

JAC Roundup

Ontario Tops Redbirds

Ontario High School moved a step closer to the Johnny Appleseed Conference football championship with an impressive 20-0 handling of defending tult Loudonville Friday night.

The win was the sixth of the season without a loss for the Warriors, who are 4-0 in JAC play. Loudonville is 2-2 in the circuit, 3-3 overall.

In other league games Friday, Plymouth (2-2, 3-3) stopped Crestline (1-3, 2-4), 13-12 and Clear Fork (3-1, 4-2) tripped Crestview (0-4, 0-5), 20-18.

Lexington (2-1, 3-2) hosts Fredencktown (2-1, 3-2) today.

By Jim Brewer
LOUDONVILLE — Loudonville's Redbirds held Ontario's Warriors scoreless for the first half, but a six-minute stretch in the second half saw Ontario rack up 20 points on three consecutive possessions to remain undefeated.

Jeff Strickler carried the Warriors during their spurt, hitting Steve Santmyer and Kevin Scott with touchdown passes and then running for the third six-pointer.

STATISTICS		
	Lou	Ont
First Downs	15	15
Rushing Yards	112	175
Passing Yards	18	171
Passes	13	48
Passes Intercepted By	0	2
Fumbles	6-22	6-22
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Yards Penalized	1-7	6-42

After a third-quarter Loudonville drive stalled on the Ontario 25-yard line, the Warriors raced 75 yards in four plays to get on the scoreboard with 3:19 left in the period.

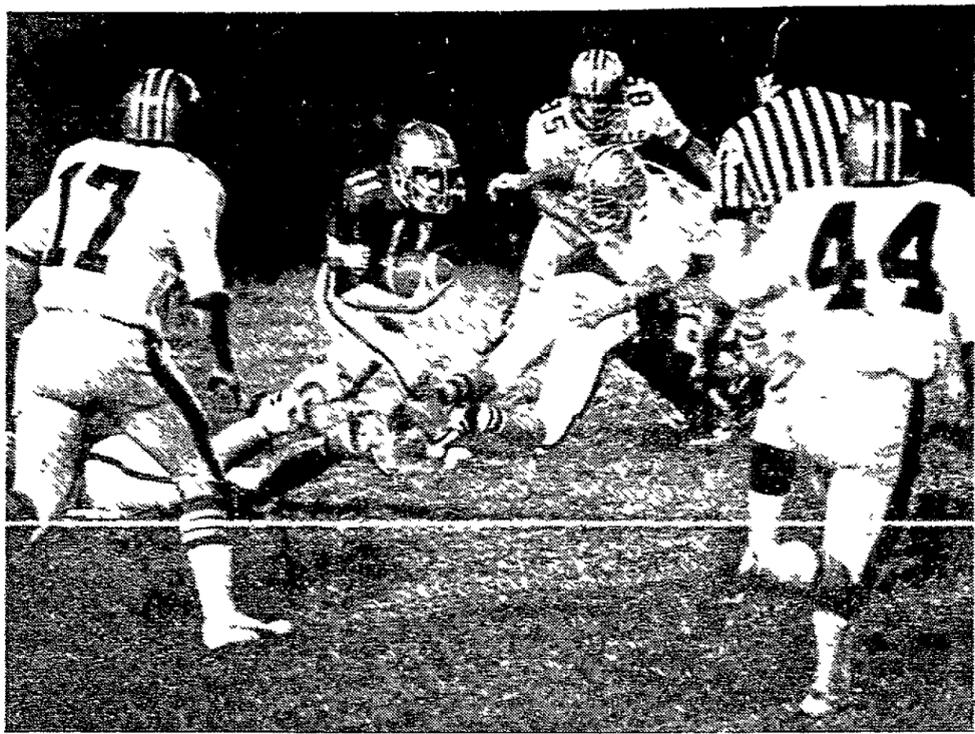
A third-down pass from Strickler to Rick Bayer carried 20 yards to the 50. On the next play, Strickler tossed a scoring strike to Santmyer.

Loudonville, unable to move after the ensuing kick-off, was forced to punt. Again, Ontario moved quickly into the end zone, the big play being a 39-yard run by Strickler to the 11-yard line. Two plays later, Strickler passed 11 yards to Scott for the fourth-quarter touchdown.

On its next possession, Loudonville coughed up the ball on a fumble, setting up a four-play, 31-yard drive by the Warriors for their final score. Strickler got the touchdown with 9:23 to go on a six-yard run.

