

Willard wins squeaker

Special to the Register
TIFFIN — The brother act of John and James Vogel came up with the big plays on offense, leading Willard to a 14-6 win over Tiffin Columbian and keeping the squad in a tie for first place in the race for the Northern Ohio League grid title.

James Vogel threw a 47-yard pass to Chad Clark for the first Willard score of the night while John Vogel was on the receiving end of a 49-yard scoring strike from quarterback Ron Worcester the next time the Crimson Flashes found the endzone.

John Vogel finished the game with five catches for 88 yards and the one score as Willard displayed a good balance of running and passing on the way to their fourth win in a row.

The Flashes are unbeaten in two league starts while Tiffin is winless in five games including two league contests.

Despite the victory, head coach Terry King was less than pleased with his team's performance.

"Tiffin played well. They outplayed us. Give them credit," said the coach following his third straight victory over the Tornados.

"They were giving us single coverage all night. We knew what they were doing. We just could not get

the ball to the receivers." Senior Brad Dials led the ground attack with 20 rushes for 97 of his team's 213 net yards rushing. Add to that a defense which allowed just 114 yards rushing and an additional 56 in the air and you have the formula for victory.

Defense dominated early. Sophomore Corey Barnett gave Willard the first chance to score with a fumble recover at the Tiffin 24. However, the visitors wound up losing the ball on downs at the Tiffin 8 when a fourth down pass was knocked down by the Tornados.

The Flashes also held on the ensuing possession and took over at midfield. Three plays later, James Vogel hit Clark with the 47-yard bomb for the first points of the night.

Willard also drove 50 yards for its second score following a Tiffin punt. This time it took four plays for the winners to reach the end zone on John Vogel's touchdown grab.

John Vetter added this second extra point kick of the night and the Willard scoring was complete.

Tiffin's score came on a 54-yard fumble return by Mike Morgan at the 4:58 mark of the third period. However, the hosts missed the all-important two point conversion when a run was short, leaving Tiffin down by eight points.

Both teams threatened one more time in the contest.

Willard took over on downs at its 28 with time for one more play in the third period. The Flashes drove to the Tiffin 23 before giving up the ball as a result of two straight incomplete passes.

At that point Tiffin mounted its most serious offensive drive of the night, moving to the Willard six-yard line in 10 plays. However, on the 11th play, Chad Gitcheff was hammered by Todd Corbin and Brad Dials for a 1-yard loss and the Flashes took over the ball with 4:45 left in the game.

This time Tiffin held on downs and forced a punt. The losers got the ball at their 47 to start their final drive, but they wound up giving it up on downs at their 28 thanks to a pair of penalties and a Willard defense which forced three incomplete passes.

"I don't like the way we are playing. We have a lot of work to do if we want to challenge for the NOL," King warned.

The Flashes return home for the first time since the second game of the season when they host Galion in the annual homecoming game Friday night. Galion defeated Bucyrus 21-16 Friday night and the Tigers and Flashes both bring 4-1, 2-0 records into the early-season showdown contest.

Flyers, Eagles trail Black River in Firelands

St. Paul and Monroeville are playing follow the leader in the Firelands Conference title chase.

Both squads have suffered a league loss and sit right behind front-running Black River, which used a 49-14 pounding of Crestview Friday night to remain perfect in five regular season games and three Firelands outings.

This is the final season in the Firelands for the Pirates.

The Flyers are in second, 12-game behind the Pirates at 3-1 (3-2 overall) after scoring a 38-6 romp over New London Friday while the Eagles knocked off Western Reserve to improve to 2-1 in the league and 4-1 on the season.

Also, South Central ran its win streak to two straight for rookie coach Bryan Oney with a 39-26 shootout over Plymouth.

Reserve. The Eagles never trailed after Bill Barber pulled down scoring tosses of 5 and 30 yards from Kevin Fries in the final four minutes of the half.

But the Roughriders (1-2, 2-3) made things interesting when Curt Bly and Sean Manfull hooked up on a 54-yard scoring strike and Sean Nolan added the extra point with 1:37 left in the third period.

Fries answered with a bomb of his own, hitting Jim LoPresti with a 63-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the fourth quarter. Brett Jones ran for the 2-point conversion to end the scoring.

The Eagles held a 342-173 edge in total yardage with Fries going 13 of 21 for 188 yards and Jones rushing for 71.

Monroeville gets back into action at home Friday against New London while Western hosts front-running Black River.

St. Paul 38
New London 6

NORWALK — Alex Schaffer scored three times and John Good added a pair of touchdowns as St. Paul clubbed New London.

Schaffer, who picked up 103 yards on 14 carries, scored on runs of 18, 5 and 24 yards in the middle periods as the Flyers rolled out to a 24-0 lead.

Good, who added 65 yards on 17 tries on the ground, had touchdowns of 1 and 5 yards in the final eight minutes to the game out of reach.

