

Edison rolls past Norwalk

Chargers roll to seventh straight win in the series, 52-15

By JOBEE BILGEN
Staff Writer

NORWALK — Opening night of a new football season means new hopes and clean slates.

But the more things change the more they stay the same for the Norwalk Truckers as Edison came to Whitney Field and left with a 52-15 victory Friday night.

Edison's victory is its seventh consecutive in the series over the hapless Truckers.

After a quarter of feeling out the opposition and wasting good field position, the Chargers broke the game open by scoring 21 points in 1:20 in the second.

Edison coach Tim Campana said, "we were a little frustrated early on. We had good field position, but their defense held us in the first quarter."

The first Charger touchdown drive began at its own 31 yard line (its worst field position of the night) with 11:04 remaining in the first half.

Sam Springer carried for 23 yards on first down, moving the ball into Norwalk territory.

A short run by Springer and sack of Josh Goodwin set up third-and-15 for Edison from its own 49, but Goodwin hit Josh Jamison for 27 yards to set up a first-and-10 at the Norwalk 24.

It was a questionable call because it appeared as if the ball hit the ground before Jamison gained control.

Three plays later, the combination of Goodwin and Jamison hooked up again. This time it was from 21 yards for a touchdown.

On the Truckers next possession, Brad Moore faced a third-and-8 from his own 30 yard line and fired a strike into the hands of Jim Merrill.

The bad news for Moore is that Merrill is a Charger defensive back and the interception was returned 32 yards for an Edison touchdown.

Charger Dan Bibb recovered Aaron Johnson's fumble on the very next play from scrimmage.

He returned it to the 8-yard line, setting up Springer's second touchdown scamper of the night.

The final tally of the first half came with 2:43 left on the clock when Jamison caught his second touchdown of the contest. This one came from Jake Deehr and covered 35 yards.

Matt Pifer booted his fourth extra point of the night and it was 28-0 at halftime.

"You have to give our defensive players and coaches credit. The coaches came up with a great game plan and the kids executed it well," Campana added.

Trailing 42-0, the Truckers hit the scoreboard for the first time of 1996 as time expired in the third quarter.

Rob Brown hit Johnson for a 70 yard touchdown pass on a half-back option pass. Tom DeLuca's extra point made the score 42-7 after three.

Mop up time in the fourth quarter saw Edison score 10 points on a 41 yard field goal by Pifer, and a nine-yard scamper by Jim Friday.

The Truckers answered with eight points in the quarter when Scott Valentine returned a fumble 77 yards. Brown hit Russell Brooker in the back corner of the end zone for the two-point conversion.

Campana was happy with the fact he was able to get twelve different men to carry the football and five different players reach paydirt, but he was even more pleased by the effort his defensive line gave.

"Josh Jamison, Brian Murray, Larry Pocock, John Priestas, and Chris Warren played real well," said Campana.

Edison had 32 plays from scrimmage in the second half (all of which were runs), and gained 279 yards. Norwalk, on the other hand, had 33 plays the entire game and gained just 87 yards (70 of which came on the touchdown pass).

The Norwalk cheerleaders even had a bad night as one of the girls had to be taken off the field by ambulance after celebrating Johnson's touchdown catch.

Both teams return to action Friday when Edison hosts Western Reserve and Norwalk entertains Huron.



Register photos — TERRY REIMER

Bellevue's Chad Kuhns (41) loses the handle on a pitch from quarterback Ed Baptista in the first quarter with John Badiuk (44) of Huron bearing down. Badiuk recovered the fumble.

Bellevue

Continued from Page B-1 held an 8-6 lead, which it took in at the half.

The shootout began in earnest after the intermission as Fisher and Badiuk hooked up on a 20-yard touchdown strike and Baptista answered with a 35-yard toss to Kuhns to make it a 14-12 Bellevue lead.

Fisher pushed the Tigers back in

front when he hit Brian Heck on a 31-yard touchdown pass, but Huron missed the conversion attempt for the third straight time and held a slim 18-14 lead with 1:32 left in the third quarter.

"The thing that surprised me was Huron gave itself a chance to win the game," said Nasonti. "They didn't put the ball on the ground or throw the interception like we had seen in the scrimmages."

It took Baptista just five plays to

put Bellevue back on top with a 34-yard scoring strike to Matt Patten, but then the Redmen missed their second straight conversion attempt to set up the final stretch run for both teams.

"When you go 2-8, a lot of people are anxious to see your program stumble," said Legado. "This sends a message that we are different and different by design."

"But the deal is that we have to keep improving because our conference knows no mercy."

Rockets win big while PC loses

Oak Harbor and Port Clinton finished on the opposite sides of nearly identical counts Friday night.

