



SMCC take advantage of St. Paul miscues

■ Fumbles hurt
Flyers in 34-12
season-opening loss

By DON HOHLER
Reflector Sportswriter

SANDUSKY — What started during the two preseason scrimmages carried over in St. Paul's 34-12 opening loss to St. Mary Central Catholic Saturday at Strobel Field.

Seven fumbles, including four that were lost, ended any hope the Flyers had in reversing a season-ending loss to the Panthers in the fall of 2003.

"It's mental discipline," St. Paul coach John Livengood said of Saturday's game. "It is something that as a coach you have no answer for. Had I had one, I would have fixed it during the game. The bottom line is we gave St. Mary a short field early and often and a good team like that one is going to take advantage of the situation."

St. Mary coach Toby Notestine said that turnovers were the key.

"It is so uncharacteristic of a John Livengood-coached team to do that. I was shocked," the second-year coach said. "It certainly made it a lot easier, although we knew St. Paul would be without the kid that threw the ball over the place against us last year. They are going to be fine."

"Like I said, I am shocked that we scored this many points on them and we wouldn't have had we not made the most of our opportunities."

"We saw them put it on the ground against Edison a week ago, but I figured John would have that fixed. That's a great

FOOTBALL

coaching staff he heads and fumbling is not something those guys are going to put up with. It will be fixed and I would think, rather quickly."

Stopping Spencer Dye, St. Mary's All-Ohio candidate, was Livengood's primary concern going into the opener.

The senior running back did get 108 yards in 20 carries, numbers not off the charts considering the potential of an athlete who has scored 51 career touchdowns and will probably rush for over 5,000 yards before its all over.

Besides, Dye's numbers were more than offset by what St. Paul's junior halfback Gabe Stoll did Saturday night, such as 224 yards in 29 carries.

But, before Stoll got rolling, the Flyer brain-trust could only watch as SMCC got one short field after another in piling up a 27-0 lead.

Rob Whitehurst coughed up the opening kickoff with Berkley Michly recovering at the St. Paul 39 yard line.

Dye scored five plays later from the 2. Zach Wasiniak then put it on the ground four plays into the next possession.

The Panthers needed 31 yards. Dye got the final 13 on a pass from Aaron Opfer to increase SMCC's advantage to 12-0 midway through the first quarter.

The Panthers earn their next touchdown. Driving 96 yards with T.J. Blanton running the team and Opfer going to a wide-out.

Aided by a personal foul penalty on the Flyers at midfield, SMCC used Dye and three

receivers to get it done in nine plays.

Dye went the final nine yards for the score.

Miley tacked on the extra point with 6:15 left in the half to make it 19-0.

Then, when Corey Sparr caught the fumbling disease on St. Paul's ensuing possession, the Panthers saw still another gift.

A 29-yard pass from Opfer to veteran end Brinden Baum got most the 45 yards.

Two plays later, Dye caught a swing pass in the left flat and chugged in from 15 yards out. That was his 51st career touchdown — a number that tied Mike Lill on the school's all-time list.

A pass to Olds on the two-point conversion put the Panthers up 27-0 with 2:33 left before half-time.

The veteran team that Livengood thought he took to Strobel Field showed up for the sixth possession.

With Stoll the primary runner, St. Paul took six plays to eat up 58 yards. Stoll followed blocks around the left side for the final 21 yards.

It took just one play into the second half, however, for Flyers fans to recognize there would be no miraculous rally.

Opfer found Olds running loose in the middle of the St. Paul secondary and the two hooked up on a 67-yard play that made it a 33-6.

St. Paul attempted to match that score the old fashioned way — by continuing to run the football.

The Flyers came within a foot of doing so. That's how close it was to the St. Mary goal line after 13 plays.

Ten minutes later, both teams



ABIGAIL BOBROW/REGISTER

St. Paul junior Gabe Stoll (44) tries to tackle Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic senior Spencer Dye in the first half Saturday at Strobel Field. The Panthers claimed a 34-12 win.

were ordered off the field when lightning was spotted in the area. It was in the middle of still another St. Paul march, one starting on the St. Mary 45.

