

Muhn's dash puts Perkins in win column

Races 55 yards in final quarter to lift Pirates over Port Clinton

By ED FOX
Staff Writer

PORT CLINTON — Port Clinton may have won the battle but Perkins won the war in Friday's battle of winless at True-Lay Stadium.

The Pirates prospered off big plays for a 22-15 win, snapping their losing streak at 12 games dating back to the sixth week of last season.

While it was the first win in nine games for the Pirates, now 1-5 in the Sandusky Bay Conference, the loss kept Port Clinton winless at 0-9 overall and 0-6 in the conference.

Junior Bob Muhn rambled to paydirt from 55 yards away with 7:21 to go in the game as the Pirates rallied from a 15-14 deficit. Muhn also ran for the two-point conversion and a 22-15 lead.

Just 45 seconds earlier sophomore Bill Moritz scored on a five-yard run for the Redskins and he also ran for the two-point conversion and a 15-14 lead with 8:06 remaining in the contest.

"Even when they (PC) scored, I never had any doubts that our kids would win the game. It really feels good. The bottom line is the kids believed they could win and we needed this one in a bad way," said Pirate mentor Mark Hollars.

"We came out early and the full-back trap was working well for us. In the second quarter they took away the inside play but we talked

at halftime about coming back with it and Muhn was able to bust it with some great blocking from the offensive line.

"Tonight when we got in the red zone we were able to do something with it. We stuck with our base offense. It was tough preparing for them (PC) and their offense really controlled the ball," added Hollars.

The Redskins ran off 65 offensive plays and gained 191 yards while Perkins had just 32 snaps for 158 yards.

Benefiting from an early fumble recovery by Brandon Krupp the Redskins jumped in front as junior quarterback Ted Rupert capped off a nine-play, 26-yard drive with a two-yard run to paydirt and Andy Linkous tacked on the point

after for a 7-0 lead with 3:56 to go in the first quarter.

But the Pirates battled back to square the contest at 7-7.

After a short punt the Pirates took over at the PC 49 and a pair of big plays put them in the end zone. Drew Smith hooked up with Kevin Zeigler for a 19-yard gain to the PC 30 and senior Jason Simmons broke free up the middle two plays later for the score. Drew Dahlke added the PAT to knot the score with 9:52 left in the first half.

Perkins, outgained by a 95-69 margin in the first half, got another big play leading to its second score of the game.

Junior Ryan Brunner had a 40-yard punt return with the Pirates only needing to go 19 yards for the score with Smith sneaking across

the goalline at the 6:35 mark. Dahlke added the PAT and a 14-7 lead for Perkins.

"Ryan has made some very big plays this season and his punt return was another one," added Hollars.

Late in the third quarter the Redskins began the most sustained drive of the game with Moritz capping off the 13-play, 77-yard drive with a five-yard scamper to the end zone. Moritz also ran for the two-point conversion and a 15-14 lead which quickly evaporated on the Pirates ensuing possession.

Port Clinton did manage to get into Pirate territory on a pass completion but they were also caught holding on the play and never threatened after that.

With just 15 seconds left Brunner snuffed out another PC threat with his fourth interception of the campaign.

"It was a solid effort for us but they (Perkins) made two more plays than we did. It was a solid performance from our players and they did some things we had to do," said PC head coach Carey Clum.

"We were in the base look defensively on that last touchdown by them. They blocked us and got two kids into the second level against our DBs (deep backs).

"Credit should go where it's really due. There was nothing at stake except pride and it's tough to line up anytime but when you're both 0-8 it's something to see a good football game like this. I think everyone got their money's worth tonight," said Clum.

S-Central 27 W-Reserve 0

COLLINS — Brandon Osborn scored three times as South Central moved to 5-4 overall and 3-3 in the Firelands Conference with a 27-0 blanking of Western Reserve.

The Trojans jumped out quickly on a 95-yard pass from Doug Dendinger to Osborn and Gary Ramsey added the first of three extra point conversions.

In the second quarter the Trojans scored twice as Dendinger rambled in from four yards out and Osborn scored on a 42-yard interception return.

