

Browns deceive Cincy defense in 20-17 triumph

CINCINNATI (UPI) — If the Cleveland Browns' coaches call any more "crazy" plays, Mike Pruitt won't question them. Not anymore.

The Browns' fullback figured it was "crazy" to run a second straight draw play Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals.

But as it turned out, all that play did was produce a touchdown for Pruitt, provide Cleveland its game-winning points in a 20-17 squeaker and give the Browns a morale-boosting first victory of the year.

The "crazy" call came with Cleveland hanging onto a 13-10 lead late in the game. Faced with a first and 20 because of a penalty at the Bengals' 24, the Browns' coaches called a fullback draw. Everyone agreed that was a good play because Cincy obviously was expecting pass and Pruitt dashed off a dozen yards.

"But when I got back to the huddle I was surprised they



(Browns' coaches) had sent in another draw," Pruitt said after the game. "I figured they must be crazy. Cincinnati has got to be waiting on it."

But the Bengals weren't. Pruitt darted a dozen more yards into the end zone for a 20-10 lead with 4:20 left. "I guess," Pruitt said with a slight smile, "those coaches are a little smarter than me."

That TD — as opposed to a field goal — became even more important a couple of minutes later when the Bengals scored a touchdown to bring the final count to 20-17.

Brian Sipe, who hit 24 of 35 passes for 259 yards, no interceptions and a touchdown, figured the most "involved" was Charles White, the Heisman Trophy winner from Southern Cal who had not lived up to pro expectations until Sunday.

"Charles White was the difference today," declared Sipe. "His blocking, running and pass receiving gave us a whole new dimension."

White especially hurt the Bengals with his receiving — seven catches for 73 yards.

The first half of the game was merely 30 minutes of irritation to Gregg and to most of the sellout crowd of 52,170.

The Browns mounted impressive drives of 64, 68 and 80 yards

that yielded 28- and 30-yard field goals by Dave Jacobs and a 4-yard Sipe to Ozzie Newsome TD pass for a 13-0 lead.

While Cleveland had the ball 22:16, Cincy managed just 7:44 and had no drives. Cincy's only bright spot was a 78-yard kickoff return by rookie David Verser, but even that failed to produce points when Jim Bréech missed a 29-yard field goal try.

Although Cincy scored two touchdowns in the second half on Ken Anderson's 41-yard bomb to Cris Collinsworth and Pete Johnson's 1-yard run, it was too little too late.

All told, the Browns were on offense 42 minutes of the game, Cincy just 18. Cleveland ran 81 plays, the Bengals only 40. And, while Cleveland converted 11 of its 17 third-down plays into first downs, Cincy converted just two of nine. Through the first three periods, the Bengals failed to convert any of its seven third downs.

Local grid action

Hopewell-Loudon crushes winless Plymouth

BASCOM — Eric Netzel scored touchdowns offensively and defensively to help Hopewell-Loudon demolish the Plymouth Vikings, 34-0, in a non-conference football game Saturday.

The game was a rescheduling of a contest originally to have been played Friday night. That game was postponed because of large amounts of water on the H-L field.

The Chieftains, in handing Plymouth its 14th-straight loss, rolled up a 263-73 advantage in rushing yardage. Netzel scored on a 19-yard run in the second quarter and returned an interception nine yards for a TD in the last stanza. Bob Jump scored on a seven-yard run in the first period and passed 35-yards to Mark Agerter in the fourth quarter for another, and Paul Bishop found the end zone from a yard away.

"We were physically outmatched," said Plymouth coach Dave Coulter, "and the wind just ate up our passing game."

"They were good, for sure, but we made some

horrendous mistakes. We gave them three touchdowns."

Plymouth managed only 103 yards of total offense. Quarterback Rod Hampton, who had clicked on 13 of 24 passes a week earlier, was able to complete just three of 15 tries against the unbeaten Chieftains.

Rick Hawkins, Jim Will and Jeff Jacobs had pass receptions for the Vikes, Jacobs was Plymouth's leading ball carrier with 48 yards. Netzel picked up 78 for H-L.

The Vikings will host Lewistown Indian Lake Friday at Mary Fate Park.

