

KC Hall of Fame 2018

BIO – 1954 Football Team

In his second season as head football coach in 1954, Jasper Flanakin fielded one of the nation's top football teams. Even though the team was plagued with injuries to key players, Coach Flanakin juggled the lineup, winning all but one game to Arlington early in the season, finishing 9-1 on the season.

One of the main reasons for KC's success was due to the assistance of line coach Solon Holt in his first year as an assistant coach. His popularity among the players and his knowledge of line play proved an invaluable asset to one of KC's most successful football seasons.

KC scored 99 points in its first two games, both of which were wins against the Navarro Bulldogs, 45-9, and to Henderson County Cardinals, 54-20.

Against Navarro, the Rangers scored in every quarter and only allowed a Navarro touchdown and safety in the waning minutes of play. Donnie Caraway scored three times and added an extra point while teammates Ronnie Logan, Raymond Manchester, Bob Williams and Jimmy Bland each added a touchdown score.

In game two against Henderson County, KC displayed a startling offensive show, which included a superb 66-yard touchdown run by quarterback Keats Mulligan, and touchdowns by tackles Jon White and C.B. Johnson. Also scoring were Raymond Manchester with two touchdowns, and Donnie Caraway and Ronnie Logan with a touchdown apiece.

The Rangers suffered their lone loss in the next game to the Arlington Rebels, 20-16.

In the next game, KC scored at will against the Blinn Buccaneers, winning 73-6, with 73 points being the second-highest point total recorded in Ranger football history. Coach Jasper Flanakin emptied the bench to try to keep the score down, but even that didn't help. Kilgore's Jimmy Williams, Lavonne Cox, Raymond Manchester and Benny Lawrence each scored two touchdowns, and Ronnie Logan and Bilbo Jarrel each scored in the Rangers' victory over Blinn.

Tarleton was up next, and KC had to come from behind to defeat the Plow Boys. After trailing 13-7 at halftime, KC held Tarleton scoreless in the second half and won the game, 21-13. Raymond Manchester scored two rushing touchdowns in the second half to edge the Plow Boys.

KC then escaped the Victoria Pirates, winning 28-25, and won its homecoming matchup against the Wharton Pioneers, 32-6.

Keats Millikin scored first for KC against Victoria and Harold Stanley scored on a 59-yard touchdown run. Quarterback Jimmy Barber tossed a long touchdown pass to Ronnie Logan to make the score 21-13 at halftime. In the second half, Keats Millikin connected with Ronnie Logan for a touchdown to make the final score 28-25.

Ronnie Logan was the player of the game against Wharton, scoring three touchdowns, kicking one extra point and passing for a touchdown. Outstanding defenders were Bert Lindsey, Blain Duncan, Bob Clendenen, Pete Dean and Bob Bustin.

The next game, KC won 3-0 with the only score being a 19-yard field goal by fullback Donnie Caraway late in the first half. With the win, KC won the Longhorn Conference Championship.

The Rangers won the final two games of the season, defeating the University of Houston Kittens, 28-14, and defeating the Tyler Apaches, 27-6.

The game against Tyler was played in front of 10,000 fans. Kilgore scored early in the first quarter on a handoff from Keats Mulligan to Ronnie Logan. Scoring a second touchdown was Donnie Caraway and the third touchdown was a 91-yard run by Ronnie Logan. The final KC score against the Apaches came when Donnie Caraway intercepted an Apache pass and raced 37 yards for a touchdown to make the score 27-0.

At the conclusion of the season, Ronnie Logan was named All-State and Honorable Mention All-American. Raymond Manchester was also named to the All-State team with an Honorable Mention.

Seven Rangers were named to the Longhorn All-Conference team, including Ronnie Logan, Bob Clendenen and Donnie Caraway on the first team. And Bob Bustin, Raymond Manchester, Jackie Barrett and Bob Davis named to the second team. Bob Bustin was also named an Honorable Mention All-American.

The Ranger team elected Jackie Barrett and Ronnie Logan as co-captains for the 1954 team and the Most Conscientious player elected was Blain Duncan. The Most Valuable Player elected was Donnie Caraway.

Sophomores Donnie Caraway and Bob Clendenen each were named All-State First Team All-Americans and were named to the Junior College All-American team.

Today we are pleased to induct the 1954 KC football team into the KC Athletics Hall of Fame.