

## THE SEARCH FOR MISSING TROPHIES: BROWNSVILLE'S WPIAL CHAMPIONS

Where are the Brownsville High School football championship trophies?

It was Brownsville resident Joyce Mayers who asked me that question, referring to trophies won by the 1940 and 1943 squads that captured the only two WPIAL football championships ever won by Brownsville High School.

The Brownsville Brownie football teams of the 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s claimed many Big Six and Fayette County championships and were awarded trophies for those achievements. Yet a visitor to Brownsville Area High School in Luzerne Township will find no trophies on display that were earned before 1967, when the Redstone Township and John A. Brashear school districts combined to form the Brownsville Area School District. Joyce's question is a valid one.

What happened to all of those earlier trophies?

The first football title of any kind captured by a Brownsville High School team came in 1935, one year after South Brownsville and Brownsville school districts merged into a single school district. Coach Carl Aschman's squad that year captured the Fayette County title with a 9-1 record.

Aschman's 1936 squad was even better, going 10-1 and allowing only eighteen points all season, but the team was denied its initial Big Six championship by a 6-0 loss to Charleroi. Then in 1937, Brownsville began an amazing thirty-nine game unbeaten streak that would not be broken until midway through the 1941 season. During that streak, Brownsville outscored its opponents 820-79.

So why didn't Brownsville High School teams win several WPIAL championships during that thirty-nine game streak? In those years, a point system was used to determine the WPIAL champion, and a tie game usually eliminated a team from contention for the WPIAL title. The 1937 team that began the streak had a mediocre 5-3-2 record, but it was unbeaten in the last five games of the season. In 1938, only three

opposing teams registered a point on the 8-0-1 Brownies, who outscored their opponents 168-25. Unfortunately, a 13-13 tie with Charleroi prevented Brownsville from capturing its first WPIAL title.

The unbeaten streak continued through 1939. Aschman's 1939 Brownies shut out eight of eleven opponents, outscored the opposition 256-15, and even defeated their nemesis, Charleroi, by an 8-0 score. Unfortunately, two consecutive scoreless ties with Monessen and Mon City marred Brownsville's 9-0-2 record. The unbeaten streak remained intact and the team captured its second straight Big Six title, but the WPIAL Class AA championship eluded Brownsville once more.

Brownie head coach Carl Aschman and his assistants, Andy Sepsi and Earl Bruce, recognized the outstanding potential of the 1940 squad, and they drove the team hard at training camp that fall. West Brownsville native Thom Stapleton, now of Casa Grande, Arizona, was in the sixth grade that year.

"I remember going with my dad to deliver milk to the football camp on Wharton Furnace Road in the mountains," Thom told me. "My cousin, John 'Stabby' Stapleton, was on the 1940 team. He described Carl Aschman as a tough coach who called the players by girls' names to shame them into being men.

"Stabby's name from Aschman was 'Mabel.' If Aschman felt that Stabby was not giving his all, the coach would say, 'What's wrong, Mabel? You gettin' tired? Or do you always play like a girl?'"

The grueling training camp paid off. The 1940 season was an exciting one, and it was played in a new football stadium. The old high school football field on Water Street had hosted Brownsville High School football games in the 1930s. Fenwick Park, Brownsville's Little League baseball field, now occupies the site where that stadium once stood.

1940 was the inaugural season for Brownie Stadium in Hiller. The impressive facility, complete with a running track, was erected in the Woodward Plan with the aid of the WPA and PWA, two depression-era government agencies. Construction costs exceeded \$50,000.

The first game in the new stadium was played on September 13, 1940, an eight p.m. exhibition contest against Brockway High School. Brockway was an upstate school that was little known locally but had won two championships in the previous five years.

It turned out to be an unlucky Friday the thirteenth for the visitors. 3,720 fans watched Brownsville jump to a 19-0 lead in the first ten minutes of the game, then booed in disappointment when Aschman benched the first string from the first quarter on and let the reserves complete a 38-0 whitewash.

