

# ...And We Are Victorious

## Hillbillies Conquer Three Foes Bryan, J. Rotella Lead Attack

Four years of frustration and humility were wiped away when Verona's gridiron forces triumphed over Mountain High School, 13-7. At the conclusion of the game hundreds of victory-starved Hillbilly fans swarmed onto the field and tore down the goalposts. The maroon and white marching band then led the exhilarated mob to the Civic Center where they proceeded to re-erect the uprights.

The thrilling victory marked the end of the longest New Jersey Public High School losing streak—thirty-two games. During the losing stint the inept Hillbillies yielded over 1000 points while producing only 95 themselves. In one four game stretch the opposition blanked Verona 96-0.

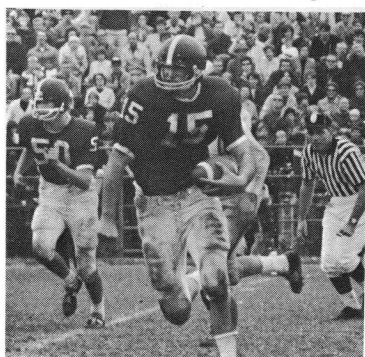
### New Look

The three weeks following Verona's victory over Mountain proved the authenticity of that initial win, as the Gridders rolled past Cedar Grove, lost a heart-

breaker to New Providence, and edged out Madison.

Verona football fans were in for a real threat when Coach Al Rotella's boys met the visiting Rams of Mountain. In the first half the Hillbillies hinted at things to come as they moved deep onto Mountain territory several times, only to be stopped by fumbles and a tough Ram defense. Midway through the third quarter, Verona recovered a West Orange fumble at the enemy 24 yd. line. The Hillbilly express powered its way to the 7 yd. marker where, on a crucial third down play, fullback Rich Bryan smashed into the endzone for the first touchdown of the game.

After Mountain tied the game



**Quarterback - linebacker Jamie Rotella returns interception as (50) Chris Courtney looks for someone to block.**

7-7 with ten minutes remaining, Verona took the ensuing kick-off to their own 40 yd line, and from there marched downfield. Quarterback Jamie Rotella circled right end for five yards and the final T.D.

The Cedar Grove game was highlighted by four interceptions of Panther passes, three by Rotella. The Verona offense produced four touchdowns, the first two coming on short runs by fullback Bryan. The third score came in the third period on a Rotella jump pass to Bob Scharling, who blasted his way into the endzone. Quarterback Rotella added the final T.D.

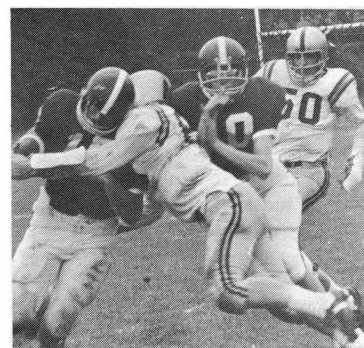


**Halfback Buddy Hart turns the corner for a gain as (40) Bruce Comiskey and (15) Rotella apply blocks.**

At the conclusion of the game Coach Rotella happily accepted the Verona-Cedar Grove Times Trophy, marking the first time Verona has won the prize during the four years of Verona-Cedar Grove competition.

### Winning Streak Ended

The Gridders good fortunes were interrupted when Verona bowed to New Providence, 28-21. Judging from the game statistics, Verona should have won. The Verona squad produced twenty-two first downs to eight for the Pioneers, while the local running



**J. Rotella, with one of three interceptions, lowers his shoulder into Mountain tackler as (10) Mike Passaro tries to help.**

backs ran for 100 yards more than the Pioneers could gain. But the big factor in the game was New Providence's outstanding quarterback, Bob Woodruff. The Pioneer back scored one touchdown, threw for two long scores, and set up a fourth T.D. Verona backs Rotella and Bryan clicked together as Bryan caught three T.D. passes totaling 92 yards.

Verona rebounded from the defeat to beat Madison 14-12, after suffering crushing defeats for four seasons at the hands of the Dodgers. Verona was impressive as they took the ball for the first time in the game, and moved downfield for a touchdown. Madison later scored on a 25 yd. pass, but the crucial extra point attempt was missed.

In the second half Verona again engineered a long drive and Bryan picked up his second score. Kicker Kevin Frey made it five straight point after touchdown conversions, and Verona was ahead to stay. Madison added a final touchdown in the fourth period.

At the time of this paper's printing, Verona was in second place in the Suburban Conference with games remaining against four foes, including undefeated Summit.

## G.A.A. Off To Smashing Start

The girls' field hockey season is finally underway. In the second game Captains Marcia Wana-maker and Gioia Morongell led their team to a 2-0 victory against Caldwell. Scoring for the victors were Gioia Morongell and Bibsy Raff. Afterwards, the JV's tied in a scoreless game. The first match, a double loss to West Essex, 2-7 and 0-3, saw goals by Peggy Davenport and Julie Mau for the varsity. The third game will be played against Madison. Miss Diane Wendt, advisor, hopes to schedule more games for this season.

New this year in G.A.A. is a modern dance group led by Mrs. Mira Roberts. Several numbers will be performed by the group in the Thanksgiving Assembly. Another performance is also planned for the annual G.A.A.'s main fund-raising activity. Additional funds will be raised by the Girl's Leadership Organization.

## Defense Highlights Booters' Drive To State Tournament

Qualifying for the State Soccer tournament seems to be an obsession with Verona's booters, who qualified for the fourth consecutive year. The team, thus far, has run up a 9-3 record, highlighted by the play of a tight defense that has shut out the opposition eight times this year.

