

STOPS UNBEATEN, UNTIED TEAM

Bentley Jolts Trenton

Don't feel sorry any more for Bentley high school in football. Not after what Bentley has done the last two Friday nights.

When Bentley lost its first game to Farmington ... then tied Dearborn ... and lost in game No. 3 to Plymouth ... one could hear the groans along Five Mile Road.

"This will be another of those lousy years around here," some of the Bentley students could be heard to mutter.

And some adults, too.

But Coach Larry Joiner has brought his charges back ... back to the pedestal Bentley teams once enjoyed in Suburban Six League gridiron action.

Bentley is tied with Plymouth and Trenton for first place ... all with 2-1 records.

Anything can happen from here on in for Bentley ... but nothing will compare to what happened last Friday night when the Livonians showed Trenton's powerhouse a thing or two on the Bentley field.

Trenton rode the 20-odd miles from its home base to Bentley in a high frame of mind.

After all, Trenton had won

four straight and everyone was saying: "Trenton is in as far as the title was concerned."

The Trenton folks claimed—and deservedly so—that they should be rated among the state's best Class A teams.

All of the superlatives and all of the glittering words about Trenton didn't disturb the Bentley forces.

"We can do it," the Bentley team shouted as they ran from their dressing rooms on to the field.

And, when the night was over, Bentley had registered an upset to top all upsets ... The Livonians had kayaked the Trenton team, 7-0.

Nobody was happier than Coach Joiner.

He has had some tough moments since becoming Bentley's head coach three years ago.

When Joiner came in, the cycle of players seemed to change at Bentley. Perhaps, the splitting of the student body as some went to Franklin had its effects on the gridder.

Last Friday's win had to stand as the highlight of Joiner's varsity coaching career to date—at least from a football standpoint at Bentley.

"The kids were magnificent," he declared. "We were worried that Trenton might jar our middle with their pulverizing attack."

"But our kids met the challenge."

The teams fought on even and scoreless terms for three periods.

Early in the final period, after an exchange of punts, Bentley got the ball on its own 43. A 15-yard penalty against Trenton moved Bentley into Trenton's territory—to the 40.

On the very next play, Harvey Jacobson faked back and slipped the ball on its own 43. A 15-yard penalty against Trenton moved Bentley into Trenton's territory—to the 40.

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The touchdown was nullified by the foul brought back ... and Trenton penalized.

The downriver team had to kick ... but Bentley couldn't do anything. So Bentley punted back.

Trenton again started a march. It looked like the real thing again.

But when the Trenton team reached the Bentley 20 and with 1:30 left in the game, a pass was called.

Ken Bowman, the Bentley end, reached up to block the ball. Tackle Richard Koch ran alongside of Bowman and shared the pigskin in the air.

Bentley had possession and now all the Livonians had to do was run out the clock. That they did to fashion a crushing upset.

Joiner saluted the Bentley defense. Tackles Koch and Dick Larsen were terrific along with linebackers John Plumley, Bill Woods and Bob Elmer.

For the most part the game was played between the two 30's.

In its first downs, Trenton had a 9-7 edge. In yardage Trenton totaled 200, 188 of them on the ground.

Bentley earned 63 via passing and 75 on the ground.

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Rocks Edge R. U. Tie For 1st Place

Coach Mike Hoben of Plymouth High School's football team may bow out a champion.

By the smallest of margins—one point—and thanks to an assist from neighboring Livonia Bentley, the Rocks suddenly find themselves back in the Suburban Six League title picture.

Hoben figured all of the Rocks' hopes for a repeat title—even a share of same—went out the window 10 days ago when Trenton trimmed the Rocks in what was strictly no contest.

But last Friday, Plymouth squeezed past Redford Union by a 7-6 score and Bentley scored the upset of upsets by knocking off previously unbeaten Trenton, 7-0.

So the story now reads: Bentley 2-1, Plymouth 2-1 and Trenton 2-1 in league standings.

The Rocks have no soft finish ahead. They must contend with Allen Park and Belleville, both on the road. Bentley goes to Redford Union and then entertains Allen Park. Trenton has Belleville and Redford Union left.

"We had our hands full with Redford Union," declared Hoben, "and they sure scared us." "Scare" really wasn't the word.

The Rocks had pushed in their touchdown and extra point in the third period.

A fumble recovered on the R.U. 15 set up the score.

Smack went Grady. Then Kurt Irish, John Daniel and Grady again hit into the R.U. line.

Their combined efforts netted 12 yards.

It was Grady's turn again ... and this time he raced over the golden line for the touchdown.

The extra point was good when Terry Cosgrove flipped to Jim Lake. That made it 7-0 for Plymouth.

Redford Union waited until the final few minutes of action remained to start a drive.

