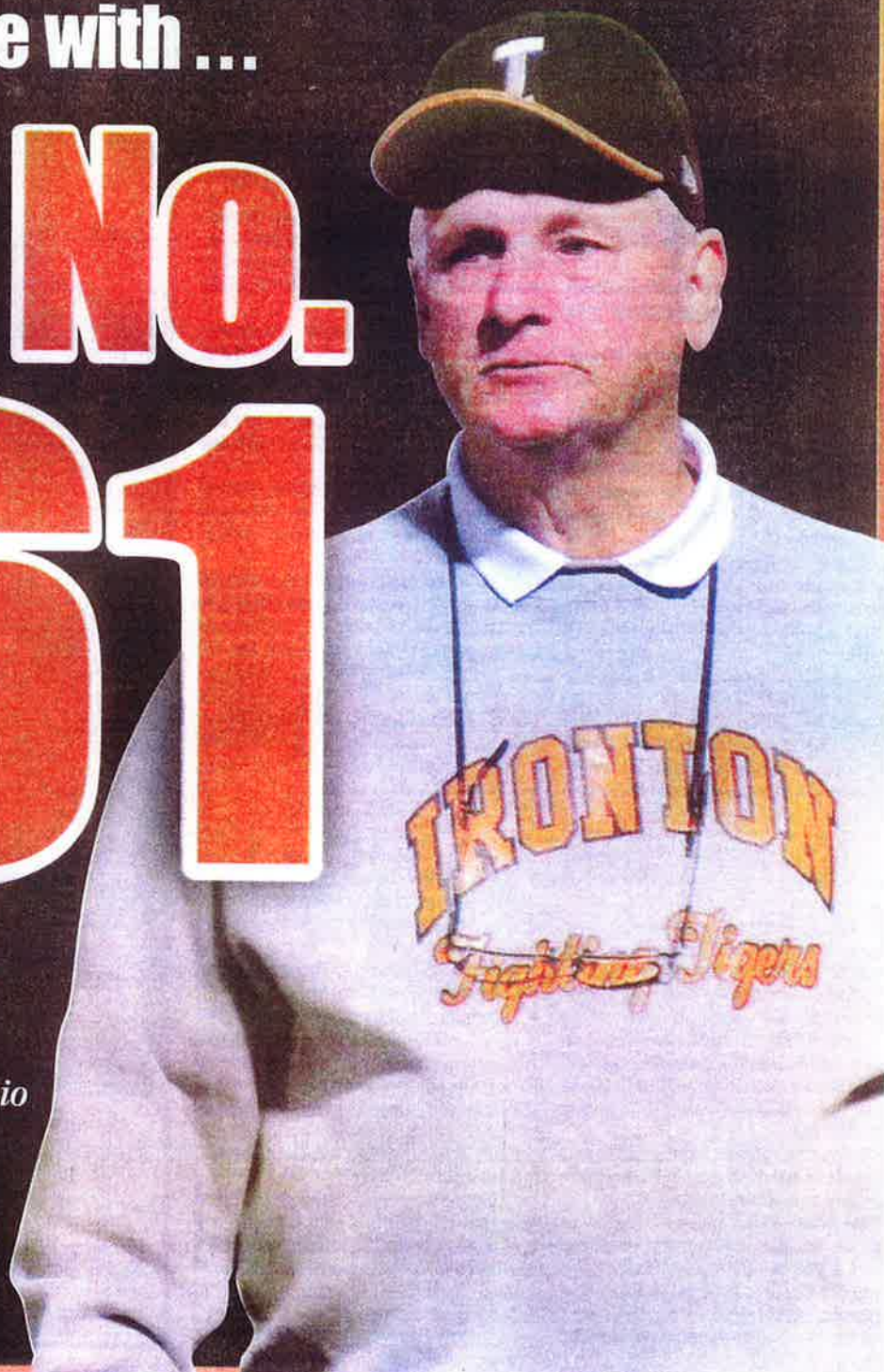


He stands alone with ...

Win No. 361

*Ironton Fighting Tigers Coach
Bob Lutz sets record for career
high school football wins in Ohio*

A special supplement to
Tribune
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A STORIED CAREER

Long-time Ironton football coach Bob Lutz has been part of many milestone games

By JIM WALKER
TRIBUNE SPORTS EDITOR

With 448 games in his coaching career, it is difficult to choose one game over another.

