

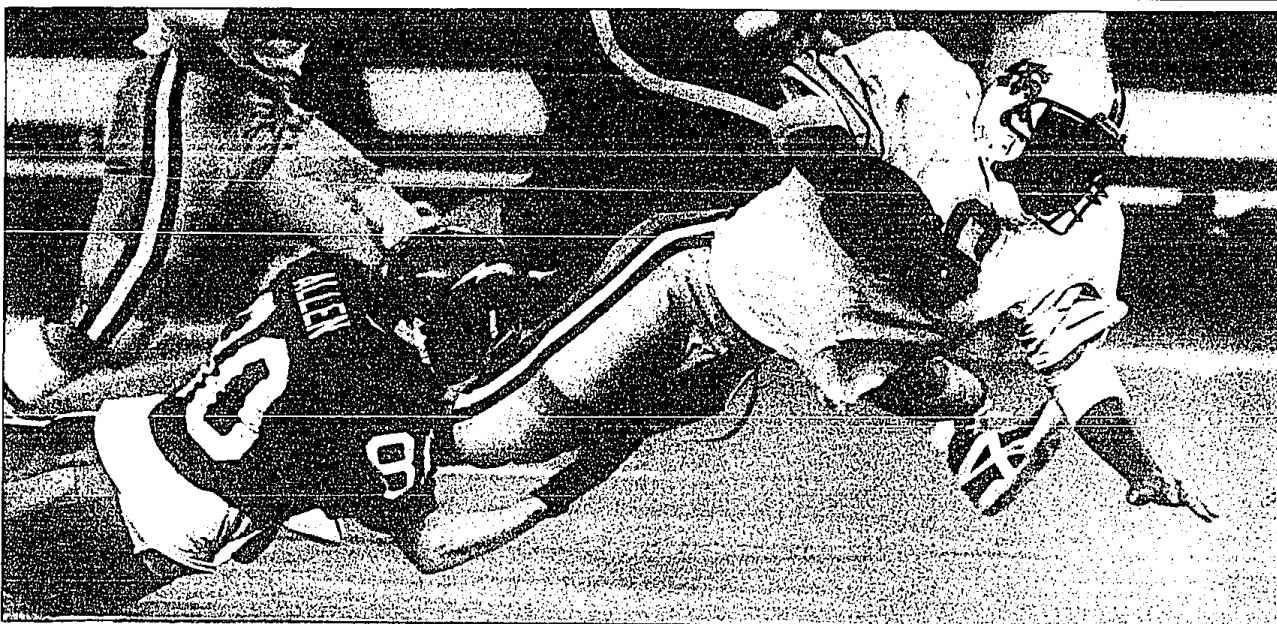
Sports

Marty Budner editor/644-1101



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Southfield's Damont Goolsby (8) strains to stretch for that extra yard while in the grasp of Southfield-Lathrup defender Chad Allen (80) during action Saturday afternoon at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Jays beat Chargers, snap 2-year hex

By Marty Budner
staff writer

David Little and Kevin Beverly looked exhausted as they slowly made their way back toward the buses waiting to take them and their victorious Blue Jay teammates back to Southfield High School.

And they should have been. The talented tandem played vital roles in leading Southfield to a 42-6 romp over city rival Southfield-

Lathrup at the Pontiac Silverdome Saturday afternoon.

Surprisingly, the win was Southfield's first over the Chargers in two years. Lathrup had barely managed to win the last two meetings at the Silverdome — the first by eight points and last year by two points.

While those were high-scoring, entertaining games punctuated with excitement, this year's contest was exactly opposite. The Blue Jays were in control from the opening

moments and the outcome was never in doubt.

Southfield led 7-0 after the first quarter and exploded for 28 second-quarter points to bring the Jug — the emblem of the city championship — back to Blue Jay territory.

LITTLE AND Beverly were on the sidelines for those previous losses. Now seniors, the pair displayed little outward emotion in the parking lot, but were bubbling with pride inside

after capping their high school careers with the big victory over their city rivals under the Dome.

"We lost two years in a row to those guys. We owed them," said Beverly, sweat beading down his face. "We practiced hard all summer for this year, and this was the most important game of the year."

Little, the cornerback turned quarterback, also delighted in the triumph that allowed Southfield to tie the 22-game series between the schools at 11 wins each.

"We couldn't get the SMA (Southeastern Michigan Association) title, but we got the Jug back," said Little. "We had to have it. It feels good."

The Blue Jays must have felt good all night.

Southfield defensive lineman Edward Gaston blocked a Lathrup punt on the Chargers' first series of the game. The Blue Jays took over at the enemy's 40-yard line and it took them just six plays to score, capped by junior tailback Marvin Reynolds' 11-yard run. Bill Bingham booted the first of his six extra points in the game and it was 7-0.

Lathrup got the ball back and produced its best drive of the evening. The Chargers marched all the way down to the Southfield 6-yard line, but quarterback Tiki Ghosh fumbled and Gaston recovered.

LATHRUP NEVER threatened after that until the game's final minute.

