

# THE WELCH DAILY NEWS

Volume XLVII

Welch, West Virginia, Friday, November 20, 1970

McDowell County

## Unbeatens Square Off For Double-A Crown Gary Guns For Second State Championship Saturday At Bluefield

Gary plays Oceana for the State Double-A championship Saturday at Mitchell Stadium in Bluefield with kickoff time set for 1:30 p.m.

Both teams come into the contest unbeaten as they both have posted 10-0 records on the season. The schools have played three common opponents, Northfork, Iaeger and Mullens.

Gary defeated these three schools by scores of 12-6, 44-6 and 45-0, respectively. Oceana also claimed victories over the three schools by 14-0 over Northfork, 70-6 over Iaeger and clipped Mullens 26-0.

Gary has defeated seven Triple-A foes and three Double-A while Oceana has posted ten wins over Double-A teams. Both squads should be in good shape and they both will be up for this title game.

Gary won their first State Championship in 1966 under coach Sid Cure as they defeated Cerado-Kenova 33-14 at Logan. This was the first grid title for a McDowell County football team.

Oceana played in the 1968 title game but fell to the Hinton Bobcats 10-0 in a contest played at Beckley.

Both head coaches are consistent winners coming into Saturday's game.

Coach John Beckleheimer of Oceana has turned out some fine football teams since taking over the reins of the Indians.

Coach Sid Cure has also had his share of success on the gridiron since taking over the reins of the Gary Coaldiggers. Cure posted 7-3 seasons two years straight and had an 8-2 record in 1966.

Gary has a set of fleet backs it can turn loose. Chester Thomas, Eddie Reeves and David Callahan are threats to break away every time they get their hands on the football. Power runner Phillip Dillon is also a scoring threat at his fullback position.

Steve Thornton, quarterback, can run or throw the football and runs Gary's well drilled offensive unit extremely well. Backup quarterback for the Coaldiggers is Mike Dorula and he can also step in and do the job.

Gary's defensive unit, nicknamed the "gravediggers", specializes on meeting at the quarterback. The defensive line averages over 200 pounds and can hit with fury. Rick Nogosky, Mike Tolley, Clifford Christian, Jerome Bell, Sam Davidson, Steve Swayne and Eddie Joyce lead the defensive charge.

The Coaldiggers have been put through rough practice sessions this week and

Coach Sid Cure says the boys are ready to go at the opening whistle Saturday.

Oceana will give away quite a few pounds on the line but they also have a lot of speed and quickness in the backfield. Jackie Repass is the signal caller for the Indians with Tommy Tyree the fullback, Gary Philpott and David Branham the halfbacks.

Will Stewart is backup quarterback for the Oceana Indians. Stacy Keys is one of Oceana's top lineman and a candidate for an All-State berth.

Both coaching staffs look for a tough ball game in the State Championship contest Saturday. Gary has been made the favorite due to the tougher schedule they play but from the coaching staff on down they look for a rugged game from the Indians.

It has been several years since two teams have met in a State playoff game and both were unbeaten. Game officials

look for a capacity crowd if the weather holds for the showdown tomorrow.

Gary, coming into tomorrow's game, will be hoping to annex their second State Championship in five years while Oceana will be looking for their first State Crown.

Beckleheimer's coaching record is 61-26-4 while Cure owns a 50-21 slate as coach.

Gary has had only one losing season while Cure has been at the helm and that was in 1967 when the Coaldiggers posted a 1-9 mark.

The weather looks to be fair and cold Saturday so a good crowd should be on hand at Mitchell Stadium to watch these two unbeaten teams go at it.

Cure plans on bringing the squad to Bluefield around 10:30 a.m. and will start taping ankles and getting ready to send the first unit out between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.