

Heartbreaker

Whippets Open Season With Tough 21-14 Loss To Madison

by DENNIS DURKEE
Mansfield Madison put together two good drives early in the third quarter Friday evening following a penalty-riddled first half and Shelby couldn't catch up as the Whippets dropped a heartbreaking 21-14 contest.

It was the 1978 season opener and both teams had first-game errors and mistakes throughout the first half. A powerful Madison offensive attack, however, eventually overcame the mistakes early in the third period with touchdown drives of 61 and 68 yards.

A stubborn Rams defense held the Whippets in a number of crucial situations during the second half and gave up just two touchdowns all evening.

For Shelby and many of the 4,305 Skiles Field spectators, it was a disappointing way to open the football season.

"We were just our own worst enemies," a dejected head coach Bill Varble said after the game.

"We could have helped ourselves out, but we had too many inopportune penalties."

Madison reached the scoreboard first on a 36-yard

touchdown pass from quarterback Scott Finley to wing back Keith Dummitt with 9:00 minutes remaining in the first quarter.

The pass came on a fourth-and-eight gamble after an 85-yard drive.

The Whippets were unable to move the ball the first time they had it, hampered by two illegal procedure penalties before the first play.

Madison moved the ball back to the Shelby 10-yard line, but a penalty on the Rams set up a field goal attempt by Bub Kanz.

The ball hit the uprights and bounced back onto the field and the game momentum began to change in Shelby's favor.

The Whippet offense, led by junior quarterback Pat Rose, took over on their own 20-yard line. The first play saw back John Armstrong burst open along the right sideline and streak the 80 yards to Shelby's first touchdown.

Armstrong, who rushed for 132 yards on the evening, ran up through the middle for the extra point, but another costly penalty on the Whippets, this one a holding call, moved them back

to the 18 yard line. Rose handed off to Armstrong, who threw to senior end Dave Craze, but the ball was intercepted by the Madison defense.

Neither team was able to move the ball much during the second quarter, though at times the Whippet defense was impressive.

Senior tackle Jeff Ratiiff sacked Finley on two consecutive plays for a loss of 13 yards but mistakes marred both teams performance.

The second half opened nearly like the first one had for Shelby, however, as an offside penalty moved them back five yards before the first play again.

Unable to get a first down, Mike Arnold punted for the Whippets and the Rams began to move.

Their first scoring drive took 10 plays as fullback Bob Tschantz ran over from the two-yard line with an even 6:00 minutes left in the quarter.

Shelby was unable to garner another first down on their next series and the Rams toughened their game.

Madison, led by the im-

pressive running and catching of Dummitt, stormed right back and six plays later tallied again. This time, Tschantz ran over from five yards out with 58 seconds remaining in the quarter.

Kanz kicked his third extra point for the night and the Rams seemed like they were pulling away from Shelby for good.

The Whippets weren't ready to wave the flag yet, however, as they took the Madison kick-off on their own 32 yard line.

Rose hit Jerry Roth on the Madison 41 with a clean, open pass and the Whippets were threatening again.

Rose was hampered for a ten-yard loss as he went back to pass two plays later and the Whippets couldn't garner another first down.

The Shelby defense toughened on Madison's next series, though, and the Rams were unable to get a first down of their own.

Shelby took over again and this time, eleven plays later, scored to tighten the contest.

The drive started with a 20-yard run by Armstrong, who

gained most of the yards in the series.

He ran in from the four with 9:27 remaining in the game for the touchdown and then struggled in a second time for the two points.

Shelby regained possession with just over two minutes left, were but driven deep in their own territory and couldn't move the ball.

On the evening, the Whippets gained 220 yards on 40 plays. Rose was four for seven passing for 46 yards while Shelby gained 174 yards on the ground on 33 rushes.

Armstrong had 132 yards on 20 carries while John Lewis gained 46 yards on seven rushes and Rose had three yards on four attempts.

