

Northwest Champ Franklin Set For Churchill

By TOM DONOGHUE Sports Editor

Livonia Franklin put the finishing touches on the Northwest Suburban victory cake to stand as the only league champion in Observ-
erland.

The 7-0 Patriots exploded past Oak Park, 42-6.

It was Coach George Lovich's first Northwest title outright in six years at the helm. Lovich's Patriots tied

North Farmington for the crown in his "rookie season of '68."

The Patriots now are shooting for their first undefeated season since '64 when Franklin went 9-0 under head coach Lovich.

No. 8 on the Franklin victory march will be none other than city rival Churchill. They will meet Friday (Nov. 2) on the Charger gridiron.

Churchill's star has to be

mellowed as it had its 15 game unbeaten streak halted in losing the Western Six crown to Waterford Mott, 40-6.

"This will again be the type of game where records don't mean anything," said Lovich.

"They'll be out after us. Since they lost the league title and their streak is over, this is all they have left to shoot for."

"But we have more at stake in this one. We want to take them and Bentley to finish 9-0."

Franklin holds a 2-1 edge over Churchill, winning the first two by scores of 7-0 and 7-6 but dropping a 20-8 decision last year.

"This Oak Park game was a big one for us," the Franklin coach explained. "We didn't want to get caught napping and looking past the to Churchill game."

The No. 1 club in Observ-erland struck paydirt in its opening drive.

A 76-yard march in eight plays was capped by a three yard spurt by Dan Quinn who also added a conversion to make it 7-0. The 5-8, 160-pound junior wound up with 22 points on three touchdowns and four conversions.

Quinn upped his extra point mark to 15 of 19 and was the game's leading ground gainer with 9 yards in seven carries.

Oak Park bounced back to make it 7-6 on a passing play where QB Tony Craighead tossed to John Mally who in turn lateraled back to Craighead who ran for the score. The play covered 57 yards but was the Redskins' only offensive sparkle.

A faked punt set up the next Franklin score with Greg Battistone scoring from 18 yards out and Quinn converting to make it 14-6.

To start the second quarter, Ken Dryden set up for Franklin from his 44 to the Oak Park 39. Five plays later, Larry Casey tossed a nine-yard six-point play to Fry.

An Oak Park snap from center that sailed out of the end zone for a safety pushed Franklin's lead to 22-6.

Oak Park free-punted from its 20 and on the first play from scrimmage, Quinn broke loose for 38 yards up the middle and another six points to make it 28-6 at the half.

A Randy Epley fumbled recovery set up the first score of the second half with Franklin taking over on its 19. Two plays later, Casey hit Dean Morrison on a 15 yarder and Quinn converted to up it to 35-6.

Quinn completed his assault in the fourth quarter on a dash of 20 yards capping a seven-play 50-yard march.

Franklin finished with 11 first downs to Oak Park's five and outscored the Redskins, 194 yards to 10. Casey hit on six of nine passes for 101 yards while Oak Park's passing game netted 85 yards on four of 13 attempts.

Now comes Churchill and Bentley, the two schools that stand between Lovich, Franklin and a 9-0 season.

Plymouth Rocks Handle RU, 26-0

Salem Ripe For Sub 8 Title Conquest

By FRED DeLANO

Plymouth Salem's football troops have reached the crossroads of a decade.

A 26-0 triumph over Redford Union has put Coach Tom Mosher's Rocks in position to tie for their first league title since the championship season of 1963. However, standing in the way is unbeaten Trenton - ranked No. 3 among Class A teams in the state.

Virtually ignored in pre-season Suburban Eight predictions, Plymouth has been underestimated all fall

but now stands 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the league compared to Trenton's 7-0 and 6-0 marks.

Trenton has won 15 of its last 18 games over two seasons and will rule as an obvious favorite Friday in the 8 p.m. game on its home field. A Plymouth upset would leave the two teams as co-champions.

Sub 8 standings now read: Trenton, 6-0; Plymouth, 5-1; Edsel Ford, 4-2; Allen Park, 4-2; Bentley, 2-4; Belleville, 2-4; Dearborn, 1-5, and Redford Union, 0-6.

The Rocks didn't get on the board against RU until the third quarter and then couldn't count the verdict as safe until a three-touchdown outburst in the final period.

Although it was the Panthers' seventh straight loss, it was only their second shut-out. Trenton administered the other, 24-0.

Redford dominated first-quarter play at Plymouth Saturday, running 23 plays to the Rocks' eight, as Plymouth fumbled three times with the Panthers recovering.

However, two interceptions by Plymouth - one coming when the Panthers were at the Rock 20 - kept RU from cashing in.

