

Upper survives 3 fumbles to edge Bellevue

Upper Sandusky has lived on its running game all season.

And, it continued to pay big dividends Friday night as the Rams remained on top in the Northern Ohio League following a 21-17 come-from-behind triumph over defending two-time champion Bellevue.

In other league games, Shelby edged past Willard, 24-20, while Tiffin Columbian struggled past Norwalk, 17-13, and Galion blasted Bucyrus, 28-0.

Thus, Upper Sandusky leads the league with a perfect 4-0 mark while Shelby and Tiffin Columbian are tied for second at 3-1 followed by Bellevue at 2-1-1. Friday, Upper Sandusky entertains Shelby in the league's top attraction.

Upper Sandusky, 6-1 overall, scored twice in the opening quarter and appeared well on its way to victory.

First, Scott Ogg raced 68 yards to paydirt with 6:44 left in the opening period and Kip Newell followed with a one-yard plunge to the end zone on the final play of the quarter. Jim Bailey converted following each score and Upper led, 14-0.

If the first quarter belonged to Upper, then the second period was all Bellevue as the Redmen, 4-2-1 overall, battled back with a pair of scores to knot the count at 14-14 at intermission.

Junior quarterback Ed Green got the Redmen on the board with a one-yard plunge at the 4:17 mark. Then, he tossed an 11-yard pass to Scott Beckley for the second touchdown by the visitors less than two minutes later. Greg Hogue was successful with the PAT after both touchdowns.

After a scoreless third quarter, Bellevue took the lead on a 32-yard field goal by Hogue with 10:51 left in the game.

But, the host Rams came back on the ensuing possession to claim the lead for good. Ogg, who gained 184 yards in 25 carries, climaxed the winning drive with a 10-yard scamper to paydirt and Bailey converted for the final 21-17 score.

Both teams had trouble hanging on to the ball with each guilty of three fumbles. And, each of the Bellevue scores came after recovering a fumble.

Upper gained 274 yards on the ground while Bellevue, paced by Bob Snezek's 40 yards in seven carries, totaled just 62. The Redmen had the edge through the air with 10 completions in 18 attempts for 99 yards while the Rams were 2-of-5 for 28 yards.

by a 13-7 score with 3:31 left to play in the half.

However, Tiffin came back to claim the lead at halftime. With just 47 seconds left, Brian Briggs picked off a Norwalk pass and raced 33 yards to paydirt and Hoar converted to give the visitors a 14-13 advantage.

And, Hoar accounted for the only scoring in the second half as he booted a 29-yard field goal late in the third period for a 17-13 lead.

STATISTICS

	Nor	TC
First Downs (total)	13	14
by rushing	9	12
by passing	3	1
by penalty	1	1
net yards rushing	212	193
passes attempted	18	10
passes completed	5	2
had intercepted	4	1
net yards passing	63	18
Total Net Yards Gained	275	211
Fumbles (number)	3	3
ball lost	2	0
Penalties (number)	7	2
yards penalized	35	30

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Norwalk	7	6	0	0	13
Tiffin Columbian	0	14	3	0	17

Scoring:
Norwalk — James Lover, 70 run. (Steve Risner, kick).
Tiffin Columbian — Jeff Greer, 16 run. (Mark Hoar, kick).
Norwalk — Jon Nutter, 87 yard kickoff return. (kick failed).
Tiffin Columbian — Brian Briggs, 33 yard interception return. (Hoar, kick).
Tiffin Columbian — Hoar, 29 field goal.

Shelby 24 Willard 20

SHELBY — Willard's fate was decided by a pair of incomplete passes late in the fourth quarter when it was sitting on the Shelby 20.

The Crimson Flashes, 2-4-1 overall and 1-2-1 in the league, was trailing at the point by a 24-20 score.

And, it also turned out to be the final count.

Shelby, 6-1 overall, broke on top quickly with a 10-0 lead after scoring on both of its first two possessions.

The Whippets, on their first possession, got a 21-yard field goal from Tim Amstutz. Then, they added a four-yard touchdown run by Scott Martin midway through the period and Amstutz converted for the 10-0 lead.

Willard broke the ice with 2:02 left in the first quarter when John Heffley threw the first of his three touchdown passes, an 18-yarder to Dan Bauman.

