

SHS

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option, then fullback Shane Fox ripped up the middle for a first down at the 31.

The Streaks went to the pass on the following play and Barnum's pass intended for Milton Mines was picked off by defensive back Prevesk at the Benedictine 21.

That was it as far as Sandusky's offense was concerned except for a flash of lightning on a couple of plays in the second half.

The mistakes appeared in almost every series.

On Sandusky's first drive, which appeared to be promising, a third down pass was just inches short of the receiver who trapped the ball. He was tagged for an unsportsmanlike conduct call for spiking the ball.

The next possession resulted in a lost fumble.

Then came another lost fumble and finally, an interception. There they were for all to see, four possessions and four mistakes of one nature or another.

In the second half it was a little different. The mistakes were minimized, but the offense still couldn't generate a long series of plays.

It was four plays and out to start the second half, with a major penalty offsetting a 19-yrd run by Moore.

Rollison ran 15 yards on first down the next time Sandusky had the ball, then it was three more plays and out.

The Bengals had a 12-play drive which started in the third period and ended in the fourth but there were two big passes on the way to keep the drive alive.

Sandusky went 3 and out and punter Paco Romero mishandled the snap and the Bengals had the ball at the SHS 9.

The Streaks' defense came up big and the offense went back on the field with 5:20 left for one more chance. It was 3 and out again.

Benedictine took over with 4:11 remaining and converted a third and 27 play into a 29-yard pass completion to ruin any more chances for Sandusky to get that much-needed touchdown.



Sandusky quarterback Brian Barnum is stripped of the football when hit by a Benedictine defender in the second quarter of Friday's game.

Register photo — TIM FLECK

'We didn't make the big play'

BY CHARLES WAGNER
Sports Editor

"They made the big plays and we didn't." Sandusky coach Larry Cook made the comment after another frustrating loss to Benedictine Friday at Strobel Field.

"We did not make the big plays offensively in the first half or on defense the second half. I don't know how many times I remember they were faced with long yardage on third down plays in the second half and came up with the big play," Cook said.

"I certainly can't fault the effort by our kids. It certainly was there. There is no question they had the heart and the desire. They could have easily folded up, but they didn't," Cook noted.

"We had penalties, fumbles and a muffed punt attempt. That's way too many mistakes. We just continued to self-destruct.

"The defense had great goalline stands in the sec-

ond half. However, we shouldn't have allowed them to get into that position. They completed the big passes when they had to and the one pass late in the game was a wobbly duck that should have never been completed, but it was," Cook added.

"Our field position was poor in the second half, but again most of that was our own doing. Like I said, the defense came up big to keep the score at 6-0, but you can't allow any football team to play a second half in your territory and come away a winner," Cook noted. Benedictine had 54 offensive plays and 291 yards in total offense.

Sandusky ran off only 14 plays in the second half and finished the night with 37 plays and 147 yards in total offense.

"We had two fumbles that we lost and that hurt us, along with the penalties. We are going to have to pick ourselves up and get ready to play a strong Brother Rice team next week," Cook concluded.

Bears

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"Our line play was tremendous tonight. We came out real focused and ready to play. (Josh) Keck had some real nice blocks on both of his touchdown runs and we looked good on the other side of the ball as well," Zang added.

"We really made some good progress tonight. In our scrimmages, we felt we were doing the right things, but not getting the results. We're 100 percent over last week, but we still have a long way to go," he added.

Zang, who considers depth the key to winning the Sandusky Bay Conference title, was also pleased with the play of his underclassmen. "Injuries can play a key role in this conference and when you have kids that can step into a role and perform, it just makes you that much stronger," Zang commented.

The Willard Crimson Flashes of the Northern Ohio League will march into Castalia next Friday.

Edison

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chances to score in the first half and didn't, but I'm really proud of the kids. (Paul) Beach made some big plays on both sides of the ball," added Campana.

Norwalk scored the only points in the first half on a 36-yard field goal by sophomore Max DeLuca with 1:43 left in the second period.

