

Willard's streaks snapped

Special to the Register
WILLARD — A number of winning streaks came to an end for Willard when visiting Orrville pushed across 15 fourth-period points to overcome a slim 7-6 deficit in its 21-7 season-opening victory Friday night.

The loss ended a 3-game winning streak for the Crimson Flashes, who outscored their last three opponents by a 120-0 margin to end the 1991 campaign.

The loss also snapped a string of four home-field wins for Terry King's club.

"We made big mistakes and had problems with communications," said King. "A lot of the time, we called the wrong play, but I still saw a lot of positive things tonight."

"We will be all right. I am a little disappointed that we wore down at the end and let them score, but Orrville is one of the toughest teams we will play. We still have everything we want ahead of us."

Although it was the first game of the year for both teams, King said before the contest that it was a big one with possible playoff implications.

As has been the case since King first came to Willard nine years ago, defense dominated the action.

The Red Raiders held a 6-0 lead at the end of the first period following field goals of 23 and 45 yards by Sean Hartzler. But the score could have been much worse.

Orrville took advantage if a 6-yard punt to set up Hartzler's first field goal with 8:44 left in the quarter. Then with 4:07 remaining, Hartzler notched his second 3-pointer of the period to cap a 7-play, 47-yard drive that received a huge break when Willard's Dan Kousma dropped an apparent interception.

The Red Raiders clung to the 6-0 lead until just four seconds remained in the first half when John Vogel took a 13-yard scoring

pass from quarterback Ron Worcester to end a 47-yard, 5-play drive.

John Vetter added the extra point and the Flashes took a 7-6 lead into the locker room at the half.

Willard maintained the slim lead until 7:20 in the fourth quarter as Sly Slaughter went over from the two and Loren Burkey added the extra point kick to give Orrville the lead for good.

The touchdown capped a 57-yard drive in 10 plays following a fumble recovery.

Andre Howard's 18-yard run with just 34 seconds left in the game was just the icing on the cake for the winners.

Just over three minutes earlier, Willard was in the midst of what appeared to be a tying touchdown drive. The Flashes marched to the visitor's nine, but on fourth-and-goal, Worcester slipped as he rolled to his left in an attempt to

find an open receiver.

When his knee hit the ground, the contest was over for Willard.

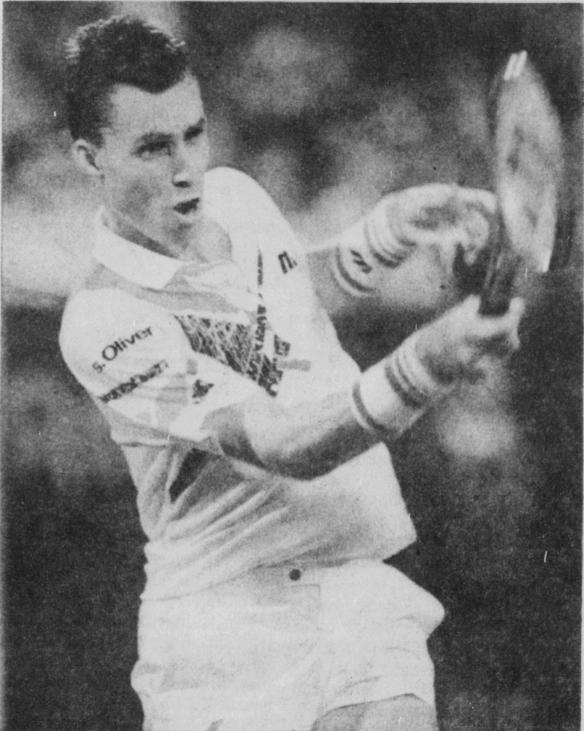
Worcester overcame a slow start in his first game as the starting quarterback to finish with nine completions in 16 attempts for 94 yards. The junior missed his first five attempts, including a pair of interceptions.

"Worcester did a nice job," King said. "He had a good arm and we have good receivers. We just have to come back and be ready to go."

The Flashes added 109 yards rushing, led by senior Brad Dials who collected 44 yards on 14 rushes.

"We had our chances. At half-time, we felt good because we had scored late and had played good defense," said King.

The Flashes get the chance to show what they are made of when they return to action Friday, hosting Perkins in the annual Parent's Night game.



Ivan Lendl returns the ball to Jimmy Connors Friday night during their match at the U.S. Open in New York.

Lendl spoils Jimmy's party

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Connors' U.S. Open party is over, spoiled by imperturbable Ivan Lendl.

Connors did his best to conjure up his Open magic one more time, give his fans one more grand memory to cherish, yet none of his fist-pumping antics fazed Lendl in the least.

Lendl, ever the cool professional, didn't get rattled when Connors won the first set Friday night, didn't get unnerved by the whistles and boos of 20,000 enemies in the crowd and the incessant cheers for Connors.