There are a lot of games the 40-year veteran football coach Bob Lutz can't remember but a lot that are very vivid.

One of the most vivid right now his victory No. 361, the one that made him the winningest coach in Ohio High School football history as he passed former Hamilton Catholic-Badin coach Terry Malone.

Lutz has compiled a 361-82-5 record that includes three years at Ironton St. Joseph where he was 20-8-1 and 37 years at Ironton that has produced a 341-74-4 record.

His teams have qualified for the playoffs 25 times with a 36-23 record, reached the state semifinals nine times and the state finals eight times with state championships in 1979 and 1989. His teams have also won four Associated Press poll championships.

He won 21 league championship including two Ohio Valley Conference titles, 12 SEOAL crowns and eight OKAC titles in as many seasons.

He has 14 league Coach of the Year awards, 11 district honors and was state Coach of the Year in 1993.

Lutz has just one losing season in 1996 and he did not coach in 2006 before returning in 2007. Ironton owns the state record for the longest unbeaten regular season streak of 64 from 1977 to 1984 and has posted unbeaten streaks of 34 and 44 in the SEOAL.

While some games obviously stand out such as the title games, Lutz didn't rate one game above another.

"The South Point game won (9-8) to win the league was pretty exciting. When I got to Ironton, winning the league for the first time at Jackson was pretty big," said Lutz.

"From there when you're playing for

championships and going far in the playoffs. For the first 15 years they had playoffs where you had to be pretty good or you didn't get in the playoffs. That wouldn't happen today."

One regular season game that drew a mention was Ironton's come-from-behind win at Ashland. Ironton scored three touchdowns in the final two minutes of the game to win 42-41.

"That was kind of fun. I can't pick one over another," said Lutz.

While the state championship games drew some notice, it was the 1999 state runner-up season that proved memorable.

"The '89 run was a good one. The '99 run was good where we came off of losing for a couple of years (3-7 and 5-5). As we played into the tournament, the old momentum came. Then we let it get away. That would have been one of the better years of what we have accomplished if we had pulled it off," said Lutz.

Here's a capsule look at some of Lutz's landmark games.

FIRST GAME SEPT. 5, 1969

ST. JOSEPH AT MEIGS

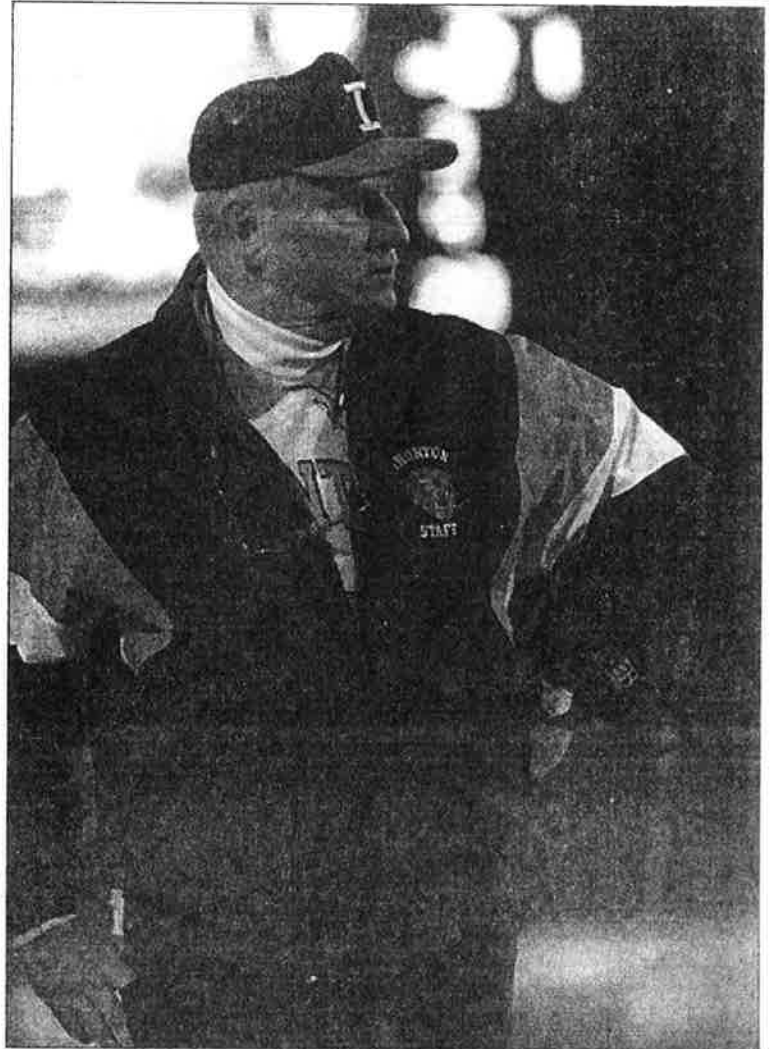
POMEROY — Bob Lutz's coaching debut was not a success in terms of a win as Meigs turned a 14-6 halftime lead into a 28-14 win.

