

Risks Unbeaten Record Against Parkers Friday

Plymouth Sneaks Past Dearborn, 14-12

By FRED DELANO

Last minute defensive heroics at their own goal line have given Plymouth's Rocks two football victories by a total of three points in eight days, and Coach Tom Moshimer isn't about to knock the formula if that's what it will take to defeat Allen Park Friday.

"We're getting better as we go along," conceded Moshimer after Dave Hees' interception at the goal with two seconds to go preserved Plymouth's 14-12 margin over Dearborn last week in the Suburban Eight opener for both clubs.

The previous Friday Plymouth ended Bloomfield

Hills Andover's 19-game winning streak, 15-14, by stopping the Barons short of the end zone three times in the waning seconds after Andover had powered to a first down at the Rock four yard line.

THE SMALL, swift and stubborn Rocks now come up to their home opener against the defending champions of the old Suburban Six confident that they can avenge last year's 20-0 loss to the Parkers, and in the doing prove that they themselves are definite title threats in the new Suburban Eight.

Allen Park brings a 1-1 record to Plymouth after whipping Melvindale, 21-14, and then battling Edsel Ford

to a 6-6 deadlock. The game will be played at 8 p.m. on Plymouth's old downtown high school gridiron, the new field on Canton Center Rd. not being ready as yet.

Although the Rocks have thrived on the Jim Szilagyi to Ron Egloff passing combination parlayed with the running of Carl Herter and Dan Matthews, their poise under pressure has been equally important in posting two successive triumphs.

They had to come from behind to knock off Andover, and at Dearborn saw the Pioneers stab both to the 10 and the five yard lines in the first five minutes without scoring. In between, Plymouth got only to its own

26 where a blocked punt appeared to make disaster inevitable. Instead, the Rocks recovered and were never behind.

Szilagi let the air out of the Dearborn balloon when it was third and 10 on his own five yard line. Despite the odds he faded into his own end zone and uncorked a 30 yard aerial to Matthews.

That pass sparked a drive of 36 yards that put the Rocks ahead, 6-0. A Herter dash of 22 yards more than offset 20 yards in penalties assessed against Plymouth during the march, and then came three successive completions to Egloff for 10, 22 and 26 yards. Egloff scored on the last one, Szilagyi missing the

conversion. Dearborn tied it at 6-6 seconds later. From their 10, after the kickoff, the Pioneers put halfback Dave Meisner into the role of passer and he connected to Tom Koenig to cover 51 yards. Dearborn's attempted point also missing the uprights.

Plymouth forged ahead, 14-6, on a 35 yard Szilagyi to Egloff aerial before the first half ended. Szilagyi getting the two point conversion on a keeper.

Dearborn got back in the ball game with a 60 yard touchdown on a punt return by Meisner in the third quarter, but Matthews and Gary Close stopped Howard Noland on his run for the attempted two pointer, leaving it 14-12. As has become Plymouth's custom, however, that lead was challenged in the late stages after Dearborn had gained possession on its own with 4:22 left.

THE PIONEERS gam-

bled successfully on fourth down at their own 48, getting a first down at the Rock 41 and quickly Barry Sawicki hit Meisner on a pass for 17 yards and Tom Neill for 11 more.

Runs by Meisner made it third and goal at the four, but when Sawicki went to the air for what he hoped would be the winning score Hees came down with the ball and that was that.

Szilagi completed nine of 17 passes for Plymouth for 158 yards, and the Rocks also

netted 119 on the ground. In total net yardage they outdistanced Dearborn, 277 to 244, and had a margin in first downs, 13-10.

Matthews, Hees and Joe Vetteze all recovered Dearborn fumbles.

The outcome leaves Plymouth, Redford Union and Belleville all at 1-0 in league competition, Allen Park and Edsel Ford at 0-1, and Trenton, Dearborn and Livonia Bentley at 0-1 after the league's first round.

Thurston Upsets Dales To Continue Comeback

Sports produces its ups and downs...just like every other aspect in life.

Two years ago, Thurston high was UP in football...perfect with an 8-0 record. Then last season with a rebuilt team, Coach Bill McDonald's forces tumbled.

After two games this fall, it would appear Thurston is UP again. At least, there's no

faulting the record -- two victories against no losses.

WHAT'S MORE the Eagles have moved into the elite class already, because their 26-0 victory over Ferndale was called "one of early season's biggest surprises."

Ferndale hadn't lost in its last 14 football games -- winning 12 and tying two in the streak.

McDonald wasn't so sure it was an upset. He had been saying all along he thought he had another powerful team. He repeatedly has declared that Thurston's Mark Miller has to be one of the best prep backs in Michigan this fall.

What pleased McDonald most about the rampage against Ferndale was:

1--How Thurston struck back.

2--How Thurston stopped Ferndale on a first and goal to go situation.

3--How Thurston then broke the game open.

"It takes a good team to spot a rival a touchdown and then fight back to win," said McDonald. "Even after we matched their first touchdown, they seemed to have us on the run."

