

Two defending champions upset in playoffs



LETTING ONE FLY is Elyria Catholic quarterback Keith Rybarczyk (3) during Friday night's playoff game with Fostoria. Blocking for the Panthers are Geoff Poyle (65) and Mark Manning (50) while Mark Boos (64) defends for the Redmen. (C-T photo by Eugene C. Krebs)

By The Associated Press
 Only two defending state champions remain in the high school football playoff chase after two 1982 titlists saw their hopes dashed in the first round.
 West Jefferson, the 1982 Division IV champion, fell 22-13 Friday night to Columbus Bishop Ready. Defending Division III titlist Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary was ousted by Levittsburg LaBrae 19-13.
 Ten other teams claimed victories to advance to next weekend's state semifinals. Pairings will be announced Sunday.
 In other Division III matches, Urbana, top-ranked in Class AA, whipped Washington Court House 41-13; Elyria Catholic got by Fostoria 13-6; and St. Clairsville blanked Columbus St. Charles 12-0.
 In Division II, Brecksville beat Westlake 24-3, Celina ripped Kettering Alter 38-19, Youngtown Ursuline shut out Steubenville 13-0 and Lemon-Monroe blanked Cincinnati Greenhills 17-0.
 Coal Grove rolled over Belpre 32-13, Loudonville ripped Margaretta 49-8 and Orrville slipped by Louisville Aquinas 15-8 in Division IV.
 Eight more first-round games are scheduled tonight, highlighted by defending Division I champion Cincinnati Moeller against Cincinnati Princeton and 1982 Division V king Newark Catholic versus Woodsfield.
 Running back Tony Stephen broke loose for third-quarter touchdown runs of five and 73 yards as Levittsburg LaBrae, 11-0 and No. 6 in Class AA, ended Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's hopes for reclaiming its title. St. Vincent-St. Mary, 9-2 and No. 4 in Class AA, led 7-6 at halftime.
 Senior running back Jewell Jackson rushed for 180 yards and two touchdowns as Bishop Ready (9-2) rallied from a 13-7 halftime deficit to beat West Jefferson (9-2).
 Three backs combined for 326 rushing yards for Loudonville (9-2), which set a new state Division IV playoff record with 49 points. Senior quarterback Scott Vickers led the way with 114 yards, while Steve Weltmer and Doug Black rushed for 106 yards each. Junior defensive back Doug Long had three interceptions. Margaretta finished at 8-3.
 Senior tailback Jeff Rogan rushed for 154 yards and scored four touchdowns for Urbana (11-0), which got a back-breaking 86-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by John Arnold Washington Court House (9-2) got 104 yards rushing from Fred Jones, who scored both of its touchdowns.
 It was Christmas in November for Celina, which turned four of Alter's five turnovers into touchdowns. Rick Ross ran for 119 yards and scored three times for Celina (11-0), which also got 101 yards from Dave Knous. Alter (8-3) lost four of eight fumbles and was intercepted once.
 Lemon Monroe had similar good fortune, converting three of Greenhills' six turnovers into touchdowns. Ed Martin had three interceptions for Monroe (10-1). Greenhills finished at 10-1.
 Junior quarterback Tom Bolyard accounted for all of the points for Orrville (8-3), running 4 yards and 1 yard for touchdowns, kicking an extra point and passing to junior end Mark Auble for a two-point conversion against Aquinas (6-5).
 St. Clairsville (10-0-1) held St. Charles (8-3) to 118 total yards while dominating the game offensively. Senior fullback C.J. Gross rushed for 83 yards, scored a touchdown and recovered a fumble that led to another score.
 Tailback Joe Ross rushed for 247 yards and two touchdowns for Coal Grove (11-0). His second touchdown against Belpre (10-1) came on an 81-yard romp.
 Senior tailback Robert Nall rushed 19 times for 123 yards and two second-quarter touchdowns to pace Youngtown Ursuline (10-1) over Steubenville (10-1), ranked fifth in Class AAA. Fullback Jim G'Bur added 138 yards in 18 rushes for Ursuline.



THE SNOW and cold caused for hazardous conditions on the field and sidelines Friday night. Above, Westlake's John Kolesar takes a break on a bench made of snow during his team's game with Brecksville. Bottom, Buckeye quarterback Scott DeMarco tries to get through the snow and a Firelands tackler during the Inland Conference title game. (C-T photos by Bob Bailie and Thomas Dangerfield)



Basketball exam given on Dec. 5

ELYRIA — The Ohio High School Athletic Association basketball officials examination will be given Dec. 5 at Lorain County Community College. For more information, contact Gary Simkovich at 324-4042 or the OHSAA at (614) 267-2503.

Plymouth upsets Edison for Firelands Conference title

By FRANK MITTLER
 C-T Sports Writer
 NORWALK — After four straight years of domination, there is a new champion in the Firelands Conference.
 Plymouth now wears the crown after upsetting Edison, 13-6, in an exciting contest Friday night on a damp and snow covered field at Trucker Field for the Firelands title, which the Chargers have carried for the past four years.
 And the Big Red had to do it the hard way over a very sloppy playing field. Trailing 6-0 going into the final period, they scored two touchdowns to hand Edison its second defeat of the season and its first loss during the Firelands campaign.

