

LATROBE, PA.: CRADLE OF PRO FOOTBALL

By Robert B. Van Atta

John Kinport Brallier, who was to become nationally acknowledged as one of the first professional football players, was born at Cherry Tree, Pa., north of Indiana, Pa., Dec. 27, 1876, the son of Dr. Emanuel Brallier, a physician, and his wife, Lucy M. Kinport Brallier. His grandparents were from Alsace-Lorraine in Europe, accounting for the French-sounding name.

As a boy, Brallier remembered having worked in a glass factory. His first recollection of football was in 1890, at the age of 13, when he played for the West Indiana Public School team. By 1892, he was captain and right halfback on the high school team as a sophomore, just before his 16th birthday.

The year of 1893 saw the youthful athlete, while still attending the public high school, also "matriculating at Indiana Normal so I could play on the team." The team won three of four games played that year, and among Brallier's teammates was left guard Alex Stewart, future father of movie star Jimmy Stewart.

Brallier quarterbacked the Normal team in both 1893 and 1894. His second year on the team found it winning only two of five games, but against much tougher opposition provided by college teams and teams of former college players. The fourth game that year was a 28-0 loss to Washington and Jefferson, but Brallier's outstanding play was to have a major effect on his future.

E. Gard Edwards, coach of the Wash-Jeff team, wrote from Pittsburgh to John Brallier, Dec. 5, 1894: "Your work at quarter in the W&J-Indiana game was very much commended by the onlookers. We want such a man next year, and if you have any idea of going to college, even for a short time, it will be in your interest to let me know at once, so I can go to Indiana to see you."

Further correspondence followed through the winter between Brallier and W&J team manager H. Wilson Boyd. The result was that Brallier agreed to go to W&J "if all expenses are paid for the entire year." The young football star graduated from Indiana Public School that spring and was awaiting the start of college when something happened 30 miles away at Latrobe that was to affect his career and the rest of his life.

Football at Latrobe

Prior to 1895, the only football played at Latrobe was by pickup teams formed by boys home from school and by former college players in the area. But that year, the Latrobe YMCA decided to organize a team and play a formal schedule.

Russell Aukerman, "Y" physical instructor and a former Gettysburg College halfback, was named coach. David J. Berry, promotionally minded young editor-publisher of the Latrobe Clipper, was chosen team manager.

At that time, many western Pennsylvania colleges, normal and preparatory schools had teams, as did amateur organizations such as Allegheny Athletic Association, Pittsburgh

Athletic Club, Altoona Athletic Club, similar associations at Greensburg and Jeannette, and the new Latrobe YMCA.

Player-coach Aukerman and his athletes began daily practice in early August. Men working different mill shifts were accommodated with evening drills when they could not attend regular sessions in the afternoon, on a street light-illuminated vacant Punnsylvania Railroad lot at the corner of Depot and Alexandria Streets. Harry Ryan, beginning a long and distinguished career with the team, was elected captain.

Quarterback Eddie Blair, a University of Pennsylvania student, also played baseball for Greensburg. Several days before the first scheduled football game, he discovered it conflicted with a prior baseball commitment.

Berry had heard of Indiana Normal quarterback John Brallier, so he contacted the youth at his Indiana home and offered him expenses to play for Latrobe. Brallier was not particularly anxious to get involved, anticipating his entrance into Washington & Jefferson in a few weeks. Finally, Berry offered \$10 a game plus expenses, also promising several other games, a tempting sum to an 18-year-old entering college. Although the family was in satisfactory circumstances, John's father had died in 1889 and the lad was conscious of his widowed mother's task with five children.

The young quarterback arrived in Latrobe the night before the game and practiced with the team under a street light. He later said that on his arrival at Latrobe, "it was a thrill seeing my first paved street." Before the game, Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 3, a parade formed on the paved street, the newly finished Ligonier Street between Main and Depot Streets. Led by Billy Showalter's Cornet Band, the Latrobe and Jeannette teams followed in full uniforms.

This included shin guards, only an occasional headgear (as they were called), several nose guards, and an occasional shoulder or elbow pad. In those days, the beginning of football season was heralded by the players of that sport staying away from haircuts until the season was over, longer hair serving as protection.

The Latrobe team colors of Orange and Maroon (which changed several times during the next decade) were displayed in store windows, hotels, and on street corner poles. Stores closed and steel mines and coal and coke works declared a half-holiday as the occasion stimulated great enthusiasm on the part of the townspeople.

An account of that historic game, probably from the Latrobe Clipper newspaper, tells of the game in an exaggerated and partisan style of the times.

"The first game of football of the season was played here on the Y.M.C.A. grounds Tuesday, September 3rd, at 4 p.m., and proved a hallowed victory for the home team. Promptly at 4 o'clock both teams gathered at the corner of Ligonier and Main Streets, and headed by the peerless Latrobe Cornet Band, the parade proceeded on its way to the ball park.

"After a little preliminary practice Captains Aukerman and Lewis tossed the coin for the first choice of goal. Lewis, winning the toss, chose the west goal. Referee Howard's whistle blew, and the game was on.

“Little Brallier kicked the ball far down in the southwest corner of the field, where it was advanced only a few yards. After a few futile attempts to break through our line, Latrobe got possession of the ball on a fumble, and after a few small gains around the ends, bucking the line was resorted to, with much success, for after a few rushes through their tackles, the ball was forced over the line for a touchdown, just 7 minutes after play began. The ball was then brought out to the 15-yard line, and Little Brallier kicked the goal beautifully, making the score 6 to 0 in favor of Latrobe.

“The ball was then brought back to the center of the field. McConneghy kicked it to the 25-yard line, where Ryan caught it, and after running with it 5 yards was tackled and lost the ball by a fumble. Jeannette failed to advance the ball 5 yards on three consecutive downs, the ball thereby going to Latrobe on the 30-yard line.

“It was here that Latrobe showed her superior strength over Jeannette, by plowing through their lines for gains, they being utterly unable to stop the terrific rushes of our boys. This was continued until the ball was on the 50-yard line, when the signal was given for the ball to be carried around the end. On the first attempt, Aukerman, with good interference from Howard, Brown, and Little Brallier, gained about 10 yards. The ball was next passed to Howard and shoved through the centre for a good gain. When the next signal was given for the ball to be carried between their left tackle and left end, Ryan and Story worked Jeannette’s men for a good opening and through magnificent interference, the ball was carried through the line by Aukerman, and was not stopped until the ball was touched down behind the goal posts. It was a beautiful run of about 35 yards, and was one of the features of the game.

