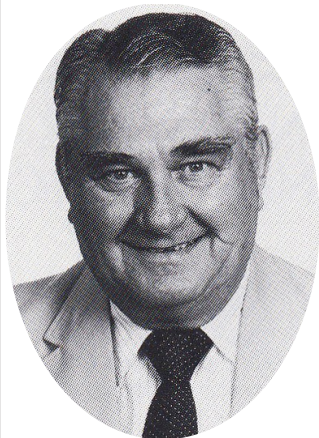


Ben Nowak



Ben Nowak, a bruising fullback and linebacker for the Spring Hill Tigers football teams of 1939 through 1947, was a major reason that the Tigers won multiple city championships, especially through the pre-war years.

Nowak teamed up with the Lawrence brothers — Mimi, Joe, and Steve — Bud Moseley, Jack Staff, Rocco Vito, Lou Renzuelli, John Krysiuk, and others, to forge a potent offense and defense, which won titles four years in a row, losing only one game in the process — a non-league game with the Western Jacks of Bridgeport.

Coached by Ralph Venezia, with Jim Caputo as his assistant, the Tigers ran roughshod over local competition and spearheading the onslaught was Ben Nowak.

Ben entered the Army in 1942, when Spring Hill and many other local teams disbanded, joining the Medical Administrative Corps in the European Theater of Operations. He functioned as a corpsman in what is the counterpart of the famous MASH operation. But he still had time to play some football, as a bruising fullback and center.

Returning after the war, Ben came back to join the revamped Tigers, continuing his rampage against nearby teams who had also turned to action. He helped Spring Hill disband permanently in 1948, then played with the Norwalk Tigers with many of his same teammates.

Earlier in his career, Ben played football in the Broad Street area, as well as some basketball at White Eagle Hall, with Leo and Don Czulewicz among others.