar Roxborough For City Title, 19-6**

Twice Catholic League champion, twice City champion – La Salle High School's football record speaks for itself.

A real gambling outfit in the early stages, the Little Explorers used 175-pound fullback-turned-halfback, Joey "Scott" Maxwell, as a human battering ram to produce two final-period touchdowns and hand previously unbeaten Roxborough a 19-6 licking yesterday for the City championship at Franklin Field.

A rain-dampened crowd of 15,000, who turned out despite all night and morning rains that followed two days of snow – the worst conditions ever in the 20-year-old history of the Inter-league series – saw La Salle snap a 6-6 tie to deal Roxborough's first-time Public League champs their first reversal after 10 wins.

The Little Explorers, City titlists in 1955 when they were undefeated, again posted an all-winning (10-0) season as they gave the Catholic League its fourth consecutive City crown and an 11-6 edge in the series, which has seen three ties. The Little Explorers also gained the first leg on the new Bulletin Cup. Roxborough, however, did have the consolation of scoring first and having one of its players chosen as the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Inquirer's annual Most Valuable Player award as selected by a panel of local college coaches. Steve Sebo, Penn; Frank Reagan, Villanova, and Pete Stevens, Temple, made up the board.

Tackle George Reistad, a 180-pound senior, was responsible in each case. He displayed the ability of a back in racing 21 yards with an interception in the initial period to give the Indians a 6-0 lead, handled the team's punting and kickoff chores, was in on numerous tackles and played the entire game.

It was the first time that a player on the losing team had won the award.

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After Reistad's touchdown, which, incidentally, was the first points recorded by a Public League team since 1953 when Northeast and St. James tied, 20-20, it was practically all La Salle. And Maxwell was the guy that really put on the finishing touches.

All told, the 5-11 junior carried 29 times for 123 yards, and he was the ball carrier all seven times in a 29-yard, seven-play advance that saw him go over right tackle from the four for a 12-6 La Salle lead at 5:55 of the period. His second was a smash from the one.

La Salle, coached by John "Tex" Flannery, an assistant when the school won all the marbles in 1955, lived dangerously during the first half. Twice it gambled with passes and both resulted in scores. One, however, was for Roxborough.

With La Salle in possession on its 18, after neither team was able to do anything in the early moments of the initial period, Little Explorer quarterback Paul Aita faded back to pass with a second down-and-nine situation and along came Mr. Reistad.

Backing up the line, Reistad short-circuited Aita's toss, tucked the ball under his arm and skirted around his right end to give Roxborough command, 6-0, at 5:47 of the quarter. Aita, tackle Al Backauskas, and John Gallagher had a crack at the Roxborough ace, but he made it to the coffin corner.

On the second gamble, La Salle cashed in the chips. And what a gamble it was.

### **Aita "Goes For Broke"**

With a fourth down-and-inches situation on Roxborough's 14, Aita elected to go for broke instead of hitting the middle for the short yardage. His actions paid off as All-Catholic halfback Herrera grabbed a seven-yard flip from the senior director and raced seven more to tie the score at 6-6 at 5:09 of the period. Herrera, a 5-5, 145-pounder, smashed off tackle 10 yards (just short of a first to start the six-play, 37-yard advance, then climaxed it with his 18<sup>th</sup> touchdown of the year. He led the league in scoring with 101 points and had a seasonal total of 130 as he later added an extra point – his 22<sup>nd</sup>.

That was all the scoring for the split-T Little Explorers, who clicked off 61 plays on the ground to Roxborough's 35. The 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Olney Ave. crew gained 190 yards rushing and 14 passing – the touchdown pass of Aita's, his only completion in five tries.

### ***The Wisterian***

### **Explorers Scalp Indians For Second City Title; Fourth Period Maxwell TD's Clinch Game For La Salle**

Led by hard-charging Scotty Maxwell, the La Salle High football team rallied to break a 26 minute long deadlock late in the final period to win the high school football championship of the third largest city of the United States. The Little Explorers dumped a fired-up Roxborough High eleven, 19-6, to capture one of the most coveted of the nations' schoolboy gridiron titles. Despite the cold, driving rain, the spirits of the more than 15,000 fans were never dampened. Those brave enough to endure the elements, last Saturday, were treated to one of the most exciting battles in the 20 year history of the Inter-League Athletic Commission-sponsored classic.

