

Whippets overcome feisty Galion, 21-10

By STEPHEN BYRNE
Globe Sports Editor

It happened so fast, it left the capacity crowd at Skiles Field stunned.

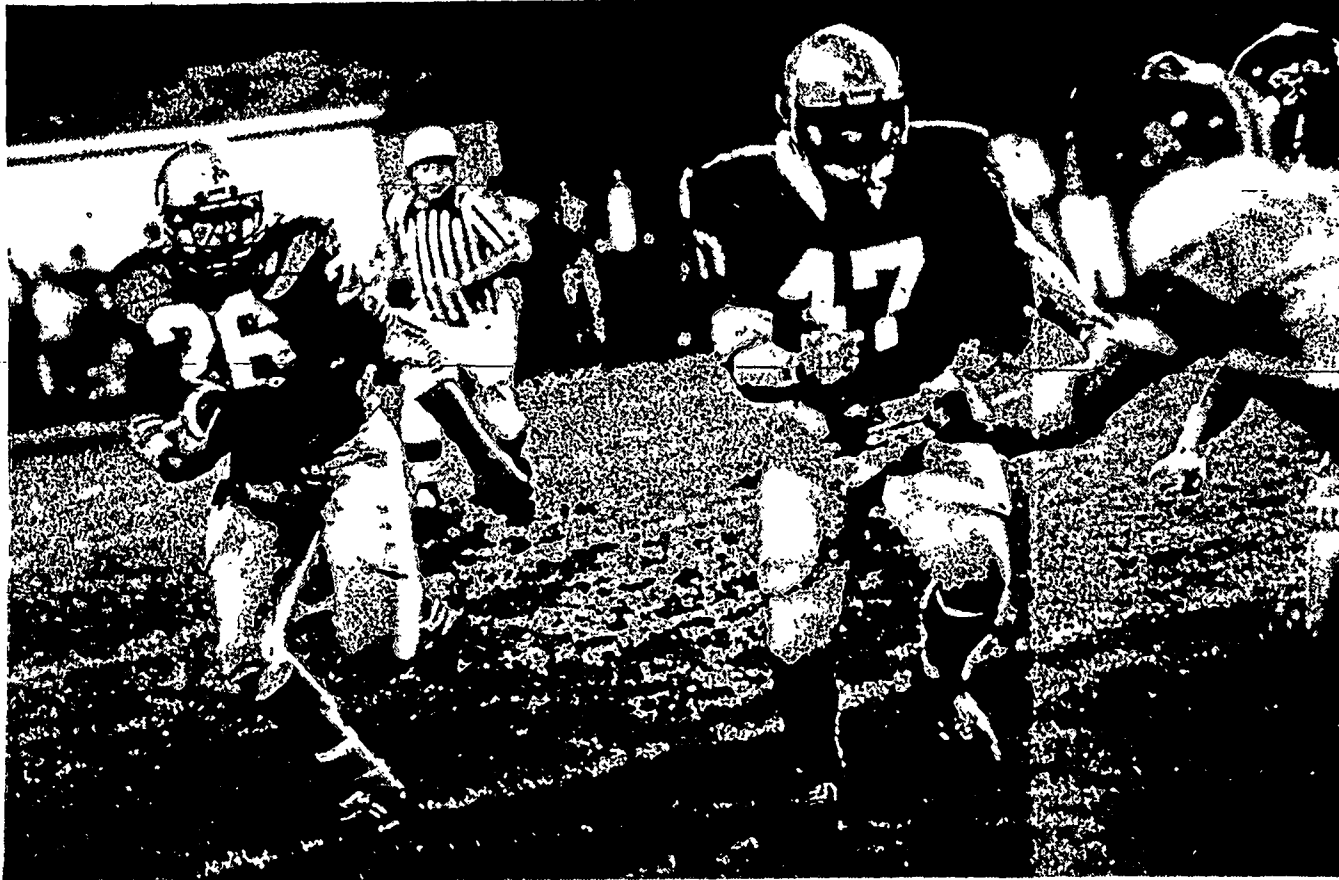
For Shelby fans, it almost made them forget that until that moment, their undefeated Whippets were locked in a monumental struggle with the Galion Tigers in the first Northern Ohio League football game of the 1981 season.

With four minutes, 17 seconds left, safety Mark Nothacker stepped in front of a sideline pass thrown by Galion's Darren Taylor, grabbed the toss intended for Chris Nicholls and had clear sailing for 33 yards to the end zone.