But the Flyers held their own against the eventual SEOAL champions.

Although Lutz's teams were always known for their power running T-formation, quarterback Andy Gagai was 19-of-38 for 190 yards passing in Lutz's first game. Tommy Dressel caught nine passes for 65 yards. Johnny Crance scored the first touchdown in the Lutz era on a 2-yard run.

"There's not a whole lot I do different now that I did (in that first game). They had a good team. I thought we played real well with them considering," said Lutz.

PLEASE SEE "GAMES," Page 11



THE IRONTON TRIBUNE / KENT SANDORN OF SOUTHERN OHIO SPORTS PHOTOS
Ironton Fighting Tigers head football coach Bob Lutz studies the field.

• DEDICATION •

Coach Lutz has served as a classic example in all facets of life. To his students, his athletes and in his religious beliefs.

Congratulations and Thank you, Coach Bob Lutz

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Ironton High School Football Coaches

Ironton Coaches' Records								
Coach	Years	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Games	Years	
Bob Lutz	1972-2005 - 2007-Current	341	74	4	81.9	419	37	
Merrill Triplett	2006	6	5	-	54.5	11	1	
Charlton 'Shorty' Davies	1922-24, 27-31, 43-52	82	58	12	53.9	152	18	
Richard 'Dick' Gallagher	1933-1939	47	12	8	70.1	67	7	
Bob Bruney	1966-1971	29	29	2	48.3	60	6	
Charlie Kautz	1956-1960	26	19	1	56.5	46	5	
Marshall McCuen	1940-1942	15	9	1	60.0	25	3	
James J. 'Bear' Mains II	1953-1955	13	11	2	53.8	26	3	
James Patton	1964-1965	1	18	0	05.3	19	2	
Carl White	1961-1963	12	15	2	41.3	29	3	
Sonny Winters	1925-1926	8	8	1	50.0	17	2	
Hall	1920-1921	7	8	2	44.1	17	2	
Bill Brooks	1919	1	7	1	11.1	9	1	
Vic Maver	1932	0	8	1	00.0	9	1	
Nick McMahon Jr.	1917	4	2	1	64.3	7	1	
Alonzo F. Hixon	1916	7	1	0	87.5	8	1	
Charles F. Ross	1914-1915	3	4	4	45.5	11	2	
A.B. Cory	1912-1913	9	1	1	86.4	11	2	
J.Boyd Davis	1909-1911	6	15	0	28.6	21	3	
Emerson L. Marting	1907 - (?)	0	2	-	00.0	2	1 (?)	
NO COACH	1902, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1908	1	5	1	11.1	9	6	
Totals		603	307	44	66.26	954	104	

THE IRONTON TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

LEFT: Bob Lutz coaching during a game at Bellaire during the 1995 season. Then Bellaire quarterback Jose Davis is now the Big Red head coach.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Coach Bob Lutz

on becoming the winningest coach
in Ohio history!

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Coach Sheridan remembers qualities of Lutz the player

By JIM WALKER
TRIBUNE SPORTS EDITOR

If anyone could have seen what the future held for Bob Lutz, it would have been his own high school coach.

Pat Sheridan was an outstanding coach in his own right. He coached the St. Joseph Flyers from 1961-68. His 1963 and 1964 teams were both unbeaten and Ohio Valley Conference champions. They are considered two of the greatest teams in school history.

Sheridan took over when Lutz was a senior and he remembers Lutz the player well.