The speedy Strickler accounted for 230 yards, rushing for 132 in 21 carries and passing for another 98 on four completions.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL		
At Loudonville		
Ontario	0	0
Loudonville	20	0
Ontario	0	0
Loudonville	0	0
Ontario	0	0
Loudonville	0	0
Ontario	0	0
Loudonville	0	0



DARTING THROUGH A HOLE—Ontario's quarterback Jeff Strickler (11) flits through an opening in the Loudonville defense during Friday night's Johnny Appleseed Conference game. Redbird defenders close in after a sizable gain. (Photo by Jim Bikar)

Plymouth Wins on Miracle Play

By Mike Van Sickle
CRESTLINE — Somebody 'up there' likes the Plymouth Big Red football team.

Plymouth was hopelessly out of its JAC game with Crestline. The Bulldogs had the ball on their own 39 with a 12-7 lead and six seconds left in the contest.

It was fourth down for Crestline, and instead of risking a punt, quarterback Bill Bauer was ordered to run out the clock. Bauer took the snap and ran back toward his own end zone as the crowd counted the seconds down 4-3-2-1...yaaaaa!

Still being pursued by Plymouth defenders near his own ten yard line, Bauer looked at the clock, saw no time and stopped dead in his tracks. Thunking the game was over, he jubilantly threw the ball high into the air. It came down in the hands of Mick Dent for the Big Red.

Dent had four of his teammates around him as he ran ten yards for a touchdown and a one-point miracle victory for Plymouth.

In what he thought to be a moment of victory, Bauer had forgotten that the game isn't officially over until the play is completed.

"There were about four of us chasing

him," said Dent, a 5-11, 160-pound senior middle guard for the Big Red. "All of a sudden I looked up and there was the ball. It was right in my hands," he added. "I guess he (Bauer) was excited because he thought they won."

For Plymouth, it was the second straight week that the never-say-die charges of Mike McFarren pulled out a stunner. Last week they ousted defending league champion Loudonville, 13-9.

STATISTICS		
	PL	CL
First Downs	13	12
Rushing Yards	142	135
Passing Yards	79	71
Passes	2-8	7-12
Passes Intercepted By	1-27	2-17
Fumbles	1-1	1-0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Yards Penalized	4-20	11-63

"We called a time-out before Crestline scored the go-ahead touchdown," said McFarren. "We didn't make any adjustments, we just prayed. They still scored, but somehow we still won."

For the Bulldogs, the heartbreaking loss was made doubly bitter. Bauer had engineered a brilliant 99-yard drive with less than 10 minutes left to play. On the 15th play of the march, junior fullback Rick Biglin burst in from the Plymouth three for a 12-7 lead with just 2:58 to go.

On Plymouth's next series of plays, an errant pass was intercepted by Biglin

and with 1:42 showing on the clock, the game appeared over. Crestline ran three plays up to its own 44.

With less than 40 seconds remaining, the Bulldogs elected not to run a play and take a 'delay of game' penalty. That put the ball back to their 39, stopped the clock with 0:06 showing and set the stage for Plymouth's supernatural victory.

"When I saw the ball go up in the air, I thought our guys would run into each other and fall down or trip," grimed McFarren. "I'm sure glad they didn't."

Ironically, Crestline had trailed by 7-6 nearly the entire game before its late score. The Bulldogs went on top, 6-0, on a 13-yard pass from Bauer to John Phillips with 1:40 left in the first quarter.

But Plymouth bounced back after the ensuing kick-off and went 67 yards in 11 plays, reaching paydirt on an 18-yard pass from Tom Miller to Marty McKenzie with 8:31 to go in the first half. Jim Wallace booted the important extra-point for the one-point lead.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL		
At Crestline		
Plymouth	0	0
Crestline	0	0
Plymouth	0	0
Crestline	0	0
Plymouth	0	0
Crestline	0	0
Plymouth	0	0
Crestline	0	0

Clear Fork Holds Off Cougars

By Bill Bern
ASHLAND — Clear Fork survived a furious Crestview rally in the fourth quarter to defeat the Cougars and keep pace in the shootout for the JAC championship.

Trailing 20-12 after three periods, the Cougars struck for a touchdown on the first play of the final session to pull within two points of the Colts. Quarterback Terry Chromster passed 39 yards to Doug Fitch for the touchdown, but the try for the vital two-point conversion failed.

Clear Fork took the ensuing kick-off and marched 21 yards to the Cougars' 46-yard line, but the Colts ran out of downs and punted into the Crestview end zone.

