

# Big plays spark Pirate comeback over New London

By ED FOX  
Staff Writer

Perkins battled back from adversity twice Friday, utilizing the big play enroute to a 20-6 win over stubborn New London.

But, the Pirates have consistently played well in season openers under head coach Jim Stauffer.

Friday's win was the sixth straight season-opening win for the Pirates during the eight-year tenure of Stauffer.

The Pirates, 16-3-1 the past two years, appeared headed for a score on their first possession only to cough the ball up inside the New London 30 with senior, linebacker Bret Cooke pouncing on the loose pigskin for the visitors.

Neither team could score in the opening period.

But, it didn't take the Wildcats long to hit paydirt in the second period.

Following a punt by the Pirates' Mark Ambos, the Wildcats took over at their own 45.

And, it took just one play to cover the 55 yards with Ken Ross breaking through the Pirate defense on a counter play at the 10:07 mark. Steve Kozel's attempt for the PAT was blocked by Greg Hanchin but the 'Cats had a 6-0 lead.

The first of three crucial plays for the Pirates did not occur until the final seconds of the first half.

Late in the half, Kozel dropped back to punt from the 'Cats 19-yard-line. The Pirates put on a strong rush and junior end Tom Brammer broke through to block the kick.

And, with just 16 seconds left before halftime, the Pirates were in business at the NL 17.

An illegal procedure penalty set the hosts back to the 22.

But, that set the stage for the

first score of the season by the Pirates.

Ambos, in his first varsity start at quarterback as a sophomore, found 6-3, 190-pound Gary Castle streaking to the end zone on the right side and the two hooked up for the tying touchdown with just 10 seconds left on the clock. Ambos also booted the point after and the Pirates had the lead for good, 7-6.

"This team is an emotional group because of its youth and inexperience. But, they sure showed a lot to me by coming back twice in the first half. First, we had that opening drive killed by a fumble. Then, they scored on a big play. Still, our kids refused to die and battled back," noted Stauffer.

"We call that pass that went for a touchdown an 80 fake and anyone who tells you that basketball and football don't go together is crazy. We just tell Gary to go up like he's trying for a rebound. They (NL) had one-on-one coverage on him and he just went up and took control.

"But, don't forget the block. Without Brammer's effort in blocking the punt, we wouldn't have been in position to score like we were. We were going for the block all along and it just happened we were able to get someone through," said Stauffer.

Field position played a key role in the Pirates reaching the end zone again on their first possession of the second half.

The Wildcats were forced to punt from deep in their own territory after failing to pick up a first down to begin the third quarter. And, the Pirates took over at the 'Cats 35.

Six plays later, junior Chester Dixie went 32 yards up the middle on a draw play to cap off the six-play, 35-yard drive at the

5:46 mark and Ambos was again perfect on the PAT for a 14-6 Pirate lead.

Still, the visitors were very much in the game until the final minutes of the game.

With 4:10 left to play, Perkins took over at its own 32. Dixie picked up three yards on the first play. Then, Ambos went to his left on a keeper. Near the sideline, it appeared the 5-11, 165-pound signalcaller was going down with numerous Wildcats around him. But, suddenly he broke from the pack and scooted down the sideline for a 65-yard touchdown gallop and a 20-6 Pirate lead at the 2:55 mark. The PAT attempt failed.

"Field position certainly was a key factor and Perkins' kicking game put us in a hole," said

New London mentor Bob Hasseman.

"We were able to contain them (Perkins) for the most part with the exception of those two big plays. That blocked punt really hurt. Also, we had a dropped pass during a drive when we were behind, 14-6, and that hurt, too. But, we'll get better and better as the season goes along," added Hasseman.

Last year, the Pirates featured a strong running game and it was again evident with the likes of Dixie, Harvey and Ambos who helped the winners gain 236 yards on the ground. Dixie led the way with 85 yards in 10 carries while Harvey, just a sophomore, had 80 in 18 carries and Ambos added 50 on five carries.

