

FIRELANDS

Plymouth, New London score big

NEW LONDON — New London ran its record to 2-0 with a dominating 31-14 victory over Firelands in Friday's non-conference play.

The Wildcats held a 461-248 edge in total yardage over the Falcons, plus collected three interceptions and a fumble.

New London took the lead for good when Josh Pack broke loose on a 39-yard touchdown run and Jay Raphael added the extra point kick early in the first quarter.

Firelands answered with a 7-yard touchdown pass from James Parker to Rick Krieg to score the first points of the season off of the Wildcat defense, but Raphael booted a 32-yard field and Jimmy Houghtlen ripped off a 34-yard scoring run in the second to open up a 16-6 lead.

Pack added a 1-yard touchdown with Raphael kicking the extra point in the third while Aaron Matthews hit Dan Whitaker with a 25-yard scoring strike and Jason Thomas ran in the 2-point conversion to open up a 31-6 New London lead.

The Falcons ended the scoring with 1:45 left in the game as Parker and Mitch Clark hooked up on a 12-yard touchdown pass with Parker then hitting Krieg with the 2-point conversion.

The Wildcats are back in action Saturday at Fremont St. Joe.

**Plymouth 41
Northwestern 0**

PLYMOUTH — Ricky Reeder tossed four touchdown passes to lead Plymouth in a 41-0 romp over Northwestern in Friday's non-conference action.

Reeder completed 8 of 14 tosses for 176 yards with two scoring tosses each to Greg Davis and Quinn Sexton as the Big Red squared their mark to 1-1 overall.

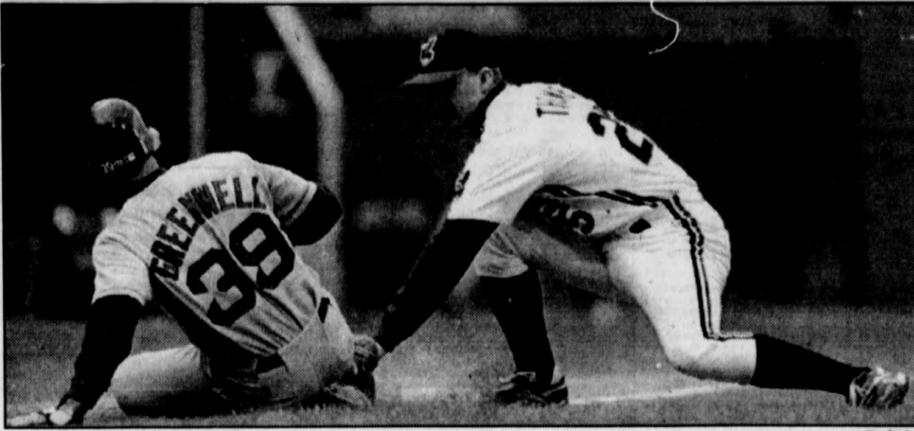
Plymouth opened the scoring with a 3-yard touchdown run from Brian Bailey with Reeder running for the 2-point conversion.

Reeder then went to work in the second, hitting Davis with a 9-yard scoring toss and following it up with a 30-yard touchdown bomb to Sexton. Davis added the extra point after both scores to open up a 22-0 halftime lead.

Reeder and Sexton hooked up on a 23-yard scoring striking and then added an 18-yard touchdown pass to Davis before time expired in the third quarter with Sexton taking off on a 58-yard punt return for a score in the fourth to close out the scoring.

The Big Red rolled up a 352-81 edge in total yardage by limiting Huskies to just two first downs and 11 yards through the air for the game.

Plymouth is back in action Friday at Buckeye Central.



Boston's Mike Greenwell is tagged out at third base by Jim Thome of Cleveland during the fifth inning of Game 1 of a twilight doubleheader at Cleveland Stadium Friday.

BoSox gain split after Indians take opener

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mike Greenwell, who had homered in the opener, singled home the winning run in the 11th inning of the second game as the Boston Red Sox beat the Cleveland Indians 5-4 for a doubleheader split.

Cleveland won the first game 7-4 as Bob Ojeda outpitched the struggling Roger Clemens.

The win in the second game was Boston's third in the last 10 games, and it ended a string of seven consecutive losses to the Indians.

Cleveland reliever Bill Wertz (2-3) retired 15 of the first 16 batters he faced until the Red Sox won it on consecutive two-out singles by Billy Hatcher, Scott Fletcher and Greenwell.

