

# Tigers hold off Chargers, 23-13

## Huron gets momentum back in time

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Staff Writer

MILAN — It's not supposed to work this way, but Huron turned a near miss into a big win.

The Tigers came up inches short of a touchdown early in the fourth quarter, but came away with nine points over the next 1:44 anyway to spoil Edison's Homecoming with a 23-13 victory Friday.

"It's very difficult to get momentum back, but our kids will accept that challenge," said Huron coach Tony Legando. "That was a great defensive stand, but the other side of that is we get good field position."

"Our defense turned the coin and our offense used the option to make sure."

The Chargers wrestled away the momentum in the game by erasing a 14-0 deficit with a touchdown just prior to the intermission and scored on a 7-minute drive to open the second half.

The Tigers hung on to a slim 14-13 lead when Jason Krisha's extra point attempt following Steve Rospert's second score sailed wide to the left.

Huron answered by marching down to the Edison 2. On fourth-and-goal, the Chargers stopped Matt Van Meter just shy of the goal line to gain possession of the ball.

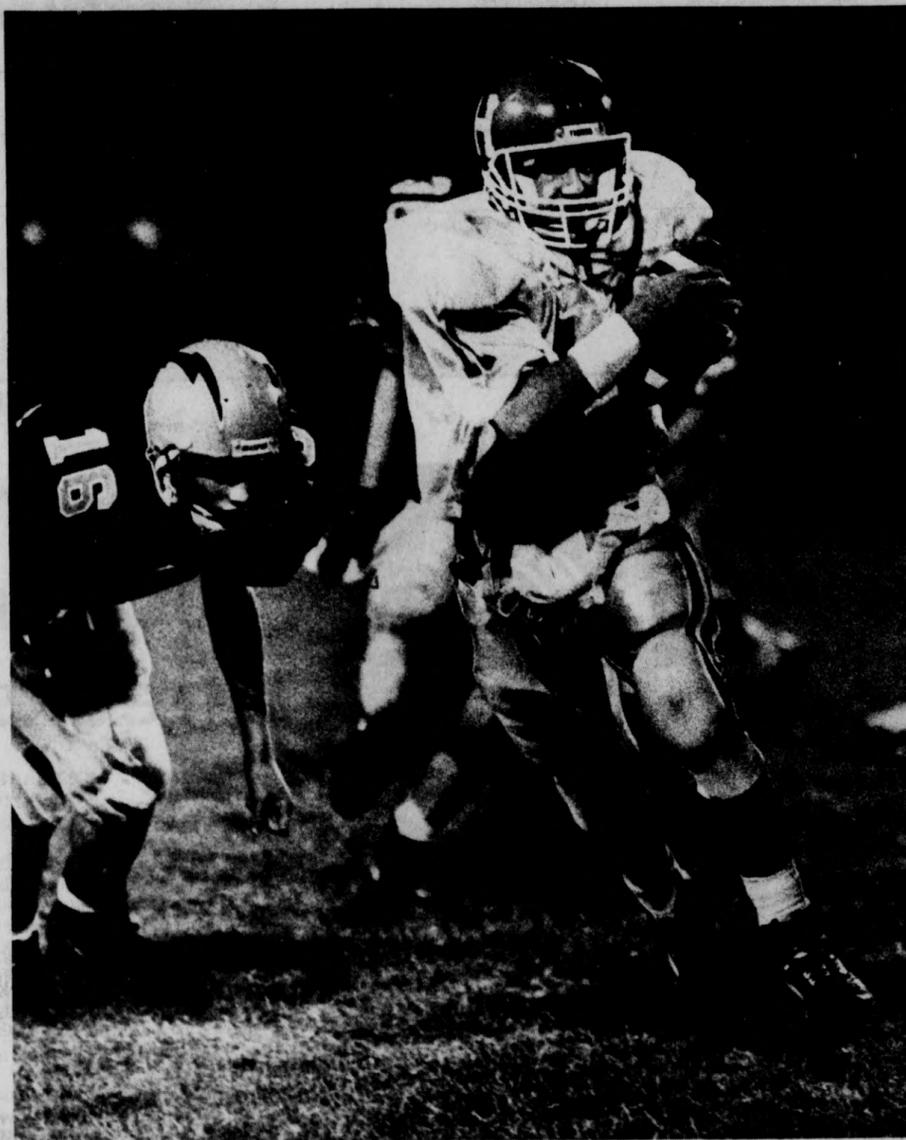
The Tigers stopped Rospert for no gain on the first play from scrimmage, and then caught Krisha in the end zone for a safety to open up a 16-13 lead with 10:41 left to play.