Roth caught two of the four passes for 30 yards while Craze caught one for three yards and Lewis nabbed the other one for 13 yards.

Madison gained 283 total yards, 225 on the ground and 58 passing in 54 plays.

Leading tacklers for Shelby were Rod Detillion with 12, Ed Miller with 11 and Craze with ten.

"We had a lot of good points and positive aspects of the game," Varble said. "But we let them score early on us and then we let them go back out and do the same thing in the second half."

The coaches credited Rose and Armstrong for the efforts on the Whippet offense.

"Rose did a real fine job for his first time out there," Varble said.

He expressed concern, though, for the Shelby defense.

"Defensively, we still haven't figured out the team concept," he said. "Our good, sound defense came and went (during the game)."

The Whippets now turn their attention to next Friday's road trip to Sandusky Perkins.

"We aren't going to change anything (for next week)," Varble said. "We're just going to go back and try harder."

Madison 7 0 14 0-21
Shelby 6 0 0 8-14

MHS - Dummitt, 36-yard pass from Finley (Kanz kick)

SHS - Armstrong, 80-yard run (pass intercepted)

MHS - Tschantz, 2-yard run (Kanz kick)

MHS - Tschantz, 5-yard run (Kanz kick)

SHS - Armstrong, 4-yard run (Armstrong run)

A-4.305



YELLING encouragement to his defensive teammates, Whippet Kevin Calver, (49) takes a sideline rest from his wingback duties on the Shelby offense during Friday night's contest. (Photos by Linda Stotts)



JOHN ARMSTRONG (31) plunges ahead for a short gain during Friday's season opener with Madison. Armstrong had 132 yards for the game on 20 carries.

Plymouth Opens With Big Win

PLYMOUTH - The Plymouth Big Red, after a mistake-ridden first half, came storming back in the second half Friday to take a 27-0 win from Seneca East in their 1978 season opener.

The Plymouth offensive machine, slow to start, exploded for nearly 200 yards in the second half for the victory.

Plymouth scored first on a 35-yard run by Jim Wallace in the third quarter and then marched right back for a 12-yard touchdown run by Mike Berberick.

In the final period, Berberick passed to Jim Robinson for a 11-yard score and James Jamerson later ran a 25-yard scoring play to cap the Big Red scoreboard outburst.

Plymouth had 272 total yards,

251 of them on ground. Berberick was five for ten passing for 21 yards while the Red were slapped for 35 yards in penalties.

Seneca East was held to 96 yards by the tough Big Red defense on the ground and five yards passing.

Leading ground gainers for Plymouth were John Ross with 72 yards, Jim Wallace with 62 and Mike Berberick with 56.

"We started off very slow," said Plymouth head coach Mike McFarren. "We had a lot of first game jitters."

But he credited both the offense and defense for the turnaround in the second half.

"Our defense was good

throughout the game," he said. "The offense certainly improved in the second half."

Plymouth 0 0 14 13-27

Seneca East 0 0 0 0-0

NOL Round-Up

Columbian, Galion Pound Foes

Tiffin Columbian and Galion both scored impressive wins over downstate foes Friday evening as the Northern Ohio League kicked off its 1978 season with a full slate of non-league games.

TIFFIN COLUMBIAN-DELAWARE

Tiffin Columbian scored a big 48-6 win over Delaware Hayes Friday in the first meeting ever between the two schools.

Columbian amassed 504 total yards while holding Hayes to 90 yards.

Columbian's Kerby Martin rushed for 127 yards on just four carries, including two touchdown runs of 46 and 59 yards.

Quarterback Eric Gosche completed six of seven passes for Tiffin while Hayes was held to one completion in 14 attempts by a tough Columbian defense.

