

It's Tough To Figure Out Ups And Downs Of Lions

Strange indeed are the 1968 Detroit Lions. One Sunday they captivate the hearts of their fans. The next they look like a bunch of sandlotters -- maybe even worse.

But what has Coach Joe Schmidt been muttering these days is what's gone wrong with the Lions' offense. Ten days ago, the Lions salvaged a tie against Green Bay, but were helped along by a

fumble and one quick thrust in the first period. For the final three stanzas, the Lions straggled little in the way of an attack. SUNDAY, matters were even

worse in the offensive department as they dropped a 14-7 decision to San Francisco. The Lions did almost nothing. Their one touchdown came on a 94-yard dash by Len Barney when a San Francisco field

goal attempt was short. Bill Munson's passing was the worst he's shown yet with the Lions. The Lions had almost no running attack after Mel Farr was hurt early in the game.

Somebody said the team was shocked after losing Farr, but then somebody else noted that injuries are part of football and teams must be able to adjust and bounce back. AS A RESULT of the loss,

the Lions are locked in a four-team fight for the Central Division title. Any of the four teams in the division -- Green Bay, Detroit, Chicago or Minnesota -- could win it. The schedule still favors the

Lions, although this Sunday they must invade Los Angeles and then they come home to take on Baltimore. Thereafter, it'll be "duck" soup for Detroit -- or at least it should be. The remaining slate figures to ruin Minnesota and Chicago and won't cause any pleasures for Green Bay either.

RocksRoll

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of Thornbladh and Watson returned 20 yards to the Plymouth 35. Tackle Rob Clayton broke through to down Quarterback Bob Walden for a nine yard loss on an attempted pass and had the ball on the Plymouth 45 as the first quarter ended.

Two plays later Malone punted into the Plymouth end zone. The Rocks started another drive and had the ball on the Plymouth 45 as the first quarter ended.

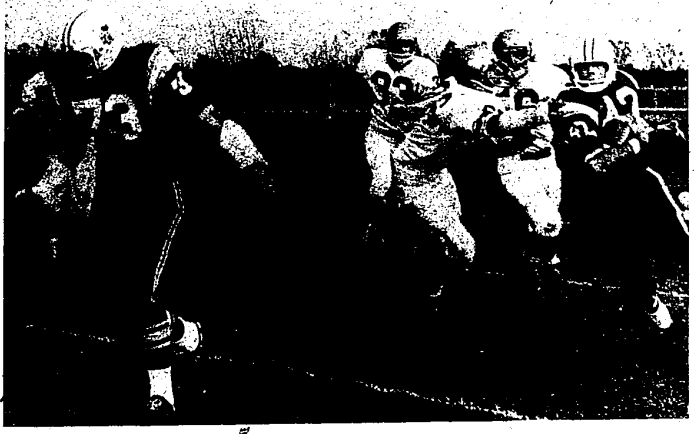
The period ended with Bentley deep in its own territory and trailing by a 7-0 count. Plymouth recorded 12 first downs in the half to three for Bentley.

Coming back after the intermission, the Rocks took the kickoff and drove 58 yards for the second touchdown. They had possession of the ball for more than five minutes during the parade.

Lee returned the kickoff eight to the Plymouth 34. Thornbladh turned left and for seven, Lee had a first down on the 45. Bentley and Thornbladh picked up eight and Bentley was guilty of roughness that placed the ball on the Bentley 33.

TOBEY WAS stopped and Plymouth drove a 15 yard penalty for clipping that moved the pigskin back to the Bentley 47. Bauman found tail Greg Corrigan open for a long pass to the Bentley 4. Thornbladh stormed within a foot of the goal line and went over in two plays with 7:02 showing on the clock.

WITH 46 SECONDS remaining, Walden dropped back for a pass but Corrigan reached high to snag the ball in the flat and raced 39 yards for the touchdown that added a bit of icing to a victory cake. This time Tupurkovski's kick was low and wide but the Rocks were in front 20-0.



