

Is This The Year for RU?

Is this Redford Union's year in the Suburban Six League's football chase?

The Townshippers' prospects certainly would appear encouraging as they begin their title bid this Friday against defending champion Bentley.

Two victories in a row in "tuneup" action give indications that Redford Union has come up with a strong challenger.

The Townshippers were very impressive last Friday evening in beating Franklin, 26-21, in a game in which:

1—RU stormed to an early 19-0 lead.

2—Franklin rebounded with three touchdowns in the second half to take a 21-19 lead.

3—RU finally won it in the closing moments.

The statistics weren't as close as the final score. Redford Union made 16 first downs to Franklin's 10. In total yardage it was 193 to 159 for Redford Union with 106 of the victory total coming on passes as Glen Davis hit on 12 of 19.

The big Franklin lament came over "losing the ball on mistakes." Four times Franklin fumbled away the ball to RU and three Franklin passes wound up in the hands of RU players. RU on the other hand lost two fumbles and had two interceptions.

Just how tough a game it further was reflected in the penalty figures. RU was slapped for 110 yards to Franklin's 80.

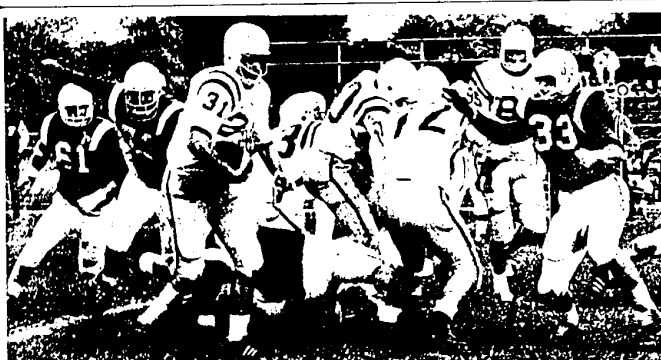
Redford Union began the scoring when Rod Ferguson cracked over from six yards out in the first period.

In the second period, Bob Czerniak slammed in from the five and Davis shot a 14-yard scoring pass to Jim Walker. With two conversions, RU walked to the dressing room at half time with a 19-0 lead.

Coach Bob Bentley had a few "choice" words for his team after the game.

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GOOD BLOCKING: Farmington High linemen clear the way for Fritz Simons in pull off a gain against Plymouth. Al Nawrocki (33) of the Rocks closes in for the tackle.

Franklin charges during the intermission. And when the third period began, the Livonians literally exploded.

A short pass from Bill Hellestie to Carl Gummerson for three yards netted Franklin its first touchdown. Then Hellestie went in from the two.

When Gary Rogalski tallied in the opening minutes of the fourth period and Ron Kugler booted his third conversion of the game, Franklin found itself leading, 21-19.

Less than five minutes now remained.

Redford Union was back on its own 22. With Rick Ridel, Czerniak and Davis running and Davis passing, the Townshippers began their final payoff drive.

An electrifying pass from Davis to Walker covered some 33 yards and carried the RU team to the Franklin 29.

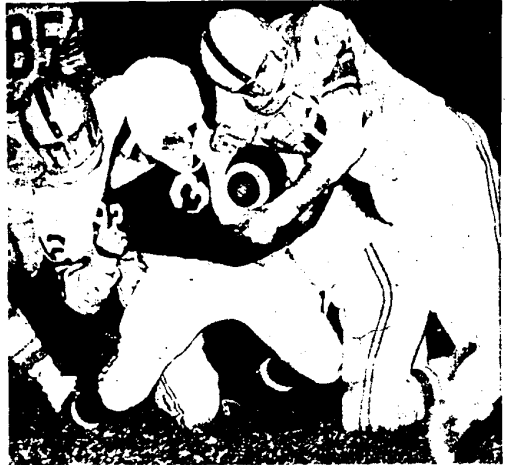
Three plays later Davis went around right end from the Franklin 16 and without being touched galloped for the winning touchdown. Davis finished the scoring by passing to Bob Fritz for the extra point.

The loss left Franklin with a 1-1 record going into Northwest Suburban League play this week.

**N. Farmington Sweeps Parkers**

North Farmington swept the first five places in beating Oak Park, 15-0, in a Northwest League cross country meet.

Sophomore Rick Randall was the individual winner with Greg Succop second and John Murphy third.



BATTLE FOR BALL: Franklin's Gary Rogalski (32) tries to take away a thriller by scoring in the final minutes of from Redford Union's Jim Walker (80) play.

Clarenceville Roars To Land in Ratings

Things are happening to Clarenceville High School's football team that haven't happened along Middlebelt Road in a long time.

Things like:

1—Clarenceville winning two straight.

2—Clarenceville finding itself among the state's top ranked Class B teams.

When the Trojans won over Milford, 21-13, last Friday night to get off on the right foot in Wayne-Oakland League play, it also marked the first time since Ralph Temby joined the Clarenceville coaching staff six years ago that "we have won two in a row."

As for being among the leading teams in the state, Temby declared:

"That's only happened to us once before."

Temby called the victory over Clarkson "an all-around effort."

The Trojans had to come from behind twice to turn the tables. Much had to be said about the controlball display the Trojans put on in the second half when they dominated the proceedings.

Milford bounced ahead early, striking for eight straight pass completions with Randy

Clinard hitting Mark Gigler from 15 yards out.

But Clarenceville got the touchdown back quickly when Dave Wilson connected on a 38-yard toss to Mike Nye. Milford regained the lead on a 60-yard dash by Bob McFarland in the third quarter.

