

The Helmet

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Selby Industries donates helmet

by Karl Smesko

Last fall, Selby Industries donated a huge twelve by twelve foot football helmet to Revere High School.

The helmet is a prototype of a new sports display that Selby Industries hopes will become commonplace among many sports stadiums.

Mike Selby, who helps operate Selby Industries, said, "The whole project had to be scaled up to its current size. We tried to make the helmet look exactly like Revere's actual helmet."

This fall, an illuminant face was added to the helmet. Other features may be added later, such as one that would respond to a score by Revere.

Selby Industries has wanted to do a project like the helmet for a long time.

Mike Selby remarked, "It was a great opportunity to combine sports and community support, and we hope the students and community enjoy it."

The helmet added a feeling of pride to the football season.

Selby Industries is located on Congress Parkway and has been in business here for over 40 years.



The helmet is a tribute to the fall sports programs at Revere High School.



In the fall of 1988, Selby Industries donated a huge 12'x12' football helmet to RHS—the helmet was installed over the scoreboard. A year later, they added an illuminant face and then added several other features over the next few years. It was retired and taken down prior to the 1994 season.

But everyone that was around Revere football still remembers it and countless number of visitors still remember getting directions that ended with "just look for the helmet."

The Helmet

Paying homage to "the helmet"

by Matt Bixenstine

Most students consider Revere High School an ordinary place, like any other Northeastern Ohio public school. Unbeknownst to many current students, however, Revere Stadium housed a distinguishing spectacle less than a decade ago.

Anyone who did not attend Revere football games prior to 1994 may not remember the automated, vinyl-covered, helmeted face that stood in the south end zone above the goalpost—known simply as "the helmet". The idea arose as a brainchild of Jerry Selby, a former employee of his brother Mike's company, Selby Industries, which designs commercial billboards. Selby patented the helmet hoping eventually to market it to college football teams. Since the Selby brothers wished to contribute to their alma mater, they chose Revere Stadium as a test site, replicating the "R" logo and team colors on their prototype.

Longtime Revere football coach Joe Pappano was as surprised as anyone when

the helmet became a fixture in the stadium in what he believes to have been 1986: "At first, [the helmet] was an amazement. It grew on me the longer it was there. After a couple years, it started to become a tradition, part of the Friday night setting." Whenever Revere scored a touchdown, the helmet kicked off the celebra-

tion; smoke blew out of its ears, strobe lights flashed from its eyes and sirens wailed.

Over time, the helmet came to embody Revere football and presented an intimidating landmark. "[The helmet] was something that set our field apart from other fields," claimed Robert Buchanan, an Algebra teacher at Revere who

previously coached football.

"It became as much Revere football as the Minuteman," remarked Pappano, adding, "people all over would ask about that helmet." Opposing teams grew accustomed to the helmet, and Revere students took pride in it. Moreover, the helmet presided over a heyday of Revere football, in-

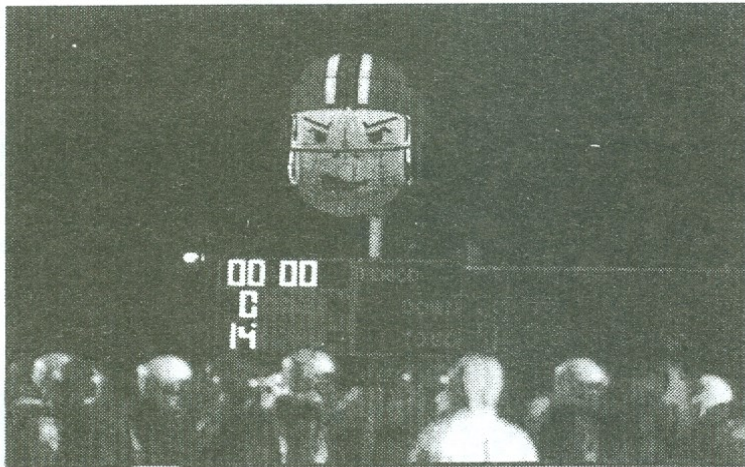
cluding the state runner-up 1990 season. Although many Revere students appreciated the helmet, the idea never really caught on outside the district. According to Tim Selby, another Selby brother, colleges responded poorly to the helmet despite receiving brochures that described the novelty's features. A constant

problem occurred in finding volunteers to operate the helmet's manual controls. When Revere's track was resurfaced in 1994, the helmet, having corroded over the years, was removed, never again to grace Revere Stadium with its presence. "It was sort of a disappointment," said Pappano, in regard to the helmet's removal.

"Almost every year since then, people have asked, 'when is it going back up?'"

Unfortunately, the answer is probably never. Selby Industries discontinued the idea, and the helmet, which has since been dismantled, no longer exists. But it shall live on in the memories of the Revere community.

"When you drove by the high school, it was the first thing you saw," recalled Jeff Kurzweil, who, as a place-kicker for Pappano's team and member of the class of 1994, enjoyed the helmet's last season his senior year. Now, as students approach the high school from Ira Road, they can only imagine the helmeted figure that once loomed in the stadium.



(photo courtesy of Mr. Joe Pappano)

The helmet hangs proudly after this Revere victory in 1988.