

Livonia Franklin outlasts Stevenson, 7-6

Livonia Franklin football coach Armand Vigna termed it "a gutsy call." Stevenson coach Jack Reardon said he would do the same thing all over again.

What both were referring to was

Reardon's decision to forego a tie and play for victory last weekend by attempting a two-point conversion with 28 seconds remaining in the contest and Stevenson trailing, 7-6.

A pass fell incomplete and the Patri-

ots won to snap a two-year losing streak to their crosstown rival.

As expected, the game turned into a defensive battle right from the start.

Neither team scored until Franklin quarterback Mike Fry threw a seven-yard TD pass to Paul Pietrzak off Ron Reeter with 1:57 remaining in the third period.

That play capped a 60-yard drive that started after Reeter had intercepted a pass from Tom Smith.

Don Boka kicked what turned out to be the winning point.

The Spartans began a last-ditch scoring march in the fourth quarter

after returning a punt to Franklin's 48 yard line.

Ten plays later and with only 28 ticks remaining on the clock, Smith completed an eight-yard scoring loss to Jim Gerniend.

Instead of relying on a kick for a single point and overtime, Reardon elected to put all his marbles on the line and go for broke. However, the passing attempt failed, dashing the Spartans' hopes for victory.

Reardon said, in retrospect, that he did not regret going for two points. "I just felt we had momentum going, we had just scored and I felt we had the right play," he said.

"I was not necessarily surprised," said Vigna. "It was a gutsy call and if it had been good, it would have closed us out. The problem is that if you go for two and don't make it, you lose."

Franklin netted 173 yards during the game—136 on the ground and 17 passing. Jerry Clor, a junior fullback, ran for 109 yards on 18 carries.

Vigna credited Clor and Fry for making the inside route work with the veer offense. "I think they were reading the option very well," said Vigna.

The Patriots' coach also praised the work of his defensive front four, espe-

dially Mike Broome and Boka, and Dave Bowen in the secondary.

Stevenson gained 51 yards passing and 148 rushing for a total of 199. Jim Spala recorded 96 yards on 18 rushes and nabbed three passes for 24 yards.

"It was a good ball game—we were very proud of our kids," said Reardon. "Both teams really went after each other. It was a good, hard-hitting football game."

Spala, in addition to his fine play on the offensive side of the scrimmage line, had a hand in 15 tackles for the Spartans, while Mike Centers figured in 12 tackles and Pat Altenberger, six.

Kimball blasts Thurston, 36-12

"Stun" would be the most fitting word for what Royal Oak Kimball did to Redford Thurston last week in the second quarter of their non-league football battle.

The game was scoreless until a few minutes into the second quarter when Kimball capitalized on two Thurston mistakes—interceptions—and scored a pair of quick touchdowns.

Kimball later scored two more TDs in the 12-minute period to leave the Eagles in a hopeless position.

Kimball went on to win the contest, 36-12, even though Thurston put up

a brave fight in the final quarter.

"The first quarter wasn't too bad from our viewpoint, but in the second, they broke the game wide open with two quick touchdowns,"

said Thurston coach Don Riehl.

Kimball followed suit in the third quarter and blasted another TD past the Eagles' defense.

"We played well in the first and final quarters,

but that was not enough to beat Kimball," Riehl said.

Thurston finally scored in the fourth period when Mark Erickson, a sophomore, charged into the endzone from 11 yards out to cap a 95-yard drive.

During the lengthy drive, Erickson led the Eagles' offensive attack with a pair of runs of 31 yards and 17 yards. Also during the drive, quarterback Mike Fitzsimmons tossed a 15-yard pass to Bruce Alderman. The two-point conversion attempt was stopped.

After the touchdown, Thurston went for an on-side kick, which was successful and the Eagles had control of the ball at mid-field.

Erickson again capped the drive with a seven-yard dive through the middle of the Kimball line for a touchdown. Again, the two-point conversion was stopped.

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