

Eagles

• Continued from B-1.
Both teams can claim a piece of the league title Friday as Monroeville visits Ashland Crestview and the Pirates host New London.

New London 35
Plymouth 6

NEW LONDON — Jason Matthews triggered New London's 35-6 rout of Plymouth Friday night, scoring three times as the Wildcats improved to 3-4 in the Firelands Conference and 3-6 overall.

Matthews gave the Wildcats the lead for good when he raced 37 yards for the first touchdown of the game with 6:53 showing on the clock in the opening period. Jay Raphael added the first of five successful conversions for a 7-0 lead.

With 8:25 left in the second period, New London upped its lead to 14-0 after an eight-yard scoring run by Matthews.

Plymouth, 1-6 in the conference and 2-7 overall, closed to within 14-6 after Ricky Reeder hauled in a 19-yard touchdown pass from Brian Loehn with 6:52 left in the half.

But, the Wildcats answered in a big way with a pair of touchdown passes in the final 3:37 of the half.

First, Brian Hofheins hauled in a 25-yard pass from Aaron Matthews. Then, with just 25 seconds left in the half, the same two hooked up for 24 yards.

Matthews closed out the scoring in the game with a 13-yard run with 2:58 left in the third period.

South Central 28
Crestview 14

ASHLAND — South Central broke open the game early with big plays and went on for a 28-16 win over Ashland Crestview Friday night.

The Trojans, 3-5 in the Firelands Conference and 3-6 overall, broke on top with a 20-point outburst in the first 12 minutes of play.

Brandon Sanders rambled 76 yards to paydirt with the opening kickoff for a 6-0 lead.

And, the Trojans quickly built on the advantage. Nathan Antill hauled in an eight-yard scoring toss from Matt Prater and the latter also ran for the two-point conversion and a 14-0 lead.

Then, Darren Hunt picked off a Crestview pass and raced 17 yards to the end zone to give the visitors a 20-0 lead.



Register photo — PATRICK O'BRIEN

Sandusky's Tron Lofton carries an Elyria defender for extra yardage in Friday's big win. The senior tailback scored three times and went over the 1,000-yard mark for the season with 111 yards in the first half alone as the Streak rolled to a 28-0 lead.

Cook: The table is set

BY CHARLES WAGNER
Sports Editor

"Everything is on the table now and it's a matter of who will be doing the feasting next Friday night."

That was the comment made by Sandusky coach Larry Cook after his team disposed of Elyria.

"This is where we wanted to be. The table is now set and we're sitting at the table with Vermilion. The winner will certainly enjoy the feast and we hope to be the one celebrating just like I know Ralph (Vermilion coach Ralph Mayer) feels," Cook commented.

"We really got some help tonight as far as the playoff picture is concerned. We're in the hunt and losses by Reynoldsburg and Grove City who were ahead of us is great news for us."

"I'll have to go over everything next week to get a better picture. I know this, it's going to be a playoff atmosphere next week and I certainly hope we can fill the stadium. The kids deserve it the way they have come back to win 7 in a row after everyone had us counted out just two weeks into the season," Cook noted.

"I'm very proud of this group. They did what they had to do and that's a credit to the kids and my staff," Cook continued.

"There is no doubt Tron Lofton's run on the first play set the tone and I'm happy for him to get over 1,000 yards. We ran him just once in the second half after he had over 100 yards in the first half," Cook said.

Lofton finished with 120 yards on 13 carries to run his total to 1,117 on 153 carries for a sparkling 7.3 yards per carry. He also has 17 touchdowns on the season.

"Our defense played another outstanding game. We wanted another shutout. However, the kickoff coverage let us down and gave them excellent field position. They had to go 30 yards but we made it tough on them."

"We had several big runs tonight, a couple by Tron, a big one by Eric Irby on his only carry and the 74-yarder by DeAndre Moore that was called back. Our line came off the ball and the ball ran very well," Cook added.

"All of our kids answered the bell tonight totally. They came out ready to play and I can't say enough about our defense which has come along so well. We had four interceptions tonight and recovered a fumble and that's 5 turnovers. We had just one (fumble)," Cook explained.

The win was the 17th straight in Erie Shore play.

Fry: Cooper just like George Bush these days

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Ohio State's John Cooper is a little like George Bush these days, Iowa football coach Hayden Fry says.

Bush will find out his future in Tuesday's election. Cooper, under the gun to live up to past coaching legends, could do himself a favor if his Buckeyes beat Iowa at Kinnick Stadium today.

"He's in an environment much like George Bush is in," Fry said.

