

(Register Photo — BILL WANDERSLEBEN)

GARY LILL (89), PANTHERS NEEDED BALL TO SCORE
...Panther end tried going over Dave Olson to get it.

STATISTICS

	L.C. ST. MARY	Plymouth
First Downs (total)	11	9
by rushing	6	9
by passing	1	0
by penalty	4	0
Rushes (number)	40	40
yards gained	140	244
yards lost	29	2
net yards gained	111	242
average gain	2.77	6.0
Forward Passing		
attempted	12	3
completed	2	0
had intercepted	3	0
net yards gained	19	0
average gain	9.5	0
Total Plays (rushes and passes)	52	43
Total net yards gained	130	242
Punts (number)	6	5
average yards	39.5	37.2
had blocked	0	1
Punt Returns (number)*	3	0
average return	5.0	0
Kickoff Returns (number)	2	3
average return	20.34.6	6.2
Fumbles (number)	4	1
ball lost	0	0
Penalties (number)	1	6
yards penalized	15	85

YARDSTICKS

RUSHING			
St. Mary's	Tc.	Ga.	Lo Net
Roth, Kevin qb	6	15	-1
Dye, fb	8	21	1
Roth, Tim hb	10	34	1
Guerra, hb	14	69	7
Roth, Dave hb	1	1	0
Kastor, t	1	0	4

Lorain Catholic			
	Tc.	Ga.	Lo Net
Sweeney, fb	18	90	0
Coughlin, hb	16	73	0
Olson, qb	6	81	2

PASSING			
St. Mary's	Att.	Com.	Yds. Int.
Roth, Kevin, qb	6	1	2
Roth, Dave, qb	5	1	17
Guerra, hb	1	0	0

Lorain Catholic			
	No.	Yds.	TDs.
Olson, qb	3	0	0

STATISTICS

	L.	P.
First Downs	15	4
Net Yards Gained Rushing	170	12
Yards Gained Passing	77	58
Total Net Yards Gained	247	70
Passes attempted-completed	13.7	23.5
Passes intercepted by	1	0
Fumbles lost	3.2	3.2
Penalties	4.40	1.5

SCORE BY QUARTERS			
Plymouth	0	0	0
Lorain Catholic	12	3	7
Scoring:	0	22	

Lorainville scored twice within a five-minute period in the first quarter as Scott Browning dashed 22 yards and Jim McFarland capped a 45-yard six-play drive with a two-yard burst up the middle.

Maurizio Schindler booted a 22-yard field goal with only nine seconds left in the half, and Mitch Browning recovered a block punt in the end zone two minutes into the second half to account for the final touchdown.

Rose's club only had two first downs the entire second half and one after the drive was halted.

St. Mary's finally put some points on the board in the fourth quarter. Dave Printy recovered an Olson fumble at the

start of the fourth quarter.

Coughlin, Sweeney, and Olson moved the ball to the 27, but Coughlin was stopped cold by the re-enthused Panther defense.

Coach Don Harms' squad knocked on the door earlier in the second period only to bog down on the Perryburg two. However, Port Clinton's defense kept the Yellowjackets pinned to the wall and the

hosts had possession moments later on the Perryburg 48.

Racing the clock, Port Clinton quarterback Duane Kokinda retreated to pass and found Dan Guziuskai alone and the result was a 45-yard advance to the Perryburg two.

One play later Bruce Below banged over from for the only scoring of the night.

The Redskins squared their season record by picking off three of the 27 Perryburg aerials. Port Clinton rushed for 107 yards and managed only 45 in the air, but that came on the biggest play of the independent clash for the hosts.

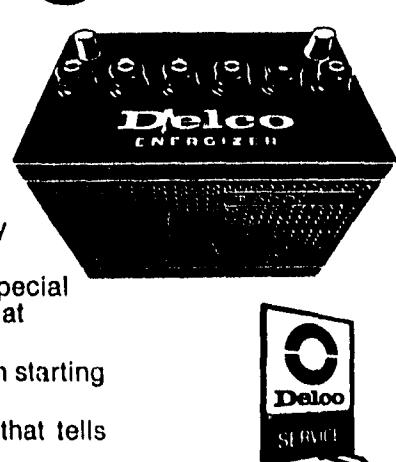
Perryburg was limited to 80 yards on the ground, and added 124 in the air.

However, Port Clinton's defense managed to rise to the occasion several times to record the shutout.

STATISTICS

	P. C.
First Downs	8
Net Yards Gained Rushing	80
Yards Gained Passing	107
Total Net Yards Gained	124
Passes attempted-completed	45
Passes intercepted by	3
Fumbles-lost	1
Penalties	1-1
	27-13
	7-1
	8-115
	2-30

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St. Mary's Unable To Overcome Touchdown In First 13 Seconds

The number 13 popped up a couple of times in Lorain last night, and St. Mary's players and fans are wishing that they had never seen the unlucky numeral!