“The ball was again brought out to the 15-yard line, when Little Brallier again kicked the ball squarely between the goal posts, making the score 12-0 in favor of Latrobe. The crowd was now wild, and maroon and orange was waving everywhere, men, women and children were yelling frantically, and football was surely endeared into the hearts of the people of Latrobe.

“The ball was again brought to the centre of the field, when but 1 and two-thirds minutes remained to play in. The ball was in Jeannette’s territory when the referee’s whistle blew, and the first half of the game was finished. Score at the end of the first half, Latrobe 12, Jeannette 0. After an intermission of ten minutes, the second half was begun, Jeannette having the ball.

“The ball was played up and down the field, principally on Jeannette’s territory, and it became evident to the spectators that Latrobe could have run up the score to higher figures, but they were simply playing to keep Jeannette from scoring and after playing back and forward, the ball changing hands several times without any specially interesting features, until the last minute of the game, when Crookston, of Jeannette, took the ball around Latrobe’s left end for a twenty-yard run, where he was tackled by Howard. Time was called.

“Score: Latrobe 12, Jeannette 0

“Touchdowns: Aukerman 2

“Goals kicked: Brallier 2”

The clubs lined up as follows:

LATROBE		JEANNETTE
Flickinger.....	C.....	Seybold
Lafferty.....	RG.....	Burheim
Brown.....	LG.....	Yeager
Ryan.....	RT.....	Reynolds
C.Saxman.....	LT.....	Eisenhart
Story.....	RE.....	Heintzelman
Jacoby, Cooper.....	LE.....	Crookston, Long
Brallier.....	QB.....	Flowers
Hargrave, Rock.....	RHB.....	Long, Lewis
Aukerman.....	LHB.....	Householder
Howard.....	FB.....	McConneghy

Referee, Howard; Umpire, Powell; Linesmen, Aertsen, Eberhart.

After that classic contest, Brallier played with the Latrobe squad in the Altoona game, Sept. 14, despite the apprehension of the W&J team manager who three days earlier wired him, "When are you coming? Want you at once – badly. Wire."

Brallier promptly won the varsity quarterback position at W&J, and first played for the Prexies Sept. 28 against Denison University. A newspaper account of the game, won by W&J, 32-0, stated that "Brallier, the little quarterback, is already a prime favorite. Besides handling the ball well, he is a 'squirmer' of no mean merit, and keeps in the push all the time, making excellent tackles." Another newspaper said that "W&J have a little wonder in quarterback Brallier." Brallier kicked three goals after touchdown, and was awarded a fine rocking chair by a Washington furniture store as the game's best all-around player.

The '95 W&J won six games, tied Penn State, and lost only to the Pittsburgh Athletic Club, composed of former college stars. After the W&J campaign, Brallier returned to Latrobe to play another game, against Greensburg Athletic Association, Nov. 30, a 4-0 loss in which he was injured late in the game.

That 1895 Latrobe YMCA team played 11 games, losing four – two to Greensburg, with single losses to Altoona and West Virginia University.

The 1896 Season

Before the 1896 season rolled around, Brallier had nine different offers from schools, colleges, and athletic clubs to play football for them. Both W&J and Latrobe wanted him to return, and his services also were sought by West Virginia University, Grove City College, Kiski Prep, Indiana Normal, Johnstown AC, Allegheny Athletic Association, and Pittsburgh AC, the latter two teams composed of ex-college players employed in Pittsburgh.

He accepted the West Virginia University offer, since he wanted to continue his education and the "inducements were better than other schools could offer." Later, he recorded that "unfortunately, the football management got into financial difficulties and could not take care of their men as promised." Brallier and two other players left after

four games, one with Geneva and three with Lafayette, had been played. Brallier had captained the team and "Doggie" Trenchard of Princeton All-American fame was coach.

The series with then eastern power Lafayette was unusual since three games were played on successive days at Fairmont, Parkersburg, and Wheeling. Lafayette won all three, taking a heavy physical toll of the losers in the process. After that series, Brallier accepted a Latrobe Athletic Club offer to serve as quarterback and coach.

Many of the players were those who had performed for the YMCA the year before. The team began the 1896 season with a 54-6 win over the visiting Pittsburgh Imperials in a muddy exhibition. Then Latrobe AC excited the local fans with a 12-0 win over Altoona in the official opener, which caused one Pittsburgh newspaper to report that "Latrobe played fast and clean football, and will make the crack clubs of western Pennsylvania hustle." News accounts of the game also noted that the Latrobe Cornet Band displayed new uniforms.

With Brallier back in the lineup, the Latrobe gridgers won a big victory over Western University of Pennsylvania (soon to be renamed University of Pittsburgh). Some interesting aspects of the game are related in this newspaper account:

"Latrobe won a big victory today, and the town is wild with excitement as a result. The W.U.P. eleven came out today at noon and struck terror to our men by their size and appearance, but they went down like 'grass' before our 'farmers,' as the Pittsburgh boys called them.

"Latrobe people have awakened to the fact that the local football team can play the game, and an association has been organized and there will be plenty of money to back the boys. The team came on the gridiron and the game started. There had not been more than 10 minutes' play when the ball was passed to Saxman, who fumbled, and McDyer got the ball and a 45-yard run. The W.U.P. boys had claimed a forward pass, but the referee decided in Latrobe's favor. Captain Hoskins refused to play the game...unless the ball would remain where it was downed.

"After a delay for one hour and fifteen minutes, the ball was put in play where McDyer had been downed with it."

A 38-0 win over Indiana Normal gave the second team a chance to play, before the season's first loss to Greensburg, 10-4. The first few sentences of one extensive news account give some insight into the partisanship that was the fashion of the times:

"Latrobe gave Greensburg the toughest tussle here today that they have had or are likely to have again this season. The day was a fine one, and there were about 2,000 persons at the game. Lots of betting was done, and they were large stakes, too. Most of it was bet that Latrobe would not score... Greensburg got the game and Latrobe got the cash.

"The playing of Latrobe was excellent. Not once did they slug or make a foul tackle, but Greensburg's side of the game is very questionable as to fair play."

A 23-yard kicked "goal from field" by Ed Abbaticchio gave Latrobe a 5-0 win over West Virginia University before the Mountaineers gained a 4-0 return game verdict, an

amusing highlight of which was reflected in this newspaper excerpt. "Only once was there trouble which was serious. Trenchard (of WVU) bit a large piece out of Flickinger's finger, and Osborne (WVU) slugged umpire Howard in his left eye, but nobody said anything, and everything went on merrily."

The season was completed with a 29-0 win over Indiana State Normal and a 10-0 loss to Greensburg. Afterward, Brallier received an offer from a hotel proprietor who managed Punxsutawney's team to assemble some football talent to play for Punxsy in a deciding third game with rival DuBois.

