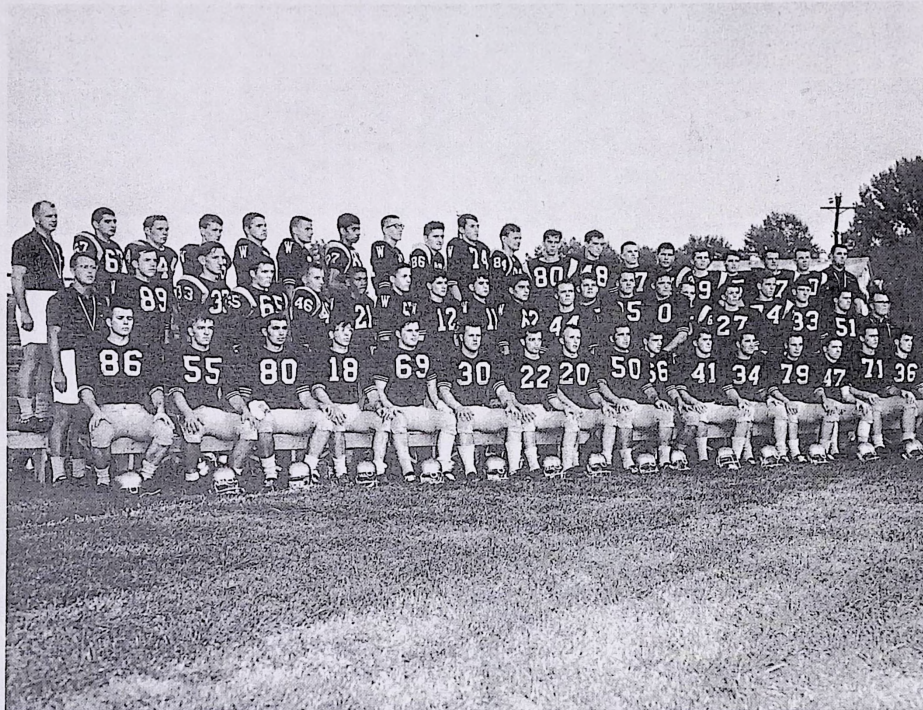
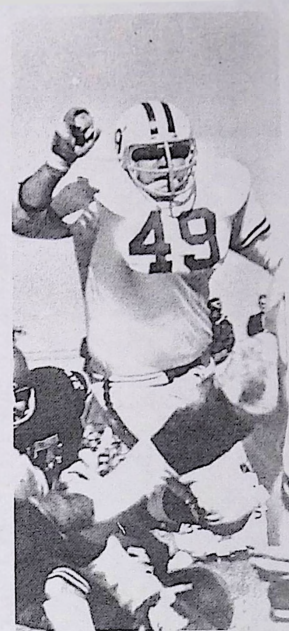


1965



1st Row: Rich Verhanovitz, Brinley Varchol, Bill Schneider, Rich Roshong, Jack Gallager, Paul Purta, Michael Romeo, Bill Stinger, Ralph Hendershot, Joe Roszko, John Jarvella, Ray Lowery, Tom Ambrosi, John Gardner, Pat Sweeney, Roger Beatty. 2nd Row: Head Coach Rollie Schmidt, Paul Merrill, Mick Sawchuk, George Krip, Pete Polashenski, Doug Forde, Charles Morgan, Bill Hinkle, Joe Frappolli, Ange Loverro, Joe Wiendle, Tim Stolt, James Wolfe, Bill Leyden, Henry O'Reilly, Don Malloy, Wayne Bloom-burge, Mike Connelly, Paul Kane, Asst. Coach John Rowlands. 3rd Row: Asst. Coach Jonah Goobic, John Champ, John Donn, Jay Holliday, Bruce Comstock, Bernard Vinovrski, Roland Wroten, Joe Skvrala, Mike Babuschak, Dick Beatty, Don Amenson, Thad Kalmanowicz, Al Yatko, Evan Thomas, Joe Rader, Kevin Miller, Ed Davies, Vic Salidas, Jerry Mullarkey, Asst. Coach Charles Adnizio.



Mr. Schmidt

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Well we have a 65 kids out now.

Mr. Comboy - How does that compare to your 1st yr. at W?

