

# Thomas Rallies Colts To Tie Mt. Gilead, 6-6

By Bob Sherwin

BELLEVILLE — Richard Thomas is just a shade over six feet tall in his football cleats and weighs in at 240 pounds. He also runs the 20-yard dash in about 10-flat.

How ever slow and lumbering Thomas may waddle, his running ability was the Clear Fork Colts' best asset Friday night in their traditional high school football opener with Mt. Gilead.

Thomas didn't have to be fast all he had to do was stay on his feet when he snatched up a blocked punt in the final minutes and rambled to a game-tying 20-yard touchdown.

The Colts missed the conversion and settled for a 6-6 high school football deadlock with the Indians.

Thomas' defensive gem was the only offense the Colts could manage against the stern Mt. Gilead defense. The Indians handed the Colts an endless string of opportunities but Clear Fork squandered them all.

It appeared that Mt. Gilead had the victory in the bag with 1:39 remaining, leading 6-0 with a fourth and 10 on the Colt 33-yard line.

Punter Brian Bishop bobbled the snap and was swarmed under as he attempted the boot by a fierce charge of Clear Fork linemen.

From the middle of the heap, Thomas emerged with the football, hurdled one of his teammates and started his marathon to the goal line. Within 10 seconds,

STATISTICS		
	Mt. Gilead	Clear Fork
First Downs	13	16
Rushing Yardage	173	47
Passing Yardage	36	23
Passes	0	0
Passes Intercepted By	3-11	3-29
Punts	2-37.5	3-29.9
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Yards Penalized	3-60	7-35

The Colts had turned the game around.

The tie was especially frustrating for the Indians, who had bottled up the Colt attack. Mt. Gilead held a big edge in the statistics: a 13-6 first down advantage and 209-70 in total yardage.

After three scoreless periods, Mt. Gilead put its score on the board on the initial play of the fourth period. Junior Jeff Harmon took a counter handoff from quarterback Tim Bland and scampered 12 yards for the tally.

Bland tried an option run left for the conversion but he was tackled a yard short. Clear Fork attempted the same option run on its conversion with the same results.

Clear Fork was presented repeatedly with breaks but the offense blew the opportunities.

The first was a blocked punt in the first quarter, pounced on by Colt defensive end Lonnie McGhee on the Indian 41-yard line. In three plays, the offense failed to gain a yard.

At 6:07 of the second stanza, star discus hurler Jim Titlow, a 195-pound defensive end, stripped the ball from Mt. Gilead running back Jeff Harmon on the Indian 12-yard line.

The Colts gained just three yards in three plays and on fourth down, a 29-yard field goal attempt fell short.

Mt. Gilead then staged its longest march of the game, from the 20-yard line down to the Colt 14-yard line in 11 plays. However, Bland, trying to run out of the pocket, ran into his teammate and fumbled the ball. Jay Brokaw of Clear Fork found it to end the threat.

Bland fumbled again early in the third stanza and again Brokaw came up with the football on the Mt. Gilead 26-yard line. The Colts' series ended when safety Brian Bishop intercepted a pass from Kurt Hahn.

Mt. Gilead closed out the period with another long drive, 11 plays, five minutes and 34 seconds, capped off by Harmon's tally opening the final quarter.

Clear Fork received still another chance when Amos Fry picked off a Bland aerial and returned it 30 yards to the Indians' 15-yard line.

The Colts' scoring threat never materialized as they failed to gain a yard in four plays.

It was the initial game for Clear Fork coach Jerry Widder, who took over the coaching reins from Gary Beal. Widder had previously coached at Northmor and Marion Catholic High Schools.

Mt. Gilead	0	0	0	6-6
Clear Fork	0	0	0	6-6
SCORING				
Mt. Gilead -- Harmon, 12-yard run				
Clear Fork -- Thomas, 20-yard return of blocked punt				



END SWEEP — Clear Fork's Amos Fry (26) tried to escape the outstretched hand of Mt. Gilead's Jeff Harmon (30) during second quarter action in Friday's high school football opener at Clear Fork. The Colts rallied in the final minutes to tie Mt. Gilead, 6-6. (Photo by Charles Zirkle)

# Big Red Clip Trojans, 21-12

By Wil Hane

GREENWICH — It was undoubtedly the best half-time pep talk of the young season.

Trailing South Central 6-0 at halftime Friday night, Plymouth coach Mike McFarren stepped up on a locker room bench and signaled for quiet. "Relax. It's a game. Believe me. It's fun." And the Big Red team believed him.

In the final 25 minutes of the game, the Plymouth offense, which had been paralyzed by fumbles and penalties during the first half, played almost flawlessly while scoring 21 points to down the Trojans, 21-12, in high school football.

