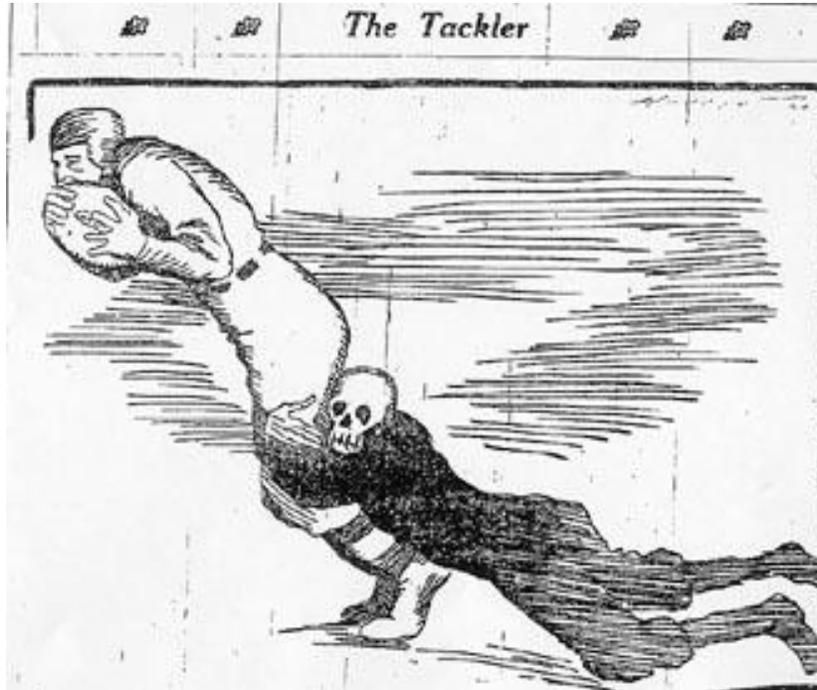


ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY NOVEMBER 12



Wheeling Register illustration of death of Rudolph Munk

On November 12, 1910, WVU football player Rudolph Munk was fatally injured during the state championship game with Bethany College.

CSO: SS.8.8, SS.8.11, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (*Wheeling Register*, November 13, 1910)

1. According to the article, what was the cause of death for West Virginia University (WVU) halfback, Rudolph Munk? Had there been prior concerns, surrounding Munk's past injuries?
2. Who was WVU's opponent in the game that cost Rudolph Munk his life?

Think Critically: Concerning the modern era of West Virginia University athletics, correlate West Virginia economic conditions with the effects on its citizens. Has the increased cost of tickets influenced the turnout at WVU football games? Is the safety of players a greater priority today, compared to 1910? How has West Virginia University contributed to the development of Morgantown as a major West Virginia city?

The Wheeling Sunday Register.

WHEELING, W. VA., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1910.

**Munk of W. V. U., Dies From Injuries Inflicted in Wheeling Game
Umpire Declares a Bethany Player Deliberately Felled Munk**

[Special to the Register.]
 PITTSBURG, Pa., Nov. 12.—Attorney Homer N. Young, an ex Michigan football player, who umpired the Bethany-West Virginia University game, at Wheeling, resides in Westminster street, this city. Upon his return from Wheeling, he was reluctant to talk at length about the occurrence that resulted in the death of Halfback Rudolph Munk, of the university team. He said:
 "I must return to Wheeling Sunday morning, to give testimony before the coroner in regard to Munk's death. I feel I should say little before that time. This much I can say. The injury to Munk was the result of a plainly deliberate act. I cannot state positively the name of the Bethany player who inflicted it, but I saw the incident clearly. A few minutes before Munk was knocked down, I had penalized the Bethany team fifteen yards, because the same Bethany player had run into Munk intentionally. I was watching for more work of the same sort. In the next rush there was no untoward occurrence, but in the next I saw the Bethany player, whose name I did not obtain, deliberately run into Munk and knock the latter over backwards. Munk fell heavily on the back of his head and did not rise. If he was kicked I did not see that. I put the player who had knocked him down out of the game. He acted like a man who knew he had done something wrong, for he left the field without a word of protest or explanation."