That made the score 21-10 in Shelby's favor and all but assured the Whippets their fourth win in as many games and a good start on the NOL campaign.

Up until that break, it was touch and go for the Whippets against the team they edged for the league championship a year ago. Galion had leaped to a 7-0 lead in just four plays, held a 10-7 advantage at halftime and came within four yards of taking the lead a third time.

I just knew those guys (Galion) would come in here fired up and they certainly did," said Shelby Head Coach Bill Varble. "They really prepared for us."



SEARCHING FOR A HOLE — Brad Nothacker (26) looks for running room as teammate Rob Mahon (47) gets set to throw a block on Galion's line during Friday's Shelby-Galion football game at Skiles Field. The Whippets stayed undefeated, dropping Galion 21-10. (Globe photo by Linda Stotts)

The Tigers played what was probably their best game of the season. Entering Friday's contest at Skiles Field, the visitors had not won a game falling to Ashland, Mount Vernon and Lexington.

Against the Whippets, however, Galion did not look at all like a winless team.

"Maybe they had been gearing themselves all along for this game. I don't know," continued Varble. "I don't see how they could be 0-3. They

have a good team.

The Tigers were effective running their star tailback John Erlsten in the first half and passing the ball in the final two quarters. Erlsten, the league's best rusher in 1980, gained 100 yards on 22 carries, including 49 yards on three totes in the first series and 81 yards in the first 24 minutes.

In the passing department, Galion connected on eight of 12 throws for 121 yards. Taylor

playing in place of expected starter Matt Flannery, did most of the chucking for the Tigers.

Shelby, on the other hand, was somewhat sluggish on offense. The Whippets were able to score a second-period TD on a halfback pass that caught the Galion defense flat-footed, but had little success with its "bread-and-butter" running attack.

The Whippets got that touchdown on the first play of the

second quarter as Brad Nothacker took a pitch from quarterback Dave Hiatt, then threw across the field to Hiatt, who danced 36 yards to paydirt.

"We'd been sitting back with that play," said assistant coach Roger Ebersole. "We didn't have anything to lose by trying it and we thought we could catch them cold sometime."

That bit of wizardry tied the count at 7-7. The Tigers hit first as they took the opening kick 64

yards on four plays, scoring on a 33-yard dash by Erlsten. Galion went up 10-7 with three minutes before intermission on a 41-yard field goal by Chris Nicholls, the key play in that drive coming on an Erlsten to Nicholls halfback pass covering 45 yards to Shelby's 23-yard line.

Shelby took the lead for good by marching 52 yards on 12

plays on the opening possession of the second half. Brad Nothacker burst over from the two-yard line to end that drive.

Two critical passes kept that drive going. On a third down, left end Steve Stine wrestled the ball from the hands of a Galion defensive back, and Brad Nothacker barely got enough for a first down on a fourth-and-eight situation.

The Tigers promptly mounted a sustained drive of their own, going 67 yards in 13 plays before Dave Ramey broke up a pass on a fourth down at the Shelby four.

"We didn't play bad pass defense," remarked Varble. "They ran good patterns. I think what happened was that they went deep with their patterns, and we gave the quarterback too much time to pass."

Three possessions later, the Tigers saw their hopes dashed. With a second down, seven to go at Shelby's 46-yard mark, Taylor made his big mistake and Mark Nothacker was there to intercept it and gallop unmolested to the end zone.

On the Tigers' control of the ball following the touchdown, Brad Nothacker intercepted an Erlsten desperation pass to halt the game permanently at 21-10.

"I wouldn't trade our defensive backs for anything," said defensive coordinator Ron Stepis of the two Nothackers, Ramey and Tim Sherman, who've now picked off 11 enemy aerials.

"I wasn't pleased with our defense on the first series," continued Stepis, "but I think our young men rose to the occasion and I'm glad we won that one."