Columbian 27 7 14 0-48
Delaware 0 0 0 7-7

UPPER-RIVER VALLEY

defensive-dominated game

Scores

NOL RESULTS

Mansfield Madison 21, **SHELBY** 14
Tiffin Columbian 48, Delaware Hayes 6
Upper Sandusky 6, River Valley 6
Huron 21, Bellevue 14
Mansfield Malabar 7, Willard 6
Galion 31, Columbus Whitehall 12
Norwalk 28, Clyde 6
Bucyrus 35, Wynford 13

NEXT FRIDAY'S GAMES

SHELBY at Sandusky Perkins
Port Clinton at Bellevue
Bucyrus at Ontario
Galion at Mt. Vernon
Huron at Norwalk
Mansfield Madison at Tiffin
Elida at Upper Sandusky
Tiffin Calvert at Willard

at River Valley saw the hosts tie Upper Sandusky, 6-6, with 2:49 left in the fourth quarter.

River Valley's point-after-kick attempt failed, however, and the game ended in the tie.

Upper Sandusky scored first in the second quarter on a one-yard run by Doug Orion.

River Valley's touchdown came on a one-yard run by Randy Potts.

Upper managed only 99 yards total offensive while Valley gathered 150 yards on the ground.

Upper 0 6 0 0-6
River Valley 0 0 0 6-6

GALION-WHITEHALL

Galion played rude hosts to their visitors from Columbus Whitehall Friday as the capital city team lost to the Tigers, 31-12.

Galion rushed for 208 yards while collecting 186 yards passing in the offensive outburst. Whitehall, meanwhile, gained 164 yards rushing and 61 passing for 225 total yards.

Leading rusher for the Tigers was Jim Householder, gaining 62 yards on 12 carries.

Galion completed 13 of 24 passes on the night and lost 111 yards in penalties.

Galion 6 13 6 6-31
Whitehall 0 6 0 6-12

BELLEVUE-HURON

Bellevue opened their season on a losing note Friday evening, dropping a 21-14 count to nearby Huron.

The Tigers had 300 yards total offense in the victory while Bellevue was held to 185 yards.

Ninety of Bellevue's yards were earned through the air, as the losers completed five of 16 passes. Huron picked off three of Bellevue's passes.

Huron meanwhile, completed six of 13 passes for 99 yards.

Huron 0 14 0 7-21
Bellevue 0 6 8 0-14

WILLARD-MALABAR

Mansfield area teams made it two-for-two over NOL teams Friday as Malabar edged Willard, 7-6 in a close contest.

A nine yard run by Jody Frye in the third quarter gave Malabar the winning score.

Willard got their points on a three-yard run by Gus Secor early in the contest.

On the evening, the Flashes managed 91 yards rushing, 60 yards passing and eight first downs.

Malabar, meanwhile, had 131 yards on the ground and just 12

through the air

NORWALK-CLYDE

The Norwalk Truckers opened their 1978 season with a convincing 26-6 win over Clyde.

Norwalk gathered 244 yards in total offense, 161 of them on the ground and 83 passing.

Clyde, meanwhile, was held to 109 yards, 19 rushing and 90 passing. The passing yards were gained on five completions of 20 attempts.

Mistakes plagued Clyde during the game, as they lost two fumbles and had one interception.

Norwalk 7 10 0 9-26
Clyde 6 0 0 0-6

BUCYRUS-WYNFORD

Quarterback Joe Teynor passed for three touchdowns and ran for one more Friday as

Bucyrus bombed neighboring Wynford 35-13

Two of Teynor's passes were to end Jeff Gabriel, one a 20-yard strike in the first quarter, while the other was a 63-yard bomb to Steve Ransom in the second period.

The Redmen had 201 total offensive yards, 154 of them in the air. Teynor connected on six of nine passes during the contest.

Both teams scored a touchdown in the final minute of play in an explosive ending.

Teynor scored on a two-yard plunge with 58 seconds remaining, but Wynford came back to score on a 12-yard pass from Rusty Smith to Brian Gerber with six seconds remaining.

Bucyrus 14 7 7 7-35
Wynford 0 0 0 13-13

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PG

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No. 2 10:30

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PG

SHEER TERROR!

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