

Booker Sparks Panthers To Win Over Stevenson

If the season opener is a criteria of what is to come, then teams in the Suburban Six League had better take note of Redford Union, a top contender for the 1970 football championship.

Rated the most improved team in the loop last fall in the second half of the season, RU demonstrated it has the potential to make its five rivals sit up and take notice once league action begins, two weeks hence.

Although a bit ragged at times as one would expect in the season opener, the Panthers showed offensive power and defensive strength in downsing Livonia Stevenson, 26-6.

It was a meeting of the most improved in the Suburban Six and the Inter-Lakes Conference champion of 1970 but the situation wasn't quite the same as it would have been last fall. Coach Jack Reardon is

rebuilding after losing most of the stars from last year by graduation. As a result Stevenson lacked the power and finesse of the past few years but the Spartans never gave up and were trying just as hard at the final whistle as at the start.

This time RU had most of the horses, especially in the backfield, and it was apparent in the third quarter that the Panthers were going to start the season with a victory.

The Panthers marched 78 yards in a sustained drive for their first touchdown after taking the ball on the RU with a minute remaining in the first quarter.

BILL BOOKER opened the drive with a smash through right tackle for 15 yards and a first down on the 39 as the quarter ended.

Booker opened the second

period with an off tackle thrust to the 45 for another first down. Quarterback Bill Herbert whipped a pass to Tom Wysocki to the Stevenson 35. Kirk Fritz and Booker carried twice for a first down on the 21.

Two plays failed but Herbert hit End Tom Burke on the Stevenson 11 and RU was on its way.

Mike Davis picked up three at right tackle and then Booker dashed through right guard for a touchdown. Glenn Richmond converted on a placement and RU was ahead 7-0 with 7:56 to play in the half.

The Spartans took over on their own 23 on the kickoff. Two plays failed but the Panthers' Quarterback Bernie O'Keefe whipped a long pass down the center into the arms of End Jim Britsias who was beyond the RU secondary and he raced 50 yards to score on the 77-yard play. Try for placement was

blocked and RU held a 7-6 margin at halftime.

STEVENSON was knocking on the RU goal door early in the third quarter after two breaks. The first came when Tom Wysocki dropped back to punt and bounced the ball off the back of a teammate to give the Spartans the ball on RU 40.

Three plays lost three yards and Neil Bowly took to Wysocki on the RU 21 where he fumbled and Steve recovered for Stevenson.

The Spartans took to the air in an attempt to get the go-ahead score but finally turned the ball back to RU on the 28.

The Panthers promptly started another march which ended with Booker driving through center from five yards out for six points. A pass for the remaining yards to score. It held a 15-6 lead with a minute to play in the quarter.

Booker was the big gun in the march carrying the ball seven times. Tim Mitchell had the highest gain, ripping off 21 yards to place the ball on the Stevenson 25. Booker completed the drive in three plays.

The Panthers broke the game open early in the fourth frame when Mitchell broke loose through right tackle, reversed his field and galloped 57 yards to score. Richmond split the uprights and RU held a 20-6 edge.

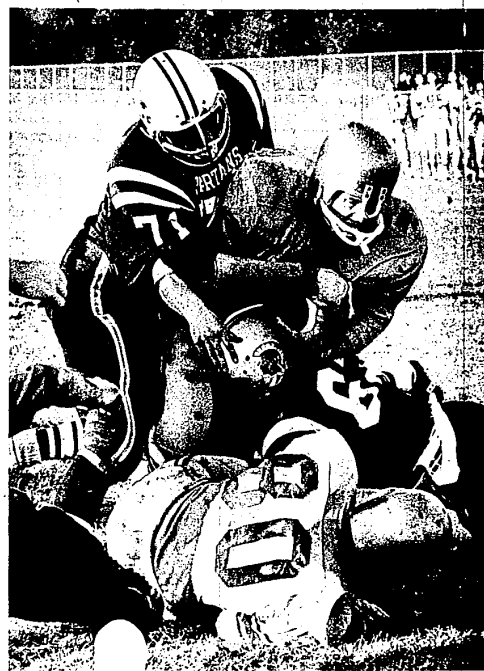
REDFORD UNION began another successful drive late in the final period after getting possession on the RU 31. Booker was the big noise in totting the ball to the Stevenson 38.

Then Herbert found Burke open at the left, tossed a long aerial and the big end raced the remaining yards to score. It was a 33-yard play. Richmond's placement was wide and the Panthers had a 26-6 lead.

Coach Bob Atkins inserted his second stringers for the final three minutes and they were on their way to another score after M. Barker intercepted a Stevenson pass on the Spartan 22.

Mike Davis moved to the 10 in two plays and then time ran out to end the threat.

Friday may be a different story for the Panthers who tangle with Franklin in what may be one of the games of the year. Highly touted Franklin dropped its opener to Centerline and will be seeking victory No. 1 that boils ill for the Panthers.



