

The Resilient Deaf Team of 1909

These photographs, dating back to 1909, capture an important moment in the history of the team. The school building in the background provides a evident of the era, and several players have been identified from other photos of the time, which helped us figure out the date.



According to reports from the Argus Leader, the team played an exhibition match against Sioux Falls High School. Initially reported as a 28-0 win for Sioux Falls, Superintendent McLaughlin set the record straight, confirming the final score was 14-6. Despite the early loss, the team showed remarkable progress, earning a hard-fought 6-6 tie with Sioux Falls College. Coach Howard Wood of Sioux Falls High School praised the squad, calling the deaf-mute athletes the best in the city.

The season also featured two intense matchups against Garretson, described by the Argus Leader as fiercely competitive contests, showcasing the grit and determination of this developing team.