

Huron survives Redskin throwing blitz for win

By STEVE SADLER
Staff Writer

HURON — In Tony Munafa's dream, Friday's game wouldn't have turned out as well.

The Huron coach watched as Port Clinton missed on a pair of two-point conversions in the fourth quarter, allowing the Tigers to escape with a 27-25 Homecoming victory over the Redskins.

After watching Port Clinton quarterback Franz Messner pass for nearly 300 yards against his Huron defense, Munafa just shook his head at his good fortune.

"I wouldn't have dreamed in a month of Sundays that they wouldn't get that last two-point conversion," Munafa said. "They were moving the ball. They really had the hot hand, and for them to miss two of them..."

Huron improved its record to 2-2 overall and 1-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference, while Port Clinton dropped its third straight game and is 1-3 and 0-1.

"We had every opportunity in the world," Port Clinton coach Don Drusbacky said. "I few things just didn't go our way."

The Redskins trailed 21-13 entering the fourth quarter, but quickly changed that by polishing off a 10-play, 83-yard drive on a quarterback sneak by Messner from one-yard out. Trailing 21-19, PC tried a pass play for the two-point conversion, but Huron's Brian Steinmetz batted down the ball in the endzone.

Huron then steamed down the field, going 70 yards in nine plays, the last being a 31-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Scott Chapman to Tim Esposito with 7:25 remaining. With a 27-19 lead, a one-point PAT kick would have given the Tigers a nine-point lead, forcing Port Clinton to score twice to win.

But Munafa elected to go for

two, and the pass was incomplete, making it possible for Port Clinton to tie the game with a touchdown and two point conversion.

"Mathematically, it wasn't a good decision," Munafa said. "But we are having so much trouble getting the one-point. I figured it was 50-50 that we would get the two-point play."

Huron had successfully kicked the extra point after its first touchdown, but missed on its second. They connected for a two-point pass after a touchdown in the third quarter.

Port Clinton took the ensuing kickoff and drove to the Huron 10 yard line in seven plays, with Messner hitting Tom Weldon on pass plays covering 16, 9 and 21, and Tim Wight for 12. But on first-and-10 at the Huron 10, the Redskins were flagged for delay of game, and were moved back to the 15 yard line. On the next play, Huron's Mark Braidech picked off a pass and returned it to the Huron 25 with 3:52 remaining.

"That delay of game penalty made us run a different pass pattern to get the 15 yards," Drusbacky said. "And the next play was the interception."

Ironically, the Redskins were penalized just twice in the game, but both were costly. Just before the end of the first half, trailing 13-7, Messner hit Wight on a 20-yard touchdown pass, but it was called back on an illegal motion call. After an incompletion, Huron linebacker Todd Pfahl stormed through on a blitz to sack Messner, and the Tigers ran out the first half clock.

PC finished with two penalties for 10 yards. But how they hurt.

"It's got to the point where everytime we get a touchdown I look for the flag," Drusbacky said, noting the Redskins had two touchdowns called back in a loss to Bellevue.

But Huron, hoping to run out

the clock and preserve the victory, was forced to punt, with PC taking over at its own 42 with 2:11 remaining. On the first play, Messner hit Weldon on a bomb that covered 58 yards for a touchdown. Weldon was nearly brought down at the 10 yard line, but broke a pair of tackles for the score.

On the two-point try, with 1:51 remaining, Messner barely overthrew the 6-foot-4 Wight in the corner of the endzone.

Port Clinton then hurt itself with a series of mental mistakes.

The kicker was supposed to try an onside kick, but hit a regular kick instead, with Huron taking over at the 34 yard line. With three timeouts left, Drusbacky told his defense to call one after each play. But before the Tigers even ran their first play — with the clock stopped because of change of possession — a Redskin player called a timeout.

"I told them to call a timeout after each play," Drusbacky said. "We needed to stop them after three plays, call timeout three times, and force them to punt. But a senior calls a timeout. And a senior goofed up the kick. How do you figure?"

"I'm going to think about it on the way home and decide what to say to the team about the mental mistakes. We outplayed them and still lost the game," Drusbacky said.

Huron had scored first in the game on a two-yard keeper by Chapman that finished off a nine-play, 59-yard drive that opened the game. Bill Auer kicked the extra point. Port Clinton then tied the game midway through the second period on a three-yard pass from Messner to Wight, and Messner made the kick to tie the score at 7-7.