Lendl simply pounded his groundstrokes past Connors as he had in 16 straight victories over him coming in, aced him a dozen times and kept up the pressure until the end of a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 victory.

Connors fought as much as his body would allow, then exited laughing from his 22nd Open, bantering with fans and blowing kisses to the crowd as it chanted, "Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy."

"I guess it's hell being 40," Connors said with a grin two days after he celebrated his birthday with a first-round victory on the stadium court.

"I was the one forcing the action. He just stayed back there and bunted the ball. Pulling him to the net is like pulling teeth. He doesn't play anything like he used to. He used to come over the ball and whack from the back line. He refuses to come."

"I feel like I could have beaten a lot of guys tonight. He was one I couldn't. I came out with a plan of not staying back, I served and volleyed as well as ever, but I expended so much energy. He stayed back, and seven balls to a point is too many. I started slowing down a little."

"I get by muscling a lot of guys but not him. He's bigger, stronger and in better shape."

If Lendl didn't play as well as he once did, if he didn't move quite as quickly or hit as hard, no one could tell by the score in this second-round match. In one stretch, after 3-3 in the second set, Lendl won seven straight games and took 28 of 34 points.

Connors had an incredible 88-1 match record when he won the first set — his only loss to Guillermo Vilas in 1977 — but this time he couldn't sustain his lead.

"The first set was the best he's played against me in many, many matches," Lendl said. "He barely missed any first serves, mixing it up, not necessarily very hard but hitting it close to the lines. He also wasn't missing any forehands. He wasn't making any errors."

Lendl felt Connors didn't let down mentally as much as he fell apart "mechanically," his forehand abandoning him at crucial points and his footwork failing as he grew tired in long rallies.

Connors' loss to the ninth-seeded Lendl disappointed fans but didn't surprise them. The biggest shock of the day came earlier, when Patricia Hy punched out Jennifer Capriati 7-5, 6-4. From Olympic gold to U.S. Open dross, Capriati ended one of the happiest of summers with a listless loss.

Connors didn't have much energy left at the end of his match, but he looked tough at the start.

"He was serving well, mixing it up and making no errors," Lendl said. "He was playing very well. I was able to get on top of him in the second set and stay there. That was important. He certainly kept fighting."

Lendl, 32, didn't kid himself about the circumstances of the match, saying it was obviously "more complicated" than most second-rounders. But he also didn't give it added importance.

"My goal in the Open was not to come in here and beat Jimmy on a Friday night," Lendl said. "It was to play as well as I can. That's the way I played Jimmy for a long time."

Connors broke Lendl to take a 3-1 lead in the first set, punching the air with an uppercut as Lendl drilled a forehand into the net on the break point. That set the already pumped-up crowd into a frenzy, and the fans roared even louder when Connors ended the set with typical flair. He slugged a backhand crosscourt, slipping on the shot, and stayed up with the help of his pink and yellow racket while Lendl's forehand drifted wide down the line.

Connors, a five-time Open champion, held up one finger to the crowd, as if to say, "That's one down."

Unfortunately for him and his fans, that was all he had in him.

Sub quarterback sparks Monroeville

LAGRANGE — "We did exactly what we had planned to do the first time we got our hands on the football and that set the tone for the night," stated Monroeville coach Steve Ringholz as his Eagles bested Keystone 19-13 in the season lidlifter.

"We used the combination of the run and pass on our first two scoring drives and that combined with good line play gave us a 13-0 lead."

The first score of the night came at the 3:27 mark of the opening quarter as Cory Shaw bolted in from the one. Matt Tyler added the point from placement.

The second scoring drive ended at the 8:04 mark of the second period when Brent Jones scored from the three. The extra point was blocked making it 13-0.

"We were jolted pretty good at the close of the first half when we were intercepted and had a 82 yard run (Jason Dewar) bring them back within six. To top it off our starting quarterback (Kevin Fries) was injured and didn't return to action."

"We then had to call on sophomore Greg Schindley who did an outstanding job directing the ball team in the second half. We were limited on what we could do but he did it well," stated the 15 year veteran.

The Eagles finished the night with 201 yards on the ground adding to this 99 yards in the air for a 300 yard offensive performance.

"Our defensive unit did an outstanding job. They kept us in the game allowing just the one touchdown and 29 yards rushing."

The win was Ringholz's 98th at the helm as he now stands 98-45-1 since taking over the top position in 1978.

Seneca East 29 Col. Crawford 8

ATTICA — Brian Holmer scored three touchdowns and gained 147 yards on 24 carries as Seneca East opened with a 29-8 win over Colonel Crawford Friday night.

Holmer carried much of the ball-carrying load in the backfield as running mate Matt Beckman was hampered with a bad ankle and played only sparingly.