"The kids didn't play the game they wanted to," said Varble, "but they didn't lose

game Friday

GALION	7	3	0	0	-	10
SHELBY	0	7	7	7	-	21

G- John Erlsten, 33-yard run (Chris Nicholls kick)
S- Dave Hiatt, 36-yard pass from Brad Nothacker (B Nothacker kick)
G- Nicholls, 41-yard field goal
S- B Nothacker, 2-yard run (B Nothacker kick)
S- Mark Nothacker, 53-yard interception return (B Nothacker kick)

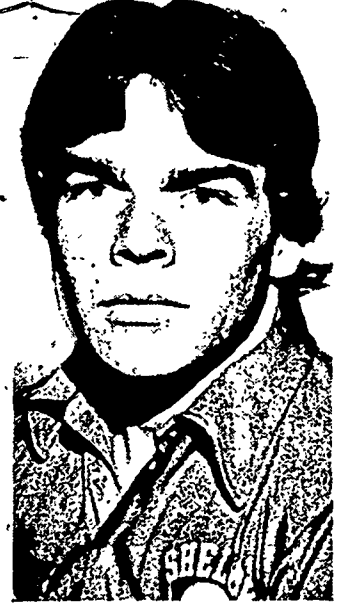


their composure. The defense did what it had to do to win."

Mike Kissel, Shelby's 240-pound defensive tackle, played an excellent second half and ended with 13 tackles, one shy of team leader Rob Mahon.

Shelby was five-for-seven in passing. Ramey, Hiatt, Sherman, Stine and Nothacker all had one catch, amounting to 85 yards. Nothacker had 96 of the Whippets' 117 yards rushing on 26 carries.

The Whippets will face Willard for a Homecoming



MARK NOTHACKER seals Galion's fate



MIKE KISSEL defensive enforcer

NOL roundup

Bellevue registers 4th shutout

The Bellevue Redmen remained unscathed through the first four games of the season Friday, shutting out Tiffin Columbian, 17-0, in the first Northern Ohio League football clash of 1981.

Also victorious on the opening weekend of NOL play were the Willard Flashes and Norwalk Trickers.

Bellevue 17, Tiffin 0
TIFFIN - Jeff Tackett rushed for 123 yards on 15 tries, including a 56-yard touchdown run, to lead the Bellevue Redmen, 4-0, to a 17-0 triumph over the Tiffin Columbian Tornados Friday.

The Redmen, who haven't allowed a point all season, held a 242-96 total yards edge on Tiffin, now 1-2-1. Mark Hill ran for a TD and Mike Bollenbacher booted a field goal to complete the scoring.

BELLEVUE 0 3 0 14 - 17
TIFFIN COL 0 0 0 0 - 0
B- Bollenbacher, 28-yard FG
B- Tackett, 56-yard run (Bollenbacher kick)
B- Hill, 4-yard run (Bollenbacher kick)

Willard 15, Upper Sandusky 9
WILLARD - The Willard Flashes scored their first points of 1981 in a 15-9 win over Upper Sandusky Friday.

Tim Snook, who ran for 98 yards on 27 carries, scored on runs of 19 and two yards, and Kirk Holthouse added a field goal for Willard, 1-3.

Upper Sandusky, 1-2-1, got a seven-yard TD jaunt by Dana Patchett and 87 yards on 22 runs by Steve Lamont.

UPPER 7 0 0 2 - 9
WILLARD 0 12 0 3 - 15
Patchett 7-yard run (Mark Griffin kick)
W- Snook, 19-yard run (kick failed)
W- Snook, 2-yard run (pass failed)
W- Holthouse, 34-yard FG
I- safety

NORWALK 23, Bucyrus 12
BUCYRUS - The Norwalk Trickers evened their record at 2-2 Friday with a 23-12 win over Bucyrus, 2-2.

Norwalk got TDs from Mark Woodruff running, Randy Bertram recovering a

fumble and Mike Stewart taking a pass from Mike Sweet, and a field goal by Brett Mason.

Bucyrus' Todd Brenner, who passed for 203 yards, scored on a run and threw to Mike Cotsamire for a touchdown.

NORWALK 0 14 6 3 - 23
BUCYRUS 0 0 6 6 - 12
N- Woodruff, 18-yard run (Mason kick)
N- Bertram, 23-yard run with fumble (Mason kick)
N- Stewart, 53-yard pass from Sweet (kick failed)
B- Brenner, 3-yard run (pass failed)
B- Cotsamire, 4-yard pass from Brenner (kick failed)
N- Mason, 25-yard field goal

NOL Standings

Bellevue	1-0-0	4-0-0
SHELBY	1-0-0	4-0-0
Norwalk	1-0-0	2-2-0
Willard	1-0-0	1-3-0
Bucyrus	0-1-0	2-2-0
Tiffin	0-1-0	1-2-1
Upper	0-1-0	1-2-1
Galion	0-1-0	0-4-0

Plymouth falls to Indian Lake, 28-13

PLYMOUTH - It only counts when you get in the end zone.