The Townshipers were back on their own 12 and things hardly looked bright. Harry Kendrick was the workhorse for the Townshipers as the seconds ticked away.

Ten times he caught the ball as R.U. began a march that was to pay off with a score. A Rick Barman to Hank Bourassa pass helped out for 20 yards.

But mostly it was Kendrick pounding his way clear to the Plymouth 4.

Then Barryman slipped back and connected on a neat pass to Mike Fritz for the touchdown.

The clock showed exactly 23 seconds left in the game.

It was now possible for R.U. to tie the game. But Lake, a defensive back for Plymouth as well as an able offensive performer, roared through to stop the R.U. attempt almost before it could get started.

The hearts of Redford Union were broken. And understandably so.

But Redford Union's unapologetic brought smiles across the field. As stated, the victory lifted Plymouth right back into the title picture.

Except for the touchdown drives on each side—neither side engineered any other serious threats.

The statistical edge belonged to Redford Union, although that hardly brought Coach John Rogers or his gallant warriors any consolation.

It was the scoreboard which counted, as usual.

In passing, R.U. gained 91

yards to 22 for Plymouth. Rushing saw Plymouth make 84 and R.U. 76.

The Warnemede twins, Cary (a halfback) and Jerry (an end) both turned in fine efforts for the Rocks. Dave Tidwell also was a standout with his play on defense in the Plymouth cause.

While the final result didn't please Coach Rogers, he nevertheless was very pleased the way his performers handled themselves.

"The kids sure hit hard," he declared.

Injuries continue to plague R.U. guard Bill Melvin, a veteran, now out with a broken hand, making it necessary for Rogers to call on more tenth graders.

The Plymouth game at Belleville this Friday night starts at 8 p.m. R.U. entertains Bentley with a chance to dent Bentley's title hopes.

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Ravens Handed Setback

You can't play "giveaway" in sports and come out a winner. Farmington high's football team found that out last Friday night in a non-league encounter at East Detroit.

The Farmington team fumbled three times and lost the ball each time. And Farmington also had dropped the game, 19-13.

Costliest of the bobbles came on the East Detroit three after Farmington had gained a first down on the opposition's five.

On the very next play, a smack into the line brought the ball flying loose. A lot of hands went for the free pigskin. East Detroit got it.

It was the same later when Farmington fumbled on the East Detroit 40 and the Farmington 20. The ball went to the other side.

Despite the setback, Farmington did come up with a winner in Mike Wilson, 5-11-140-pound quarterback making his first start for the varsity.

Wilson showed himself to be one of the finest passers to play for Farmington in a long time. He fired 15 times ... clicked on 10 ... for 189 yards ... and both his team's touchdowns.

"He's a dandy," said Coach John Hayes. "It looks like we have solved a problem in our attack, and it could make a difference as the season goes."

Actually, it was a game in which both sides thrived on passes.

East Detroit struck with two big bombs itself to counter a pair of long strikes via the airways for Farmington. Only the final and deciding East Detroit TD came on a smack on the ground.

Farmington went ahead early when Wilson picked out Terry Neilson on a scoring play that covered 65 yards. With the ball on the Farmington 35, Wilson lofted a neat one which Neilson gathered in some 40 yards away.

The rest of the way—25 yards—was easy for Neilson.

However, East Detroit wasted no time to get even. An 80-yard pass-run play tied matters at 6-6.

Shortly after the start of the second half, East Detroit went back ahead on a 25-yard pass. The successful conversion made it 13-6.

The passing of Wilson brought Farmington back into a quick tie.

Again with the ball on the Farmington 35, Wilson went back ... and this time he tossed a 20-yarder to Dick Johnson. The fleet-footed Johnson broke into the clear and behind some neat blocks raced for the touchdown.

Brother Wayne Johnson booted the extra point and now it was a 13-13 duel.

It was a little later that Farmington negotiated a 60-yard march to gain a first and five on the East Detroit five. But a fumble was to spell ruination.

East Detroit was helped along by two 15-yard penalties and a five-yarder in its drive for the winning score. Overall, the movement covered 70 yards. Only 25 minutes remained in the game when the touchdown came.

Farmington made six first downs to East Detroit's eight. Rushing saw Farmington total 56 and the winners 71. In passing, Farmington had 189, East Detroit 213.

"We just couldn't get in at their passer," declared Coach (Continued on Page 4)



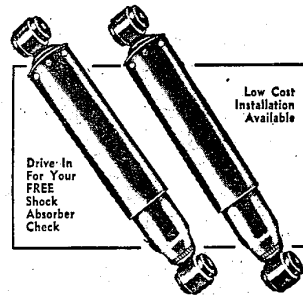
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