

St. Mary's Extends Win Streak To 13

By CHARLES WAGNER
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An aggressive defense and the foot of George Maczuga were the main ingredients as St. Mary's stretched its winning streak to 13 games Saturday night at Strobel Field.

New Panther Coach Bill Philbin felt his defensive unit had come around, but plenty of work was needed with the offense and he proved to be 100 per cent correct as he chalked up a big victory in his debut at St. Mary's.

A strong Clear Fork club, which hadn't lost in 25 games was far from expectations as the Richland County club went down to defeat by an unusual score of 10-2.

Both teams were ranked in the top 10 a year ago, St. Mary's third in one poll and fourth in another, while the Cougars placed sixth in one Class A rating and eighth in another.

Defense Sparkles In 10-2 Victory

St. Mary's offense sputtered most of the night, but the defense was sensational for an opening-game encounter and the Panthers had just one starter from 1966 on the unit.

THE PANTHERS LIMITED CLEAR FORK to a mere 31 net yards in 23 rushes in the second half and 94 yards for the game. St. Mary's managed but 77 net yards on the ground, but the defense gave them numerous chances to score.

Maczuga, 182-pound senior letterman, failed on a 40-yard field goal midway in the opening period when he appeared to "chop" at the ball.

However, he came back when the chips were down in the fourth period to split the uprights on a 29-yard attempt from an angle to give the Panthers a 3-2 lead.

Four plays after the kickoff, the defense came up with the big play and two minutes later halfback Tom Erne zipped eight yards into the end zone and St. Mary's was out front by a 10-2 margin.

ST MARY'S HASN'T LOST in its 16 games. They have won 13 in a row since the 20-20 standoff at Tiffin Calvert in 1965, including 10 consecutive wins last season.

Despite the tremendous defense the Panthers appeared to be in deep trouble as a result of a Clear Fork safety in the second quarter.

Punter Chris Snyder of Clear Fork had punts of 1 and seven yards before he booted one 35 yards at the coffin corner and the ball went out of bounds on the four.

St. Mary's was unable to move the ball, in fact lost one yard in three attempts.

Mike Roth stood deep in the end zone to kick and received a low snap from center. Trying to hurry the punt, the youngster's kick was low, so low in fact that the ball struck a player on the line of scrimmage and caromed back toward Roth.

THE 140-POUND JUNIOR OUTRACED two Cougar defensive players to fall on the ball to prevent a touchdown, but Clear Fork was on the board with two points.

St. Mary's was unable to generate much of an offense despite the fact Philbin changed quarterbacks at intermission, but the hustling Panther defense continued its sharp play, and in fact, seemed to improve as time moved on.

The Clear Fork backfield — all veterans — ran with a little authority in the first half, but at a snails pace in the last two quarters.

ST. MARY'S FINALLY TOOK ADVANTAGE of a big break. A clipping penalty set the Cougars deep in their own territory to start the final canto. Two running plays resulted in a net loss of seven yards and Snyder went back to punt with third and 17 at the 13.

St. Mary's, which rushed the punter hard all night long and twice came within a whisker of blocking the kicks, once again had the big rush on end Snyder managed a weak 22-yard boot to the 35.

The Panthers gained 29 yards on the first two plays. Maczuga passed for seven yards to halfback Mike Samstag on the first play and a personal foul against Clear Fork resulted in a 22-yard advance on the next call.

Maczuga, who started at halfback, but played quarterback

in the second half, directed a long aerial for senior end Ed Coles on the six. However, Coles was tripped by the Cougar defensive halfback and St. Mary's had a first and goal at that point.

Three rushing plays wound up with the ball on the 12.

MACZUGA WAITED FOR MARK ACKERMAN to place the ball down on the 19-yard line and this time his right foot moved with authority and the ball sailed through the uprights with plenty of distance to spare and St. Mary's forged in front with 8:35 left.

Clear Fork was unable to pick up a first down and with fourth and one at the 34, Snyder went back for an apparent punt.

However, he tried to sweep his left end and bobbled the ball as he started out. It gave the onrushing Panthers the split second they needed and he was nailed by a host of tacklers on his 20.

Maczuga gained one yard in two plays, but senior fullback Mike Del Aguaro darted off right-tackle for 10 yards and a first down on the nine. Del Aguaro had a huge opening as sophomore guard Dave Renwand and senior tackle Tim Smith cleared the path.

ERNE, 145-POUND SENIOR and an outstanding linebacker, gained one to the eight and came right back as the second man through to slide into the end zone on an eight yard scamper with 4:21 remaining.

Clear Fork's deepest penetration came in the second stanza when they recovered a fumble and moved to the 31 before giving up the ball on downs.

The Panthers fumbled again on the very next play at the 29, but a holding penalty pushed the Cougars back to the 44 and they were once again unable to penetrate the stout defense.



