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# Bears, Cubs Capture League Championships

# *Cubs Shutout Bremerhaven 50-0; Claim Title on Apache-Wolve Tie*

The Berlin Cubs closed out their high school football season last Saturday with an exhibition game at Bremerhaven and shutout the Bulls 50-0.

Cleo Johnson paced the Divided City youths with a four touchdown performance. He scored on runs of 73, 73, one, and a 70-yard return of a punt to give Berlin their sixth victory in seven starts. Thurmon Nash also cashed in on two TD's of three and 11 yards, while Larry Garrels added a 34-yarder.

While the Cubs were dueling it out with Bremerhaven, the Augsburg Apaches and the Wuerzburg Wolves were meeting in their last season encounter. The contest resulted in a 6-6 tie which broke a three-way tie for the Silver Division championship and gave Berlin the title all alone.

The only setback the Cubs received in 1969 was a 14-8 loss to Bitburg a few weeks ago. The defeat was the first in nine games for the Cubs, going back to the '68 season.

# Cubs End Football Season on Top of Standings

The Berlin Cubs football squad have ended their season atop the Silver Division standings again. This is, in fact, "old" news. But the making of a sound football team requires a long seasoned look backward.

About the middle of August, when the days were warm and the sun shone brightly, a group of young men, numbering roughly about 35, started practice sessions in hopes of repeating as champions. Under the helm of coach George Pepoy, the Cubs only had a few returning letterman with experience. A lot of hard work was in store before the first exhibition game on September 20 against Karlsruhe.

When opening day arrived, it was Cleo Johnson who dazzled the away-game fans with his amazing running

ability. He scored the Cub's first touchdown of the season — a 70-yard jaunt — and Berlin was off and running in '69. The Cubs added an insurance score late in the game on a 35-yard run by quarterback Jean-Pierre Bonit to take a 16-0 victory over the Spartans. Coach Pepoy labeled the win as "ragged", but the following week the high-schoolers were destined to improve.

Opening Silver Division play, the Cubs trounced a Baumholder eleven 38-0 to extend their win streak to eight games over the past two years. Johnson, Thurmon Nash and Herbie Black led the pack with TD's while the Cub's defensive unit was beginning to gel.

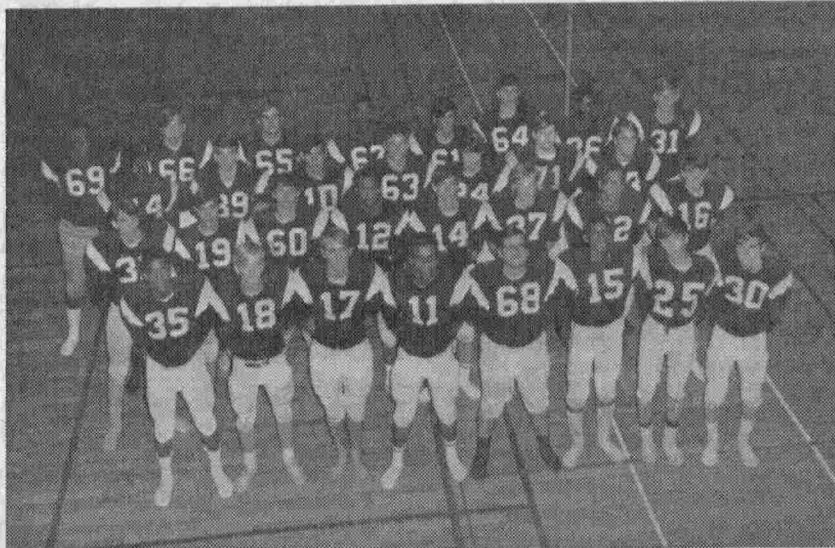
The following week a slight overconfidence duffed the smiles of the Berlin gridders, but it quickly va-

nished when two key players were put out of action during the game, setting the stage for a 14-8 upset by Bitburg. Jim Wilcox, starting guard on the offensive squad, sustained a knee injury midway through the contest and would be lost for the season. And secondly, Cleo Johnson was knocked unconscious early in the second quarter and he sat out the remainder of the game. The loss bumped the Cubs into second place with an October 11 clash coming up against league leader Wuerzburg.

The mark of a good team can be seen after a frustrating defeat. To rally for the next game once you're down is hard, but the Cubs came up with a stellar performance against the Wolves, winning 24-14. Once again it was Johnson who led the pack. He scored three six-pointers, while end Harry Smith added the other. The victory was indeed sweet and it put the Cubs back on the winning side of the ledger.

The following week Berlin exploded for their most points of the year against Augsburg, and another win. The hapless Apaches could only penetrate the Cub's tightened defense once for a score, while Berlin added 10 touchdowns for a 66-6 victory to cap the Homecoming theme "Emerald City."

Journeying to Baumholder once again, the Cubs matched their earlier victory by an identical 38-0 drubbing of the Bucks. Johnson had a typical prolific day — three TD's — and the shutout moved the Cubs into a three-way tie for top spot with Wuerzburg and Augsburg to close out their league play. Berlin scheduled an exhibition tilt with Bremerhaven, while the Wolves and Apaches held their last game. The Cubs humbled the Bulls, coupled with an Apache-Wolves 6-6 tie to break the three-way tie and hand the conference crown to Berlin.



**POSING** for a team picture are members of the Berlin American High School's football Cubs recently. The Cubs took the Silver Division Championship for the third year in a row with a mark of four wins and one loss. Their only defeat came at the hands of the Bitburg Barons, to break a win streak going back to the 1968 season.



# OBSERVER Sports

## Cubs Bow to Bitburg 14-8; Drop First in Nine Games

The Berlin Cubs snapped their nine game winning streak last Saturday at the hands of the Bitburg Barons, 14-8, succumbing to two fourth quarter go-ahead touchdowns to record their first loss since October of 1967.

The Cubs controlled the game throughout the first half of play, but two key injuries to starting players helped turn the tide for the Barons.

Cleo Johnson, having already accounted for 141 yards in rushing, was knocked unconscious following a jarring tackle. Although he regained his composure shortly after, head coach George Pepoy chose not

to return him to the starting lineup.

Jim Wilcox, starting offensive guard, suffered a badly twisted knee midway through the third quarter and will be lost for the season. All afternoon Pepoy was alternating his guards, vainly trying to plug the hole Wilcox had left in the Cub line.

In the first period the Cubs drove to the Bitburg 20-yard line, and following three successive runs by Johnson and Thurmond Nash, quarterback Jean-Pierre Bonit scampered the last six yards for Berlin's only touchdown. The two-point conversion was successfully run across by Johnson and the Cubs held a 8-0 lead throughout the second and third quarter.

The Cubs held the Barons to only one first down in the first half, but the Barons came up with their first touchdown to cap an 80-yard drive early in the fourth period. Tied with only four minutes left in the game, Bitburg picked off two Berlin passes, using one of them to launch their winning TD drive to put the game on ice.

Overall, the Cubs ground out 260 yards total offense — 42 of which was via the airways. Bonit attempted 14 passes and connected only on three with his two ill-fated interceptions. Next to Johnson, Nash rushed for 50 yards in seven carries.