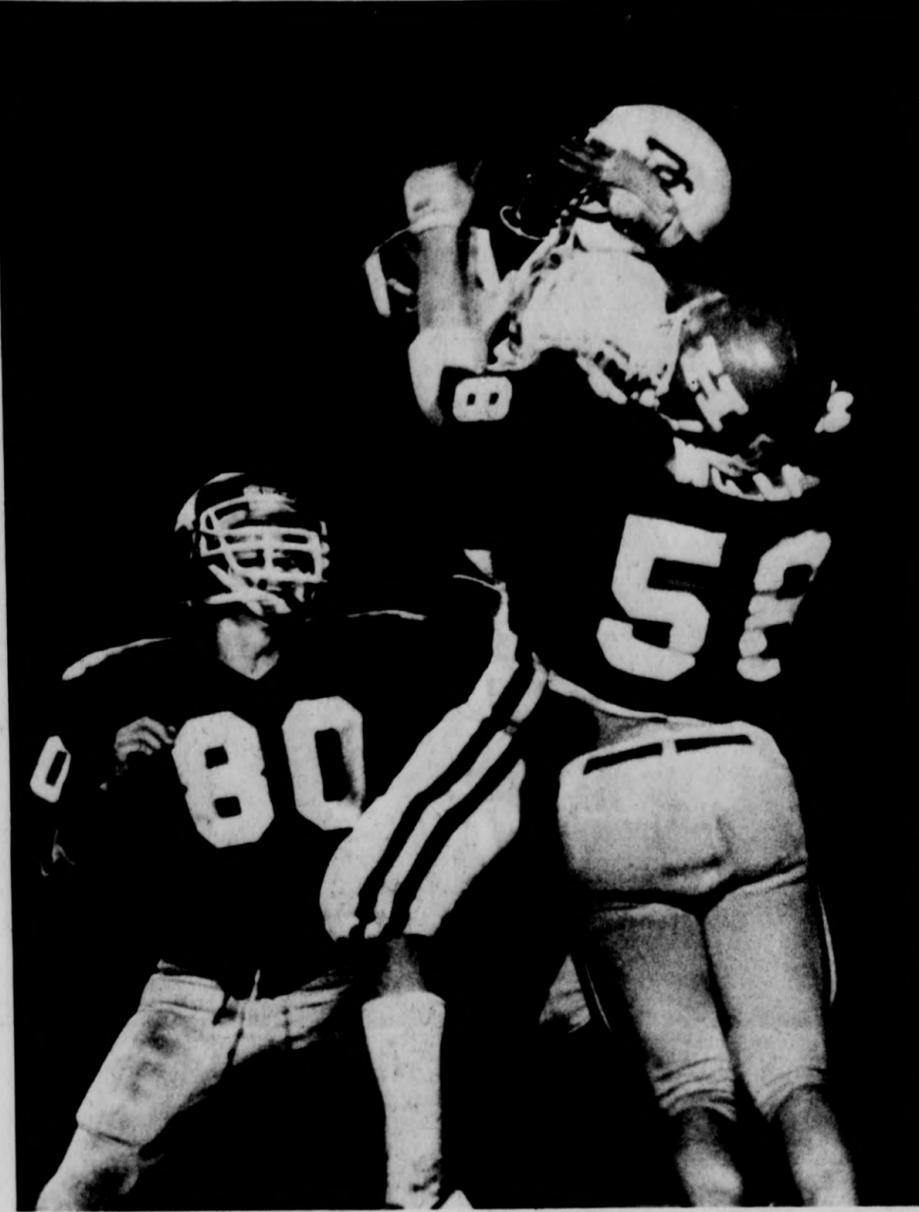
Huron went ahead 13-7 on another Chapman keeper with 3:53 left in the half. The touchdown was set up by a fine 32-yard run by halfback John Majoy.

The Tigers' third quarter touchdown was a gift. After Esposito hit a fine punt that backed Port Clinton up to its own seven yard line, the Redskins fumbled and Sam Passafiume recovered at the six. Two plays later, Chapman hit Pfahl on a three-yard TD pass. The same two connected for the two point play, making it 21-13.

