

Victory!

Interception squelches late Galion drive; Shelby wins NOL

by STEPHEN BYRNE
Globe Sports Editor

GALION—The Galion Tigers were visited by a ghost this Halloween.

The ghost is Brad Armstrong, and while the senior defensive back for the Shelby Whippets is flesh and blood, he is somewhat of an "invisible man" in the defense.

Armstrong isn't as heralded as some of his mates, but when he intercepted a pass off the fingers of Galion quarterback Jack Shuck to preserve the Whippets' one-point lead with 1:10 remaining to be played, he materialized as the hero of the championship game.

Shelby defeated Galion 14-13 to win its 17th Northern Ohio League championship and first since 1977. The Whippets, finishing with a 9-1 overall record, got touchdowns from Brad Nothacker and Don Strine, and the biggest interception of Brad Armstrong's high school career.

Coach Bill Varble was not at a loss for words when it came to talking about Armstrong.

"Brad has been the surprise for us this year," the overjoyed Shelby mentor said. "Here's a fellow who didn't even start for us until the fourth game who winds up leading the team in interceptions."

"This is the type of play we've needed this season," Varble went on to say. "Everyone knows what kind of injury problems we've had, but everyone has just pulled together and we've been able to overcome adversity."

Shelby has also been able to hold off the opposition's late rallies, and Friday was a yet another example of that.

The Shelby-Galion clash was the epitome of the classic matchup. Both teams entered the contest with 5-1 league records, and offensive and defensive statistics within 100 yards of each other. Either way Galion, the slight underdog on paper, would have that difference erased by virtue of the home field advantage.

The two combatants entered the game with different styles of play. Shelby, a straight-ahead squad, would grind the yards out on the ground. The Tigers would deliver a more open style, depending on the big play to strike down the foe.

It was as dead-even as a game could be.

No one scored in the first quarter, although Galion had excellent field position on its first three possessions, starting in Shelby territory on each occasion. The Tigers even managed to back the Whippets to their own one-yard line on a 43-yard Jack Shuck punt.

Shelby got the only score of the initial half after a 10-play, 52-yard drive. The score was set up when Don Strine passed to Scott Lysir or all alone to move from Galion's 30-yard point to the two. Two plays later, Nothacker got his eighth touchdown of the campaign on a one-yard burst.



Around SPORTS

Galion held the ball for the final 6:27 of the half, nearly pushing it over after 14 plays. Faced with a fourth and nine situation at the Whippet 19, Shuck hit fullback Todd Fitzpatrick over the middle on a faked field goal try. The play covered only eight yards.

Shelby made it 14-0 after two minutes, 18 seconds expired in the third frame. Scott Garverick, playing perhaps his finest game on the conclusion of his high school career, saw a Shuck pass fall into his lap at the Galion 22.

A 15-yard gallop by fullback Doug DeVito brought the leather to the seven, and after two short gainers by Nothacker, Strine rolled into the left corner of the end zone. Garverick drilled home the extra point and Shelby had command.

The Tigers, however, fought back with an 11-play, 65-yard drive to their first touchdown of the evening. Shuck teamed up with Andy Harris, threading the Shelby zone coverage for a seven yard TD pass. Chris Nicholls kicked the extra-point and it was Shelby 14, Galion 7.

Galion got a big break at the 10-minute mark of the fourth stanza when Tony Beers recovered a Shelby fumble at the Whippet 20. Four plays later, Tiger tailback John Erlsten tallied on a four-yard run.

Galion coach Harry Beers then decided grab the lead while the chance was there. Going for the two-point conversion instead of playing it safe with plenty of time remaining (7:38) the Tiger boss watched Scott Garverick, with an assist from Troy Lusk, halt Shuck short of paydirt.

"I probably would have done the same thing," said Varble after it was over. "You can either go for it all or just hope to tie with us and maybe Willard."

"How did that game come out anyway?" asked the Whippet head man.

Willard upset Upper Sandusky, enabling them to finish second to Shelby with a 5-1-1 league slate. A tie with Galion would have created a three-way deadlock for NOL supremacy.

"It was still a pretty gutsy call," continued Barble. "You can't play for ties. That's not the way the game should be."

The Tigers made that call look very important as they mounted one more drive. With a second down, 11 yards to go showing on the scoreboard, Shuck attempted one last pass,



TIM SWANGER
16 tackles



BRAD ARMSTRONG
The Hero



DON STRINE
Cool field general



SCOTT GARVERICK
Defense leader

trying to hit Beers down the left sideline.

In-stepped Armstrong to dash Galion's hopes. The 5-foot-10, 155-pound ballhawk jumped right in front of Beers to snag his shot. Interception of the campaign and send the Heise Field faithful home with shattered hopes.

Don Strine then personally killed the clock with some brilliant calls and shifty field running. Joy ran rampant in the Shelby locker room after the players managed to get inside ahead of their victory-crazed fans.

"I want to tell everyone," said a physically and emotionally drained Don Strine. "That we have the best coaches in the NOL, or anywhere."

Others hugged each other and wept openly, happy to have been able to duplicate a feat performed their freshman year. That season, the Whippets bumped off Bellevue, on the visitors' field, and also by just one point.

"We did a good job of shutting down their running," indicated Varble. "Our pass defense hurt us, mainly because we were overly aggressive. They hit those flares and screen passes real well."

Varble also cited the taking away of the familiar Galion "big play," so effective all season.

"Look at last week (a 12-7 win over Upper). An 85-yard run and a 49-yarder. You didn't see that tonight."

Across the way, Beers was quiet. "Scott Garverick, he killed us," said the Tiger mentor. "He just had a super game."

Beers added little else, mentioning that "the running game didn't do what it should have."