Ken Ryan Jr. (5-2) was the winner with 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

The Indians scored twice on Boston blunders in the first — once when center fielder Jeff McNeely threw the ball into the dugout on Carlos Baerga's single and again when right fielder Bob Zupcic dropped Albert Belle's fly ball. Belle added a sacrifice fly in the third,

and Baerga hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth.

Mo Vaughn homered for Boston off Bob Milacki in the fourth, his 24th, and Tim Lincecum, Ernest Riles and Scott Fletcher drove in runs to tie it against reliever Tom Kramer in the sixth.

Boston starter Frank Viola, who hasn't lost since July 15, went seven innings, yielding four runs — one of them unearned — and seven hits.

The loss in the first game dropped Clemens (10-13) three games under .500 for the first time in his career and extended his puzzling skid to 10 starts. In that span — which began in his third start after returning from a strained groin — he has lost seven of eight decisions.

He allowed seven runs and nine hits, walking five and striking out five in 7 1/3 innings. He has gone a career-worst 19 starts since his last complete game.

Ojeda (2-1) overcame shaky control to limit the Red Sox to three runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings. He walked five and struck out two in his longest appearance of the season. Jerry DiPoto got his seventh save.

Blue Jay bats come alive

TORONTO (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays, hurt by a lack of clutch hits lately, got more than their fair share Friday night.

The Blue Jays scored all of their runs on two-out hits and stopped a season-high six-game losing streak, beating California 10-4.

The victory moved Toronto back into sole possession of first place in the AL East, one game ahead of New York, which lost 6-5 to Kansas City.

"Over the last couple of games we haven't been capitalizing on our chances by coming up with the key two-out hit," said Paul Molitor, who had three hits, scored three times and drove in one.

"It started with Robbie (Alomar) in the third, Joe (Carter) kept it going, I had a big knock and (Ed) Sprague finished it off," he said.

Carter homered, doubled and drove in three runs. Sprague also drove in three runs.

The Blue Jays scored six times in the third inning against Phil

Leftwich (2-5). Alomar singled home the first run and Carter followed with an RBI double.

John Olerud drew his 100th walk of the season, Molitor and Tony Fernandez hit RBI singles and Sprague singled home two runs for a 6-0 lead.

Royals 6, Yankees 5

At Kansas City, Mo., Mike Macfarlane homered and Chico Lind hit a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning as the Kansas City Royals dropped New York out of a share of first place.

The Yankees wasted a four-run rally in the top of the eighth and lost their fourth straight game, their longest skid of the season.

Tigers 4, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Eric Davis homered twice, backing the two-hit pitching of Mike Moore and leading the Detroit Tigers over Chicago.

The AL West-leading White Sox lost for the third time in four games. Their lead was cut to four games over Texas, which beat

Minnesota in the first game of a doubleheader.

Athletics 12, Orioles 9
At Baltimore, the last-place Oakland Athletics again played the spoiler's role, scoring seven runs in the eighth inning to beat Baltimore.

Phillies 6, Astros 2

At Philadelphia, Curt Schilling scattered nine hits in 8 1/3 innings before leaving when he was struck by a line drive, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat Houston to snap the Astros' four-game winning streak.

Expos 4, Reds 3, 10 innings

At Montreal, Marquis Grissom's run-scoring single over a drawn-in infield with one out in the 10th inning off Rob Dibble lifted Montreal over Cincinnati.

Rockies 9, Pirates 8 (11)

At Pittsburgh, Eric Young's run-scoring double in the 11th inning broke a tie as Colorado beat Pittsburgh for the seventh time in 10 games this season.

Graf has Open title in sight

NEW YORK (AP) — A third straight Grand Slam title is in Steffi Graf's grasp, all hers for the taking today against the lowest seeded women's finalist in the U.S. Open in 15 years.

Graf overcame one fidgety set Friday night to beat Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 after No. 12 Helena Sukova scored her second stunning upset, beating No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, to reach the final.

The top-ranked Graf, who won the French Open and Wimbledon, encountered little difficulty in the absence of Monica Seles until she dropped one set in the quarterfinals against Gabriela Sabatini and another in the semis.

Maleeva-Fragniere, who has been playing with a broken left pinky, broke Graf twice to start the match and survived an incredibly long, intense 28-point game to hold to 5-3.

Serving at 40-love for the first set, Maleeva-Fragniere put it away with a wicked backhand slice crosscourt that Graf just stared at while going the other way.

"I just couldn't get going," Graf said. "I made a lot of easy mistakes. I wasn't very happy. I was surprised I was tight in the beginning, not ready for the match. Sometimes I have to remind myself of who I am and how I can play tennis."