Both quarterbacks had excellent nights. Messner hit 17 of 28 passes for 262 yards, while Chapman completed 16 of 26 for 162 yards. Led by Majoy, Huron rushed for 192 yards.

"The fans got their money's worth out of this one," Munafa said. "I felt the last team to have the ball was going to win. My gosh, I hope we don't face another quarterback and a set of receivers like they've got. He's an accurate thrower, and they've got the right combination of receivers. Offensively, we've got to be pleased. Anytime you can score 27 points, who've got to be happy. We had a better balance today."

"But they say the game isn't over until the fat lady sings, and I was sure happy to hear her at the end," Munafa said.



Register photo — STEVE LOWRY

Port Clinton's Tim Wight splits between two Huron defenders, Eric Wolff (59) and Mark Braidech (80) for a catch during Friday's game at Huron. Wight had a fine night, but the Tigers survived for a 27-25 victory over the Redskins.

FIRELANDS CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

3 teams remain undefeated

It was a case of the rich getting richer and the poor staying poor in the opening night of the Firelands Conference football season Friday.

Three teams placed their undefeated records on the line, and all three posted victories.

Western Reserve and Black River, crowned co-champions in 1984 because they won division titles and a playoff game couldn't be held because of Western participation in the playoffs, followed different formats in chalking up their 4th straight victories.

The Roughriders notched their 14th straight regular season win by turning back stubborn Ashland Crestview, 20-12.

Meanwhile, Black River had no problems crushing hapless Norwalk St. Paul, 40-0, for its 4th conquest.

Plymouth also moved to 4-0 by defeating winless New London in a wild thriller, 29-24.

The fourth unbeaten team, Mapleton (3-0) is at Edison tonight in another conference opener and the Chargers are coming off the upset win over Huron last week, 16-14.

In the only game not involving an unbeaten team, Monroeville edged South Central in a defensive battle, 11-8.

At Ashland, the win was the 14th regular season game in a row for the Roughriders as they began their quest of the crown co-held last season with Black River.

Using a strong ground attack (206 yards) and an effective defensive performance (33 yards allowed on the ground) the Roughriders under ninth year coach, Dick Taylor, jumped into the lead midway thru the opening stanza on a nine yard run by Shannon Wolfe.

The Cougars knotted the game at the 5:52 mark of the second quarter with Mark Hershiser and Jim Anderson teaming up on a 45-yard pass play. The two-point conversion failed keeping it deadlocked at 6-6.

With time running out in the first half, Western was able to regain the lead on a 14-yard run by Scott Keith with just 53 seconds on the clock. Once again the kick failed making it 12-6 at the break.

Crestview then tied the contest for the second time with Frank Danals plunging in from

the one just 2:36 into the second half. Once again the chance for the Cougars to take the lead failed from placement.

Western regained the lead for good as Greg Mullins fired a 22 yard scoring pass to Brennan Burke. Mullins and Wolfe teamed up for the two-point conversion giving the blue and white a 20-12 lead with 5:29 left in the game.

Wolfe was the games leading ground gainer as the senior running back tallied 109 yards in 25 carries. He received strong support from Keith who carried for 74 yards in 20 attempts.

Matt Bernhard, the Cougar quarterback, had a strong second half in the passing department as he hit 4-of-9 for 121 yards. Crestview finished the night with 174 of their 207 total yards thru the air.

Western Reserve will now prepare for their biggest encounter of the season as they host Black River (4-0) Saturday afternoon. The Pirates shared the league honors last year with the Roughriders by capturing the Southern Division.

At Monroeville, Lee Smith's 37-yard field goal missed with two seconds remaining, allowing the Eagles to defeat South Central.

The Trojans led at halftime 8-0 following a 62-yard touchdown run by Alan Beekman in the first quarter. John Vogel ran for two points.

But Monroeville finally got untracked offense and scored in the third period on a 21-yard field goal by Chris Pheiffer with 8:16 left in the quarter. The Eagles went ahead with 8:13 remaining in the game when Kevin Smith scored a touchdown from five yards out. Smith ran for two points, giving Monroeville an 11-8 lead.

South Central moved within range for Lee Smith to try the long field goal that could have tied the score, but the try was missed.

The Trojans, 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the Firelands Conference, had the better of all the statistics, including 383 yards in total offense to 178 for Monroeville, now 2-2 and 1-0.

