

Not always a Fighting Scot

The town of Edinboro was chartered in 1840. It was named by its Scottish founders in honor of Edinburgh, England. (Edinburgh is pronounced the same.) So it seems natural that the school nick name is “Fighting Scots.” This has not always been the case.

Prior to belonging to a formalized athletic association, Edinboro students competed in intramurals. Literary Societies and other student groups sponsored teams. Competition with other schools began as early as 1911. These contests were against local high schools and colleges.

By 1919 Edinboro competed with schools as far away as California, PA and Mansfield. Given the method of travel of the day it must have been quite the trip.

As the newspapers began writing of Edinboro sports, the teams were referred to as The Flying Scotsman, The Red and White, Big Red, but The Red Raiders was the name that stuck and an Indian mascot evolved.

In 1964, the Spectator questioned the connection between the town’s Scottish heritage and Native Americans. The paper ran a contest as to what the nick name, mascot and alma mater should be. For a team name, the options were 1) Highlanders, 2) Red Raiders, and 3) Tartans. For a mascot the choices were four different types of dogs and a Highland Piper.

The winners were announced in the May 15, 1964 Spectator. The mascot was a Scottish Terrier and the nick name was Highlanders. The terrier never really caught on but Highlanders was used regularly. Sports writers began to alternate “Scots” with Highlanders. “Fighting Scots” evolved out of this and by 1971 it was being used on Edinboro’s sports programs.

Now we await the Fighting Scot statue- ANGUS, so named by Dan Higham, the man pouring the mold.