Host Lorain Catholic, striking paydirt on senior halfback Tom Coughlin's opening-game kickoff return, subdued the Panthers 16-6.

Coughlin's 80-yard return consumed just 13 seconds on the clock, and before the bands had returned from playing the national anthem, the local club was down 8-0.

The win gives Coach Tim Rose's Spartans 13 victories in a row dating back to an opening game loss in 1972. St. Mary's meanwhile, evened its season log at 2-2, with heavy Sandusky Bay Conference action on tap for the next three weekends.

Coughlin, who scored all of the Lorain club's points, took Jeff Schwerer's kick at the 20. The seatback broke through the first wave of Panther would-be tacklers on the right side of the field. Safetyman Denny Guerra had the last shot at the streaking Coughlin, but missed the open field tackle at the 50 and the speedster was off to the races.

The Spartans sent the senior halfback around left end for the conversion for an 8-0 zip lead and only the 13 seconds had elapsed.

From that point on, the first half was all downhill for the Panthers.

"The punch staggered us too long," coach Doug Mehling said of the kickoff runback. "It put us too far behind right from the beginning. It was a shocker."

And the Panthers did look shocked for most of the first half. Defensive players were missing numerous tackles on Coughlin and his senior running partner, fullback Kevin Sweeney. The pair rushed for 105 yards in the first half on 18 carries with Coughlin carrying 10 times for 55 yards.

Another crusher for the Sandusky club came in the second stanza. With the St. Mary's tackling looking somewhat less than effective, letterman quarterback Dave Olson broke off a 59-yard run on a keeper to his left.

The scamper originated on the Spartan's 34 with four minutes left in the half. Monster back Tim Roth's saving tackle on the seven prevented Olson from going the distance on the keeper.

Roth's tackle stopped that run, but didn't prevent a score as Coughlin scooted the final seven on a pitch around the opposite end for the conversion.

Understandably, Mehling recognized a couple of breakdowns on Olson's long sprint. "Our halfback didn't read well," he offered.

After the shock of the long runback had worn off somewhat, the Panthers pushed to their host's 23. Guerra's longest sprints of the night of 15 and 14 yards plus a 15-yard pass interference penalty aided the nine-play march. The advance halted abruptly when Catholic's Ken Niemiec grabbed off the first of three of the Spartans' interceptions at the 15.

Just before the half, with a minute left to play, the Panthers again began a march following a Jeff Jesko punt of 38 yards to the visitors's 23. Dave Roth completed a 17-yard strike to Gary Lill and a 15-yard infraction against Lorain Catholic moved the ball to the 28. Roth's two final passes produced an offensive interference penalty and an incomplete, however.

Mehling said that the opening kickoff return, "... hurt us until we got things going in the second half." The Panther boss was right as the club did pick up in the final two frames although down 16-0.

Defensive action especially improved after the intermission. Catholic's only serious threat of the half came after replacement punter Mike Kastor fumbled a punt snap at his own 43 with 3:54 to go in the third quarter.

Coughlin, Sweeney, and Olson moved the ball to the 27, but Coughlin was stopped cold by the re-enthused Panther defense.

Rose's club only had two first downs the entire second half and one after the drive was halted.

St. Mary's finally put some points on the board in the fourth quarter. Dave Printy recovered an Olson fumble at the

Panther 32 yard stripe. Aided by a personal foul penalty and a pass interference call at the nine that gave them a first down, Mehling's troops were goal to go.

Guerra made a fine run on a pitch left cutting back to the right over the middle for the score. Kevin Roth was smothered trying to pass for the conversion attempt. The tally came with only 2:28 left.

in the game, and for St. Mary's it was too little, too late.

Mehling said that Coughlin's kickoff return didn't change his club's game plan. The Panthers threw two times during the first series immediately following the score.

"We wanted to throw to loosen them up," explaining Mehling. Quarterbacks Dave and Kevin Roth didn't fare too well in the aerial game however, as they completed only two of 11 for 19 yards and had three interceptions. The head coach agreed on the starts. "It wasn't our night to put the ball in the air."

"We were awful sloppy," Mehling said of the shoddy first-half tackling. "We could have been down on ourselves and we weren't sharp at all mentally. We woke up in the second half."

Sweeney, Coughlin and Olson were the only Spartans to carry the pigskin. But, they did it effectively.

Sweeney had 10 yards on 18 carries; Coughlin, 73 on 16; and Olson, 79 on six, including the long first-half jaunt.

Olson was subbing at quarterback for sophomore Joe Roth. Roth engineered last week's win over Painesville Riverside, but sat out Friday night with a bad ankle.