The Plymouth Vikings football team learned that Friday, as they more than doubled the total yards on the visiting Indian Lake Lakers, but wound up on the short end of a 28-13 score Friday.

The loss was Plymouth's 15th straight. The win ends a 31-game skid for the Lakers.

The Vikes got 144 yards rushing, in-

cluding, 135 by Jeff Jacobs in 28 totes, and 40 passing to 88 for the Lakers.

Indian Lake got two touchdowns by Larry Carlson, one each by Greg Brown and Andy Malley to build a 28-7 lead by the fourth quarter.

Plymouth got its points on a one-yard burst by Rick Hawkins and a three-yard run by Jacobs.

Viking quarterback Rod Hampton connected on five of 16 pass attempts

INDIAN LAKE 6 8 6 8 - 28
PLYMOUTH 7 0 0 6 - 13

Ply- Hawkins, 1-yard run (Jim Will kick)
Ils- Larry Carlson, 11-yard run (run failed)
Ils- Andy Malley, 11-yard pass from John Will (Carlson run)
Ils- Greg Brown, 3-yard run (run failed)
Ils- Carlson, 2-yard run (run failed)
Ils- safety
Ply- Jeff Jacobs, 3-yard run (run failed)

Buckeye Central whallops Wynford

BUCYRUS - The Buckeye Central football team is living up to its state ranking - and doing so without a recognized star.

The Bucks thrashed arch-rival Wynford Friday, 27-13, to take over first place in the North Central Conference.

"This is the biggest victory I've had as a coach," said BC mentor Bill Pierce, whose Bucks are now 4-0. "This is the best team I've coached. We have no stars, just a good team effort every week."

Chet Johnson ran for 112 yards on 26 carries and scored a touchdown, Steve Kehres tallied two TDs as a defensive player and Dan Shell passed to Dan Pifer.

for BC's points.

Wynford, entering the contest unbeaten in NCC action, got two touchdowns on Chris Hawkins passes, to Larry Schiffer and Todd Stanley.

Hawkins' pass to Schiffer, 24 yards, gave Wynford the lead at 7-0, but BC made it 15-7 by the half as Shell hit Pifer for 28 yards and Johnson scored on a four-yard scamper.

Kehres had the TDs in the second half, on a recovery of a punt that Randy Kalb blocked in Wynford's end zone (set up by a 60-yard Eric VonStein punt) and a 16-yard interception return.

BC outgained the Royals, 196-132.

BUCKEYE CENTRAL 0 15 6 6 - 27
WYNFORD 0 7 0 6 - 13

Wyn- Larry Schiffer, 24-yard pass from Chris Hawkins (Schiffer kick)
BC- Dan Pifer, 28-yard pass from Dan Shell (Johnson run)
BC- Chet Johnson, 4-yard run (Karl Mahaffey kick)
BC- Steve Kehres, fumble recovery in end zone (run failed)

Wyn- Todd Stanley, 27-yard pass from Hawkins (run failed)
BC- Kehres, 17-yard interception return (kick failed)

Shelby golfers defeat three others at Lexington

LEXINGTON - The Shelby Whippet golfers continued their blistering pace Friday, coming out ahead of a four-team field at the Minuteman Invitational at Pebble Creek Golf Course, Lexington.

Shelby scored an 18-hole 318 to 326 for Malabar, 340 for Lexington and 382 for Ontario.

Shelby's record is now 14-0.

Todd Shreck, who had fired a sparkling 36 in a win over Tiffin Columbian the day before, paced Shelby with a 77. Doug

Ingram, coming off a stung 33 versus TC, followed with an 80 at the Minuteman Invitational. The rest of the Whippets' scoring included an 80 by Tim Korbas, Gay Mawhorr's 81, Steve Stima with an 87 and an 88 from Scott Kiefer.

Malabar's Rob Barkett was low scorer for the field, drilling a 75. Kevin Kinsey of Malabar had an 81 and Lexington's Jim Kreinbrink and Scott Humphrey of Malabar had 84s.

Shelby will host Bucyrus in an NOL match Monday.

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Shelby will host Bucyrus in an NOL match Monday.

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