Well a 6 years ago I can't recall exactly but it seems to me we had about 28 30,32 in there somewhere. We didn't have very many.

Well as I recall I think the previous 5 yrs. ^{Pin} Rutkowski was the coach at the time and we had won the most in any one season I think 2 games and a I think there were 2 years we had won 2. And there were a few years maybe 3 years where we won 1. So this was about the level of wins and losses. ~~Yah either 7 or 8 games.~~ I don't think they ever played more than 8 games here. And a he had a difficult time filling the teams up them because of the poor turnout. There were times ~~when~~ that I 'd seen Wilkes play and the time they were playing over at the the Kingston stadium . Were the crowd wouldn't be very large and it was almost a feeling of pity because there would be 11 people playing on the field and maybe ~~there were 4 or 5 substitutes on the bench.~~ You you just knew that there was just a amount of time before a the other team was going to be a successful. No. I don't know what to say. A very poor situation as far as ~~(I'm sorry but the win made it difficult to hear)~~

Mr. Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt

I'm sure we wouldn't be very good with only 14 or 15 youngsters you know. Well a nothing that that a I could recall with a the teams that I had because I always had more depth than Pinky had. we never had a squad with with less than 25 on it. And of course the first couple of years this was about our squad. Anywhere from 25 30, 32, 33 and we were playing one platoon football at the time and as the college rule allowed and those kids had to go both ways offense and defense. Well to get a a real good football team to play 60 minutes of football both ways out of a squad of 25 30 people was very difficult. But we always seemed to lose the games that we did lose in the last half and essentially in the last quarter. Because by then our fellows were getting pretty tired and the people we had to replace them were good kids as a person they did not have all the athletic ability. So when they had to go in and they had to because the others just needed to have a rest and when they did go in trouble. So I was never in a situation where Frank Pinkowski that is he he probably could relate a lot of anecdotes with only a few kids. I can think of one time and I am not positive of this but I think one time he went over to Kingston to play a team and he only had 12 ball players. He went right up into the stands and asked a couple of the kids just to come down and dress in the uniforms so it would look

like they had more and as it turned out I think he had to use two of the kids he asked
do
to come out of the stands ~~just~~ just to go in there and ~~do~~ something and they did go
in. You know it was ~~a~~ it was just one of those things.

Mr. Bomboy - How large was the staff in those days?

Mr. Schmidt - Well a near as I can recall what the history of football coaching here
it always been a one man full time faculty member staff and then a few part time
~~xxxx~~ coaches if they had part time coaches in the area willing to come over and help
out. And ~~unfortunately~~ the school became ~~independent~~ independent and they started a football
program and George Ralston was the coach as he was of almost every other sport.

And he handled the coaching ~~xxx~~ chores by himself for a long time I suppose and then
he and then ^{Russ} West Pickton came along a coached a little bit and a then Pinky came along
and a coached for several years and then I came along. Well at in the early days

I suppose if they had a another ~~k~~ fellow helping out that was a lot. And right after the
war it was different because they had a lot of ~~xxxx~~ veterans that came back and even
then the squads weren't real large in numbers. They were large in quality. So after
that ~~xxxx~~ era passed and a when war babies came along you know and the younger kids
A then the coaching staff had changed a little bit and Pinky started out I think he had
two assistants and at that time Mike ^{Data} was on the faculty and he was the head

~~xxxx~~ baseball coach there. And that was the first time we had I think two full time

faculty members working in the same program and then Pinky had Marvin Antinas,

who was a graduate teaching in the area and he helped out. When I came along I started

out there weren't any other people on the faculty to help out so ~~we~~ we hired two people that

^{who} I knew ~~you~~ were teachers in the area and they were willing to come over ~~there~~ and be

part time coaches. And after a couple of years we ~~h~~ added another one and then our

success started to show some glimmers and ~~he~~ ^{we} had more and more kids turn out. ~~It~~ ^{it}

was just impossible the way football is today to instruct and coach these kids properly

without enough help. So it evolved through the past ~~w~~ several years where it started

with maybe 28 to 30 kids out for the team to where we ~~w~~ are today where we had 66 turn out.

