

Trenton Nips RU In Close '8' Race

Redford Union slipped out of the ranks of the undefeated in the Suburban Eight football race, and a costly slip it was. Trenton, Edsel Ford and Plymouth all boast perfect 3-0 marks with RU now second best at 2-1.

It wasn't an easy loss for RU Coach Bob Atkins to grasp. His Panthers led 7-0 at the end of three quarters but fell behind, 8-7, with 3½ minutes remaining.

RU starting driving and had a first down on the Trenton 10 yard line with 1:09 remaining. A short pass was intercepted, the game all but lost, and visions of a league title were just a twinkle in the rain.

"WE STILL have a shot at winning it all," said Atkins. "It is going to be one heck of a finish, but I think a team with one defeat can win it all. Plymouth has the schedule going for it, and we have the deciding game for us this Friday."

The Panthers journey to Dearborn Edsel Ford Friday afternoon. This is a "must" game for Atkins and his footballers. A loss knocks RU right out of the race, and Atkins can then start thinking of defending his baseball title.

But on the other hand, a win — an upset win — will put RU

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right back into contention and Plymouth on tap the following week.

ATKINS KNOWS he has to stop Edsel Ford's quarterback Mike Booth, who has tossed 12 touchdown passes in the four games. In those four games, Edsel Ford rang up a total of 164 points and gave up only 12. That's an average score of 41-3.

"I don't think we were mentally prepared for the Trenton game," said Atkins. "Trenton had given up only two touchdowns in three games, and we knew they were going to be tough."

RU received the opening kickoff, and Lupe Bravo returned it 27 yards to the 40. The Panthers hit for six, three and three and a first down.

"That was all of our offense the first quarter," added Atkins.

Trenton controlled the ball

sweep for a first down on the nine.

Quarterback Bill Copado completed the turnover drive on another sweep, Ken Livermore made good a two point run, and all of a sudden RU was behind, 8-7, with 3:30 left on the clock.

Kevin Rodgers returned the following kickoff to the RU 35. Richmond ran for a first down and connected with Eland for another. Richmond sprinted to the Trenton 10 on a QB sneak, and with 1:09 remaining it appeared that RU would turn back the tables.

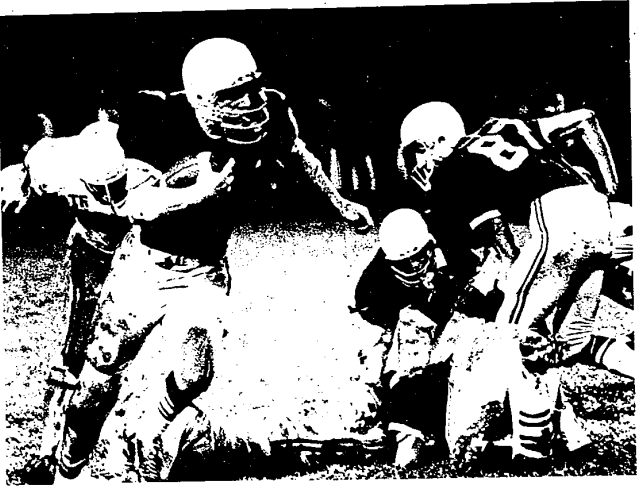
Richmond faded back and fired a pass to Eland. Garry Cline picked off the stray pass less than a foot off the ground, and RU faded into the Suburban Eight loss column.

TRENTON collected 11 first downs to 10 by RU but hit on only one of six passes for 11 yards. Richmond made good six of 18 for 111 yards with one interception.

RU rushed for 66 yards and Trenton totaled 159 on the ground.

"They controlled the football," said Atkins. "We ran on 20 plays to 45 by Trenton."

"It's going to be tough now," concluded Atkins.



PANTHER ON THE PROWL -- Redford Union's Glenn Richmond breaks through for a gain against Trenton with Bob Eland (87) looking on after a block. (Observer photo by Harry Maute)

Franklin Next Victim

NF Raiders Win 4th, Crush Oak Park, 22-0

Chalk up win No. 4 for North Farmington's football squad. Chalk up North Farmington's 10-game winning streak.