ST. MARY'S GETS FIRST TOUCHDOWN OF SEASON ... Mike Samstag (20) clears way for Tom Erne to complete eight-yard scoring jaunt.



PHILBIN SHOUTS MESSAGE TO TEAM ... after discussion with quarterback Mark Ackerman.

Third Brother To Lead Flyers Tosses 2 Touchdown Passes

Name Amato Trademark At St. Paul

Sophomore quarterback Chris Amato completed just three passes, but two were touchdowns to end Jim Grine as Newark St. Paul rolled to an easy 26-6 victory over Western Reserve Saturday night.

Chris, following in the footsteps of old brothers Chuck and John, directed a 32-yard scoring strike to Grine in the opening period and hit his senior

veteran with a nine-yard touchdown toss in the second quarter to give the Flyers a commanding 20-0 bulge.

The Amato boys have directed the Flyer attack for the past four years. Chuck, now at Notre Dame University, was quarterback in 1964 and 1965 and John was at the controls last year. Chris will in all probability be at the helm for three seasons which would re-

sult in an Amato being the quarterback for six straight years.

THE FLYERS drove 69 yards in 12 plays after the opening kickoff. The touchdown came with 7:11 left and Dick Hillman booted the PAT for a 7-0 advantage.

St. Paul was stopped on Western's one late in the opening period by a penalty, but regained possession moments later when the Rough Rider punted dropped the ball in the processing of getting his kick away.

The Flyers took over on the

26 and cracked in for their second marker in four plays as halfback Dave Wasiniak scampered 11 yards around left end with 8:33 left in the second canto.

SAFETYMAN John Potts set up the third Flyer score when he rambled 36 yards with a pass interception to Western's 28.

St. Paul required seven plays to hit paydirt for the last time as Amato uncorked a nine-yard pass to Grine in the end zone with but one second remaining in the half.

Western Reserve mounted

its scoring drive in the waning seconds of play on the fine passing of quarterback Mike Conry to veteran end Dave Zimmerman.

The Rough Riders marched 72 yards and Conry completed seven of eight aerials with Zimmerman picking off six of them, including one for 31 yards and the touchdown with just eight seconds to play.

WESTERN RESERVE'S fine freshman tailback Greg Kidd galloped 54 yards for a touchdown earlier, but it was

called back by a penalty.

St. Paul gained 254 yards rushing in its debut under new coach Mike Gottfried with Wasiniak and Hillman accounting for all but 25 yards of the total. Amato hit on three of 12 pass attempts for 49 yards, but most important two touchdowns.

Western, which had trouble moving on the ground in 1966, managed just 80 yards rushing, but Conry hit on 11 of 17 passes for 138 yards and the glau-fingered Zimmerman nabbed 10 of them for 129 yards.

Berlin Heights Shelled, 41-0

Berlin Heights ran into a buzz saw against South Amherst Saturday afternoon in absorbing a 41-0 shellacking at the hands of the Cavaliers.

The Tigers failed to generate a serious scoring threat and were continually hampered by fumbles in Jim Wittibslager's head coaching debut.

South Amherst scored single touchdowns in each of the first two quarters and twice in both the third and fourth periods.

Rocky Martin collared a pair of touchdowns, while Larry Cole and Dick Allcox were on the receiving end of touchdown passes for the hosts.

Receive Atom League MVP Awards

Biddle, Cottier Lauded

Paul Biddle and Kurt Cottier were selected as the Most Valuable Players in their respective divisions at the 10th annual Atom League Awards Banquet.

Biddle, who led his team to a league championship, had a glossy .795 batting average and also did a fine job on the mound for Bertsch Jewelers.

Playing for Mr. Wiggs, Kurt Cottier had a batting average of .650 and also led the league in home runs with 10.

GAINING ROOKIE OF THE YEAR honors were Scotty Allen and David Watson. Allen, who played for the Stadium Pharmacy club, had an impressive .444 batting average. In the American League, Watson copped the top rookie

award by posting a fine .379 batting average and also turned in a superb job as a pitcher.

THE TOP PITCHERS FOR the American and National leagues were Craig McGory and Don Shirley respectively. McGory pitched in 86 1-3 innings and gave up only 16 runs while striking out 229 and walking only 69. Shirley allowed only 37 runs in 63 innings and struck out 169 batters. Shirley also posted a glossy 11-1 slate.

Others winning awards were: Dennis Link, the National League batting champ, and Lynn Moore, the National League Batting champion.

Bertsch Jewelers of the American League were the champions for the 1967 season with Mr. Wiggs in runner-up spot.

Plymouth Nails Opener

Plymouth kicked off its 1967 season Saturday afternoon with a convincing 19-6 triumph over Lucas despite a rash of fumbles and penalties.

Larry Root's squad collared three touchdowns in each of the last

three quarters after Lucas opened the scoring in the first quarter of a 47-yard pass from Drew Arvay to Neil Panayik.

