

Ed Fox

Early games may decide OAC, NCAC champions

Today is one of the biggest days of the season in NCAA Division III football around Ohio.

Two games figure to go a long way in deciding conference championships. Preseason favorite Allegheny (1-0) will entertain Wittenberg (1-0) at 1:30 p.m., today, in a matchup of teams that have claimed the last seven North Coast Athletic Conference championships.

Allegheny, with New London's Vaughn Mix starting at offensive right guard, claimed a 26-14 win over Wittenberg last year and went on to a 10-0 regular season finish and its seventh conference titles. The Gators have ruled the series since 1989, winning six of eight battles with Wittenberg.

Wittenberg and Wooster were picked as top contenders to challenge Allegheny for the conference crown.

The Tigers, who were crowned national champions in 1973 and 1975, has more wins (573) than any other Division III program in the country.

Allegheny, which hosts Wooster on Oct. 18, opened its season last week with a 45-19 win over Thiel (Pa.), the same team which also helped Oberlin College snap a 40-game losing streak on Sept. 6, 18-17.

Wittenberg was idle last week after hammering out a 52-0 rout of Bluffton College.

Wooster, which hosts Denison (1-1) at 1:30 p.m., today, is off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 1987. They have defeated Centre (31-10) and Grove City (10-3).

Wittenberg has a pair of area players who will see action in the crucial game at Meadville, Pa., today. Tom Mygrant, a senior offensive guard from Bellevue High School, and fifth-year senior Scott Rickel, a wide receiver from Port Clinton High School, figure in the offensive mix for the Tigers, who were 9-1 last year.

Baldwin-Wallace, off to a 1-0 start after a 30-13 win over Mercyhurst two weeks ago, will host Mount Union, 1-0 following a 58-0 blitz of Defiance last week, in the Ohio Athletic Conference headliner at 7 p.m., today at George Finnie Stadium in Berea.

Mount Union, which won the NCAA Division III championship with a 56-24 win over Rowan last year, owns a 7-2-1 record over B-W over the last decade. However, the Yellow Jackets own a 21-13-1 advantage in the all-time series between the two schools which first met in 1896.

B-W has a 12-4 edge over the Purple Raiders in games played at Berea. In most major publications, Mount Union is ranked first in the country and Baldwin-Wallace is listed among the top 30 teams in the nation.

Mount Union has four area players on its roster, all of them being freshmen who will see limited playing time this season. The quartet is 6-2, 205-pound Andy Linkous of Port Clinton at inside linebacker, 6-3, 220-pound Brent Taggart of Vermilion at outside linebacker, 6-3, 230-pound Kevin Veletean of Willard at defensive lineman and 6-3, 195-pound Josh Osborne of Oak Harbor at tight end.

Baldwin-Wallace has seven area players including a trio of starters. Starting on defense for the Yellow Jackets are Huron High School graduate Todd Rosenberg at inside linebacker and Perkins High School graduate Tim Obergefell at safety. Sophomore Max DeLuca, a graduate of Norwalk High School, handles the punting duties and also sees action at running back.

The 6-0, 215-pound Rosenberg, is one of four B-W players to be named as a pre-season Scholar-Athlete by The Small College Football Preview Magazine.

He led the Yellow Jackets in tackles last year with 52 including 33 solo stops, caused two fumbles and recovered one fumble. He also forced two bad passes and was a key in the B-W defense for the second straight year. He carries a 3.28 grade-point average in business administration.

In the season opener against Mercyhurst, Rosenberg had six tackles to lead all inside linebackers and he also assisted on a quarterback sack.

The 5-10, 160-pound Obergefell came up with three tackles in the win, all three being solo stops. He also had an interception and return of 21 yards.

Last year, Obergefell led the B-W secondary with 38 tackles and also intercepted a pass and caused a fumble. With a 3.21 grade-point average, he is majoring in secondary education.

DeLuca, a 5-10, 195-pounder, ranked third in the OAC last year in punting average with 37.7 and had a fine net average of 32.5. He canned 11 of 26 punts inside the opponents 20-yard line.

In the season opener, he punted five times for a 33.4 average with his longest kick going 46 yards. He also played some at running back, carrying the ball six times for 14 yards.