After winning three of their first four games, the booters crushed two Conference foes in away contests. First Millburn and then New Providence fell by 3-0 and 1-0 scores to the Hillbillies. Scoring for Verona were Don Overholser with two goals and Dan Potts and Dave Olsen with one goal apiece.

Verona next faced Cedar Grove at home and came up with a 2-1 victory. Overholser and Rich Lorenson connected for the Hillbillies who barely held off a last quarter surge by the Panthers.

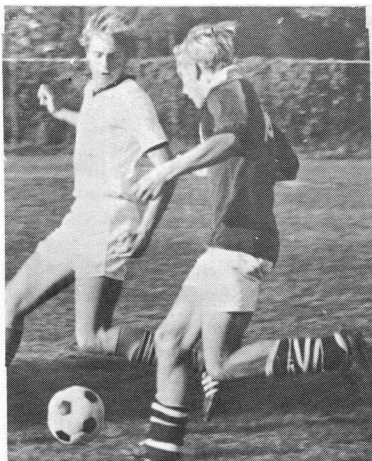
### Crucial Losses

Tragedy struck the high-flying Hillbillies in their next three games as Verona suffered a pair of losses which sandwiched a victory over Madison. A big Caldwell squad turned the tables on the Hillbillies with a 2-1 victory as Sophomore Potts scored Verona's lone goal. The booters came back, though, by clubbing Madison 2-0 with wing Olsen providing both goals. Undeclared Chatham blitzed the usually reliable Hillbilly defense in their next encounter. Three quick goals together with a final period score gave the Eskimos a resounding 4-0 victory.

The booters fought back by edging their next two opponents, Summit and Millburn, by 1-0 scores. In both games Verona's offense continually pressed on the attack but were unable to crack the opposition's defense. It took two penalty shots for Verona to score, with Potts handling both of them.

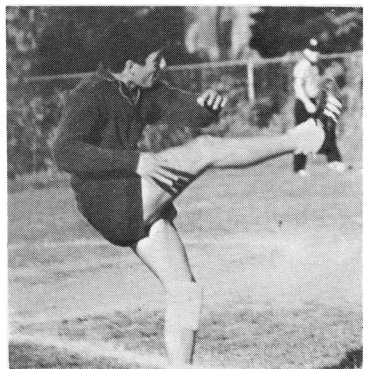
### J.V. Team Strong

The Verona JV soccer team under the direction of Sven Peterson has produced a record of 7-4-1. The JV's have a well balanced offense in which fifteen players have scored the teams total score of 28 goals. The leader is Scot Ingold with four. Tied for second in scoring are Bruce Eisdorfer, Gerard Cleaves, and half-back Eric Mayerson, each with three goals. The highpoint of the season for the offense occurred when the JV booters romped over Madison,



**Right wing Dave Olson prepares to boot ball past Chatham defender.**

10-0. The defense, which has five shutouts and has allowed less than an average of one goal a game, is spearheaded by half-back Eric Jeffery, fullbacks John Proper and Larry Levine, and goalie Howard Cohen.



**Reserve goalie Howie Cohen shows form after punting in Chatham game.**

## Frosh Gridders Even Record; Smash New Providence 20-0

The Freshman football team, under Coaches Perry Roccasecca and Vincent Yaniro, kicked off their 1968 campaign on October 14 with a 6-0 defeat at the hands of Cedar Grove in an away contest. Cedar Grove scored the game's sole touchdown in the final quarter on a broken pass play. The Hillbilly defense deflected the ball into a Panther halfback's hand; the Cedar Grove player carried the ball into the end zone for the winning points of the toughly fought defensive contest.

On October 22, the frosh forces came back by trouncing New Providence 20-0, thus evening their record at 1-1. Hillbilly touchdowns were scored by halfbacks Frank Berman, Carlos Baeza and Bill Ciccone. In addition, outstanding plays in the victory were turned in by lineman Tom Fox, quarterback Todd Hassert, and defensive halfback Nick Rolli.

## Harriers Come Back After Initial Losses

A complete turnaround in their season's play has been the highlight of Verona's cross-country team thus far. After losing five of their first six meets, the long distance runners won their next four matches to even their record at 5-5.

Following a split of their first two meets, Verona traveled to Boonton where the local cindermen were crushed 17-48. Juniors Mike Fogarty and Dick Barret placed 4th and 9th respectively for the Hillbillies.

The next two meets were also losses for Coach Pecorara's young runners. Against Caldwell, over our own Verona Park course, the harriers were edged by one point. Once again Juniors Fogarty and Barret placed among the leaders with captain Jim La-

baugh also adding points. The runners faced a similar result against a tough West Essex squad, coming out on the low end of an 18-40 score. Dick Barret was the only Hillbilly to finish among the top five.

### Tri-Meet

The next match saw Verona both continue and break its losing streak as we faced Millburn and New Providence in a Tri-Meet. Although the powerful Millers crushed Verona's cindermen, we managed to overcome the Pioneers 24-37. Barret again led the Hillbillies with a first against New Providence, while LaBaugh helped out by finishing in third place.

The harriers continued on the victory path with wins over Conference foes Chatham and Summit. Leading the way for Verona was once again Dick Barret who garnered two first places. Other high placing Hillbillies were LaBaugh and Junior Ed Trimmer against Chatham, and Fogarty finishing with a second against Summit. Verona captured their fifth victory on October 22, when Boonton was unable to run against the local cindermen and thus forfeited the match.

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