After a fun-filled week of practice and occupancy of the hotel's third floor, the game at DuBois lasted only 12 minutes before a riot ended play with Punxsy leading, 12-0. Both teams had outsiders with Ryan, Abbaticchio and others joining Brallier. The donnybrook came when the officials disallowed a DuBois score, although Punxsy captain Fiscus (probably the Greensburg star) offered to start the game anew with no score. Speculation was that the riot gave DuBois a chance to escape what may have been a rather sound drubbing in a game on which great amounts of money had been wagered.

All Pros

The Latrobe team went all-professional in 1897, signing a number of college players from the east coast and as far west as Iowa. Walter Okeson, Lehigh All-American end who later headed the Eastern Intercollegiate Football Officials and the NCAA Collegiate Rules Committee, was signed as coach.

A relatively easy 28-0 win over Jeannette was followed by a 58-0 trouncing of the Pittsburgh Emerald team. At that point, the Latrobe team was reinforced by George Shelafo of Carlisle Indian School. A star against Penn and Yale the year before, Shelafo had just about completed arrangements to play for the University of Chicago before he was lured to Latrobe by manager Berry.

After a scoreless tie with Altoona, Shelafo's 35-yard touchdown run highlighted a 22-0 conquest of Pittsburgh College. Then Altoona came to Latrobe for a return match, and "the revolving wedge and the criss cross were played to our advantage every time" as Latrobe scored a surprising 36-0 triumph. Jack Gass scored on 60- and 90-yard runs, and the losers' star was 1895 Latrobe coach Aukerman.

The enthusiasm in the community for football is reflected in a newspaper account of the next game, which began:

"Amid the flashes of red fire and the tremendous cheers of 500 people together with the notes of the horns and drums and such things as would enliven the occasion, the Latrobe football team was welcomed home last Saturday night after a glorious victory over Youngstown (Ohio).

"Immediately upon the arrival of the train, the deafening noise began and lasted long into the night. The mob paraded the principal streets of the town for over two hours, fairly making the night hideous for those citizens who oppose the game. Even some of them were along and were as much interested as the old enthusiasts...

“Victory is ours, and once more we make Youngstown drink the bitter cup of defeat, dragging their football boys to dire disaster. We bested Youngstown at Mahoning Park, 14-4...their first defeat on their home grounds...”

The next victim was Western University of Pennsylvania, a 30-0 loser. One newspaper description of a Latrobe drive narrated, “The home team, by clever center rushes and small end gains, passed Howard the leather, and he made a 25-yard run around left end with fine interference by Gass before Saxman was pushed over the line for the first touchdown...”

When Howard made a 60-yard touchdown run, a tense situation resulted. As described in a news story, “Abbatichio and Wood interfered well for Howard. Freddie Anderson (of WUP) would have gone home in a rough box had it not been for the policemen. He had tackled Wood and proceeded to knee him when the rougher element among the spectators started to make things interesting for him.”

After this game, WUP coach “Doggie” Trenchard and Dr. Edward Blair, the '95 Penn halfback back in Latrobe to practice medicine, joined the squad. But in the next game, against powerful Duquesne Country and Athletic Club at Exposition Park in Pittsburgh, fumbles helped cause a 12-6 Latrobe loss. “Brallier, at quarter, put up a good defensive game,” a news clipping said.

Spirits soared the following weeks as Latrobe not only won, but savored the victory of bitter rival Greensburg over Duquesne in the battle for western Pennsylvania honors. As one newspaper described:

“It was a red letter day for Westmoreland County. The cheers that started at Greensburg reechoed through the streets of Latrobe and shook the chestnuts from the trees on the top of Laurel Ridge. Never in the history of the county was so great a glory brought to her in one day as her football champions won for her yesterday in the laying low in the brawn and muscle that has for lo these many years been the pride of Allegheny County. Greensburg’s victory over Duquesne was great, but the slaughter of the Pittsburgh Athletic Club Braves by the doughty champions from Latrobe capped the climax and bathed the Ligonier Valley in one great flood of red light last night.

“Seven times did the Latrobe backs cross the P.A.C. goal lines; seven times did Abbatichio with unerring aim send the pigskin between the goal posts...and the clever fullback topped off his day’s work with a place kick for goal from the 18-yard line, and the red and white which had been floating so proudly a few moments before was dragged from the field in a cloud of dust, buried beneath the overwhelming weight of a 47-0 score. It was the worst defeat the P.A.C. team ever suffered. It was the greatest victory that Latrobe ever won.”

Actually, a number of PAC stars missed the game because of injuries, and even the Latrobe newspaper admitted that Latrobe took advantage of officiating laxity, noting that “Latrobe’s interference was foul in almost every run, and time after time the Latrobe ends jumped in and held the PAC backs.”

The championship of western Pennsylvania was expected to be a battle between Duquesne C&AC and Pittsburgh AC. But both Greensburg and Youngstown defeated

Duquesne. Then, Latrobe bested the Ohioans a second time, 19-0, to place the locals in the forefront with Greensburg.

Then came Nov. 20, and “fully 5,000 people were on the grounds at 3:10” when the players came onto the field at Greensburg. The home team kicked off and “the ball bounded merrily into the creek, where half a dozen long-haired fellows followed it head first. Okeson waded out with the ball and a smile of heavenly forgiveness. It was Latrobe’s ball.”

Shortly before the end of the first half, “Barclay oozed through left tackle and scored a touchdown. Donohoe kicked goal.” Greensburg led, 6-0. Soon after the second half started, “like a flash, Gass shot through left tackle” from the Greensburg 12, Abbaticchio kicked goal, and Latrobe had tied the game.

After a late defensive stand inspired by manager Berry’s emotional plea, “Hold for the sake of old Latrobe,” the tide turned. A Latrobe punt was touched by a Greensburg player and grabbed by end Okeson who dashed between the goal posts for the winning touchdown. And Latrobe townspeople celebrated the result of “one of the greatest games ever played in western Pennsylvania.”

After Latrobe whipped West Virginia University, 16-0, the two county rivals played a return match. Disputes over officials, players, and the game arrangements preceded a 6-0 loss to Greensburg which ended the season on a sour and argumentative note for Latrobe partisans.

Some solace was salvaged when a Pittsburgh expert picked an all-western Pennsylvania team from among amateur, pro, and college teams, and three of the 11 players were from Latrobe – end Okeson, tackle Ryan, and fullback Abbaticchio.