From their own 20, the Cougars marched to the Clear Fork 39, where on fourth down and five running back Rod Gray burst 11 yards up the middle for a first down on the Colts' 28.

Four plays later Tom Pfister broke loose for eight yards to the Clear Fork seven, but with just 1:14 remaining to be played Darryl Jones intercepted a Chromster pass to end the Crestview uprising.

On the first play from scrimmage following the interception, Clear Fork's Fred Reynolds fumbled on his 27 and

Steve Williams fell on the loose ball to give the Cougars one final shot.

But four plays netted minus 16 yards and time ran out on Crestview.

"We're just lucky we didn't have happen to us what happened to Loudonville last week," said Clear Fork's Gary Beal, referring to Plymouth's 14-9 upset win over the defending JAC champion Redbirds.

"I thought we were ready," he added, "but it was evident we were flat, especially on defense. We looked like a junior high team."

STATISTICS		
	C.F.	Crest
First Downs	15	17
Rushing Yards	213	184
Passing Yards	15	101
Passes	9-3	16-8
Passes Intercepted By	1	0
Fumbles	4-22	3-25
Fumbles Lost	3-2	2-1
Yards Penalized	3-21	6-50

The Colts never trailed the Cougars. Clear Fork marched 60 yards in only nine plays for its first touchdown with 2:37 remaining in the opening canto. Mike Carroll got the score from 17 yards out and Reynolds ran for the extra points which later proved to be the margin of victory.

Reynolds scored with 9:47 left in the first half to increase the Colts' advantage to 14-0. The march covered 64 yards following a short (14 yards) Crestview punt. Big plays in the series were an 18-yard burst by Reynolds and a 16-yard scamper by tailback Mel Doup.

Crestview got on the board on its next possession, taking the Clear Fork kick-off and driving 59 yards in only 11 plays

for the score. Chromster covered the final three yards with 4:38 left before intermission.

The Colts extended their lead to 20-6 on a 10-yard pass from quarterback Carroll to end Jim Tielow with 6:34 left in the third stanza, capping a 13-play, 53-yard advance.

Crestview took the ensuing kick-off and went 57 yards to pull within eight points, 20-12. Chromster passed eight yards to Ron Ruder for the six points with 2:20 left in the third session, setting the stage for the wild final 12 minutes.

The Cougars rolled up 184 yards on the ground to 213 for Clear Fork, but had another 101 yards through the air. The Colts passed for only 15 yards.

After the game, Crestview's Bill Seider lamented, "We should have won. We out-gamed them."

"But, we went on, 'we didn't score when we had the chance. The kids played a sound game, but we just didn't come through."

Pfister led the Cougars with 102 yards rushing in 21 attempts. Brian Osborne had 61 yards in 14 carries before leaving the game with an injury at the start of the fourth period.

Reynolds paced the Colts with 109 yards in 18 carries. Doup tacked on 68 in 15 tries.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL		
At Crestview		
Clear Fork	0	0
Crestview	0	0
Clear Fork	0	0
Crestview	0	0
Clear Fork	0	0
Crestview	0	0
Clear Fork	0	0
Crestview	0	0

Quakers Topple Ashland

NEW PHILADELPHIA — Ashland, without offensive punch, tumbled to New Philadelphia here Friday night, 10-0, in high school football.

The Arrows (0-4 in the Cardinal Conference and 0-6 overall) gained just 53 yards on the ground and minus two through the air. The Arrows managed only two first downs and their deepest penetration was to the Quaker 29-yard line.

