

Franklin edges Thurston, 13-10

Competing with a revamped lineup due to player suspensions and injuries, Livonia Franklin defeated Redford Thurston, 13-10, last weekend for its second consecutive Northwest Suburban League football victory of the season.

The Patriots travel to North Farmington 2 p.m. Saturday in what shapes up to be their most important game of the campaign to date.

North, 4-0 overall and

1-0 in conference games, is a quick, veteran team that has its eye on a Class A state playoff berth.

"We need a miracle, but I believe in miracles," said Franklin coach Armand Vigna. "They (Raiders) have an excellent chance to make the playoffs."

The Patriots battled Thurston with two new offensive guards, a new tackle, a new tight end, a new split end and a new tailback.

The Franklin coaching staff suspended three players for the remainder of the season prior to the Thurston game for breaking team training rules.

That, coupled with a run of the flu, resulted in the reorganization of the Patriots' lineup.

The Eagles broke the scoreless deadlock at 7:24 of the second period with a 24-yard field goal by John Klopick.

Thurston started that drive from its own 28

yard line when Bob Casinger recovered a botched pichout by quarterback Jon McCarthy.

The Patriots took the ensuing kickoff and marched 57 yards in 10 plays to wrestle the lead away from the Eagles. Jerry Cifer scored on a one-yard off-tackle play, and Don Boka kicked the extra point.

In the third period, Thurston capitalized on another Franklin mistake, this time a poor center snap during a punting situation, to get field position at the Patriots' 21 yard line.

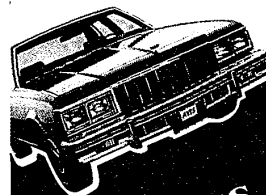
Following a penalty, Mike Fitzsimmons connected with Willie Gibson on a 27-yard touchdown pass. Klopick again came through on the extra-point kick.

Franklin scored the

winning points with a 75-yard drive late in the third quarter. Cifer, like he has done so many times this season, ran untouched 37 yards on a quick trap for the TD. McCarthy and Boka combined on a 40-yard pass to loosen the Eagles' secondary prior to Cifer's scamper.

Thurston threatened twice during the final 12 minutes, getting down to the Patriots' four yard line one time and the 40 another, but could not score.

"We had plenty of opportunities. We just couldn't put them away, that's all," said Don Riehl, coach of the Eagles. "Mike Fitzsimmons, the quarterback, played a great game."



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CC whips de la Salle

Supercharged tailback Randy Larsen paced Detroit Catholic Central to a 24-7 win over Detroit DeLaSalle last weekend in a Catholic League football battle.

The Shamrocks will battle Birmingham Brother Rice Sunday at Windsor Stadium in Pontiac.

Starting time is 2:30 p.m. for the game that will go a long way in determining not only the Central Division champion, but also possible participation in the Catholic League and state playoffs.

Both teams are 4-0. During the DeLaSalle contest, Larsen picked up 130 yards to raise his season total to 632 yards in four games. Fullback Dave Elwell added 90 yards on the ground. CC totaled 275 yards.

"We overpowered them with our running attack. It was basically a

very hard hitting game. Elwell and Larsen did a great job throughout the game," said CC coach Thomas Mach.

The Shamrocks opened the scoring on their first series from scrimmage. CC marched down the field 69 yards with Elwell plunging into the end zone from one yard out for the touchdown. Chuck Maiorana kicked the point after.

In the second quarter, the Shamrocks again rolled down the field for another scoring drive. Elwell bucked up the middle from two yards. The extra point kick was good.

The Shamrocks then scored single touchdowns in the third and fourth quarters to put the game on ice. Larsen capped a 95-yard drive with a four-yard dash in the third quarter.

Pat Moug scored the final CC touchdown mid-

way in the fourth period on a six-yard, off-tackle run. The play capped an extended drive. Again the point after was good.

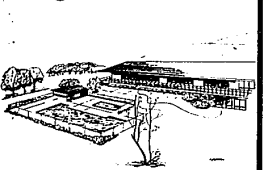
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