Two plays after Huron took the free kick, quarterback Gus Johnson worked the triple option to perfection and raced 55 yards for a touchdown to put the game out of reach.

"Early in the game, Edison brought in its contain guys inside so we hit some beautiful pass plays," said Legando. "We were moving the ball well and we saw no reason to change, but then things got tense and you want to try to get the ball in a great athlete's hands."

It was the fourth straight victory of the season for the Tigers, who now stand at 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the SBC, while the Chargers fall to 2-3 on the season and 0-2 in the league.

"We had a lot of momentum going into the half and then we came out and ate up seven minutes for a score," said Edison's first-year head coach Toby Hammond. "That's exactly what we wanted to do."



Register photos — PATRICK O'BRIEN

Huron's Gus Johnson breaks away from the line of scrimmage and is on his way to a 55-yard touchdown run during the fourth quarter against Edison Friday. Johnson ended with 55 yards on five carries, plus was 20 of 26 for 192 yards passing to lead the Tigers to a 23-13 victory.

"When we got the ball on the one we just wanted to get it out of there, but we got handled."

Huron looked to be on its way to an easy win in the first quarter.

The Tigers took the opening kickoff 64 yards in eight plays, with Van Meter going over from the one after setting up the score with a 28 yards scamper one play before.

Johnson, who completed 20 of 26 passes for 192 yards in the game, hit 5 of 6 passes for 55 yards on Huron's next possession, hooking up with Scott Jensen for the final 11 to open up a 14-0 advantage on Jamie Eisnor's kick.

"I was real pleased with the way we played after the first 10 minutes," said Hammond. "Just the way things have gone

here in the past, we're expected to lose once we get down. We preached all week that if things go bad, big deal."

It continued to go bad for the Chargers until the Tigers coughed up a pair of fumbles.

Edison used the second one, which was recovered by Sam Farmer at his own 18, to set up its first score, marching 82 yards in 11 plays with Rospert going over from the two and Krisha hitting the extra point.

The Chargers then opened the second half with an impressive 61 yard drive that Rospert kept alive with a diving 6-yard gain on fourth-and-five at the Huron 13. On the next play, Rospert broke through the middle of the line for seven yards and the score.

"They got back into the game right before half," said Legando. "It looked like it was going to be us all night, but we got it and fumble, get it back and fumble again. Edison plays too aggressive and too physical to let them get the momentum like that."

Van Meter led Huron 404 yard outburst with 148 yards on the ground in 20 carries, while Eisnor had seven receptions for 52 yards and Steve Olenek made five grabs for 76.

Matt Vogus led Edison with 43 yards on the ground in nine tries while quarterback Jason Bryant completed 8 of 12 for 88 yards.

Both teams are back in action Friday with the Tigers hosting Clyde and the Chargers visiting Port Clinton.

## Port Clinton opportunistic beating Clyde

CLYDE — It was what Clyde did in the opening minute of the first quarter and what it couldn't accomplish in the waning seconds of the first half that enabled Port Clinton to sting the hosts Friday.

The Fliers fumbled on the first play from scrimmage and the Redskins recovered.

Moments later, Mike Bodi plunged in from the one to put the Redskins on top and the conversion made it 7-0.

The Fliers struck back early in the second period to knot the score at 7-7 when Craig Cheek popped in from the two and Wade Noftz booted the PAT.

Clyde had a golden opportunity to go ahead just before intermission after driving inside the PC 10.

However, the hosts again fumbled, and again Port Clinton recovered to snuff out the last genuine threat for the losers.

Port Clinton mounted an 88-yard drive against the clock in the final quarter to pull out the victory, capped by Bodi's one-yard run and another placement by Rick Cassell.

"We fumbled 6 times and lost 3 of them, but the ones that really hurt were the first one and the other one just before the half," Clyde coach Bob Bishop said.

## Senior back gains 251 yards rushing

# McGhee lifts Western in win over Monroeville

COLLINS — Monroeville had its fill of Mike McGhee.

The senior running back picked up 251 yards and three touchdowns on 49 carries to lead Western Reserve to a 27-20 victory over the Eagles in Firelands Conference play Friday.

