

Fumble Paves Way For Mark Lehto Touchdown

Franklin Shackles RU In 7-0 Victory

By W. W. EDGAR

The Redford Union football machine that started rolling late last season to gain a share of the Suburban Six championship and earned the right to be rated a strong contender this year came to the turn in the road Friday night.

Held in check at every turn the Panthers went down to defeat before a Livonia Franklin team, 7 to 0, and now faces the start of an uphill climb this week against Trenton in the downriver stadium. It will be the first Suburban Six League test.

Only a week before Franklin suffered a stunning setback against Center Line, 18 to 8, while the Panthers were rolling over Stevenson 26 to 6.

ON THE BASIS of these openers, Franklin was given only an outside chance against the Redford team that appeared ready for any opponent on the way to the title.

Once the game got underway, however, it was another story, and the Panthers never were able to track themselves. They were held to a mere 53 yards with their rushing attack in 28 plays and completed only one pass good for 18 yards.

Meanwhile Franklin, fighting to come back after its surprise loss, also had trouble getting a drive underway and scored its lone touchdown in the second period -- only after recovering a fumble.

Taking possession at midfield when Jim Craig fell on a fumble, Franklin entrusted the task to Mark Lehto, one of the hardest running backs in the area. He started by knitting his way inside tackle for seven yards, then got away again for a first down at the Panther 25-yard line from where he circled his own right end to score the lone touchdown of the game. Dave Morrison added the extra point and the 7 to 0 margin held to the finish.

Except for this one spurt the game was a defensive battle waged between the 25-yard lines. And, to the surprise of the Redford followers this was as close as the Panthers got to the coveted goal line all night.

FRANKLIN ALMOST completely stopped Bob Booker, rated one of the best backs in the Suburban Six circuit and with him bottled up Redford Union couldn't move the ball for any appreciable gains.

In contrast Lehto paced Franklin with 56 yards on a variety of plays that made him a thorn in the side of the Panthers.

He gained more ground than the entire Redford team. Strangely, Franklin waged its battle on the ground and didn't have a single completed pass.

This week Franklin engages North Farmington and the same kind of defensive play used against Redford Union will make for interesting things in the Oakland County contingent.

Gow Brothers Sparkle; Raiders Triumph, 39-0

The Raiders of North Farmington are ready -- ready to start their bid for the Northwest Suburban League title. "They know they must be up" -- for come Saturday they face Franklin in what shapes up as perhaps the most important

conference game each will face this spring. But if the Raiders perform anything like they did last Saturday in blasting Walled Lake Central, 39-0, there should be some gala celebrations on 13-Mile Road away.

Despite the rain and mud, North Farmington tore Walled Lake to shambles.

THE GOW BROTHERS, Craig and Mike, in particular performed like Murder, Inc. Craig scored three TDs and

totaled 158 yards while older brother Mike tallied once and collected 48 yards.

Long range was the way the Raiders operated. And it started right away when Rick Fuelling scampered 66 yards in the first quarter and John Combes converted to put North Farmington on top, 7-0. Walled Lake apparently didn't recover from that jolt. The Lakers really were stunned when Craig Gow followed up by scooting 49 yards, and Combes again added the point. So now it was, 14-0, for the Raiders.

THERE WAS NO halting the North Farmington charge.

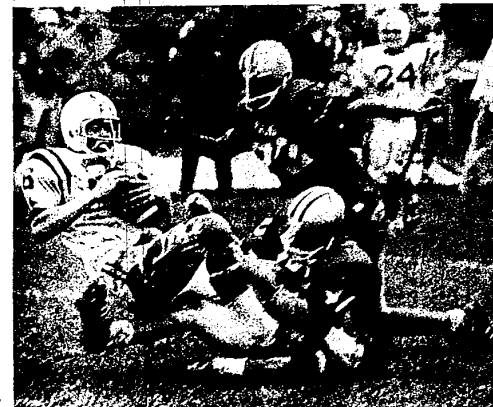
It was Craig Gow dashing merrily again in the second period. Bang -- and it was 11 yards for a third North Farmington touchdown.

But, that was mild in comparison to his next run when he stepped away for 68 yards to make it 27-0 at the half.

North Farmington cooled off in the third quarter. No scoring.

But in the fourth period the Raiders went to the air to score when Drew Mahalic fired to Combes for 33 yards and six points to cap a 57-yard drive.

That set the stage moments later for Mike Gow to bust loose for 33 yards and the final TD. The Raiders totaled 329 yards rushing and 49 in the air. Walled Lake was held to 56 yards on the ground and 72 in the air.