"He had some speed, but he was shifty. He could cut well. He made good decisions and he understood the game," said Sheridan.

And then Sheridan added two key characteristics.

"He was tough and he hated to lose," said Sheridan.

Evidently Sheridan was right. In 40 years as a head coach, Lutz has won an Ohio high school record 361 games and lost only 82.

In fact, when Lutz took over at St. Joseph in 1969 he had only five lettermen returning. Besides the seven teams in the OVC, St. Joseph's non-league schedule included eventual SEAL champion Meigs, Boyd County, Ky, and Wheelersburg.

Instead of the predicted 0-10 season,

Lutz guided the Flyers to a 6-3-1 record and the OVC championship.

Lutz once said that he knew he wanted to be a football coach when he was in the fifth grade. One of his former teammates at St. Joseph was cousin John Lutz who believed that statement.

"I was a senior and Bob was a junior. Our coach was Pat Levine," said John Lutz. "I remember Bob on the field during the game telling us where to play and what to look for and he was usually right."

Sheridan retired as the Flyers' head coach in 1968 after a second place finish in the OVC and became the school's principal. However, he did return as an assistant and followed Lutz to Ironton in 1972 and served as the offensive line coach until he retired.

Sheridan and Mike Burcham became Lutz's top assistants.

"I've been fortunate to have Pat and Mike. They know the game and they can think on their feet. They would be great coaches in any program," said Lutz.

"But I've been fortunate to have good assistant coaches through the years. I've had hard workers who know the game and who are willing to do anything I ask them to do. Coaching isn't something you do on your own. Assistant coaches are very important to a program."



THE IRLINGTON TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Bob Lutz in his first season as the Ironton head coach in 1972.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
COACH LUTZ!**

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1979 Division III State Championship Team



THE Ironton TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
Members of the 1979 Ironton Fighting Tigers Class AA state championship football team are: first row from left, Bruce Taylor, Jeff Underhill, Steve Sutton, Terry Royal, John Lewis, Scott Wilks, David Clay and Sam Bacon; second row from left, Bill Allen, Dick Carter, Aziz Sengul, Eric Sclor, Jeff Jackson, Lon Hilton, Brian Rodehaver, Mark Dickess and Craig Koerper; third row from left, Darwin Corwell, Dale Spencer, Gabriel Lewis, Craig Thomas, Gene Williams, Tim Hodges, Adam Alsworth, John Meritz, Brian Carter and Patton Riffe; fourth row from left, Jimmy Morris, Dennis Bacon, Brent Wilcox, Kent Koerper, Joe Hacker, Brian Jenkins, David Kelly, Rick Fritz and Joe Fletcher. Freshmen not pictured were Rick Ferguson, Mark Hixon, Dave Morgan, Mike Smith, Bruce Roach, Vince Murdock and Frank McClellan.

***Congratulations, Bob Lutz
on becoming Ohio's
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Legendary IHS coach started as second choice



THE IRONTON TRIBUNE / KENT SANBORN OF SOUTHERN OHIO SPORTS PHOTOS
Ironton head coach Bob Lutz, left, and long-time assistant coach Mike Burcham have worked together as football coaches for 40 years.

By JIM WALKER
TRIBUNE SPORTS EDITOR

The greatest hire in the history of Ironton High School almost didn't happen.

Bob Lutz became the Ironton Fighting Tigers head football coach in 1972, but he was the second choice.

The Ironton Board of Education hired Larry Coyer as the head coach, but Coyer called the next day and decided to pass on the Ironton job and accepted an assistant coaching position with Massillon.

Coyer — who played at Barboursville, W.Va., — was a 1964 graduate of Marshall and played on the same Herd team as Lutz.

During his 45-year coaching career, Coyer has been at 10 different college programs and coached for six professional teams. He is currently the

defensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts.

Conversely, Lutz has been a pillar of continuity and stability. After three seasons as head coach of the St. Joseph Flyers, Lutz has been the head coach at Ironton for 37 of the past 38 years.

Mike Burcham took over as the Ironton athletic director during the summer of 1972. Then-head coach Bob Bruney took a job at his alma mater Martins Ferry and then-AD Dick Myers became assistant principal.