Plymouth's offense stalled three times in RU territory during the second period, but the Rocks opened the third quarter with a 66-yard scoring drive capped by Doug Ward's touchdown sprint from the seven. It took nine plays, all on the ground, to go the distance, and Jeff Horton's conversion made it 7-0.

RU began a telling drive of its own late in the third stanza, but on the first play of the fourth quarter Dave Smith fumbled, Tim Dillon of Plymouth recovering on his own 10.

Three plays later Rick Neu broke loose for 55 yards to the 27 and on first down Dillon passed to Jim Mason on the goal line for the second score. Horton again converted and at 14-0 Plymouth was in full command.

Stevenson Rips Waterford

Maybe all the Livonia Stevenson Spartans needed was a switch in personnel.

After suffering five straight defeats, Stevenson Coach Jack Reardon went to the drawing board and up came the converting of a defensive halfback to an offensive wingback.

The conversion proved successful as the 'new' wingback 5-5, 145-pound senior Tom Mays went wild in helping trounce Waterford, 34-0.

Thus ended a five-game drought of only 25 offensive points.

Mays not only carried 14 times and scored three touchdowns, but he also established a Stevenson record with his 226 yards gained. A 1968 record of 185 yards shared by Russ Greg and Bob Johnson was erased.

"Tom just put on one heck of a show," commented Reardon who is not preparing his Spartans for their homecoming clash Saturday (Nov. 3) with Thurston High.

The third play of the Inter-Lakes clash saw Stevenson get on the board with Paul Lukek breaking loose

for 33 yards and six points. Steve Hope's conversion was good and the first quarter ended with Stevenson up, 7-0.

Mays' first of three came in the second quarter on a 22-yard surge for the extra point leading to up it to 13-0.

With 4:20 remaining in the opening half, fullback Tom Cox sprinted 23 yards for another score. The conversion was blocked but the Spartans led at the half, 19-0.

The Spartans took the second half kickoff and were off. Lukek ground out six, Mays exploded for 40 yards, three and off to paydirt on a 22 yard burst. Another conversion missed but the Spartans were ahead, 25-0.

With three minutes left in the stanza, Mark Tenby recovered a Waterford fumble and took it in for a 16-yard score. Fred O'Keefe found the range on the conversion to up it to 32-0.

Mays put the finishing touches on the game with a 54-yard TD with eight minutes remaining. Hope converted and the assault had come to a halt at 39-0.

To complement Mays' 226 yards, Lukek carried the ball 13 times for 133 yards and the Spartans racked up 422 yards on the ground.

A 27-yard pass completion boosted the total yardage mark to 449 yards.

Waterford was held to 111 yards on the ground and hit on seven of 21 passes for 69 yards.

The Spartan defense was headed by O'Keefe with seven solo tackles and four assists to make his season output in seven games, 46 solos and 47 assists.

Borgess Rally Tips St. Marys

Second best was all Bishop Borgess could finish in the Catholic Double A Conference. But it took one of its best efforts of the campaign to take the league finale over an on coming Redford St. Mary club, 28-13.

It was Borgess' fourth win in the Double A against one loss. That was to Divine Child, and it all but decided the league title. Borgess Coach Fred Musinski is sure to be rehating that 12-7 setback the entire year.

Borgess sports an overall 5-2 mark and closes out its campaign against Center Line St. Clements Sunday (Nov. 4) at Thurston High. Kickoff will be at 2:30 p.m.

Redford St. Mary jumped ahead of Borgess in the first quarter on a five yard burst up the middle by Jeff Harper.

A 78-yard scoring loss from QB Greg Drypen to Glenn Varleski and a Tom Birney point after notched it at seven-all. Drypen scored from one yard out later in the period. A fumbled snap from center on the conversion kept the score at 12-7.

But the Redford squad came back in the early moments of the second quarter with Harper pushing in his second six-pointer, this time on a three-yard spurt.

Dan Kelly broke the tie for Borgess. The Spartan back intercepted a pass and returned it 20 yards to St. Mary's 35. Seven plays later, Kelly went in from the four. Birney converted and Borgess was on top to stay, 20-13.

Kelly iced victory for Borgess in the fourth with his second score. His nine-yard burst into the end zone, along with another interception, halted St. Mary's hopes.

Kelly paced Borgess with 115 yards on 24 carries.

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Area Fencers Earn Medals

Terri Harns and Paddy Lynn captured second and third place medals respectively at the A.F.L.A. novice fencing tourney at the University of Michigan.

Both are of the Livonia Parks and Recreation Cavalier Fencing Club.

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