Although they held the upper hand offensively throughout the entire game, the Blue & Gold squad had to come from behind to beat the spirited Indians. Midway through the first period, George Reistad sent the north stands of Franklin Field into bedlam when he intercepted a Paul Aita pass and ran 24 yards into the end-zone to register the only Roxborough tally. The Explorers bounced back early in the second quarter on a gamble play. La Salle was on the Indian 14 yard line in a fourth down and a foot-to-go situation. To the surprise of everyone, quarterback Aita went to the air, and caught Johnny Herrera on the six yard line. Johnny raced across the goal to knot the count. His extra point conversion was blocked. With less

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

than six minutes remaining in the game, 29 and 21 yard drives were climaxed by game-winning Maxwell scores.

Roxborough elected to receive the opening kickoff, and drove to their own 47, but here they were forced to punt. La Salle took possession on its own 26 and moved to the 32 on two plays, but the third down scrimmage resulted in a 12 yard loss. The Explorers punted but again stopped the Indian drive. The ensuing punt was taken by the Blue & Gold on the 17. On the first play, linebacker Reistad snatched Aita's pass, eluded three would-be tacklers, and raced across the wide stripe. Bob Leuthe attempted to convert, but was short of the mark.

La Salle invaded Roxborough territory in the second period, but was stalled on the 47 after earning the first two first downs of the game. Fred Shaughnessy's punt was taken by Bob Foyle on the 11 and returned ten yards. A clipping penalty set the Indians back on the 6. A three yard gain was offset by a six yard loss. Joe McNichol returned the third down punt to the Roxborough 37. Herrera and Jerry Woltemate pushed for one first down. On three plays, Herrera went nine and a half more yards, just short of a first. It was here that Aita and Herrera executed the daring game-tying pass play.

### **Weinmann Blocks Punt**

In the fourth period, Ray Weinmann partially blocked a Roxborough punt, and the Explorers took over on the opponents' 38 yard line. Maxwell and Herrera pushed to the 16 on three plays. Scotty picked up thirteen more as the third period ended. After moving to the other end of the field, Maxwell ripped to the one yard line. The next two plays resulted in one and two yard losses, and the fourth down play was stopped at the line of scrimmage.

However, the high spirits of the La Salle squad were not diminished, and the Explorers cashed in the next time they got possession of the ball. Shaughnessy returned a punt 13 yards to the Roxborough 29. La Salle's weight advantage began to weaken the Indian forward wall, as Maxwell and Herrera smashed for consistent gains to the four yard line. Here, Maxwell went through the right tackle slot for the tally. Herrera's conversion went through the uprights. This was enough for victory, however. Walt McDonald's interception and 14 yard return started a drive which added six insurance points. McDonald returned his aerial-steal to the losers' 21. Woltemate and Maxwell executed this drive, with Scotty going the final yard.

### **La Salle Rushes 190 Yards**

La Salle controlled the game, offensively, throughout. Not once did the Fred Hauser-coached Indians have a sustained drive. The Explorers outrushed Roxborough 190 to 52 yards. The Blue and Gold held the advantage in first downs 11-3. Two of the Roxborough first downs came after the Explorers' final tally, when the entire Explorer second unit was seeing action. Both quarterbacks attempted five aerials, both had two intercepted. The only completed pass was Aita's 14 yarder to Herrera. Maxwell was the workhorse for the Explorers, rushing for 122 yards. Herrera, his speed somewhat hampered by the slippery field, contributed 40 yards. Shaughnessy punted seven times with an exceptional 34.8 yard average.

*by Bob Lyons, Catholic Standard and Times*

### **Explorers Reign As City Champions; La Salle Defeats Roxborough in 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Grid Classic**

La Salle's Little Explorers are sitting on top of the scholastic football world today, and well they deserve it after last Saturday's 19-6 victory over Roxborough for the City title. The only discouraging note was the attendance. Only 15,000 hardy souls paid their way into Franklin Field for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Inter-league classic.

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The inclement weather probably kept a good number of fans away. They missed a great show. The Catholic League, which has not tasted defeat since 1950, leads in the classic with 11 victories. The Public League had won six times and three games have ended in ties. It was such a good show that La Salle's coach, John "Tex" Flannery, declined to single out any individual Explorer as the outstanding player.

### **Played As A Unit**

"They all played well as a unit, both offensively and defensively," said Flannery, who won the title in his second year at the helm.

He was right. There were just too many heroes for La Salle.

However the boy who caught everyone's eye was No. 48 for the Little Explorers, a hard charging halfback by the name of Joey "Scott" Maxwell, the son of the former Notre Dame All-American.

Maxwell was a fullback during the season but Flannery shifted him for the City title game to "get more power into the offensive attack." And what power he supplied!