The coach of the victimized Brockway team was Ralph Castafero, about whom Brownsville native Bill Patterson tells an interesting tale.

“I was attending summer classes at Penn State around 1948,” Bill recalled, “and at the residence hall where I was staying, a gentleman appeared for the six-week period of study. He was finishing up work for a Supervising Principal certificate. We chatted, and it turned out that this fellow had been the Brockway coach during the 1940 football season. He was the first coach to face that mighty Brownsville team.

“I asked him how they came to schedule Brownsville that year. He told me they had an open date at the start of the season, and they had found Brownsville listed as looking for an opponent for the same date. He had known nothing about Brownsville, but when he had looked up the town’s population and found it to be about 6,000, he figured, ‘Oh, that’s good. That’s about the same size that we draw upon.’ Nobody told him about the buses from outlying school districts that dropped off their high school students at Brownsville High School.

“As we talked about that 1940 game,” Bill said, “the fellow told me, ‘After that game, I was depressed, looking toward the long season ahead after our dismal showing. As it turned out, we did quite well the rest of the year and had a real good team in our class. I followed Brownsville’s season in the papers, and they ended up the Class AA WPIAL champions.’

“The former coach paused. ‘But I still remember that big fullback smashing for ten yards with two or three of my kids on his back.’”

“I know,” I told him, ‘I saw the game too. That big fullback was Paul ‘Buck’ Sutton.’”

Big Buck Sutton was one of five Sutton boys to play for Brownsville in the thirties and forties. A powerful running back, Buck led the 1940 squad in scoring with 21 touchdowns and 143 points. He was followed in the scoring race by John Daley with 57 and Al Taffoni with 29. Sutton’s teammates on the starting eleven were linemen Art Woodward, Jim Shoaf, Paul Colborn, John Wolosky, Fred Kreuter, Dave Pursglove, and Henry Szalc. Sutton shared the backfield with Al Taffoni, Alex Chronis, and Joe Vaccaro.

The second game of the 1940 season was another whitewash, a 32-0 drubbing of German Township, but local scribes were still unsure of the Brownies’ talent. The next week, 6,700 excited fans witnessed a 28-6 victory over the Redstone Black Hawks at Brownie Stadium, a performance that convinced onlookers that this Brownsville team might make a serious run for that still-elusive WPIAL crown.

The following Friday night, 8,500 fans packed Charleroi Stadium for the two teams’ Big Six Conference opener. The Cougars were

hoping to uphold their well-earned reputation as an annual thorn in Brownsville's side. On this night, however, there would be no upset by Charleroi, as Sutton, Daley, and Taffoni all scored touchdowns on the way to a 21-0 shutout. It was the most points a Brownsville team had scored against Charleroi since the Brownsville School District's formation in 1934.

The win at Charleroi was the first in a string of four straight shutouts, with Monessen, Mon City, and Donora failing to score during the next three weeks. In the eighth game of the season, the Brownies knocked off Vince Stapulis's California Cubs, 33-6, shut out Uniontown 27-0 in their ninth game, and ventured to Campbell Stadium in Connellsville where they downed the Cokers, 19-6, to complete a perfect 10-0 season.

The awards rolled in. By winning its third consecutive Big Six championship, Brownsville High School was awarded permanent possession of an impressive Big Six trophy. The victory over Connellsville also assured the Brownies their third consecutive Fayette County title, the team's fifth in six years. For the third season in a row, only three teams scored a point against the Brownies, who finished their remarkable season with a 278-18 scoring edge over ten opponents.

But what about that WPIAL Class AA title?

"The WPIAL championship in the 'AA' division," reported the Brownsville *Telegraph* in November, "is automatically awarded to the Brownies, since Altoona, which also closed its campaign with an undefeated and untied record Saturday, has notified league officials that it will not participate in a post-season playoff tilt."

That clinched it. Brownsville had finally broken through. In recognition of the school's first WPIAL Class AA football title, a WPIAL championship trophy was added to the growing collection of engraved hardware on display at the high school on High Street.