"It boils down to the fact we didn't stop McGhee," said Monroeville coach Steve Ringholz. "Their offense comes off the ball well and he runs well. We didn't stop him and that was the whole game."

The Roughriders improve to 2-1 in the league and 4-1 overall while the Eagles drop to 2-1 in the Firelands and 3-2 on the season.

McGhee, who picked up over 1,400 yards as a junior in 1990, gave Western a 6-0 lead with a 1-yard run with 10:12 left in the second quarter, but Monroeville got the equalizer two minutes later on a 15-yard scoring strike from Jason Poths to Bill Barber.

Western regained the lead with 3:35 left in the half on a 1-yard run from Kurt Bly, but Cory Shaw went over from the one with 33 seconds left and Rick Lodwick booted the extra point to send the Eagles in at the intermission with a 13-12 advantage.

McGhee was back in the end-zone with 7:12 left in the third quarter on a 5-yard run, then added the two-point conversion, to open up a 20-13 lead for the Riders.

But Monroeville battled back

## FIRELANDS CONFERENCE

again and scored five minutes later when Poths hooked up with Lodwick on an 11-yard touchdown strike. Lodwick's boot knotted the score at 20.

An Eagle punt from the end-zone set up McGhee's 11-yard touchdown scamper with 5:07 remaining in the game, with Sean Nolan kicking the extra point to end the scoring.

Monroeville had one last chance for a score, but was stopped at the Western five late in the game.

The Riders had 314 yards total offense with 299 coming on the ground while the Eagles picked up 76 yards on the ground and 215 through the air.

### Plymouth 41 South Central 14

GREENWICH — Plymouth erupted for 381 yards offense and six scores in a 41-14 Firelands Conference romp over South Central Friday.

The Big Red, now 3-2 overall, improved to 3-1 in the league to keep pace with undefeated Mapleton while the Trojans fell to 1-3 in the Firelands and 1-4 overall.

Plymouth jumped out to a 13-0 lead on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Ricky Reeder to Quinn Sexton in the first quarter and a 16-yard run from Dennis Cunningham to open the second.

South Central roared back to take a 14-13 lead at the intermission on Chris Keyzor's 5-yard touchdown run and a 2-yard scoring run from Jim Case.

It was all Big Red in the second half as they scored 28 unanswered points.

Cunningham, who finished the night with 147 yards in 25 carries, got his second touchdown on a 1-yard run with 8:19 left in the third, with Sexton and Reeder hooking up on a 5-yard scoring toss with 34 seconds left in the period.

Cunningham then added a third touchdown from three yards out with 8:49 left to play and Bryan Bailey ended the scoring on a 47-yard touchdown scamper.

Curt Handshoe added 98 yards in 23 carries to Plymouth's 332 yards rushing in the game while the Big Red limited the Trojans to just 88 yards on the ground and 22 through the air.

### Black River 46 Crestview 0

ASHLAND — Black River used touchdowns from six different people and a stifling defense to hammer Crestview, 46-0, in Firelands Conference play Friday.

The Pirates, now 2-3 on the

# Norwalk ends drought with comeback win

Norwalk had the distinction of owning the longest losing streak in the Register area.

But, the Truckers ended the long drought Friday night with a 20-14 win over Upper Sandusky at Whitney Field. However, it looked bleak for the Truckers, who trailed at halftime (14-0) and after three quarters (14-6), before coming back with two fourth period touchdowns to claim the win.

Thus, the 15-game losing streak is history for Norwalk, now 1-4 overall and 1-1 in the Northern Ohio League. Prior to Friday, the Truckers hadn't won since clipping Shelby, 7-6, on Oct. 20, 1989.

Also, the win was the first for head coach Jim Whittington. He took over as head coach last year and had watched the Truckers lose 14 in succession.

A pair of touchdowns by Scott Kennedy on runs of two and four yards and a two-point conversion run by Kennedy following the first score helped the visiting Rams take a 14-0 lead.

But, it was all Norwalk in the second half. Midway through the third period, Mark Meyer plunged over from one yard out to get the Truckers on the board but they were still down by a 14-6 score as the fourth period got underway.

With 10:53 left in the game, sophomore Jim Warner scored on a one-yard run and the Truckers pulled even at 14-14 as Andrew Olaniyan hauled in the two-point conversion pass from sophomore quarterback Reid Shoop.

Then, Warner supplied the game-winner with a four-yard scoring run with 2:04 remaining in the game for the final 20-14 count.

