

1983 FOOTBALL

The marvelous winning streak that was supposed to end about the time the 1981 championship members were handed their diplomas went on, incredibly, for a second subsequent season.

Ten regular season games played, ten won — and only one was even close. Two playoff games played, two playoff games won — one so lopsided they ran the clock straight through in the second half. *In a playoff game.*

Back in the 1980s, it seemed that no matter what the Sistersville Tigers did, they always found something else to accomplish, something else to achieve. They pushed aside the talk that the state championship game run was over, that finally their magic would run out.

No, no and no. The 1983 Sistersville Tigers football team was a *great* team, with emphasis on team. They did everything well — wait, they did it better than well. They did it exceptionally well.

They threw the ball. They ran the ball. They played slam-bam defense. They dared teams to beat one, and no one really did. Some teams showed up intimidated and unwilling to play, like the Matewan team that was ranked No. 8 in the state but fell behind 51-0 in the first half of a playoff game. They didn't want to get into the end zone, they wanted to get on the bus back home.

Sistersville could do that to teams in 1980s, no matter how the personnel changed, no matter how big or how small they were, no matter what offense Lou Nocida chose to run or what defense he chose to play.

Matt Archer was an exceptional Class A quarterback, admired even by opposing coaches such as John Stender of Tyler County for his calmness, his composure and his ability to pick up his teammates. He threw for 1,945 yards and 21 touchdowns, 10 of them to you'll-never-catch-me wide receiver Scott Swisher, who gave nightmares to teams worn out by years of watching a player named Swisher crossing their goal line.

Joel Wilson was a man among boys as a small school running back, plowing through and running over defenders for more than 1,600 yards as the Tigers ran their regular season winning streak to 33 games.

Jeff Evans and Jim Cavezza were tall and elite targets when Swisher wasn't catching the ball, and players you didn't want to run up against on defense. Jim Shepherd would hit you on Friday and knock you into Tuesday.

Brian Howdysshell could run by you or run through you. Eric Grimm was a sophomore lineman who played like a senior - in college. You certainly didn't want to run up against Matt Snodgrass, Stan Dennis or Kippy Todd in a dark alley or a very well-lit football field. Bob Wells played middle guard at 160 pounds like some players do at 260. David Kyle was a starter ... and a finisher.

Look at the scores:

Sept. 2	at Williamstown	28	6	W	1-0
Sept. 10	at Clks Notre Dame	25	3	W	2-0
Sept. 16	at Weirton Madonna	35	6	W	3-0
Sept. 23	Paden City	26	0	W	4-0
Sept. 30	at Harrisville	49	14	W	5-0
Oct. 7	Bishop Donahue	37	7	W	6-0
Oct. 21	Tyler County	8	7	W	7-0

Oct. 28	Wirt County	44	22	W	8-0
Nov. 4	Cameron	58	6	W	9-0
Nov. 11	at St. Marys	34	6	W	10-0
	State playoffs (at Sistersville)				
Nov. 19	Matewan	57	6	W	11-0
Nov. 25	Morgantown St. Francis	37	13	W	12-0

A reminder once again: This was one of the best teams in Sistersville High School history. Sure, the record books show they lost the state championship game to Tyler County 16-14. But they'd already beaten Tyler during the season, and the team that loses the first game almost always has the edge in a rematch.

The respect that others held for this team was proven when Jeff Evans, Matt Archer, Joel Wilson and Jim Shepherd all made first team all-state and Scott Swisher made second team. No other team had more than two first teamers.

No, that one loss doesn't diminish what a great football team this was. They proved in in subsequent years as multiple players went on to play on the 1984 and 1985 state championship teams.

So don't dare say this team wasn't a championship team. It certainly was, and it always will be. They don't need a ring to prove it, either.



**HEAD
COACH**
Lou
Nocida

Assistant Coaches: Charles Heinlein, Mike Mercer, Fred King

Principal: Bob Daquilante

Cheerleaders: Beth King, Sherri Riggs, Lori Wood, June Henderson, Angela Jobes, Vicci Evans

School Colors: Orange and Black

Nickname: Tigers

Band Director: Duane Dober

CLASS A

Jersey No.	Pos.	Name Of Player	Weight	Height	Class
3	QB	Matt Archer	180	5' 11"	12
4	QB	Jeff Swisher	145	5' 10"	9
5	QB	Kevin Stewart	150	5' 10"	10
9	FL	David Rial	130	5' 7"	9
12	FB	Bob Wells	170	5' 8"	12
17	FL	Brad Malone	103	5' 4"	9
19	K	Craig Drain	140	5' 8"	10
20	FB	Neal Michaels	130	5' 6"	10
21	TB	Kevin Devaughn	140	5' 8"	10
22	E	Scott Swisher	155	5' 10"	12
23	FB	Shawn Laugh	145	5' 10"	9
25	FL	Jim Light	115	5' 6"	9
31	TB	Joel Wilson	180	5' 11"	11
32	DB	Mark Swartzmiller	140	5' 8"	10
40	TB	Matt Ebert	160	5' 10"	12
42	E	Steve Kelly	160	5' 10"	9
43	FL	Brian Howdyshell	150	5' 8"	12
50	C	Rodney Ebert	150	5' 8"	9
54	S	Shawn Hunter	150	5' 8"	9
55	G	Kip Todd	145	5' 7"	11
57	P	Chris Thorn	150	5' 11"	11
58	T	Chuck Boso	180	6' 2"	12
59	G	Mike Reed	145	5' 6"	10
61	G	Matt Snodgrass	165	5' 9"	11
62	G	Stan Dennis	175	5' 9"	11
63	T	Ethan Riffle	170	5' 10"	11
64	C	Jim Shepherd	180	5' 10"	12
65	G	Jim Shreves	130	5' 8"	10
66	T	Mike Stead	170	5' 10"	9
72	T	Eric Grimm	225	6' 2"	10
74	T	Tom Kyle	160	5' 10"	9
78	T	David Kyle	190	6' 0"	12
79	T	Ken Gallaher	199	5' 7"	9
82	E	Bob Nalley	145	5' 11"	10
87	E	Jim Cavezze	180	6' 4"	12
88	E	Jeff Evans	190	6' 3"	12

SISTERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Season's Record

Sistersville	26	Williamstown	8
Sistersville	25	Clarksburg Notre Dame	3
Sistersville	35	Weirton Madonna	6
Sistersville	26	Paden City	0
Sistersville	49	Harrisville	14
Sistersville	37	Bishop Donahue	7
Sistersville	8	Tyler	7
Sistersville	44	Wirt	22