Brallier entered the U.S. Army, May 11, 1898, and although he was not mustered out until November, he was stationed in the area for football season. He signed a contract to play for Latrobe, if available, for \$150 and expenses for the season. He played three games, then left in mid-October to join the Pittsburgh Athletic Club at an increase in salary. After the Pittsburgh team’s season was over he rejoined Latrobe for a final game with Greensburg.

The Latrobe team won its first seven games, including two from Greensburg, before losing the last three to Duquesne C&AC, Pittsburgh AC, and Greensburg. The coach of the 1898 team, Al E. Bull, who coached the University of Iowa team the year before, played quarterback in Brallier’s absence.

Another 1898 addition was the famous strong man, Charles Lloyd Barney of Des Moines, Iowa. Barney, who played the season before at Ohio Wesleyan, appeared at expositions lifting horses, breaking chains, and performing other feats of strength.

In the first game with Greensburg, the main controversy arose from the presence of four W&J players who came to play for Greensburg, but Latrobe manager Berry’s protest against their playing was upheld. A lengthy poem written about the game was published in the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph, the last stanza of which read:

“Gay Latrobe’s bold pigskin chasers

“Now are owners of the town,
“And upon his head each hero
“Wears the victor’s laurel crown.
“They have shown to all Westmoreland
“That they’re skilled in football tricks,
“For the Greensburgs drew a cipher
“While Latrobers tallied six.”

The second game with Greensburg in 1898 was played in a driving rain at Latrobe. The county seaters scored first when Barclay scooped up a Latrobe fumble and “after a nice run of 35 yards planted the ball behind Latrobe’s goal posts.” However, the goal kick hit the crossbar and rebounded onto the field, holding the score to 5-0.

Later in the game, Greensburg had moved to Latrobe’s 15-yard line and the “play was fast and furious. The deep inhalations of the players could be heard all over the grounds. It was a death struggle for Latrobe. The ball went to Barclay and the crash came. After the swaying pile had topple over, Lang (Latrobe) emerged with the ball from the tangled mass and sped away up the field making a 95-yard run for a touchdown.” Greensburg protested that the play was over, to no avail. When Abbatichio kicked the goal after, “the wild enthusiasm of the moment before paled into insignificance before the demoniacal demonstration, the wildest orgies of howling dervishes.”

As some indication of gate receipts from such games, there were 2,200 paid admissions at the wet game, Greensburg getting \$447 on a percentage guarantee, and Latrobe over \$900.

A social note reported that E.J. Toole, a football enthusiast, and manager Showalter invited the team to the opera house show. The stage was decorated in, and the ladies of the company wore, the then team colors of red and blue. The team sang a college song during the evening.

Reserved seats and carriage space for the next game were on sale at W.A. Showalter and Co., but the season ended on a dismal note with three losses, including a 6-0 finale to Greensburg. The football team then went by railroad on a hunting trip to Ligonier and planned a minstrel show.

Medico-Chi

In the fall of 1899, John Brallier received a “flattering offer from the University of Pennsylvania to play quarterback.” He recalled that “on arriving in Philadelphia, they decided I had played so much professional ball that their amateur standing would be at stake.” Pennsylvania was trying quite hard to get Harvard on their schedule, and Harvard had refused on the grounds that some of Pennsylvania’s players were not of amateur standing.

He toured the city’s dental schools and decided to attend Medico-Chirurgical College, from where his older brother had graduated the year before. Medico-Chi, as it was called, later became part of the University of Pennsylvania, ironically. John Brallier planned to give up football for his studies, but pressure from the football coach and squad members fixed that.

Brallier was elected captain and quarterbacked the school's undefeated team which wound up gloriously with a win over rival Jefferson Medical College. A news account reported that "a grand run of 90 yards by Captain Brallier just three minutes before time was up saved the day for Medico-Chi." His run was a kick return to the Jefferson 5-yard line with his team behind, 6-5, after which Medico-Chi scored the winning touchdown on a last down plunge.

Before leaving for school that fall, Brallier helped coach the Indiana Normal team and turned down a Latrobe offer. The Latrobe team played only four games as an amateur team that fall of 1899, outscoring the opposition by 104-2 in total.

The 1899 opening game in drizzling rain found the Latrobe squad defeating Duquesne Country and Athletic Club, 12-0, highlighted by "Drakes" Dravo's 90-yard run, part of which was through a "lakelet."

On Thanksgiving Day, the final game was a lopsided 35-0 triumph over Indiana Normal. A newspaper report told that "the leading features of the day were runs made by Howard, McDyer, and Abbaticchio, assisted by magnificent interference. McDyer proved himself a star notwithstanding the fact that he had two smashed fingers to watch during the play. Captain Ryan and Marcus Saxman proved irresistible."

During the summers of 1899 and 1900, John Brallier worked with the surveying corps of Lackawanna Iron & Steel Company. In 1900, he helped lay out the town of Wehrum, south of Vintondale in Cambria County.

Before the 1900 season, Brallier had "a very flattering offer from the University of Maryland to take up the coaching position." He refused it, stating "I was well situated and did not want to make any more changes as it interfered with my school work too much." At this point in his life, Brallier was almost 24 years old.

Returning to Medico-Chi, he captained another undefeated team in its regular schedule. In one game against Hahnemann Medical College, Brallier excelled, making a touchdown-saving tackle mentioned in the newspapers. For the big game against Jefferson Medical College, extra police were on hand to preserve order as Brallier's 11 won the Philadelphia "medical" championship, 18-5. The team lost to Villanova College and Athens (Pa.) Athletic Club in post-season games.

The Latrobe football situation picked up with new grounds used that year for the first time. Hopes were high, according to one Pittsburgh newspaper, which said in part, "Far out in the heart of Westmoreland County, there is at present under way one of the greatest football revivals ever experienced...[T]he crack 11 chosen to defend Latrobe's colors opens the season backed by an army of the most enthusiastic supporters that ever rooted for a football team...After a year in the football background, Latrobe comes to the front with a roar heard everywhere on the rugby map."

The new playing coach was Russell Knight, a halfback star at top eastern power Lafayette College the past two years. Players were recruited from all over the east. The season started auspiciously with a decisive victory over a Pittsburgh team composed of former East End Athletic Club performers, and a lopsided conquest of Indiana Normal School featured by Knight's 70- and 90-yard runs.

“Rain put about an inch of mud on Latrobe’s byways” and dampened rampant enthusiasm as the team lost, 12-0, to Duquesne C&AC. But “it was football worth the money...and notwithstanding the steady rain...the attendance was large, every inch of carriage space being taken.”