And ~~our~~ our coaching staff has increased now and its still up until this year when we got

another man in the physical education department. It still all parttime coaches and we

have a six man staff. And even with that we feel that we're shortchanged a little bit. Not

that we can't do a job with what we have but a for the sake of running a real strong program

a better program it would be nicer to have more. ~~It~~ ^{if} this is the nature of things. I

suppose if the school gets larger and there are more and more interests in these pro-

curricular activities a we are going to need more people to direct them.

Mr. Bombay - How about the recruiting program?

Well ~~as early as I can recall~~ we ^{didn't} really do an awful lot in ~~in~~ a going out to to meet kids or contact kids. If a kid was in the area we would have the opportunity to ask him over to the school and talk with him and all. And all the scholarship funds that were available were based on need as they are today except for a couple of full tuition scholarships which we're allowed to give out to strong academic students. And of course course the thing is we couldn't offer any of these things to people who weren't academically qualified and Wilkes is a strong academic school as ~~as~~ it should be. And it was very difficult then to attract a youngster with academic ability in the small college situation with several years of a losing background. When up and down the road, the valley, out of town and out of state there were colleges that could offer the same thing with more attractive program perhaps. You see. And I think its one of the basic human emotional needs. A little recognition a little recognition a little success. And I think a lot of youngsters shyed away from getting involved in a program that wasn't showing success. Although we felt we were making progress and we did ~~and we~~ feel that we're coaching the right way. We coach fundamentals and we do a lot more than just worrying about winning a football games. We are trying to help these youngsters become strong adults. You know. Even though we felt we had a good

strong program directed to the individual's best interest we couldn't convince kids of this just out of high school 16, 17, 18, years old and and not nearly mature enough to make wise decisions based on experience because the didn't live long enough. So after the a 3rd year that I was here we had one win and 7 losses and two of the losses were by very large scores and quite demoralizing. The ^u was ~~kind~~ kind of a surge to decide whether or not to maintain football and to keep it. I think underneath it all I think everyone didn't want to drop it they ~~they~~ just wanted to find better ways of improving the program. So they said okay ~~if~~ if we continue the program how would you be able to go out recruiting. So I ~~said~~ told them what I would like to do. I would like to write to all the coaches that I knew and all the coaches that I don't know in areas that historically have sent students to Wilkes College and I ran ~~like~~ a survey program to find out whether the kid is academically qualified first from a guidance counselor or his coach for our school is and then if he was and he was an athlete the I would contact him directly and invite him to the school to spend a weekend with us. So in the winter time maybe a double header basketball wrestling game ~~and~~ put him up in the dorm fed him for that weekend and and just show him around the campus and that was it. ~~but~~ but first we would run a survey to be sure that we weren't

asking a lot of kids ^{who} you were not ^{Academically} athletically qualified because you know
you'd only ^{be giving them a dis-} give him the services. And we also said that just because a kid
is a football player and a scholar but just because he's a football player
doesn't mean that he couldn't get aid. If he need financial help and he
happens to be a football player well what wrong with giving him financial
help. You see. And of course we done this before but we just try to stress
it now. So that was fine. And then we ~~fix~~ went out and spoke to them by
groups and we told them what we would like to do. Told them what our
academic program as like and if they were teaching a ~~fix~~ field or in
business in a particular community to talk to ~~cmx~~ coaches and try to ~~fix~~
x sell Wilkes you know as a good institution and if ^{they} ~~xx~~ go out to see a
high school game and spot a kid find out a little bid about him and let
us know and we contact the kid. And we had a lot of underneath support
so to say in ~~xxx~~ trying to sell a Wilkes College. In addition we were
allowed to give the 2 full tuition scholarships to a strong academic student
high board schores and a and good academic standing in high ^{his} school career
and a good recommendations a boy that participates in a lot of activities
a leader type individual. And then a although we ~~didn't~~ give out very
many of these in the past couple of years 1 or 2 or 3 many kids thought we
were giving out a lot of of financial aid and so were interested in Wilkes