### **Tore Defense Apart**

The 175-pound junior literally tore Roxborough's defense apart, especially in the fourth period, when he scored two touchdowns. He carried the ball 20 times alone in the second half and set up both TD drives. His net yardage for the day, 122 yards on 29 carries, was twice the amount Roxborough's entire team was able to gain.

Johnny Herrera, La Salle's other halfback, also starred for the winners despite the slippery condition of the field which hampered his "breakaway" style of running.

The "Cuban Flash" scored the touchdown that put the Little Explorers back into the game in the second period after Roxborough had taken a 6-0 lead. With fourth down and the ball on the Indian 14, Herrera slipped into the flat to catch a short pass from Paul Aita and race unmolested into the end zone.

The 145-pound senior was second only to Maxwell in net yardage with 40 on 17 carries.

### **Aita Called Fine Game**

The man responsible for all this offensive power of course, was La Salle's fine little quarterback, Paul Aita, who called a fine game and impressed everyone with his judgement. And that pass he threw to Herrera for the first touchdown was a beauty.

After the game, Flannery revealed that Aita called all the plays in the second half including the two touchdown drives. "I called everything in the first half," the jubilant coach declared, but Aita outguessed me 2-1 after that."

The City champ's forward wall also drew praise for the fine protection given to Aita and some bang up defensive work.

Tackles John Osborne and Harry Eustace played outstanding defensively all day, constantly breaking into Roxborough's backfield to bottle up the loser's attack.

### **Roxborough Tackle Honored**

The Public Leaguers were not without their heroes, however, and the hustled right up to the final gun. The Indians, who have been underrated all season, must have made their coach, Fred Hauser, feel mighty proud. Roxborough played a fine game.

Tackle George Reistad, who received the Inquirer award as the outstanding player of the game, was brilliant all around.

Reistad gave the Roxborough fans something to cheer about in the first period by intercepting an Aita pass and running 24 yards for the first touchdown of the game. Defensively, he handled the punting in fine fashion despite some bad passes from center, and was also credited with 15 tackles.

## **La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957**

Jimmy Pownall, who like Herrera was hampered by the slippery field, still managed to pick up 52 yards which incidentally was Roxborough's total net yardage for the afternoon.

La Salle's offensive supremacy can be readily seen through the statistics of the game. The Little Explorers picked up 11 first downs to three for Roxborough and outgained the losers, 190-52, on the ground.

***by Bill Shefski, Daily News***

### **"Roxborough Special" Key To La Salle's City Title**

"Why add something new?" asked La Salle assistant coach Dick Cosgrove. "The plays that get you nine wins are good enough for any game."

So stated Cosgrove last Tuesday. That we before head coach Tex Flannery, Cosgrove, John DiSangro, and John Harbison went over the Roxborough scouting reports.

Saturday La Salle was trailing 6-0 midway in the second quarter. They had just driven 24 yards to the Roxborough 14. It was fourth and inches for a first down.

Quarterback Paul Aita went into the huddle to call a running play. He came out, took the ball, faded back as halfback Johnny Herrera faked off tackle. Aita lofted a pass, Herrera took it on the seven yard line and rambled to the end zone to tie the score.

After the game, Aita said, "I was gonna call a run. But, the coach sent in the pass."

"What was the name of the pass?" Aita was asked. Paulie grinned and then stuttered, "It... it... was the Roxborough Special."

Flannery told how a flaw in Roxborough's defense was found last week. "When we set a man to the right, their secondary revolved, leaving the right side open for short passes. Herrera was sprung loose. And their defensive right halfback just couldn't get back in time to break it up."

Flannery was conservative with his play pattern all season. But, when a run was logical, Tex took a chance. "I thought it was second or third down," quipped Tex.

This was the play that put La Salle back in the game. Roxborough, its offense stymied by La Salle's stiff defense, had drawn first blood when the game's MVP, George Reistad, intercepted an Aita pass and ran like a halfback 24 yards for a touchdown.

Reistad was the big Indian all day, tackling from his linebacker post and punting excellently despite poor snaps from center.

Aita, Joe Maxwell and Herrera were La Salle's big offensive weapons. Aita completed the touchdown pass – his only completion in five attempts. Herrera and Maxwell supplied the ground punch for 11 first downs. Herrera gained 62 yards on 16 carries, mostly in the first half.

Maxwell, who tallied the second half touchdowns from a foot and four and a half yards out, completely demolished the Indian defenses. Joey gained 122 yards on 29 carries – 104 of the yards made in the second half.

The winning touchdown came midway in the final period after an Ed Martin-led Indian line stopped La Salle at the doorstep of touchdown land earlier in the quarter.