Other B-W veterans from the area include sophomore defensive back Ryan Carter (6-3, 204) of Clyde High School, sophomore quarterback Todd Downing (6-1, 196) of Perkins High School and sophomore defensive back Phil Thayer (6-0, 180) of Edison High School. Two freshmen from the area are also attending B-W including Rich Bauman of Huron High School and Chris Ludban of Willard High School.

After going 16-4 last week, the season record improved to 33-10 for 76.7 percent. Here are this week's predictions with home teams in CAPS:

Dartmouth (0-0) over PENN (0-0), 24-14 -- Dartmouth is the defending Ivy League champion and Penn is coming off a dismal 5-5 finish. Defense is big with both teams and Huron's Mark Van Meier is back for his senior campaign with the Quakers.

Dayton (2-0) over ROBERT MORRIS (2-0), 27-24 -- The best from the Pioneer Football League (Dayton) and the best from the Northeast Conference (Robert Morris) clash in an early showdown battle. The Flyers won by a 31-21 score in their homecoming game last year.

Florida State (2-0) over CLEMSON (2-0), 45-27 -- Plenty of big plays is the key for the Seminoles.

FLORIDA (2-0) over Tennessee (2-0), 38-34 -- Another high-scoring SEC battle and Peyton comes up empty again.

LSU (2-0) over Auburn (2-0), 27-21 -- Is this super Saturday in the SEC?

Washington State (2-0) over ILLINOIS (0-2), 31-13 -- After picking the Illini two weeks in a row, I'm going to abandon ship.

MICHIGAN (1-0) over Baylor (1-1), 42-10 -- The Wolverines oftentimes come up flat after a big win and they recover from a sluggish first half to win big.

INDIANA (1-1) over Kentucky (1-1), 20-17 -- They might be ready to name Cam Cameron mayor of Bloomington after a 2-1 start. The Hoosiers better enjoy it now, because tough times lie ahead.

NORTHWESTERN (2-1) over Rice (1-1), 34-14 -- The Wildcats are barely purring.

PURDUE (1-1) over Ball State (1-2), 27-14 -- The Boiler makers are very convincing this week.

NOTRE DAME (1-1) over Michigan State (2-0), 34-27 -- If the Irish don't win this one, they might be spending the holidays at home again.

OHIO STATE (2-0) over Arizona (1-1), 42-7 -- It's the Buckeyes with the better defense at the Horseshoe.

EASTERN MICHIGAN (0-2) over Kent State (0-3), 35-13 -- With Charlie Batch running the show, EMU will no longer be winless.

Toledo (2-0) over WESTERN MICHIGAN (2-1), 20-14 -- This could be a key game in deciding who wins the West Division title in the MAC.

Bowling Green (1-2) over AKRON (0-2), 27-21 -- The Falcons have to be considered a threat to win the East Division of the MAC.

WASHINGTON (2-0) over Nebraska (2-0), 37-31 -- Chances for winning the national title are on the line.

ASHLAND (2-1) over Northwood (1-2), 34-14 -- A 3-1 start is better than anyone anticipated for the Eagles.

Mount Union (1-0) over BALDWIN-WALLACE (1-0), 35-24 -- Even two weeks of preparation isn't enough for the Yellow Jackets as they fall to the OAC favorites before a large throng at Finnie Stadium.

Eagles pull away from Wildcats

■ Second-period outburst the difference in FC opener

Special to the Register

MONROEVILLE — Scoring twice in the second period enabled the Monroeville Eagles to pull out a 22-6 Firelands Conference win over New London Friday night.

On their fourth possession of the game the Eagles took over the pigskin on their own 41 yard line and took eight plays to score their first tally.

The final yard of the 59 yard drive was pushed into paydirt by Scott Benfer. Chad Ackerman then hit Lucas Hovatter for the two point conversion to give the Eagles an 8-0 lead with 7:49 on the clock.

Following a Wildcat punt on their next possession Monroeville drove 67 yards in five plays with senior Paul Drossman churning up the final 36 on a jaunt into pay dirt. Ackerman again found Hovatter open for the two-point pass play upping their lead to 16-0 with 3:48 left until the half.