College in that end of things. And when they did come to us we did give them what financial aid they needed you see based on the Parents Confidential Financial Statement report. And everybody just felt that we were handing out football scholarships and there was no any such thing. And then we started publishing pictures in the paper. Two years ago big freshmen class we we attracted to the school they kept seeing everybody elses picture in the paper and they said gee if all these people are coming then I want to come too. So it turned out we got in 35 freshmen that year. 29 of them turned out for football. And we tell them that if they come with us they don't have to come out for football. All they have to do is maintain a 2 point average and stay in school because this is what we are most interested in. A lot of kids took us at our word and did not come out for football the first year and then came out the second year. Some just didn't come out at all but stayed in school and they're doing a fine job. This is fine cause you're attracting a strong student anyway. So what's the difference. If he happens to be a good athlete along with it wonderful. And as it turned out in the last 2 years we've gotten good athletes who are good scholars. As near as I can recall after last year at the 65 season that is I am talking about that would be 2 years ago we only had 2 or 3 academic failures at the end of the year. We ran a survey and

and a checked over grades and a we found out that the football team was carrying a higher academic average as a group than the rest of the student body was carrying. I don't know what it is point one or 2 or 3 or 4 in there somewhere but it was higher. This year at the end of the 66 season the end of this past school year in June of 67 we got a report in the academic failures and we only lost one football player. One academic failure in a squad of about 55. Now this year its up to 66 and we hope that we've attracted strong students again because if they don't stay for for you they are not going to play for you. So why should we spend our time trying to attract a poor student and we don't because it its just the story is too long. So with all these things ~~just~~ count a just find it together at the right moment in history and it worked out well for us.

I think this I think this has some bearing a on on our recruiting program as far as certain student athletes are concerned. Certainly because I am sure parents of strong Catholic background a would might lean more towards sending their children to a Catholic college ~~and~~ then perhaps a non denominational school. Although a but I don't say this is a truism up and down the road because we meet a lot a lot of youngsters with a strong Catholic background who just like our liberal arts program and the way we do things and come with us anyway. But I am sure we've picked up some youngsters

Mr. Schmidt

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that would not have come with us had King's still been running a football program. So I if would say we have to give them some of the credit for dropping their football.

Mr. Bomboy - When did this all come about

Mr. Schmidt - 2 years ago. This was always a farm area a lot to tomatoes and what not.

We finally leased the artillary park area from the State and we use that for our practice field for the varsity games. So we had the opportunity to acquire this land and we did a with the idea of using it for what its being used right now varsity football ~~xx~~ field and a ~~xxxxx~~ varsity soccer field and we felt there was a need for a permanent type bleachers so we had two years ago the original section put in that went from about the 30 to the 30. Then last year we had added another 10 or 20 yards on ~~with~~ either end of the permanent bleachers and this year we've taken them down to the goal line on the West and the 10 yd. line because you go a line cut off here on the East end. Plus over the last couple of years because of our success we have more and more people interested in what we're doing and so we created the press box to accommodate a lot of press, radio, and communications media people. These bleachers were our original bleachers that ~~xx~~ we used in the other park and so we use these for the visitors. I think long range plans include adding more bleachers each year. So they had the dedication of it 2 yrs. ago and decided to call it the Ralston Field in honor of ~~George~~ George because he was the coach of everything you see.

And its a real nice facility.

Mr. Bomboy - How do other teams in our part of the MAC stack up?

all

Mr. Schmidt - We we're ~~xxx~~ pretty similar. There are only one or 2 schools that maybe

have academic standing that are questionable or offer degrees higher ~~xx~~ degrees that

areas

a involve other than the liberal arts background or a science background then that

a perhaps is a little imbalance there. But a most of the schools that we play have

strong academic programs and recruit pretty much the way we do by sending out letters.

We don't travel around the country talking to kids we have no expense account. We don't

t ake ~~kixesxxx~~ them out for dinners. We don't give them gifts or tidbits of any kind

to influence them. We just feel that we like to get them on campus let them see the

atmosphere , the friendliness of the people the varied and strong program we offer on

Schmidt

We feel that we would like to get them on campus, let them see the atmosphere the friendliness of the people, the varied and strong programs we offer on campus, the warmth that exists between instructor student relationship. Everybody get to know everybody pretty quickly here at a small college campus and everyone is interested in everyone else. And I think this is a big help to us. But I think a lot of schools recruit pretty much the way we do. I think their programs are very similar to ours. We feel we have one of the finest athletic facilities right now in the whole MAC and we're very very proud of it. Everything we get for the football program the entire athletic program is budgeted to us by the general school fund. We don't depend on gate receipts to run an athletic program. At this way there is no pressure to win games which in turn will bring in fans which in turn will bring in money which in turn you'll use ~~the~~ to support this program. So if this isn't the case then there isn't any pressure to win ball games to bring in those fans and if this is the case then there isn't any pressure on me. So I can coach like a normal human being and not worry about my job and this is an ideal setup and it ~~is~~ it's a very pleasant set up.