The Rockets got three touchdowns from Curt Benner in a 36-8 romp past Rossford.

Meanwhile Port Clinton fell to Genoa, 35-8.

Oak Harbor 36
Rossford 8

OAK HARBOR — Benner scored the first three touchdowns of the game as Oak Harbor broke out to a 22-0 lead by intermission.

Benner, who gained 149 yards on 12 carries, scored on a 65-yard run with 6:32 left in the first period for a 6-0 Oak Harbor lead.

In the second period he scored on runs of 37 and four yards and Tyson Smith also added a 29-yard field goal as the first half expired

as the Rockets took a 22-0 lead at intermission.

The Rockets came back in the third quarter with Matt Keller scrambling 11 yards to paydirt at the 8:54 mark and Smith again converted as the lead grew to 29-0.

James Wagner closed out the scoring for the Rockets with an 18-yard run and T.J. Shanteau added the conversion with 3:54 to go in the contest.

Rossford avoided being shut out when Matt Tilimon hauled in a five-yard pass from Ben Schlatter with 1:05 left in the game.

Genoa 35
Port Clinton 8

PORT CLINTON — Port Clinton suffered four lost fumbles and was unable to stop Genoa's running game in a 35-8 loss.

Stover's big night not good enough for Willard

MARION — Steve Stover rushed for 145 yards and three scores in Willard's season opener Friday night.

But A.J. Hensel matched Stover's touchdown output while picking up 222 yards on nine carries to lead Marion River Valley to a 50-20 win over the Crimson Flashes.

Hensel sandwiched touchdown runs of 63 and 68 yards around Stover's 32-yard scoring scamper to give the Raiders a 14-6 lead in the first quarter with the hosts pulling away with 36 straight points.

Shawn Murphy hit Matt White for a 20-yard score and Steve Potts raced 24 yards in the last five minutes of the first half to open up a 28-6 lead with Chad Gumpf taking the second half kickoff 70 yards as River Valley made it a 35-6 advantage.

Hensel added a 57-yard touchdown scamper as the Raiders pushed the lead to 42-6 and Gumpf added a 13-yard touchdown run before Stover added scoring runs of 8 and 9 yards for Willard.

Both teams finished with 11 first downs, but River Valley held a 362-254 edge in total yardage.

The Raiders also picked off three of the 21 Willard passes and recovered both fumbles.

Northwood 35
Danbury 0

NORTHWOOD — Todd Welch and Scott Wisniewski each scored a pair of touchdowns to lead Northwood to a 35-0 rout of Danbury in the season opener.

Welch scored on a seven-yard run in the first period and added a one-yard run in the third while Wisniewski scored on runs of 42 and 41 yards.

Danbury amassed 134 yards on the ground with David Ritz leading the way with 71 yards on 19 carries.

Keystone 20
Monroeville 12

LaGRANGE — Keystone scored 17 points over the final eight minutes of action to rally by Monroeville, 17-12, in the season-opener for both teams Friday.

The Eagles grabbed the 12-3 lead when Clint Potts scored from the one yard in the second quarter and Chad Ackerman hit Don Clark on a 1-yard scoring strike later in

the period.

But the Wildcats got rolling in the fourth on a 32-yard touchdown scamper from Adam Cook with 8:09 left to play. Mike Knopp added his second 22-yard field goal with 3:37 remaining and Brian Smith went over from the five with 1:49 to seal the deal.

Monroeville finished with 170 yards total offense, two more than Keystone, but also turned the ball over three times on interceptions and had three more fumbles.

Smithville 39
New London 13

SMITHVILLE — Smithville scored 18 unanswered points in the second half in a 39-13 win over New London Friday night.

The Wildcats trailed by a 7-6 margin in the first after a 72-yard run from Anthony Daniels and then knotted the score at 13-13 when Ben Pack hit Keith Sanders with a 29-yard scoring strike and Jonathon Nossa added the extra point kick with 3:59 left in the second quarter.

But Brian Horst scored for the third time in the half to push the Smithies in front to stay with 32 seconds left in the half.

Horst added a 13-yard run to kick off the second half scoring with Ben Miley scoring from the 10 and Matt Boun adding an interception in the end zone to put the finishing touches on the win.

New London gained 226 yards total offense, but also had two interceptions and a pair of fumbles.

Crestline 34
Plymouth 6

PLYMOUTH — Crestline broke open a close game in the second half en route to a 34-6 win over Plymouth.

The Bulldogs were holding a slim 13-6 lead at halftime but came back with three scores after intermission to pull away.

Crestline scored twice in the span of 3½ minutes in the first quarter as Josh Goddard rambled in from nine yards out with 8:33 showing on the clock and Tom Katbula scored on a two-yard run at the 5:19 mark as they took a 13-0 lead.