After they got to our four, we stopped them right there as time ran out in the first half. That inspired our kids to perform great heights in the second half."

THURSTON DOMINATED after the intermission as Miller and Bob Graustein led the way behind some great offensive blocking and with the defense continuing to turn in a sparkling effort.

Gary Chappel struck the first big note for Thurston when he intercepted a pass in the first quarter. Ferndale came back to march 32 yards with Dean Bacheller blasting the final two to go ahead, 6-0. Thurston retaliated with a 43-yard march in seven plays to knot the score at 6-6 when Miller bounced in from the three after Graustein had clocked on two big passes, one for 16 yards and the other for 14.

After Ferndale was repulsed in its last second-quarter drive, Thurston quickly marched 80 yards in the third period with Miller scoring from the two after Graustein had hit Chappel on a 33 yard pass.

Then Thurston put the game out of reach with two touchdowns in a four minute span. Graustein passed seven yards to Miller for one and Graustein went over on a quarterback sneak for the other.

Miller added 101 yards to the 107 he made in Thurston's first game.

Now Thurston turns its attention to Northwest Suburban League play, meeting Franklin Saturday afternoon.



NEITHER RAIN, nor snow, nor a broken arm will keep Maradith Fine from performing her duties as drum major for the Farmington Harrison High marching band. It was a dreary, rainy afternoon when Harrison met John Glenn but Maradith was right there with right arm in a sling, wielding her baton with her left hand. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

Patriots' Piipo Scores 3 TDs

It's a rebuilding-year at Franklin, with many new faces in the lineup. But, so far so good -- two victories in as many starts and every indication the Patriots again will be a factor in the Northwest Suburban League race which starts this weekend.

THE LIVONIANS tuned up for the league chase by running wild past Annapolis, 42-0.

John Riipo was the big gun for Franklin. He scored three times on runs of 17, 4 and 11 yards. He carried 10 times for 103 yards.

Two other Franklin touchdowns came on passes. John Casey flipped 19 yards to John Wolski for one and then Joe Jinnett shot a 26 yarder for six points to Fred Frecka.

The final score came when Bob Singh bounced in from seven yards away.

Franklin wound up with 141 yards in passing and another 144 in rushing.

Annapolis was held to 72 yards rushing and 21 in the air.

Franklin's defense played another fine game, intercepting three passes and recovering three fumbles.

Prep Schedule

FRIDAY

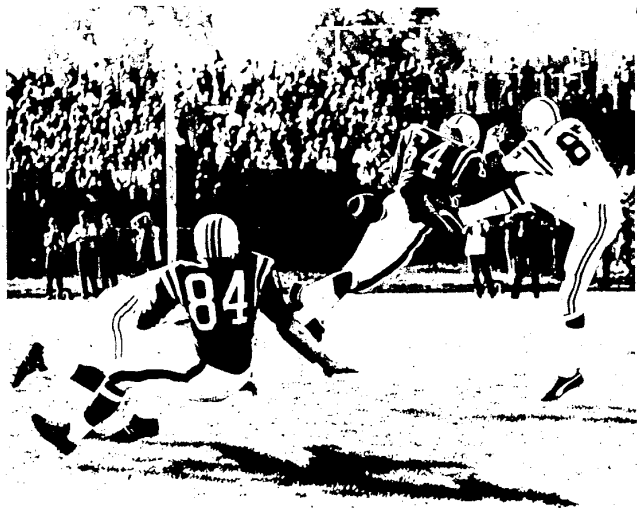
Farmington at Waterford, 8 p.m.
North Farmington at Oak Park, 3:30 p.m.
Farmington Harrison at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Clarenceville at Waterford Kettering, 8 p.m.
Livonia Bentley at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Ferndale at Southfield, 8 p.m.
Garden City East at Wayne, 8 p.m.
Melvindale at Garden City West, 8 p.m.
John Glenn at Birmingham Groves, 8 p.m.
Redford Union at Trenton, 8 p.m.
Allen Park at Plymouth, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Franklin at Thurston, 2 p.m.
Southfield Lathrup at Livonia Stevenson, 2 p.m.
Country Day at Cranbrook, 2:30 p.m.
Brother Rice vs. Redford St. Mary at Birmingham Seaholm, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Bishop Foley vs. Bishop Borgess at Hammarburg, 2 p.m.
St. Agatha vs. St. Alphonsus at Dearborn High, 2:30 p.m.



ANXIOUS MOMENT for Plymouth High. Dearborn's Dave Miller (64) rushes in to block a punt just as Ron Egloff puts his foot to the ball.

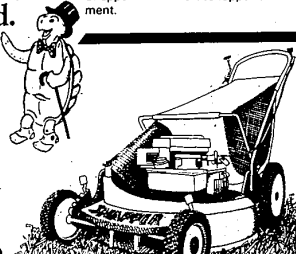
Dearborn recovered but fortunately was unable to score and the Rocks went on to win. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring).



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