Chalk up North's 23 wins in the last 24 games.

And if you haven't run out of chalk, Chalk up Coach Ron Holland's No. 1 revenge victory over Oak Park, 22-0.

Oak Park pulled one of the biggest upsets in area football last year in defeating North Farmington, but it was a different story when the Redskins invaded Raider territory.

North scored its second Northwest Suburban win with eyes moving towards the Oct. 28 showdown with Garden City East.

The Raiders didn't leave much room for doubt as to which way the game was going to sway.

North received the opening kickoff; six plays later, one minute and 30 seconds into the game, Brad Pease broke for 23 yards to climax a 65-yard drive. John Dwyer converted and the Raiders led, 7-0.

North collected three first downs in the short drive. Dwyer went around end for 33 yards and a North first down. Dwyer moved it to the three and Pease scored his second. Dwyer combined with Bill Gilmore for a two pointer and North led, 15-0, with 3:30 left in the first quarter.

North then settled down into its "20 to 20" football pattern

but its defense kept Oak Park in check, allowing just one first down the first half and that on a fourth and two situation when North was back for a punt.

JIM LOUGH recovered an Oak Park fumble for North early in the third stanza and the Raiders were on the move again.

Dwyer hit Gilmore on a 21-yard scoring toss for his sixth of the season. Carl Goetzke converted and North was all but ready to sit on its 22-0 margin.

"We couldn't sustain a drive after that," said Coach Holland. "Our 20 to 20 offense clicked."

OAK PARK never penetrated the Raider 25-yard marker. Its longest run was an 18 yarder and longest pass nine yards.

The Raider defense allowed Oak Park 76 yards on the

ground and 22 in the air on four of 13 passes, and a total of five first downs.

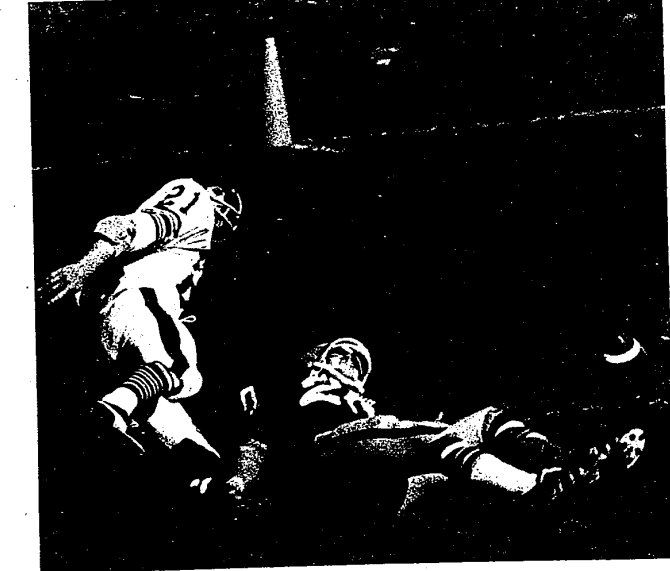
North pounded out 293 yards rushing, 79 in the air on five of 16 passes and 21 penalties - 15 rushing, four passing and two by penalty.

JUNIOR HALFBACK, 5-10, 160-pound Pease rambled for 212 yards in 24 carries to make his season output 528 in four games.

North goes against Franklin Saturday afternoon, Oct. 14, at the Raider gridiron.

"I am thankful we have them at our place," said Holland. "We are the only two original Northwest Suburban schools, and it's always a tough one."

North holds an 8-3 edge in the Raider-Franklin outings, winning the last two years and Holland would like to chalk up No. 5.



TOPSY-TURVY FOOTBALL -- Churchill's Phil Damaska (21) and Farmington Harrison's Bill Herpich (20) collided on this pass play intended for Damaska. The ball fell to the ground but Churchill shut out Harrison, 23-0. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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