Both teams scored in the second period. Buddy Baker scored from the one-yard-line for the Whippets and Amstutz converted for a 17-6 lead.

But, Willard came right back on a 7-yard pass from Heffley to Rex Adams and Kelly Reynolds ran the conversion as the deficit was trimmed to 17-14 at intermission.

Again, Shelby answered the challenge with Martin scoring from six yards away and Amstutz converted for a 24-14 lead.

With 2:31 left in the third quarter, Heffley again found Adams for a 6-yard touchdown strike and the Flashes trailed, 24-20.

STATISTICS

	Will	Shel
First Downs (total)	15	18
by rushing	8	14
by passing	6	2
by penalty	1	2
net yards rushing	199	261
passes attempted	20	8
passes completed	8	3
had intercepted	1	1
net yards passing	101	60
Total Net Yards Gained	300	321
Fumbles (number)	4	2
ball lost	2	2
Penalties (number)	3	2
yards penalized	35	20

SCORE BY QUARTERS

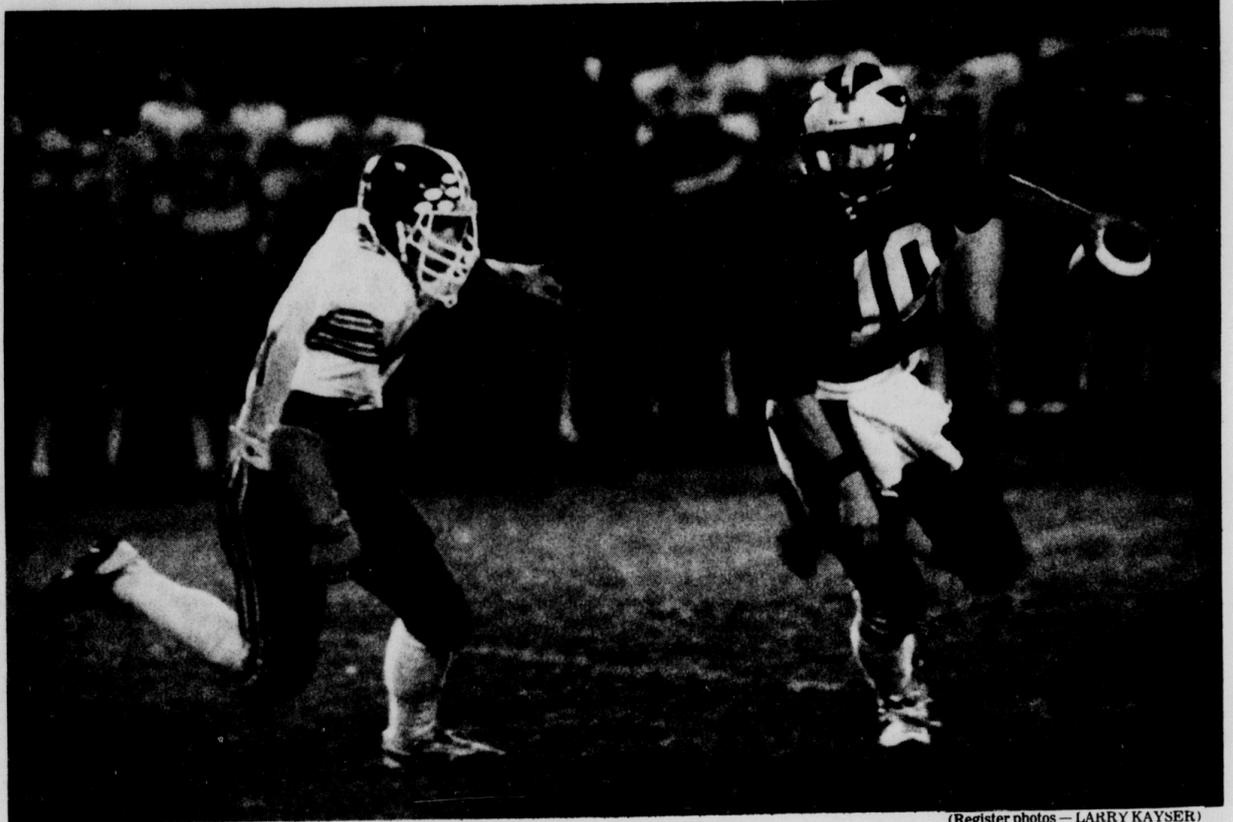
Willard	6	8	6	0	20
Shelby	10	7	7	0	24

Scoring:
Shelby — Tim Amstutz, 21 field goal.
Shelby — Scott Martin, 4 run. (Amstutz, kick).
Willard — Dan Bauman, 18 pass from John Heffley. (kick failed).
Shelby — Buddy Baker, 1 run. (Amstutz, kick).
Willard — Rex Adams, 7 pass from Heffley. (Kelly Reynolds, run).
Shelby — Martin, 6 run. (Amstutz, kick).
Willard — Adam, 6 pass from Heffley. (pass failed).

Galion 28 Bucyrus 0

GALION — A pair of touchdown passes from Guy Wagner to John Mills ignited Galion to its first NOL win of the season.

The duo hooked up for a 10-yard TD strike in the opening period as the Tigers, 2-5 overall, went ahead by a 6-0 score.



(Register photos — LARRY KAYSER)

Monroeville quarterback Dave Keszei rolls away from a Western Reserve defender during Friday's Firelands Conference showdown at Monroeville. Keszei completed eight of 14 passes to lead the Eagles to a 21-0 victory.

ference showdown at Monroeville. Keszei completed eight of 14 passes to lead the Eagles to a 21-0 victory.

Monroeville defense blanks WR

MONROEVILLE — Western Reserve's high-powered offense hit a stone wall Friday.

The Roughriders, who entered Friday's Firelands Conference showdown against Monroeville with 183 points scored in six games, was held to just 38 total yards as the Eagles romped to a 21-0 victory.

The victory gives Monroeville

a 5-2 overall mark and 3-1 conference slate, while Western drops to 6-1 and 2-1.

