



WAYLON (BUCK) BUCHANAN, LEFT, AND NEAL HINSON GET TOGETHER FRIDAY EVENING TWO SWAP FOOTBALL STORIES FROM THE EARLY AND MID-FIFTIES

BUCHANAN CATCHES A PASS FOR ETSU DURING HIS COLLEGE DAYS AT COMMERCE

Buchanan, Williams and Hinson remember their high school and college days

Former football players fill 'Rear of the Steer' with memories

By Marlene Bohr
Football is king in East Texas and football stories reign at the Rear of the Steer Restaurant in Omaha; even tales whether true or not of games played nearly 65 years ago.

Ernest Paul Pewitt had heard many tales of football 'back in the day' and especially of a certain player, Waylon 'Buck' Buchanan.

Neal Hinson of Pittsburg, would stop in the restaurant and entertain with the football stories back in the days when he and Buchanan played football at East Texas State University.

Pewitt decided to hold a 'meeting' between the two former players.

"One of them told a lot of stories about the other for the past few months, and I decided I would get them together," Pewitt said.

Friday night they packed into a room at the Rear of the Steer, complete with college annuals from 1954, 1955 and 1956, where Buchanan was featured as an end player. And, the football tales continued.

Buchanan was in football in 1951 for the Naples High School Buffaloes and ended his high school career the next season with the first team of Pewitt Brahmas.

Billy Williams of Omaha, stopped in to see the men as he played quarterback back in the day of early Pewitt football.

Hinson, the story teller, said he ran into Buchanan in 1953 at East Texas State University at Commerce.

"We ran a single wing and did it all," Hinson said.

Buchanan said he was on the last football team at Naples High School as the

next year Pewitt became Pewitt Naples/Omaha.

"I made football my career, it seems like 100 years," Buchanan said. "I coached in Queen City and New Boston and finished up coaching in 1990 in Marshall. The only regret I have is I got out one year too early as Marshall won the state championship the next year. I taught football from 1973 to 1995."

Hinson said he stops in the restaurant and tells football stories to the locals and of a man he considers a great athlete.

"Buchanan was a one-man track team," he said. "He did the 100-meters, the 200-meters and in the field events and he would win the high jump, the long jump and the shot put. He was the only one that was out for track."

Buchanan said he used to practice on the football field. Ila Buchanan, his wife, said he was 'Coach Buck' to everyone.

"I played two years after Buck was up at East Texas," Hinson said. "Back then when I was there, you played both ways, offense and defense. The squad was small as you only had 11 starters. Now there are 70 odd players. At East Texas State University we had a record of 29 wins, even though there was not that many of us."

"In those days when we played, it was a different type of situation, a totally different ball game. You would not get much rest. Now days you can't get people in shape to play both ways."

Hinson said he coached at Sweeney Texas. "I was there three years and moved back to Pittsburg where I coached 12 years. I went to Mount Vernon and

coached over there. I went to Job Corps and worked in San Marcos.

"Then I went back to Pittsburg as assistant junior high school principal and in the administration there where

finished out my career. After I retired I went to Linden-Kildare and then Ore City called me to help out as a junior high school principal. I went for six months and ended up staying 9 1/2 years.

I was in education 50 years."

Buchanan said he retired in 1990 and ended up coaching golf for four years.

"I loved it; all I had to do was sit in the cart or stay in the clubhouse," he said. "The

golfers did go to state though."

The college 1955 annual shows Buchanan as one of the East Texas All-Star Players. He was named to the Lone Star Conference All-Star Team, playing at end.



REMEMBERING THE LAST YEAR OF THE NAPLES BUFFALOES

Football season was over for the 1949-50 school year and this group wore the green and gold of the Naples High School Buffaloes. The team had a 7-3 record and lost only two district games. Some of the players included Waylon Buchanan, #17 on the left of the front row, Murry Gibson, Walzy Wall, Carroll Harrison, Arthur Guy Wommack, Jim Berry, Shirley Hicks, James Lowery, James Day, Jack Coker, Ronnie Merrill, Freddy Davenport, Don Nance, Forrest Babb, A. J. Wells, R. A. Hicks, Billy Williams, Richard Cole and Windell Tenbrook. Honored as football sweetheart was

Martine Floyd and team managers were Richard Henderson and Halbert Barnett. It was the last time for Naples High to field a football team as Naples and Omaha would consolidate into Pewitt for the next season. In the final season for Naples, the Buffaloes won 14-6 over Linden, beat Sulphur Springs B 32-0, lost 7-19 to New Boston, beat Deport 47-0, lost 14-34 to Hughes Springs, won 48-12 over Bogata, lost 13-20 to Talco, whipped Daingerfield 13-0, won 34-13 over James Bowie and beat Avinger 19-0. The coach of the Buffaloes that year was Bill Bishop.

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WAYLON BUCHANAN (17) TOP ROW WITH PEWITT HIGH SCHOOL'S FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM OF BRAHMAS