A set of newspaper headlines best explains the return of fan adulation after the next game. They read, “A FIERCE FOOTBALL FEAT – THE MIGHTY GREENSBURG ELEVEN DOWNED BY LATROBE’S SKILLFUL TEAM. The Score was 6-0 – We Own The Town And All Pertaining Thereto – The Latrobe Eleven’s Homecoming An Event To Be Remembered.”

“Guards Back”

The “guards back” formation was acclaimed as the successful game strategy, but the celebration accounted for much news coverage. A part of one account related, “...the town was wild and the din terrific. It started when the news of the great victory was phoned down and it grew every minute until the climax was reached at 10 o’clock when the team came home. Billy Showalter had the brass band out and two thousand people packed the streets. Town was ablaze with red fire and Roman candles and the din was incessant and awful. Five hundred tin horns kept up a crash while a skillet brigade created a new and strange noise...[T]he Parker House was the objective point, with a flame of red fire issuing from the balcony...”

Perhaps the most colorful Latrobe player was Charles L. Barney, who at this juncture in the 1900 season “gave a most interesting exhibition of posing and lifting at the opera house... [H]is feat of lifting the piano and holding it while a man played was wonderful.”

After an 11-0 loss to Homestead Steel’s all-stars, community enthusiasm was again renewed by a 5-0 win over Duquesne Country & Athletic Club at Exposition Park, Pittsburgh. A special train from Latrobe and Greensburg took about 300 to the game, won on a 23-yard goal kicked from field by Abbaticchio. It was marred by a broken leg suffered by coach-halfback Russell Knight, the first serious injury in five years and of concern because of the following Saturday’s game against Greensburg.

One Pittsburgh newspaper reported that “bitter woe” prevailed in the Duquesne Club camp at “the sting of defeat at the hands of coke-eaters from the wld’s of faroff Latrobe.” It was Duquesne’s second loss in three years.

Despite Knight’s injury and some illnesses, the second Greensburg game, in a sea of mud at Latrobe, resulted in an 11-0 Latrobe victory. A 12-yard field goal, a touchdown plunge, and a goal after touchdown were all credited to Abbaticchio.

As it turned out, that was just about the end of professional football for Greensburg, and the last game played between these rivals as Latrobe developed new rivalries that never quite replaced the neighborhood battles.

[Editor’s Note: A third Latrobe-Greensburg game was scheduled for Thanksgiving Day. However, Manager Berry preferred to play the undefeated Homestead team instead. He was forced to pay Greensburg \$400 for cancelling the third meeting. His gamble failed

to pay off when Homestead continued their winning ways on Thanksgiving, besting Latrobe 12-0.]

Brallier returned to Medico-Chi for his third and final year of dental studies in the fall of 1901. Despite graduation losses (for the third year) Brallier's team lost only one game. That defeat by Dickinson College was avenged in a return match.

News accounts of the Medico-Chi games frequently cited Brallier's tackling, goal kicking, or all-around good play. He also played at both defense (guard) and forward for the Medico-Chi basketball team.

The 1901 Latrobe season was another low profile year, the team playing only three games. But the stage was set for a later resurgence with development of some squad members. The team lost, 12-0, to Derry and won two games over teams picked up from men working at Latrobe Steel.

A football parody of a popular song of the day, around the turn of the century in Latrobe, went:

"After the (foot)ball is over,
"After the field is clear,
"Straighten my nose and shoulder
"And help me find my ear."

The fortunes of Brallier and Latrobe football were reunited in 1902, following his graduation from dental school. The new Dr. Brallier opened his office at Latrobe Sept. 1 after declining an offer to become an assistant to a prominent London (England) dentist. He also turned down pro football offers from Franklin and Oil City in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Return to Latrobe

Brallier rejoined the Latrobe football team as player-coach for 1902. The team played only four games that fall. Scoreless ties with Indiana Normal and Wilksburg Sterling AC were followed by a 22-2 triumph over the Indiana First Regiment team, in which brother faced brother, John's brother playing right tackle for the Indians.

In the season finale, Latrobe bested the Steel Works aggregation, 17-0. Most of coach Brallier's players were younger lads in the 17- to 18-year-old bracket, "willing and anxious to learn," who drilled long hours in fundamentals, even after dark under street lights. Coach Brallier correctly, as it turned out, anticipated what was reflected in street conversation, "wait until next year."

For 1903, a YMCA was organized under Latrobe Steel leadership, and its members included the boys of the 1902 team. A football organization was formed with Brallier, who declined another offer from Franklin, as coach and Ryan as captain. A fence was built around the Latrobe Steel athletic grounds with money subscribed by merchants, and new uniforms were ordered. Further experience was added when several former players of the '90s rejoined the team.

The season began with a 28-0 conquest of Hose Company No. Four team at Jeannette, a newspaper report noting that "the game was an interesting one to watch, being filled with many ludicrous features, the chief of which was the losing of Don Miller in an old stump hole." A 46-0 walloping of Johnstown Capital Club followed in the home opener, in which coach Brallier's 55-yarder was the longest run.

In the third game, "a streak of red and green topped off by a tangle of light waving hair, darting through a mass of beef and fat and a thousand yelling...saw Sal Brallier, Latrobe's indomitable little quarterback, lying on a football back of the goal line with the touchdown that was to cause victory to perch on Latrobe's banner in the great game of football with the heavy East End AA's." He ran 40 yards for the score, then kicked a goal for a 6-5 squeaker.

After Pittsburgh College and Altoona reneged on scheduled games, Latrobe coasted to a 39-0 triumph over Irwin and avalanched Indiana Normal 54-0. Irwin brought just 11 players for the game and three were injured, so Brallier, McDyer, and Berklebaugh went over to play for Irwin.

The next game was to be with Primrose AC of Pittsburgh's North Side, but a telegram was received just before game time that the team had missed the train. Lyceum AC of Pittsburgh was a 34-0 loser to the high-riding Latrobers.

For the next game, the team was "togged out in brand new pure white sweaters with the letter 'L' in red on the front," and Bradenville's St. Clair AC was a 36-0 victim. A poem about the game published in the Latrobe newspaper characterized the losers as "Brag-and-blowville."

Beefy Ellwood City dropped a 35-0 game before the big event of the year, a Thanksgiving Day battle with the Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA of Philadelphia. One newspaper reported on the game played in intensely cold weather:

"With a mighty heave, Lawson, Latrobe's great fullback, yesterday afternoon crashed through the heavy line of the PRR YMCA and scored the touchdown that was destined to add another victory to the team's successful season; the touchdown that dashed the hopes of the Philadelphia giants to smithereens; the touchdown that set 1,200 men, women, boys, and girls wild;...and caused the fullback to be lifted high on the shoulders of the enthusiastic mob and paraded around the field." The score was 6-0.