Southfield took possession, and, on the first play of the second quarter,

Little scooted in on an option play from 24 yards out. The Blue Jays took a 14-0 lead four minutes later when Reynolds wrapped up a quick hitter with a 42-yard touchdown jaunt.

The Blue Jays then struck quickly to ice the game.

Little, on the first play after Lathrup fumbled another ball, scored on a 19-yard run. The touchdown came less than a minute after the score by Reynolds. And, three minutes after Little's touchdown, Damont Goolsby ran in a 4-yard straight dive, which gave Southfield an insurmountable 28-0 halftime lead.

"Yep. We got going right away and never looked back," said Southfield coach Cal Fletcher. "We executed real well. We ran the football like we wanted. Other teams had been successful running the ball against (Lathrup), so we thought we could be too."

They were. The Blue Jays gained 402 total yards in the game — all via rushing.

Reynolds, who scored his third touchdown of the game on a 35-yard third-quarter run, paced the way with 191 yards on just 11 carries in only three quarters of action. It was his highest individual rushing effort of the season.

LITTLE GAINED 91 yards on nine carries and backfield mate Chris Beatty logged 45 yards. Eight different players carried the ball for Southfield, which attempted only one pass.

The Chargers, who this year suffered their first winless (0-9) season of the decade, mustered 147 total yards. Most of that yardage came through the air as quarterbacks Ghosh and Nick Sandiha combined to complete 9 of 29 passes with three interceptions.

Their only touchdown came on a 36-yard touchdown from Sandiha to James Jenkins on the final play of the game.

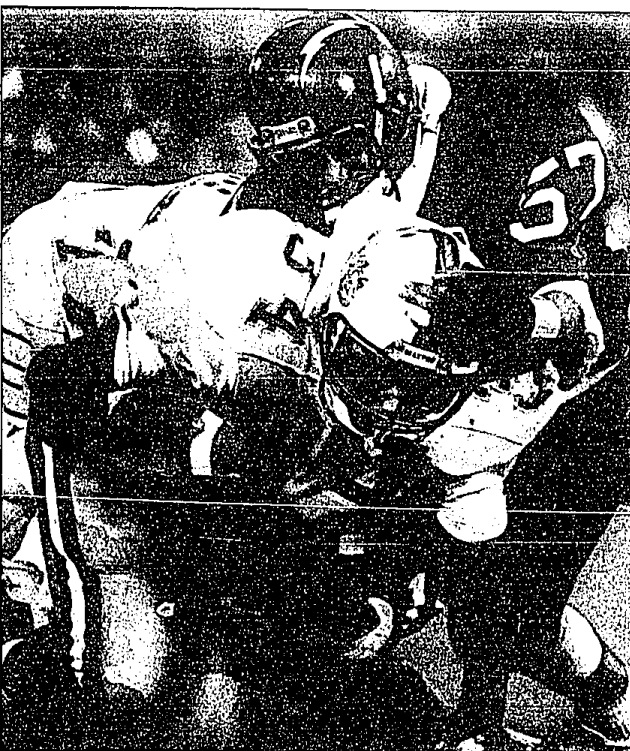
"They're (Southfield) just bigger, faster and stronger than we are," said Lathrup coach Darrell Harper. "We're just not ready to play that type of competition."

"If we want to compete at their level we're going to have to work harder at lifting weights in the off-season and doing the things you need to do to be a winning team," he said. "We just have a bunch of kids who were not ready to play this year — hopefully next year they will be."

MEANWHILE, Southfield completed its season with a 7-2 mark — its best season since 1985, when the Jays were 8-1. The lone Blue Jay losses were to Brighton in the opener and league champion Seabrook.

"I'm real happy with this season. We hung together all year, especially after we lost that first game," said Fletcher. "We could have folded, but we didn't. This was a good group of seniors. They were never selfish and they've played together as a team all year."

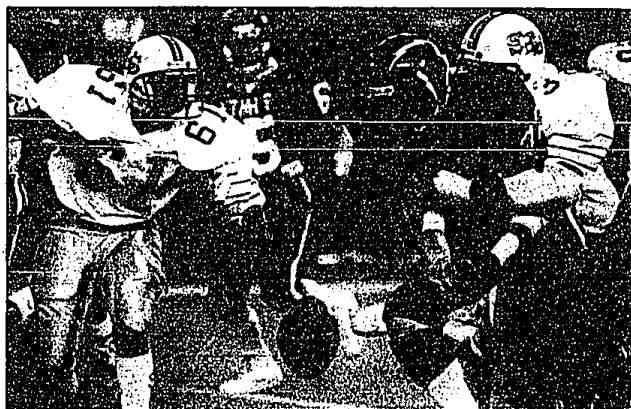
They were their best in winning back the Jug.



Photos by JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Chris Beatty (34) of Southfield churns for a few extra yards against Lathrup's Sarned Sinawi

(57). The Blue Jays defeated their city rivals by a lopsided 42-6 margin.



Lathrup receiver Marvin Falls (82) chases after a loose ball along with Blue Jay defenders Cooper Strong (81) and Elijah Hayes (30).