The 1940 championship season was Carl Aschman's last as Brownsville's coach. Aschman moved on to Aliquippa High School in 1941, and assistant coach Earl Bruce was promoted to replace him. In Bruce's inaugural year as head coach, the undefeated streak continued six games into the season. Then Brownie fans, who had not experienced a single defeat since 1937, were stunned by three consecutive losses to Donora, Johnstown, and Uniontown. The team finished with a 5-3-2 record.

Bruce's 1942 squad turned in a respectable 7-2-2 performance, starting off the year 5-0 before playing consecutive ties against Monessen and Mon City, followed by late season losses to Johnstown and Uniontown. As the 1943 school year approached, Brownsville fans

were optimistically anticipating the new football season with the powerful brother tandems of Bert and Bill Sutton and Joe and Chuck Drazenovich, along with veteran Paul Johns, returning to the squad. Hopes ran high that another championship season might be in the offing – one that could produce another impressive addition to the crowded Brownsville High School trophy case.

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**1943 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON BOOSTED  
BROWNSVILLE'S WARTIME SPIRITS**

Our search for the missing Brownsville High School trophies persuaded me to learn more about the 1940 and 1943 Brownsville High School football teams that won the school's only two WPIAL Class AA football championships. In the previous article, I told you the story of the 1940 WPIAL championship season. It was the Brownies' last campaign under Coach Carl Aschman, who was succeeded by Earl Bruce. Bruce's 1941 and 1942 teams were fairly successful, and in the fall of 1943, Brownie fans were looking forward to an exciting season under Bruce and assistant coaches Andy Sepsi, Joe Dudzak and Charlie Slick

The 1943 squad made its debut against Coach Frank Greskovich's East Bethlehem Bulldogs. Projected starters in the Brownsville backfield were Dan Stimmell at quarterback, Paul (Noodie) Johns and Parker Davis at halfback, and the "last of the Suttons," Bert Sutton, at fullback, with Bill (Beetle) Billips and Nate Burnette also expected to see action. Slated to start along the line of scrimmage were ends Bill Sutton and Ross Herron, tackles Bob Kraft and Walter Oakley, guards Joe Drazenovich and John Simon, and center Chuck Drazenovich.

Bert Sutton and Noodie Johns each scored twice as Brownsville swamped the Bulldogs, 31-0, in the opener, and the Brownies followed that victory with shutouts of Masontown, 19-0, and German Township, 39-0.

The fourth game of the season was a highly anticipated confrontation with undefeated Redstone Township High School, a game played at Brownie Stadium before 5,500 fans. Redstone's band rode streetcars to downtown Brownsville, disembarked in the Neck, and raised pre-game excitement to a fever pitch by marching up the hill to the stadium.

For one Brownsville player, it was a bittersweet night. Brownie senior right halfback Parker Davis had been drafted into the U. S. Navy,

and he was to report for duty the following Monday. The school proclaimed it "Parker Davis Night," and before the game, Brownsville band director Eddie Sweadner formed the Brownie band into a huge "D" on the field in Davis's honor. In the locker room, the Brownie players vowed to make it a night to remember for their departing teammate.

Parker Davis's brother Frank, a junior halfback on that 1943 team, lives in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania. He vividly remembers that magical night sixty years ago.

"Parker did not start the game," Frank told me. "Our coaches had two favorite plays involving the right halfback, one a run and the other a pass. Later in the game when Parker was in, they called that right halfback running play."

What happened next was straight out of a Hollywood script. No screenwriter could have written it better.

"Ross Herron was an end on that team," Frank said. "Ross told me, 'That was the only time in my entire career that I can ever remember a play where there wasn't an opposing man left standing on the field. Parker could have walked the entire distance to the end zone. It was executed perfectly.'"