The winning drive covered 29 yards after Fred Shaughnessy ran back a short Reistad punt 13 yards. Maxwell ate up 26 of the yards.

***by Jack Ryan, Sunday Bulletin***

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

### **Joe Maxwell's 2 TDs Decide School Classic; Little Explorers Rally In Fourth as 15,000 Watch Game in Mud**

La Salle High, with an irresistible drive that produced two touchdowns in the final period, defeated Roxborough High on Franklin Field yesterday, 19-6, to win the city schoolboy football championship for the second time in three years.

Halfback Joe Maxwell plunged for both scored within a space of three minutes and 15 seconds to give the Catholic league its 11<sup>th</sup> triumph over the Public League in their 20-year rivalry.

Yesterday's defeat was the first of the year for Roxborough's Indians, who had compiled a 9-0 record in capturing the Public League title, the last being an upset victory over Abraham Lincoln High in their playoff last Monday.

### **Roxborough Tackle Cited**

But though his team lost yesterday in rain and mud before an estimated 15,000 crowd, George Reistad, Roxborough tackle, was voted the best player on the field by a jury of three collegiate coaches – Steve Sebo, of Penn; Frank Reagan, of Villanova, and Pete Stevens, of Temple.

Reistad, who performed heroically on defense – also blocking an extra-point kick by La Salle's backfield star, Johnny Herrera – accounted for the only Roxborough touchdown.

Midway in the first period, he intercepted a forward pass by the Little Explorers' quarterback Paul Aita and ran 24 yards to score. Joe Leuthe was unsuccessful, however, with his extra-point placement.

### **Herrera Tallies On Pass**

Aita, having given the opposition the early lead, redeemed his error in the second period, completing a short pass to Herrera, who ran six yards for the tying TD. The play originated on Roxborough's 14-yard line.

This was where Reistad blocked Herrera's boot to keep the game even at 6-6. It remained that way until 6:05 of the last period.

At the start of that quarter, La Salle had first down, three yards from the goal, but was thrown back for a net loss of one yard on four tries at the line.

Roxborough's breather didn't last long, however.

Receiving the ball on a punt on the Roxborough 29, the Little Explorers went to the seven in five plays, with Maxwell carrying every time. Herrera then ploughed to the four, from where Maxwell slammed over. Herrera added the extra point to make it 13-6.

### **McDonald Intercepts**

Three plays after the next kickoff, Walt McDonald intercepted a pass from Bob Minissale and carried the ball back 14 yards to Roxborough's 21.

Maxwell and Jerry Woltemate cracked the line to bring the oval to the three in four plays. The former was stopped inches short of the goal on the next try, then made it. The extra-point kick was blocked, but La Salle didn't need it. With less than three minutes to go, the victory was secure – tenth in succession for the Little Explorers since the start of the season.

### **First Period**

Shaughnessy's kickoff was taken by Giannascoli, who returned eight yards to the Roxborough 38.

Rox – Pownall hit center for three yards. Broughton picked up two. Pownall was stopped after a three-yard gain. Reistad's punt was taken by Shaughnessy, who got back five yards before Calhoun brought him down on the La Salle 26.

LS – Gallagher hit the middle for four. Gallagher made three to the 33. On a pitchout, Herrera missed the ball and it rolled back to the 20, where Herrera recovered. Shaughnessy's punt was taken by Pownall, who returned ten yards to the Roxborough 47.

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Rox – Pownall picked up a yard. Broughton gained two to midfield. Pownall added four to the La Salle 46. Reistad punted to Shaughnessy, who returned 14 yards to the 17.

LS – Maxwell plunged for one. Reistad intercepted an Aita pass and he ran 24 yards for a touchdown at 5:47 of the period. Leuthe's kick for the extra point was unsuccessful. Scored Roxborough 6, La Salle 0. Reistad's kickoff was taken by Woltemate, who was downed without a return at the 25.

LS – Herrera hit center for a yard. Woltemate gained a yard, but La Salle was penalized for offside back to the 21. Herrera gained four, but La Salle was penalized again for offside. Herrera crashed over the middle for nine. Maxwell was good for three. Shaughnessy punted to Foyle, who returned six yards to his own 45.

Rox – Pownall spun off tackle for four. Leuthe was thrown for a two-yard loss. Minissale's long pass to Pownall fell incomplete at the 20. Reistad punted to Herrera, who was downed on his own 26.

LS – Maxwell gained five. Herrera was stopped by Calhoun after picking up four. Maxwell made a first to the 41.

Aita picked up two. Herrera made four. Woltemate gained three. Aita sneaked for a first down to the Roxborough 48.