"Those three are all good kids. We're going to make some mental mistakes because we're young and inexperienced. But, they're going to learn from those mistakes. I thought our defense did an adequate job and our specialty teams did very well. But, we've still got a long way to go and I'm sure Bucyrus will be even a tougher test for us next week," said Stauffer who had seven of the 22 starting positions filled by sophomores.

New London, 2-7-1 last year, had just 84 yards rushing with Ross accounting for much of the offense with 68 yards on seven carries, most coming on counter plays. Fullback Jeff Romine chipped in with eight carries for 35 yards.

Next week, Perkins entertains

Bucyrus while New London goes to South Central for a non-conference game among Firelands Conference teams.

### SCORE BY QUARTERS

New London	0	6	0	6
Perkins	0	7	6	20
Scoring: New London — Ken Ross, 55 run. (kick failed).				
Perkins — Gary Castle, 22 pass from Mark Ambos. (Ambos, kick).				
Perkins — Chester Dixie, 32 run. (Ambos, kick).				
Perkins — Mark Ambos, 65 run. (kick failed).				

### STATISTICS

	NL	Per
First Downs (total)	5	12
net yards rushing	31	236
passes attempted	6	9
passes completed	3	3
had intercepted	0	0
net yards passing	34	31
Total Net Yards Gained	118	267
Fumbles (number)	4	4
ball lost	1	3
Penalties (number)	3	5
yards penalized	32	41

## Port Clinton 11 Genoa 0

PORT CLINTON — The Port Clinton Redskins stopped Genoa dead in its tracks Friday, allowing the visitors no yards rushing in 23 carries for an 11-0 victory.

The Redskins held Genoa to just two first downs, and the Comets got only 20 yards in total offense, all of it passing on seven of nine completions.

Port Clinton, meanwhile, rushed for 260 yards as Paul Cantu rushed for 98 yards in 19 carries and Dave Warnke had 81 yards in 12 carries to lead the Redskin attack.

After a scoreless first quarter, Port Clinton scored in the second period on a 16-yard run by Warnke, with the extra point attempt missing the mark. But the Redskins got a safety when the Genoa center snapped a ball over his punter's head and out of the endzone.

PC finished off the scoring with 4:37 left in the game on a 25-yard field goal by Jim Wadzinski.

Coach Don Drusbacky's club will travel to Bellevue, 1-0, next Friday for another non-conference game.

### STATISTICS

	PC	Gen
First Downs (total)	0	2
net yards rushing	260	0
passes attempted	9	9
passes completed	3	7
had intercepted	0	2
net yards passing	19	20
Total Net Yards Gained	279	20
Fumbles (number)	3	1
ball lost	1	1
Penalties (number)	11	2
yards penalized	125	20

### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Genoa	0	0	0	0
Port Clinton	0	8	0	3
Scoring: Port Clinton — Dave Warnke, 16 run. (run failed).				
Port Clinton — Jim Wadzinski, 25 yard field goal.				

## Lakota 32 Clyde 14

LAKOTA — Clyde running back Rich Harrah had a sensational game in a losing cause Friday, rushing for 199 yards in 30 carries in the Fliers 32-14 loss to Lakota.

Harrah also scored both of Clyde's touchdowns and two extra points. He broke free for a 43-yard scoring run in the second quarter, then went 12 yards for a touchdown in the final period. After his second touchdown, he ran for the two-point conversion.

Scott Harrington also had a good game for Clyde, rushing for 83 yards in 9 carries as the Fliers put together a 280-yard rushing performance.

But while Clyde was able to move the ball with no problems, hanging on to it was another matter entirely.

The Fliers fumbled the ball seven times and lost four of them, and had three passes intercepted for a total of seven turnovers lost for the game.

