

Stevenson Whips RU For Ninth Straight

Although it wasn't a league contest, Livonia Stevenson's Spartans showed they will have to be considered a strong contender for the ninth straight championship in the Michigan Conference when they whipped Redford Union, 20-0, in the season opener for both teams in Lola Valley Stadium.

It enabled Stevenson to stretch its unbeaten string to nine in a row in a bid for a high school ranking. The Spartans were unbeaten in 1968 when they dominated Ossineke and captured the conference crown.

Hindered by lack of experienced players and with less than 30 turnout, the Panthers were no match for the Spartans who took command after the opening kickoff and held the upper hand all the way.

FIVE SENIORS, all letter winners a year ago, spelled the difference for the visitors. Quarterback Rusty Gregg mystified the Panthers with his

clever ball handling to running backs Gene Walker and Ron Smith. The rough and tough Swift twins, Pat and Mike, made a first down for RU backs, making about half of the tackles for Stevenson.

Matter of fact the aggressive play of the Livonians actually hurt at times - they were charged with numerous penalties by the officials and one 15-yarder cost a touchdown.

Queried as to his thoughts on the contest, Coach Jack Reardon had a big smile and praise for the team's performance.

"We looked good for an opening game," he said. "But those penalties -- we're going to have to do something to correct that. Our offense was satisfactory but the defense excellent but the penalties." He just shook his head.

Stevenson didn't waste any time demonstrating that it was out for a victory to continue its winning streak.

SMITH RETURNED the op-

ening kickoff to the Stevenson 29. Walker smashed through the line twice for 11 yards and a first down on the 40. Smith picked up two at left tackle and then dashed through the right side for 18 yards and a first down on the RU 40.

Gregg sped to the 28 on a keeper play and the third straight first down. Smith, Gregg and Walker took turns for another first down on the 17. Gregg fumbled but Walker recovered for a loss of two.

Smith scored off two tackles and raced to the hole where he grabbed and Gene Walker pounced on the ball for the Panthers to stall the drive. Bob Seghi picked up eight in two thrusts. Quarterback Gary Bevington hit End Kirk Taylor on the 20 for the first RU first down. Two plays later, Bevington lumbered on an attempted pass and Pat Swift recovered for Stevenson on the RU 33.

The Spartans drove to the 15 before a clipping penalty moved the pigskin back to the 29. Bill Herren took the threat when he intercepted a Gregg pass on the two and raced back to the 10.

RU Captain Chuck Griffiths put Stevenson in the hole on the final play of the period when he punted 57 yards from his own 25 to the Livonia 18.

Stevenson marched to the RU two with Gregg contributing 45 yards on a beautiful broken field effort and Walker breaking loose for 12.

With ball on the RU 10, Walker rammed to the six and Jerry Kennedy hit center to the two. Frank Kokenkase drove through right tackle to score

touchdown in three thrusts, going over from the one at 1:42 of the opening quarter.

Then came a comedy of errors that found Stevenson going for two more and RU took over on its own 10.

Seghi picked up two first

downs in the final minute, but Stevenson dropped into a 4-3 defense against pass, but yielded to ground plays, but had moved to the 31 when the half ended with Stevenson holding the 6-0 edge.

RU threatened midway through the third quarter after Bevington returned Walker's punt to midfield. Tom Tulluck took right end and Stevenson drew a 15-yard penalty for grabbing the face mask, and for 10 yards and the six points, a smash at guard failed

on 30.

Two passes failed, Seghi was trapped by Pat Swift for a loss of two and Bevington's loss averted to Tulluck's connections in the end zone.

STEVENSON TOOK OVER on the 32 and went all the way for the second touchdown with Gregg scoring with 43 seconds on the clock. Gregg faked a handoff, hid the ball momentarily and then ran around left and for 10 yards and the six points, a smash at guard failed

in the try for two points but Stevenson had a 12-0.

The Spartans were enroute to the third and final marker when Seghi fumbled the kickoff after a 20 yard return and Mike Gregg recovered for Stevenson on the RU 32.

Walker and Gregg took turns and drove to the RU two where Walker went through right guard to score at 9:29. He found an opening at the same spot and ripped into the end zone for the two pointer that made the final score, 20-0.



AROUND END goes Stevenson's Rusty Seghi (12) on a 10-yard sprint into the end zone for the Spartans' second marker against Redford Union. Bob Seghi (11) tries to make the tackle but cannot hold on to the Stevenson quarterback. The Spartans continued their unbeaten string with a 20-0 triumph.

Observer photo by Craig Gafford

Raiders Run, Pass Past Pontiac In Opener, 28-12

No. 1 for No. 1. And impressively, too. Such was the first game of the season for North Farmington, ranked No. 1 in the Observer's pre-season area high school football rankings.

The Raiders went against Pontiac Northern and emerged victorious, 28-12, thanks to some brilliant running by junior Mike Gow, thanks to some fine quarterbacking and passing by Steve White...thanks to some

stellar defensive play by Steve Lee and Greg Furtado.

GOW SHOWED that he has to be one of the top runners this season when he accounted for 187 yards in 20 carries. That averages out to better

than nine yards per shot.

