

Saints upset Elyria

ELYRIA — It didn't take long for the first upset of the Erie Shore Conference season. It came on opening night.

Lorain Southview came from behind with a clutch drive in the fourth period to hand host Elyria an 18-17 loss Friday.

The Pioneers, rated one of the top teams in Northeastern Ohio, had 17-12 lead until Paul Jones plunged one yard to lift the Saints to their second win of the season.

Elyria extended perennial state power Canton McKinley last week before falling, 10-8. The Pioneers are also 2-2.

The hosts gained 334 yards in total offense, including 257 on the ground. The winners managed 140 rushing and 181 yards overall, recovered two Elyria fumbles and also picked off two Elyria passes.

Tony Godbolt ran 36 and 4 yards for Elyria scores which were sandwiched between an 80-yard fumble recovery return by Southview's Eland Robinson in the second period.

Midview 7, King 3

LORAIN — Surprising Midview picked up its third win in four outings with a 7-3 victory over Lorain Admiral King in the Erie Shore Conference opener for both teams Friday.

The Middies had only one win in 1988.

King, now 0-1 in the league and 1-3 overall, opened the scoring with a 21-yard field goal from Rick Sykuta in the first quarter, but Midview battled back with a 5-yard touchdown run from Sam Spain in the second period with Chris Yates adding the extra point.

The Middies piled up 152 yards total offense with 118 yards on the ground and 34 through the air. King gained 112 yards rushing, but hit only 2 of 10 passes for 14 yards.

Both teams return to league play Friday with Midview hosting Lorain Senior and Admiral King visiting Sandusky.

Seneca East 28 Danbury 3

DANBURY — Seneca East halted its two-game skid by whipping winless Danbury, 28-3, in non-conference action Friday.

The Tigers rolled up 290 yards on the ground while limiting the Lakers to just 106 yards total offense.

David Platt got the first of two touchdowns with a 6-yard run late in the first quarter, with Joe Keefer bulging over from the one with 6:36 left in the second to open up a 12-0 lead.

The Tiger defense then trapped Danbury quarterback Peter Tietjen in the end zone for a safety, with Platt racing in from the 37 after the free kick.

Eric Werling hit paydirt for Seneca East with six minutes left in the third quarter on a 30-yard run and Platt ended the team's scoring by booting the extra point.

Brian Sauvey booted a 23-yard field with three minutes left in the game to get Danbury on the scoreboard.



Register photo — ERIC KAISER

Willard's Jason Ratliff hauls in a 33-yard pass from Matt Harwood during Friday's Northern Ohio League opener at Shelby. Ratliff was on the receiving end of three passes for 56 yards as the Crimson Flashes prevailed by a 21-0 score, keeping their record perfect at 4-0.

Willard blanks Shelby

Upper Sandusky hands Bellevue first loss

While Willard and Galion remained unbeaten, Bellevue was not as fortunate as the 46th Northern Ohio League campaign got underway Friday night.

Willard, 4-0, scored a second straight shutout over Shelby by a 21-0 score while Galion, 4-0, rolled past Crawford County rival Bucyrus, 29-7.

Defending champion Tiffin Columbian, stopped by Findlay and Fostoria the last two weeks, opened league play with a convincing 37-0 romp over Norwalk.

And, Upper Sandusky continued its hex on Bellevue, knocking the latter from the perfect ranks, 10-0.

"One of our goals is to get a shutout and it's nice to get one against Shelby for the second straight year," said Willard head coach Terry King, who watched his team blank the Whippets last year, 23-0.

"We've said before the NOL will be rugged and we've got to come out and get teams," added King.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Flashes grabbed momentum after Shelby fumbled and senior Jason Ratliff recovered for Willard at its own 14-yard line.

And, they proceeded to march down the field on an 86-yard scoring drive which took 13 plays, climaxed by a 5-yard pass from junior quarterback Matt Harwood to senior split end Chris Rothhaar for a 6-0 lead with 8:50 left in the first half.

A key play during the drive was a 34-yard scamper by senior fullback Kevin Hicks, moving the ball from the Willard 42 to the Shelby 24. It was the seventh play of the drive and the 220-pounder broke several tackles during the run.

Five plays later, Harwood found Rothhaar for the score.

After holding a 6-0 lead at intermission, the Flashes got on track for a pair of scores in

the second half.

Junior Adam Gies and Rothhaar set up the second score. A pass intended for Shelby's Pat Shaughnssey was tipped by Gies after he made the hit on receiver and the Rothhaar was right there for the interception at the Shelby 40-yard line.

