

ANTONAZZO SCORES 3 TIMES

Franklin Trims Groves

Every athletic contest has its turning point. Sometimes it comes early... on other occasions late.

For Franklin High School's football team, the turning point came in the very first quarter at Birmingham Groves last Friday evening.

The action had begun with Groves kicking to Franklin. In quick fashion, Franklin fumbled away at the pignisk and Groves had the ball.

Two quick first downs and Groves stood eight yards away from pay land.

Here the mighty defense which has highlighted Franklin's play this season arose to push back the Groves' charge. The Livonians got the ball back, marched for a touchdown and ultimately came up an easy 27-9 winner.

It was victory No. 3 in as many clashes for Franklin, the finest start the young school ever has known in football. What's more, Franklin now has posted two shutout triumphs, while yielding just one touchdown in its other contest.

Reflecting on the conquest at Groves, Coach Bob Bentley declared:

"Those first few minutes when our defense met the challenge had to provide us with the momentum to go forth and take the game."

"Had they scored right off the bat—and thanks to a fumble by us—we could have fallen flat and wound up a loser."

Orchids for a job well done

defensively had to go to play-ers like Bob Mitchell, who kept continued pressure on Groves' passers; Bernie Carbo, Larry Naifeh, Larry Vaughn and all the others whom Bentley used to repulse the opposition.

"We're still gang-jacking," added Bentley. "That's nice to see... three and four of our boys getting a piece of the ball carrier. That makes certain that the ball carrier doesn't break away for an extra yard or more."

From an offensive standpoint, the battle at Groves was pretty much a Sam Antonazzo night.

This fleet-footed, all-around performer scored three touchdowns and had a hand in three conversions.

Franklin's first touchdown drive began after the defense had halted Groves deep in the Livonian's end.

The movement began on the ground with a twenty-yarder by Antonazzo helping to bring the ball to the Groves' 40. At this point, Dennis Wagner slipped back, took aim in Antonazzo's direction and hit his target perfectly.

Antonazzo wasted no effort in going for the touchdown. The play covered 40 yards. Sam's kick made it 7-0.

In the second quarter, Bentley resorted to more power to make the score 13-0.

Starting back on its 40, Bentley called upon Roger Frayer and Larry Yonish, along with Antonazzo to drive over or around the Groves' line. They powered down to the Groves' four where Antonazzo cracked in.

The conversion failed.

Touchdown No. 3 came in the third period. Yonish reeled off a 25-yarder to help get the drive in motion. An Antonazzo to Neal Thomas pass was good for 25 yards more.

When Franklin got to the Groves' 10, Antonazzo's number again was called. He responded with a dash to the payoff line.

An Antonazzo toss to Carbo for the extra point lifted Franklin's lead to 20-0.

Came the fourth period. Franklin was trying to get something started again in its own end.

With one thrust, Naifeh did the job. He got the ball on his 35, cut away through the Groves' defenders and outdistanced them all as he dashed 65 yards for the six-pointer.

A conversion by Antonazzo ended the happy night of scoring for Franklin.

This Saturday afternoon, it's Franklin vs. Thurston at Bentley at 2 p.m.

Thurston is due to rebound after losing to Oak Park last Friday.

On the surface, it looks like Franklin vs. Oak Park for the North West Suburban League title.

But, as they say in sports, you must play each game as they come along.

All of which means, Franklin can ill afford to take Thurston in stride.



ROUND END goes Capt. and Half-back Gary Grady (30) for a long gain against Bentley as End Jim Lake blocks out an unidentified Livonian. It was Gray's touchdown that gave Plymouth High a 7-0 victory in its first Suburban Six League game.

Rocks Best Bentley Thanks To Fumble

A battle of defenses! When this occurs in football, or any other sport, a break generally decides who wins or who loses.

So it was last Friday night when Plymouth High School's defending champions started their 1964 Suburban Six League campaign by squeezing past rival Bentley, 7-0.

The verdict was well wrapped up, as it turned out, in the second quarter.

Bentley, deep in its own territory, fumbled the ball.

A Plymouth player recovered it on the Bentley 18.

Bentley did everything but contain the Rocks. On fourth down and one from a yard away, Gary Grady cracked through for Plymouth, and then John Daniel passed to Jim Lake for the conversion.