A lightning and heavy rain storm made the half-time extra long, however, this did not halt the Wildcats who took advantage of an Eagle turnover just 17 seconds into the third period.

Jarrod Moffit intercepted an Ackerman pass at the Eagle 21 yard line and following an eight yard penalty on the first play, New London drove the 29 yards in five plays with a Ben Pack to Moffit three yard pass play finishing off the drive.

The final score of the evening was set up by a pass interception by Tom Kluding on the very first

play of the fourth quarter.

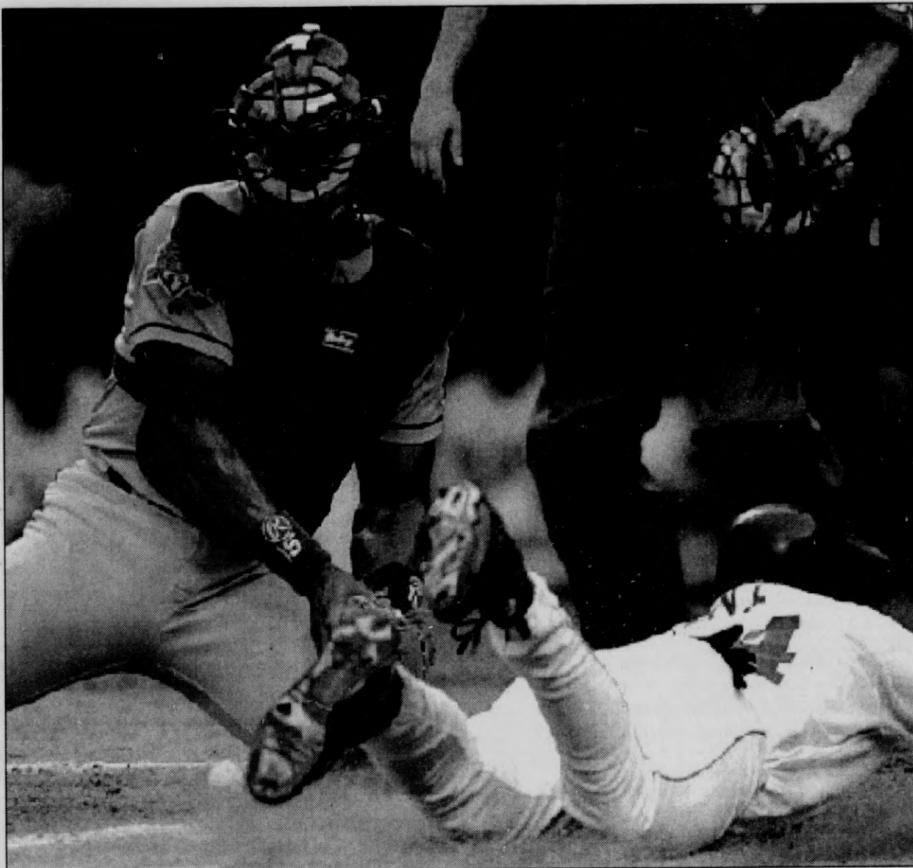
The Eagles then used up valuable time on the clock as they drove the 69 yards in 16 plays taking 7:52 off the clock.

On the 16th play Ackerman kept the ball and followed his up front blocking to cash in the score from the three. The extra point from placement was no good making it 22-6 with 3:59 remaining.

For the evening the winners picked up 246 yards on the ground with Drossman collecting 124 and Benfer 100.

The victory puts the Eagles at 4-0 overall and 1-0 in the league while New London drops to 1-3 and 0-1.

Monroeville next faces Western Reserve on the road while the Wildcats will entertain Norwalk St. Paul.



Cleveland catcher Sandy Alomar fails to hang on to the ball while tagging Jermaine Dye of Kansas City during the second inning of their game Friday in Kansas City. Dye scored on a double from Mike Macfarlane.

Tribe

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gave up four runs, six hits and four walks in 3¹/₂ innings.

David Justice's 31st homer put the Indians ahead in the second, but the

Royals took a 2-1 lead in the bottom half when Macfarlane hit an RBI double and scored on a triple by Felix Martinez. Johnny Damon doubled in the third and came home on a wild pitch.

