



West Bloomfield head coach Dominic Livedoti gives advice and encouragement to his line before they enter the game. (Photographed by Tom Greenwood)

Ruin Kettering homecoming

Lakers sink Captains

By TAMI McCLARAN

West Bloomfield assumed the role of spoiler at Waterford Kettering's homecoming and bounced back into the win column with a narrow 14-12 victory over the Captains.

"We really stuck them," said Laker coach Dominic Livedoti. "Our boys played a great game and they did an outstanding job."

Fumbles and penalties dominated play of both teams in the first quarter.

Late in the opening stanza, a Laker penalty nullified their first score of the night, but three plays later half-back Bob Wilson ran the ball in from the one to climax the drive.

ANOTHER PENALTY nullified the conversion attempt, but Wilson again made good on the second effort with a two-point pass play to Bill Lowman.

West Bloomfield's 84 led held firm until the third quarter when Kettering's Kirk Gibson raced 11 yards into

the end zone to cut the margin. Laker tackle Casey Gawronski then broke through to stop the conversion and keep the visitors on top.

At 8:17 of the final quarter Rob Hinsberg boosted the Laker lead to 14-8 on a three yard run, but another untimely penalty nullified a successful conversion kick by Gawronski and the second try fell short.

The Captains made a bid to deadlock the contest with three minutes remaining on the clock as Bill Kurtz hit paydirt from three yards out.

HOWEVER THE Laker line again rose to the occasion as Wilson and Don Tino nailed Gibson short of the goal line to thwart the conversion attempt.

West Bloomfield almost played give-away by fumbling the ball away with time running out, but a Kettering clipping penalty stalled the final drive.

"I don't understand why we give up so many points, we just keep doing it," Livedoti said.

The first year Laker coach singled out the work of Cavonari, Wilson and Hinsberg against Kettering.

WILSON LED the WB running attack with 113 yards in 21 carries followed by Chuck Bretz who picked up 71 yards in 10 carries.

The win gave West Bloomfield a 5-1 overall mark and 3-1 in league play after the Lakers suffered their first defeat of the season against Andover last week.

The Lakers visit Clarkston next week and they will need a victory coupled with an Andover defeat to gain a tie for the league championship.

W. Bloomfield Kettering	
First downs	12 13
Yards rushing	170 152
Yards passing	53 105
Total yards	223 257
Completions	5/8 10/16
Points	4/55 3/42

Scoring:	
W. Bloomfield	0 0 0 6 14
Waterford Kettering	0 0 6 6 12



Laker flanker Dave Ninowski mixes up the defense as the junior end attempts a pass. (Photographed by Tom Greenwood)

Roller hockey hits Roch.

Ron Houle is approaching his 35th birthday, and every Wednesday night and Sunday morning Ron goes roller skating. Roller skating is a polite word for what Ron does on wheels.

Houle is the player coach of the Rochester Thunderbirds, which participates in the Great Lakes Roller Hockey League. The league is made up of 12 teams whose locations stretch from Dayton, Ohio to London, Ontario, to Baltimore, Maryland.

Roller hockey is a craze which is currently sweeping the country. Simply put, it is ice hockey on roller skates, with most of the same rules prevailing on both surfaces. The new sport established its roots in crowded cities such as Boston and New York where the availability of ice is scarce, and in the south where there just isn't any ice.

THE GAME CAN be played outdoors with special plastic sticks and a round puck. The kids in the inner city use an old discarded cardboard box as a goal, while the more affluent children of the suburbs convince their parents that only official roller hockey equipment will do.

The game can also be played indoors when a roller skating rink will avail itself to the new sport's devotees. In the rinks it's a whole new ball game. The similarities with ice hockey grow more apparent, and the caliber of play becomes more sophisticated.

The surface on which the skaters move is made of either a wood or marble type composition. The players move with the grace and power that an ice surface would provide them. The rink is surrounded by concrete walls instead of the plexiglass which often times can soften the checking in ice hockey.

It's a rough game, and the players mean business. There is an effort to keep injuries at a minimum, however, and the effort is well spent. The players must wear helmets during a game and the uniforms are quite like those of ice hockey players except for shoulder pads, which are dispensed in the roller skate version.

BODY CHECKING is closely examined by the referees. Penalties are called against players checking above the shoulders or below the waist.

The puck is slightly larger and lighter than the NHL standard. It is a four ply structure, with each layer capable of rotating individually, making for some wild caroms off the wall and curving slap shots.

There are no blue lines and the center line is only used as a location for face-offs. Any player is allowed to be anywhere on the floor and there is no restricting on passing.

For Ron Houle and his Rochester Thunderbirds, roller hockey is more than just an idle game.

THE THUNDERBIRDS are mostly

men who hold down steady daytime jobs in addition to their participation in the league. The team members gather at the Rochester Roller Skating Center for the team's practices, which Houle commands so rigidly that players from competing teams travel 50 miles to take part in them.

League meets are held every six weeks at a different team's home arena. The meets are in the format of a two day tournament in which each team will play against six of its rivals. Two points are awarded for a victory, one for a tie, and none for a defeat. Running totals are kept from meet to meet, and seasonal trophies are given on the basis of yearly rankings.

The season is a demanding one, lasting 11 months. The Thunderbirds are currently in fifth place in the standings and hope to improve on that rating at the next meet. Thanksgiving weekend in Shelbyville, Indiana.

The Thunderbirds participated in the North American Championships last year where they came home with seventh place trophies. The tournament was held in divisional play, and the Rochester team finished second to eventual overall champion Olympia, Washington in its division.

Houle is currently organizing a peewee team for youths 11 years and younger, and a junior team for the 12-17 age group. Interested parties should call Ron at 371-6838 during the evening.

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