

NOL title in hands of trio

Bellevue, Willard, Bucyrus in repeat of '63 finish

History certainly had a way of repeating itself Friday night with Bellevue, Willard and Bucyrus tying for the Northern Ohio League championship.

And, the tri-champions each scored a shutout to claim a piece of the championship with 6-1 records.

Bellevue, 8-2 overall, handled Tiffin Columbian with ease, 43-0, while Willard, also 8-2, prevailed over Norwalk, 26-0, and Bucyrus, at 9-1, hammered Upper Sandusky, 27-0.

It was only the third time in the 48-year history of the league that a three-way tie for the title occurred.

In 1963, the same trio finished with identical 6-1 records to share the crown. Then, Norwalk, Shelby and Tiffin Columbian tied for the title in 1974, also with 6-1 marks.

This year, the three champions followed an identical route to the title as they did in 1963.

Over a three-week span, Willard beat Bucyrus, 7-6, while Bellevue topped Willard, 34-8, and Bucyrus downed Bellevue, 14-7. In 1963, Willard clobbered Bucyrus, 34-8, while Bellevue bumped Willard, 30-14, and Bucyrus edged Bellevue, 14-8.

It was the 13th league championship for Bellevue, 10 of which have been outright. It was the fourth crown for both Willard and Bucyrus. The Crimson Flashes won outright titles in 1979 and 1990 while Bucyrus claimed the crown outright in 1948 and 1970.

Bellevue 43 Tiffin Col. 0

TIFFIN — Bellevue piled up 343 yards on the ground with the duo of senior Brad Weider and junior Matt Grant leading the way.

"It's just a great feeling, especially since we've only got six or seven seniors on the team," said first-year head coach Ed Nasonti.

"It's really the first time I can unplug since June. It's the first NOL championship for us since 1982. The kids just played with a lot of intensity and it

showed right from the start of the game.

"We were able to score twice early in the game and that was a big help. Although we lost some intensity in the second period, we got a big run from (Matt) Grant right before halftime and that gave us a 22-0 lead instead of being up 14-0 or 14-7. Then, the kids were really hungry for the title in the second half," added Nasonti.

Weider scored twice in the opening period including a 25-yard run at the 8:22 mark and a three-yard run at the 2:42 point.

The Redmen, leading by a 14-0 score at the quarter break, got a 77-yard scoring run by Grant with just 1:29 left in the half and Marc Minnick ran for the conversion and a 22-0 lead. Matt Hoerig had booted the PAT following the first two scores.

On its first possession of the second half, Bellevue added a 32-yard scoring run by Brian Weider and Hoerig converted for a 29-0 lead with 9:36 left in the third quarter.

And, the Redmen added two more scores in the final stanza with sophomore quarterback John Bollinger plunging one yard for a score at the 9:26 mark and Tom Rose closed out the scoring with a seven-yard burst to the end zone with 53 seconds left to play. Hoerig and Paul Ayers added the conversions for the final 43-0 count.

Grant paced the running game for the Redmen with 162 yards on 11 carries while Brad Weider added 101 yards on 18 carries.

Willard 26 Norwalk 0

NORWALK — Willard featured a balanced attack in brushing aside rival Norwalk.

The Flashes gained 205 yards on the ground with junior Todd Corbin leading the way with 100 yards on 17 carries while Jeremy Willoughby added 66 yards on nine tries.

And, Willard added 195 yards through the air on eight of 10 passing with Chad Clark hauling in six of the passes for 173 yards.

"It was nice to finish the year with a third straight shutout. That's exactly the way we finished last year," said Willard mentor Terry King, a sophomore on the 1963 championship team.

"When I came to Willard, the main thing was to win an NOL championship and it's really gratifying to do it back-to-back. We got a chance to play all the seniors and they did a fantastic job.

"It's an empty feeling, knowing we're not going to the playoffs. I really have a lot of respect for coach (Jim) Whittington and Norwalk just never

quit. It's been a great year and we've got a lot of kids coming back including seven on offense," added King.

Willard, 55-28 during King's eight-year tenure, scored early when Clark hauled in a 62-yard scoring toss from senior quarterback Chris Long, who booted the conversion for a 7-0 lead.

The Flashes, 34-9 over the last four years, increased their lead to 13-0 when Jeremy Salyer recovered a fumble and scored with 10:39 left in the first half.

There was no further scoring until the final period when Willoughby reached the end zone twice on runs of 11 and five yards. Long, who missed a 33-yard field goal attempt with one second left in the first half, added the conversion followed Willoughby's second touchdown for the final 26-0 count.

Shelby 7 Galion 2

SHELBY — Shelby closed the season strong with four successive wins including a 7-2 nod over Galion Friday night.

The Whippets, 4-6 overall and 4-3 in the league, scored just before halftime on a one-yard run by Josh Hoffman and Jerome Kurtz added the conversion for a 7-0 lead.