Brownsville *Telegraph* sports reporter Bob Petriello wrote the next day, "Parker Davis, who leaves for duty with the United States Navy Monday morning, culminated his scholastic career with some outstanding broken field running as he dashed off 76 yards and a touchdown in the fourth quarter, only to come back a few minutes later to take a pass from Johns and scamper 40 more yards before crossing the final white stripe."

The game was one of the most exciting in the history of the Brownsville-Redstone rivalry. Brownsville won the game, 48-22, but the thrilling plays by both teams were nonstop. Before many fans had even found their seats, Brownsville halfback Noodie Johns burst through the line on the first play from scrimmage and raced 80 yards for a touchdown.

Coach Gus Cardarelli's Redstone offense was just as explosive. The Black Hawks gained 316 yards on offense and posted a 22-8 first down advantage in the game, but the powerful Brownsville running attack was unstoppable. The Brownies rolled up 380 yards on offense while throwing only one pass all night – the touchdown pass from Noodie Johns to Parker Davis.

Parker, who now lives in Texas, recently told me, "After the Redstone game, the team and the coaches gave me the game ball, with all of them having signed it. I wish I could have finished the season," he added, "but at the time, I had mixed emotions."

Despite the big win over Redstone, the Brownies could not relax, as the tough Big Five Conference schedule got underway the following week against Charleroi. The Brownies easily dispatched the Cougars, 33-12, and that set up another match-up of undefeated teams, this time against Coach “Rab” Currie’s Monessen Greyhounds.

Brownsville had never beaten Monessen on the Greyhounds’ turf, and reporters billed the game as a contest pitting Brownsville backs Noodie Johns and Bert Sutton against the Greyhounds’ star halfback Elmo Natale. When the final gun signaled the end of the game that Friday night, a subdued crowd of 7,200 exited Monessen Stadium. Expecting to witness a rousing showdown of evenly matched teams, they had watched in amazement as Noodie Johns scored four touchdowns and led the Brownies to an easy 34-12 victory.

The following Friday, the Brownies ran their record to 7-0 by blanking the Monongahela Wildcats, 28-0. Then in the eighth week, the Brownies went on the road to face the tough Donora Dragons.

Unlike the Monessen game, the Brownsville-Donora game was a classic thriller. For most of the game, the Brownies’ hopes of a championship were in dire jeopardy. Brownsville fell behind the orange-shirted Dragons 13-0 in the first half. They were still trailing 13-7 early in the third quarter when Brownsville managed to stop yet another Donora drive by recovering a Dragon fumble on the Brownsville four-yard-line. Unfortunately, on the very next play Noodie Johns tried to skirt right end and was tackled in his own end zone for a safety, giving the Dragons an 8-point, 15-7 lead late in the third quarter.

In Brownsville, fans who had not traveled to Donora were frantic to learn what was happening, and during the game the *Telegraph* office received 831 telephone calls asking for updates. On the field in Donora, things looked bleak for the Brownies.

“Gloom began to hang heavy on the faces of Brownie fans,” the *Telegraph*’s Bob Petriello wrote, “as defeat was in sight for the first time this year. In the first half and the greater part of the third period, it was all Donora and the boys knew it.”

After giving up the safety, Brownsville had to kick to Donora, and the Dragons set up shop on the Brownie 48-yard line, eager to score again and seal Brownsville’s fate. It was at this unlikely point in the game that Brownsville began its dramatic comeback.

Dan Stimmell intercepted a Donora pass, and the Brownies began a desperate march toward the Dragon goal line, a drive kept alive by a fourth-down pass to Bill Sutton. When Bert Sutton ran it in from the one and Noodie Johns passed to Bill Sutton for the extra point, the Brownies had closed to within one point, 15-14.

There was an exchange of punts, then Brownsville put together the drive that won the game. Running on every play, Brownie backs Bert Sutton and Nate Barnette relentlessly pounded the tiring Donora line on eight straight running plays. On the ninth play from the Donora two-yard-line, Barnette bulled his way into the end zone, lifting his team to a 20-15 lead that it never relinquished. The come-from-behind victory gave Brownsville the 1943 Big Five Championship and kept their WPIAL title hopes alive.

