

Norwalk still masters Sailors for first win

NORWALK — The return of Eric Lendrum signaled the end of the Norwalk drought.

The Truckers, who were blanked in their first two games of the season, continued their mastery over Vermilion Friday, 17-6 at Whitney Field.

Norwalk (1-2) now has an 8-2-1 record against Vermilion (1-2), including four straight victories.

After going scoreless for the first nine quarters of the season, Norwalk got its first points of the season on a 37-yard field goal by senior guard Eric Lendrum.

"His return to the lineup after missing the first two games with an injury was important since he's a leader," noted Norwalk coach Bob Hart.

The field goal, which came with just 49 seconds left in the half, was also the longest in school history, eclipsing the previous mark of 29 yards set by Jim Arlin last year.

Norwalk got its first touchdown of the season with 2:11 left in the third stanza as quarterback Charlie Rice completed a 29-yard scoring toss to Bill Seitz. Lendrum added the PAT for a 10-0 lead.

Seitz was another senior veteran making his first appearance in the lineup.

Both teams scored in the fourth quarter with Vermilion junior Jeff Mey, who had 91 yards in 22 carries, going in from one yard away with 11:30 left in the game.

Norwalk's Brad Thornton iced the win with a one-yard plunge with just 57 seconds left in the contest and Lendrum was again successful on the point after attempt.

"At times, our offense was still erratic, but the passing was much improved," added Hart.

Rice completed five of 10 for 56 yards, four of which were caught by Seitz, the Norwalk slot back.

"In the first two games, we weren't able to supplement our running attack with a successful passing game. Therefore, teams were using an eight man line against us and were able to stop the running game. That all changed with the pinpoint passing of Rice."

Defensively, the Truckers were paced by the play of senior tackle Steve Tubbs and junior Scott Spencer. Both had interceptions.

"It's somewhat unusual to see a lineman get an interception, but we had a special stunt on at the time and Tubbs was in the right place."

"This win was very important because now we can breathe a sigh of relief. Because we could not score, there was tremendous pressure on us, but it means we can now begin league play on an even keel with everyone."

Norwalk opens Northern Ohio League play Friday, visiting Bellevue, who remained winless following a 14-6 loss to Perkins.

	V	N
First Downs	7	8
Net Yards Gained Rushing	148	86
Yards Gained Passing	12	56
Total Net Yards Gained	160	142
Passes Attempted/Completed	7/1	10/5
Passes Intercepted by	2	0
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	0/0
Penalties	8/88	5/45

	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Total
Vermilion	0	0	0	6	6
Norwalk	0	3	7	17	27

Scoring: Norwalk — Eric Lendrum, 37 yard field goal.
Norwalk — Bill Seitz, 29 pass from Charlie Rice. (Lendrum, kick).
Vermilion — Jeff Mey, 1 run. (kick failed).
Norwalk — Brad Thornton, 1 run. (Lendrum, kick).



MARGARETTA'S DON PFEIL BREAKS LOOSE ON ONE OF HIS LONG-GAINERS ... was game's leading rusher with 104 yards in nine carries.

Polar Bears liberated in Oak Harbor contest

By TERRY GOODMAN
Staff Writer

CASTALIA — Give me liberty or give me death.

Pardon Patrick Henry's classic line, but Margareta's football team seemed doomed for the inevitable Friday night after frittering away a 10-point, third-quarter lead.

But, in the end, the Polar Bears regrouped to stay alive.

Coach Dana Woodring's team scored two touchdowns during the last five minutes to dump Oak Harbor, 31-20, in non-league action.

"It was justice," Woodring insisted. "I thought we outplayed them ... except for the dropped punt snap, the (alleged) fake punt and fumble of the second-half kickoff return."

Offensive-minded Margareta, leading 17-7 at halftime on the strength of 203 yards rushing, stormed out of the lockerroom for the third quarter like a team of Barney Fifes.

A confident, overpowering team suddenly was shaky and error prone. The result was confusion from the offense and the punting team.

The visiting Rockets cashed in to grab a 20-17 lead. Margareta's defense toughened up, giving the Woodring Wishbone the pigskin back with 6:18 left in the game.

Two plays later, the Polar Bears were faced with a third-and-three on their own 32-yard line.

"I called (the coaches) upstairs and told them we were going for the game right here," Woodring said. Halfback Don Pfeil took a pitchout and heaved a pass that came closer to being an interception instead of a completion.

Fourth-and-three. Time remaining, 4:51. Woodring calls time.

"We felt our best chance was running the veer for the quarterback."

It worked, keeping alive the winning touchdown drive. Kent Zabel, sick with the flu but playing the entire game, cut outside right tackle for 10 yards and a first down.