Graf made 19 errors in that set, but started pounding balls into the corners in the second set while working on Maleeva-Fragniere's two-handed backhand — weakened and aching from last week's chipped bone in her finger.

"I felt pain on the backhand return," Maleeva-Fragniere said. "I was playing just to put the ball in somehow."

Once Graf took control at 3-0, she never let go.

"It seemed she put every ball

one inch over the net, one inch inside the baseline." Maleeva-Fragniere said. "It was difficult going for shots. Physically, she's stronger. I had the feeling I had to hit three times harder than usual. It just took too much out of me."

"I think where it turned was the second game of the second set. I had many advantages, it was a long game but I lost my serve. After that, all the time I was behind trying to catch up with her."

Earlier, there were drop shots and raindrops, lobs in the clouds and thundering smashes, and by the time the towering Sukova finished, the sun shone again and she was in the final.

The skinny, 6-foot-2 Sukova, eight inches taller than stocky Sanchez Vicario, loomed like a gangly giant at the net, awkward at first and then absolutely commanding as she won 6-7 (9-7), 7-5, 6-2.

Sukova, who knocked out No. 3 Martina Navratilova in the fourth round, reached her first Grand Slam singles final in four years and is the lowest seeded women's finalist at the U.S. Open since 16th-seeded Pam Shriver in 1978.

"She'll try to change the rhythm, come in a lot, mix it up — high and short, slow and fast," Graf said of Sukova.

Sukova began to take over her semifinals match midway through the second set as a few sprinkles dotted the court. Suddenly a hard rain drenched the court with Sukova up 1-0 on serve in the third set, interrupting play for nearly 45 minutes.

"I wasn't unhappy with the break," Sukova said. "The break helped me. I decided to play better. I ran better. We've been going on and off all the time (this tournament). I'm getting used to it."

CROSS-COUNTRY

Area runners at Tiffin Carnival

TIFFIN — The Tiffin Cross Country Carnival rates as the second-largest meet in the country with hundreds of teams and thousands of runners competing.

And today's meet has attracted most area schools. The all-day affair begins with elementary school races, beginning at 8:45 a.m. and continuing through 9:30 when the high school girls Division II open race is held.

Several high school races will follow including the girls Division II-B varsity race at 10 a.m., girls Division II-A varsity race at 10:30, boys Division III-B varsity race at 11 a.m., boys Division III-A varsity race at 11:25, boys Division II-III open race at 11:50 and boys Division II varsity race at 12:20 p.m.

Junior high school races for boys and girls will begin at 12:45 and run through to 2:25 when the girls Division I-B varsity race will be held.

Then, the boys Division I-B varsity race will be held at 2:55 p.m., the girls Division I-A varsity race will go at 3:20 p.m., the boys Division I-A varsity race will run at 3:50, girls Division I open race at 4:15 and boys Division I open race at 4:45.

All high school races will be 5,000 meters while junior high races will be 3,200 meters.

ESPN will be on hand to tape a portion of the event for later broadcast.

Chavez, Whitaker fight ends in draw

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Julio Cesar Chavez escaped the first defeat of his 88-bout career and Pernell Whitaker retained the WBC welterweight title Friday night when they battled to a 12-round draw at the Alamodome.

Whitaker gave a masterful boxing exhibition, sparing Chavez with right jabs, left leads, counter punches and combinations while keeping the Mexican off balance for much of the fight.

But two of the judges, Mickey Vann of England and Franz Marti of Switzerland, each scored it 115-115.

Judge Jack Woodruff of Dallas favored Whitaker 115-113.

Since two judges called it even, the fight was called a draw.

The AP scored it 116-112 for Whitaker.

The decision was greeted with a smattering of boos from the pro-Mexican crowd of almost 60,000 and it left no one satisfied. But it probably did set up a rematch.

Chavez, who was a slight favorite, kept moving forward much of the fight, but on this occasion he also got backed up several times by the clever Whitaker.

"This fight is for the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world," Whitaker said before the fight. But the decision settled nothing. "You can be 2,000-0 and have a bad night,"

Whitaker said.

Chavez certainly didn't have a typical Chavez night, but his right-hand punching and his aggressiveness obviously kept him from absorbing his first defeat.

The 31-year-old Chavez also left the ring a champion, since his WBC super lightweight title wasn't at stake.

"You've got a lot of courage," Chavez told Whitaker immediately after the fight. "We'll make mucho dinero in the rematch."

Whitaker made at least \$3 million and Chavez between \$3.5 million and \$5 million Friday night.

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