The Tigers, who lost in the final seconds to Colonel Crawford last year, jumped in front early in the second period when Holmer scored on a 48-yard fumble return and Nate Watson converted for a 7-0 lead at the 8:07 mark.

But, Colonel Crawford moved in front just before halftime. Brady Sheets scored from two yards out with just two seconds left before intermission. A pass from Corey Diebler to Brad McKibben was successful and the visiting Eagles had an 8-7 lead.

The second half belonged to Seneca East, which held Colonel Crawford to just 68 yards total offense and five first downs. The Tigers, meanwhile, piled up 273 yards in the second half.

Holmer scored twice in the third period on short runs, going in from one yard out with 7:11 showing on the clock. Mark Reesman ran for the conversion and a 15-8 Seneca East lead. Holmer came back with a three-yard scoring run with just 53 seconds left in the quarter and Watson converted for a 22-8 advantage.

Closing out the scoring was Beckman on a two-yard run just 28 seconds into the fourth period and Watson tacked on the extra point.

The Tigers were sparked defensively by senior Matt Fritz, who pocketed a pair of interceptions.

Seneca East entertains Woodmore next Friday.

Northwestern 26 New London 10

WEST SALEM — Northwestern struck early and never looked back en route to a 26-10 win over New London Friday night, spoiling the debut of Rocky Farlow as head coach of the Wildcats.

The Wildcats, who finished 6-4 last season, were down by a 10-0 score at halftime before getting on the board with a 28-yard field goal by Jay Raphael in the third quarter.

And, they added a fourth-quarter touchdown on a five-yard run by Tyler Biddinger with Raphael adding the conversion.

Crestline 21 Plymouth 18

PLYMOUTH — Senior Eric Downing picked up right where he left off a year ago, scoring three times and gaining 83 yards on 18 carries to lead Crestline to a 21-14 win over Plymouth.

Downing led the North Central Conference in rushing with 1,127 yards last year.

He gave Crestline, which was 2-8 last year, the early lead with a 59-yard punt return.

But, Plymouth battled back to gain the lead as Greg Davis scored on a 60-yard punt returned and Rick Reeder ran for the conversion and an 8-7 lead in the second period.

Crestline went back in front, 14-8, on a five-yard run by Downing, but the Big Red equaled the count at 14-14 early in the fourth period on a 62-yard run by Curt Handshoe.

The Bulldogs got the game-winner from Downing on a nine-yard run late in the game.

Handshoe was the game's leading rusher with 93 yards on 11 carries.

W. Reserve 14 Col. Station 0

COLLINS — Western Reserve has developed a habit of winning season openers.

And, the tradition continued on Friday night as the Roughriders downed Columbia Station, 14-0.

It was the 11th straight season-opening win for the Roughriders, all coming at the expense of Columbia Station.

In fact, the last time Western Reserve lost a season opener came in 1981 when Columbia Station prevailed, 27-14.

Friday's win was also the fourth straight shutout in the series as the Roughriders, 7-3 last year, have outscored Columbia Station by a 119-0 count during that span.

Sophomore fullback Steve Meagrow scored both touchdowns for coach Don Wilson's team.

On their first possession of the game, the Roughriders reached paydirt with Meagrow going the final eight yards with 8:02 left in the period. Sean Nolan boot the conversion to give Western a 7-0 lead.

After a scoreless second period, Meagrow came back with a one-yard touchdown plunge with just 41 seconds left in the third quarter and Nolan again converted for a 14-0 lead which held up the rest of the way.

Lucas 19 S. Central 0

LUCAS — South Central and Lucas locked up in a defensive battle with the host Cubs emerging with a 19-0 win in the season opener.