He scored one touchdown and figured in two more.

White scored once and passed for another.

All in all it was a fine start for the Raiders, since Pontiac Northern generally figures among the stronger teams in the suburban area.

White, 6-3, 180, began the touchdown making in the first quarter when he slipped a seven-yard pass to Keith Heavener after Gow had turned in some fine runs to get the ball deep into Pontiac territory.

WHITE'S PASS to Doug Vallas was netted the extra point and made it 8-0.

Northern jumped right back into contention on a 62-yard run by Tom Holt for the touchdown. But the Pontiac conversion try failed and North Farmington now led, 8-6.

Gow ripped off some more runs in the second quarter and that set up North Farmington's second touchdown.

This time White carried the final yard on a smack of right tackle. White's toss to Dave McCay brought the score to 16-6.

It was Gow all the way in the third period on a 65-yard dash to up North Farmington lead to 22-6.

Once in the clear, there was no catching Gow.

THE FINAL North Farmington touchdown came in the last period with second stringers performing for both sides.

John Coombs, a 5-10 junior, slipped up the middle for 13 yards and a touchdown.

Pontiac Northern wound up the scoring in the fading moments when Roger Holland passed to Mike Hart. Sorrows had a 14-0 lead.

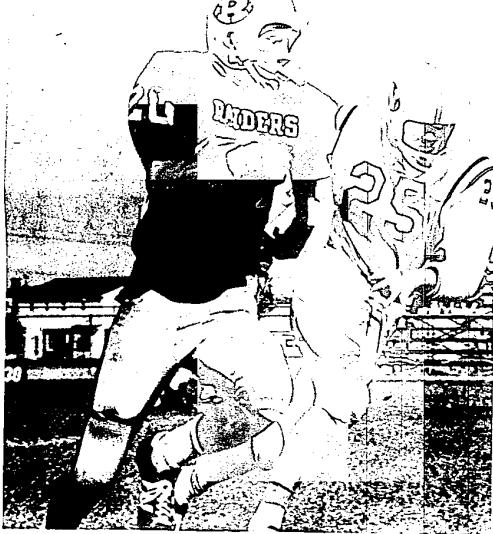
On the kickoff, the ball was bobbled and rolled back into the end zone. Chris Centers stepped on it for another six points and when McGrath passed to Mike Hart, Sorrows had a 14-6 lead.

BEFORE THE period ended, Sorrows had scored again, caping a 65-yard drive when Paton raced in from the 13. McGrath again slipped to Hart for the conversion.

In the second half, Sorrows marched 60 yards with McGrath scoring from the one. Then Sorrows put on a 70-yard drive with Paton Dusen going over from the three and Greg Hurst running the extra point.

Sorrows' Northern wound up the game with a 14-6 lead.

For the North Farmington, tackle who lost something like 60 pounds since last season, Greg Hurst running the extra point, was a standout for the Raiders.



THERE HE GOES - North Farmington's Mike Gow (20) speeds away from Pontiac's Mike Flanagan (25) on a 65-yard touchdown jaunt in the Raiders' 28-12 victory.

Photo by Warren Bonpland

2 Point Conversion Ruins East's Opener

The new two-point conversion following touchdowns, now optional for high school teams and for the first time, bounded up and hit Garden City East with a jolt.

East had been rolling along with a 6-0 lead against Schaefer, in the season opener for both.

Then a short kick was turned into a Schaefer touchdown and the score at 6-6.

The ball was placed on the East 3-yard line and the Schaefer quarterback grabbed it from center and went scudding into the end zone that beat East, 6-6.

It took for a short kick and the conversion that followed. East had kept Schaefer well in check.

"WE DIDN'T DO too badly," explained East coach Gary Humphries whose team won seven while losing one and being one in 1968. "especially considering we were very hard hit by graduation losses."

As it was East had scored first when Rod Schaefer (so relation to the rival team) and Bob Kleinbrodt took turns carrying the ball to the Schaefer one-yard line from where Schaefer slid over for the touch-down.

East tried a two-point conversion, but that wasn't what lost the game, or at least, as far as Humphries was concerned, that wasn't the turning touch-down.

The extra-point try, Tom Moorhead carried the ball on a quarterback sneak, and he went all the way for what proved the game's deciding points.

The running of Schaefer and Kleinbrodt impressed Humphries. "He did the defensive play of Rick Olsonstad, at end; Jerry Mason, Ken Roe and Ernie Berote.

Humphries isn't too discouraged despite the first-game setback.

The rebounding starts Friday when Annapolis comes to East.

Schaefer who bobbed the steam out of East, which rolled

up 150 yards during the first half.

Once the second half began, East was restricted to just 50 yards.

A SLICED punt carried only a few yards to Schaefer's Ernie Bulavich midway in the third period and Bulavich ran the ball over for the tying touch-down.

After taking the lead, East started another march. Once it was pretty much a ground affair and the ball was moved to the Schaefer three-yard line. So did the defensive play of Rick Olsonstad, at end; Jerry Mason, Ken Roe and Ernie Berote.

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