"We really played aggressive, hard hitting defense," Monroeville coach Steve Ringholz said. "We forced them out of their power running game in the first half, and they went to the run-and-shoot and we held them to minus-9 yards passing."

"The score was only 7-0 entering the fourth period, but we had really controlled their offense."

The Eagles then exploded for a pair of touchdowns that put the gam away.

Jeff Steiber began the scoring for Monroeville with a one-yard run for touchdown late in the first quarter. The tough Eagle defense made that stand up until

the fourth period.

Dan Jordan took a six-yard pass from Dave Keszei for a touchdown early in the final stanza, and Andy Liedorff recovered a Western fumble and raced 27 yards for the final touchdown.

Chris Phieffer added the extra point kick after each touchdown. "Every kid that stepped on the field played a great game," Ringholz said. "This was our best game so far this season. Defensively we are really happy with what we accomplished."

"This really keeps us rolling." The Eagles gained 12 first downs, while gaining 177 yards rushing and 101 yards passing for a total of 278. Westner managed only 47 yards in 25 rushes, while the passing game netted minus-9 on 4-of-14 completions. Five Western passes were picked off.

"Dave Keszei had a fine game completing 8 of 14 passes, and Dave Jordan made some big catches for us," Ringholz said. "We thought we might have to loosen them up a little bit with the pass early in the game and it worked."

The Eagles are at rival Norwalk St. Paul next Saturday, while Western must regroup and travel to New London.

STATISTICS

	WR	Monr
First Downs (total)	4	12
by rushing	2	7
by passing	1	4
by penalty	1	1
Rushes (total)	25	37
net yards rushing	47	177
passes attempted	14	14
passes completed	4	8
had intercepted	5	3
net yards passing	-9	101
Total Net Yards Gained	38	278
Fumbles (number)	6	3
ball lost	3	1
Penalties (number)	1	4
yards penalized	5	30

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Western Reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Monroeville	7	0	0	14	21

Scoring:
Monroeville — Jeff Stieber, 1 run. (Chris Phieffer, kick).
Monroeville — Dan Jordan, 6 pass from Dave Keszei. (Phieffer, kick).
Monroeville — Andy Liedorff, 27 yard fumble recovery return. (Phieffer, kick).



