

65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

A NEW DECADE. A NEW BEGINNING.

The Road to 1987



1980 Ridge
Red Devils

The story of Ridge Football in the 1980s wasn't written in a single season. It was built one practice, one game, and one team at a time.

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THE ROAD TO 1987

Champions aren't built overnight.



The early 1980s
tested Ridge
Football.
Heartbreak,
injuries, and near
misses became part
of the journey.
Every season
brought the
program one step
closer to making
history.

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A SEASON OF ADVERSITY

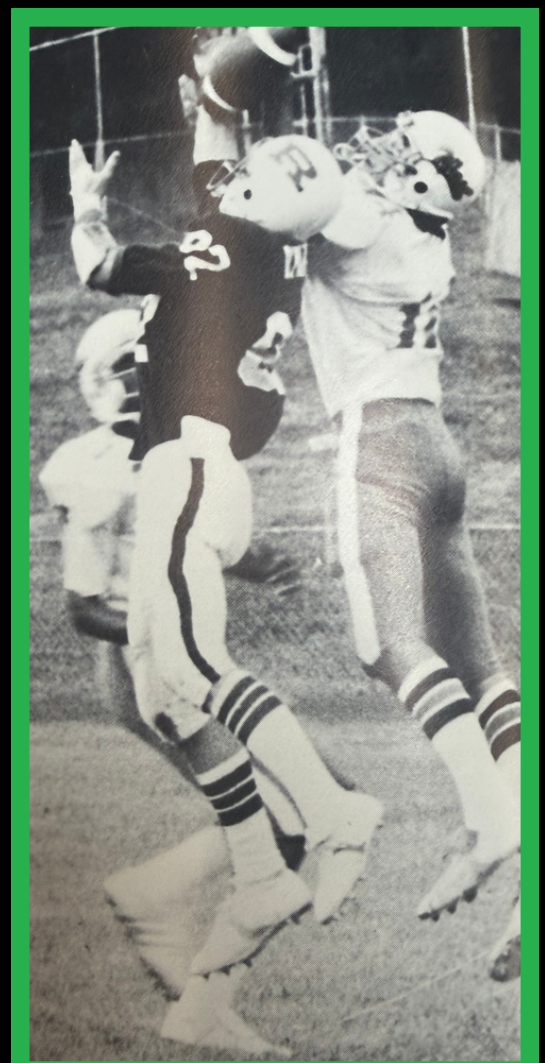
Expectations were high entering **1981**, but an inexperienced roster, key injuries, and a demanding schedule quickly took their toll. The Red Devils battled through the tough season, finishing **2-7**.

Only six lettermen back for Ridge

*Ridge Fights Injury,
Lack Of Experience*

Red Devils Outmuscled In 19-7 Loss

**Kenilworth Tops
Injured Ridge**



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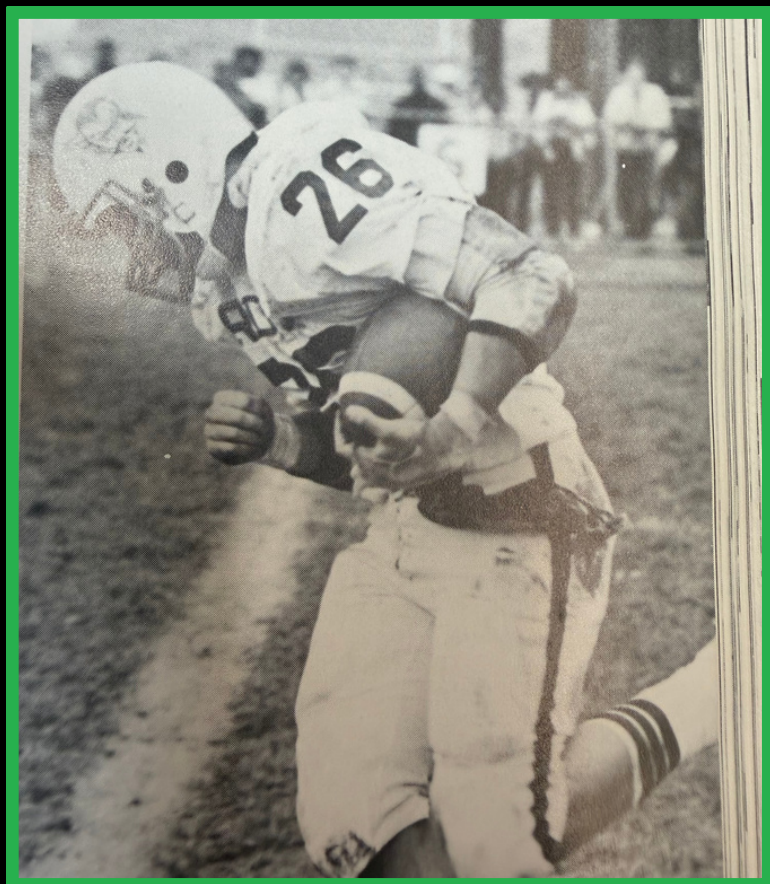
TURNING THE CORNER

