

Bulldog Power Shatters Franklin Perfect Dream

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs bagged a Patriot.

"It was our day," exclaimed Bentley Coach Glen Goode, whose Bulldogs upended Franklin, 14-9, and crushed all hopes of a perfect 9-0 season for the Northwest champion.

"On this day, Bentley was a better ball club," stated Franklin Coach George Lovich whose vision of his first unbeaten season vanished with two quick Bentley touchdowns in the first quarter.

The lone remaining unbeaten club in Observerland fell to a Suburban Eight squad that mustered only a 2-0 mark in league play, finishing 4-5 overall.

"This one took a lot of sting out of those close league games we lost," added Goode. His Bulldogs fell to Belleville, 7-0; to Plymouth Salem, 18-15; to unbeaten Trenton, 14-12; to Allen Park, 14-13; and to Edsel Ford, 32-28.

"I felt that all we had to do was score twice and we had them (Franklin)," continued the Bentley coach. "We knew Franklin had had trouble scoring all season. We could have moved the ball more if needed, but those two quick scores gave us all we needed."

"There is a lot of joy around Bentley these days." For Lovich and his Franklin 9-0 dream it was a shattering setback that knocked them out of the state rankings.

A fumble on the third play of the game gave Bentley possession on the Franklin 23. Six plays later the Bulldogs were on the board by way of the ground game. It was the first time this season that the Franklin defense had given up six points on the ground.

Eight minutes later, All-Suburban Eight quarterback Bob Wasilewski lofted a 42-yard scoring toss to Bill

Brown and for the first time this season the pressure was on the Patriot offense.

"I felt all along that we could move the ball," explained Lovich. "Mistakes and penalties at bad times really cost us. I don't believe the kids took Bentley serious or as good a team as they showed they were. They considered themselves a 9-0 club without going out and earning it."

Franklin received the opening kickoff and took control on its 20 after a boot into the end zone. Greg Battistone broke for six yards on the first offensive play but QB Larry Casey fumbled on play No. 2, Dan Reum recovering for Bentley.

With 1:02 elapsed, Bentley had its first break and possession on the 22 yard line. After an incomplete pass

Bruce Boudnek picked up eight yards and another five for a first down. Jerry Lacy moved it to the seven and on a third and goal situation, Boudnek carried it in.

Wasilewski hit Brown on a two-point conversion and with 3:18 gone, Bentley was up, 8-0.

Franklin then got as far as the 38 and 44 in its next two series with Bentley taking over on its 35.

On the first play from scrimmage, Wasilewski broke for 22 yards. Two plays later, the Bulldog "Mr. Everything" found Brown in the open down the left side line. Brown hauled in the pass and dashed 42 yards to paydirt. The conversion attempt by Wasilewski missed and with 52 seconds showing, an 8-0 Franklin club was caught in a hole.

Franklin took the following kickoff on its 33 and five minutes later the Patriots were back in the contest. A 16-play drive was climaxed by a one-yard plunge by Dan Quinn.

Quinn's first conversion attempt was good but a Franklin penalty made Quinn try it again. This time the front Bulldog wall blocked it. This left it 14-4, midway in the second quarter.

After a Bulldog punt, Franklin had control on its 36 before Tom Duprey intercepted a Casey pass. Bentley then lost it on downs deep in Franklin territory. Casey gave it back on another fumble on his 15, with 21 seconds remaining in the half.

The Franklin defense which had given up only 45 points in its first eight games came to its arms. Three of Wasilewski's passes fell incomplete and on a fourth and one play, the Patriot line smothered the Bulldog QB for a loss and the half ended.

To add salt to what seemed like only a temporary wound, Franklin presented Bentley with a statue of a bulldog during the halftime show. It was painted in Patriot colors and bore a sign that read, "To Old Man Bentley, Beaten By Their Little Sister, Franklin."

The third quarter, half to be Franklin's most time consuming three-point drive of the season.

After holding off Bentley, Franklin regained possession on its 18 with 9:45 remaining in stanza No. 3. Twenty plays and 7:17 later, Quinn split the uprights from 24 yards out and the margin was sliced to five points.

Franklin had four more chances to overcome that margin but failed.

Dean Morrison recovered a Wasilewski fumble on the Franklin 15 with 2:34 to go. A Casey pass was intercepted by Bentley's Reum with seven Patriot passes falling incomplete in the final moments.