"I was kind of in between as to whether I had any power. I wanted them to hire Bob. I liked Coyer, but I told them Bob had proven himself at St. Joe, he was a young guy and I had known him all of my life," said Burcham who has been Lutz's top assistant since 1972.

PLEASE SEE "HIRING," Page 7



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Hiring

Continued from Page 7

"The board decided to go with Coyer but then he decided he wanted a different job."

Lutz tied the all-time coaching win record of Terry Malone with a win over Portsmouth before breaking the record with his next win. Lutz got his 200th career win over Portsmouth.

During his 40-year career, Lutz is now 361-81-5 including a 20-8-1 record and two Ohio Valley Conference titles at St. Joseph and a 341-73-4 record at Ironton that includes 25 playoff appearances, six runners-up and state titles in 1979 and 1989. He also has four Associated Press poll championships and 13 unbeaten regular seasons.

Burcham said Lutz has coached for a lot of years, but that doesn't take anything away from his accomplishment.

"It's a longevity thing, but you have to be highly successful. He's been a head coach for 40 years, but he's averaged nine wins a year," said Burcham.

While players, fans, coaches and others see Lutz's victory record as a great achievement, Burcham said there are two other things that jump out at you.

"There are two things that are amazing about Bob's streak," said Burcham.

"One is you can go 40 years and only have one season below 7-3 until taking over this program again, and

then there's the unbeaten streak. That's amazing no matter what level you play, and we play above our rankings. We play bigger schools three-fourths of the time and that's the way it's been."

Ironton holds the state record for the longest unbeaten regular season streak at 64. The streak ran from mid-1977 until mid-1984 as Ironton went 61-0-3.

But none of Lutz's accomplishment really surprise Burcham.

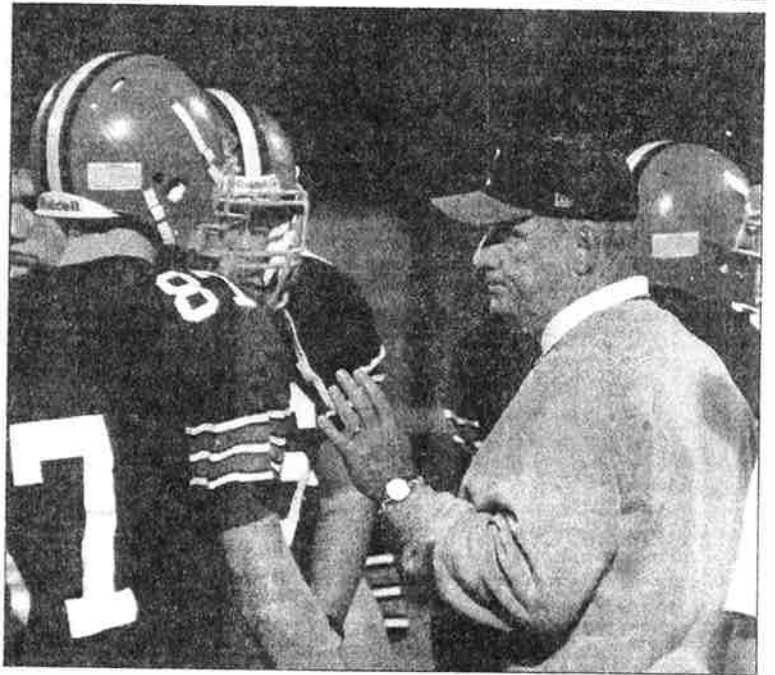
"His teams are always fundamentally sound and he adjusts to what kind of talent he's got. Too many coaches today go to a clinic and think they have to run the offense that's in. We've thrown the ball when we had the personnel but you don't just throw it because everyone else is throwing it," said Burcham.

Like all records, Lutz's numbers may very well be broken even in the near future. Burcham said there are a lot of great programs in the state such as Versailles, Coldwater, DeSales, Youngstown Mooney, St. Ignatius and Steubenville.

And while those types of programs could produce the win record for a coach, several things have to happen.

"People ask me if I think it will be broken and I say probably, but it will take someone who's a head coach before he's 30 and you have to stay there a long time," said Burcham.

And it helps if you get hired.



THE IRONTON TRIBUNE / TONY SHOTSKY OF SOUTHERN OHIO SPORTS PHOTOS
Ironton coach Bob Lutz instructs his players on the sidelines during a game.

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