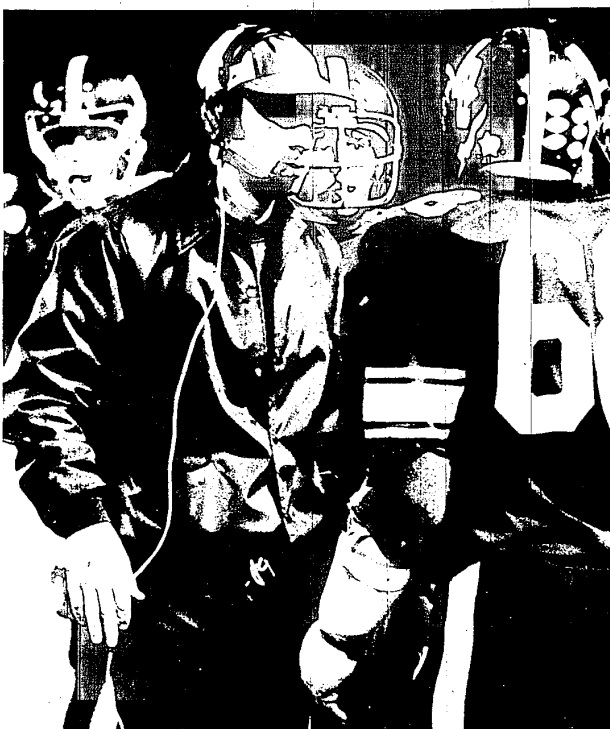




First year West Bloomfield football coach Dominic Livedoti took time to go over defensive strategy with linebacker John Hodgins

Friday night. The skull session paid off during the game as the Laker defense intercepted three passes in the 29-20 win over Fraser.

Lakers slip by Fraser

By TOM SCHRAM

When West Bloomfield football coach Dominic Livedoti took his job prior to this season, he decided that instead of rebuilding the Laker football program, he would do everything to win with the team that was handed down to him.

And his athletic philosophy paid off Friday night when the Lakers completed a successful grid season, downing Fraser, 29-20.

"We decided to dedicate this year to the seniors instead of building a program with seniors. Some of these players have seen three coaches in three years and they had to adjust. But they were out there to win and they gave 110 per cent," Livedoti said.

In the game against Fraser, the Lakers had all they could handle in the passing arm of Rambler quarterback Jim Grzelka who hit on 12 of 21 passes for 151 yards and three touchdowns. But the Lakers adjusted early and came up with three interceptions to partially offset the aerial blitz.

The Lakers struck first following a Mark Vanderlinde interception of a Rob Hinsberg pass.

Grzelka hit on his first pass of the night for 40 yards to Dave Herman on the second Fraser play from scrimmage to put the Ramblers up 7-0 early.

The Lakers struck back on the second play following the ensuing kickoff, however, to knot things at 7-7.

Senior halfback Chuck Bretz scooted 66 yards for the touchdown and Dave Ninowski added the conversion.

Fraser came right back following the Laker touchdown with a scoring drive of its own.

The Ramblers marched 80 yards in 12 plays capped by a Grzelka to Larry Powell aerial for the score. Vanderlinde converted to make 14-7.

After a Hinsberg pass had been intercepted to give the ball back to Fraser, the Ramblers got their first taste of the West Bloomfield pass defense when Anthony Rosser picked off a Grzelka pass on the Laker 15 yard line and moved upfield to the 48 of Fraser.

Six plays later, Bob Wilson crashed through from six yards out to pull WB within a point.

Big plays in the drive included a Hinsberg to Bill Lowman pass for 20

yards and a 10 yard run by Rosser.

"The Lakers faked the one point conversion and fooled no one as the Ramblers tackled a rolling Hinsberg far short of the goal.

Fraser took over with 2:36 remaining following the ensuing kickoff and, on the second play from scrimmage, it fell prey to the Laker defense again.

This time it was Pete Waythomas who picked off the Grzelka pass and returned the ball to the Fraser 48 yard line.

West Bloomfield wasted no time and scored in 59 seconds. Hinsberg set up the touchdown with a 34 yard pass to Gary Buffmyer and scored it on a four yard run.

Hinsberg's attempt for the two-point conversion was short and the Lakers took a 19-14 lead into the locker room.

West Bloomfield came up with good defense at the opening of the second half as they forced a Grzelka fumble on the first play from scrimmage and took over at the Rambler 30 yard line.

Despite a clipping penalty on their first offensive play of the half, the Lakers moved the ball down to the Fraser one yard line where, on fourth down, Hinsberg snuck in.

The play, however was nullified by a West Bloomfield procedure penalty and faced now with fourth and six. Livedoti chose the sure three points. Ninowski's kick was perfect to make it 22-14.

The Ramblers, however, were far from done, and they came back to tally on the second play of the fourth quarter on a ten yarder from Grzelka to Ernie Bucks.

Grzelka's two point conversion attempt, which would have knotted things at 22-22, fell short, however.

West Bloomfield moved again following the ensuing kickoff, but when its drive failed, the Lakers decided to try a 48 yard field goal.

They took a bit too long setting up, however, and a delay of game penalty forced Livedoti to think punt.

With the ball on its own six yard line, Fraser quickly moved to a first down on a 10 yard run by Bill Brown.

Two plays later, however, disaster struck for the Ramblers.

Grzelka faded back looking for a receiver, but his toss was picked off by Bob Wilson who stepped smartly in front of the intended receiver on the 29 yard line and sprinted into the end zone for the game's final touchdown.

Ninowski added the conversion pass to iced the game for West Bloomfield.

The Lakers headed off Fraser the rest of the way and were about to score again as time ran out.

Livedoti praised Grzelka following the game, calling him a "fine passer," but also had some good words for his own quarterback, Hinsberg.

"Rob is one hard, tough football player," Livedoti said.

Livedoti said that he was optimistic toward next year and that the Lakers had picked up two traditionally tough opponents in Ferndale and Livonia Franklin.

According to Livedoti, this will make his schedule good enough to make the initial state tournament next year.

"We don't want to go 9-0 and not get into the playoffs," he said.

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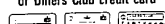
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