BOWLING OVER STEVENSON defenders as he bolts into the end zone to score for Redford Union is Fullback Bill Booker (9). RU's Tom Tullock (80) leads the interference while Gary Bucklin (71) and John Lewis (62), of the Spartans, try to nail Booker before he hit paydirt. Redford Union got away to a fast start in the season opener, showing offensive and defensive strength in a 26-6 victory. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

Churchill High Shocks Thurston In 14-14 Tie

Let the world know that Livonia Churchill High has become of age.

There are seniors in the school for the first time and it already has made a big difference with the football team.

Just one game! That's all it took Churchill to show that it will be a factor on the prep football front this fall.

A YEAR AGO Churchill lost all of its eight games. So it looked like a sad way to start 1970 when Churchill found itself matched on opening day against Thurston, winner of all eight of its starts last fall and the No. 1 team in the final suburban ratings.

As mattered out, Churchill didn't win. Neither did Thurston. The teams finished in a 14-14 tie in one of the most dramatic wildpans of the season will grace anywhere.

There were only 40 seconds to go when Bob Graustein hit on a 44-yard touchdown pass to Dennis Poppinger and then even more dramatically Graustein

passed to Gary Chappell for a two-point conversion that produced the tie.

"It was a moral victory for us," said Ken Kaestner, the Churchill coach. "We really should have won. We let them off the hook. But I'm proud of the way my boys performed. They did a magnificent job."

Coach Bill McDonald, whose Thurston team was hard hit by graduation, was equally proud.

"These boys showed me something when they could come back the way they did in the final minute of the game," said McDonald. "An ordinary team just doesn't do those things."

The statistics were lopsided in favor of Churchill, which gained 219 yards rushing and 14 through the air to Thurston 18-yard rushing total and 84 in the air.

Jerry Oljace and Steve Chlenko were the workhorses for Churchill. Oljace, who has starred since he entered the

school two years ago, carried 28 times for 102 yards. Chlenko gained 97 yards in nine tries.

THURSTON SCORED first when Steve Boyak went 17 yards to climax a 55 yard march in which he and Ken Chopek were the big gainers.

Churchill twice pierced the Thurston 20 before the half ended, but was hard hit each time by penalties. But in the second quarter, Thurston was held to only two yards rushing.

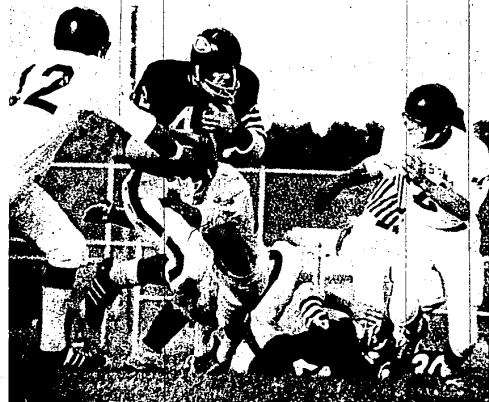
After neither side threatened in the third quarter, Churchill picked up a safety in the fourth period when Bob Galloway, Micki Gooding and George Panzoff roared in to throw Boyak in the end zone.

Thurston kicked off to Churchill and on the first play it was Chlenko for 44 yards and a touchdown that put Churchill in front, 8-6.

Then after Thurston received the kickoff, Jack Hachtan intercepted a Thurston

pass and raced in 24 yards to score.

But Thurston still had the one chance left, and it worked for the 14-14 standoff in a final five-minute segment that will take some doing to ecipise anywhere you look in football.



BREAKING LOOSE for a sizable gain is Churchill's Jerry Oljace (42) who almost breaks into the clear against Thurston. Coming in for the tackle are Thurston's Bob Graustein (12), Bill Steele (21) and Chuck Mallom (80). The game ended in a 14-14 tie. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

C'ville Triumphs, 28-22

Meet Rob Weller — the toast of Clarenceville High this week.

Weller, a senior halfback, joined a very exclusive football club Friday when the Trojans started their season in impressive fashion with a 28-22 victory over Cherry Hill.

Weller scored all four of Clarenceville's touchdowns. He ran brilliantly and grabbed passes just as spectacularly.

He also sparkled on defense, prompting the rival coach from Cherry Hill to hail him as "the best high school back we've seen in 10 years."

WELLER'S SHOW came off in the first three periods. He scored once in the first, once in the second and twice in the third in what proved a wide-open football game on both sides.

"I was pleased with the general showing of the team," said Coach Ralph Weddle of Clarenceville.

Weller, who personally accounted for almost 200 yards, running for 130 yards in 20 carries, dashed into the end zone on runs of 3 and 30 yards and then grabbed passes of 29 and 17 yards from Jim Barrons to hit pay dirt.

In addition, Weller also accounted for one of the extra points.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25
Dearborn at Bentley, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin at Redford Union, 8 p.m.
Garden City West at Melvindale, 8 p.m.
Farmington Harrison at John Glenn, 8 p.m.
Stevenson at Flint Flushing, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26
Garden City at Annapolis, 2 p.m.
Plymouth at Farmington, 2 p.m.
Walled Lake Central at North Farmington, 2 p.m.
Churchill at Grosse Pointe South, 2 p.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows vs. Royal Oak St. Mary at Royal Oak Dandoro, 8 p.m.
Ferndale at Thurston, 2 p.m.

Grid Schedules

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