Aita, on a keeper, made a yard as the period ended. Score – Roxborough 6, La Salle 0.

### Second Period

Woltemate was stopped by Calhoun after gaining two. Aita's pass was too long for Smith. Shaughnessy punted to Foyle, who returned 12 to his own 24. A clipping penalty put the ball back on the Roxborough 6.

Rox – Pownall plunged for three. Osborne broke through and dropped Pownall for no gain. Reistad punted from deep in the end zone to McNichol, who returned five yards to the Roxborough 36.

LS – Herrera banged up the middle for nine. Woltemate slashed off tackle for a first on the 24.

Aita circled right end and lost a yard. Herrera bucked over tackle for six. Herrera carried to the 14, just short of a first down. Aita tossed a pass to Herrera, who ran six yards for a touchdown at 4:09 of the period. Griffith blocked Herrera's kick for the point. Score – Roxborough 6, La Salle 6.

Leuthe returned Shaughnessy's kickoff 14 yards to the Roxborough 29.

Rox – Broughton was stopped for no gain. Pownall circled his right end for a first on the 39.

Pownall picked up a yard. Broughton made six. Leuthe gained two through the middle. Reistad punted to Shaughnessy, who slipped and fell at the 22.

LS – Woltemate hit the middle for four. Maxwell was stopped by Reistad for no gain. Herrera crashed over tackle for two. Shaughnessy punted to Foyle who returned four yards to the Roxborough 33.

Rox – Pownall fell into a snow pile on the sideline after picking up two. Foyle was spilled by Yannessa for a seven-yard loss. Minissale was tossed down on the 22 as he dropped back to pass. Reistad took a poor pass from center and punted to his own 39, where the ball rolled dead.

LS – Herrera took a pitchout around his right end and made seven to the 32. Maxwell smashed through for a first on the 25.

Foyle broke up Aita's pass to Herrera in the end zone. Pownall intercepted an Aita pass on the 14 and returned seven to the 21, where he stepped out of bounds.

Rox – Pownall hit the middle for two. Pownall took a pitchout and was forced out of bounds after a two-yard gain as the half ended. Score – Roxborough 6, La Salle 6.

### Third Period

Reistad's kickoff was taken by Gallagher, who returned 15 yards to the La Salle 42. La Salle was offside and the play was called back. This time Minissale kicked from his 45 to Woltemate, who ran back 16 yards to his 36, up four, but La Salle was penalized back to the 31 for backfield in motion. Gallagher was

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stopped by Martin for no gain. Herrera was hauled down by Reistad after a two-yard gain. Gallagher gained three, Shaughnessy punted to Pownall, who returned seven yards to his own 36.

Rox – Broughton hit the middle for five. Minissale's pass to Pownall was broken up by Shaughnessy. Minissale tried another pass, but it fell incomplete. Reistad took a low pass from center and punted to Shaughnessy at the 30, where he was downed immediately.

LS – Maxwell made a first down to the 41. He bucked for four more yards. Herrera picked up one. Maxwell made another first on the Roxborough 49.

Maxwell picked up three, then five. Aita made a first down, but La Salle was penalized for offside back to the Roxborough 47. Martin dropped Herrera after a yard gain. Shaughnessy punted over the goal line, Roxborough taking over at its 20.

Rox – Broughton picked up a yard. Minissale's pass was intercepted by Shaughnessy on the Roxborough 49, where he slipped out of bounds.

LS – Maxwell crashed over tackle for five. Herrera was spilled for a three-yard loss to the 47. Maxwell hit the middle for three. Shaughnessy punted over the goal line, giving Roxborough the ball at the 20.

Rox – Pownall slashed for three. Pownall was driven out of bounds after adding three. Leuthe gained a yard. Reistad's punt was partially blocked by Weinmann and rolled to the 38, where La Salle took over.

LS – Maxwell, on two line smashes, gained nine to the 29. Herrera took a pitchout and ran to the 16 for a first down.

Maxwell banged up the middle to the 8. Herrera dove for a yard. Maxwell slammed for a first down to the 3 as the quarter ended. Score – Roxborough 6, La Salle 6.

### Fourth Period

Maxwell crashed off tackle to the one. Maxwell was stopped for a yard loss by Martin. Woltemate was slammed down by Griffith at the 5. Maxwell made a yard and Roxborough took possession at its own 4.

Rox – Pownall ran over right tackle for four. Broughton was stopped for no gain. Pownall picked up a yard, but La Salle was penalized five yards for offside to the 12. Yannessa spilled Pownall at the nine. Reistad punted to Shaughnessy at the 41 and he returned 12 to the Roxborough 29.

