The Story of Ballard’s School Colors ---

Ballard High School’s first official football team was organized 89 years ago in 1902. The school had about 100 students then. It was located on Tallman Avenue near Market Street. The team practiced and played on a vacant lot near the school. They put up and removed their own goal posts when they played home games against teams like Everett or Kent or Seattle High School.

Ballard players furnished their own uniforms with some help from Ballard merchants. They wore nose guards and shin guards and stripped sox and padded vests. They wanted matching turtle necks, so the boys searched all over town until they found about a dozen black sweaters with red horizontal stripes. They promptly bought those. That is how it came to be that Ballard Beavers wear red and black jerseys to this day.


Eleanor Gay Thomason, '37