South Central added another score in the fourth period as Dendinger found Osborn for 79 yards.

The Trojans were nine for 20 passing for 259 yards and they finished with 353 yards total offense. Western Reserve had 136 yards rushing and finished with 223 yards total offense.

Crestview 22 Plymouth 17

PLYMOUTH — Mark Hunter gathered in a 36-yard scoring pass from Matt White with just 2:34 left in the third quarter to help Ashland Crestview take a 22-15 lead and they held on the rest of the way for a 22-17 win.

The Cougars, improving to 5-4 overall and 4-2 in the Firelands Conference, took an early 14-0 lead on a pair of scores by David Brennan. He scored on a seven-yard run in the first period and hauled in a three-yard pass from White with 10:02 to go in the second quarter.

Plymouth, now 1-8 overall and 1-5 in the conference, battled back as Fred Hawk pulled in a five-yard touchdown pass from Kevin Rodman with 2:34 to go in the first half and Hawk also ran for the two-point conversion as the Big Red narrowed the deficit to 14-8.

In the third quarter the Big Red scored again on a three-yard pass from Rodman to Hawk and Jason Clabaugh booted the conversion as Plymouth forged in front, 15-14, with 4:29 left in the period.

But the Cougars rallied on the Hunter touchdown reception to put them ahead for good.

Plymouth also got a safety with no time left in the contest as Hunter scrambled out of the end zone.

Mapleton 18 New London 6

NEW LONDON — Mapleton took control in the second half for an 18-6 win over New London Friday night in Firelands Conference play.

The Mounties, 5-4 overall and 3-3 in the conference, broke a 6-6 deadlock as Josh Welch hauled in a 14-yard pass from Matt Callihan with 8:25 left in the third quarter.



Register photo — EVAN EILE
Mike Morrow (right) of Norwalk St. Paul runs away from Monroeville's Wayne Hampton during Friday's Firelands Conference battle at Marsh Field. The Flyers prevailed, 33-7.

Flyer defense up to test against Eagles

By MICHAEL THRONE
Staff Writer

MONROEVILLE — Good teams win games with offense, but great teams win championships with defense.

St. Paul's defense rose to the occasion in front of a crowd of almost 3,000 fans at Marsh Field and captured a 33-7 win over Monroeville for coach John Livengood.

"I thought we'd have to control the line of scrimmage tonight and we did. I thought the key to the ballgame was controlling (Eagle tailback) Clint Poths," Livengood said.

Poths, a senior, came into the game with 13 touchdowns and averaged 105 yards rushing per game. The Flyers held him to just 22 yards on eight carries and no scores.

Fifth-ranked St. Paul (Division VI) also intercepted Eagles quarterback Chad Ackerman four times — two by Mike Morrow, who now has nine pickoffs on the season. Ackerman was also sacked four times — once by Tom Pfeifer on a key fourth-and-goal from the Flyer 7.

"That's happened to us earlier in the year a few times," said Eagle coach Steve Ringholz. "It hurt because any opportunity you have to score against a good team, and you don't convert, can come back to haunt you."

Livengood said keeping the Eagle defense on the field was key.

"I think our defense did a great job stopping their run which enabled us to get the ball after a three-and-out situation. We were able to control the line of scrimmage and get long drives. I don't know how long all our drives were, but I know they consumed some time and that was the key — keeping their offense off the field and coming up with points," Livengood said.

The sixth-year coach praised defensive coordinator Jason Ratliff.

"I can't say enough about our defense. Coach Ratliff had another great defensive game plan and the kids played inspired football tonight. They wanted to win that championship and they went out and got it," he said.

Sophomore linebacker Terry Taylor led the undefeated Flyers on the night.

"He's had a great game every game this year. He's only a sophomore, but he plays like a first-team all-conference senior. He's a great football player and has given us an outstanding effort all season long."

"Luke Wasiniak had a great game also. The guys inside — Jason Kuhlman, Brad Wise, and Tom Pfeifer — were able to get a lot of pressure on their quarterback and we slowed down their running game," Livengood said.