Zabel followed with his only complete pass of the game, an 8-yard sideline strike to Craig Wobser to

Margareta athletes try to get boosters

CASTALIA — Polar Bear athletes from the football, boys golf and cross country, and girls volleyball teams and the cheerleaders will be looking for new booster members today throughout Margareta township.

The youngsters will be beginning their project at 10 a.m.

Firelands Rovers up record to 2-0

ELYRIA, Ohio — The Firelands Rovers' Division D team (12 years and under) won their second straight game in the Greater Cleveland Soccer League Friday, blanking Elyria, 9-0.

The Rovers, 2-0, play host to Medina Sunday at Osborn Park.

Ashley Pimsner and Gerald Coifard had three goals each for the Rovers while Bill Herzog added two goals and David Darr had one.

In between, Stallkamp capped a 36-yard, seven-play drive following a fumble recovery with a three-yard burst.

Monroeville enjoyed a 21-0 halftime lead and added its final tally with 3:42 remaining in the third quarter as Stallkamp clicked on a five-yard toss to Ted Caldwell.

"I'm pleased with the offense except for the fact we couldn't push the ball in the first time we had possession," second-year coach Steve Ringholz stated. The Eagles were stopped on the one-foot line.

"The coaches upstairs felt they (Marion Catholic) were going to fake a punt and the punter lost the ball apparently try to pass. We had a special return on this week and both of their ends were cut down and he (the punter) had nobody to throw to," Ringholz noted.

Monroeville is still unbeaten with Ringholz at the helm and the Eagles' string of games without a loss has reached 14. They were 9-0-1 in Ringholz's first season a year ago and also won the Firelands title.

"Mickey Hofacker had three sensational catches and Gene (Stallkamp) put the ball right in the arms of the receivers tonight and Roger Anderson had a big first half with 94 yards rushing," Ringholz continued.

Stallkamp ws 10 of 18 for 159 yards in the air and Anderson finished with 163 yards in 18 rushes. Hofacker nabbed five receptions for 81 yards and one score.

"I thought our defense looked good again and we shut them off," Ringholz stated.

Marion Catholic, which hadn't allowed a touchdown in winning its first two games, scored with 8:03 to go in the game on a fourth-down one-yard pass from Pete Schuler to Jim Boltz. It was the lone completion of the night for the losers.

"We going into the frying pan next week," Ringholz stated in reference to the opening conference clash with rival New London.

The same two teams locked horns in the Firelands finale in 1978 and Monroeville pulled out a dramatic 14-13 triumph in the final minutes to sew up its first undisputed FC crown in history.

	Mo	MC
First Downs	17	7
Net Yards Gained Rushing	220	110
Yards Gained Passing	159	1
Total Net Yards Gained	379	111
Passes Attempted/Completed	18/10	5/1
Passes Intercepted by	0	2/1
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	2/1
Penalties	1/15	3/15

	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Total
Marion Catholic	0	0	0	6	6
Monroeville	7	14	6	0	27

Scoring: Monroeville — Mickey Hofacker, 13 pass from Gene Stallkamp. (Hofacker, kick).
Monroeville — Stallkamp, 4 run. (Hofacker, kick).
Monroeville — Roger Anderson, 63 run. (Hofacker, kick).
Monroeville — Ted Caldwell, 5 pass from Stallkamp. (kick failed).
Marion Catholic — Jim Boltz, 1 pass from Pete Schuler. (run failed).

Ringholz, Eagles win again

MONROEVILLE — Lightning indeed can strike more than once.

Monroeville's undefeated football team proved that Friday night in rolling to an unexpected easy 27-6 triumph over Marion Catholic in the final tuncup for defense of its Firelands Conference championship.

Twice in the first half the Eagles struck for touchdowns on the first play of the series.

Smooth-working junior quarterback Gene Stallkamp fired a 13-yard scoring strike to senior tight end Mickey Hofacker on the first play after a Marion Catholic gamble backfired in the opening period.

The second one-play touchdown spurt came with 3:13 left in the first half as tailback Roger Anderson bolted up the middle and dashed 63 yards to paydirt on the first play after a Marion Catholic punt.

Big Red suffers 3rd defeat

HOPEWELL LOUDON — Plymouth's offense scored once and the defense didn't allow any points and yet the Big Red suffered their third straight defeat under new coach Mark Coulter Friday night.

A 35-yard pass interception return and a 57-yard punt return sparked Hopewell-Loudon to a 14-6 triumph over the visiting Big Red.

Chris Lang picked off a Plymouth pass and raced 35 yards to paydirt with 1:48 left in the first half to get the hosts on the board. Knud Anderson booted the extra point.

Plymouth's only score came in the third quarter on a 75-yard drive following the second half kickoff. Jim Jamerson bolted 39 yards to the end zone on the sixth play.

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