Shortly after the start of the second half, South Central's Jon Fishbaugh in-

STATISTICS		
	South Central	Plymouth
First Downs	13	13
Rushing Yardage	54	133
Passing Yardage	26	10
Passes	0	0
Passes Intercepted By	7-2-0	3-2-1
Punts	5-18.5	4-9.5
Fumbles Lost	1	4
Yards Penalized	3-30	7-5

cepted a Plymouth pass and scrambled back to the Plymouth 23. Chris Howard crossed the goal a few plays later to give the Trojans a 12-point lead.

Then the Big Red began to relax.

Taking the kickoff, Plymouth marched almost 70 yards for a touchdown with quarterback Tom Miller sneaking over from the one.

The Big Red really got loose a few minutes later when halfback Mike Messer snaked 65 yards for another

Plymouth score. The extra point attempt was good and the Big Red led for the first time in the game, 13-12.

When the Trojan offense tailed on the next set of downs, Plymouth mounted a time-consuming 60-yard drive which resulted in another score. The kick was good and Plymouth had a nine-point lead with less than three minutes remaining in the contest.

In desperation, the Trojans went into a shotgun offense and filled the air with passes but to no avail.

South Central	6	0	6	0-12
Plymouth	0	0	6	15-21
SCORING				
South Central -- Conway, 17-yard fumble recovery				
South Central -- Howard, 5-yard run				
Plymouth -- Miller, one-yard run				
Plymouth -- Messer, 65-yard run (Wallace kick)				
Plymouth -- Messer, one-yard run (McKenzie pass)				

# Ontario Rally Stopped

# Bucyrus Nips Warriors, 21-19

By Chet Bryant

BUCYRUS — The Bucyrus Redmen (1-0) rose to the occasion, in an independent high school football game Friday night, slapping away an Ontario (0-1) attempt for two extra points in the closing seconds of the contest and netting a nifty 21-19 decision.

The Redmen were opportunists as they came back from a 13-6 deficit and drove for three touchdowns after the Warriors held the upper hand and were seemingly on the way to a rout.

Ontario struck first, taking the ball from the opening kickoff, driving for 64 yards in seven plays with bursts of 23 yards, 14 yards and 15 yards on the slants of Steve Arnett, who galloped for over 100 yards during the evening. Arnett bolted for the final 15 yards of the initial drive, at 8:44, and Ontario was on the board.

Seven minutes later, at 1:36 left in the first segment, Bucyrus stormed back,

STATISTICS		
	Bucyrus	Ontario
First Downs	11	15
Rushing Yardage	150	283
Passing Yardage	63	15
Passes	0	0
Passes Intercepted By	4-6-1	3-6-1
Punts	2-10.8	1-25
Fumbles Lost	3	2
Yards Penalized	10	50

covering 72 yards in 10 plays. Matt Baldy hauled down a Joe Teynor pass and slipped down the right sideline on a 19-yard scoring play. The try for extra points failed.

Ontario's offense clicked again. This time Joe Horvath teamed with Arnett and alternated for a 90-yard scoring drive. Quarterback Randy Perry, at 9:17 remaining in the second period, capped the drive from two yards out. The Warriors were on top, 13-6.

With 28 seconds left before intermission the Redmen struck back. Teynor, who engineered the 75-yard march darted into the middle of the Warrior defense and fell across the goal. Bu-

cyrus went ahead with a Teynor-to-Joe Barcz pass for the two extra points to enter the halftime with a 14-13 advantage.

The Redmen moved further, with 1:33 left in the third period. Teynor, at his 47-yard stripe, sailed a perfect aerial to teammate Steve Ransom. Ransom gathered in the strike at Ontario's 30-yard line and galloped untouched the remainder of the distance.

Arnett recovered a Redman fumble with 1:04 remaining and Ontario was on the move for the final score. In four plays the Warriors managed to move the final six yards with Perry again finding the goal line from four yards out.

Bucyrus	6	8	7	0-21
Ontario	7	8	0	6-19
SCORING				
Bucyrus -- Baldy, 19-yard pass from Teynor				
Bucyrus -- Teynor, 1-yard run (Barcz pass)				
Bucyrus -- Ransom, 53-yard pass from Teynor (Baldy kick)				
Ontario -- Arnett, 15-yard run (Fossati kick)				
Ontario -- Perry, 2-yard run				
Ontario -- Perry, four-yard run				

# Whitewash

# Crestline Bulls Cougars, 14-0

By T.E. McHale

ASHLAND — The Crestline Bulldogs put together a pair of sustained offensive drives in the second quarter Friday night, and the resulting touchdowns were the only scoring in a 14-0 whitewash of the Crestview Cougars in the season opener for both clubs.