Damon walked with the bases loaded in the fourth to make it 4-1,

Jacome threw a run-scoring wild pitch in the fifth, Cleveland's third of the game, and Macfarlane followed with his two-run single.

Cleveland got two runs in the eighth on a sacrifice fly by Marquis Grissom and an RBI double by Enar Diaz, his first major-league hit.

Sandusky

• Continued from Page B-1

second half and he finished with 150 yards on 25 carries.

Sandusky's running game, which entered the contest averaging just 111 yards a game, had more than that in each half. The Streaks gained 112 yards before intermission and added 126 in the second half to wind up with 238 for the night.

Alexander wound up with 116 yards on 15 carries and Causey, who had just 35 yards rushing in the first three games, followed closely with 105 on 14 attempts. Causey had a 48-yarder on the first play on the second quarter to the Findlay nine but was stripped of the ball and the Trojans recovered.

Findlay dominated possession in the second period but Lotz was unable to give his team the lead despite three more chances as the Streaks made a series of mistakes.

The Streaks had a promising drive at the start of the second half nullified by a personal foul, then gave Findlay a great opportunity to regain the lead with a roughing the kicker penalty and a pass interference call allowing the hosts to march from their own 16 to the SHS 43 before Ball fumbled and sophomore Eric Gibson made the recovery.

Jason Zess, Sandusky's fine punter, played a significant role in the fourth quarter comeback. First, he booted a 54-yard that rolled dead at the Findlay one on the third play of the period.

The Trojans fumbled at that spot to set up a first and goal. However,

the Trojans denied the Streaks three times in a row and SHS coach Larry Cook decided to go for the field goal. Poeschl drilled the ball through the uprights for a 9-7 lead.

However, the Trojans were called for a roughing penalty that gave the Streaks an automatic first down, still at the one.

Quarterback Jeremy Newell wedged his way into the end zone with 9:41 on the clock to give the Streaks the lead at 12-7. Cook opted for the two-point conversion and Newell tossed a pass to Richard Alexander to hike the lead to 14-7.

Sandusky's defense held and the Trojans punted.

DeMarcus Alexander popped off-tackle and raced 79 yards to paydirt with 7:50 left and Sandusky suddenly had a 20-7 lead. Poeschl tacked on the final point of the night.

Big Red rallies by Riders

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth rallied with a pair of late scores to defeat Western Reserve, 15-12, in the Firelands Conference opener Friday.

The Roughriders, now 1-3 overall, had a 12-0 lead through three quarters only to see Plymouth, now 3-1, battle back in the waning minutes.

Matt Montgomery hauled in a 32-yard scoring toss from Kevin Rodman to get the Big Red on the board and Zak King's kick got them closer at 12-7.

Then, coach Dick Roll's team drove 75 yards for the winning score with Casey Harrington going in from six yards out and Rodman ran for the conversion to give the hosts a 15-12 advantage with just one minute to go.

"They (Plymouth) got a lot of breaks at the end. The clock kept going out because of the weather and they

eventually punched it in for the win," said Western mentor Gary Lill.

"I can't fault the effort of our kids. We had a nice kickoff return to start the game but it was nullified by a clip and we also had a long scoring run wiped out by a clipping penalty," said Lill.

The Roughriders broke on top in the second quarter with Sonny Bivins scoring on a 10-yard run for a 6-0 lead.

In the third period, Micaiah Zsigray scored on a 40-yard interception return for a 12-0 lead.

"Dustin Dow went down with an ankle injury in the third quarter after gaining 84 yards and that really hurt us. I think he'll be back next week when we play Monroeville," said Lill.

Sailors lose

MANSFIELD — Vermilion knocked on the door but Mansfield Madison said no.

The battle of undefeated Division II teams was finally decided after two delays Friday in Mansfield.

The Rams posted a 20-12 win over coach Ralph Mayer's Sailors. However, it was a two-point game until the hosts scored with 34 seconds remaining.

"We had our chances but could not get the first downs we needed in the last quarter," Mayer said.

Reds staying with McKeon

CINCINNATI (AP) — When Jack McKeon was introduced as Ray Knight's replacement on July 25, the Cincinnati Reds stressed that he was only the interim manager.