The following Friday, the Brownies hosted Uniontown and took a 28-0 halftime lead over Clarence Stark's Red Raiders. After George Fox and Gloria Grover gave the fans a "big kick" with a halftime jitterbugging demonstration, the Brownies came out and finished off the Raiders, 49-20.

The final game of the season was traditionally against Connellsville. The Cokers, fresh off a big victory over Braddock, were all that stood between the Brownies and the WPIAL Class AA championship. Even former coach Carl Aschman came to Brownie Stadium to see that game, and he watched Brownsville power to a 32-6 title-clinching victory.

"Hail the Brownsville Blue and White warriors!" proclaimed the *Telegraph* the next day, "WPIAL Class AA, Big Five Conference and Fayette County champions for 1943!"

It was the second WPIAL Class AA football championship for Brownsville in four years. Who could have guessed there would not be another during the next sixty years?

When I recently spoke to Frank Davis, one of the happy players who celebrated that 1943 title, I asked him, "Was there any ceremony at which the 1943 WPIAL championship trophy was awarded to the team?"

"To the best of my knowledge, Glenn, there wasn't," he replied. "I do recall that after the season, the team was called together, and each player who had participated in a certain number of quarters was awarded a sweater with a football and the initials BHS on it."

"Some players did not get a sweater?"

"Right. Sweaters were awarded only to players who had a certain amount of playing time."

With one very special exception.

"The school gave me a WPIAL championship sweater," Navy veteran Parker Davis told me, "even though I had only played one game that year, the game against Redstone."

While Parker's buddies were winning a football championship in western Pennsylvania, Parker was overseas winning an even bigger victory with his new team, the U. S. Navy, against an opponent tougher than Donora, Monessen, and Redstone all rolled into one. Perhaps more



than anyone on that 1943 Brownsville football team, Parker Davis earned his letterman's sweater.

And what about that "missing" 1943 WPIAL Class AA football championship trophy?

"Do you remember anything at all about the 1943 WPIAL trophy?" I asked Frank Davis.

"Each player received a small trophy as a keepsake," Frank said, "but that's all I remember as far as a trophy was concerned."

Two months ago, I sought the help of this column's readers to find the championship trophies for which those players worked so hard. I felt if we could find them, perhaps they could be placed on display at the school for new generations of fans and students to appreciate.

Not long after that request appeared in the newspaper, I was teaching my third period history class at Brownsville Area High School, and there was a knock on my classroom door. I opened the door to see a familiar face.

"Are you teaching class right now?" the man at the door asked me.

"Yes. What's up?"

"I've got boxes and boxes downstairs for you."

I was puzzled. I hadn't been expecting any supplies.

"What's in them?"

He grinned at me.

"Trophies."

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### *MISSING BROWNSVILLE TROPHIES REDISCOVERED*

When I answered the knock on my classroom door at Brownsville Area High School, I did not suspect that I was about to learn the whereabouts of the missing Brownsville High School trophies. The man at my door was high school custodian Edward "Ozie" Fajger.

"Are you teaching class right now?" Ozie asked me.

"Yes. What's up?" I replied.

"I've got boxes and boxes downstairs for you."

"What's in them?"

Ozie grinned.

"Trophies."

My eyebrows shot up in surprise.

"They're very dusty," Ozie continued. "I found the boxes stored in a crawl space here in the building. They must have been there for a long time."

“Where are they now?”

“I put them in the receiving room.”

Later I walked downstairs to the receiving room, poked my head in the door, and spotted custodian Susan Zupic.

“Susan, are there any boxes of trophies in here?” I asked.

“There they are,” she said, pointing to a flatbed pushcart that the custodians used to move large items. On the flatbed was a stack of three large cardboard boxes, and beside it was another stack of four more. All of the boxes had lids and were dusty. Next to the two neat stacks sat a tall, very dirty cardboard box. It had no lid, and the top of an enormous two-foot-high trophy protruded above the top of the box. Trying not to touch the filthy cardboard, I gingerly lifted the trophy into the air.