On the second play of the drive, Harwood found Rothhaar for 17 yards to the Whippets' 20. Gies picked up two more and a personal foul by the Whippets moved the ball to the Shelby 9-yard line.

And, Harwood went in on a quarterback sneak up the middle through a gaping hole. Gies was on the receiving end of a pass from Harwood for the 2-point conversion and a 14-0 lead with 7:29 to go in the third quarter.

Late in the game, the Flashes took over on downs at the Shelby 30. Shortly thereafter, Gies found a huge hole up the middle and broke to the left sideline for 17 yards and the score. Chris Long added the PAT for a 21-0 lead with 2:41 to play.

"We decided at halftime to go with more blitzing. (Buddy) Garrett, (John) Hershiser and (Bill) Sampson all had great games in the second half at linebacker. In the first quarter, we were sluggish and Shelby played us tough and a lot of penalties also hurt.

"Rothhaar and Gies had great games for us on both sides of the ball," added King.

With six pass receptions, Rothhaar tied a school record for most receptions in one game. Clark Maddocks set the mark against Tiffin Calvert in 1973 and Don Bauman tied it three years ago against Upper Sandusky.

The Flashes, who host Bucyrus next Friday, gained 144 yards through the air on 11 of 18 and added 175 yards on the ground with Gies having 87 yards on 14 carries while Hicks chipped in with 68 yards on 11 tries.

Up. Sandusky 10 Bellevue 0

UPPER SANDUSKY — Shutting down Bellevue's potent running attack was the key for Upper Sandusky.

After averaging well over 200 yards on the ground during the first three games of the season, the Redmen were stopped cold for just 16 yards on 23 carries.

At the same time, the previously-winless Rams (1-3) rambled for 207 yards on the ground with Luke Smith accounting for 178 yards on 27 carries. Tom Smythe, who set an unofficial school record with 245 yards last week, led Bellevue with 40 yards on 13 carries.

There was no scoring in the contest until the fourth period. With 8:40 to go, Eric Gerber put Upper Sandusky on top by a 3-0 score with a 24-yard field goal.

After Bellevue stalled, the Rams came right back as Smith broke off an 89-yard touchdown run and Gerber added the PAT for a 10-0 lead with 4:59 to play.

The Redmen, falling to 3-1, were also hurt by five turnovers including three lost fumbles and two interceptions while Upper suffered just one interception.

It was the fourth straight win for Upper over the Redmen. And, the Rams have a 9-5-1 edge over Bellevue mentor Terry Adams, the dean of the league in his 15th year.

Tiffin Col. 37 Norwalk 0

NORWALK — Cory Blust scored a pair of touchdowns and Jim Newland touched for two more while leading Tiffin Columbian to a 37-0 win over Norwalk at Whitney Field.

Blust scored twice in the second quarter on runs of 47 and two yards.

Prior to that, the Tornados (2-2) had taken a 9-0 lead in the first quarter on a safety and 32-yard touchdown pass from Newland to Mike Martin.

And, the 3-time defending league champions added a pair of scores in the second half.

Joe Goodman hauled in a 15-yard pass from Newland in the third quarter and Brad Schieber hit paydirt from two yards out in the fourth period.

Galion 29 Bucyrus 7

GALION — Mark Erlsten scored three touchdowns while leading Galion to its fourth win in as many outings, a 29-7 win over rival Bucyrus.

After Bucyrus went ahead, 7-0, Erlsten rambled 82 yards to paydirt and also booted the tying extra point with 7:59 left before halftime.

Riders also share first

Pirates make bid for Firelands lead

SULLIVAN — Black River is making its bid for the Firelands Conference lead.

The Pirates pulled even with idle Monroeville at 2-0 in the league by topping Norwalk St. Paul, 19-7, in Friday's league play.

Matt Stoll's club is now 4-0 overall, while the Flyers fall to 1-2 in the league and 1-3 on the season.

Joe McGraw broke loose on an 80-yard touchdown scamper with 1:25 left in the first quarter to give Black River a lead it would never relinquish, with Jamie Maslanka booting the extra point.

The Pirates got back on the scoreboard early in the second quarter as quarterback Craig Clifford hit Jim Addington with a 21-yard touchdown pass.

The score remained 13-0 until the fourcoring strike to McGraw.

The Fly scoring strike to McGraw.