Plymouth: marched deep in Lucas territory late in the second quarter and fullback Gene

Kok sliced over for an apparent touchdown only to fumble with the Cubs recovering in the end zone.

However the Cubs fumbled moments later and Vance Hoffman recovered for the Big Red on the 16. On the second play, Hoffman connected on a 14-yard scoring strike to end Dave McKown. Kok booted the extra point to give Plymouth a 7-6 lead which they never relinquished.

THE BIG RED drove 55 yards in 11 plays midway in the third period for their second tally. Hoffman plungered the final yard for a 13-6 advantage.

The final marker came on a drive of 53 yards in five climaxed when Ken Foreman crunched into paydirt from two yards out.

Kok kicked a 26-yard field goal in the fourth quarter for the Big Red, but it was nullified by an offside penalty. This time the senior veteran's boot from 31 yards out was low.

PLYMOUTH FUMBLLED six times and lost three, while Lucas recovered three of its five fumbles. There were 21 penalties called by the off-

icials with 60 yards stepped off against the Big Red.

Plymouth which posted a winning season in 1966 for the first time in 10 years, rushed for 187 yards compared to just 27 for the Cubs of which only four came in the second half.

Hoffman attempted 16 passes and hit on just four of them for 63 yards, while the hosts clicked on two of five tries for 52 yards and one touchdown.

Yardstick

RUSHING

ST. MARY'S	TC	Yds	Avg.
Maczuga, hb-gb	15	53	3.53
Erne, hb	4	17	4.25
Del Aguaro, fb	5	9	1.80
Ackerman, qb	10	16	1.60
Samstag, hb	7	25	3.57

CLEAR FORK

ST. MARY'S	TC	Yds	Avg.
Snyder, hb	24	74	3.08
Cooner, hb	13	32	2.46
Gonzales, hb	2	9	4.50
Bandbury, fb	1	4	4.00
Carroll, qb	1	3	3.00

PASSING

ST. MARY'S	Att	Com	Yds	Int	TDs
Maczuga, qb	5	3	44	0	0
Ackerman, qb	1	0	0	0	0
Samstag, qb	2	1	22	0	0
Carroll, qb	8	2	33	2	0

PASS RECEIVING

ST. MARY'S	No.	Yds.	TDs.
Maczuga, hb	2	22	0
Coles, e	1	22	0
Erne, hb	1	24	0
Beal, e	1	24	0
Snyder, hb	1	29	0

'I Have To Get In Groove': Philbin

Bill Philbin took most of the blame for the ineptness of the St. Mary's offense in Saturday's opener.

Former Lorain St. Mary's coach making his debut here, Philbin said "we knew the defense would come around, but I have to get in the right groove and call the plays correctly."

Philbin wasn't pleased with his selections of calls as he sent messengers in throughout the game.

Philbin, who now has a personal winning streak of 12 games going for him, had nothing but praise for the defense.

"The kids rose to the occasion just as we hoped they would. We had three scrimmages and didn't look good in any of them, but I believe it certainly took some of the green out of us."

Philbin came to St. Mary's with only Mike Del Aguaro returning from the 1966 squad in the capacity of a genuine regular, both offensively and defensively.

Philbin used Mark Ackerman at quarterback in the first half and George Maczuga in the second half and stated "Ackerman is still my No. 1 quarterback."

Another standout on defense was 145-pound junior halfback Mike Samstag who picked off

two Clear Fork passes late in the fourth quarter.

Clear Fork won the toss of the coin at the start of the St. Mary's took the wind at its back and the kickoff as well.

In the second half, the Panthers received once again as it was their turn to make the decision and new Clear Fork Coach Kent Reed decided his club should take the wind in the third period.

WINDS UP to 25 knots whirled around the stadium throughout and it played a definite role in the clash.

Perkins Coach Ted Schwanger and his entire staff scouted the Panthers and when Maczuga booted the field goal it brought back memories.

Perkins and St. Mary's tangle Saturday night at Perkins and it was just four years ago Mike Krafty drop kicked a field goal to give the Panthers a 9-6 win over Schwanger's club.

Statistics

	C	SM
First Downs (total)	5	9
by rushing	3	7
by passing	1	1
by penalty	1	1
Rushes (number)	41	41
yards gained	122	120
yards lost	28	43
net yards gained	94	77
average gain	2.3	1.8
Forward Passing—		
attempts	8	7
completed	2	3
net yards gained	33	44
had intercepted	2	0
average gain	16.5	14.7
Total Plays (rushes and passes)	49	48
Total Net Yards	127	121
Gained	94	86
Penalties (number)	6	6
average yards	16.6	26.8
had blocked	0	1
Punt Returns	4	0
(number)		
average yards	3.0	0
Kickoff Returns	3	2
(number)		
average yards	21.0	17.0
Fumble (numbers)	2	3
lost	0	2
Penalties (number)	4	3
yards penalized	45	35

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