NOT TAKING his first defeat of the '73 campaign lightly is Franklin Coach George Lovich who saw his Patriots' eight game winning streak and hopes of a perfect season vanish in a 14-9 loss to Bentley. (Observer photo)

Redford Union Batters Rival Thurston, 21-0

The Redford Township gridiron championship battle is over for another year.

"The kids never had an opportunity to gain confidence."

The confidence was there for the Thurston game.

"We came to play football and won," finished Atkins.

The 21-0 triumph increased RU's record to 6-4-2 over

Thurston and evened Atkins' personal mark to 3-3 against the Eagles.

Thurston received the opening kickoff, punted and RU fumbled it away on its 45. The Panther defense held again and RU's offense held onto the ball.

It was Glenn Sander who pounced on a Thurston fumble on their 37 that got the RU machine rolling. Tom

Bogdonas broke loose for 20 yards and QB Dave Smith scored his first of two on a one-yard plunge. George Willard converted and with 25 seconds remaining in the first quarter, RU was up, 7-0.

RU kicked off, and on the first play, Thurston fumbled with Panther Richard Burk picking it up on the Eagle 40. It was then time for an RU sparkie on its first play with Bogdonas scampering 38

yards on a dive play to the Thurston two.

Bogdonas then finished off what he started with a burst into the end zone. Willard converted and with 1:40 elapsed in the second quarter, it was 14-0.

After the RU defense held, the Panthers started and completed a solo offensive punch. A 63-yard march in 17 plays was capped on a one-yard spurt by QB Smith. Willard made good the point after and with 35 seconds left in the half, it was 21-0 and as far as the scorekeeper was concerned he could have gone home.

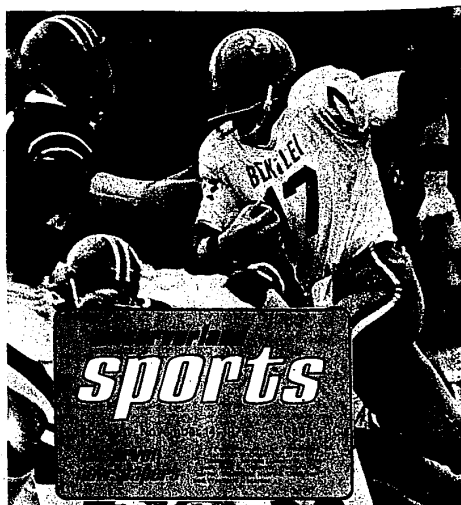
But the statistic man had to stick around to record an RU record.

Bogdonas ground out 203 yards in 29 carries to up his season output to 1,041 yards and become the first RU back to top the 1,000 mark in one season.

The 5-9, 170-pound senior also chalked up touchdowns No. 8. The record setting performance was done in unusual fashion for RU as Atkins was forced to switch to a one-back offense with starting fullback Mark Cigna forced to watch the game from the sidelines after injuring his ribs a week earlier.

"Defense was the key," said Atkins whose Panthers did not allow Thurston inside their 35. "Middle guard Dave White, and linebackers Dale Long and Richard Burk played outstanding games."

RU won the first down game, 13-8, and rushed for 227 yards. Its defense held Thurston to 53 yards on the ground and 67 in the air. Eagle QB Gary D'Ascenzo, who was sacked for a minus 59 yards, hit on eight of 14 passes. RU's passing game netted 36 yards on five of nine.



PACING HIS BULLDOGS to a 14-9 upset victory over Northwest champion Franklin was Bentley quarterback Bob Wasilewski (17). Observer photo by Tom Donoghue



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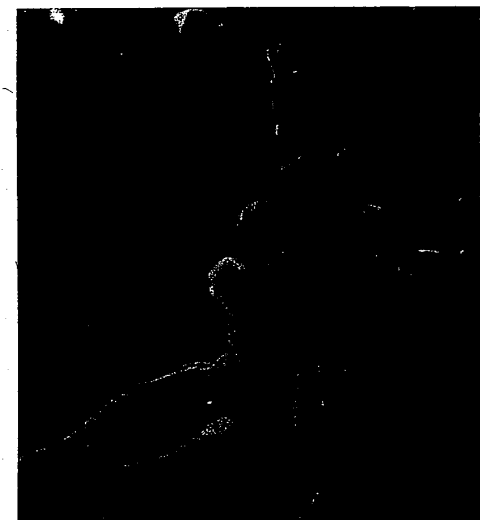
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PASS INTERFERENCE was the call on this play as Bentley defender Bill Brown (22) tackled Franklin's Ken Fry (21) before the ball arrived. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)