Mr. Bomboy - Alumni pressure

Mr. Schmidt - ~~None~~ ^{None} ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ in my entire five years that I've been here and the 6th that I'm starting

Its wonderful. I've never had any pressure from anyone to win football games. If I had then I would think that that the person or the group pressuring me would not be fully aware of the entire situation. But I haven't had any pressure so I ~~not~~ know they are aware of the situation. I really feel this and its not that a just because I had two years of some success around here the team has because I gone through 3 bad years too. So I've ~~some~~ seen both sides of the fence. But I really believe that we're coaching these kids the right way. A if you'll come out in the field with us you'll you will not hear any foul language you'll no see us shoving kids around and a being sarcastic to them and knocking them down as human beings. We try to get each kid to preform to the best of his potential ability. And we use more praise then we use criticism and if we do critize it is a constructive critisism and the football we teach ~~w~~ are common terms used in football today. We stress fundamentals of run, block, and tackle, and we feel that any youngster who get out of our ~~pg~~ program has a solid foundation of football background which is going to help him in life you know. He's going to face knocks in life too and if he wants to be a teacher and a coach we feel that he can go out and be a real good ~~caach~~ because all he's going to get from us is fundamentals no trickls or fancy things or things that aren't going to be done in football game. So even though we're losing I always felt that we were coaching the right way and I haven't changed my

coaching ideas. We use a few different techniques perhaps but essentially I am coaching the same way ~~that~~ today as I did 5 years ago and I am winning today for the big reason I am using more strength. And I have more strength and have a better athlete. There's no I'm no miracle workers around here it is the youngsters.

Mr. Bomboy - Disadvantage of strong football team

Mr. Schmidt - Well first of all I don't think its a disadvantage to have success. After all you don't you don't take a youngster in a physics class and teach im how to solve
not
it
probelms. You don't teach him to fail do you . You don't get them in any of your courses and theach them to fail. You teach them to work for success and achievement.

This is what we're ~~trying to do at Wilkes~~^{try} doing here. You see. And our academic standards here at Wilkes are excellent and everyone is working to produce ideas and thoughts and whatnot for their students. so they can progress and achieve success.

~~We~~ We're ~~trying to do the same thing~~ doing the same thing here in our football program and we're actually trying to get our athletic program football program call it what you want in a successful vein as the academic program. And anything that ~~they~~ we're doing recruiting ~~&~~ wise any publicity that we have we always stress the academic advantages
every time
of Wilkes College not the athletic advantages. And ~~everything~~ than an alumnus will

~~bring us a~~

will pick up a paper and read about success in in athletics at Wilkes he knows if he has gone through this mill he knows its also a strong academic school. So he's not going to talk about ~~ask~~ one and not the other. I very seldom talk about our athletic progrm with a kids that we recruit. If they wanted to talk about it I'll mention a few things but I stress what they can gain academicallyx If they come to Wilkes.

X There is one disadvantage that I noticed with success and its this scheduling. Teams that always wanted to play us and had us pencilled year in and year out as home coming and parent's day opponents they're running away. Our contracts are running out with some teams and they don't want to play us any more and a we're forced now to go out of our conference and play some games. ~~Alright now~~ Right now some of those conference teams say well if you're getting stronger athletically we can't play anymore. So you're darned if you do and you're darned if you don't. I I don't know what the answer to that is. That is one disadvantage I can see readily. People are not as willing to play us any more. Our schedule is fairly complete for the next several years. I don't anticipate these last couple of yrs. any immediate problems but perhaps future maybe. What what I've done with these youngsters that we had isn't going to be a perenial thing. You have your highs and your lows.

He! This is almost all of it.