

New Power Makes Rocks Winner

Showing a rebirth of offensive power, the Plymouth Rocks held off a fourth quarter rally to dump the Northville Mustangs, 20-14, Friday.

A capacity crowd in shirt-sleeves enjoyed the sight of Plymouth doing something they hadn't done in many a game—score three touchdowns—and threaten seriously with three others. It was an auspicious start for the Rocks' new mentor, Tom Moshimer.

Captain Tom Elias, a workhorse during Friday's opener, scored the first time the

Rocks had the ball as he returned a punt 70 yards for a touchdown. With precision blocking leading the way, Elias scored easily.

The score gave the Rocks an edge psychologically that held up until the fourth quarter, when Northville threatened to go ahead.

The Mustangs' ace end Greg Carr dropped a pass on Plymouth 11 late in the first quarter to stall Northville's first threat.

The Rocks moved well in the second quarter, capped

by a 36-yard run by Steve Montgomery, but could not score.

Leading 7-0 opening the third stanza, the Rocks, tiny halfback, Bill Tobey, ripped off tackle for 20 yards. After

In the fourth quarter

two plays to Elias' quarter-back Mike Cedberg caught the Mustang defense looking the other way and skittered for seven yards and the score.

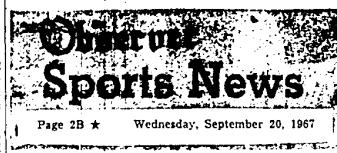
While Elias and Cedberg ground out the yardage all night, it remained for Rock and Jeff Adams to play the last failed drive—a lone receiver down field—Plymouth

scored for the third time. The PAT fell short but the 20-14 margin was enough.

Chief Northville threat came from Carr who was dubbed teamed most of the second half by Plymouth.

Elias led all Plymouth runners with an unofficial 15 carries and 124 yards.

Friday the Rocks host Farmington and will put to test their pass defense. And, as well, Coach Moshimer will be looking to someone to take the load off of Elias who did much of the running work Friday.



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Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

Whoops...bing...bang...CRASH!

What a week for sports. The Tigers entering the home stretch...the final 10 days in their chase for the American League pennant.

The Lions are in action...and comes Sunday they open for the home folks.

Michigan and Michigan State pry off the lids in their season's openers with the Spartans again picked as the team to beat in the Big Ten.

The Red Wings usher in their pre-season play. It's off to Steubenville, Ohio, with the Pistons for their first action against another NBA rival.

The high schools are tearing away at each other, going full steam into their second weekend of action.

Television bugs will hardly know where to turn—what with big league baseball, college football, and pro games from both leagues to keep the tubes red hot and turn the wives just as hot, too, as they steam because hubby's not doing anything but sitting on his you know what.

True, there'll be other things happening in this world. Some more important than whether the Tigers win or lose...whether the Lions come out on top...etc.

But sports will be KING in these parts.

R. Union Roars Back To Defeat Stevenson

Thanks to a "switch," Redford Union pulled out a 14-6 victory over Stevenson in the 1967 football opener for both teams.

The Townshippers permitted Stevenson to dominate the proceedings for the first quarter as the Livonians pulled ahead, 6-0.

"There wasn't much we could do in those first 12 minutes," moaned coach John Rogers.

"Not when they had the ball for 19 plays and we had it only for five."

Thereafter, Redford Union tightened up defensively—two fumbles had hurt in the first quarter—and the offense began to click.

Neither team displayed

what might be described as a "wide-open" attack. Each struck pretty much to the ground as reflected by the final statistics.

Redford Union charged for 241 yards through the line, while mustering 18 in the air. Stevenson picked up 93 yards and added 32 through the air.

Both Rogers and his rival mentor, Jack Reardon, agreed they'd have to work more on their aerial game. Otherwise, their future rivals will just wait and stop their running.

"You have to make the defenses more honest," said Rogers.

Nonetheless he had to be pleased the way his backs

ran against Stevenson's all-veteran team.

Tom Booker, George Corombas, Bob Fahey, Bob Kenyon and Bob Prantich all took turns carrying the ball.

Jerry Dotter accounted for the Stevenson touchdown in the first quarter. Runs of 33 and 20 yards helped, along with the RU fumbles.

Dotter went in from the seven for the one Stevenson marker in the game.

The first RU touchdown resulted from a 42-yard movement, a 15-yard gallop by Booker started the drive. Then Fahey delivered a 15-yard pass to Bill Micras to get RU to the Stevenson three from which Fahey himself slammed across for the touchdown.

Prantich was the big show in the second RU touchdown. He carried three straight times...once for 10 around right end, then four through center and finally 24 around left end.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? Coach Ralph Weidle and Assistant Gordon Larsen (left) are using their Clarenceville High graders to go after Whitmore Lake in the season opener. It was the first game for Weidle, who was named coach only a few weeks before the start of practice. He came to Clarenceville from South Dakota. Clarenceville battled to a 13-13 tie.

Harriers to Contest

Cross country performers from 12 area teams will meet Saturday in the annual Schoolcraft College Invitational tournament.

The meet will take place at Cass Benton Park, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Entries have been received

from Garden City West and East, North Farmington, Franklin, Thurston, Redford Union, John Glenn, Plymouth, Wayne, Bentley, Stevenson and Clarenceville.

Redford Union won the team title a year ago with Doug Norris of Garden City East the individual winner.