Came the fourth quarter, Nye kicked one out on a Milford three and Dave Kaipio promptly broke through to nail a Milford back in the end zone for a safety.

There were less than seven minutes remaining and Milford leading, 13-6, when Clarenceville began another march that paid off with Wilson slipping across on a quarterback sneak for the TD that put the Trojans ahead.

Then to put the game out of reach, Kaipio tallied on a shortie with a couple minutes left on the clock and Nye passed to Schlack for the extra point.

Clarenceville wound up with a total of 309 yards gained during the game with 83 coming via passes.

In addition the Trojans piled up 24 first downs.

The great defense was led by Kaipio and Carl Watkins, both linemen.

This Friday, it's Clarenceville at Clarkson with the Trojans gunning for an almost historic "three straight."

Farmington Rolls Past Plymouth

On streak swelled... another ended.

It happened as Farmington high's football team took the measure of Plymouth in their non-league battle Friday afternoon.

For Farmington it was the Falcons' second win in as many starts in the young season. They had topped Bentley the week before.

Plymouth, victorious a year ago in eight games, had started the new campaign on a high note—a fine victory over Northville.

But the Rocks couldn't jolt the strong Farmington defense... and defense still is the name of the game in football.

This was reflected early in the Farmington-Plymouth game. The Rocks started a march, but the Falcons arose to stop it and force a punt situation.

The kick went to Chris Norton around his own 40. He danced around, waited for his blockers to form... and then he was off to the races... and a touchdown.

Farmington had a quick 7-0 lead and was gaining momentum.

Sophomore Doug Root then moved into the starting picture. After Farmington took over on the Plymouth 45 in the second period, a pass from Ed Snyder to Paul Misch covered 35 yards to the one and Root smashed across.

Root, a real workhorse for the winners as he gained 95 yards in 19 carries, flashed in for the third and final Farmington touchdown when he went the last eight in the third period.

A short punt had set up the counter. The Falcons took over on the Plymouth 37 and with Root and Norton alternating with the ball, the touchdown wasn't long in coming.

Farmington stuck pretty much to the ground to win this one. The Falcons made only two passes all afternoon.

In the meantime, end Jerry Tinkle and 130-pound guard Pat Foley carried off the defensive honors for Farmington as they consistently bottled up the Rocks—in particular, quarterback Dave Prochazka who had little time to get off his passes.

Plymouth had one good threat going, march down to the Farmington 15 in the third period. But the Farmington defense arose to do a job... and that was the game.

Now it's into league play for both the teams. Farmington starts its bid for an Inter-lakes League title against Pontiac Northern while Plymouth begins Suburban Six League action by invading Allen Park.

Quarterback Ned Kramer's 259 yards passing against North Dakota State in 1954 stand as a Wayne State University single-game record.

Wayne State University's winningest football team was the 1934 unit which scored seven wins in eight starts.

Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

If you read the Friendly Free Press every morning, you're familiar with the sports offerings of Joe Falls.

Joe's topics are diversified... from checkers to the world championships in football, basketball, hockey, baseball and any other sport you can mention.

In the course of a year, he writes about thousands of personages... from the likes of Mickey Mantle and Harry Gilmer to many who are far more obscure, but nonetheless participants in some phase of sports.

Joe praises... raps... cheers and sometimes cries.

The other day, Falls felt like doing the latter. But he couldn't tell the story in his Free Press column. It just wouldn't have been right.

Of all the athletes Joe has dealt or deals with, No. 1 on his list has to be a ninth grader student at Farmington's East Junior High School. The name: Bobby Falls, eldest of the five youngsters in the Falls' household.

Joe—and wife, Rosie, too—always have been proud of Bobby, but never more than when the boy went out for the ninth grade team at East this fall—and made the starting lineup as an end on offense and safety man on defense.

You see, Bobby hadn't played eighth grade football. So this, indeed, was a major accomplishment for any boy.

"I never saw an athlete work harder," Joe was telling us, "and I'm not saying this because he's my own. Bobby was just very determined to make the starting lineup."

Last week, a few days before the team was to play its first game, Bobby knew his knee in practice. Dad took him to see Dr. Russell Wright, the same man who looks after the Tigers, Pistons and other pro teams around town.

The Doc found that Bobby had torn some ligaments... that it will be a while before he can return to his team. But you have to know that Bobby will be back out there for East. He's a real cut off the old mold. When Pop is determined to get a story, he'll work and work to get it. Bobby plays the game of life the same way. So who says our youngsters of this era have lost their desire?

Tie Battle 'Cheering' To Raiders

Nothing satisfies a coach more than to see his team improve from one week to another.

Even if you don't win.

At North Farmington, there were some gloomy days last week after the Raiders had been blitted in their 1966 football opener at Grand Rapids Central.

But coach Ron Holland and his charges worked diligently for their next assignment against Waterford Kettering and the game ended in a 13-13 tie.

Some boys improved 100 per cent over a week ago," said Holland. "True, we didn't win against Kettering, but if we keep improving from week to week like we did this time, we don't count us out of repeating as the Northwest League champs."

Actually, had it not been for a couple of freak plays, the North Farmington team would have downed Waterford.

Gary Zerhan paced the comeback of the North Farmington charges. He rolled up 102 yards in 22 carries and scored one touchdown on a run of six yards.

The other TD for the Raiders came on a four yard sprint by Tom Van Hoey after Norm DeCorney, Van Hoey and Mark Fallis had helped bring the ball into close range from the Kettering 35.

It'll be Oak Park at North Farmington Friday afternoon when the Raiders begin their bid to keep the league title.

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