Unlike the earlier one, though, the drive wasn't halted as the Gabe Stoll and his cousin Joe pounded the ball the last seven times in gaining 44 yards.

It also featured a rare forward pass — an 8-yard completion from junior quarterback Brendan Roberts to senior tight end Adam Schaffer.

Gabe Stoll worked the final yard with 2:29 left for the eventual final score.

"Now our sights will be set on 9-1," Livengood said. "We are

going to get a few players back this week and that will help. It is obvious where we have to improve.

"This was not St. Paul football tonight. We have to improve and do it quickly."

St. Paul returns to the action Saturday at Whitney Field by hosting Tiffin Calvert.

Berner scores \$20,000 in Pro Stock shootout

Pete Berner was crowned the champion of the \$51,000 Sunoco Pro Stock Shootout Saturday during the 27th annual IHRA Sunoco World Nationals presented by PPG Automotive Refinish at Norwalk Raceway Park.

Berner, 49, of Crete, Ill., pocketed \$20,000, defeating defending champion Frank Gugliotta.

The final was a rematch of last year's shootout.

"That was a good race," said Berner, who entered the event as the second seed. "We knew we had to stay focused on winning. Getting the opportunity to race Frank again and for it to be as close as was made the experience tremendous. This was no doubt this was the best race of my career."

Although not the fastest and quickest, Berner was unbeatable in eliminations and posted a quicker reaction time in all three rounds.

The first victory on Berner's march to the money run came at the expense of Elijah Morton from Jacksonville, N.C.

Berner pulled a .083 holeshot and extended that lead to a 6.596, 209.72 to 6.603, 208.39 decision.

The semifinals saw Berner put a .03 second starting line advantage in his pocket against

Rick Jones, of Galesburg, Ill., winning with a 6.562, 211.66. Jones in a losing effort produced the top speed of the shootout at 213.16.

In the final, Berner recorded his third consecutive holeshot win as he reeled off a quicker reaction time and sped to a winning 6.608, 210.97.

Gugliotta, of Mt. Airy, Md., was the runner-up with a 6.609, 212.39.

"I have been working hard on my reaction times," Berner said. "That was something we needed to improve on and my team was very supportive. I have a great team that made this win possible."

The \$1.1 million race is the ninth of 12 in the 2004 IHRA Drag Racing Series.

Below are the results of the Pro Stock Shootout:

ROUND ONE — Frank Gugliotta, Mercury Cougar, 6.567, 211.96 def. John Nobile, Ford ZX-2, 6.589, 210.87; Rick Jones, Dodge Neon, 6.554, 212.46 def. Brian Gahn, Ford Mustang, broke; Pete Berner, Mustang, 6.596, 209.72 def. Elijah Morton, Mustang, 6.603, 208.39; Steve Spiess, Chevy Cavalier, 6.574, 210.11 def. John Montecalvo, Cavalier, 6.579, 210.83.

QUARTERFINALS — Gugliotta, 6.577, 213.13 def. Spiess, 6.570, 211.39; Berner, 6.562, 211.66 def. Jones, 6.561, 213.16.

SEMIFINALS — Berner, 6.608, 210.97 def. Gugliotta, 6.609, 212.39.

■ IHRA postponed

The finals of this weekend's 27th annual International Hot Rod Association Sunoco World Nationals were rained out Saturday and again Sunday.

The rest of the event has been rescheduled to Oct. 9, with a test-and-tune session Oct. 8.

All Friday and Saturday tickets from this weekend will be honored when the event resumes.

Racers and others with full-event wristbands will have to present those wristbands for admission in October.

The Top Fuel and Pro Modified fields have not yet started eliminations, so those fields will be reset when the race resumes — qualified racers who do not return will be removed from the field and will not receive any points for the event.

Those who move into the field because of no-shows will receive both points and prize money.

Top Stock, Funny Car, and Pro Stock, along with all the Sportsman categories, have already started eliminations and those fields and ladders are frozen.

No points will be awarded until the event is completed in October.

Cowman earns 75th win

TOLEDO — Bob Cowman earned his 75th career win with Norwalk's boys' soccer team as the Truckers downed Toledo Christian 7-2 Saturday.