PLYMOUTH	0	0	0	0	0
HOPEWELL-LOUDON	8	6	7	13	- 34
H- Jump, 7-yard run (Jump pass to Bishop)					
H- Netzel, 19-yard run (pass failed)					
H- Bishop, 1-yard run (Brian Ream kick)					
H- Netzel, 9-yard interception return (kick failed)					
H- Agerter, 35-yard pass from Jump (Ream kick)					

Buckeye Central easily dumps River Valley

BUCYRUS — The Buckeye Central Bucks had little trouble raising their record to 3-0 Saturday, belting River Valley, 25-0, in a North Central Conference football game. BC held River Valley, now winless in three outings, to 14 yards on the ground and 46 total yards. The Bucks churned out 277 yards in the affair, 203 of which came via rushing.

Chris Seibert got BC going by taking a 10-yard touchdown pass from Dan Shell in the first quarter. It became 18-0 by intermission as Eric Hiller recovered a River Valley fumble in the end zone and Mark Houston galloped 23 yards to score.

Chet Johnson put the finishing touches on the scoreboard, tallying on a 20-yard run.

The Bucks opened up the passing game Saturday, putting the ball up 17 times with five completions.

"Our passing is still inconsistent," remarked Bill Pierce, BC coach. "We had 12 incomplete passes and 10

were in our receivers' hands. "When we completed passes, they were good ones. We had five complete, with three for first downs and one for a touchdown."

David Richards grabbed two passes for the Bucks. Seibert, Dan Piffer and Steve Kehres each had one catch. On the ground, Johnson had 135 yards on 12 carries. Houston added 49 yards in seven trips.

BC will meet arch rival Wynford, also unbeaten in NCC play, Friday at Wynford High School.

RIVER VALLEY	0	0	0	0	0
BUCKEYE CENTRAL	6	12	7	0	- 25

BC- Seibert, 10-yard pass from Dan Shell (kick failed)
 BC- Hiller, fumble recovery in end zone (pass failed)
 BC- Houston, 23-yard run (run failed)
 BC- Johnson, 30-yard run (Karl Mahheffey kick)

Sebring romps over punchless Blues, 33-2

SEBRING — The Sebring Titans pride themselves on a stingy defense, and that's exactly what the Shelby Blues saw Saturday as the Titans mauled the visiting Blues, 33-2, in a non-league football game.

The Blues, now 1-7 for the campaign, were limited to 172 yards offensively. Quarterback Bill Bower had a frustrating evening, completing six of 31 passes, 19 percent, for 69 yards, with three interceptions.

In addition to the lack of yardage earned, the Blues were further hurt by over 300 yards in penalties.

Vic Shambre and Jim Canfield were the Blues top yardage producers. Shambre had 48 yards on just four

carries, while Canfield had the same number of yards on three pass receptions. Shelby's safety came in the fourth period, with L.S. Pauley, Bruce Broege and Bud Meyers nailing the Titans in their own end zone. That trio paced the Blues in tackles with 17, 14 and 12 respectively.

The Blues will host an Ohio Football League foe, the Lima Astros, Saturday at Skiles Field.

SHELBY	0	0	0	0	2-2
SEBRING	14	12	0	7	- 33

Scoring sequence unavailable

Shelby reserves hold off Ashland Arrows

ASHLAND — A failed two-point conversion try by the Ashland Arrows preserved a 14-12 victory for the Shelby Whippets in a non-league reserve football game Saturday.

The Arrows had scored with four minutes to play to slice Shelby's lead to 14-12. A quarterback sneak to tie the score, however, was no good as the Shelby line held its ground.

Shelby took an 8-6 lead in the fourth quarter as Chip Fugate tossed a 17-yard scoring strike to Jim Keller, then made good on the two-point conversion try by finding Wes Johnson in the end zone with a pass.

Brad Mikolajczyk's interception set up the Whippet's second TD. Buddy Baker got the call, and galloped 34 yards to make it 14-6.

Fugate completed five of 11 passes for 43 yards. The

Whippets got 89 yards rushing. Ashland gained 70 yards on the ground and 68 through the air on seven-for-23 passing.

Shelby's reserve gridders are now 2-1 for the season. The Whippets will visit Galion Saturday, 8 p.m., for a Northern Ohio League contest against the Tigers.

