

Franklin Oozes By Churchill In Mud, 3-2

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

It had the ingredients of the annual rival mud-slinging gridiron affair and the results of a tight pitcher's battle in the heat of a pennant drive.

On a 100-yard field that was labeled sloppy, saturated, muddy, soggy, and dank, Livonia Franklin scored five points to slough past city rival Churchill, 3-2. A 23-yard field goal late in the third quarter by Dan Quinn gave Franklin a 3-0 lead, and a Franklin safety giving Churchill two points late in the fourth quarter was all there was.

The lone unbeaten club in Observerland remained so. The Patriots of Franklin, who are out after their first undefeated season since 1964, thus rang up win No. 8. Another city rival, Bentley High is the only team between Coach George Lovich, his Patriot squad and a perfect 9-0 season.

A 3-5 Bentley crew invades Franklin territory this Saturday afternoon, kickoff slated for 2 p.m.

The battle of the unbeaten in the area was cut a week short when Waterford Mott ended Churchill's streak of 15 straight wins a week earlier.

Churchill Coach Ken Kaestner wasn't sure how his Chargers would react to their first loss in two years but one thing sure was that it had to be tabbed a battle of the defenses.

Franklin had given up only 43 points in winning the Northwest Suburban while Churchill had yielded 73, with 40 of those coming in the Mott whipping.

It started raining just before game time and Franklin Coach Lovich had to have visions of last season where the rain-soaked Patriot gridiron paved the way to a Churchill, 20-4 victory.

But the Patriots fumbled it right back on the following play and Churchill took over on its 30 to start the final 12 minutes.

Seven plays later Churchill moved to the 17 where the Patriot defense stopped Charger QB Mark Roncetti six inches short of a first down and Franklin took over on its 11.

Quinn picked up five yards and then was thrown for a loss back to the eight. Quinn then broke loose on a dash to the Churchill 40 but an illegal procedure call nullified that and Franklin found itself with third down and 18 on its three.

After a gain of one, Lovich elected to give Churchill a two-point safety instead of attempting to punt it out and risk a blocked punt and possible six points.

"I instructed the kids what to do. They wanted that shut-out and defensive captain Randy Eley didn't want to give them two," added Lovich.

Battistone took the snap

from center in the end zone, knelt down and it was a 3-2 game, 5:30 remaining.

The Franklin punter then free-punted from his 20 and cut loose with a 33 yard kick. Churchill started driving but sophomore Jim Casey ended all Charger hopes with an interception with 0:51 remaining.

Franklin collected six first downs to Churchill's five but the Patriots were outscored, 51 yards to 25. Franklin's passing game netted 49 yards on four of seven attempts and Churchill's 74 yards on five of 12.

Churchill Coach Kaestner didn't agree with Lovich in the effect the rain played on the game.

"If a team like Franklin is quick on a dry day, they should be quick on a wet day," said Kaestner. "I am still proud of my kids the way they came back after that Mott game."

"It is now back to the drawing board for Stevenson this week," said Kaestner. "We have now lost the

league and our big rival clash. This one will be tough for us to get up for."

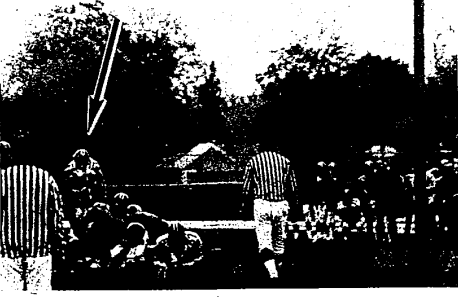
"As I look back, football has not been a lot of fun at Churchill this season," added the Churchill coach. "But I can't take anything away from Franklin. They played one heck of a physical game. Now they can enjoy the fruits of a streak."

"This winning streak stuff is funny business," he added. "All of a sudden, the sisters of the poor will come up and hit you right smack in the face with a crutch. My wife is going to call George Lovich's wife and offer her condolences for what lies ahead in Franklin's streak."

"Everybody is out after you and you know that someone will get you."

Lovich has taken on the responsibility of a streak with every smile he could possibly have. Now comes Bentley with Franklin holding a 5-3 edge over the Bulldogs. Five of those eight games have wound up in only a one point difference.