Each team moved the ball consistently with the Truckers having 169 yards total offense with senior Jim Warner leading the way with 89 yards rushing. Edison also had 118 yards offense and featured a balanced attack with 58 on the ground and 60 through the air.

As the second half got underway, the Chargers came up with the big defensive play to set up their first score of the game.

The score was set up after an interception by Beach and 40-yard return to the Norwalk 2-yard line.

On the very next play, sophomore Jason Utter went over the right side for the touchdown. Larry Koelsch tacked on the extra

point and the Chargers had their first lead of the game, 7-3, with 8:19 remaining in the third period.

And, the lead held up until early in the fourth quarter when Perkins scored from 4 yards away, capping off a 12-play, 75-yard drive.

Perkins was the game's leading rusher and carried a bulk of the load in the second half, especially after Warner left with an injury. Perkins finished with 96 yards on 19 carries while Warner had 90 yards on 15 attempts.

"Progress is the key word. If you take where our program was last year at this time and where it is right now, there has been a lot of progress," said Norwalk second-year mentor Randy Hord.

"In the first half, I was pleased with everything except for the penalties (8 for 70 yards). We moved the ball well. The offensive line was doing the job and we have 2 solid backs who ran until there was nothing left in them. Our kids are beat physically, emotionally and physically."

"This is a great rivalry and the way high school football is supposed to be," said Hord.

Big

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yard scoring toss which tied the score at 6-6.

Perkins gained possession on a fumble recovery and drove 37 yards in four plays, consuming just 1:53 on the clock.

The Indians scored what proved to be the game-winner midway through the second period when Chambers hauled in an 87-yard scoring pass from John Drake with 4:33 showing on the clock. Steve Kretschmer added the point after and Oberlin had a 13-6 lead which held up the rest of the way.

It took the Indians just four plays to drive 94 yards with the pass making up most of the yardage.

The Pirates are now 3-5 against Oberlin in season openers and have lost four of the last five.

Good night for area Firelands teams

It was a good night for Firelands Conference teams as the trio of Monroeville, New London and South Central scored big wins.

Monroeville scored twice in the first half and came back with 2 more touchdowns in the fourth period to notch a 27-8 win over Keystone.

South Central featured a strong running game in a 27-0 rout of Lucas.

And, New London scored on big plays for a 24-0 blanking of Northwestern.

Plymouth was not as fortunate, suffering a 29-6 loss at Crestline.

New London 24
Northwestern 0

NEW LONDON — New London avenged last year's season-opening loss to Northwestern (26-10) in a big way.

The Wildcats jumped on top in the first period on a 60-yard interception return by Tyler Biddinger with 1:38 to go. Jay Raphael added the point after for a 7-0 lead.

Another big play helped New London increase its lead to 14-0. Jimmy Houghtlen scored on a 75-yard run and Raphael again split the uprights for a 14-0 lead with 6:49 to go in the half.

In the third period, Biddinger came back with his second score of the game, coming on a 2-yard run and Raphael, who later kicked a 31-yard field goal, added the point

after. Offensively, Northwestern had the edge in yardage, 193-190.

South Central 27
Lucas 0

GREENWICH — South Central concentrated on a solid ground game and piled up 313 yards on the ground for the first win over Lucas in 3 years.

Lucas had dominated the series the past 2 seasons, winning by a 43-6 score in 1991 and by a 19-0 count last year.

Chris Mullens got the Trojans off and running with a 5-yard scoring run in the first period.

In the second quarter, Troy Knoll reached paydirt from 6 yards out and Luke Clemons also scored on a 7-yard run as the Trojans took a 21-0 lead at halftime.

There was only one score in the second half, that coming on defense as Brandon Oney scored on a 17-yard interception return.

Crestline 29
Plymouth 6

CRESTLINE — Crestline made it 3 for 3 against Plymouth in season openers, winning by a 29-6 score.

That came on the heels of back-to-back wins over the Big Red the past 2 seasons by scores of 21-14 last year and 13-6 in 1991.