Galion, finishing 4-6 overall and 3-4 in the league, got a safety in the early part of the third quarter on a blocked punt which went through the end zone. But, the Tigers finished with just 84 yards total offense for the game.

Hoffman led the Shelby rushing attack with 144 yards on 35 carries.

Bucyrus 27 Up. Sandusky 0

UPPER SANDUSKY — Senior Cliff Foght scored three touchdowns on runs of nine, one and 13 yards to power Bucyrus past Upper Sandusky, 27-0.

The Redmen had a 21-0 lead at intermission and scored just once in the second half, that coming on a 56-yard run by quarterback Scott Oberschlake with 6:03 left in the game.

Seneca East 5-5 after 21-6 win

SYCAMORE, Ohio — Matt Beckman and Brian Holmer continued to form a one-two punch for Seneca East in a 21-6 win over Mohawk Friday night.

The Tigers, finishing 5-5 overall and 4-3 in the Midland Athletic League, piled up 296 yards on the ground with Holmer having 150 yards on 22 carries while Beckman added 143 yards on 19 attempts.

Beckman put the Tigers on top with five minutes left in the second period with a 56-yard run and Nate Watson added the first of three conversions.

Mohawk, 1-9 overall and 1-6 in the MAL, came back with a four-yard scoring run by Jay Price with 1:34 left in the half but the Warriors failed to convert and trailed by a 7-6 score at intermission.

In the third period, Seneca East struck twice on one-yard runs, the first by Holmer with 10:22 showing on the clock and the second by Beckman with 3:15 left in the quarter.

NOL

STATISTICS		
	B	TC
First Downs (total)	19	8
by rushing	14	5
by passing	4	3
by penalty	1	0
Rushes (total)	43	34
net yards rushing	343	96
passes attempted	8	19
passes completed	6	7
passes intercepted	0	1
net yards passing	73	59
Total Plays	51	53
Total Net Yards Gained	416	155
Fumbles (number)	2	3
ball lost	1	1
Penalties (number)	8	7
yards penalized	85	58.5

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Bellevue	14	8	7	14
Tiffin Columbian	0	0	0	0
Bellevue — Brad Wieder, 25 run. (Matt Hoerig, kick).				
Bellevue — Brad Wieder, 3 run. (Hoerig, kick).				
Bellevue — Matt Grant, 77 run. (Marc Minnick, run).				
Bellevue — Brian Wieder, 32 run. (Hoerig, kick).				
Bellevue — John Bollinger, 1 run. (Hoerig, kick).				
Bellevue — Tom Rose, 7 run. (Paul Ayers, kick).				

STATISTICS		
	W	N
First Downs (total)	18	3
by rushing	15	2
by passing	3	1
by penalty	0	0
net yards rushing	205	60
passes attempted	10	17
passes completed	8	3
passes intercepted	0	2
net yards passing	195	19
Total Net Yards Gained	400	79
Fumbles (number)	5	2
ball lost	4	2
Penalties (number)	10	2
yards penalized	92	10

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Willard	7	6	0	13
Norwalk	0	0	0	0
Willard — Chad Clark, 62 pass from Chris Long. (Long, kick).				
Willard — Jeremy Salyer, 3 fumble recovery return. (kick failed).				
Willard — Jeremy Willoughby, 11 run. (kick failed).				
Willard — Willoughby, 5 run. (Long, kick).				

STATISTICS		
	B	US
First Downs (total)	10	9
net yards rushing	223	89
passes attempted	6	16
passes completed	2	9
passes intercepted	1	1
net yards passing	67	177
Total Net Yards Gained	290	187
Fumbles (number)	1	4
ball lost	0	3
Penalties (number)	4	5
yards penalized	35	40

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Bucyrus	8	13	0	6
Upper Sandusky	0	0	0	0
Bucyrus — Cliff Foght, 9 run. (Scott Oberschlake, kick).				
Bucyrus — Foght, 1 run. (Neil Hawkins, kick).				
Bucyrus — Foght, 13 run. (kick failed).				
Bucyrus — Oberschlake, 56 run. (pass failed).				

STATISTICS		
	G	S
First Downs (total)	5	14
by rushing	2	11
by passing	2	3
by penalty	1	0
Rushes (total)	24	52
net yards rushing	46	109
passes attempted	17	18
passes completed	3	8
passes intercepted	0	0
net yards passing	38	88
Total Plays	41	70
Total Net Yards Gained	84	127
Fumbles (number)	4	0
ball lost	1	0
Penalties (number)	2	4
yards penalized	10	30

SCORE BY QUARTERS		
	G	S
Galion	0	2
Shelby	0	7
Shelby — Josh Hoffman, 1 run. (Jerome Kurtz, kick).		
Galion — Safety.		