It was a tarnished, slightly dented loving cup. Wondering how old it was, I read the inscription and realized that when it was won by Brownsville track and field athletes, the 1929 stock market crash had not yet happened! Its fading letters read, “Carnegie Institute of Technology - Twelfth Annual Interscholastic Track And Field Meet - May 5, 1928.”

I turned to one of the seven stacked boxes and lifted its lid. It appeared to contain several trophies, each wrapped in yellowed newspapers that dated back to 1966, the year the old Brownsville High School on High Street was closed. The trophies had apparently been packed in these boxes when that building was emptied thirty-six years ago. Now they were finally going to see the light of day again.

I closed the lid and did not open any of the other boxes.

“I wonder if we could get these boxes upstairs to my classroom?” I asked Susan. “I think it would be great to have the students in my Local History class join me in opening them.”

Susan took the cart upstairs in the elevator and wheeled it to my classroom, and I placed the eight boxes in a storage area adjacent to my room. The next day I told the students in my Local History class about the search that has been underway for the pre-1967 Brownsville High School trophies, particularly the missing 1940 and 1943 WPIAL Class AA football championship trophies.

Then I pointed to the door of my room’s storage closet and told them about the boxes that were in there. I said that I had not yet investigated their contents.

“Tomorrow,” I told them, “we will open them all during class and see what is in them.”

The next day, some of the boys in my class carried the boxes from the storage room into my classroom and placed them on desks around the room. I divided the class into groups, assigned each group several boxes to open, and asked each group to write down the inscription that was on

each trophy they unwrapped.

“Keep an eye out for anything that looks like a WPIAL championship trophy,” I said. We began opening boxes, carefully removing the old newspapers that concealed the objects inside.

Forty-five minutes later, piles of crumpled newspapers lay scattered around the room. On the students’ desks stood thirty-nine trophies of various styles and sizes, many of them won by Brownsville High School students who are now senior citizens.

Twelve of the trophies were earned by Brownsville/John A. Brashear High School debate teams, who established an amazingly successful record in the 1950s. Can you imagine the same high school winning the state championship in debate eight times in ten years? That is what coach James Norman’s Brownsville High School debate teams did from 1951 through 1960, including a streak of six consecutive state titles from 1955 through 1960.

Several of those teams advanced to the national tournament, and the 1959 quartet of Herb Bowen, Michael Yonkura, Stuart Smith, and Alan Cazen nearly won the national championship. The 1959 team won the Fayette County championship in March, the National Forensic League championship at California High School in April, and then captured the Pennsylvania state debate championship at the University of Pittsburgh, thus qualifying two teams for national entry.

“This marked the second time in Pennsylvania forensic history that one school – Brashear in both cases – won a double state championship in debate,” declared the editors of the high school yearbook. “The Brownsville Board of Education sent the teams to Coral Gables, Florida, where Brashear represented Pennsylvania among 56 other state and N.F.L. district championship teams in the National Championship Tournament. The Brownsville team reached the semi-finals and officially placed third in the United States.”

Which of the thirty-nine trophies that we unwrapped were the oldest? Five track and field trophies claim that distinction. All five were won before the 1934 consolidation of South Brownsville and Brownsville school districts into a single school system.

The oldest of the rediscovered trophies reads, “F.C.I.A.L. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Field Meet - Third Place School Award to (blank) - Dawson, Pa. - May 10, 1924.” Unfortunately, the inscription gives no clue whether it was won by South Brownsville or Brownsville High School. The other track and field trophies are dated 1925, 1926, and 1928, and there is an undated trophy that is engraved, “Annual Grade School Track And Field Meet - Y.M.C.A. - South Brownsville.”

