

We Worked On Kickoff All Week: O'Donnell

"We blew it, that's all there is to it, we just blew it."

Clyde High School football coach Jim O'Donnell, disconsolate over the Fliers' 26-0 whitewashing by the Margaretta Polar Bears, stood outside the door to the Flier dressing room Friday night and shook his head.

"There can be no question their two quick touchdowns really hurt us and I'm entirely to blame for the first one. It was all my fault," he said.

THE FIRST Margaretta touchdown was set up when Don Meyers recovered the opening kickoff at the Clyde 35.

"Our linemen had been too slow dropping back to setup for our runners in kickoffs," O'Donnell explained. "So this week I told them to really get back there. Well when Clyde kicked off the ball only went 20 yards or so, but our kids were so busy getting back to setup that they just didn't pay any attention to

where the ball was."

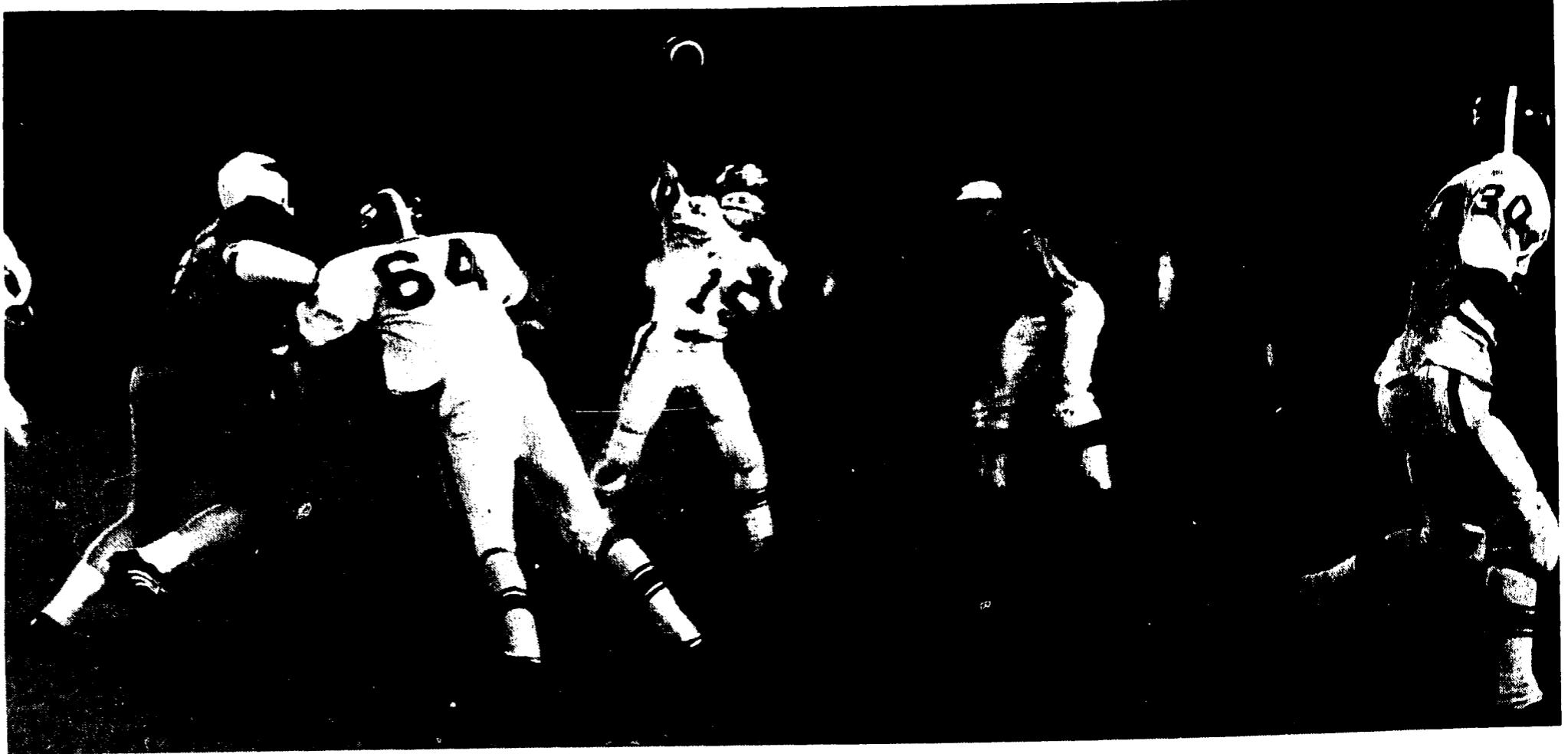
Margaretta coach Bill Lodge said he couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Clyde linemen completely ignore the loose pigskin.

"Our kids just took it to them again," the enthusiastic young coach bubbled after the game. "We played even better defensively than we did in beating Lakota last week."

"And I'd say our offense was on a par with last week. I'll just be happy if it doesn't get any worse."

LODGE, WHO has now guided the Bears to three consecutive wins, repeated the familiar "we play 'em one at a time" when asked if he expected his club to be undefeated at this stage.