Erlsten, entering the game with over 1,000 yards and a seven-yards per carry average, collected 116 of Galion's 173 rushing yards. Shuck hit five of 12 passes for an additional 59 yards.

Shelby rolled up 174 yards on the turf. DeVito gained 63 yards in 11 attempts, and Nothacker collected 59 on 17 totes.

Tim Swanger led the tackling with 16 stops. Garverick had 14 tackles while Rick Sherman and Mike Robinette chipped in with 11 apiece.

SHELBY 0 7 7 0-14
GALION 0 0 7 6-13

S—Brad Nothacker, 1-yard run (Scott Garverick kick)

S—Don Strine, 3-yard run (Scott Garverick kick)

G—Andy Harris, 7-yard pass from Jack Shuck (Chris Nicholls kick)

G—John Erlsten, 4-yard run (run failed)



DEFENSE, DEFENSE—Shelby Tackle Scott Garverick puts the leg hold on Galion Tailback John Erlsten to prevent the gain of any more yardage. Erlsten was successful in making the

second touchdown for the Tigers. The junior ends the year with 1,116 yards rushing. (Globe photo by Linda Statts)

D-L dumps Plymouth

PLYMOUTH—A dismal season ended for the Plymouth Big Red Friday as the Danbury-Lakeside Lakers handed the Red their 10th defeat in as many games for 1980.

The final score at Mary Fete Park was D-L 29, Plymouth 6.

The Lakers (7-1-2) rolled up 392 yards of total offense on Plymouth, including 351 yards on the land. Plymouth was able to muster 186 rushing yards and 39 yards of turf on the pass.

The Lakers' Mark Sauvey got the only score of the first half, as he got D-L on the board in the opening frame on a 15-yard run, Bill Bailey kicked the conversion and the visitors owned a 7-0 halftime advantage.

Sauvey struck again in the third quarter, scoring one of two touchdowns the Lakers got in that frame. Sauvey rolled in from 12 yards away, then saw teammate Steve Adams connect on a run of 37 yards. Pat Fontana snagged a pass from Guy Tibbles for the two-point conversion and the team from

Ottawa County owned a 21-0 bulge.

Plymouth got its only points of the game, and only its third touchdown of the campaign, when freshman fullback Richard Cunningham hit the end zone from three yards out. The conversion try failed.

The Lakers added one more score before the clock ran out. Steve Roster got the call, and rumbled into the end zone on a five-yard jaunt. Tibbles ran in the extra points to make it 29-6.

Plymouth ended its season with an 0-10 mark. The Red allowed foes 279 points, while scoring only 19 themselves.

A young squad, Plymouth has gotten some excellent performances from certain individuals and will be looking to put some wins on their side of the ledger next year for Coach Dave Coulter.

D-L 7 0 14 8-29
PLYMOUTH 0 0 6 0-6

D—Mark Sauvey, 15-yard run (Bill Bailey kick)

D—Sauvey, 12-yard run (run

failed)
D—Steve Adams, 37-yard run (Pat Fontana, pass from Guy Tibbles)
P—Richard Cunningham, 3-yard run (pass failed)
D—Steve Roster, 5-yard run (Tibbles run)

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NOL round up

Willard spans Upper, 12-0

The Willard Crimson Flashes, after getting off to a horrendous start this season, ended in second place in the Northern Ohio League by virtue of a 12-0 win over Upper Sandusky Friday.

WILLARD 0 6 0 6-12
UPPER 0 0 0 0-0
W — Chris Ebert, 1-yard run (pass failed)
W — Ebert, 1-yard run (run failed)

Bellevue 32, Tiffin 14
BELLEVUE — Sam SanGregory caught three touchdown passes from Bill Nasonti as the Bellevue Red-men bombed Tiffin Columbian, 32-14.

Willard 12, Upper 0
UPPER SANDUSKY — Chris Ebert scored a pair of touchdowns on one-yard runs in Willard's shutout of the Rams.

TIFFIN 0 0 7 7-14
BELLEVUE 13 0 6 13-32
B — Sam SanGregory, 80-yard pass from Bill Nasonti (SanGregory kick)
B — Jon Weible, 24-yard run (kick failed)

T — Tony Colatruglio, 6-yard run (Ken Egbert kick)
B — SanGregory, 10-yard pass from Nasonti (run failed)
B — SanGregory, 33-yard pass from Nasonti (run failed)

B — Bob Battallini, 1-yard run (SanGregory kick)
T — Chris Bellevue, 24-yard pass from Colatruglio (Egbert kick)
Norwalk 19, Bucyrus 6

NORWALK — Charlie Rice scored two touchdowns and Bret Mason booted two 35-yard field goals as Norwalk downed Bucyrus 19-6.

Brad Thornton rushed for 157 of the Truckers' 333 yards. Homer Naveja got Bucyrus'

only score on a 20 yard run.

Norwalk ends the year at 4-6 in all games and 3-4 in the NOL. Bucyrus finishes with a 2-7-1 record with a 0-6-1 league slate.

BUCYRUS 0 0 0 0-6
NORWALK 7 3 6 3-19
N — Charlie Rice, 6-yard pass to Scott Spencer (Bret Mason kick)

N — Mason, 35-yard field goal
N — Rice, 1-yard run (pass failed)
B — Homer Haveja, 20-yard run (run failed)

N — Mason, 35-yard field goal
Final NOL standings
Shelby 6-1-0 9-1-0
Willard 5-1-1 5-3-2
Galion 5-2-0 7-3-0
Upper 4-3-0 7-3-0
Norwalk 3-4-0 4-6-0
Bellevue 2-5-0 3-7-0
Tiffin 2-5-0 3-7-0
Bucyrus 0-6-1 2-7-1

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