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SCORE BY QUARTERS		Edison — Simon, 26 run. (Bauer, kick).	
Benedictine	7 0 7 14	Edison	— Bauer, 27 field goal.
Sandusky	0 6 0 0	Norwalk	— Jason Cross, 37 pass from Reid Shoop. (Jim Warner, run).
Cleveland Benedictine — Caanan Murphy, 28 pass from Jeff Mikhalek. (Don Casavta, kick).			
Sandusky — Brian Barnum, 1 run. (kick failed).			
Cleveland Benedictine — Joe Marra, 8 pass from Mikhalek. (Casavta, kick).			
Cleveland Benedictine — Darrell McLendon, 11 run. (Casavta, kick).			
Cleveland Benedictine — Curtis Davis, 18 run. (Casavta, kick).			
STATISTICS		Edison	
First Downs (total)	17	E	N
by rushing	14	17	7
by passing	3	14	3
by penalty	0	0	1
Rushes (total)	44	24	26
net yards rushing	249	52	52
passes attempted	10	21	21
passes completed	5	7	7
passes intercepted	2	1	1
net yards passing	82	50	50
Total plays	56	56	56
Total Net Yards Gained	331	102	102
Fumbles (number)	3	1	1
ball lost	2	1	1
Penalties (number)	8	4	4
yards penalized	56	30	30
SCORE BY QUARTERS		Edison	
Genoa	0 0 8 0	E	N
Port Clinton	22 0 8 30	22	0
Port Clinton — Rick Cassel, 80 kickoff return. (Andy Benko, kick).			
Port Clinton — Cassel, 1 run. (Benko, kick).			
Port Clinton — Cassel, 5 run. (Benko, kick).			
Genoa — Jim Mazzy, 18 run. (Mazzy, run).			
Port Clinton — Jeremy Schultz, 6 run. (Dan Gray, run).			
STATISTICS		Edison	
First Downs (total)	8	G	PC
by rushing	2	8	15
by passing	2	12	12
by penalty	5	3	3
Rushes (total)	1	0	0
net yards rushing	22	35	35
passes attempted	70	193	193
passes completed	14	18	18
passes intercepted	8	11	11
net yards passing	0	1	1
Total plays	58	129	129
Total Net Yards Gained	36	53	53
Fumbles (number)	128	322	322
ball lost	4	2	2
Penalties (number)	3	2	2
yards penalized	20	50	50
SCORE BY QUARTERS		Edison	
Willard	0 7 0 0	W	O
Orrville	6 0 0 15	14	8
Orrville — Sean Hartzler, 25 field goal.			
Orrville — Hartzler, 45 field goal.			
Willard — John Vogel, 13 pass from Ron Worcester. (John Vetter, kick).			
Orrville — Sly Slaughter, 2 run. (Loren Burkey, run).			
Orrville — Andre Howard, 18 run. (Hartzler, kick).			
STATISTICS		Edison	
First Downs (total)	14	W	O
by rushing	6	14	8
by passing	6	6	6
by penalty	2	1	1
net yards rushing	109	211	211
passes attempted	16	48	48
passes completed	9	1	1
passes intercepted	2	1	1
net yards passing	94	13	13
Total Net Yards Gained	203	224	224
Fumbles (number)	5	2	2
ball lost	2	1	1
Penalties (number)	5	4	4
yards penalized	57	30	30
SCORE BY QUARTERS		Edison	
Monroeville	7 6 0 6	M	K
Keystone	0 7 0 6	16	9
Monroeville — Cory Shaw, 1 run. (Matt Tyler, kick).			
Monroeville — Brett Jones, 3 run. (kick failed).			
Keystone — Jason Dewar, 82 pass interception return. (Jeff Valentik, kick).			
Monroeville — Jon LoPresti, 30 pass from Greg Schindley. (pass failed).			
Keystone — Dewar, 15 pass from Mike McClure. (kick failed).			
STATISTICS		Edison	
First Downs (total)	11	M	K
by rushing	11	4	4
by passing	5	5	5
by penalty	0	0	0
net yards rushing	201	29	29
passes attempted	12	19	19
passes completed	7	10	10
passes intercepted	1	1	1
net yards passing	99	127	127
Total Net Yards Gained	300	157	157
Fumbles (number)	2	1	1
ball lost	1	1	1
Penalties (number)	3	5	5
yards penalized	15	45	45
SCORE BY QUARTERS		Edison	
South Central	0 0 0 0	SC	L
Lucas	13 6 0 0	17	6
Lucas — Orewiler, 50 yard punt return. (Conn, kick).			
Lucas — Orewiler, 20 pass from Foss. (kick failed).			
Lucas — Keevar, 5 pass from Foss. (kick failed).			
STATISTICS		Edison	
First Downs (total)	27	SC	L
net yards rushing	27	11	6
passes attempted	27	41	41
passes completed	7	5	5
passes intercepted	1	0	0
net yards passing	88	94	94
Total Net Yards Gained	115	135	135
Penalties (number)	3	40	40
yards penalized	25	78	78
SCORE BY QUARTERS		Edison	
New London	0 0 3 7	NL	N
Northwestern	3 7 10 6	10	10
Northwestern — Brian, 33 field goal.			
Northwestern — Wakefield, 1 run. (Brian, kick).			
New London — Jay Raphael, 28 field goal.			
Northwestern — Brian, 33 field goal.			
Northwestern — Wakefield, 1 run. (Brian, kick).			
New London — Tyler Biddinger, 8 run. (Raphael, kick).			
Northwestern — Shields, 2 pass from Wakefield. (kick failed).			
STATISTICS		Edison	
First Downs (total)	14	NL	N
net yards rushing	10	10	10
passes attempted	17	77	77
passes completed	5	18	18
passes intercepted	1	10	10
net yards passing	4	147	147
Total Net Yards Gained	151	224	224
Fumbles (number)	1	4	4
ball lost	0	2	2
Penalties (number)	5	2	2
yards penalized	35	20	20