SHELBY	0	0	8	6-14
ASHLAND	6	0	0	6-12

A- Scott Smurthwaite, recovered fumble in end zone (pass failed)

S- Jim Keller, 17-yard pass from Chip Fugate (Fugate pass to Wes Johnson)

S- Buddy Baker, 34-yard run (pass failed)

A- Steve Yusco, 51-yard pass from Scott Fahrney (run failed)

Detroit rally sends Tribe down

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Detroit Manager Sparky Anderson is starting to think his Tigers aren't really such a joke after all.

"After losing our fifth straight Friday night, my wife called me and said they weren't even giving our scores on the baseball roundups any more," Anderson said Sunday following a 5-1 Detroit triumph over Cleveland that put the Tigers back in first place in the American League's Eastern Division.

"If we are so bad, why is New York only one-half game ahead of us in total wins and

losses for the season?" wondered Anderson. "Right now, I am concerned about the fact we are not scoring runs, but what I like is that on the 21st of September, we are still in front. Nobody thought that would happen."

A five-hit performance by Jack Morris and a bases-loaded double by Steve Kemp to cap a four-run ninth inning were the big factors for Detroit against the Indians.

"We finally got some big hits today, and we had to win," said Anderson. "We can't control Boston because we don't play them again, but we have the opportunity to control Milwaukee and Baltimore."

"By losing four games to Boston, we put them in a tremendous driver's seat and they really got things rolling. Milwaukee and Boston have the best firepower in the division, even better than the Yankees," added Anderson.

The Tigers gave Morris a 1-0 lead in the

third inning against Cleveland starter and loser Tom Brennan when Stan Papi singled, Lou Whitaker walked and Kirk Gibson lined a runscoring single to center.

Jorge Orta's leadoff triple and Mike Hargrove's sacrifice fly tied it for the Tribe in the sixth before the Tigers chased Brennan in the ninth with his first Major League defeat against one victory.

"I just thought to myself that I am going to win this game," said Morris, who became the third 13-game winner in the American League this year.

"I just wanted to show the Indians that I could throw the ball across the plate," added Morris, who was chased Sept. 12 in the first inning against the Indians after walking three batters and being tagged for four runs.

"Cleveland didn't give us anything. We just got a break in the ninth inning," he said.

Shelby boys 4th, girls 3rd at Ashland CC meet

ASHLAND — Rob Place came in third and Daryl Nickelson finished eighth as the Shelby boys cross country team ended fourth at the Arrow Invitational Saturday.

Shelby finished with 82 points to 46 for Galion and Strongsville and 53 for Ashland.

Place turned in a 13:49 time, 11 seconds off the pace set by Galion's Jon Mathias. Nickelson turned in a 14:17 time.

Other Shelby barriers were Todd Milliron, 22nd at 15:09; Marc Milliron, 23rd at 15:12; and Joe Grant, 26th at 15:37

In the girls running, Shelby was third among six teams. The Whippets tallied 70 points to 41 for New London and 47 for Ashland.

Julie Herman was the Whippets' top runner, placing seventh with an 18:56 time. Susie Shaw was 12th with a

19:24 ledger and Michelle Lynch came in 14th at 19:30. Cheryl Linn was 18th at 19:52 and Ann Hancock ended 27th with a 20:30 ledger.

The Whippet cross country squad will entertain Northern Ohio League rival Upper Sandusky Tuesday.

NFL roundup

Miami, LA, Giants post wins

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
 UPI Sports Writer

Miami and Los Angeles called on reserve quarterbacks and were rewarded with victories. The New Orleans Saints tried the same thing only to learn there is no substitute for Archie Manning.

While Don Strock, who replaced Dolphins starter David Woodley in the second half, and Jeff Rutledge, who came on for Los Angeles after Pat Haden was injured, were successful in their Sunday appearances, Bobby Scott, in his 10th season, looked like a lost schoolboy against the New York Giants, who posted an easy 20-7 triumph over the Saints.

"I just wasn't moving the club," said Scott, who hit only five of 15 passes for 61 yards and an interception before being replaced by rookie Dave Wilson in the fourth period. "They told me at the end of the third period they wanted to give the rookie a chance. He needs the opportunity."