Monroeville's defense completely closed off the running game from Western Reserve, as demonstrated here as Todd Barman (44) and Mike Kennedy (72) stop a Western Reserve runner for no gain during the Eagles 21-0 win Friday.

Plymouth explodes past St. Paul, 39-0

Friday, Plymouth celebrated the 35th anniversary of its first game.

Then, the Big Red, 6-1 overall, exceeded the 30-point mark for the third time this season and second straight week enroute to a

STATISTICS

	Ply	St.P
First Downs (total)	11	9
net yards rushing	143	97
passes attempted	12	22
passes completed	5	4
had intercepted	1	1
net yards passing	82	72
Total Net Yards Gained	225	164
Fumbles (number)	4	2
ball lost	2	2
Penalties (number)	9	6
yards penalized	65	30

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Plymouth	20	12	7	0	39
Norwalk St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring:
Plymouth — Richard Cunningham, 38 run. (Mike McKenzie, kick).
Plymouth — Tom Baker, 38 run. (McKenzie, kick).
Plymouth — Baker, 47 pass from Rodney Hampton. (kick failed).
Plymouth — Darren Branham, 7 pass from Hampton. (pass failed).
Plymouth — Branham, 37 yard interception return. (kick failed).
Plymouth — McKenzie, 5 run. (McKenzie, kick).

39-0 blanking of Norwalk St. Paul Friday night.

And, it kept them on top in the Firelands Conference Southern Division with a 3-1 record. Both Black River and Ashland Crestview were also victorious and trail Plymouth with a 2-2 record.

Crestview easily handled Mapleton by a 27-6 tune while Black River blanked South Central, 13-0.

In the FC North, Edison sits on top with a 3-0 record while Monroeville and Western Reserve are 3-1. The Chargers entertain New London tonight.

The Big Red was quiet by Edison two weeks ago, 39-6. But, they bounced back to register a 35-8 bombing of Crestview last week before Friday night's eruption.

Three scores in the opening period put the Big Red in a comfortable position.

Plymouth wasted little time getting on the board. It took them just three plays to go 47

yards following the opening kickoff. Richard Cunningham capped off the drive with a 38-yard scamper to paydirt with just 1:01 gone in the game. Mike McKenzie converted for a 7-0 lead.

Less than two minutes later, they were on the board again as Tom Baker raced 38 yards after getting a lateral from Chad McGinness, who came up with an interception. Again, McKenzie converted for a 14-0 lead at the 9:04 mark.

Another interception resulted in the third score of the period by the hosts.

One play later, Rodney Hampton fired a strike to Baker for a 47-yard touchdown and a 20-0 lead.

Plymouth added a pair of touchdowns in the second period, both coming as a result of interceptions. In fact, they had five thefts in the game.

Darren Branham scored both touchdowns in the second quarter. First, he hauled in a 7-

yard pass from Hampton. Then, he tallied off an interception.

The lone score of the second half, also a result of a St. Paul interception, was scored by McKenzie on a five-yard run.

The five interceptions, plus two lost fumbles, plagued the St. Paul cause from the outset.

Black River 13 South Central 0

GREENWICH — Rod Haswell scored twice on runs of seven and one yards to lead Black River to its second straight win.

The Pirates, 2-4-1 overall, got on the board in the second period when Haswell, who had 146 yards in 21 carries, went seven yards to the end zone and Dave Savick converted.

South Central, 2-5, was limited to 150 yards total offense with Mike Tuttle being the leading ground gainer with 50 yards in 15 carries.

Tiffin Col. 17 Norwalk 13

NORWALK — Norwalk, fresh from its first victory of the season (28-13 win over Bucyrus), held the lead on two different occasions.

The Truckers, 1-6 overall and 1-3 in the league, went ahead on their first possession of the game as James Lover rambled 70 yards for the first score of the game. Steve Risner booted the conversion for a 7-0 lead with 10:16 left in the opening quarter.

Lover finished as the game's top rusher with 195 yards in 27 carries.

The score remained the same until a flurry of points were scored in the final 3:44 of the half.

Tiffin, 4-3 overall, knotted the score at 7-7 when Jeff Greer scored on a 16-yard run and Mark Hoar booted the conversion with 3:44 left before intermission.

But, it didn't remain tied long as Jon Nutter returned the ensuing kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown and the Truckers led