One of the two basketball trophies in the collection was won by

Brownsville High School's first section championship team in thirty-two years. The 1963 Class A Section 10 champions, coached by Frank Dankovich and assistant coach Dick Majernik, started a lineup of Charles Wheeler, Phil Johns, Don Turner, Rich Martello, and Chuck Dennis. The opponents whom the Brownies battled for that Section 10 title were South Union, German, Fairchance-Georges, Albert Gallatin, North Union, Redstone, and Beth-Center.

We found two band trophies in the boxes. One reads "1952 – Awarded at Brownsville Battle of the Bands," and the other was given in 1955 for participation in the California State Teachers College homecoming parade.

Also in the boxes were three unengraved baseball trophies, a plaque listing the winners of the Mike Cesarone Award from 1947 (Lou Roberts) to 1958 (Robert Chuey), and an unengraved loving cup with no indication of what accomplishment it represents.

Of the remaining thirteen trophies, eleven were won by Brownsville football teams between 1938 and 1953 and two are undated. The most impressive-looking of the thirteen is not a WPIAL championship trophy. It is the Monongahela Valley Big Six Championship trophy awarded to Brownsville High School in 1940 after Coach Carl Aschman's team captured the Big Six title for the third consecutive year. Brownsville's 1938-39-40 football teams earned permanent possession of the trophy by recording a 27-0-3 record, shutting out 21 of their 30 opponents, and yielding only 58 points in 30 games.

Four of the thirteen football trophies represent Fayette County championships; seven were awarded for Big Five or Big Six championships. The Big Six consisted of Brownsville, Donora, Monessen, Monongahela, Charleroi, and Washington in 1946, and in that season, no Big Six team scored a single point against Brownsville. Even though that 1946 team was 9-0-1, it did not win the school's third WPIAL Class AA championship in seven years, because it played to a 6-6 tie against archrival Redstone Township High School.

The 1947 squad was another great team, but it did not win a WPIAL championship trophy either. Coach Andy Sepsi's 1947 squad was 10-0, shutting out all opponents except Monessen and Uniontown, but the Brownies were not awarded the WPIAL championship because under the WPIAL's complex Gardner point system, Brownsville ranked fourth behind three other undefeated teams – New Kensington, Har-Brack, and McKeesport.

There are two 1947 trophies in the collection. One reads "1947 Big Six Champions." The other, the twelfth of the thirteen football trophies we found, is a hardwood and metal plaque honoring the 1947 squad. It is

engraved “Football – 1947 – Class AA – Undefeated – Brownsville.”

The thirteenth football trophy is inscribed, “WPIAL Football Champions – 1940 – Class AA.” This very special trophy was won by Brownsville High School’s first WPIAL Champions, the 1940 Brownies, coached by Carl Aschman.

Readers, there you have a summary of thirty-nine South Brownsville and Brownsville High School trophies that had not been seen since 1966. Now that they have been rediscovered, I am hoping that we can provide a fitting showcase for them. I know that Brownsville Area High School would be proud to display these reminders of the school’s heritage,

trophies earned so many years ago by dedicated young people who competed to represent their school and community with pride.

Before I conclude this article, there is one other item I must mention. I said there were thirty-nine trophies in those boxes, and I have accounted for all of those trophies in this article. But unfortunately, one mystery still remains.

None of the trophies in the boxes is the 1943 WPIAL Class AA football championship trophy. If it exists, its whereabouts are still unknown. Was there a team trophy awarded to the school in 1943? Or were the small individual trophies described last week by 1943 Brownie player Frank Davis the only trophies that were awarded that year?

Perhaps we will never find a 1943 WPIAL Class AA championship trophy. However, we do have thirty-nine historic trophies. They are loaded with great memories, but are still sitting in dusty boxes, waiting to be placed on public display.

How about it, Brownsville alumni? Who among you is willing to help me see that these trophies are proudly displayed once more?

*Update: As of summer 2010, these historic trophies are now on display in the lobby of the Brownsville Area High School gymnasium.*



**1940 WPIAL Class AA Football Championship trophy, which was rediscovered after having been missing for nearly forty years**