1983

Red Devils Defeat New Providence, 27-19

MVC Division Title Belongs To Ridge High

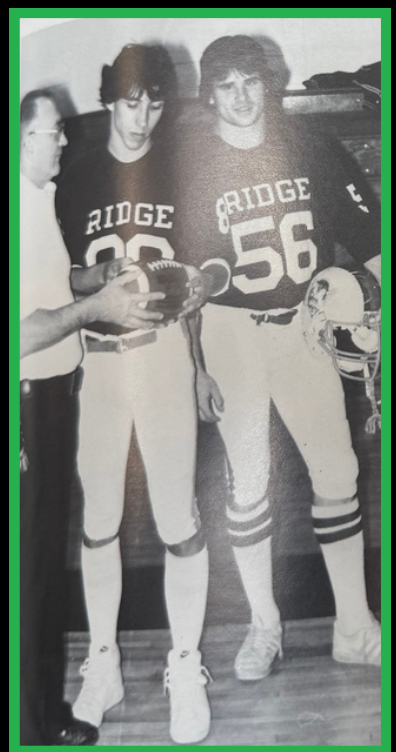
Just two years after a 2-7 season, Ridge completed an impressive turnaround, finishing 7-3 and capturing the **1983 MVC division title.**



Bill Haynes averaged 3.9 yards per carry for the Red Devils this season.



1983 Varsity Team



Coach Bush with co-captains Jim Flanagan and Mike Ford.

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HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Just as Ridge appeared to regain its momentum, new challenges emerged. Injuries, close losses, and smaller rosters made the mid-1980s another difficult stretch. Yet through every setback, Coach Bush's teams continued to compete with determination and pride.

**Ridge football team light
in weight and numbers**

**Ridge starting quarterback
out six weeks with injury**

Red Devils drop to 0-4 as Immaculata feasts, 28-6

Ridge goes down, 22-18

Conversion, short by inches, sums up Ridge season



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THE LEADERS WHO KEPT RIDGE GOING

Winning seasons were harder to find, but Ridge never stopped producing leaders. These captains and Coach Bush carried the program through difficult years and helped preserve the winning culture Coach Bush had built.



Dan Pace
Co-captain



Chris Bell
Co-captain



Dave Saraceno
Co-captain



Coach
Harry Bush

Saraceno's 2TDs power Ridge

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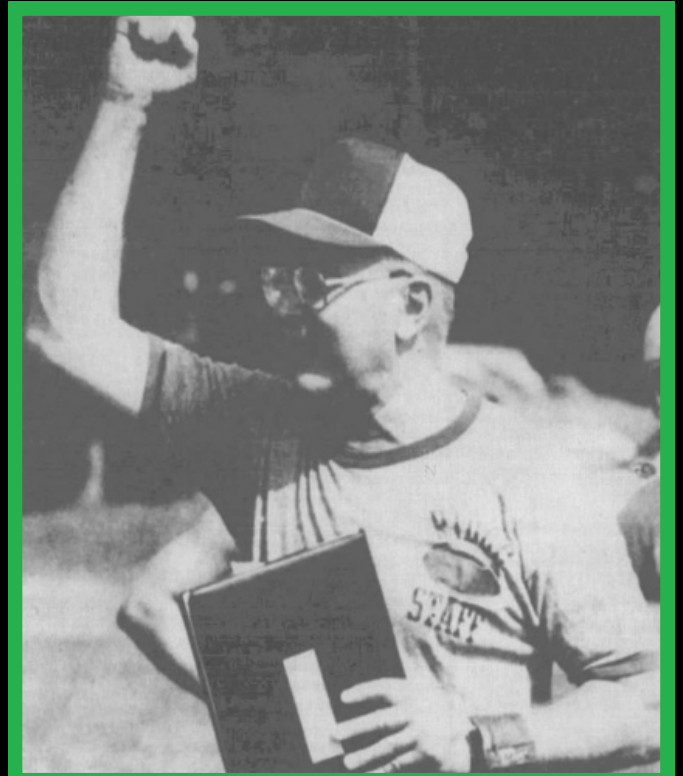
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REBUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Three difficult seasons hadn't broken the program. They had strengthened it. Coach Harry Bush never compromised the culture he had built, and the lessons learned through adversity prepared Ridge for what would come next.

Ridge is rebuilding

RIDGE: Coach Harry Bush's Red Devils should improve on last season's disappointing 2-7 records if the team can avoid injuries. At times last season, Bush had as many as eight starters out of a game with injuries.



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1987

THE WAIT WAS OVER...