PLYMOUTH'S Gary Close (86) grabs a pass and is immediately downed by Farmington's Randy Pender (41) with Mike Eveleth (82) coming up fast to assist. The play came in the third quarter of the 12-12 contest played on a rain soaked gridiron. (Observer photo by Harry Mautha)

Plymouth, Farmington Battle To 12-12 on Rain Soaked Field

By FRED DeLANO

Farmington and Plymouth fought to a mutually frustrating 12-12 standoff on a rain-soaked Falcon gridiron Saturday, a verdict which left Plymouth as the only unbeaten team in the Suburban Six conference after two non-league tests set the stage for this week's hoop opener for the Rocks at Belleville.

Farmington, too, enjoys the same 1-0-1 won-lost-tied status as Plymouth as it readies for Friday afternoon's invasion of Livonia. Stevenson. The Plymouth-Bellefonte tilt is a right engagement under the latter's lights.

If anything was decided Saturday afternoon after a heavy downpour finally relented just before the kickoff, it was the fact that neither the Falcons nor Rocks will roll over and play dead for any foe. They may be outmanned before the season runs its course, but they won't be whipped for lack of desire.

DAN STEINKE, a swifty who mans a halfback spot for Farmington after serving as quarterback last fall, has to be identified as the Falcon who did the most to spoil Plymouth's hopes for a second straight win after the latter had opened with a 3-0 romp over Northville a week ago as the Falcons were launching the season at Bentley's expense, 18-6.

Steinke was the workhorse of Farmington's backfield as he carried 28 times from scrimmage to net 116 yards. Along the way he scored both of the Falcon touchdowns on short yardage bursts.

Steinke's repeated success in turning the flanks helped Farmington mass 179 yards on the ground to Plymouth's 76, but the Rocks had an edge in the air, 73 yards to 25.

Steinke's two Farmington touchdowns were offset by Dan

Chopp's 85-yard kickoff gallop and a three-yard quarterback sneak by Greg LaMirand for Plymouth tallies, all the scoring coming in the first half.

Extra-point attempts proved futile after all four touchdowns, a fact which grew in importance as the afternoon wore on with neither team being able to find the end zone again.

FARMINGTON capitalized on fumble recoveries for both its scores. A Dan Chopp bobble on Plymouth's first series of downs was recovered on the Rock 25 by John Fleming and 10 plays later Steinke took it in from the one.

Chopp immediately made amends with his brilliant ruckback of the ensuing kickoff

but the 6-6 status was short-lived as the Rocks turned a Falcon fumble into their second touchdown before the first period ended.

A dropped Farmington handoff was pounced upon by Plymouth's Ed Scott at the Falcon 19 and it took the Rocks only four plays to make it 12-6, a 14-yard pass from LaMirand to Carl Hetter giving the Rocks a first down on the Falcon five. LaMirand scored from the three.

In the second quarter the final Farmington score was set up by a Plymouth fumble at its own five yard line, Steinke scoring on the first play after the recovery.

Although the Rocks had trouble containing the running

of Steinke and his running mates John Holappa and Randy Pender, it actually was their defense which preserved the tie as they held for downs three times when Farmington seemed to have touchdown momentum.

The first was at the Plymouth three yard line, next it was at the 17 and finally, in the fourth quarter, it was on the one yard stripe.

Closest Plymouth could come to the Farmington goal in the second half was the 10, but even then the Rocks were pushed back and settled on a fourth down field goal try by Jack Mathias from the 28, a boot which was blocked by Falcon linemen.

Grid Schedules

FRIDAY

Allen Park at Bentley, 8 p.m.
Redford Union at Trenton, 8 p.m.
Plymouth at Belleville, 8 p.m.
Garden City East at Inkster, 3:30 p.m.
Shafer at Garden City West, 8 p.m.
Farmington at Stevenson, 3:45 p.m.
Farmington Harrison at Augusta Galesburg, 7:30 p.m.
Inkster Robichaud at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Bishop Burgess vs. Aquinas at Shafer, 8 p.m.
Clarenceville at West Bloomfield, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Franklin at North Farmington, 2 p.m.
Glenn at Thurston, 2 p.m.
St. Agatha vs. St. Andrew at Hammettburg Field, 2:

SUNDAY

Loures vs. Our Lady of Sorrows at Farmington High, 2:30 p.m.

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SOUTHFIELD 28481 Telegraph Road Across from Tel-12 Shopping Center 352-2090