Exactly eight weeks later, they have removed the interim from his title. The Reds gave McKeon an extension through 1998 on Friday, rewarding him for an impressive job under tough circumstances. He took over an underachieving club that was demoralized by Knight's style, and turned it into a winner.

"We feel that Jack has stabilized the clubhouse, done a very good job developing the young players and even has a winning record, which we were not expecting," general manager Jim Bowden said. "He has the respect of the front office, the players and the entire organization."

That's more than his predecessor had. The clubhouse was tense under Knight, who singled out players when they failed, took credit when the team won and had no patience with the young players.

McKeon, 66, has gotten results by being the antithesis of Knight. A 5-4 victory Friday night over Houston left the Reds 28-26 under McKeon; they were 13 games under .500 when Knight was fired.

Players had openly lobbied for McKeon to be retained.

Redmen pound Upper

UPPER SANDUSKY — It was the fifth ranked (in Division III) Bellevue Redmen beating up on the Upper Sandusky Rams by the score of 37-7, before the game was called in the fourth quarter in a mutual agreement.

In the first quarter Russ Kuhns scampered 64 yards for the first score of the game. Kuhns added on the extra point run to take an early lead of 8-0.

Duke Fox ran in from 3 yards, with Nate Artino adding a catch from Fox to make the score 16-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Fox ran in another score from 1 yard out to take a commanding lead of 23-0 before Rams Keith Montgomery ran in from 5 yards to get on the scoreboard.

Bellevue came out of half-time with a Fox touchdown running in a 1 yard score. Brad Snyder added on the extra point to take a 30-7 lead.

The Redman didn't stop there, they went on to score again by Chris Sharp's 4 yard scamper to make the score 37-7 in the third quarter.

Their was 7:45 left in the game when it was called.

Bellevue had 313 yards on 45 rushes with 12 rushing first downs. Not to be out done by the weather, Bellevue was also successful in the air by going 12 for 18 with 119 yards for 6 first downs.

Shelby 48, Norwalk 21

At Shelby, the host Whippets took control in the second half after the teams went to intermission deadlocked at 21-11.

Eric Shuty scored twice in the second half to lead the way for the Whippets, who improved to 4-0 overall.

Shuty finished with three touchdowns in all, having scored on a one-yard run in the first half and he added scoring runs of 60 and 17 in the second half.

The Whippets featured a balanced attack with 185 yards rushing and 183 yards passing. Norwalk had 232 yards through the air as Moore hit eight of 26 passes and had one intercepted. The Truckers, however, managed just 30 yards rushing.

Tiffin Columbian 40, Willard 0

At Willard, Nick Newland scored four touchdowns and the Tornados also scored after three fumbles by the Crimson Flashes in a 40-0 rout.

Newland scored on a 26-yard run to cap off a 77-yard drive in five plays to start the game for the Tornados who were up, 7-0, following the Mike Porter conversion.

With 9:29 to go in the second period, Newland rambled 88 yards with a punt return and Porter converted for a 14-0 lead.

He also scored on a five-yard run later in the second quarter and Porter's conversion upped the Tiffin lead to 21-0 by intermission.

The Tornados, 4-0, scored following a fumble recovery in the third quarter with Newland going in from eight yards out. The conversion failed and Tiffin led, 27-0.

"We had problems blocking their defensive front. They just overpowered our offensive line, but I thought our kids played well for three quarters," said Willard mentor Terry King.

Newland is an outstanding back and he showed it. But, the punt return is what really killed us.

"I am still proud of the kids. They have had a tough three weeks. With our offense geared to the passing game, we just have to protect the quarterback (Charlie Frye) more," added King.

Bucyrus 21, Galion 13

At Galion, Bucyrus Redman defeated the Galion Tigers 21-13 by out rushing the Tigers 203 yards to 85 yards.

Shawn Bloomfield caught a 26 yard pass from Josh Weiler to open the scoring and taking an early lead of 6-0.

With :17 seconds remaining in the first half, Weiler ran in form a yard out, and adding on the two point conversion to give the Redman a 14-0 lead at the half.



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