



Lisbon Area Historical Society Moments in History – September 2024

LISBON FOOTBALL



Here they are, the 1921 Lisbon High School football team, known as the Black and Orange. This was the second season Lisbon had a football team. The team had six games scheduled with Littleton, Groveton, St. Johnsbury Vocational, and Dow Academy in Franconia that season. Some of the members were not available for early season practices, because they were still working at the summer resorts.

Pictured: Front row (L-R) Walter Elms, Harry Bean, Roscoe Noyes, Roger Parker. 2nd row: Walter Leavitt, Floyd Corey, Dana Leavitt, Dana Ash, Harry Northey, Irving Bean. 3rd row: Coach Jordan, Lucas Harbuchuck, Donald Collins, Carlisle McDonald, Edward Coates, Dennis Veino, Coach Watson.

In 1923, there were 20 students signed up to play football, and seven games were on the schedule: Proctor Academy, St. Johnsbury Vocational, Berlin, Plymouth, and Littleton. The contract with Littleton provided that the Lisbon team would be paid \$15 for “engaging in said contest.” The trip to Andover to play Proctor Academy started at 7:45am and was a 100-mile ride in a truck just to

lose 20-6. The game in Berlin was difficult, because Lisbon only had 11 players. Coach Watson called on the other team members to join, but they had to stay home and help their fathers on the farm. The team traveled in a rickety bus with benches around the inside instead of seats. The agreement was made that Berlin would supply substitutes for the Lisbon team if needed, but Lisbon managed to play the whole game with what they had. Berlin did beat Lisbon 36-6. Lisbon scoring once was remarkable since the players for Berlin were much more powerful and outweighed Lisbon 20 pounds to one.

The Lisbon football team skipped the next several years and started a team again in 1928. That seems to be the last year Lisbon had a football team. It was an expensive sport for a small school, and it was a dangerous sport. One editorial in The Littleton Courier stated that some parents did not allow their son to play football, because they were afraid their son would be injured. The argument in the editorial was that a boy had just as much chance of getting injured or in trouble without playing football, and the sport was good for a boy.



Not all the boys at Lisbon High School played football, but the football players of the fall of 1921 who were seniors (highlighted) did survive playing football and graduated in June of 1922. Front (L-R): Irene Ash, Don McBurney, Catherine McKenzie, Harry Northey, Velma Sherman. 2nd row: Elizabeth Gray, Ernie Beane, Gertrude Chamberlin, Robert Jesseman, Wyllian Barrett, Roscoe Noyes, Ethel Hubbard. 3rd row: Floyd Corey, Marjorie Deming, Dana Ash, Lillian Reed, Dana Leavitt, Cara Meaker, William Carr, Catherine Hollenbeck.

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