BREAKING LOOSE for a long touchdown run after taking a punt is Stevenson's Jerry Deter. He shook off two tacklers and then received a key block from an unidentified teammate (73, not listed in program) as he raced down the sidelines. He was one of the key performers as the Spartans rolled to their seventh straight victory.

Falcons Turn To 2nd Year

Games with Southfield and North Farmington still remain ahead for the Farmington High football team. They'll be like a second season for the Falcons who don't care to look back too much on what happened in their bid for the 1968 Interlake Conference title.

Farmington failed to win a game, ending the loop state by suffering a 54-6 setback at the hands of Walled Lake. Of course, the big one of the two contests remaining for Farmington is the clash with North Farmington.

It's one of those games which can make an entire season -- like Michigan-Michigan State or Notre Dame-Michigan State.

THE PLAY of Walled Lake was too much for Farmington last Friday. All Welsh did was to run for three touchdowns on gallops of 55, 28 and 45 on passes from Roy Connor.

In addition he intercepted three Farmington passes. The Connor-Welsh combine teamed for a 55-yard TD pass on the first play from scrimmage and Farmington found itself trying to play "catch-up" the rest of the game.

Dan Steinke passed 29 yards to Kevin Hillstrand for the only Farmington touchdown in the third period. Walled Lake rolled to 136 yards rushing and 254 in the air. Farmington made 43 yards on the ground and 67 in the air.

In all, Walled Lake picked off five Farmington passes. COMEBACK The Tigers were only the third team in history to win the World Series after losing three of the first four games.

Title Share Enjoyed By Thurston Gridders

They said Thurston would figure in the 1968 Northwest Suburban League football picture. Thurston did -- although the Townshippers found themselves

sharing the flag with North Farmington and Franklin when the league state ended last weekend. Each had 4-1 conference records.

But Thurston has been moving along at a terrific clip of late. R showed all -- around him in downing Groves, 21-6, as Craig Mutch counted all three of the Thurston touchdowns.

"The boys were determined," declared Coach Bill McDonald, "we had been embarrassed early in the season and the kids knew they were a better team."

As far as McDonald was concerned, the game was decided on four plays late in the first half.

THURSTON HAD the ball and attempted a punt from deep in its own end. The snap from center shot over the kicker's head and Groves recovered on the six-inch line.

First down and a small ruler to go. But Groves never made those six inches. After four plays Groves had been pushed back a couple of yards.

"I never heard pads crack the way they did on those four plays," said McDonald. "When we got the ball back after that stand -- the best I ever have seen by a high school team -- I knew nobody could beat us that night."

AN INTERCEPTED pass by Jack Weston led to a fast score by Thurston. He picked the ball off around the Groves 40 and returned to the 30.

A few plays later, Mutch snared a pass from Bob Bashara who rifled the ball some 11 yards and Thurston had a 7-0 lead.

Mutch went 40 yards to make it 14-0 in the second period and it was after that the Thurston

Borgess 11 Misses In Flag Bid

The golden chips eluded Bishop Borgess High's football team. An appeal wasn't forthcoming Saturday when Borgess, the Redford Township team without a senior--because the school doesn't have any--bowed to Dearborn Sacred Heart, 20-6.

The victory assured Sacred Heart the First Division West title in the Catholic League with a 6-0 record. Borgess, which had a chance to figure in the title picture, now stands 4-2.

Sacred Heart scored in a hurry when Dick Marion broke loose on a 29-yard run on the second play from scrimmage. The conversion made it 7-0 for Sacred Heart.

BISHOP BORGESS recovered on a 30-yard pass interception run by Mitchell Wing 16 seconds before the half ended. The missed conversion left Borgess still trailing, but only by a 7-6 score at the intermission.

That's the way the score stood until the final period when Sacred Heart led the proceedings with two touchdowns.

Scott Ruder went over on a 10-yard pass from Keith Carroll and then Tom Bailey dashed across from the 13.

In the end, the Sacred Heart defense was too much for Bishop Borgess.

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