Crestline hit paydirt 3 times in the first half and had a 22-0 lead at

intermission.

John Stanck threw 4 touchdown passes for the winners. In the first period, he hooked up with Mike Fisher for 45 yards. In the second period, he found Fisher for a 68-yard strike and came back with an 8-yard scoring toss to Shawn Ronk. The final score for the Bulldogs came on a 4-yard pass to Eric Light.

Plymouth scored in the waning minutes to avoid the shutout. Bryon Bailey ran 27 yards to paydirt.

Monroeville 27
Keystone 8

LAGRANGE, Ohio — For the sixth time in seven years, the Eagles opened the season with a win over Keystone.

The Eagles piled up 296 yards total offense with Cory Shaw leading the way, scoring 3 touchdowns on runs of 21, 24 and five yards.

Danbury loser to Woodmore

DANBURY — Danbury's problem with its snapping on punts proved costly Friday in the season opener.

The Lakers dropped a 27-6 decision to Woodmore with a pair of touchdowns coming as a result of trouble in that area.

"It was a good game and Drew Leslie had one of the best games I've ever seen for a linebacker. He had 14 tackles, forced two fumbles and recovered two and also came up with two sacks. In addition, he scored our touchdown," coach Ed Flynn said.

"Woodmore had one kid who gained 193 yards on 26 carries and scored twice. He was a good one.

"We saw some positive signs tonight and I'm sure we can become a good team. We can't afford to make the big mistakes," Flynn continued.

AROUND THE AREA

Sailors' backs have field day

HENRIETTA — Vermilion coach Ralph Mayer said he was going to utilize the talent of his three fine tailbacks this season.

And that is exactly what happened Friday as the Sailors posted a 20-6 win over nemesis Firelands in the season opener.

"It's always nice to win an opener and to beat Firelands after losing the last couple of years should give us the confidence we are looking for," Mayer said.

The Sailors amassed 335 yards on the ground and the defense held the Falcons to minus yardage in the running department.

Matt White sparked the Sailors with 235 yards on 21 carries. Joe Baxter gained 38 on 7 carries and Kevin Jones chipped in with 39 yards on four rushes.

Jones ran 28 yards in the first

period for a 6-0 lead, then White exploded for a 72-yard burst in the second quarter. Firelands kicked a pair of field goals in the same quarter to make it 14-6 at intermission.

The only scoring in the second half came when White again reeled off a lightning-quick bolt, this one covering 61 yards.

"We lost a fumble and had problems with a punt that was block to give them their points. Our line play was solid and our backs did a nice job of running the ball. The first touchdown Matt scored came on third and short. He popped free and was off to the races," Mayer concluded.

The defending Erie Shore Conference champions face John Adams in the home opener Friday.

Willard drops 1-point verdict

Special to the Register
ORRVILLE — Willard worked hard to build a lead, then watched it slip away.

The Crimson Flashes held Orrville in check for the entire first half and most of the second, but gave up a touchdown pass with 32 seconds left in a 13-12 season-opening setback Friday night.

"I don't have much to say other than we played a real good first half and a not-so-good second," said Willard head coach Terry King. "We had errors that really hurt us, and that punt return broke our backs."

That punt return came from Tom Reusser with just 16 seconds left in the third quarter and cut the Flashes' hard-fought 12-0 lead in half.

It also set up the last-second heroics of quarterback Jared Zwick, who hit Marcell Denson with an 18-yard touchdown strike in the final minute of play to give the Red Raiders the final margin

of victory. "These are the kinds of losses that are hardest to take," King said. "We dominated and didn't hold the lead in the end."

Willard did all of its scoring in the second period, breaking a scoreless deadlock with 6:26 left in the half as Nate Slone capped a 52-yard drive with a 5-yard scoring run.

The Flashes foiled an Orrville fake punt attempt at the Red Raiders' 35 and turned it into a 12-yard James Vogel touchdown run. Willard, which missed the kick on the first extra point try, came up short on the two-point pass try and took a 12-0 lead in at the half.