Fueled by the punishing running of senior fullback Rick Biglin, Crestline drove 54 yards in nine plays midway through the second stanza to open the scoring. Biglin, who got 33 yards on his six carries in the drive, went over right guard from three yards out for the Bulldogs' first taste of paydirt in 1977.

Biglin later responded with 33 more yards in a 44-yard drive late in the period which resulted in Crestline's final score. Key play in the drive was his 21-yard dash off left tackle which moved the ball to the Cougar 11, and set up a three-yard scoring strike from quarterback Bill Klopfenstein to Fred Collins three plays later. Biglin followed with a two-point conversion to close the scoring.

Crestline's early success stemmed from its ability to repeatedly make crucial yardage over the left side of the Cougar defensive line. Biglin and junior halfback Edward Taylor formed a rushing tandem which pounded out 156 yards

STATISTICS		
	Crestline	Crestview
First Downs	13	9
Rushing Yardage	215	86
Passing Yardage	20	39
Passes	0	0
Passes Intercepted By	2-4-2	5-16-1
Punts	2-32	2-22
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Yards Penalized	7	20

in the opening 24 minutes to put the home team on ice. Biglin wound up the evening with 142 yards on 25 trips through the Crestview line, while Taylor supported him with 67 yards on 12 efforts.

The Crestline defense was stellar as well, as it limited the Cougar offense to an aggregate of 125 yards, including only 29 in the second half. Collins and tackle Loren Matey were the principle members of the Bulldog wave. Matey covered the fumble that set up the second touchdown, and Collins shadowed Crestview quarterback Terry Chronister all evening, helping trap him for over 30 yards in rushing losses in the second half.

Crestview's only serious offensive threat of the evening followed the second-half kickoff. The Cougars moved from their own 36 to the Crestline seven-yard line in 11 plays, but on second and goal, Crestview fumbled away the opportunity and the Bulldog defense slammed the door.

Though he went to the air only four times in the contest, Klopfenstein made both of his completions count. The first was a 17-yard strike to Taylor which kept a first quarter drive alive, and he followed that with the touchdown toss to Collins with less than a minute remaining in the opening half.

Crestline	0	14	0	0-14
Crestview	0	0	0	0-0
SCORING				
Crestline -- Biglin, three-yard run				
Crestline -- Collins, three-yard pass from Klopfenstein (Biglin run)				

# Whippets Whitewash Perkins

By John Gray

SHELBY — John Armstrong, Whippet junior tailback, scored three touchdowns in the first half to pace Shelby to a 27-0 victory over the Sandusky Pirates Friday night to open the 1977 high school football season for both teams.

Armstrong went over right tackle for 48 yards to score Shelby's first touchdown with 10:25 left in the first quarter.

He scored two more touchdowns in the

STATISTICS		
	Fredericktown	East Knox
First Downs	10	20
Rushing Yardage	58	221
Passing Yardage	7	18
Passes	0	0
Passes Intercepted By	5-12-1	4-7-1
Punts	3-30	3-25
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Yards Penalized	5-45	0-51

# Freddies Fall To East Knox

HOWARD — Bob Buckingham's touchdown runs of 29 and one yard sparked East Knox to a 14-0 shut-out over Fredericktown in high school football action Friday.

# Calvert Shocks Willard, 7-6

TIFFIN — A successful conversion kick by Van Iperen of Tiffin Calvert was the difference Friday as the Senecas shocked Willard, 7-6, in high school football.

The extra point followed a three-yard

STATISTICS		
	Willard/Tiffin	Calvert
First Downs	11	12
Rushing Yardage	170	187
Passing Yardage	58	45
Passes	0	0
Passes Intercepted By	3-9-0	3-11-1
Punts	0	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Yards Penalized	1-15	5-45

touchdown scamper by Tim Stultz of Tiffin at 1:29 of the third period.

Willard had taken a 6-0 lead at 7:18 of the third stanza on a 30-yard counter run by John Willoughby. The try for the extra point was blocked.

The game was a standoff statistically. Calvert held a 12-11 edge in first downs and a slight 233-226 advantage in total yardage. Willard lost the ball once on a fumble and another by interception.

