

Champs from '36 honored

Tiger team unbeaten,
unscored-upon in season
... and now in museum

By **BRYAN GALLEGOS**
The Daily Sentinel

Herb Jones clutched his 1936 state championship varsity letter as if he had just won it.

It was a special day for Jones, who helped Grand Junction High School win its first state football title 90 years ago.

Just as the Tigers did six decades ago when they beat Loveland 28-0 to win the Class A state title, the Grand Junction team stepped into immortality on Wednesday.

Banners, memorabilia, equipment, photos and news clippings about the historic team were donated to the Museum of Western Colorado.

"I think that team was special," said Jones, who was a halfback on offense and a lineman on defense.

It was special.

That year the Tigers snapped Salida's three-year hold as the state champion with a victory in the semifinals on Thanksgiving Day.

And then Grand Junction whipped Loveland in front of 6,000 fans at Lincoln Park

Stadium.

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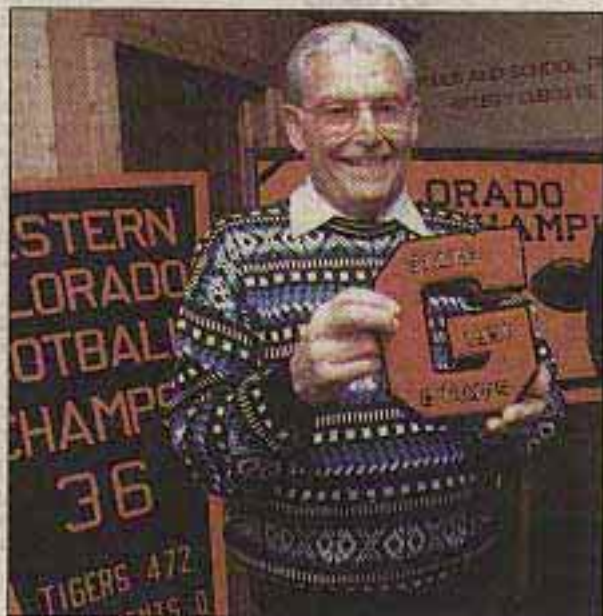
Only one other team has gone through the year without giving up a point. Englewood duplicated the Tigers' feat in 1937.

"Nobody went across our goal line," said Jones. "We even beat the Utah state champion, Price, I think it was. And they didn't score, either."

"I get to thinking about that team, and it makes me feel good," said Jones, adding that it will be a thrill knowing that his team will never be forgotten.

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Junction High School. And for the last 10 years, those banners were in a garage owned by Monte Taylor, Sr., who has served as the master of ceremonies for his class reunions.

Taylor did most of the work to restore the banners and other memorabilia. And it was he who contacted the museum about donating the items.

"I thought it should be shared by all people," said Taylor. "A lot of people don't know much about this team. But they will now."

The Tiger memorabilia will be displayed in a sports area at the museum, said Dave Bailey, curator of history.

"You can learn a lot about character of a time by the sports memorabilia," said Bailey.