Willard gained 269 yards in the game with Ronnie Worcester hitting 10 of 14 passes for 114 yards. Vogel and Kedrick Poole rushed for 50 yards apiece in the game while John Vetter pulled down three catches for 50 yards.

The Flashes continue their road trip with a trip to Margaretta Friday night.

Clyde ends St. Joe hex in 26-13 win

CLYDE — "We finally have the monkey off our back," is how Clyde coach Bob Bishop described his team's 26-13 win over Fremont St. Joe Friday.

The Fliers had lost 8 straight to the Crimson Streaks, and Bishop had never tasted a victory in his 7 seasons.

"We played a terrible first half. Everything that could possibly go wrong for us did. However, we made some adjustments and stopped making mistakes in the second half," Bishop continued.

"It was just sleepwalk in the first half and we were down 7-0. However, we started to do the things we had hoped to in the second half and scored on three consecutive possessions. We're very happy," Bishop added.

St. Joe gained a 6-0 lead on Kevin Huntley's halfback pass in the second period. Huntley kicked the PAT for a 7-0 lead.

Clyde narrowed the deficit to 7-6 when Jason Barr scored from four yards out in the third period.

However, the Fliers missed the extra point.

The Fliers came to life in the fourth period after St. Joe snuffed out another scoring threat with an interception.

With Barr and fullback Ray Lozier handling the ball-carrying duties, the Fliers broke the game wide open.

Lozier ran 3 yards for the go-ahead score at the 8:59 mark, then came back with 4:11 to play and ran 14 yards for his second tally of the night.

Greg Aldrich plunged two yards with 1:24 remaining in the game for a 26-7 lead and the Streaks countered with a 40-yard pass play 20 seconds from the end of the game.

Clyde ran for 315 yards to 58 for St. Joe and Barr was the catalyst with 135 yards 13 rushes. Lozier chipped in with 99 yards on 15 carries.

"Our tailbacks had 171 yards and the fullbacks over 100 and that's a pretty good night," Bishop concluded.

Skins impressive in 22-0 romp over Genoa

GENOA — Port Clinton opened the 1993 campaign in impressive fashion as it used a rumbly ground game and a stifling defense to thump Genoa, 22-0.

The Redskins ran 61 times for 208 yards and garnered 11 of their 15 first downs on the ground as the defense held the hosts to just 15 yards on 18 carries and just three total first downs in the game.

Senior Rick Cassel got the Redskins on the scoreboard in the second quarter as he bulled in from four yards out. Senior quarterback Eric Heise tossed to junior Bernie Peroni for the two-point conversion and the Redskins grabbed an 8-0 at the half.

Heise came back in the third stanza with a 20-yard pass to Peroni and the 'Skins upped their lead to 14-0, after the two-point conversion failed. Heise finished the evening 6 of 14 for 55 yards and one interception to go along with the Peroni touchdown.

Junior Dan Gray, who led the P.C. attack with 82 yards on 17 carries, capped off the evening's scoring when he plunged in from a yard out. Cassel ran for the two

points and the Redskins went home with 22-0 victory.

Port Clinton's defense never allowed Genoa to get into the game as they gave up just 30 net yards on 29 plays from scrimmage and forced three turnovers.

Rosford 13
Oak Harbor 12

ROSSFORD — Being unable to convert really hurt Oak Harbor Friday night in a 13-12 season-opening loss at Rosford.

The host Bulldogs scored once in the first period and once in the second for a 13-0 lead at halftime.

Roger Hamilton, who gained 90 yards on 10 carries, scored twice for the Rockets on runs of 63 and 9 yards in the third period.

However, Oak Harbor was unable to convert after either score and was unable to reach paydirt in the final period.

Matt Elston also had 55 yards on 10 carries for the Rockets while Ryan Steer, who scored the second Rosford touchdown on an 8-yard run, rambled for 132 yards on 27 carries.