South Central had 18 first downs to nine for the Eagles, and had an edge in rushing yards, 216-103, and in passing yards, 167-75. But the Trojans

also had two punts blocked.

Beekman finished with 101 yards in five pass catches and 85 yards in 10 rushes, while Craig White had 87 yards in 17 carries for South Central.

Smith led Monroeville with 45 yards in 13 carries.

Black River showed Norwalk St. Paul no mercy in keeping the Flyers off the scoreboard in coach Joe Widman's first four games.

The Pirates built momentum by adding more points in each quarter as the game progressed.

The hosts had a 6-0 lead early, marching to paydirt the first time in possession and featuring Jim Foky's 23-yard scoring jaunt.

Black River added 7 points in the third period for a 13-0 halftime lead as Chad McComas hurled a 53-yard touchdown pass to tight end Larry Clifford. It was the only pass completion for the Pirates in the game.

Dave Savick booted the PAT. Black River added 13 points in the third quarter and followed with 14 in the final 12 minutes.

St. Paul, trying desperately to get its first points of the season and down by 13 points early in the second half, attempted to gamble for its own 18 on fourth down. A pass fell short of the receiver and Black River took over.

Four plays later, Greg Chanel bolted 4 yards into the end zone and it was 19-0.

Three plays after the ensuing kickoff, Savick picked off a Flyers' pass and raced 16 yards to the end zone, then kicked the PAT for a 26-0 bulge.

The romp continued in the last quarter.

Savick faked a punt and instead headed for the goalline and had an apparent 41-yard touchdown. However, while raising the ball going in the end zone, Savick fumbled. A teammate recovered at the 4 and Larry Ensign plunged the last yard on third down. Savick's kick hiked the lead to 33-0.

The final score came after the Flyers yielded the ball at their own 21. Steve Trzcinski rambled 8 yards for the touchdown and Savick again kicked the extra point.

Oddly enough, the Flyers had one more first down (12-11) than the winners.

Plymouth has already surpassed its win total of 1984, and

the new ruling on kickoffs played a key role in the Big Red's come-from-behind win over winless New London.

Down 24-17 late in the fourth period, the Big Red scored twice in less than 3 minutes to claim their fourth win.

Plymouth narrowed the margin to 24-23 with 4:30 left in the game when Billy Castle dashed 4 yards to paydirt. However, Randy Meyers' kick failed and New London still had the one-point lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, the ball went out of bounds at the New London 15. The Wildcats had an option, take possession at that point or force Plymouth to kick again from its own 35 (after a five-yard penalty).

In the past, New London would have taken over at its own 40. The Wildcats were unable to get out of the hole and gave Plymouth a golden opportunity to strike again, and that is exactly what coach Dick Roll's inspired team did.

It was a battle of contrasting offenses.

Plymouth used the passing game effectively as Keene clicked on 13 of 32 attempts for 243 yards, including the two strikes to Hall. The first covered 63 yards in the opening minutes of the final period to cut New London's lead to 18-16. Meyers' kicked out the deficit to one at 18-17.

New London relied heavily on the running of Ken Ross who scored twice on runs of 15 and 21 yards in a span of 4 minutes of the second half. Ross finished with 172 yards on 25 carries and the Wildcats had 203 rushing yards for the game.

There were 5 touchdowns in all in less than 10 minutes time in the fourth period.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Western Reserve	6	0	8	20
Crestview	0	6	6	12
Scoring: Western Reserve — Shannon Wolfe, 9 run. (kick failed).				
Clyde — Jim Anderson, 45 pass from Mark Hershiser. (pass failed).				
Western Reserve — Scott Keith, 14 run. (kick failed).				
Clyde — Frank Danals, 1 run. (kick failed).				
Western Reserve — Brennan Burke, 22 pass from Greg Mullins. (Wolfe, pass from Mullins).				