Edison assured of winning season

Chargers on plus side for first time since 1983 with a 20-14 win over St. Mary's C.C. for sixth victory

By DAVE MEHLING
Special to the Register

MILAN — The Edison Chargers fought off a stubborn St. Mary Central Catholic squad Friday evening and recorded a 20-14 Sandusky Bay Conference victory.

This win, their sixth of the season, enables the Chargers to ensure themselves of a winning season which is their first in 13 years.

The last time they finished above the .500 mark was in 1983 when they posted a 9-2 mark overall and a perfect 7-0 record in the Firelands Conference under coach Jim Whittington.

Their two losses came in the second game of the season 21-8 to Margareta and in the Firelands Conference title game 13-6 against Plymouth, a game played at Norwalk's Whitney Field for the league championship.

"I think we have to give the seniors a lot of credit for this win. They wanted to make sure they finished with a winning season and when

the game was on the line they took charge," stated 5th year mentor Tim Campana.

"I was really proud of them on that last drive. They could have given up but put it all together," he added.

The Charger offense came to play as they marched 64 yards with their first possession of the night as quarterback Jake Deehr slashed in from the five on the ninth play with 7:15 remaining in the opening quarter.

Midway thru the second period following a Panther punt, senior Sam Springer turned on the jets and on the second play of the drive rambled 63 yards for a touchdown. Adam Santi ran for the two-point conversion giving Edison a 14-0 lead with 7:21 showing on the clock.

To start the second half it was the Panther offense that came to play as on the very first play from scrimmage senior quarterback Jeff Blanton ran the option and raced 73 yards into paydirt. The Kyle Tordi extra point brought the Blue and Gold back within seven at 14-7 just 20 seconds into the quarter.

The visitors were able to knot the score with 4:22 left in the contest as they cashed in from the five yard line following a Charger fumble on a bad pitch back which was recovered by Jason Scroggy.

Blanton scored on the third play from the two and with the Tordi conversion it was 14-14.

After going to sleep the Charger offense came roaring back.

Taking over the ball, Springer picked up five and then added three to make it third and 2 at the 43. Adam Santi chalked up a first down with a carry of 23 yards to the Panther 34-yard-line setting up the winning scamper by Springer who finished the night with 158 yards in 22 attempts and two touchdowns.

For the night the winning Chargers rushed for 281 yards in 49 attempts while their defense held St. Mary to 124 yards in 24 tries. Blanton was the leading rusher for the Saints with 83 yards in 11 tries.

"I thought our kids played hard. We excelled in certain areas but proved very weak in others," stated Panther coach John Sheridan.

"Sometimes the numbers game really hurts. If we had just 10 more bodies it would really help the program. You have to give the Edison kids a lot of credit. They didn't give up and they rose to the occasion when it counted," stated Sheridan.

St. Mary's (3-6, 2-4) plays its final game of the season on the road as they travel to Oak Harbor while Edison (6-3, 3-3) also ends up out of the county as they travel to Clyde.

Versailles owns state win streak

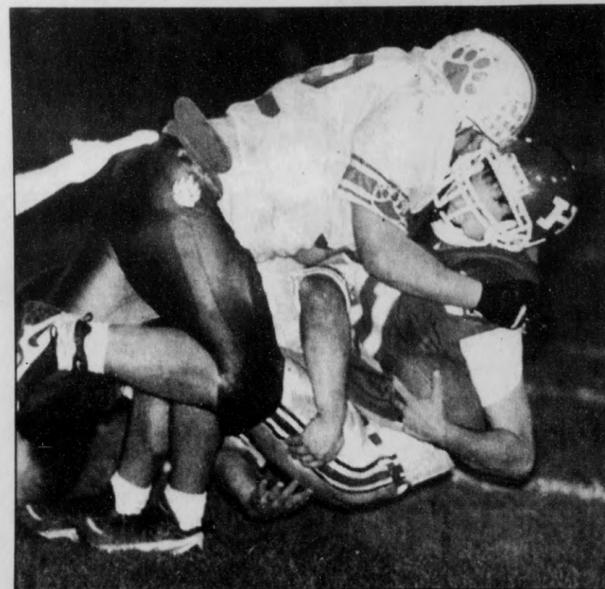
VERSAILLES, Ohio (AP) — Versailles set a record Friday night for consecutive victories by an Ohio high school football team, defeating Graham 35-0 to give the Tigers their 50th straight win.