For Upper Sandusky, it was the 10th straight setback and the Rams are now 0-5 overall and 0-2 in the NOL.

In other action, Bellevue, Willard and Bucyrus remained on top in the NOL with 2-0 records.

Bellevue, 4-1 overall, jumped out to a 21-0 lead and held on for a 21-0 win over Galion while Willard, also 4-1 overall, prevailed over Shelby, 24-7, and unbeaten Bucyrus, 5-0 overall, blanked Tiffin Columbian, 27-0.

## Bellevue 21, Galion 20

BELLEVUE — Junior Matt Grant scored all three touchdowns for Bellevue.

Two of his scores came in the second period on runs of one and four yards. Matt Hoerig converted after the first score as the Redmen took a 13-0 lead at halftime.

On their first possession of the second half, Grant hauled in a 56-yard touchdown pass from sophomore quarterback John Bollinger and Marc Minnick ran for the all-important two-point conversion as the Redmen moved in front, 21-0, with 10:19 left in the third period.

Front that point on, it was all Galion. After throwing touchdown passes to Paul Sorrenson for 10 yards in the third quarter and to Aaron Adams for 21 yards on the first play of the fourth period, quarterback Marc Ruehle found Adams for a 25-yard scoring toss with just 43 seconds to go.

However, the Tigers decided to go for the two-point conversion and the win and Bellevue stopped the run for the PAT to preserve the victory.

## Willard 24, Shelby 7

WILLARD — Willard continued to dominate Shelby with its fifth straight win Friday night, 24-7.

The Flashes, however, were clinging to a slim 3-0 lead at intermission after Chris Long's 22-yard field goal with just two seconds left in the first half.

Shelby, 0-5 overall and 0-2 in the league, took a 7-3 lead early in the third period on a four-yard run by Josh Hoffman.

But, the Flashes came back with two touchdowns with a 50-second span in the third period.

Chad Clark hauled in a 39-yard pass from Long with 5:06 showing on the clock. Then, John Vogel grabbed an 11-yard touchdown pass from Long at the 4:16 mark. Long also converted after both scores as the Flashes took control, 17-7.

season and 1-2 in the league, had a 390-102 edge in total offense and limited the winless Cougars to -1 yard rushing.

Eric Sohl got the first of two touchdowns with a one yard run to open the scoring in the first quarter, with Black River grabbing a 12-0 lead when quarterback Jeff Nixon and Brian Hannon hooked up on a 28-yard scoring toss later in the period.

Nixon got a score of his own in the second from seven yards out, with Sohl taking a Nixon pass 12 yards for a score as Black River pulled out to a 24-0 halftime lead.

Jason Bidinger scored from the 12 and Jason Morrison ran for the two-point conversion as the Pirates made it 31-0 in the third quarter, with Ron Hamilton adding a 5-yard touchdown run and William Overstreet going in from the nine to finish the scoring.

## Mapleton 55 Danbury 12

NOVA — Mapleton rolled to a non-conference win and was still able to hang on to its Firelands Conference.

The Mounties had 506 yards total offense in a 55-12 blitz of Danbury to run their record to 5-0 on the season. They also kept sole possession of first in the Firelands because of Monroeville's 27-20 setback at West-ern Reserve.

Mapleton never trailed after Shawn Grundy connected on touchdown passes of 36-yards to Gerry Sipes and 7-yards to Aaron Goon in the first quarter.

The Lakers closed the gap to 14-6 on an 18-yard touchdown strike from Carl Uhinck to Devon Ellis, but Mapleton put the game away with three consecutive scores to pull out to a 35-6 lead at the intermission.

Shane Light got the first of three touchdowns to begin the outburst on a 60-yard pass from Grundy, with Jason Hickey adding a 1-yard scoring run and Gerry Sipes snaring his second touchdown pass from Grundy just before the half from 20 yards out.

Light scored on runs of 4 and 53 yards in the third quarter, with Jason Goon going 11 yards for a score as the Mounties opened up a 55-6 lead. Ellis pulled down a 26-yard scoring toss from Keith Roth with just over a minute to play.

Light led Mapleton on the ground with 143 yards in 11 tries and Hickey added 108 yards in 16 carries, while Grundy was 8 of 12 in passing for 179 yards.

Danbury, now 1-4 on the season, countered Mapleton's outburst with 176 yards total offense, including 156 on the ground.

The Mounties return to Firelands play by hosting South Central on Friday while Danbury travels to Plymouth.