STATISTICS

First Downs (total)	18	9
by rushing	11	5
by passing	5	3
by penalty	2	1
Rushes (total)	43	32
net yards rushing	216	103
passes attempted	19	9
passes completed	10	4
had intercepted	2	4
net yards passing	167	75
Total Plays	62	41
Total Net Yards Gained	383	178
Fumbles (number)	6	3
ball lost	3	1
Penalties (number)	5	2
yards penalized	65	30

passes attempted	11	15
passes completed	4	6
had intercepted	0	2
net yards passing	49	174
Total Net Yards Gained	255	207
Fumbles (number)	0	1
ball lost	0	0
Penalties (number)	11	7
yards penalized	75	60

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Norwalk St. Paul	0	0	0	0
Black River	6	7	13	14
Scoring: Black River — Jim Foky, 23 run. (kick failed).				
Black River — Larry Clifford, 53 pass from Chad McComas. (Dave Savick, kick).				
Black River — Greg Chanel, 4 run. (kick failed).				
Black River — Savick, 16 pass interception. (Savick, kick).				
Black River — Larry Ensign, 1 run. (Savick, kick).				
Black River — Steve Trzcinski, 8 run. (Savick, kick).				

STATISTICS

First Downs (total)	BR	NSP
by rushing	12	11
by passing	11	1
by penalty	1	1
net yards rushing	136	217
passes attempted	12	5
passes completed	2	1
had intercepted	1	0
net yards passing	22	53
Total Net Yards Gained	158	270
Fumbles (number)	2	1
ball lost	0	0
Penalties (number)	7	2
yards penalized	45	20

SCORE BY QUARTERS

New London	3	0	7	14	24
Plymouth	0	10	0	19	29
Scoring: New London — Dave Hartley, 21 yard field goal.					
Plymouth — Billy Castle, 1 run. (Randy Meyers, kick).					
Plymouth — Meyers, 21 yard field goal.					
Plymouth — Ken Ross, 15 run. (Hartley, kick).					
New London — Ross, 21 run. (Hartley, kick).					
Plymouth — Steve Hall, 63 pass from Troy Keene. (Meyers, kick).					
New London — Brian Oney, 21 pass from Dan Cole. (Hartley, kick).					
Plymouth — Hall, 4 run. (kick failed).					
Plymouth — Hall, 16 pass from Keene. (kick failed).					

STATISTICS

First Downs (total)	NL	Ply
by rushing	14	15
net yards rushing	203	71
passes attempted	9	13
passes completed	3	3
had intercepted	0	0
net yards passing	45	243
Total Net Yards Gained	248	314
Fumbles (number)	3	3
ball lost	1	2
Penalties (number)	9	8
yards penalized	56	76

SCORE BY QUARTERS

South Central	8	0	0	0
Monroeville	0	0	3	8
Scoring: South Central — Alan Beekman, 62 run. (John Vogel, run).				
Monroeville — Chris Pheiffer, 21 yard field goal.				
Monroeville — Kevin Smith, 5 run. (Smith, run).				

STATISTICS

First Downs (total)	SC	Monr
by rushing	11	5
by passing	5	3
by penalty	2	1
Rushes (total)	43	32
net yards rushing	216	103
passes attempted	19	9
passes completed	10	4
had intercepted	2	4
net yards passing	167	75
Total Plays	62	41
Total Net Yards Gained	383	178
Fumbles (number)	6	3
ball lost	3	1
Penalties (number)	5	2
yards penalized	65	30

STATISTICS

First Downs (total)	PC	Huro
by rushing	22	15
by passing	7	5
by penalty	11	10
by total	4	0
Rushes (total)	17	33
net yards rushing	84	197
passes attempted	28	26
passes completed	17	16
had intercepted	1	0
net yards passing	262	162
Total Plays	45	59
Total Net Yards Gained	346	359
Fumbles (number)	1	1
ball lost	1	0
Penalties (number)	2	8
yards penalized	10	77

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Port Clinton	0	7	6	12	25
Huron	7	6	8	6	27
Scoring: Huron — Scott Chapman, 2 run. (Bill Auer, kick).					
Port Clinton — Tim Wight, 3 pass from Franz Messner. (Messner, kick).					
Huron — Chapman, 3 run. (kick failed).					
Port Clinton — Tom Weldon, 14 pass from Messner. (kick failed).					
Huron — Todd Pfahl, 6 pass from Scott Chapman. (Pfahl, pass from Chapman).					
Port Clinton — Messner, 1 run. (pass failed).					
Huron — Tim Esposito, 31 pass from Chapman. (pass failed).					
Port Clinton — Weldon, 58 pass from Messner. (pass failed).					

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS

Perkins 3, Clyde 2
Singles — Angie Maines (C) d. Michele Urban, 6-3, 6-0;