LS – Maxwell hit the middle for seven. Maxwell made a first to the 17.

Maxwell found a hole and ran to the 9. Maxwell missed a first by inches, carrying just short of the 7. Buben, La Salle's right guard, was injured on the play and had to be helped from the field. Maxwell made a first to the 7.

Herrera was stopped by Steel after gaining three. Maxwell slammed over for a touchdown at 6:05 of the period. Herrera kicked the extra point. Score – La Salle 13, Roxborough 6.

Shaughnessy kicked off to Broughton, who returned 18 yards to the 35.

Rox – Pownall picked up two. Minissale was trapped for a five-yard loss as he tried to pass. Minissale's pass was intercepted by McDonald and he returned 14 yards to the 21.

LS – Maxwell bulled for five over tackle. Woltemate picked up two. Maxwell made a first at the 9.

Woltemate charged to the 3. Maxwell was stopped inches short of the goal. On the next play Maxwell crashed over for the TD at 9:20 of the period. Herrera's extra point kick was blocked. Score – La Salle 19, Roxborough 6.

Foyle returned Shaughnessy's kickoff 22 yards to the 35.

Rox – Pownall circled his right end for a first on the 45.

Foyle was stopped after a yard gain. Broughton charged across the midfield stripe to the La Salle 48.

Broughton circled his right end for three. Foyle made a first to the 44 as the game ended. Final score – La Salle 19, Roxborough 6.

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

by Jack Ryan, Sunday Bulletin

### La Salle High's Switch To Power Plays In 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Jarred Roxborough Defense

The strategy of concentrating on power in the second half as a substitute for plays designed to shake speedy backs loose was a big factor as La Salle High School won its second city high school football championship Saturday on Franklin Field.

The decision was made by John "Tex" Flannery after he saw that Johnny Herrera, his ace ball-carrier was having trouble on the muddy field. It paid off in a 19-6 victory and The Bulletin Cup for the Catholic League champions over Roxborough, Public League titleholders.

The switch worked to perfection for La Salle. Joey "Scott" Maxwell, son of a former Notre Dame All-American, did a terrific job of ball-carrying on power plays, the 175-pound junior ripping the Roxborough line to shreds. He climaxed a brilliant bit of offensive work by charging over for two fourth-period touchdowns to sew up the triumph. Moreover, Scott turned in a total of 122 yards from scrimmage on 29 carries.

### Sparks Scoring Drives

In the first half Maxwell carried the ball only nine times, but Flannery ordered quarterback Paul Aita to use Maxwell more in the second half. During the last two periods Maxwell toted the ball 20 times and sparked 29- and 21-yard scoring drives.

"It was tough for Herrera to break loose on the slippery field, so I decided that slants by Maxwell would go," Flannery explained. "Didn't that boy really give a performance? He really made us look good." But the La Salle coach, who won the city crown in his second year, looked like a mastermind when he sent in instructions to pass in the second period on fourth down and six inches on Roxborough's 14-yard line.

At the time, Roxborough was leading 6-0 due to George Reistad's pass interception and 24-yard touchdown run in the opening period.

### Unaware It Was Fourth Down

"I didn't know it was fourth down when I sent the play on the field," Flannery said jokingly. "I sure would have looked like a bum if it had failed. But Aita and Herrera saved me when they clicked for a touchdown to tie the score. It was just one of those things that didn't backfire."

Aita's pass to Herrera was snared on the Roxborough six, and Johnny galloped into the end zone unmolested for the big play of the game.

After this, Maxwell was the difference between the two teams. The way he battered his way for yardage, particularly in the final period, split Roxborough's defense wide open.

"Roxborough was a much better football team than people think," Flannery continued. "We thought we would be facing an eight-man line, but when they threw a nine-man line against us, we were forced to make adjustments – and it's a good thing we did."

### Praise For His Boys

Flannery was loud in his praise for his boys. He pointed out that the defensive unit did a terrific job in bottling up Jimmy Pownall and holding Roxborough to a new of 52 yards.

John Osborne, Harry Eustace and Tom Boyle were standouts defensively, while the other members of the defensive unit also played bang-up ball.

But the credit for their great work goes to Flannery and his assistant, Jack Harbison, former Roman Catholic star. Harbison is in charge of the defensive unit.

The Roxborough boys, too, played championship ball and demonstrated why they won their league title for the first time in 19 years.

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When it is considered that Roxborough is the smallest school in their league and has only 417 boys to pick from, the job done by coach Fred Hauser is even more remarkable.