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WATCHING HIS GAME-WINNING field goal sail over the crossbar is Franklin High placekicker Dan Quinn (arrow). His three-pointer enabled the Patriots to capture their eighth straight win and edge Churchill, 3-2. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Trenton Stifles Salem's Sub 8 Title Hopes, 28-0

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

Plymouth's biggest football game in the last decade is over and Coach Tom Moshimer realizes better than anyone that he let the "big one" slip away.

It was the Suburban Eight championship clash with Moshimer's 6-1 Rocks pitted against the No. 3 team in the state, Trenton at 7-0.

Moshimer knew his defense would be the key and that his offense would have to total something like 60 plays to assure victory.

His defense came up with costly lapses, his offense ran only 39 plays and Trenton roared to the league title in an impressive fashion over Plymouth Salem, 28-0.

It was the Rocks' first blanking of the campaign and dropped them to an overall showing of 6-2 and 5-2 in the Sub Eight. They shared second place honors

with Edsel Ford, a team that edged Salem back on Sept. 21, 14-7, and Allen Park.

"We were just overpowered," commented Moshimer. "We just didn't do everything we thought we were capable of."

Even though the Rocks suffered a 28-0 lashing at the hands of a state power, Moshimer's squad still boasts the third best overall record in Observerland with what could be a Plymouth and Moshimer "milestone" coming up Friday night.

Salem hosts a 4-3 Farmington Harrison crew in the 73 finale. A Moshimer win would give Salem a 7-3 record, the top football performance it has come up with since the championship season of 1963.

Moshimer, in his seventh season, can top his best showing, which was 6-3 last year, with a victory over Harrison.

The Rocks have lost a

game and won one against Harrison the last two years. Harrison won in its championship season in '71, 28-14, but fell to the Rocks last year, 38-6.

The Trenton mishap has to go down as the big disappointment of '73.

A few breakdowns in that first half really did us in," added Moshimer whose Rocks fell behind, 14-0, with Trenton adding another 14 in the final quarter.

"They (Trenton) took it to us and held us to just 39 plays while they ran off 60," explained the Salem coach. "We thought we could hurt them in the air but wound up hurting ourselves."

Salem had two passes intercepted but at the same time picked off all three of Trenton's passes. The difference came in the rushing game where Salem was held to 101 yards and Trenton pounded out 348, Bob Czarnicki collecting 126 yards

and Tim Whaley 111.

Trenton finished with 15 first downs to Salem's six. The closest Salem got to hitting paydirt was late in the second quarter. Trailing 14-0, Salem QB Rick Neu started moving his club only to have an interception halt the drive on the Trenton 18.

A one-yard burst by Whaley and five-yard spurt by Czarnicki gave Trenton a 14-0 advantage in the half.

"Our check-offs at the line hurt us with signals being mixed up," added Moshimer.

Trenton tucked away victory in the final 12 minutes on a 46-yard romp by Czarnicki and 34-yard sprint by Mike Baker. Baker's two-point run and a second quarter two-point by Czarnicki upped it to a 28-point margin.

Salem's passing game, which Moshimer knew had to be a key in upsetting Trenton, netted only 32 yards on two of nine passes completed and two intercepted.

McGuire-White Win Class A State Cross Country Acclaim

Despite Livonia Stevenson's and Bentley's poor overall showing in the State Class A cross country team final at Grand Blanc, Observerland did boast two All-Staters in Farmington High's Mike McGuire and Stevenson's Steve White.

Both are returning All-Staters.

Grosse Pointe North won the Class A title with 109 points and a squad that finished second in the state last year. Stevenson, placed eighth with 207 points. Bentley finished down the ladder at 297.

Individual honors went to Pat Davey of Prother Rice

who had the fastest time in winning the three mile contest in 15:03. Farmington's McGuire was next at 15:06.5.

"Mike led most of the way," commented Farmington barrier coach Jerry Young. "But when it came down to the last 150 yards, Davey had the kick and Mike didn't."

White of Stevenson finished fourth in the team race in 15:09.5 and finished sixth overall to capture All-State honors for the second straight year. The top 15 times between the combined individual and team race receive All-State acclaim.

All-State Runners



MIKE MCGUIRE
Farmington



STEVE WHITE
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