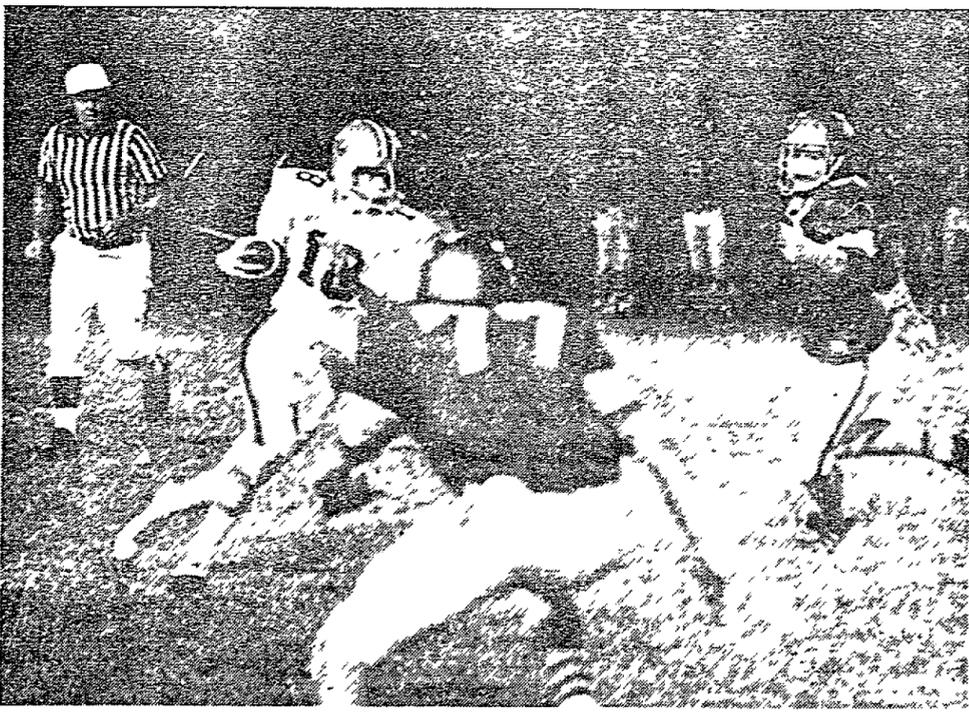
STATISTICS		
	Ash	NP
First Downs	5	14
Rushing Yards	52	126
Passing Yards	2	27
Passes	1-4	2-7
Passes Intercepted By	1	1
Fumbles	7-25	3-27
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Yards Penalized	1-15	5-45

Ashland's defense did an admirable job against the powerful Quakers (2-0-1 and 3-2-1), holding them to a second-quarter field goal and a hard-fought touchdown in the second half.

Brad Mathias booted the fielder at 7-40 of the second stanza. It carried 23 yards.

Ken Stiffler tallied the touchdown for New Philadelphia on the final play of the third quarter. He ran 55 yards to paydirt and Mathias added the conversion.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL		
At New Philadelphia		
Ashland	0	0
New Philadelphia	0	0
Ashland	0	0
New Philadelphia	0	0
Ashland	0	0
New Philadelphia	0	0
Ashland	0	0
New Philadelphia	0	0



ON THE MOVE — Loudonville quarterback Rex Conway (18) digs for yardage in Friday night's 20-0 loss to JAC rival Ontario. (Photo by Jim Bikar)

A Giant Among Men

Barry Darrow a Standout

By Hank Kozloski
CLEVELAND — When you've lived most of your life in the wide open spaces of Montana, is it any wonder you've grown up to be a giant among men?

The Cleveland Browns' offensive right tackle, 6-foot-7 250-pound Barry Darrow, did and is. Even on the pro football field he's a standout, and not just in mere physical dimensions.

Offensive line coach Rod Humennik takes great pride in his behemoths who have allowed the opposition only four quarterback sacks in five games.

"Darrow's one of the reasons," he says. "He's not just big. He has excellent balance and is very strong. That makes him a fine pass blocker and he's quick enough to lead a runner like Greg Pruitt."

A 17th-round draft choice of the San Diego Chargers in 1973 where he was coached by Forrest Gregg, he signed on with the Browns in 1974 as a free agent after being released by the Chargers.

"I knew Barry was good enough to play in the National Football League," declared Gregg, himself an all-pro offensive tackle under Vince Lombardi.

Despite problems with his knee, stemming from a high school injury, Darrow moved into the starting lineup in the sixth game last year. He had been working at both guard and tackle before stepping in as a regular.

Looking back at his scholastic and college days, Darrow kids that he's a product of the "Big Ten Conference."

"We have five of the biggest high schools in one end of the state and five in the other end that was called the Big Ten Conference," explains the towering 26-year-old still-eligible bachelor.

Since Montana is the fourth largest state, stretching 535 miles east to west at its widest point, Darrow says, "Needless to say, I don't like Greyhound Bus rides much anymore."

He explained, "Taking 450-mile bus rides for a high school football game wasn't uncommon. But basketball is what really put a strain on us. We'd play on one end of the state Friday night, then have to travel all night to the other end to play Saturday night."

Darrow prepped at Russell High School in Great Falls where he was the center on the basketball team, "ran cross country as a senior just for conditioning," threw the discus, shot put and javelin in track and played football as a sophomore and senior.

"I was exceptionally big as a 15-year-old kid," he says in explanation of his missing junior year in scholastic football — going 6-6 and 220 pounds.

They had me playing defensive end.

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