"We are so quick to be negative and jump on people and forgetting all the dang good things the man has done," he said, referring to both men.

"At Ohio State, you had Woody Hayes and Earle Bruce. So everybody expected John Cooper to be as good as they were — maybe rightly so. But that's what John is fighting and every time they don't look real impressive ... he gets criticized," Fry said.

Replies Cooper: "I knew what I was getting into when I came here. The fans' expectation level; they're not very realistic."

After dropping their first two Big Ten games and occupying last place in the league, Ohio State (5-

2) has rattled off wins against Northwestern and Michigan State to forge a seven-way tie for second place behind No. 3 Michigan. The Buckeyes have not lost in Iowa City since a 20-14 defeat in 1983.

Iowa has dropped five of eight games, but wins over Wisconsin and Illinois also left them tied for second in the conference at 2-2.

Still, it's a far cry from last year's 10-1-1 season.

"This is the longest season of me and my coaching staff's lives," Fry said. "Our guys play hard. They're good kids. They try hard, but we're just not that good. Our won-lost record shows it."

The Hawkeyes have gone with patched-up offensive and defensive lines because of injuries, and Fry may have to play Matt Eyde at quarterback for the second straight week in place of Jim Hartlieb. Hartlieb, the conference leader in touchdown throws, injured his shoulder two weeks ago against Illinois.

Eyde, a junior transfer from Michigan State, made his first start last week against Purdue. He completed 22 of 39 passes for 164

yards but threw two interceptions as Iowa lost 27-16.

Hartlieb's rehabilitation is ahead of schedule but Fry wants to keep OSU guessing and won't say if he'll play, much less start. Cooper isn't fooled.

"Hartlieb is going to play against us. Hayden ain't fooling me. Hartlieb will be out there playing on Saturday," Cooper said.

The Buckeyes have always featured a strong running game, and it's no different this season. With Raymont Harris, Jeff Cothran, Butler By'not'e and Eddie George, Ohio State is averaging 172 yards a game on the ground.

Statistically, that puts the Buckeyes behind Michigan in the rushing category. Cooper seems unimpressed.

"I keep hearing about all these great backs we've got. I want to see them some time," Cooper said.

Ohio State's running game should be bolstered with the return of Robert Smith, who has been hobbled by an ankle injury but who will likely play Saturday, Cooper said.

Iowa, traditionally tough against the run, is getting pounded on the ground this season. The Hawkeyes are ninth in the conference in rushing defense, giving up 221 yards a game.

Although chances of catching Michigan are slim, Saturday's contest offers the opportunity to break the second-place logjam and jockey for a good bowl game.

"Hayden's got to approach this game like it's a must-win game. They've lost five games already in a 12-game schedule. If we beat them, the best they can hope for is 6-6 and that's probably not going to put them in a bowl," Cooper said.

Streaks

• Continued from B-1.
reled up the middle and scampered 48 yards to the Elyria 7 before he was knocked out of bounds.

After a mixup on a handoff resulted in a loss, Barnum played the role of magician on the option and popped free for 11 yards and a touchdown as most of the Pioneers bit for the fake up the middle. Romero again added the PAT.

Then came Elyria's well-executed drive after a 45-yard kickoff return gave the white-shirted invaders first down at the SHS 30.

The Streaks gave up ground grudgingly and the Pioneers needed 10 plays to strike paydirt.

The climax came on a six-yard pass from Thomas to favorite receiver Joe Norton who made a sensational diving grab in the right corner of the end zone at the 2:45 mark. Four times Thomas went to Norton and that accounted for 39 yards which actually was more than the drive itself.

Sandusky had an outstanding 76-yard scoring run by junior DeAndre Moore nullified by a penalty on the first play after Elyria kicked off, then eventually fumbled at the Elyria 4.

However, they earned another opportunity after the Pioneers fumbled on their own 12 three plays later.

Junior Phil Mines, operating at quarterback, executed the option to perfection as he kept the ball, ripped through a gaping hole off-tackle and galloped into the end zone on a 14-yard run with 5:21 left in the game.

Romero's kick capped the scoring.

Cahill dies

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (AP) — Tom Cahill, football coach at Army during the Vietnam War, has died of a heart attack. He was 73.

Cahill died Thursday night in the emergency room at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady after being stricken while bowling, hospital officials said.

Cahill, hired in 1959 by Earl "Red" Blaik to coach freshman football and baseball, was elevated to head coach in 1966 when Paul Dietzel suddenly resigned to take over at South Carolina.

Army was 8-2 again in 1967 and 7-3 in 1968.

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