Coach David B. (Dave) Stewart

1921 - 1925 - Won 38, Lost 9, Tied 0 Massillon's First State Championship 1922

No Other Town Quite Like It

"I spent the most enjoyable five years of my life there and I am sure there is no other town quite like it and I hope it will always remain that way." That was Dave Stewart talking in an interview about his thoughts on Massillon.

During the' 1920- 21 school year, Dave received his first start in coaching when he served as line coach under Jimmy Marks at Kiski Prep School, Saltsburg, Pa, While there, he also was in charge of Paradise Hall, a dormitory where some 50 football players were quartered. Here he became very well acquainted with Harry Stuhldreher, one of Washington High School's most celebrated players, who prevailed upon him to coach the Tigers.



		ı	Dave Ste	wart - Mas	sillon Recor	·d
				Poi	nts	State
Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Mass.	Орр.	Ranking
1921	5	4	0	104	172	
1922	10	0	0	379	28	1st State - AP
1923	8	2	0	325	72	
1924	8	1	0	320	28	
1925	7	2	0	149	29	
Total	38	9	0	1,277	329	

Winning Percentage 0.809

Dave took over the reins of the Tigers in 1921 succeeding Elmer Snyder who had served here for one year as head coach. After winning five and losing four in 1921, Dave gave the Tigers the Ohio Scholastic championship with ten straight victories in 1922. He followed with three more fine teams before leaving Massillon after the 1925 campaign. Four of Dave's five teams defeated Canton McKinley and the 94-0 win over Akron North in 1922 still stands as the biggest margin in Tiger history.

His 1922 team included among its personnel: Tink Ulrich, Bill Edwards, Dutch Hill, Ted Roth, Ralph Kallcher and Bob Boerner. This team recorded victories over Dayton Steele, Alliance, Cleveland Shaw, Warren, Canton McKinley, Barberton, Cambridge, Youngstown South, Wooster, and Akron North.

Before leaving Massillon, Dave's five teams totaled an aggregate of 38 victories and nine losses. His clubs scored a grand total of 1278 points against the opposition's 323.

At the beckoning of Coach Marks, Dave left Massillon and became head coach at Lock Haven, Pa., High School in 1926 and remained there for two years. He then packed his bags and shifted to Sharon, Pa., in 1928 and remained there as head coach for 20 years, before retiring after the close of the 1947 season.

It was while at Sharon that Dave renewed relationships with the Tigers. His 1934 Sharon club carne to Massillon where he dueled one of his former pupils, Paul E. Brown. Brown had a fine team that year and overcame Sharon, 27-0.

In 1937, Dave coached Sharon to the Pennsylvania state title with an undefeated season and then invited the Tigers to come to Sharon for the 1938 season.

This contest developed into one of the all time best road games that the Tigers have participated in, in the past 30 years. Both clubs entered the game undefeated, Sharon with 18 straight wins and the Tigers with only one loss in the prior three seasons. Fortunately for Massillon, Brown had the "horses" to cope with the situation. Powered by Captain Vince Snyder, Horace Gillom, and George Slusser, Massillon took this hair-miser 37-20.

After a twelve year retirement from the coaching wars, Dave returned to the active ranks in 1959 as assistant coach at Sharon. He played his high school football at Parnassus, Pa., (now part of New Kensington) in 1912-3-4-5, and then attended Grove City, Pa., College where he played on the grid team for four years before his graduation in 1920.

His contributions to the Tiger Football Tradition will not be forgotten.

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Football coaches enjoy winning, but equal satisfaction comes in following the success in later life of players they coached.

David B. Stewart, who died Monday and whose funeral is being held today in Sharon, Pa., where he coached high school football for many years, before his retirement in 1962 coached two athletes whose names are among the most famous in football -- Paul Brown, the boss of the Cincinnati Bengals and one of the most prominent persons in the National Football League, and the late Harry Stuhldreher, one of the immortal Four Horsemen of Notre Dame, who quarterbacked the Irish for three years and won All American honors. He coached the University of Wisconsin in the Big Ten for a number of years and was an assistant to the vice president of the United States Steel Corp. at the time of his death.

Stewart coached Stuhldreher at Klskl Prep School and the latter recommended him to the Massillon Board of Education when Washington High School was seeking a new coach in 1921. Stewart got the job, and one of his prize pupils was Paul Brown. They have been close friends ever since. In fact had it not been for Dave, Brown might have studied law, a profession his father wanted him to follow. But Dave tolerated Brown's 120 pounds, and you know the rest of the story.

Stewart turned Tiger football around after a dismal 1920 season and did it alone, so to speak. There were no hired assistants in those days, but there were volunteers who helped with the coaching and Dave had some good ones. In his second year here (1922) he turned out an undefeated team that claimed the state championship and the 1923-24-25 seasons were almost as exciting. Many of his players went on to stardom in college. Bill Edwards, for instance, who retired a few years ago as athletic director of the University of Wittenberg won National Small College Coach of the Year honors at Wittenberg.

While Stewart left Massillon in 1926 to coach in Pennsylvania, he maintained close ties with many friends in the city and visited here on many occasions. He was almost always present for the Massillon-Canton McKinley game, and one of the treasured moments of his life was a night in 1972 when his 1922 team held a 50th anniversary dinner at the Massillon Club.

While in Massillon Dave, you might say, laid the groundwork for modern high school football, and was greatly influential in the promotion of it. If the rules of the Ohio' High School Football Coaches Association permit it (the organization had not been born when Stewart coached here), we think Stewart should be enshrined in the association's Hall of Fame.