**TRAGEDY MARKS GAME
OF COLLEGE ELEVENS**

*Player Emerges Stricken and Unconscious from
Scrimmage--Taken to Hospital where Death
Followed several hours later--Slugging
Duel between Munk and McCoy alleged*

*Coroner Rogers Begins Inquest
To Determine Cause of Death*

*The Tragic Sequel of Football Game for the
West Virginia Collegiate Championship Casts
a Pall over City--Players talk of the
Events Leading up to the Tragedy*

The Wheeling Sunday Register.

WHEELING, W. VA., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1910.

Rudolph Munk, captain and left half back on the West Virginia University team, died at 8:15 o'clock last evening at the City hospital, following his injury in the Bethany game at the Island park yesterday afternoon, at about two minutes before the close of the contest. When Munk failed to rise on the field, Dr. O. M. Staats was at once summoned. The doctor gave the player a general stimulant, an injection of strychnine, following which he was taken, still in an unconscious condition, to the City hospital in an automobile.

At the hospital he was attended by Dr. Staats, Dr. Leech Cracraft, and Dr. Hugh Carr, of Fairmont. He was given oxygen, and solutions were in-



MUNK, QUARTERBACK

RUDOLPH MUNK.

fused in his blood to produce artificial respiration, to no avail, the patient dying at the hour stated without regaining consciousness. Dr. Staats stated that his death was due to a hemorrhage at the base of the brain, which produced paralysis of the nervous centers controlling respiration.

Dr. Carr's Statement.

Dr. Carr, in connection with the death last evening, gave the following interview: "Munk has not been well for a year. At the Thanksgiving game last year at Morgantown between W. V. U. and W. & J. he was injured in a manner very similar to the accident today. He never fully recovered from that injury, and was subject to dizzy spells, spots before the eyes, etc., as a result. He had no business in the game, as a very slight blow would have accomplished his death."

Manager Tom Foulk, of the West Virginia team said: "Munk has not been well, but he insisted on playing. He received raps in the Pennsylvania and Pitt games, but not on the head, which made him dizzy and forced him to retire from the contest."

Munk was the son of Fred Munk, of Connellsville, Pa., who was notified immediately following his son's death and he left immediately for this city. The body was taken to Mendel's undertaking parlors, where it will be prepared for shipment to Connellsville. He was twenty-one years old.

Always Played Football.

Munk always played football. At the Connellsville High school he was captain and quarterback. Later he attended Bucknell College, at Lewisburg, Pa., from which place he went to West Virginia. He played quarterback on the university team last year, and this

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MUNK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

year until the game today, when he went in as left half. He was shortstop or the baseball team last spring.

The play in which Munk was injured was peculiar, and no one appeared certain just what had occurred. Bell was running the ball, and Munk was leading the interference, and was some distance behind Bethany's line in the open field, when he went down with right end McCoy, of the Bethany team, on top of him. McCoy was immediately put out of the game by Empire Young, who, when asked as to his action by a reporter, said that he had not seen more of the play than that McCoy got up and walked away from the fallen player. Referee Sudgen said the same.

Captain Henley's Statement.

Captain Henley, of Bethany, when asked concerning the play, said: "It is the consensus of opinion among the Bethany players that Munk hit McCoy and McCoy hit him back. None of the Bethany players say the play, nor do I think the officials did, as all were watching the man with the ball."

Couch Townsend said: "Slugging had been going on all through the game, and just prior to the accident I had asked the officials to have it stopped, but they paid no attention to my remarks. All of our players deeply regret the affair, and tomorrow we will take up a popular subscription to purchase a floral offering to, in a measure, show the boy's parents our feeling in the matter."

Coroner's Inquest.

Last night Coroner Rogers held an inquest on the death of Rudolph Munk. The verdict was that death was due to causes as stated above, the injury received in a manner unknown. Charles A. Lender, coach; E. R. Bell, right half back, and Tom L. Foulk, manager, of the West Virginia team, and H. D. Crocock were examined. Their testimony was to the effect that Munk had been either jolted or struck by some person. That they had heard that Garner (Bethany sub-end) had slugged Munk, and that they thought "Tige" McFarland, of St. Charlesville, and F. M. Danson, of Pittsburg, probably saw the slugging. Coroner Rogers sent to Pittsburg for Empire Young, and another hearing on the case will be held later.

In regard to the mention of End Garner at the coroner's inquest, Captain Henley stated that he had not been in the game and that he, Henley, had replaced McCoy immediately following the accident.