

#6G Gray Hassell –Baseball and Football player and Organizer - Captain of the Beaufort Football Team in 1935

The Morehead-Beaufort football game is enjoyed by no one more than it is by the alumni of the two schools. The traditional battle for the Mullet Bucket is as much a classic to folks in Carteret county as the Army-Navy game.

Grandstand coaches will be at their best and loudest when the contest begins at 8 o'clock tonight on the Beaufort field. Two of the oldtimers never absent from the battlefield, both of whom were



James Davis
... Eagles' star

captain and backfield men in years past, will be on hand for the long-standing rivalry.

Gray Hassell, captain of the Beaufort football team in 1935, thinks "the Seadogs have a better chance this year than in the past few years," and wants to see them win. "They are more evenly matched now than they have been in a long time," Mr. Hassell says. He is the father of Butch Hassell, high school All-America candidate in 1959, who led the Seadogs to a 14-6 victory over Morehead City. It was the only win in 11 years.

Halfback Danny O'Neal, captain of the 1956 Eagles' squad that downed Beaufort 34-0, is of the opinion that "Morehead City has the edge. You're going to have to get up before dawn to outsmart coach Norman Clark and coach Jimmy Parker."

Mr. Hassell remembers "back



Gray Hassell
... remembers the 1930's

in the days when I was playing there was no age limit." "I began playing varsity ball in the seventh grade. When we were seniors," Mr. Hassell says, "some of the boys had been playing for as many as seven years. We had one of the best teams ever."

The Seadogs won every game but one, "that was against Edenton 7-6," and defeated Morehead City by 36-0. That was long before there was a mullet bucket. Frank Rice played in 1935, and according to Mr. Hassell, he was the fastest halfback who ever played at Beaufort.

"We had only four backs—no substitutes. The line was two deep, and each man was as good as the other. We drew straws to see who would play."

David Beveridge and George Brooks Jr. played on that team. Piggie Potter had coached at Beaufort for two years, but was gone by then. The Seadogs needed a coach, and finally came up with a man named Dillinger.

Dillinger admitted he didn't

know too much about the game, but he'd at least try to keep things going and just stay out of the way. One year, the Seadogs beat Morehead 26-0. So Beaufort scheduled a final game with Kinston, supposedly slated for the state championship at a time when conferences and classifications were somewhat vague. Kinston called the game with Beaufort "a breather."

Beaufort licked 'em, and when the team came back to town, Dillinger was so happy, he got drunk.

W. C. Carlton, then principal of the school, put him on a bus and sent him out of town, and that was the end of a football coach for that year.

Of the Morehead-Beaufort rivalry, Mr. Hassell remembers one thing. "The Eagles have always scheduled an open date on the weekend before. As far back as I can remember, the entire Morehead squad would go to see the Seadogs perform the week

before the big game.

"I can remember the 36-0 score in 1935 so well, because the whole Morehead team came over to watch us play Vanceboro." Mr. Hassell says. "We beat Vanceboro 34-0, and we knew that Morehead knew all of our plays. So we changed them, and threw in what was then called the 'semi-punt' formation, and whipped the Eagles by two points more than we beat Vanceboro, 36-0."

Of this year's Beaufort team, Mr. Hassell believes it "has got

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