

# Four Bridgeport and Three Hartford Boys on "The Courant's" All-State High Eleven

## SMITH, COONEY AND BARON PLACED ON MYTHICAL TEAM

### Six Schools Represented In Selecting Best Schoolboy Players

#### MYTHICAL ALL-STAR SCHOOLBOY ELEVEN

- ENDS**  
Roberts, New Haven Hillhouse  
Mascone, Crosby High
- TACKLES**  
Adams, Bridgeport High  
Hurley, Hartford High
- GUARDS**  
Cooney, Hartford High  
Larson, Bridgeport High
- CENTER**  
Smith, Hartford High
- QUARTERBACK**  
Shea, Bridgeport High
- HALFBACKS**  
Buckley, Meriden High  
DonBullian, Bridgeport High
- FULLBACK**  
Baron, Hartford High
- CAPTAIN**  
Smith, Hartford High

Raking over the coals of the 1923 Connecticut High School Football season, one finds a great deal of material from which to pick a team consisting of the best eleven men. There is also to be found some hot competition for the state title.

#### A Great Season.

On the whole it was one of the greatest football seasons had by the Connecticut High Schools in many a moon. Bridgeport High turned out a team with weight, speed and brains and they cleaned up everything in sight. Hartford High lost its only game to the Park City gridders but more than made up for this by giving New Britain High a sound drubbing.

#### The Dope Upset.

There were many important features squeezed into the 1923 campaign also. Probably the one on which the most interest was centered was the Hartford High-New Britain game in which the former scored its first victory over New Britain at St. Mary's Field. Another was the beating that Ansonia High gave to Torrington High. Early in the season Hartford High and Ansonia High played a scoreless tie and a few weeks later the Capital City team beat Torrington High 9 to 0. But two weeks after Ansonia scored a 45 to 0 victory over the Torrington eleven. How can one account for this?

This only goes to show that the comparative score makers were again on the losing end. Hartford High and Meriden High battled for four periods with no results. The next week New Britain High walked away with Meriden High 13 to 6. But who had the better team Hartford or New Britain? There is only one answer—Hartford. Also Stamford High, a team which the Hartford boys swamped 20 to 0 in the early season played Bridgeport twice and lost both games although only by small scores—7 to 6 and 7 to 0. Bridgeport High took the measure of Hartford High 14 to 0.

#### Bridgeport the Leader.

Every Connecticut High School coach is satisfied with the showing his team made this season, and as usual every one has coached the best eleven and has the best material for an all state team. But considering everything there is no 1923 gridiron team that can boast of the record set up by Bridgeport High and neither can they boast of a better bunch of timber for a mythical eleven.

#### DonBullian State Speed King.

The Park City mentor had everything in his favor. He had weight. From tackle to tackle he had a team that averaged two hundred pounds. Adams, Larson and Brownstein were the main cogs of this centerpiece. In the backfield he had DonBullian, without a doubt the fastest dash man in the state, Shea a fine quarterback and Jacobowski, a wonderful man on line plunger. So one can plainly see that Bridgeport High had the best team.

#### Smith Ranks Highest.

Now let us take up the eleven picked by the writer. We will start at the center of the line. For this position "Johnny" Smith, Hartford High captain and Brownstein, Bridgeport High center, are the leading candidates. Brownstein is without a doubt a wonderful center. He tips the scales over 200 and this counts a lot. But Smith makes up for his lighter weight knowledge of the game, his fine defensive tactics and most of all his gameness. Smith is one of the heaviest high school centers to be found, an ideal captain for any team. In every game, whether at home or away, he gathered the praise of the fans by his clean and hard tackling. Last of all he is game. Sustaining an injury to his knee early in the season he played through five games with it. This is what most colleges are looking forward to having for a real center and in the opinion of the writer he is the best man.

#### Two Outstanding Guards.

Next to the center, in fact, on his right and left are the guards. There were two outstanding stars—Cooney and Larson. Cooney is a Hartford High player and was chosen on last season's eleven by Eddie Hart. Since 1922 Cooney has improved 100 per cent. He is a much faster man than in 1922; a better defensive player and a better tackler. He was not one of the flash kind but always a hard worker and a close follower of the game. For the other guard berth Larson, Bridgeport High player, gets the choice. He carries plenty of weight but is very aggressive. The whole season he showed no letup in his clever football tactics but played a steady game and always fought his hardest.

#### Few Good Tackles.

For the tackle positions there is the least number of good candidates. Of course Adams of Bridgeport High earns a place on the mythical eleven. He was placed last season on nearly every team, and flashed the same fine form this year. There was some trouble in finding a suitable candidate for the other tackle but Hurley of

Ansonia High looms up as the best. He is one of the best tackles while on the defense, and is also a fast man on his feet. Vincenti, Torrington High tackle, is a promising player but Hurley has the edge on him.

#### Mascone and Roberts.

Then for the wing positions. About the best end man in the state this season is Mascone. The Crosby High star, although lacking in weight and height, is the most aggressive end to be found in Connecticut. Whether his team was ahead or behind he displayed the same form that made him an all-state man in 1922. Roberts, of New Haven Hillhouse High gets the nomination for the other end. He is a member of the Elm City high school track team and this made him a dangerous man when he grabbed a forward pass. This he did more than any other end in the 1923 season. Both Mascone and Roberts were good defensive ends and most of all could get down on punts which is one of the most important duties of a wingman.

#### Quarterbacks.

Next we hear the cry: Who is the best quarterback? And the answer is Shea of Bridgeport High. The reason for this is that he is a quick thinker, and a steady drop kicker. Although he was no star at running back punts he was always sure of tucking the ball safely away and making some gain before being thrown. Shea made more drop kicks than any other Connecticut high school player in 1923.

#### Running Halfbacks.

This leads us to taking up the halfbacks. Every fan wants to see a halfback who can run and in the writer's opinion Buckley of Meriden High and Don Bullian of Bridgeport High are the best two in the state. They were dangerous men on end runs as was shown all season. Buckley played quarterback for Meriden High but would fit in perfectly at a halfback. He is the best man to be found for running back punts. Another factor in his favor is his punting. He is a speedy but sure kicker and averages fifty yards to a boot. DonBullian earns a place through his running and twisting methods. He could run an end better than any other candidate in 1923.

#### Baron Fullback.

Last on the list, but by far not the last in importance, comes the choice of a first class fullback. First let us consider what is asked of a good fullback. He must be a rugged player, a hard and sure tackler, he must watch the ball at all times, he must be a fine man to form interference and lastly he must be a line plunger. The first name that comes forth for this position is "Ike" Baron of Hartford High. He has all the above mentioned essentials. No better fullback in high schools can be found.

#### Mullins of Crosby.

There is one player who deserves some space, and that is Mullins, quarterback but injuries kept him out of the game and he is therefore cast into the background.