In local quarters, Latrobe was acclaimed western Pennsylvania champion after the undefeated season. Franklin was generally considered the U.S. pro champion that year, and had refused to play Latrobe.

The team was an amateur one that year, and "received nothing for their work but the evanescent glory that hovers around the heads of football heroes," a news story for a team benefit talent show at season's end stated. Unhappily, a subsequent news item reported, "The football team's benefit entertainment proved to be a frost as far as attendance was concerned. The crowd...was so small that after the bills were paid, the members of the team didn't have enough left to buy a soda water. Fortunately, they didn't want the soda anyway."

Dr. Brallier wrote in retrospect in 1934 that the 1903 Latrobe backfield “was the best I had ever played with and the best I have ever seen.” His mates were fullback Peck Lawson, Don Miller (who could kick both left and right-footed), and John Hacha.

Shortly after the season, in February, 1904, the engagement of Miss Bess Garnette Moorhead of Indiana to Dr. John K. Brallier of Latrobe was announced, and a wedding followed in April.

Traditionally, the annual organization of a football club to represent Latrobe was a last-minute rush effort beginning as late as November, perhaps accounting for some of the “down” years. But 1904 got off to an early start with a June 4 team organization, at which Dr. John Brallier was elected coach and manager, and Harry Ryan captain. With momentum from the successful 1903 season, a number of new players were added. Among new rules was the field goal reduction from five points to four.

The schedule began with a 46-0 conquest of Bolivar, featured by Peck Lawson’s 100-yard kickoff return. That score was duplicated in thrashing Pitcairn AC, followed by a 41-0 whipping of Homestead highlighted by another length-of-the-field kick return by Lawson. By this time, a number of western Pennsylvania teams were refusing to play Latrobe.

The reputed Monongahela Valley champion, undefeated Dravosburg, came to Latrobe next, and lost, 47-0. Then the Edgar Thompson Steel Works team from Braddock fell, 37-0, with John Brallier’s 50-yard kick return the game’s first score. Then Kittanning was defeated, 24-0, as the Latrobe 11 warmed up for the long-awaited game with powerful Steelton.

There was usually a lot of wagering on these games, and the newspapers kept fans posted on this aspect. One story before the Steelton game read:

“Quite a stir was caused among the sporting fraternity of the town last evening when it became noised about that a man had appeared with a roll of bills the size of his fist, and had offered to bet \$500 to \$250 that Steelton would win tomorrow’s game from Latrobe. There was a big scramble to cover the money at these odds, and the roll now looks like 30 cents. Several other bets have been made at even money, the amounts ranging from \$5 to \$25. The majority of the local backers, however, are holding off and will send their money to Steelton this evening in the hopes that they can get it placed at good odds, or on the score. The few rooters who will accompany the team will have to carry dress suit cases along with them in which to put the money, if everyone sends the cash they have said they intended putting up.”

The significance of the game at Steelton was such that the Latrobe Bulletin announced that an “extra” would be published with “a complete telegraphic report” from its two correspondents around 8 p.m. Saturday. The Bulletin also said that “owing to the unusual expense...to effect such a project, the price of the extra will be two cents.” A special railroad car took the team and about 25 fans to the game.

The result was hailed by the Bulletin extra’s headlines, “THERE’S NO USE TALKING; LATROBE IS STRICTLY IT. STEELTON’S MIGHTY WARRIORS MET DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF LATROBE’S UNCONQUERABLE TEAM. THE LOCALS PROVE THEIR RIGHT TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA BY WINNING A

DECISIVE VICTORY FROM STEELTON'S STARS. THERE WILL BE A HOT TIME IN TOWN TONIGHT."

The "decisive victory" was by 5-0, but over a team which hadn't lost for several years on its home grounds. Latrobe's score came in the second half when "Cure was called on to make a supreme effort, and with a mighty rush, every Latrobe man being in the push, he was dashed through Steelton's giant-like line and went over the goal line." A Harrisburg paper noted that the score was set up by "a beautiful quarterback kick by Brallier, the little Latrobe quarterback."

When word arrived at Latrobe, "the news spread from store to store. Businessmen and clerks left their customers and hurried out into the streets to confirm the glad tidings, and there was joy and happiness unalloyed manifested on the faces of all." When the team returned early Sunday morning at 2 a.m., a hardy crowd defied a heavy, wet snow to acclaim their heroes at the railroad station.

Latrobe followed with a 24-0 victory over powerful East End Lyceum AC of Pittsburgh, and on a cold, drizzly Thanksgiving, routed a short-handed Kittanning team, 53-0.

As a sidelight to the continuing undefeated seasons, the Latrobe team reported using just nine footballs during the 1904 campaign, helping to keep costs down. After all debts and expenses were paid, the 16 players divided about \$500 in profits.

A big post-season event was a chicken and waffle benefit supper at Mozart Hall, at which over 5,000 waffles "rolled in pools of chicken gravy" were consumed. The Hotel Mahaney held a banquet for the team.

A news item from the Bulletin of Nov. 30, 1904:

"When the next football season comes around the local team will in all probability adopt a new method of denoting the position of the ball in place of two sticks tied together with a five-yard chain [yardage needed for a first down in those days]. The new method...is the invention of Dr. Stauffer, an old time football man, and it consists of two upright iron posts placed five yards apart, joined by wooden bars, and which is so light that it may be easily carried along by the linesmen. A white ball, representing the football, is strung on a wire between the two end posts, and it is moved along the wire, as the football changes positions, so that the spectators and players can tell at a glance the gain or loss made on each play. The invention also does away with the liability of a linesman to cheat by slackening up the chain when his team is advancing the ball."

Another Perfect Season

With three years having passed without a defeat, and the team scored on only once, enthusiasm continued high for 1905. One player, Paul Blair, was killed by a train shortly after the 1904 season, but several new college players were obtained. Jobs were secured to bring some to town and keep others. Scheduling was difficult, many teams either refusing to play Latrobe or asking overly high financial guarantees.

It was October before an opponent was secured. Such veterans as Brallier, Ryan, and McDyer were in the lineup when Iron City was crushed, 30-0, in the belated opener.

A news report of the second game led off, "The shades of night were falling fast when the timekeeper's whistle put a welcome end to the game between Latrobe and Pitcairn...the most uninteresting game ever played on the local field." Peck Lawson's 90-yard run was a feature of the 53-0 rout.

A 10-0 win over Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA followed in a hard-fought battle. Just as it looked as if the first half would end scoreless, Brallier's 35-yard field goal put Latrobe ahead 4-0. A touchdown and Brallier kick added six points more near the end of the game. Dr. Brallier suffered a cracked rib during the first half, and played the remainder of the game in pain.