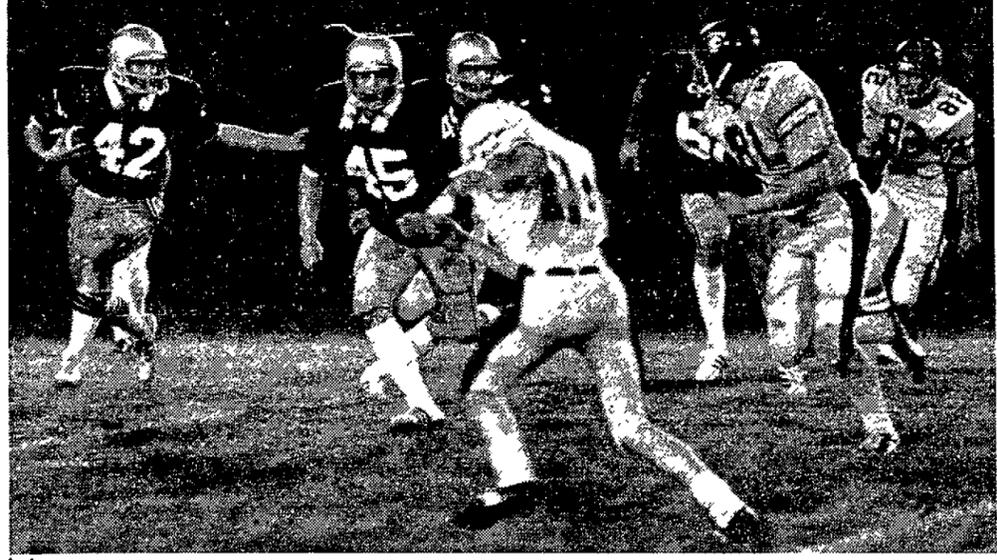
Tiffin Calvert	0	0	7	0-7
Willard	0	0	6	0-6
SCORING				
Tiffin Calvert -- Stultz three-yard run (Van Iperen kick)				
Willard -- Willoughby, 33-yard return of blocked kick				

# Galion Ripped

GALION — Mt. Vernon spoiled the opening of the 1977 football season for Galion Friday with a 24-7 victory.

Galion totaled 214 yards in the contest.

Statistics of the game could not be obtained by The News Journal from the Galion coach.



FOLLOWS BLOCKER — Madison High School's Todd Zimmerman follows fullback Tim Robinson (45) to daylight during Friday's high school football opener at Ram Field. The

# Redbirds Stymie Hillsdale

By Jim Brewer

LOUDONVILLE — A rigid Loudonville defense held Hillsdale to a virtual standstill after the first quarter Friday night and, once its offensive counterparts stopped making mistakes, watched its team roll to a 36-8 high school football romp.

The Redbird defenders, paced by senior tackle Bob Gardner, thwarted all but

Redbird junior tailback Tom Mumper carried the ball 18 times for 134 yards, while his running mate, senior tailback Bob Crossmon, gained 56 yards in 11 carries.

Mumper scored twice, on runs of 13 and three yards, and starting quarterback Rex Conway figured two other times in the scoring, once on a five-yard run and once on a 22-yard pass to wingback Andy Grassman.

Steve Swindall, a sophomore spit end,

scored the final Redbird touchdown on a 14-yard pass from backup quarter back Rick Beans.

The Redbird offense rolled up 385 yards, compared to Hillsdale's 101.

Hillsdale	8	0	0	0-8
Loudonville	7	8	8	13-36
SCORING				
Loudonville -- Conway, 5-yard run (Grassman kick)				
Loudonville -- Tyson, 15-yard run (Tyson kick)				
Loudonville -- Mumper, 13-yard run (Conway run)				
Loudonville -- Grassman, 22-yard pass from Conway (Hauenschild run)				
Loudonville -- Mumper, three-yard run (Grassman kick)				
Loudonville -- Swindall, 14-yard pass from Beans				

# Birds Clobber Cleveland

BALTIMORE (UPI) — Pinch-hitter Terry Crowley belted a grand slam homer and Lee May had a solo shot to highlight a five-run eighth inning Friday night which provided the Baltimore Orioles with a 7-1 victory over the Cleveland Indians behind the two-hit pitching of Rudy May.

Crowley's homer capped the eighth inning which was started by Lee May's 22nd blast this season. The Orioles loaded the bases for Crowley on a double by Doug DeCinces a walk to Mark Belanger and an intentional pass to Al Bumbry by reliever Larry Andersen.

# Attendance Record

The National League set an attendance record for the month of April in 1977. The paid attendance was 2,299,926.

The Orioles scored single runs in the first and third innings against losing pitcher Al Fitzmorris, 6-9. In notching his career-high 16th victory, Rudy May, 16-12, allowed a leadoff double to Bruce Bochte in the third and an RBI single to Frank Duffy in the same inning before retiring 18 straight batters into the ninth inning.

Baltimore scored in the first when Pat Kelly walked and came around on singles by Ken Singleton and Eddie Murray. Singles by Rich Dauer and Kelly in the third inning plus Singleton's RBI groundout snapped a 1-1 tie for Baltimore.

It was Cleveland's eighth loss in 10 games with Baltimore and their sixth straight in Memorial Stadium.

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