

# Commerce Records

## Early Years \*\*\*

SOURCE of all games listed---GHSFHA or  
 GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL  
 HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION      [www.ghsfha.org](http://www.ghsfha.org)

\*\*\* ---Commerce had a football team as early as the year 1909.

We have team pictures from 1909 and 1916. However, we do not know the record of the 1909 team, although we do have complete records from the 1914, 1915, 1916, 1923 and 1924 teams as well as some partial records of teams from the following years:

1910, 1911, 1912, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1925.

We also know that Commerce played football through the 1928 season, because of an article in *The Commerce News* from 9/5/40. Commerce, we know from 1909-1925, usually only played four or five games in a season in the early years of their football history. There is no information in *The Jackson Herald*, (1909-1928).

---1/14/08 \_\_\_Jeff Prickett

### 1909 (0-0-0)

H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0) Coach – Professor Walker

We have no knowledge of the results of this season. However, we have a picture of the 1909 team. We believe that this was the first Commerce football team, although we are not completely certain of this.

The members of this Commerce team were:

Meadow Williams, Claude Ila, Allie Ray, Grover Watkins, Bill Kelly, Sam Jolley, Herbert Wilbanks, Herman Lord, Berner Harber, Bill Aderhold and Emory Bolton

source: 1909 photograph, Commerce Public Library

---2/15/08 \_\_\_Jeff Prickett

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## Commerce Records Early Years

**1910 (0-3-0) \*\***

H(0-1-0), A(0-2-0) Coach -- Unknown

		We	They		
O8Sat, Athens High	*	5	10	,rod	1/12/08
O15Sat, Athens High		5	16	,rod	“
N24Thu, Clarkesville A&M		6	26	,btaylor	2/24/08
		16	52		

\*----- Home games

\*\*-----From 1897-1911, five points were awarded for a touchdown and another point for a PAT. In 1912 the format that we use today was created with six points for a TD and one for a PAT. Therefore, the five points that Commerce scored in each of the two games listed above were touchdowns.

---Sources--GHSFHA.org -rod---en.wikipedia.org

---In these early days of high school football, travel for many of the teams of northeast Georgia centered around the locomotive. Most teams that Commerce played in the 1910's and 1920's were located on railroad lines to make arriving at an opponents game site more accessible.

---Indeed, we have learned that Maysville had a team in 1910. They tied Athens (0-0) in a game played in Maysville. Athens had a (4-0-1) record that year and this tie was their only blemish to a possible perfect record. The article noted that Maysville played two college graduates in the contest. The game was called after three quarters of play, because the Athens team and its fans had to catch the train on its return trip from Gainesville to Athens. ...remarkable

---Where the Maysville football field was located is unknown.

---1910 was the first year that Athens fielded a team as well.

Source--- ghsfha.org-- rod- 1/17/08- ...Athens Daily Herald  
btaylor- 2/24/08- ..ghsfha.org, The Atlanta Journal

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## Commerce Records Early Years

### 1911 (0-2-0)

H(0-1-0), A(0-1-0) Coach -- Unknown

		We	They		
O20Fri, Athens High	*	0	21	,rod	1/12/08
N18Sat, Athens High		<u>6</u>	<u>19</u>	,rod	“
		6	40		

\*----- Home games

---Sources-----GHSFHA.org-- rod- ...Athens Daily Herald

### 1912 (0-1-0)

H(0-1-0), A(0-0-0) Coach - Unknown

		We	They		
O17Thu, Athens High	*	<u>0</u>	<u>60</u>	,rod	1/12/08
		0	60		

\*-----Home games

---Sources-----GHSFHA.org-- rod- ...Athens Daily Herald

---1/12/08\_\_Jeff Prickett

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# Commerce Records Early Years

**1913 (0-0-0)**

H(0-0-0), A(0-0-0) Coach – Unknown

We They

No scores or opponents  
are known at this time.

**1914 (5-0-0) \*\***

H(2-0-0), A(3-0-0) Coach – York, --r od

	We	They		
O30Fri, Maysville	* 24	0	,rod	1/31/08
N7Sat, Monroe	45	0	“	
N26Thu, Clarkesville A & M	32	0	“	
?? Gainesville	19	0	“	
?? Athens	* <u>25</u>	<u>12</u>	*** “	
	145	12		

**\*\*-----** This was the first known undefeated team for Commerce.

**\*\*\*-----** According to one of the articles, the Commerce coach was Coach York; the articles gave no first name. Some of the better players listed in the articles were the captain of the team named ^^Buck Smith; also ^^Lawrence Hardman, Lamar Cooper, Verne Davis and ^^Colquitt Sims were players on the team. Another player on the Commerce squad whose last name was Caraker also played, and he was the son of the Commerce school superintendent in the city at that particular time.

^^----- I am not positive of these first names, but players with the same last name played the next year in 1915.

&&----- The known records of the 1915-25 Commerce teams are listed on another page on the disc with the same title as is above in this paragraph.

---Source---- [www.ghsfha.org](http://www.ghsfha.org)-- rod- ...Athens Daily Herald