Dayton Jefferson set the old mark of 49 in 1974. That school's streak started in 1970 and didn't end until a 14-12 loss to Cincinnati Madeira.

Versailles, now 9-0 this season, is the top-ranked team in Division V. The last time the team lost was in 1993, a 13-0 season-opening defeat at the hands of Marion Local.

Graham fell to 1-8 with Friday's loss.

Before the game, Versailles coach Al Hetrick credited fan support, coaching assistance and a good feeder program for putting the Tigers in a position to set the record.



Register photo — TIM FLECK

Huron quarterback Steve Fisher (11) is caught behind the line of scrimmage by a pair of Margareta defenders during the second half Friday night at Huron Memorial Stadium. Fisher threw for 261 yards, but the Polar Bears scored a 27-7 victory.

Bears play to their strengths in victory

Look to wrap up first outright SBC title in 10 years Friday against Perkins

By DAN ANGELO
Staff Writer

HURON — A powerful offensive line and a stingy defense has been the key for Margareta all season long.

So it was only fitting that the Polar Bears play to their strengths in clinching at least a share of their second straight Sandusky Bay Conference championship Friday night.

"I'm very proud of the way our offensive line came off the ball," said coach Don Wilson following Margareta's 27-7 victory over Huron.

"Defensively, they really limit what you can do so you have to play a vanilla defense. You get some 1-and-1 situations that way, but we just had some great individual efforts."

The 6th-ranked and undefeated

Bears (Division IV) were at their best with their backs to the wall.

Margareta took the second half by fumbling the ball away at its own 30, and then got in further trouble with a face mask penalty that left the Tigers just 15 yards away from closing a 20-7 deficit.

But after a rush for no gain and an incomplete pass, Luke Weyer and James Sullivan combined on a 5-yard sack of Steve Fisher with the next Fisher offering being knocked away before Rich Bauman could get his hands on it.

Tim Roth recovered a Margareta fumble to get the ball right back, but all it led to was a botched reverse on first-and-28 that was fumbled away to the Bears' Jamie Kapler.

"We don't usually fumble by design," Wilson said with a chuckle. "But when they were denied twice, I think it took a little wind out of their sails."

It also set the stage for the offensive line to take over as the Bears ate up the next six minutes in a scoring drive that ended with a 3-yard Mike Brunner touchdown and a 27-7 lead just under 10

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—Don Wilson

minutes left to play.

"Our offensive line controlled the football game," said Wilson. "I think Luke Weyer, Jamie Kapler, Garrett Barnette, Ben Brunow, Andy Kennedy, Todd Spore and James Sullivan were the key."

But Margareta also took advantage of mistakes.

The Bears turned a Tim Christian interception early in the first quarter into a 3-yard Brad Lewis scoring run while a 19-yard Huron punt set up a 4-yard touchdown run from Brunner in the second.

In between the scores, Aaron Justice broke free for a 54-yard touchdown scamper.

The Margareta line helped the team gain 316 yards on the ground while the defense, while giving up 261 yards through the air, kept the Huron ground game in check by allowing 22 yards on 24 carries.

"We had to play catchup early and that's a lot to overcome," said Tigers coach Tony Legando. "We had our chances, but they rose up or we couldn't get it done."

"But I'm proud of the fact that we were in the hunt. We've certainly proved that we can turn things around over here."

Now all that's left is for the Bears to take a crack at going undefeated for the first time since 1985 and earning their first outright league title since back-to-back crowns in 1985-86 by hosting Perkins on Friday.

"What we have to do is keep improving," said Wilson. "We have to play an ever-improving Perkins football team and then we have to come back and get ready for the playoffs."

"And let me stress this, we can't make the mistakes we made tonight in the playoffs or we'll get killed."