So despite outgaining the hosts by over 100 yards, the Fliers dropped to 0-1 as Lakota capitalized on the mistakes, including returning one of the fumbles for a touchdown in the second quarter.

### STATISTICS

	Cly	Lak
First Downs (total)	15	11
net yards rushing	280	130
passes attempted	14	10
passes completed	5	3
had intercepted	3	0
net yards passing	41	46
Total Net Yards Gained	321	176
Fumbles (number)	7	1
ball lost	4	0
Penalties (number)	2	4
yards penalized	30	40

### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Clyde	0	6	8	0
Lakota	6	14	12	0
Scoring: Lakota — Chad Hollinger, 12 yard pass from Mike Miller. (blocked kick).				
Clyde — Rick Harrah, 43 run. (kick failed).				
Lakota — Mike Miller, 4 run. (Chris Chalfin, from Miller).				
Lakota — Greg Richard, 11 fumble return. (kick failed).				
Lakota — Hollinger, 24 pass from Miller. (pass failed).				
Lakota — Chalfin, 35 pass intercepted. (pass failed).				
Clyde — Harrah, 12 run. (Harrah run).				

## Seneca East cashes in on 9 Plymouth errors

PLYMOUTH — Two teams coming off their best seasons in history clash Friday night, and it turned out to be a one-sided affair.

Seneca East took advantage of 9 turnovers by defending Firelands Conference champion Plymouth to claim an easy 27-0 triumph over the hosts.

The Tigers, who began football in 1972, posted a 7-3 record last fall. The 7 wins marked the most ever in a single season.

Plymouth finished with a 10-1 record in grabbing the conference title for the first time, and the Big Red avenged their lone loss by knocking off 1982 champion Edison in the Firelands championship game.

Bruce Herman plunged in from the one yard line with just 40 seconds remaining in the first period to open up the scoring.

The Trojans had recovered a fumble on the Big Red four yard line and three plays later they scored.

Neither team could put together an offensive pattern for the remainder of the first half thus giving Seneca East a 6-0 lead at the intermission.

The Tigers scored twice in the third stanza. The first came following an interception with Jim Reesman crashing in from the one at the 7:29 mark. The drive took just seven plays and covered four yards. Lars Johannsen made it 13-0 with the point from placement.

With 3:21 left, Reesman hooked up with Tim Bowerman for a

23 yard scoring aerial and with Johannsen splitting the uprights it was 20-0.

Once again a Plymouth turnover, a pass interception, led to the drive that covered 78 yards in six plays.

The final score of the evening came with 7:41 left in the game as Herman scored his second six-pointer on a three yard run. Johannsen converted making it 27-0.

The drive, the best of the night for the Tigers, covered 55 yards in 10 plays and once again came following an interception.

Rick Depinet was the leading ball carrier for the night as the 163 pound junior toted the football 20 times for 133 yards.

For the evening the Tigers picked up 194 yards on the ground and 66 in the air for a total of 219.

### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Seneca East	6	0	14	7
Plymouth	0	0	0	0
Scoring: Seneca East — Bruce Herman, 1 run. (kick failed).				
Seneca East — Jim Reesman, 1 run. (Lars Johannsen, kick).				
Seneca East — Tim Bowerman, 23 pass from Reesman. (Johannsen, kick).				
Seneca East — Herman, 3 run. (Johannsen, kick).				

### STATISTICS

	SE	P
First Downs (total)	15	8
net yards rushing	194	15
passes attempted	12	27
passes completed	3	12
had intercepted	3	7
net yards passing	66	113
Total Net Yards Gained	260	128
Fumbles (number)	2	3
ball lost	1	2
Penalties (number)	6	11
yards penalized	60	90

## Defense steals spotlight as Western nips Columbia, 8-6

COLUMBIA STATION — Expecting a strong offensive thrust, the defensive units of Western Reserve and Columbia stole the show as the Roughriders pulled out a narrow 8-6 opening night victory.