THE VICTORY also gave the champions some revenge over the Chargers, who defeated the Big Red during the regular season 39-6.
 The victory also gave the Big Red their first Firelands Conference trophy in the school's history.
 Edison's only score came during its second series after a poor Plymouth punt. The Chargers took the ball into the endzone on a 33-yard drive in four plays when Jeff Springer pounded the ball in off right guard from 11 yards out with 4:53 remaining in the initial quarter.
 That looked like it would be the only tally of the ball game because of the poor playing conditions. And for the next two periods both teams marched up and down between the 20-yard lines without making too much of a threat.

But the final stanza belonged to the Big Red.
 Plymouth's first touchdown covered 81 yards and took 14 plays with an elapsed time of 7:55. The drive also included three fourth down conversions to keep the drive alive, one being a fourth and eight attempt, with the score finally coming on a 27-yard touchdown pass from Rod Hampton to Tom Baker with 9:52 left in the game.
 THE BIG RED could have won the game there, but Mike McKenzie's try for the point after was blocked and the game was tied at six.
 But that didn't last for long, because on Plymouth's very next series it scored on a march of 44 yards in 11 plays with 2:07 to go in the contest. McKenzie got the game winner on a one-yard dive play over left guard.
 With just over two minutes to play the Chargers showed why they've been the dominant team in the Firelands for so long. They put on a head of steam during the final seconds, taking the ball down to Plymouth's six before the clock finally ran out and leave its final record at 9-2 overall and 7-1 for the conference.
 Even with the terrible playing conditions neither team made that many mistakes. Surprisingly, neither team committed a turnover during the game and there were only 13 total penalties called.
 Plymouth ends one of its best seasons with a season record of 10-1 and a 7-1 mark in the Firelands.

Plymouth turnaround sparked by big play

By BOB MONTGOMERY
 C-T Sports Writer
 NORWALK — A snow covered, muddy field doesn't make for a big play, but it was the big play that gave Plymouth its first score and helped the Big Red win the Firelands Conference championship Friday night.
 "We started out this year as a big play team, but in the last three games we have stayed more of a grind it out team and tonight that type of football was what it took to win," said Plymouth Coach Dick Roll. "I know we got the big play to get us on the board, but it was driving, ball control football that won for us. We knew in this game that we would have to keep the ball away from them as they have a huge offensive team. Our only chance would be to keep the ball away from them and I think we did a good job in that respect."
 The big play was a 27-yard touchdowns pass from quarterback Rod Hampton to Tom

Baker that tied the game with just under ten minutes left. It seemed to take the spirit out of Edison, who had been favored to win after an early season over the Big Red.
 "We have tried that pass on third and short three times this year and this is the first time it has worked," Roll said. "Rod (Hampton) threw a good pass and I knew if it was anywhere close Tom (Baker) would catch it."
 "That play did hurt us, but we stopped ourselves after they scored," said Edison Coach Dick Whittington. "We were in a short yardage defense and they caught us napping. "It was a good play for them, but that didn't beat us. We did it ourselves. On a night like this yards are hard to come by and we would get them and then give them back on penalties. Those two 15 yarders after they scored were what did us in. On one we had a first down and midfield and the penalty left us with a third and 22. You can't

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS					
Rushers					
PLYMOUTH					
	Carr	Gain	Avg		
R Cnngnm	23	90	3.9		
Mike McKenzie	17	40	3.4		
Steve Jamerson	2	8	0.0		
Darren Branham	1	-13	-13.0		
Rod Hampton	2	10	-10.0		
Tom Baker	1	1	1.0		
Totals	46	106	2.3		
EDISON					
Jeff Springer	14	42	3.0		
Kurt Ostheimer	12	40	3.3		
Joe Taylor	8	15	1.9		
Steve Geres	1	3	3.0		
Pat Landoll	1	2	2.0		
Totals	36	102	2.8		
Passers					
PLYMOUTH					
	Att	Comp	Int		
Rod Hampton	7	3	0		
Totals	7	3	0		
EDISON					
Joe Taylor	5	2	0		
Jim Hall	3	2	0		
Totals	8	4	0		
Receivers					
PLYMOUTH					
	Caught	Yards	Gain		
Tom Baker	2	27	37		
Darren Branham	1	1	1		
Totals	3	28	38		
EDISON					
Kurt Ostheimer	2	11	11		
Steve Geres	1	22	22		
Totals	3	33	33		
Team Statistics					
	Plymouth	Edison			
First downs	6	9			
Rushing	5	7			
Passing	1	1			
Penalty	0	1			
Yards rushing	106	102			
Yards passing	38	33			
Total offense	144	135			
Passes att.-comp	7-3	8-3			
Intercepted by	0	0			
Fumbles lost	4	1-0			
Punts-yards	2-73	4-93			
Average	36.5	23.2			
Yards penalized	8-45	5-60			
Rushing plays	46	36			
Score by Quarters					
	1	2	3	4	T
Plymouth	0	0	0	13	13
Edison	6	0	0	0	6
Scoring					
E—Jeff Springer, 11 run (kick failed)					
P—Tom Baker, 27 pass from Rod Hampton (kick failed)					
P—Mike McKenzie, 1 run (McKenzie kick)					

North Olmsted tips off season

NORTH OLMSTED — North Olmsted High School will host its annual boys basketball tipoff party Tuesday, Nov. 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the high school cafeteria.
 Participants should bring their own dinner, with desserts and beverages to be offered for sale.
 The affair will serve as an excellent opportunity to meet the Eagles boys basketball team, cheerleaders, pep band and Eaglettes.