

Or was it Haskell ?

John Levi scores for Hominy

Remember how a Hominy football team helped build a stadium at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas?

It all came about because an Indian named John Levi scored a winning touchdown for Hominy in a tremendous football game against Fairfax late in the fall of 1924.

The story is in a new book titled "John Levi of Haskell", written by ex-Haskell coach Frank W. McDonald.

Haskell's football team, including Levi, had come to Muskogee for an exhibition game after the 1924 regular season was over. The purpose of the game was to raise money for a new Haskell stadium, and to let Oklahoma Indians see Levi throw and run with a football.

While there in Muskogee a bunch of Osage Indians asked McDonald if Levi would interested in playing for the Hominy Giants in their game with the Fairfax town team. Levi's eligibility at Haskell had ended, so he agreed. The entire

team was a guest of the Indians.

The Hominy-Fairfax game was set to be played on a field marked off in the hills on a Sunday afternoon.

However, all was not quiet in the Osage.

Fred Lookout, spokesman for the Indians looked up McDonald and Haskell coach Dick Handley to tell them that dirty work was afoot.

"You've got to help the Indians. The Squaw Men at Fairfax have brought in the Kansas City Cowboys pro team and we fullbloods have many thousands of dollars bet on this game," they told them.

After a very brief discussion, Hanley had his entire team suit up-including the coaches. "Hell, we've got to have a stadium", he said.

Over \$200,000 was estimated wagered on the game, which wound up as a match between Haskell and the Kansas City pros-not Fairfax vs. Hominy.

McDonald says he doesn't remember who all got in the fame, but he's sure that every member of the Haskell team was able to suit up, except for one player. He had too much hospitality the night before.

"We Osages might proud, said one of the Indians after John Levi made the winning touchdown.

Nobody seemed bothered that Levi was an Arapaho.

That night, at a feast, the Osage spokesman presented a \$500 check for the Haskell

stadium. The other Osages began making contributions. The total swelled to \$40,000 and about that time the nearby Quapaw tribe heard of their Haskell friends and donated another \$62,000. It didn't take long to get the entire \$165,000 together for the 12,000-seat stadium.

Had worked leaked out at that time, the coaches and their amateur college players all would have been ruined, McDonald says.

So the secret was kept for many years, until McDonald told the story at a Rotary Club in Kansas, and then again recently in his new book.

C. R. Elders, former Hominy resident who brought us in the story says it's the only time a stadium has been built and paid for because of a single game. And it probably won't ever happen again.



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