Phil Simms carved up an inexperienced New Orleans secondary for 324 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown pass to Gary Shirk, and Joe Danelo kicked a club-record 55-yard field goal to lead the Giants. Simms completed 28 of 41 attempts against a Saints' secondary that started two rookies.

New Orleans, 1-2, couldn't advance past the Giants' 36 until a fourth-quarter scoring drive, engineered by Wilson and capped by Wayne Wilson's 2-yard TD run with 6:34 to go.

Miami Coach Don Shula decided at halftime to put Strock in the game and the eighth-year pro responded by hitting Audra Franklin with a 3-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter to lead the unbeaten Dolphins to a 16-10 victory over the Houston Oilers, 2-1.

On defense, the Dolphins did not allow the Oilers to sustain a drive all day,

sacking Ken Stabler eight times and intercepting a pass. Middle guard Bob Baumhower recorded four of the sacks as Miami, which had just 27 sacks last year, increased its total to 16 this season.

Rutledge, who took over when Haden suffered bruised ribs in the second period, directed Los Angeles to three TDs in a 47 span of the second half to carry the Rams to a 35-23 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

"I had a rough start today but I wasn't nervous at all," said Rutledge, who completed five of 10 passes for 70 yards and one interception. "The first couple of times I went back to pass, I got sacked, and that doesn't make it any easier."

Elsewhere Sunday, Pittsburgh clubbed the New York Jets 38-10. Cleveland edged Cincinnati 20-17. Atlanta topped San Francisco 34-17. Minnesota tripped Detroit 26-24. St. Louis whipped Washington 40-30. San Diego beat Kansas City 42-31. Chicago defeated Tampa Bay 28-17. Denver stopped Baltimore 28-10 and Oakland beat Seattle 20-10. Philadelphia defeated Buffalo 20-14 on Thursday and Dallas is at New England tonight.

Steelers 38, Jets 10. Russell Davis led a Pittsburgh ground assault — which totaled 343 yards — with 100 yards and a TD to give the Steelers their first victory of the season while handing the Jets their third consecutive loss. Frank Pollard added 79 yards and two TDs. The Jets have allowed 100 points in their first three games.

Falcons 34, 49ers 17. Steve Bartkowski, wearing a brace on his right knee and a flak jacket to protect his cracked rib, threw three TD passes and Tom Pryor returned an interception 101 yards to help undefeated Atlanta remain in first in the NFC West.

Vikings 26, Lions 24.

Rick Danmeier kicked a 20-yard field goal with four seconds left to lift Minnesota to its first triumph. The Vikings started the

winning march with 1:56 left at their 18 Tommy Kramer, making his first start of the season, hit five of seven passes for 65 yards and Curtis Brown ran 19 yards in two plays before Danmeier hit his game-winner. Kramer, recovered from a knee injury, completed 25 of 42 passes for 333 yards and two TDs.

Cardinals 40, Redskins 30. Jim Hart threw three TD passes, including a 58-yarder to newly converted wide receiver Roy Green, and rookie Stump Mitchell returned a punt 50 yards for a score to give St. Louis its first victory. Washington fell to 0-3 despite quarterback Joe Theismann's best day in his eight-year career. Theismann completed 25 of 37 for 388 yards and four TDs.

Chargers 42, Chiefs 31. Dan Fouts passed for 284 yards and three TDs and Chuck Muncie rushed for 93 yards and two more scores to help San Diego, 3-0, gain sole possession of first place in the AFC West. Fouts completed 22 of 43 passes but had his NFL-record tying string of 300-yard passing games halted at four.

Bears 28, Buccaneers 17. Quarterback Vince Evans' 7-yard TD run snapped a 14-14 tie late in the third quarter and his 18-yard scoring pass to Dave Williams boosted Chicago, 1-2, over Tampa Bay, 1-2.

Broncos 28, Colts 10.

Craig Morton threw for four TDs — including three to Steve Watson — and passed the 25,000-yard career mark to spark Denver. Before leaving early in the fourth quarter, Morton produced 291 yards, bringing his career total to 25,166 yards, 14th on the NFL's all-time yardage list.

Raiders 20, Seahawks 10.

Jim Plunkett passed for one TD and ran for another and Derrick Jensen, filling in for the injured Mark van Eeghen, ran for 81 yards, including a score, to give Oakland its second victory in three games.

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