South Fork was beaten, 33-0, and Steelton was next. Again, the Bulletin planned an "extra," and all the other attendant buildup preceded a surprising and overwhelming 23-0 Latrobe triumph, despite a substitute quarterback in Brallier's place.

Two Bulletin reporters wrote that the game "carried Latrobe's rooters clear off their feet and struck Steelton dumb with amazement." Back in Latrobe, the police announced leniency on 8 o'clock curfew enforcement that night. Every street car from Derry brought scores of outsiders to see the fun.

Latrobe's new fullback, Smith, signed for Steelton game, was paid \$100 and expenses just for one game, a substantial increase over first pro salaries of a few years earlier. One Harrisburg newspaper said that "Latrobe can well lay claim to the championship of the state and east."

By this time, Canton and Massillon, Ohio, had developed pro teams of wide repute, and efforts were made to match them with Latrobe. Canton was particularly strong, scoring over 100 points in many of its games. A game was arranged Nov. 18 at Latrobe with Canton.

Newspaper coverage included just about every little detail of the team activity, so it was not unusual to read that "Coach Brallier sprained his back last night in practice when he went to kick the ball and missed it owing to the muddy field. Ben Lawson was also slightly injured in the same way."

"LATROBE WON FROM CANTON IN BEST GAME EVER PLAYED HERE" heralded the newspaper headline. The game nearly resulted in a scoreless tie, but Latrobe's high second half kickoff was fumbled and "Pop" Hayes recovered several inches over Canton's goal line. Brallier's kick made the score 6-0.

Incidentally, in its next game, a decimated Canton team still was able to defeat Carlisle Indian School, 8-0. Next on Latrobe's card was the return match with Steelton at Latrobe, and the game was somewhat surprising.

The local 11 was "outplayed and outgeneraled," making only one first down to 18 for visiting Steelton. But "the Goddess of Fortune was stuck on Latrobe" on a muddy gridiron which favored a heavier Steelton team, as Seanor kicked a 45-yard field goal with three minutes left for a 4-0 win for Latrobe. Despite the mud, one Latrobe player who lost a false gold tooth during the game was able to find it.

Only 700 persons turned out for a bitter cold finale, Nov. 30, a 28-0 conquest of Sewickley. A proposed game with Massillon didn't materialize, and another undefeated, untied, and unscored-upon season was on the Latrobe record. Although most of the Latrobe players were on a salary for 1905, there was still a cash balance left over at the end of the year.

On Dec. 2, 1905, the Latrobe Bulletin devoted a full page to the three-year Latrobe record of 26 games, all won, and 794 points scored against just five for the opposition. The Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph published two teams of all-stars, and among the 22 western Pennsylvania gridgers cited were five Latrobe players, tackles Hayes and Van Doren, guards Ryan and Gibson, and quarterback Brallier.

At the end of the year, a Football Association was being planned to include Latrobe, Steelton, Franklin, and Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, and Akron, Canton, Massillon, and Shelby, Ohio. The plan was for the teams to settle championships within each state, with the two winners to meet Thanksgiving Day. Salary limits were established, other details were worked out, but the project never materialized.

In fact, 1905 in actuality was to mark the end of a second high plateau in Latrobe professional football history, the 1903-05 and the 1895-98 periods.

Many players through the just passed decade were attracted to Latrobe for football, and retained in the community, with industrial, mining, and mercantile positions. The success of the three years through 1905 brought inquiries from prominent players all over the nation who wanted to come to Latrobe in 1906. However, an effort to obtain funds with which to pay players apparently failed when 25 shares at \$100 were not subscribed.

For 1906, Brallier continued as coach and manager, and Harry Ryan, in what was to be his last year as a player, as captain. Dr. Brallier had promised to retire, but reentered the fold. However, practice didn't get under way until Oct. 2, and the first game was not played until Oct. 22, when the team beat Turtle Creek, 38-0.

The Bulletin reported that "the first thing to be noted by the crowd, different from the game of last year, was the length of the chain held by the linesmen. It was ten yards long, just twice as long as last year." Also in the news after the game was the report of one little boy being knocked down by a horse and run over by buggy wheels in the rush to get away from the field. Said the paper, "It might be well for the police to be in the neighborhood of Ligonier Street following a game of football, and seeing whether they could not find some openfaced violation of the speed ordinance."

The second game, played Nov. 12, resulted in a 27-0 triumph over Sterling AC of Wilkinsburg. It was a game in which "the very air appeared to be charged with 'scrap', and everyone appeared to be going around with shoulders loaded down with heavy chips, coaxing everyone else to knock them off...[M]ore blood was spilt along the sidelines than on the field, owing to the numerous fistic encounters..."

An era ended Nov. 29, 1906, when the Red and Green of Latrobe went down to defeat. The newspaper headlines tell the story, "LATROBE MEETS FIRST DEFEAT IN FOUR YEARS OF FOOTBALL SUPREMACY – CANTON'S HUSKY TEAM PROVED TOO STRONG FOR THE LOCALS OWING TO THE LATTER'S LACK OF PRACTICE..."

The game was played at Canton, and the Bulldogs scored 16 points while shutting out the Pennsylvanians. McDyer and a Canton player "got into a fistic argument and both were disqualified." Many Latrobe citizens, accustomed to years of victories, refused to believe the score, and the Bulletin office was besieged by inquiries.

The Canton game caused more than or e reverse. Latrobe had been guaranteed \$1,500 for the game, \$1,200 of which was to used to pay the players, and \$300 for expenses. But the Canton manager was unable to pay, the result of some internal organization problems of the Canton management. The problems had soured Canton's fans, and not too many (less tharn 1,200) turned out for the game, further complicating things. Canton players were not paid as a result, in addition.

Crisis Deefense

The financial crisis engendered by the Canton affair, according to the Latrobe Bulletin meant that

"the death knell of professional football has been sounded" in Canton and Massillon. A community

subscription paper was passed in Latrobe, which raised part of the \$300 expense debt, and the balance of the money was borrowed by the YMCA so that it could be paid.

The events of 1906, and another of 1907, doomed professional football in Latrobe. By October, 1907,

sentiment had grown for keeping the football team local and not hiring players from out of town. A Bulletin

editorial said that it was better to suffer defeat and keep the team a local one --this was "real spqrt."

Despite the changing atmosphere, the 1907 team was moderately successful with five victories, two losses, and two ties. Ryan was retired; Brallier was semi-retired and served as coach; McDyer played his last year, and Leo Gibson was elected captain.