Probably the understatement of the year was when Hauser told his boys they had nothing to be ashamed of. They certainly didn't.

### **Award For Reistad**

Reistad, who did a great job of punting, played brilliantly in every department and deserved the most valuable player award bestowed on him by three college coaches – Steve Sebo, Penn; Frank Reagan, Villanova, and Pete Stevens, Temple.

Ed Martin, his tackle running mate, was also a trouble-maker for La Salle.

Pownall, the best back produced in the Public League since Johnny Papit played at Northeast, was in the same boat as La Salle's Herrera. He, Too, couldn't get rolling on the muddy field. Although the Pownall-Herrera duel failed to produce the expected thrills, both boys demonstrated that they are fine break-away runners. Pownall total 52 yards on 19 carries, with Herrera getting 40 on 17 attempts. "I am proud of those boys," Hauser said. "We were beaten by a better team. It's the best we faced all year. Naturally, my lads were disappointed. But I told them that if it had been the same kind of day when we played Lincoln we might not have been league champions. I'm satisfied. They did a good job."

### La Salle

Left Ends – Smith, Boyle, Cunningham.

Left Tackles – Backauskas, Eustace.

Left Guards – T. Yanness, Sharpe, Tragemann.

Centers – Clements, Heckler, Stranix.

Right Guards – Buben, Dunleavy.

Right Tackle – Osborne.

Right Ends – Weinmann, Monaghan, M. Gallagher.

Quarterbacks – Aita, Solecki, McNichol.

Left Halfback – Herrera, Shaughnessy, McCarty, Cook.

Right Halfback – Maxwell, Woltemate, Madden.

Fullback – J. Gallagher, McDonald, McTear,

### Roxborough

Left Ends – Thummel, Griffith.

Left Tackles, Reistad, Fasy.

Left Guards – Garvey, Marasco.

Center – Proud.

Right Guard – Marshall.

Right Tackles – Martin, M. Calhoun.

Right Ends – Giannascoli, Katcavage.

Quarterback – Minissale.

Left Halfbacks – Pownall, Lopresti.

Right Halfbacks – Broughton, Foyle.

Fullbacks, Leuthe, Steel.

La Salle	0	6	0	13	19
Roxborough	6	0	0	0	6

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La Salle Scoring – Touchdowns: Herrera (14, pass from Aita); Maxwell 2 (4, 1, plunge). PAT: Herrera.  
 Roxborough Scoring – Touchdowns: Reistad (21, interception return).  
 Officials – Referee, Bill Reynolds, Dayton; Umpire, Jim Henry, Villanova; Field Judge, Paul Hallan, Temple; Head Linesman, John Keenan, Penn.

<u>Statistics</u>	<u>La Salle</u>	<u>Roxborough</u>
First Downs	11	3
Rushing Yardage	190	62
Passing Yardage	14	0
Passes Completed	1-5	0-5
Passes Intercepted By	2	2
Punts	7-34.0	9-32.1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Yards Penalized	30	15

### Individual Statistics

#### Rushing

<u>La Salle</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Roxborough</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Yds</u>
Gallagher	4	9	Pownall	19	52
Herrera	17	40	Broughton	9	18
Maxwell	29	122	Leuthe	2	0
Woltemate	7	14	Foyle	3	4
Aita	4	5	Minissale	2	14
Totals	61	190	Totals	35	52

#### Passing

<u>La Salle</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Roxborough</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>TD</u>
Aita	5	1	14	1	Minissale	5	0	0	0

#### Pass Receiving

<u>La Salle</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>TD</u>
Herrera	1	14	1

### *The Wisterian*

#### **Gridders Amass Lion's Share Of Post-Season Press Tributes**

Aside from their personal thrill and satisfaction in winning the high school championship of the city of Philadelphia, many members of the La Salle High football team have received awards and honors for their outstanding performance during the Explorers' ten wins.

Tom Yannessa, Johnny Herrera, and Scotty Maxwell head this list while twelve others have also been honored.

Yannessa, a 183 lb. senior guard, was named to the first team of the All-Catholic squads in all three city newspapers. He was selected to the first team on the All-Scholastic eleven composed of players from all

## La Salle College High School Football: Chronicle 1957

Philadelphia and suburban leagues. It was chosen by a board of coaches and sports writers for Wilmington television station WVUE-TV. The Philadelphia Daily News gave him a Lineman-of-the-Week Award earlier in the year. It was recently announced that Tom was chosen as a second team guard on the United Press All-State squad. This is a unique honor, since most All-State selectors usually ignore the Philadelphia area.