STATISTICS		
	SE	M
First Downs (total)	12	9
by rushing	12	6
by passing	0	3
by penalty	0	0
net yards rushing	296	117
passes attempted	2	11
passes completed	0	3
passes intercepted	0	0
net yards passing	0	77
Total Net Yards Gained	296	194
Fumbles (number)	4	4
ball lost	3	1
Penalties (number)	5	6
yards penalized	35	35

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Seneca East	0	7	14	0
Mohawk	0	6	0	6
Seneca East — Matt Beckman, 56 run. (Nate Watson, kick).				
Mohawk — Jay Price, 4 run. (kick failed).				
Seneca East — Brian Holmer, 1 run. (Watson, kick).				
Seneca East — Beckman, 1 run. (Watson, kick).				

Perfect ending for FC champion

Mapleton routs Plymouth to go 10-0

PLYMOUTH — Mapleton added a perfect ending to its football season with a 35-0 Firelands Conference romp over Plymouth Friday.

The Mounties, who clinched the league title two weeks ago and sat atop the Division IV, Region 15 computer standings earlier this week, finished up the 1991 regular season with a perfect 8-0 mark in the Firelands and 10-0 overall.

Mapleton scored in every quarter with Shawn Grundy getting the ball rolling with a one-yard run in the first period.

Jason Hickey, who rushed for 142 yards on 22 carries, got the first of three touchdowns with a 3-yards scamper in the second, then adding a 51-yard scoring galloping following the intermission.

The Mounties made it 28-0 on a one-yard touchdown run from Shane Light, then Hickey closed out the scoring by going over from the two in the final period.

The Big Red, which ends at 4-4 in the league and 5-5 overall, were limited to just 80 yards rushing and 25 through the air.

Monroeville 41 Crestview 8

MONROEVILLE — Monroeville closed out a disappointing season with a bang, unloading on Crestview for a 41-8 decision the Firelands Conference finale for both teams.

The Eagles, who end at 3-5 in the league and 4-6 overall, had six different players wind up in the scoring column with Andy Homan and Rick Lodwick getting two touchdowns apiece.

Homan scored on runs of 6 and 17 yards while Lodwick was on the receiving end of a 42-yard scoring strike from Jason Poths and a 26-yard toss from Dusty Charville.

Cory Shaw opened the romp by going over from the two with 11:24 left in the second quarter.

The Eagles were back in the end zone seven minutes later when Homan scored from the six, with Poths hitting Shane Sattler with a 7-yard touchdown pass with 25 seconds left in the half.

Poths and Heath Cleary hooked up on the conversion to give the hosts a commanding 20-0 halftime lead.

Lodwick and Poths connected on the 42-yard scoring bomb to open the third quarter, with Homan adding his second score of the game seven minutes later.

Lodwick, who added the extra point kick after each score in the second half, then finished the Monroeville scoring on the Charville bomb.

Crestview, which closes out the season at 1-6 in the league and 1-9 on the season, avoided the shutout when Kevin Meeting hit Chad Durbin with a 17-yard touchdown pass with 3:53 left to play.

W. Reserve 33 St. Paul 14

COLLINS — Western Reserve completed its season on a high note by storming past

St. Paul, 33-14, in Firelands Conference play Friday night.

Two of the top backs in the league squared off in the game with Mike McGhee leading the Roughriders (5-3, 7-3) with 105 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 20 carries and Alex Schaffer of the Flyers (3-5, 4-6) ending with 89 yards and two scores on 19 tries.

Schaffer opened the scoring with a 45-yard jaunt early in the first period, with Jim Landoll making it 7-0 with the kick.

McGhee came back with a 12-yard touchdown run later in the period, but St. Paul hung on to the lead when Western's two-point conversion attempt failed.

Schaffer got his second touchdown early in the second quarter, going over from the one with Landoll adding the kick, but McGhee again had the answer and scored from the two.

The Riders then knotted the score on Curt Bly's conversion run.

Western took the lead for good when Bly raced 30-yard for a touchdown with two minutes left in the half, and then adding a pair of insurance tallies in the fourth on a 12-yard run from Mark Grady and a 33-yard sprint from Chris Hipp.

St. Paul had the slight edge in the statistical battle, gaining 202 yards on the ground and 82 through the air. Western countered with 225 rushing and 25 passing, but gained the edge with an interception and a pair of fumble recoveries.

Black River 22 New London 13

NEW LONDON — Black River gained sole possession of second place in the Firelands Conference with a 22-13 nod over New London Friday.

The Pirates finish the regular season at 6-2 in the league and 7-3 overall while the Wildcats end at 5-3 in the Firelands and 6-4 on the season.

New London struck first on Rob Lavengood's 74-yard touchdown pass to Chad Hall in the second quarter, with Jay Raphael adding the extra point.

Black River grabbed the lead after the intermission on Eric Sohl's 2-yard run and a 15-yard scamper from Steve Dreher. The Pirates were successful on both conversion attempts to take a 16-7 lead.

The Wildcats cut the deficit when Derek Davidson broke loose for a 56-yard touchdown run with 11:44 left in the game, but the kick was block and the Pirates were back on the scoreboard five minutes later when Tom Osborn raced 67 yards with a fumble.

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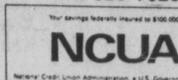
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