"But I'll say this, we've got by three tough ones. It's just unfortunate that they don't get any easier. It looks like they're all gonna be tough in the SBC this year."



MARGARETTA QUARTERBACK JERRY GILL UNLOADS WITH ONE OF HIS SIX PASSES
... Gary Lyons (64) keeps Clyde's Jeff Burkin (73) from pressuring passer

Margaretta Capitalizes On Clyde Mistakes

By CHARLIE VINCENT
Register Sports Writer

Jim O'Donnell, who lives by defense, died by defense Friday night.

The Clyde Flier head coach watched helplessly from the sidelines as the Margaretta Polar Bears used an alert defense to coast to a 26-0 victory over his fliers before a packed house at

Margaretta High School Stadium.

It was the third consecutive win for Coach Bill Lodge's Bears and upped their Sandusky Bay Conference record to 2-0. Clyde, in the meantime, was falling to 1-2 for the year and 1-1 in SBC play.

THE POLAR BEARS wasted little time in letting O'Donnell know what kind

of night it was going to be. Don Meyers fell on the opening kick-off while Clyde's receiving team stood around and watched the pigskin skitter along the turf.

With quarterback Jerry Gill expertly moving the Bears down the field it took them exactly five minutes to get on the scoreboard, fullback Don Bard getting the final four yards. Gill then passed to Bard for the extra points and the Polar Bears had all the points they were to need.

But the Margaretta defense had just begun to show its muscles.

Before the night was over it was to swipe four passes, recover one Clyde fumble and block a punt attempt.

Senior end Gary Borchardt was the villain of the blocked punt, crashing through to slap it to the ground as soon as it came off Joe Cooper's foot. Borchardt scooped up the ball and raced 34 yards into paydirt to make it 14-0 with 5:05 remaining in the first period. Gill's pass for the extra points fell incomplete.

MARGARETTA DIDN'T get on the scoreboard again until the fourth stanza, but the defense was kept busy in the meantime.

It blunted Clyde's first sustained drive of the night late in the first half, when Larry Esposito crashed into the Fliers' Nick Farrar at the Margaretta nine, jarring the ball loose. Denny Highlander fell on it for the Bears at the 15 and ended a Clyde threat that had started at the Flier 21.

The Polar Bears didn't allow the visitors a first down in the final half until the game was safely out of reach

and reserves were logging time with less than three minutes on the clock.

Gill, Don Nemitz, Dave Pfeiffer and Roger Dauch all interceded passes for Margaretta—on four consecutive Clyde possessions in the second half. And after the thefts by Dauch and Nemitz the Polar Bears chalked up touchdowns.

DAUCH RETURNED his steal 19 yards to the Clyde 21 and it took just six plays for Gill to find Bard in the end zone with a two-yard pass. The extra point try was no good and it was 20-0 with 7:22 left in the game.

Nemitz returned the ball from Clyde's 47 to the 39 just two plays later and Margaretta was on the way to its final touchdown of the night.

Five plays later Gill hit Larry Esposito with a seven yard scoring pass and the extra point attempt again failed.

Lodge rested his regulars in the final three minutes and Clyde put together its second scoring threat of the night, moving from its 28 to Margaretta's 33 before Pfeiffer intercepted at the 15.

The Polar Bears just ran out the final 1:40, savoring the taste of their third consecutive victory.

It was Margaretta's first win over Clyde since 1965.

GILL, WHO puts the ball in the air only when he needs to, threw just six times, completed four of them and two went for touchdowns. He was less fortunate on extra point pass attempts, however, hitting on just one of four.

Defensively, the gang-tackling Polar Bears were led by Chuck Highlander and Larry Esposito as well as the quartet who swiped Flier passes.

David Nieset and Louis Snyder stood out defensively for the losers.

Gibsonburg Rips

Lakota, 42-3

The Gibsonburg Golden Bears routed Lakota, 42-3, in a Sandusky Bay Conference game Friday night, sending the Raiders to their third consecutive thrashing of the season.

Lakota managed to keep it close for the first half, trailing only 14-3 at intermission. But the Bears got its offense rolling in the second half and scored twice in each the third and fourth periods.

RON MAUCH got things started for Gibsonburg, recovering a Lakota fumble at the Raider 24 and returning it for a touchdown early in the first quarter. Mauch also added the extra points on a plunge.

Lakota's only points of the night came later in the initial stanza, on a 27-yard field goal by Chris Knight.

Mauch made it 14-3 with a 23 yard run in the second period.

Then Ted Smith took over. Smith got both of Gibsonburg's third period touchdowns, on runs of two and seven yards and Jim Stout added a two point conversion after the later.