The Flyers denied Black River the shutout when Greg Rogers scored on an 11-yard run with 18 seconds left in the game.

St. Paul piled up 15 first downs in the game, three more than the Pirates had, but only gained 30 yards on the ground, compared to 191 for Black River.

The Flyers were able to pick up 203 yards through the air by completing 13 of 29 with one interception. The Pirates were 7 of 11 for 98 yards and had one pass picked off.

Both teams return to league play on Friday when St. Paul hosts New London and Black River visits Ashland Crestview.

In other games around the Firelands, Western Reserve nipped Plymouth 8-6, South Central picked up its second win of the season with a 13-6 decision over New London, Crestview stopped Mapleton by the same score.

W. Reserve 8 Plymouth 6

PLYMOUTH — Western Reserve came up with the big plays in the big game.

The Roughriders used a 79-yard scoring run and a safety on a blocked punt to nip Plymouth, 8-6, in Firelands Conference action Friday.

Western (3-1) earns a share of the early league lead at 2-0 with Monroeville and Black River, while the Big Red drops to 1-2 in the Firelands and 2-2 overall.

Brad Eungard broke free for the long scoring scamper with 9:12 left in the first half to give Western a 6-0 lead.

The score remained that way until the Riders scored a safety after blocking a Plymouth punt late in the third quarter.

The Big Red cut the gap with 5:31 left in the game when Brian Combs hit Shane Garrett on a 19-yard touchdown pass, but Western held on the two-point conversion try to preserve the victory.

The Riders picked up 288 yards total offense with 236

coming on the ground. Plymouth countered with just 32 yards on the ground and 128 through the air.

Western has another big outing on Friday when it takes on Monroeville, while the Big Red visits South Central

S. Central 13 New London 6

NEW LONDON — South Central made a pair of first half scores hold up as it topped New London, 13-6, in Firelands Conference action Friday.

The win squares the season record at 2-2 for the Trojans (1-2 in the league), while New London falls to 1-3 overall and 0-3 in the Firelands.

South Central opened the scoring late in the first quarter on an 8-yard touchdown pass from Ryan Teglovic to Chris French. Calvin Conaway booted the extra point to open up a 7-0 lead.

The Trojans got back on the scoreboard with 11 seconds left in the half when Teglovic hit Mike Sanders from the one.

New London was held in check until late in the game when Steve Poore bulled over from the two, but the kick failed to end the scoring.

South Central had a total of 229 yards total offense with 116 yards on the ground and 113 through the air. But the Trojans did have trouble hanging on to the ball, fumbling the ball four times and losing three.

New London was limited to just 155 yards total offense with 102 yards in passing, but had five interceptions.

The Trojans are back in action on Friday when they host Plymouth, while the Wildcats travel to Norwalk St. Paul.

Crestview 13 Mapleton 6

NOVA — Ashland Crestview bounced back from a 6-0 halftime deficit to claim a 13-6 Firelands Conference victory over Mapleton Friday.

The Cougars improve to 2-1 in the league and 3-1 on the season while the Mounties drop to 1-2 in the Firelands and 2-2 overall.

Shawn Grundy got Mapleton on the board with a 20-yard gallop in the second quarter, but Crestview grabbed the lead in the third when quarterback Scott Durbin hit Don Keener with a 22-yard touchdown strike and Ed Blum booted the extra point.

The Cougars got some breathing room in the final 12 minutes when Mark Solis bulled over from the one to end the scoring.

The Crestview offense picked up 188 yards on the ground and 113 through the air, while the Cougar defense limited the Mounties to 159 yards rushing and just 16 yards passing. The unit also picked off a pair of Mapleton passes.

Crestview hosts undefeated Black River in Friday's league play, while the Mounties will meet Danbury at home in a non-conference matchup.

FIRELANDS CONFERENCE

SCHOOL NAME	OVERALL				LEAGUE					
	G	W	L	PF	PA	G	W	L	PF	PA
Black River	4	4	0	155	40	2	2	0	74	32
Monroeville	3	3	0	91	43	2	2	0	56	32
Western Reserve	4	3	1	71	62	2	2	0	27	20
Crestview	4	3	1	56	44	3	2	1	41	36
Mapleton	4	2	2	57	75	3	1	2	44	68
Plymouth	4	2	2	57	66	3	1	2	30	54
St. Paul	4	1	3	58	66	3	1	2	58	52
New London	4	2	2	46	52	3	1	2	34	42
South Central	4	1	3	76	93	3	0	3	42	74



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