The scoreboard read 7-0, and the teams could have departed from the premises right there.

What had happened until the one break and after the one break belonged to the rival defensive unit.

Bentley had one chance. Again it was set up by a recovered fumble as the Livonians gained the ball on the Plymouth 28.

But Bentley could make no further penetration and the Rocks regained the ball.

"This was all-defensive," said Rocks' Coach John Hoben.

"Ditto," added Larry Joiner of Bentley.

The pressing charges of the Plymouth defenders forced Bentley into a pair of fumbles. The Rocks also pulled in four of the Bentley teams attempted passes.

Grady, besides scoring the touchdown, was a giant on defense along with Terry Cosgrove, Jim Arnold, Dave Tidwell, Jim Lake and Paul Densmore.

Densmore poured in time and time again to pace the Plymouth tackling force.

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Pep Talk Peps Up Sorrows

A halftime "pep" talk by the coach has been known to change the pattern of play for many a football team.

Bud Webster, who guides Our Lady of Sorrows, had a few choice words for his boys when they reached the locker room on the short end of a 7-6 count after the second period of last Sunday's game with Pontiac St. Frederick.

Webster declines to divulge what he said. However, his comments had their effect.

The Sorrows' gridders stormed back to win the game, 25-7, and stay in contention for a repeat title in the Catholic League's Northwest Division. Sorrows now has a 2-1 record.

Nyles Kearney was the big offensive star for Sorrows.

Called by his coach as "one of the finest running backs I've ever coached," Kearney dashed for three touchdowns and picked up 227 yards on the ground.

St. Frederick had started fast by taking a 7-0 lead, when Murphy passed to Walters in the opening moments. The conversion was good.

Sorrows struck like lightning in the second period. On a short, swing pass, Bob Urbane tossed to Kearney who set off on a 50-yard run to the goal line. The conversion missed and Sorrows trailed by a point at halftime.

Kearney settled matters in the third period. He went in from the eight to cap a 71-yard march and from the 20 after Sorrows had started on its own 47.

A brilliant 73-yard run by CHM LaFond brought Sorrows its final touchdown in the fourth period. Mike Bars kicked the point.

"What a difference in our team from the first to the second halves," declared Coach Webster.

In addition to scoring three times, Kearney had two other long runs nullified by penalties. Once he went 55 yards for an apparent score and later 33 yards. But neither counted.

Statistically, here's the story:

First Downs—Sorrows 18, St. Frederick 3.

Yards Rushing—Sorrows 292, St. Frederick 35.

Yards Passing—Sorrows 50, St. Frederick 73.

It's to be noted that St. Frederick gained 75 yards in the first half via rushes. In the second half, the team wound up with a negative 45 yards rushing—thanks to the work of Jim Brennan, Glen Hartwig, Jim Jeffers and Kearney.

Next Sunday will see Sorrows playing at St. Michaels.

Thurston Goes Down

(Continued from Page 2)

final half and scored again after capitalizing on a long punt to the Oak Park 4. Spectman again went over on a one-yard jolt.

Thurston, however, was not able to put together any kind of an offensive threat.

"Everything we tried, they were there waiting for us," declared McDonald. "It was obvious for me to see why Oak Park has gone through three games now without yielding a point."

In defeat, McDonald figures his charges may have learned a few things.

"They no longer can underestimate any opponent," said the coach. "Nor are they apt to make so many mistakes."

One thing is certain, McDonald will have no problems getting Thurston ready for its next game.

On Saturday afternoon, Thurston goes to Livonia to meet Franklin at Bentley High. Bentley's record is 3-0.

The statistics showed how even Bentley and Plymouth were last Friday night.

In first downs, Plymouth emerged with a 7-6 edge.

Plymouth had a scant 90-86 advantage in yards rushing. Passing saw Plymouth gain 44 to Bentley's 25.

Add together the yardage figures, Plymouth fashioned 124 to Bentley's 111.

This Friday it's Plymouth at Trenton while Bentley goes to Belleville.

As far as Plymouth Coach Hoben is concerned, Trenton "is the team to beat" for this year's League title. Trenton boasts an all veteran team and has exploded in all three of its starts this season.

Belleville manhandled Redford Union last Friday and this only could mean that Bentley is needed for another tough evening of football.

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