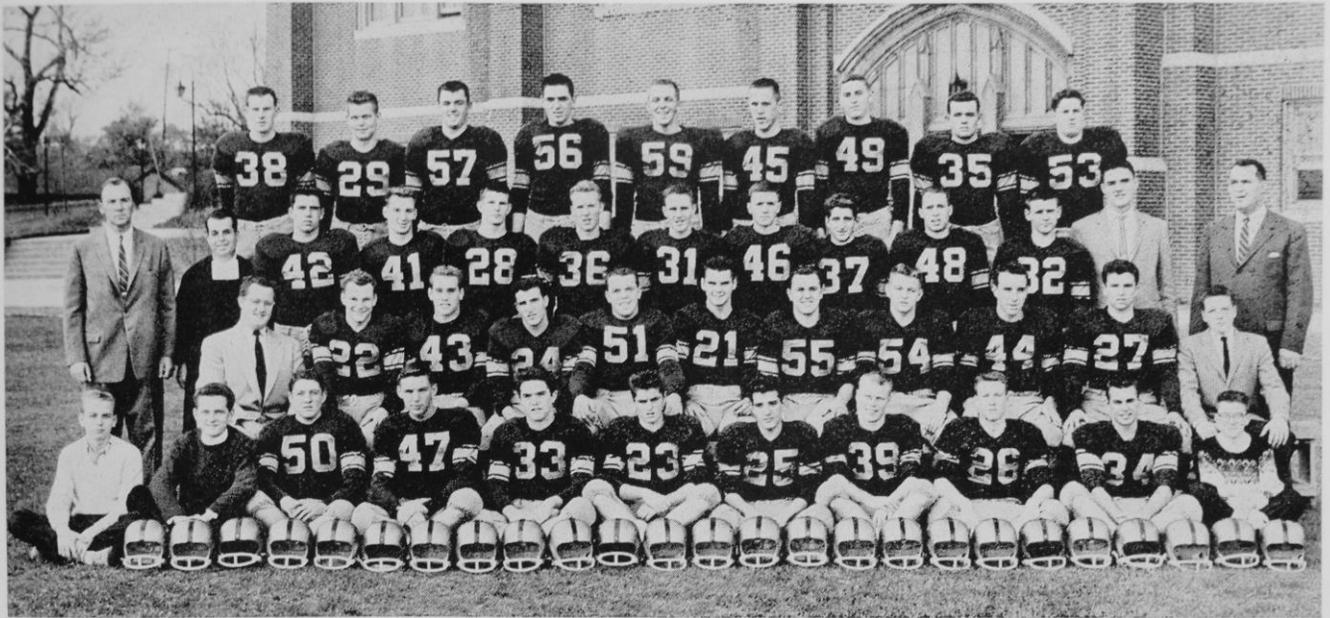
Herrera also received a first team berth on three All-Catholics and the All-Scholastic squad. He received the Daily News Back-of-the-Week honor several weeks ago. This is Herrera's second year on the All-Catholics, being named to all three first teams last season.

Maxwell, standout in last Saturday's City title victory, received the Maxwell Club Award three weeks ago. Scotty, a junior, was named to the second string of three All-Catholic squads.

205 pound center, Bill Clements, was the first team choice of three newspapers for All-Catholic, while John Osborne, a tackle, received first honors from two and second honors from another.

Junior end Bob Smith got a second team nod from three publications, while Tackle Al Backauskas and Paul Aita, Explorer field general, were selected by two for second team.

Ends, Jack Monaghan, Tom Boyle, and Ray Weinmann, tackle Harry Eustace, guard Joe Sharpe, and backs John "Chimper" Gallagher and Gerry Woltemate received honorable mention.



1957 LASALLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM. TOP ROW (l. to r.) C. Cunningham, G. Moser, J. Osborne, W. Clements, H. Eustace, R. Weinmann, R. Smith, F. Heckler, A. Buben. THIRD ROW: J. Harbison, Bro. D. Edward, R. Tragemann, E. Birchler, M. Gallagher, J. Igoe, D. Madden, J. Monaghan, T. McTear, J. Maxwell, T. Monaghan, J. Flannery, Coach. SECOND ROW: J. Marks, Mgr., A. Solecki, T. Yannessa, J. Herrera, J. Gallagher, T. Boyle, A. Backauskas, J. Sharpe, W. McDonald, P. Aita, J. Crowley, Mgr. FRONT ROW: J. Volk, H. Magrisi, Mgrs., H. Lange, B. Dunleavy, R. Stranix, G. Woltemate, H. Guarini, J. McNichol, F. Shaughnessy, S. Cook, J. O'Gara, Mgr.