After a 22-0 opening victory over what was supposed to be the Altoona AC, but in reality was the high school team, Latrobe lost to Steelton, 6-0. The Steelton receipts, however, paid off the balance of the 1906 loan. While some local fans wanted to hire some outside players, an amateur town team had in fact become a reality.

After a 28-9 win over Ellwood City , the team traveled to Steelton and lost, 12-0. A driving rain and a sea of mud, coupled with a disheartening decision of the officials early in the game that set up a Steelton score, were more than Latrobe could overcome.

What was labeled as the California (Pa) YMCA team came to Latrobe for the next game, and was ejected from its rooms at the Parker House for "chasing and frightening a chambermaid," jumping on beds and breaking two of them, and for language "far from what might be asked for from YMCA boys." Latrobe won the game, 38-0, before a small Election Day crowd. And it turned out that there was no YMCA in California.

Scoreless ties were played with Sterling AC and South Fork as football interest in Latrobe continued to diminish, then the locals rebounded for a 16-0 win over South Fork. Brallier, who played sparingly that year, recovered a fumble on the opening kick off and ran it across for a touchdown "before some if the spectators realized that the

game was on." The season concluded with a 6-2 win over Sterling AC in a windy day kicking duel.

The decrease in community interest and the change to local amateur status in 1907 coincided with John Brallier's last year as a player, although he continued to help coach local town teams. Some of the players continued with the 1908 and 1909 squads, captained by Peck Lawson, but the out of town players and the old rivalries had generally disappeared. An era had passed.

Several of the prominent members of the original Latrobe professional football teams, including Dr. Brallier, Ryan, Abbaticchio, Flickinger, Saxman, McDyer, and Peck Lawson, were around Latrobe for many years. Abbaticchio played major league baseball for a decade, Dr. Brallier practiced dentistry, and the others were generally employed in local industry.

Dr. Brallier served the community in several ways, perhaps the most significant being his 20-year tenure as a school director, from which he retired at the end of 1931. Tragedy struck when his wife was killed in an auto accident in March, 1941.

After World War II, the success of baseball's Hall of Fame spawned plans for a similar football pantheon. At that time, Latrobe was recognized by the National Football league as the birthplace of pro football, and Dr. Brallier was given lifetime passes for NFL games, but the Hall of Fame went to Canton. Homage was paid to Latrobe's status when the Pittsburgh Steelers and Green Bay Packers played an exhibiton game, Aug. 29, 1952, at Latrobe. The early pro player survivors were honored.

During the 1950's, Dr. Brallier's remaining teammates passed away, including Harry J. (Cap) Ryan in 1953, and Ed Abbaticchio and Charles M:Dyer in 1957. Brallier spent parts of his time in Canada and Florida after retirement, and enjoyed recognition as one of the first pro players. When Dr. John K. Brallier died Sept, 17, 1960, in his 84th year, the last survivor of the first pro team was gone.

[Editor's Note: In 1979, John Brallier was voted one of the "Best_Pros Not in the Hall of Fame" by P.F.R.A.'s membership.]

* * * *

1895 LATROBE YMCA

7-4-0

12 Jeannette	0
8 Altoona	18
14 Mt. Pleasant	4
4 Kiskiminetas	0
0 Greensburg	25
0 West Virginia Univ.	10
36 Morrellville	0
22 Indiana Normal Sch.	0
36 Johnstown	0
16 Jeannette	0
0 Greensburg	4

(Disputed score)

1896 LATROBE AA

7-3-0

54 Pittsburgh Imperials	6
80 Jeannette Indians	0
12 Altoona	0
4 Western U of Pa	0
38 Indiana Normal	0
4 Greensburg A A	10
5 West Virginia Univ.	0
0 West Virginia Univ.	4
29 Indiana State Normal	0
0 Greensburg A A	10

1897 LATROBE AA

10-2-1

28 Jeannette	0
58 Pittsburgh Emeralds	0
0 Altoona	0
22 Pittsburgh College	0
36 Altoona	0
14 Youngstown (Ohio)	4
30 Western U of Penn.	0
6 Duquesne Country & AC	12
47 Pittsburgh Athletic Club	0
19 Youngstown (Ohio)	0
12 Greensburg	6
16 West Virginia University	6
0 Greensburg	6

1898 LATROBE AC

7-3-0

51 Jeannette	0
18 McKees Rocks Indians	0
17 Pittsburgh College	0
50 Pitts. Cottage Club	0
6 Greensburg	0
6 Greensburg	5
22 Pittsburgh College	6
0 Duquesne Country & AC	17
0 Pittsburgh AC	6
0 Greensburg	6

1899 LATROBE

4-0-0

12 Duquesne Country & AC	0
(two games won from unknown opponents by total 57-2)	
35 Indiana State Normal	0

1900 LATROBE

5-3-0

11 Pittsburgh	0
52 Indiana State Normal	0
0 Duquesne Country & AC	12
6 Greensburg	0
0 Homestead	11
5 Duquesne Country & AC	0
11 Greensburg	0
0 Homestead	12

1901 LATROBE

2-1-0

0 Derry	12
W Latrobe Steel Works	
W Latrobe Steel Works	

1902 LATROBE

2-0-2

0 Indiana Normal School	0
0 Wilkinsberg Sterling AC	0
22 Indiana First Regiment	2
17 Latrobe Steel Works	0

1903 LATROBE YMCA

9-0-0

28	Jeannette Hose Co.	4	0
46	Johnstown		0
6	East End AC		5
39	Irwin		0
54	Indiana Normal		0
34	Pittsburgh Lyceum		0
36	Bradenton St. Clair AC		0
35	Ellwood City		0
6	Philadelphia PRR YMCA		0

1904 LATROBE AC

9-0-0

46	Bolivar		0
46	Pitcairn AC		0
41	Homestead Steel Works		0
47	Dravosburg		0
37	Edgar Thompson Works		0
24	Kittanning		0
5	Steelton YMCA		0
24	East End Lyceum AA		0
53	Kittanning		0

1905 LATROBE AA

8-0-0

30	Iron City		0
53	Pitcairn AC		0
10	Philadelphia PRR YMCA		0
33	South Fork		0
23	Steelton		0
6	Canton (Ohio)		0
4	Steelton		4
28	Sewickley		0

1906 LATROBE AA

3-1-0

38	Turtle Creek		0
27	Wilkinsburg Sterling AC		0
45	Braddock		0
0	Canton (Ohio)		16

1907 LATROBE AA

5-2-2

22	Altoona		0
0	Steelton		6
28	Ellwood City		0
0	Steelton		12
38	California (PA)		0
0	Wilkinsburg Sterling AC		0
0	South Fork		0
16	South Fork		0
6	Wilkinsburg Sterling AC		2