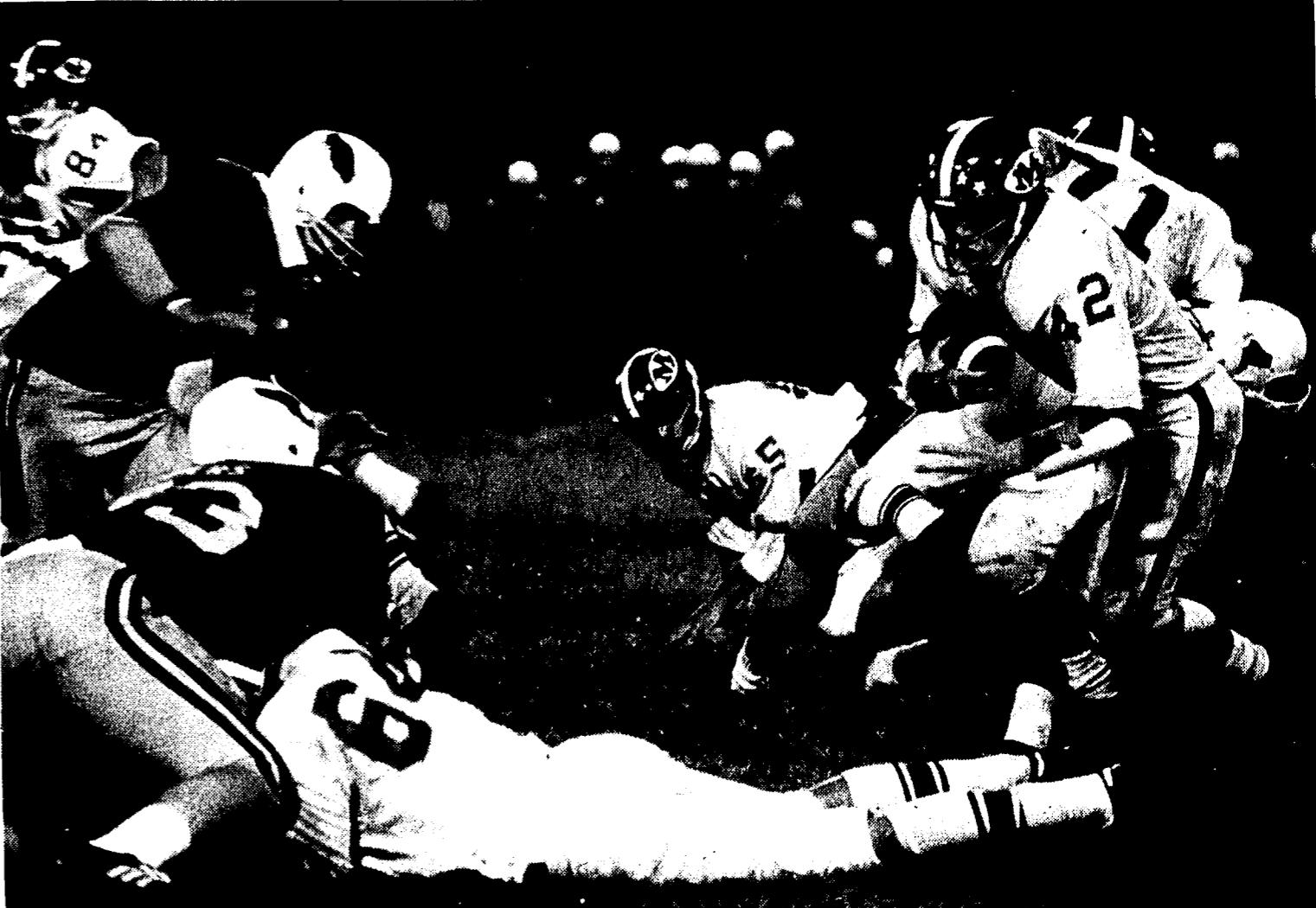
IN THE FOURTH period, quarterback Frank LaSalvia raced in from five yards out and Jim Shull got the final touchdown from the one. LaSalvia passed to Tom Jurkski for a two-point conversion after the first of those TDs.

The Bears outgained Lakota 166 yards to 44 on the ground and completed seven of nine passes for 110 yards. Lakota failed to connect on any of its seven aerial attempts.

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POLAR BEAR'S CHUCK HIGHLANDER FINDS A HOLE
... behind Gary Lyons' (64) block on Clyde's Jeff Burkin. (Register Photos—McCullough)



CLYDE QB DENNIS MUSSEL SCRAMBLES VAINLY
... Margaretta's Chuck Highlander (42) chases Flier passer

Sailors Sink New London

John Griffen slammed into paydirt with just 54 seconds left on the clock Friday night to spoil New London's Homecoming and give the Vermilion Sailors a 14-6 triumph in the Lakeland Conference opener for both schools.

Griffen also ran for the two-point conversion but at that stage it mattered little.

THE SAILORS had gone ahead with 2:30 remaining in the first period, when Mick Mayer scored from the three-yard

line. But a run for the two-point conversion failed.

New London knotted it at 6-6 midway through the final stanza, when Bruce Ewell raced 10 yards to score. New London's extra point attempt also failed and the two seemed destined to fight to a standstill when Vermilion took the ensuing kickoff with just 4:37 left in the game.

But the Sailors, who had been foiled by

a Norwalk field goal last week, were not ready to settle for a stalemate and Griffen's smash gave them all they needed.

STATISTICALLY, THE two teams battled on even terms. Each rang up 10 first downs and Vermilion finished with 202 yards total offense while New London had a total of 170 yards. Each lost one fumble and Vermilion was penalized 30 yards to New London's 25.

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