Brian Reid aided the veteran coach in the milestone with three goals.

Alex Lendrum added two goals, while Vincent Lewis and Jon Kijowski notched one each.

Tyler Lange, Derek Lee and Kijowski assisted on goals.

"It's a tribute to all of the kids who have come through the program," Cowman said of his milestone. "It speaks highly of many kids."

The Truckers outshot the hosts 25-13 in improving to 1-0-1.

"We found the back of the net," Cowman said. "We did well to correct some things in practice between the first and second games."

Norwalk returns home Tuesday to take on Tiffin Columbian with a 5 p.m. jayvee and 7 p.m. varsity start.

SOCCER

■ Tol. Christian 3, Norwalk 2

TOLEDO — Senior Ellen Walker and sophomore Brooke Seitz both scored goals, but the Lady Truckers dropped a decision Saturday.

Walker tallied the first goal, while Seitz added the second for the Lady Truckers (0-2).

Senior Alynne Neuberger played goalkeeper and had 17 saves in goal.

"We are going to try to keep moving the ball up the field and increase our shots on goal," coach Heidi Strong said. "The girls played well and finished strong."

Norwalk is scheduled to play at 5 p.m. Tuesday against Vermilion.

■ Edison 5, Admiral King 5

LORAIN — Edison rallied from a 4-1 deficit for the tie Saturday in boys' action.

Jimmy Harrington paced the Chargers (0-1-1) with three goals. Alex Bores and Scott Day chipped in with one goal apiece.

Dominic Wells made 11 saves for the Chargers, who owned a 21-16 shooting advantage.

Edison is slated to host Margareta Thursday.

■ Edison drops two

MILAN — Edison concluded its first week of girls' action with

two losses.

In a 4-0 loss to Vermilion Saturday, the Chargers trailed by one goal at halftime, having a chance right before the half to tie the game with a shot from Kelsey Ohly and Amy Turton.

Elizabeth Uther had 15 saves in goal for Edison. Shots on goal for Edison were from Danielle Moss with six, Kelsey Ohly at four, Kelley Quillen with two and Amy Turton and McKenzie Spriggs had one each.

In its opener Tuesday, Crestview blanked the Lady Chargers 4-0.

Scoring for Crestview were Jessie Trease with three goals and Deirdae Dick added one.

Edison had shots on goal from Moss, Ohly and Quillen.

Uther had 20 saves in goal. The Chargers will travel to Margareta for a 5 p.m. game on Wednesday.

■ Thunder 4, Lakewood 2

LAKEWOOD — The Norwalk Thunder boys U-11 team opened the fall season with a win.

After leading 4-0, the Thunder gave up two late goals.

The Thunder was lead in scoring by Trevor Bowers with two goals and one each from Cory Lieber and Shane McGuckin.

Jordan Myers contributed two assists, with the other assist from Lieber.

Evan Bader earned the win in goal.

The Thunder are scheduled to play Sept 12 at Broadview.

Wildcat boys' capture second at Early Bird Invitational

NEW LONDON — New London boys' team fared among the best Saturday during the Early Bird Invitational.

The Wildcats finished second with 132 points to Padua Franciscan at 38.

Also in attendance on the boys' side from the area were Plymouth at 305; St. Paul, 416 and Western Reserve, 508.

In the girls' competition, Seneca East claimed first with 84 points.

New London was the highest finisher among area teams, posting seventh with 210 points.

Western Reserve took 12th with 283 points; St. Paul, 379 and Plymouth, 410.

Monroeville didn't have enough for team scores, but ran as individuals.

Troy Coombs paced New London, placing eighth overall in

17:48.95.

Also for the Wildcats Zac Sendelbach recorded 10th in 17:58.14; David Dvorak, 37th, 19:33.15; Nathan Grys, 38th, 19:33.95; Brandon Lang, 39th, 19:36.65; Kyle Cramer, 47th, 19:55.63 and Andrew Harner, 74th, 20:52.71.

The next four runners included Skylar Branstool at 24th in 19:04.00; Matt Ball, 58th, 20:10.67; Mike McKenzie, 100th, 21:59.65 and Bryant Foster, 109th, 22:31.08.

