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## The aftermath: Members of Pineville's 1960 team tell of life after victory

This is the last in a four-part series on Pineville High School's 1960 state championship football team.

### By Bob Tompkins

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As fate would have it, two of the more well known personalities from Pineville High School's 1960 Class AA state championship football team were players who were not starters that season.

Sam Goodwin, then called Sammy, was a junior offensive guard who played only in the first game and the last game of that season because of a broken ankle. He went on to become an All-American guard at Henderson State, where he finished about 10 years of service as the athletics director last March. He had successful football coaching stints at the high school and college levels, most notably as the winningest head coach in the history of Northwestern State, where he served from 1983-99. He is now the head coach at DeQueen (Ark.) High School.

"That rascal would work," remembers Vernon Beall, the only surviving member of the varsity coaching staff for that team. "He got injured in that first game and came back and played every down of the (championship) game.

Thomas Howell was a reserve senior tackle that season, but he is well known locally for being the longtime head of the history department at Louisiana College before taking the same job a few years ago at William Jewell College near Kansas City, Mo. He has also been the commissioner of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference since 1981. He returns to town regularly as a guest lecturer.

Senior quarterback Jimmy Gallent was a junior high school teacher in the area for four years and was a claims manager for 35 years in Baton Rouge. He is retired and lives in Pineville.

David Bates, a backup junior quarterback and starting defensive back, is the owner of D.C. Bates Insurance, and he is the son of D.C. "Bill" Bates, for whom Pineville High School's stadium is named. He lives in Pineville.

Senior halfback James Aymond played two years at Tulane and two years at Northwestern State, and in 1964 at Northwestern he grabbed national attention, averaging more than 10 yards a carry. He had a chance to play professionally, getting offers to play for Houston and Cleveland, but turned both down.

"They didn't pay very much back then," says Aymond, "maybe \$25,000. I had a scholastic award in college and got some (lucrative) opportunities in the work field. Other pros I talked to said don't do it. You'll be a beat-up guy in 15 years."

Aymond went on to become an entrepreneur and started a successful workman's compensation insurance business he says is the biggest in the state. He lives between Winnfield and Montgomery, and he says he has a 1,000-acre hunting camp on the Tensas River in Franklin Parish.

David Corley, the bruising senior fullback, played at Louisiana College and can show off a letter he received from Vince Lombardi, then the head coach of the Green Bay Packers, asking him to join the team, but he tried his hand instead with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League, and played with the Argonauts only briefly before returning to Pineville to help run a family plumbing business. He is semi-retired and lives in Pineville.

Stanley Tuma, the star senior center and co-captain who got a scholarship to play for LSU,

"I found out quickly I wasn't college material," Tuma said recently, reflecting more on the academic side of college life. "I was not very good at algebra ... and I couldn't write those five-page book reports. I failed out, and I didn't go back. I should've gone back."

Instead, Tuma returned home to work with his father in an automobile body shop in downtown Alexandria ("I should've tried something else," he says). He worked there for 42 years, eventually buying the place from his father in 1979 and running it with his older brother, Johnny, until retiring a few years ago after Johnny died.

Tuma and Neville running back Neal Gunn were the reasons (along with provincial loyalties of some) that LSU head coach Paul Dietzel, assistant Charlie McClendon and Tiger running back Jerry Stovall of West Monroe drove from Baton Rouge to see Pineville and Neville of Monroe play in the state semifinal game at Bolton Stadium, says Lucien Branch of Alexandria. Branch and fellow LSU freshman and Neville grad Mickey Cox rode with them.

"We drove there in a pea-green Ford station wagon used by the LSU coaches," Branch said. "Coach Dietzel said, 'We lost our (Heisman Trophy winner Billy) Cannon; now we'll get our Gunn.'" (Gunn didn't replace Cannon, lettering only one season, 1964, at Northeast Louisiana.) Wayne Martin, a non-starting junior halfback, owns M&M Meats and lives in Pineville. He has a link to the current team as the father of Pineville football coach Robbie Martin, who joined brother Richie on the 1984 Pineville team that finished the regular season undefeated before losing in the first round of the playoffs.

Wayne Lindsey, a senior guard, had jobs at CLECO and as a civil service worker at Fort Polk. He is retired, legally blind and lives in Pineville.

Wayne Bardwell, a senior starting guard, was a building contractor for many years in Atlanta. Paralyzed from the neck down in an accident, he lives now in Houston and continues to run his building contractor business.

Mike Peavy, a junior tackle, was a three-year letterman at Louisiana College who started at offensive and defensive tackle and was named football MVP in 1964.

Following graduation, Peavy coached at Bolton High School from the fall of 1966 through the spring of 1977. As head track coach, he led the Bears to the 1974 state title -- the same year he served as defensive coordinator to football coach Aubrey Sanders when Bolton lost in the AAA championship game. He is in the insurance business and lives in Pineville.

Frank Hooper, a starting senior end, owns Hooper Carpet in Alexandria and lives in Alexandria.

Gary Wilson, a starting junior tackle, owned and retired from G.W. Pipeline Contractor. He lives in Pineville.

Space doesn't permit us to tell of what happened with every player on that team, and in some cases, the information is too sketchy, but there is another, last story of a 1960 Rebel.

Bill Mount, a 270-pound starting senior tackle, dropped out of Louisiana College after two years (with limited play for the Wildcats) after his father died. He is retired after working 40 years as a local mortician, and he lives in Pineville.

He tells of having a Town Talk front-page picture of himself after the championship game. In the photograph, he is being hugged by a girl.

"I was scared of her daddy," he said, admitting he worried to death about how he'd react on seeing the picture of his daughter, the booster captain Janice Brock, giving him a big hug.

Let's just say Janice's father got over it.

"I married that girl," Mount said.

## Additional Facts

Here is a list of those on the roster for Pineville High School's 1960 state championship football team:

Quarterbacks - Sr. James Gallent, Jr. David Bates, So. Walter Holsomback

Guards - Sr. Wayne Lindsey, Sr. Wayne Bardwell, Jr. Keith Bradford, Jr. Mark Walker, Jr. Sam Goodwin, Jr. John Lindsay, Jr. J.C. Rachal, Jr. Jimmy Renegar; So. Charles Aymond, So. Johnny Luneau

Halfbacks - Sr. James Aymond, Sr. Jerry Meredith, Jr. Phillip Morris, Jr. Wayne Martin

Tackles - Sr. Bill Mount, Sr. John Geiling, Sr. Bruce Bessonett, Sr. Thomas Howell, Jr. Mike Peevy, Jr. Hary Wilson, Jr. Lamar Wilson, Jr. Charles Kidd, So. Johnny White, So. Dan Melichar

Fullbacks - Sr. David Corley, Sr. Jimmy Wilson, So. Russell Girod, So. C.J. Butler

Centers - Sr. Stanley Tuma, Sr. Glen Marshall, Jr. Randy Johnson, So. John Milliner

Ends - Sr. Charles Kimball, Sr. David McKenzie; Sr. Jerry Shank, Sr. Frankie Hooper, Jr. Woody Kees, So. Doug Webb

Managers - Earl Bailey, John Allison, Alfred Hathorn

Coaches - Jimmy Keeth, head; Vernon Beall, Billy Beeson, Eugene Millet

Principal - W. R. Barron

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