Spartan Swim Club Underway

The Spartan Swim Club has opened its new season at the Stevenson High School.

Boys and girls make up the club which participates in regular meets, plus AAU events. A new class for youngsters who can swim one length of the pool in either freestyle, breaststroke or backstroke has been added.

Information may be obtained by calling 427-7706.

Trojans in Rally To Finish Tied

A team can make mistakes. It can look bad in spots. But all of these faults can be forgotten if it doesn't quit on itself as was the case with Clarenceville High School's football forces in their opener against Whitmore Lake.

The Trojans played a sour-foot first half in their debut under coach Ralph Weidle as the Lakers piled up a 13-0 lead.

The rest of the way it was All-Clarenceville as the Trojans came within an eyelash of pulling out a victory in the fading seconds. As it was, they settled for a 13-13 tie.

"You have to have high hopes for kids like these who wouldn't quit," declared Weidle after the game.

"True we're inexperienced. This will hurt us. But the boys have courage can do wonders—at times."

The finish left the fans on both sides of the field a little limp.

Only some 30 seconds remained when Bob Dugan, a sharp-shooting passer all evening, struck on a 13-yard toss to Jim Troutstead in the end zone for the touchdown that brought Clarenceville even.

The Trojans had marched some 40 yards in the closing few moments with

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Sorrows Wins; Loss For Agatha

The new look for Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Agatha High Schools in football opened with contrasting results.

Sorrows, debuting under coach Herb Coleman, rolled past St. Rita, 35-0, pretty much picking up from a year ago when the Farmington team won the Northwest Division title in the Catholic League and then reached the Second Division finals.

St. Agatha, playing for the first time under coach Jerry Sivert, suffered a 13-7 loss at the hands of Ypsilanti St. John.

Coleman wasn't too happy the way his offense worked. But he had to be proud of the defense which was led by the Walsh Boys—Frank, 240 pounds, and Barry, 210 pounds, and Phil Thomas and John VanDusen.

They permitted St. Rita only 29 yards in the air, while holding the Detroit school to a minus-40 yards on the ground.

The game was played entirely in the St. Rita end.

Tim LaFond tallied Sorrows' first touchdown on a four-yard run. The second came on a 49-yard pass from Mike Briole to Joe Valenti after Tom Webster's kick had stopped on the St. Rita 2 and St. Rita had to punt out to its 49.

In the third period, runs by Frank Barber, Mark Hartwig and LaFond helped set the stage for Hartwig's two-yard touchdown plunge.

It took Sorrows seven plays to negotiate 35 yards and register its fourth touchdowns when LaFond scooted across from the four.

Then with 4½ minutes left to play, Briole and Valenti teamed up on perhaps the most exciting play of the game. Their pass-run effort was good for 71 yards and the final touchdown.

The young St. Agatha team had no reason to be ashamed of losing to St. John, rated the team to beat for sectional honors this season.

Only 3:30 remained when Bob Sutton slammed over from the one to wrap up the verdict for the Ypsilanti team.

If you're a football bug, it might pay to freshen up on your rules.

As we note each year, there are some major variations in the codes as they apply to the high schools, to the collegians, to the professionals.

For example:

Defensive holding in the college and prep ranks is penalized by 15 yards. You get the first down, only if you acquire the sufficient yardage through the penalty. In pro play, defensive holding calls for ONLY a five-yard penalty, but the offensive team automatically picks up a first down.

Pass interference by the defense always stirs a lot of arguments, especially when it isn't called. But when it is signalled, in the pro and college games, the ball is awarded to the offensive team at the spot of the foul, unless the foul takes place in the end zone. In the latter case, the ball is placed on the one-yard line, first down.

In high schools, when the defensive team is guilty of pass interference, the referee takes the ball back to the spot from where the play originally started and steps off a 15-yard penalty and awards an automatic first down.

Oh, yes, there is very definitely such a thing as pass interference by the offense. When it's called, a 15-yard penalty is stepped off from the original spot the play started. In high school and college action, the penalty also includes the loss of a down. In the pros, the down remains the same after the penalty has been applied.

You'll see something new in high school games this year. After the referee has stepped off a foul, he'll order time back in immediately, unless either team asks for a time out. Colleges and pros stick to the old rule, the clock starting up again when the ball is snapped.

Here's one that baffles many: Pros and colleges permit the running out of the end zone of a punt or kickoff. Not so in the high school ranks. As soon as the ball touches or clears the goal line in the pros, the ball becomes dead and is ruled a touchback. In the colleges and pros, the receiving team electing not to run the ball out of the end zone must ground it "dead."

When the pros pass on fourth down and the ball goes dead in their rivals end zone, the defensive team gets the ball out on its own 20. In college and high school games, the missed fourth-down pass is considered like any other and the ball exchanges hands at the point the fourth-down play began.

The colleges have introduced for 1967 a new and controversial rule which governs teams punting. The five interior linemen, meaning the tackles, guards and center, can't leave the line of scrimmage until the ball has been kicked.

One point that requires clarification: A forward pass that goes astray and is dropped is whistled dead. But when a ball is passed laterally and is fumbled, anybody can pick it up—offense or defense—and run.

The best advice to players is to make sure the whistle has blown before quitting on a play. It doesn't pay to think sometimes whether a pass has gone forward or laterally; it can be very close.

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