Plymouth got its only score of the game as Casey Harrington rambled 46 yards to paydirt.

Bears

Continued from Page B-1

"I think the line play was the key," said Western Reserve coach Gary Lill. "They average 240 pounds on the line and just pushed us right off the ball in the first half, but our kids came back with a lot of character."

The Roughriders, who only had 27 yards of total offense in the first half, caught fire in the second half.

Quarterback Sonny Bivins, who played receiver last season for Lill, got the hosts on the board by zipping 40 yards around the right side with a keeper and then engineered a 13-play, 64-yard scoring drive covering almost six minutes.

"We talked at half time about having pride and character and, as a young team, you need to learn to have those qualities," said Lill, whose team heads out on the road for three straight games.

The drive was capped by a four-yard run from Dustin Dow. "I thought the second half our kids did a great job, especially offensively. We needed that continuity on offense and it was important to get it going," he said. "Bivins did a good job running the option in the second half."

"We put some new things in and he did a good job of moving the team especially for his first game as a quarterback."

Western Reserve finished the night with 282 yards of total offense — 208 on the ground.

Kennedy caught another scoring toss in the second half — this one from Brunner — and Tony Pooch added a 22-yard scoring run.

LOCAL SPORTS DIGEST

St. Mary's has parent's night

St. Mary's Central Catholic opens its football season tonight at home against Norwalk St. Paul, and it will also be parent's night.

Parents of the cheerleaders and football players are to assemble at the north end of the stadium at 6:45 with the introductions to begin promptly at 7 p.m.

It also marks the debut for new coach, John Sheridan.

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Clyde

Continued from Page B-1 champions won the Division III state championship.

St. Joe, which ended a three-game losing streak against Clyde, got what Fliers were hoping for when Paul Grahl returned the second-half kickoff 46 yards to the visitors' 37.

However, St. Joe failed to capitalize when Dave Murray's 24-yard field goal attempt hit the uprights. The tone was set.

"We caught a break when their field goal attempt hit the upright but then we threw the interception," Bishop said. "We gave them field position and momentum."

Brandon Busold intercepted a Dustin Guhn pass on the third play following the missed field goal and returned it 21 yards to the Clyde 5. Kyle Kayden scored from the 4 three plays later, erasing Clyde's 7-6 halftime lead.

Kayden ran for 125 yards on 26 carries.

"They were rushing real hard," Kayden said. "I just let them go by and cut it up."

Kayden opened the scoring with an 11-yard TD run in the first quarter and added a 22-yard tailback pass to Andy Szymanowski to close the scoring late in the third quarter.

Defense, though, was the key for the Crimson Streaks.

"Our kids finally started doing what we wanted them to do," St. Joe coach Rick Wonderly said. "They were going to the position. The defense is predicated on everyone doing what they're supposed to do."

Busold led the SJCC defense with his interception, a fumble recovery and two other passes broken up. The Streaks sacked Guhn three times in the second half.

"I know that our pass protection wasn't very good," Bishop said. "We weren't popping people and got our heads down a little bit."

Guhn finished 4-of-14 after completing four of his first five passes, including three to Corey Coe. St. Joe, meanwhile, limited the Fliers to 124 yards rushing.

Chad Long, who gave Clyde its lead with a 2-yard scoring run late in the first half following a leaping interception by Coe, finished with 72 yards on 19 rushes.

Clyde opens its home season Friday night against Tiffin Columbian, while St. Joe will host Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic next Saturday night.



Ed Fox

Not many close ones in college football today

After going 5-3 in the first week, here are some of the picks for games to be played today.

West Virginia over PITTSBURGH, 27-17 — These two are bitter rivals and you can expect anything for the opener.

Miami over MEMPHIS, 42-6 — The Hurricanes have been plagued with off-field problems but they don't carry over to game day.

ALABAMA over Bowling Green, 35-6 — The Crimson Tide rolls.

Clemson over NORTH CAROLINA, 34-21 — The Tigers figure to contend for the ACC title.

KENTUCKY over Louisville, 24-14 — Battle of backyard rivals.

TENNESSEE over Univ., 49-6 — Could be the biggest crowd ever.

MSU over Purdue, 27-21 — A pair of Big Ten teams striving to make the bowl picture.

MIAMI OF OHIO over Kent State, 38-7 — The Redskins will be in the MAC title hunt.

MICHIGAN over Illinois, 35-13 — The Illini lost their top defensive players and had trouble scoring last year so don't expect them to give the Wolverines problems in the opener.

EASTERN MICHIGAN over Temple, 31-13 — Bowling Green will get its chance at the Owls in a couple weeks.

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