For the Big Red, Evan Fackler gained a top-15 showing, garnering 14th in 18:14.68.

The other four runners included Josh Beebe turned in a 19:55.17 for 46th to lead St. Paul.

The other runners for the Flyers consisted of Bryan Allard at 75th in 20:53.04; Scott Gfell, 89th, 21:31.84; Austin Cutnaw, 95th,

21:44.80; Pete Fisher, 111th, 22:32.77; Matt Holmer, 119th, 23:04.20 and Ian Creary, 133th, 28:10.00.

David Movrin topped Western Reserve at 83th in 21:17.85, followed by Nick Gordon, 101st, 21:59.65; Perry Tracht, 103rd, 22:02.91; Ryan Burch, 104th, 22:10.91; Bryan Combs, 117th, 22:59.81; Tyler Butler, 118th, 23:00.78 and Keiffer Williams, 121st, 23:18.17.

For Monroeville, Jared Simon, ran in the open and finished sixth in 19:57, followed by Jon Wilhelm at seventh in 20:12 and Kevin Boehler, 27th, 22:26.

Franciscan's Tim Kaelin was first overall at 16:54.28.

In the girls' race, New London's Gabrielle Wuensch was first among area athletes at seventh in 21:25.65. Also for the Ladycats, Danielle

Wuensch finished 23rd in 22:30.06; Holly Perkins, 52nd, 23:39.08; Jen Bottomlee, 65th, 24:40.30; Megan Shepherd, 66th, 24:41.73; Tiffany Trimble, 76th, 25:21.21 and Cari Wegner, 95th, 26:34.00.

For Western Reserve, Samantha Boyd claimed 14th at 22:00.54, followed by Jackie Davis, 50th, 23:31.80; Britani Sterk, 69th, 24:55.71; Katelynn Nichols, 75rd, 25:13.07; Angie Sterk, 83rd, 25:40.43; Colleen Nitchman, 87th, 25:54.88 and Lynette Hackett, 88th, 25:55.99.

Amanda Allard registered 13th for the Lady Flyers in 21:56.79, followed by Caitly Fitzgerald, 57th, 24:01.31; Danielle Missler, 97th, 27:08.00; Kay Osborne, 110th, 29:42.00 and Coty Weimer, 113th, 31:32.00.

And for Plymouth, Ashley

Speicher took 56th in 23:46.88, followed by Heather Stoodt, followed Heather Stoodt at 70th in 24:58.29; Kristin Keaton, 94th, 26:31.00; Megan Hursh, 104th, 27:49.00; Megan Hedeon, 109th, 28:43.00 and Brooke Waddles, 115th, 34:17.00.

For Monroeville, Lynsey Schaffer finished 25th in 22.33, followed by Megan Schaffer, 68th, 24:52; Nicole Shorete, 81st, 25.33 and Jessica Schafer, 112th, 31.32.

West Holmes' Becky Holmes attained first overall in 20:23.90.

In junior high competition, which was a 3200-meter race, New London's boys' team collected third with 64 points.

Medina Buckeye won with 33 points. Jordan Lang paced the Wildcats at seventh in 13:04.01, followed by Charlie Cunagin, 10th, 13:15.97; Tyler Cawse, 13th, 13:22.59; Dustin Anthony, 14th,

13:23.34; Justin Jackson, 17th, 13:43.74; Corey Essenmacher, 19th, 14:01.26 and Lee Trask, 24th, 14:22.16.

On the girls' side, New London notched sixth with 133 points.

Mohawk placed first with 29 points. For the Ladycats, Kayla Sendelbach finished second at 13:26.76, followed by Colby Asmus, seventh, 13:44.40; Kiara Williams, 31st, 15:57.98; Emily Heatly, 46th, 17:00.67; Alice Schwinn, 47th, 17:04.82; Brittany Bucher, 49th, 17:07.89 and Alicia Perkins, 57th, 18:22.25.

St. Paul is scheduled to compete in the NWCSA today, Plymouth is slated to host Crestline Tuesday, Western is scheduled to host both Norwalk and Edison Tuesday, while both Plymouth and New London are slated to compete at the Tiffin Carnival Sept. 11.