Jim Landoll opened the St. Paul scoring with a 27-yard field goal in the opening period with Schaffer getting his first two touchdowns in the second period to open up a 17-0 lead.

The Flyers padded their lead after the intermission when Schaffer went in from the 24 with the Wildcats (1-3, 1-4) answering with a 9-yard touchdown run from Aaron Matthews with 5:07 left to play in the period.

Good took over from there with Landoll adding the kick after each score. Landoll ended the night by scoring eight points with the field goal and five extra points.

St. Paul had a total of 410 yards offense in the game with 213 coming through the air. The Flyer defense limited New London to just 171 yards rushing and no yards through the air.

The Wildcats are back in action at Monroeville on Friday with St. Paul returning to Whitney Field on Saturday to host Crestview.

Monroeville 20
W. Reserve 7

MONROEVILLE — Monroeville used a 12-point outburst in the second quarter to turn back Western

S. Central 39
Plymouth 26

PLYMOUTH — South Central took advantage of seven Plymouth turnovers to hand rookie coach Bryan Oney his second straight victory.

The Trojans are now 2-2 in the league and 2-3 overall while the Big Red slips to 1-3 in the Firelands and 1-4 on the season.

Kris Kucinic gave Plymouth the early lead by returning a South Central fumble 39 yards for a score with just 3:33 gone in the first period. But Matt Prater came up with the answer two minutes later when he found Chad French for a 33-yard touchdown pass.

Matt Clemens stretched the Trojan lead to 19-7 at the intermission with touchdown runs of 22 and 2 yards in the second quarter with Ricky Reeder closing the gap with a 16-yard scoring scamper late in the third.

Clemens was back in the endzone with just 15 seconds left in the period on a 10-yard run with Nathan Antill opening the fourth quarter scoring with a 25-yard touchdown pass from Prater.

Greg Davis and Brian Loehn hooked up on a 44-yard scoring bomb with 10:56 left to play to bring the Big Red back to a 32-20 deficit only to have South Central's Darren Hunt scoop up a fumble and race 58 yards for the score with 3:34 left to play.

Curt Handshoe closed out the 26-point fourth quarter with a 5-yard touchdown run for Plymouth with just over two minutes to play.

The Trojans held a slim 378-344 edge in total yardage, but only had a pair of turnovers in the contest.

Grant scores 5 touchdowns as Bellevue rolls past Upper

BELLEVUE — Bellevue scored 21 points in the first 12 minutes of action as it by Upper Sandusky, 49-9, in Northern Ohio League play Friday night.

The win was the Redmen's fourth of the season against just one setback and second straight in the league.

Matt Grant, who tallied five touchdowns, opened the scoring just 2:26 into the game as he bulled in from the three. Matt Hoerig then added his first of six points from placement to make it 7-0.

Grant's second score of the night came with 7:27 on the clock followed by his third at the 1:50 mark.

The Rams got their lone six-pointer of the evening in the second quarter on a 62 yard run by Jake Parsell. He finished the night with 81 yards in 8 attempts.

The Redmen aerial attack managed to pull out a six-pointer as quarterback John Bollinger hooked up with David Miller on a 54-yard scoring pass early in the second half.

The final Bellevue score came on a 12 yard run by Brian Treat with just 48 ticks left on the clock in the fourth quarter. This time John Spiensma split the uprights for the conversion.

Upper's final three points came

on a 23 yard field goal by Tord Myrvang.

Bellevue finished the night with a total of 403 yards on a split of 217 on the ground and 186 through the air. Grant was their leading ball carrier with 92 yards in 16 rushes.

Bellevue travel to Norwalk on Friday while Upper (1-4 0-2) remains on the road traveling to Tiffin.

Shelby 41
Norwalk 0

NORWALK — Shelby "Whipped" up on Norwalk Friday evening 41-0 to raise their overall mark to 3-1 and also remained perfect in the NOL at 2-0.

The Trucker defense did an outstanding job in the first half as they limited the visitors to just 14 points with both scores coming late in the periods.

Aaron Henkle scored from the five-yard line with 2:02 left in the first quarter and Jerome Kurtz added the second six-pointer with just 56 seconds left in the first half.

Henkle exploded for two touchdowns in the third stanza on runs of 44 and 6 yards.

Kurtz and Josh Hoffman tallied the fourth quarter scores on runs of 17 and 13 yards.

For the evening, the Whippets rushed for 327 yards and added 91 yards up above for an offensive performance of 418 total yards.

The Truckers, on the other hand, finished with 57 yards on the ground and with 5-of-14 in the passing department good for 25 yards netted out 82 yards of offense.

Next Friday Shelby host Bucyrus while the Truckers entertain Bellevue.

Galion 21
Bucyrus 16

BUCYRUS — Not many football games are won with negative rushing yardage, but the Galion Tigers proved it could be done as they defeated Bucyrus 21-16 finishing with a minus 58 yards on the ground.