Neither team dented the scoreboard in the first 24 minutes.

Western scored first as with 7:40 on the clock in the third period 179-pound junior halfback, Shannon Wolfe, raced 55 yards to paydirt. Greg Mullins then hit Jerry Parker for the two-point conversion.

In the final period Columbia tallied its lone six-pointer with Phil Mevitz collecting a 19-yard pass from Bryan Blondeau. The equalizer on a run failed, making it 8-6.

Western spent most of the evening using its ground game as they picked up 147 yards (144

by Wolfe) in 43 carries. The Roughrider defense held Columbia to just 55 yards in 27 rushes and also limited them to just 66 yards thru the air.

### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Western Reserve	0	0	8	0
Columbia	0	0	6	6
Scoring: Western Reserve — Shannon Wolfe, 55 run. (Jerry Parker, pass from Greg Mullins).				
Columbia — Phil Mevitz, 19 pass from Bryan Blondeau. (run failed).				

### STATISTICS

	WR	Col
First Downs (total)	7	6
by rushing	7	3
by passing	0	3
Rushes (total)	43	27
net yards rushing	175	55
passes attempted	2	16
passes completed	0	5
had intercepted	1	2
net yards passing	0	66
Total plays	45	43
Total Net Yards Gained	175	121
Fumbles (number)	2	3
ball lost	1	3
Penalties (number)	0	4
yards penalized	0	44

## Margaretta starts season like last year: with loss to Upper

UPPER SANDUSKY — For the second straight year, Margaretta has lost a close battle with Northern Ohio League school Upper Sandusky.

After dropping a 23-21 decision to the Rams last year, the Polar Bears fell by a 17-13 count Friday in this year's opener.

Margaretta, the defending co-champions of the Sandusky Bay Conference, scored first on a 53-yard pass play from quarterback Jim Bodey to tight end Brian Stimmel at the 9:54 mark in the first quarter. Bodey then added the extra point.

Upper tied the score on a 33-yard touchdown pass and the PAT was good, knotting the score at 7-7 at halftime.

The third quarter was scoreless, but Upper Sandusky scored less than two minutes into the fourth quarter and kicked the extra point was successful,

giving the Rams a 14-7 lead.

Adding a 33-yard field goal with 2:29 remaining in the game, Uppertook a 17-7 lead, but Margaretta roared right down the field to get back into the game.

Bodey tossed a one-yard pass to halfback Greg Wiedenheft for a touchdown to make the score 17-13. The Bears tried a two-point conversion pass after the touchdown, but it failed and Margaretta didn't threaten again.

Bodey, who was a wide receiver last year but was switched to quarterback this year, had a good night passing. He completed 10 of 17 passes for 187 yards and had none intercepted. His favorite target was Stimmel, who caught five passes for 97 yards.

Wiedenheft caught two passes for 59 yards, and carried the ball

9 times for 67 yards. Upper was led by running back Max Gerber, who gained 191 yards in 31 carries.

Margaretta travels to Edison, 0-1, next Saturday.

### STATISTICS

	M	US
First Downs (total)	11	12
net yards rushing	93	267
passes attempted	17	4
passes completed	10	1
had intercepted	0	0
net yards passing	187	33
Total Net Yards Gained	280	300
Fumbles (number)	2	1
ball lost	1	0
Penalties (number)	4	8
yards penalized	50	60

### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Margaretta	0	7	0	6
Upper Sandusky	0	7	0	17
Scoring: Margaretta — Brian Stimmel, 53 pass from Jim Bodey. (Bodey, kick).				
Upper Sandusky — Karl Frey, 33 yard pass from Bryan Niederkoeh. (Jim Bailey, kick).				
Upper Sandusky — Niederkoeh, 1 yard run. (Bailey, kick).				
Upper Sandusky — Bailey, 33 field goal.				
Margaretta — Greg Wiedenheft, 51 yard pass from Bodey. (pass failed).				

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