

Birmingham Groves stings Andover gridders

By BOB GROSS

The Birmingham Groves football team blocked one punt and recovered one fumble Friday.

The Falcons turned both of those opportunities into touchdowns and beat Bloomfield Hills Andover, 20-13.

Andover had its chances, but the Barons didn't capitalize on them.

They failed to recover a Groves' fumble in the second quarter, a fumble that would have given them the ball on the Groves 33. They didn't rush the punter in the fourth quarter, and the Falcons' Matt Kennedy was able to get off a kick after retrieving a bad snap.

Groves coach Bill Rankin gave the credit to the non-existent rush to a trick play in the Falcons' repertoire.

"We have a fake punt," he said, "and they knew

about that. If they'd have rushed, we have an automatic signal, and we would have tossed it — and I think we'd have probably tossed it for a first down."

But Andover coach Frank Buford said that wasn't the case.

"We had a middle punt return on, and we were holding everybody up," said Buford. "The only trouble with a middle punt return is that you don't get a rush."

Groves actually took control of the game in the third quarter after Kenney blocked a punt at the Andover 25. Don Olsen broke outside the right end on the very next play and lugged it down to the Andover 10 where he was collared by Randy Clark.

Olsen and Jim Lasman took turns carrying it down to the two-yard line where Groves was faced with a fourth down situation. Quarterback Chris Vogt then went to the air, finding end Mark Mour-

guard with 1:20 remaining.

Rankin defended his decision to go for the first down saying, "We'd have left them down in there with very limited offense they'd be able to run unless they wanted to throw the ball from their own end zone. I don't think they were going to do that, plus I thought we could make the first down."

The decision to go for the first down proved to be the right one. Mazure took the ensuing kickoff, raced 76 yards with a touchdown, and suddenly the Barons were back in the game.

"There's at least four guys that missed tackles on that," said Rankin. "Mazure's a fine back, as you well know. He bounced off a couple of our guys, and one of our guys mistacked him, and, of course, the move he made down here on the sideline was a tremendous move to get himself in the end zone."

Stevenson needs overtime to overcome Glenn

By DAVE SCHWARTZ

Comedian Steve Martin would have called it "a wild and crazy game."

But Walter Camp would have been proud of the example of spirited football in Westland.

Livonia Stevenson had to go into overtime to keep its playoff hopes alive by beating a fired-up Westland John Glenn gang, 22-17.

It was a game that had more breaks than Evel Knievel's legs. If Richard Parks didn't take a pihout and score from four yards out in overtime, the boys would probably still be playing.

The first half was uneventful. It was a half of tipped passes and fumbles. In fact, a fumbled snap from center was Stevenson's best play.

Quarterback David Hall picked up one fumble on the Spartans' second possession and rambled 19 yards for a first down. Two plays later, Hall picked up another misfired snap and coolly tossed a 16-yard touchdown pass to end Cap Pethers. Hall's extra-point

kick completed the only scoring of the first half.

As a matter of fact, that was quite a Pethers in Stevenson's Cap. Pethers was in on almost every play, making well over a dozen tackles in the game.

But you could sense that this was a fired-up Glenn squad. They shut down all-state candidate Hall's vaunted passing attack with two interceptions.

To be fair though, Stevenson's offense was hardly ever on the field. Coach Chuck Gordon's ball-control offense was on the field seemingly the entire game.

In the third quarter, Glenn used up 10:11 on the clock to tie it up on a 75-yard drive. The key to play was a 13-yard drive from quarterback Rick Discher to flanker Anthony Cabrera off Dave Hall's hands that gave Glenn the ball at Stevenson's three.

On third down, Discher rolled out and lobbed a TD pass to end Bill Dye. John Johnston's kick knotted it up at 7-7.

After all that, it took Stevenson only 38 seconds to go ahead. Don Hauck took a handoff, broke tackles all the way

down the field and twisted 47 yards for a score.

If you think that would break Rocket backs, you're dead wrong. The determined Glenn gridders had nothing to lose and everything to gain. They breezed 60 yards for a fourth quarter equalizer.

The Rockets found the knack of making big third down plays. The biggest was a Discher-to-Dye two-yard touchdown pass that was a carbon copy of the first Glenn score.

Stevenson marched down the field, but Cabrera picked off a pass to send it into overtime.

Glenn moved only two yards in three plays on its possession from the 10-yard line before settling for a 26-yard field goal by Johnston. By the way, 17 points is the most that Stevenson has allowed all over time.

Then Parks sent the fans home with his dramatic sweep on third down. That means that next week's Stevenson-Livonia Churchill game will result in a possible playoff position for the winner.

"We're thrilled to death," said an ecstatic Reardon. "I'll take it any way I can get it. We knew they'd be a bear. We played a real nice second half."

"Next week (the showdown with Churchill) is for all the money, baby."

"We're proud of our effort," said a disconsolate Gordon. "It was just one of those games that it was a shame someone had to lose."

As Reardon left the field to a happy mob, we were asked which Spartans were instrumental in the win. "Everybody," he said with a wave. "Everybody."

King started the show with a 10-yard run in the first quarter. Then the Warrior's Frank Tozzi blocked a punt and returned it 30 yards for another first-quarter score. A two-point conversion gave Western a 15-0 lead before many of the fans were settled in their seats.

RU came blazing back. Bob Ulych closed the first quarter gap with a 10-yard run. RU got a two-pointer to cut the margin to 15-8.

The Panthers even took a brief lead in the second quarter on Ulych's second touchdown, this time from 17 yards out. RU led 16-15 after another two-point conversion.

Then King gave Western a 21-16 halftime lead with a five-yard run. Shocking yes, but RU had faced adver-

sity before.

This time, though, things went sour. Perhaps the Panthers were looking forward to the Adrian game too much. King banged in from seven yards out to start the second half and the Warriors had all the points they needed.

Adding insult to injury, King blew down the doors with a 77-yard gallop to close out Western's best day in memory. Tim Holme went 30 yards for RU's last futile points, and hometown fans, and Adrian scores, left in disbelief.

So often does a powerhouse get knocked off by an unheralded team when a big game looms a couple weeks ahead. RU will have all winter to think about the much-repeated cliché "Every week is a big game."

Now Dearborn Fordson, Edsel Ford and Catholic Central will fight it out for the two playoff spots in the designated Region Four. So hold on to your computers.

Warrior quarterback Rob King was a one-man show. He scored four touchdowns, and gained 114 yards on only five carries. In all Western jaunted for 350 yards offense on the Panthers' highly-touted defense.

Ferndale whips Lahser

Oh, did Bloomfield Hills Lahser have a glorious opportunity Friday!

Birmingham Seahorn dumped Royal Oak Dondoro 14-12, and Lahser moved right back into the high school playoff picture.

And then Ferndale dumped Lahser, 35-14, and the Knights fell right back out of it.

Lahser's normally potent rushing game suffered from an energy shortage Friday.

The Knights managed only 13 yards on the ground. Coach Ted Guthard was forced to turn to the air and backup quarterback Jeff Davis completed 10 of 18 attempts for 159 yards and two touchdowns.

Starting quarterback Fred Moeller hit on three of seven for four yards before he was removed.

FERNDALE had a total of 251 yards — all of it on the ground.

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