The Tigers went up above 36 times, connecting on 23 for 271 yards and two touchdowns.

Quarterback Mark Ruhl fired six-pointers to Jeremy Tomassetti (28 yards) and Jamie Christian (29 yards) while the third score came on a Brian Owens fumble recovery in the end zone.

The Redmen scored 14 points in the second period to tie the contest at the intermission, 14-14.

Sophomore back leads Sailors

VERMILION — Vermilion relies heavily on its tailback in its style of offensive football.

The Sailors lost their top runner early in the second and junior Kevin Jones, who has been outstanding in recent games, was banged up.

So veteran coach Ralph Mayer had to call on 180-pound sophomore Matt White Friday in Friday's Erie Shore Conference game with Lorain southview.

White responded with a superb performance in which he gained 190 yards on 27 carries and scored three touchdowns in the 35-7 blitz.

The Sailors, 3-2 overall and 2-0 in the conference, had everything their own way after a 7-7 standoff in the opening period.

"We took control in the second quarter and score our third touchdown with 40 seconds left in the half and that was a very big score. I think we became of age last week late in the game with North Ridgeville and it carried over to tonight," Mayer said.

"The big key was Matt's running and the domination of our lines, both offensively and defensively," Mayer explained.

Matt Hector put the Sailors on

the board first with an 11-yard run and Adam Shuster's kick. However, they were tagged for roughing Southview's punter on the next series of downs and the Saints took advantage of the major penalty to drive for the tying points.

White plunged in from the one to give the hosts the lead for good and his two-yrd run in the final minute of the first half gave the Sailors the lift they needed.

White made it three touchdowns for the night (4 for the year) in the third quarter and Mike Szabo ran two yards in the final period.

Kiwanis PT&K winners announced

Some outstanding performances highlighted the 8th annual Sandusky Kiwanis Punt, Throw and Kick Contest held recently.

The winners in each of the six ages groups qualify for the second phase of the state-wide competition, the Region I playoffs Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. at Findlay.

The top three finishers in each age group (with distances measured in feet and inches):

- 8 -- 1. Alan Barnum, 137-5; 2. Justin Goff, 134-4; 3. Mathew Maloney, 132-10.
- 9 -- 1. Chris Faller, 188-0; 2. Michael Miller, 129-2; 3. Brandon Calderon, 123-1.
- 10 -- 1. Chris Bittner, 209-9; 2. Justin Bertschy, 205-11; 3. Chad Cotton, 191-2.
- 11 -- 1. Michael Bixler, 204-11; 2. Drew Davie, 181-10; 3. Dan Patterson, 167-11.
- 12 -- 1. Jeff Shoemaker, 240-1; 2. Ryan Wikel, 215-1; 3. Matthew Luginbill, 207-9.
- 13 -- 1. Jeff Blanton, 222-7; 2. Aarn Dahnke, 222-4; 3. Jason Dean, 217-2.

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Morris has Jays knocking on door

TORONTO (AP) — Last year, Jack Morris pitched the Toronto Blue Jays out of the playoffs. On Friday night, he put them on the verge of getting back in.

Morris, leading the majors with 21 victories, again pitched just well enough to win in helping the Blue Jays hold off Detroit 8-7 to clinch at least a tie for the AL East championship.

"I was the one who got credit for the win, but we won as a team," Morris said. "It's hard to except the fact you're getting beat around a little bit, but that was the best I had."

The Blue Jays cut their magic number to one and would wrap up their second straight division title, and fourth in eight years, if second-place Milwaukee lost later at Oakland. No AL East champion has repeated since the 1980-81 New York Yankees.

More than a half-dozen TV sets in the Toronto lockerroom were tuned to the Brewers-A's game, although no one was crowded around them. A few Blue Jays, including Morris and manager Cito Gaston planned to stay in the clubhouse to watch the ending.

"This takes some of the pressure off," Morris said. "It's not over yet, but they could only tie, and then they'd have to beat us here."

If Toronto and Milwaukee finished the weekend even, there would be a one-game playoff Monday at SkyDome.

Roberto Alomar and Candy Maldonado hit two-run homers in the first inning, and Pat Borders connected in the second as Toronto opened a 6-1 lead. But winning big games has never been easy for the Blue Jays, and it wasn't this time, either, as Detroit closed to 8-7 in the seventh on Mickey Tettleton's home run.

It wasn't until Tom Henke got his 34th save by striking out Tettleton with a runner on first in the ninth that another sellout crowd at SkyDome could relax.

Still, as much as the Tigers threatened against Morris, they could not get ahead of their former ace. Morris improved to 4-0 this season against Detroit this season in what the Blue Jays hope will be a tuneup for a start Wednesday night at home against Oakland in Game 1 of the AL playoffs.

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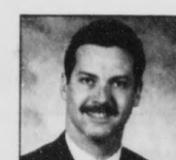
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