

# Blaies Passes Churchill To 16-0 Glenn Win



CHARGER ON TARGET -- Churchill QB Bob Blaies (16) connecting on 11 of 20 passes in a win over John Glenn, 16-0, hitting for two touchdowns in his finest day as a prep. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

By TOM DONOGHUE  
Sports Editor

The '72 football season at Churchill High has the making of being one long to be remembered.

The Chargers ripped Northwest Suburban foe John Glenn, 16-0, to match the longest winning streak ever at Churchill ... two games. Churchill edged Thurston in the opener, 7-6.

The Western Six squad opens league competition Friday afternoon, (Sept. 29) against Waterford Mott on the Churchill gridiron in hopes of win No. 3.

Churchill goes against defending league champion Farmington Harrison the following week. Charger Coach Ken Kaestner sees this game as Churchill's first real test.

THE CHARGER DEFENSE has to be the real key. Churchill has not given up one touchdown on the ground in eight quarters and only one in the air.

Bob Blaies was the story in the Glenn victory.

The Charger quarterback enjoyed his finest day as a prep, hitting on 11 of 20 passes for 180 yards and two touchdowns.

"I have to admit that Bobby surprised the entire coaching staff," said Kaestner. "We knew he had the ability but showed us the poise in key situations."

A 24 YARD scoring toss from Blaies to Phil Damaska broke a second quarter scoreless tie. This was the 50 yard march and Ernie Comini split the uprights to make it 7-0.

A missed 27 yard field goal by Comini set up the next Churchill score.

Comini stubbed the attempt and the ball dropped dead on the Glenn two yard line. The Rockets took over and on the first play from scrimmage, Kevin Arnold and Tim McMahon tackled Glenn's Mickey Stein in the end zone for a safety and two points.

Churchill took the punt from the 20 and Blaies hit Damaska on a 25 yard play for a first down on the Glenn two. A holding penalty set that series back and the Chargers settled for a 9-0 halftime score.

JOHN GLENN came out in the third quarter to play football as Damaska fumbled on his own 46 and the Rockets were moving. Two left end sweeps earned first downs and it was first down on the

Churchill 20. Dave Wesley was picking up the Rocket yardage.

In three plays, Glenn picked up seven yards. On a fourth and three situation, the Churchill line came to arms and stopped Glenn one foot short of a first down.

This was Glenn's deepest penetration.

Churchill rebounded with a 60 yard drive late in the final quarter. Blaies connected on a four yard pass to Damaska. Comini's kick was good and the Chargers were up, 16-0.

RON MILLER hauled in four of Blaies' passes for 87 yards and Damaska caught four for 75 yards.

Glenn's Stein was the entire running game with 77 yards in 14 carries.

Churchill's defense picked off three Rocket passes.

Dan Eckhout, junior linebacker and Phil Skender are cousins and each hauled in a Glenn pass to spark the Charger defensive backfield.

CO-CAPTAIN Paul Black, 5-9 and 170 pounds, headed the Charger linebacker corps with 18 tackles.

Kaestner tabs senior leadership the key to a tight winning Churchill squad. Waterford ... next.

## Inexperience Telling Story As Thurston Drops Another

Thurston's inexperience again made a dent in the win-loss column with the Eagles suffering their second football defeat in two starts to Romulus, 14-6.

"Our lack of experience has really revealed itself," said Thurston Coach Emil Majeski. "We haven't fumbled yet physically, but mentally ..."

Thurston has only three returning lettermen.

The Romulus contest was well-mapped in the opening drive.

Thurston marched down field only to be stopped on the one for nine with Tom Dowdy failing to penetrate the end zone.

Early in the second quarter, Thurston broke the scoreless deadlock when John Roy hauled in a 23 yard scoring pass from John Stein. Gary D'Acenzo's extra point attempt was blocked.

ROMULUS came right back on a 60 yard drive with quarterback Virgil Smith going the final three. The conversion failed when the snap from center sailed over the ball-holder's head. It was 6-6 at the half.

It was a tight defensive battle in the third stanza and the score remained tied in the early moments of the fourth quarter.

ROMULUS took control at midfield after a Thurston punt with nine minutes showing on the clock.

Romulus worked itself to a fourth and five situation on the Thurston 21. Quarterback Smith called for a screen pass but was forced to scramble out of the pocket and connected with halfback Brad Smith in the end zone for a broken play scoring loss.

The conversion was good and Thurston found itself with its back to the wall.

THE EAGLES moved 55 yards to the Romulus 15 but ran out of time and Coach Majeski chalked up No. 2 in the loss column.

Thurston had the best of Romulus in the statistical department. The Eagles collected 12 first downs to eight by Romulus and netted 250 yards in the air on 13 of 23 passes. Romulus passed for 73 yards on four of 18 attempts.

Romulus held the edge on the ground with 132 yards to Thurston's 110.

RAY VEY and Tom Dowdy paced Thurston with 55 and 56 yards gained.

Thurston's receivers were led by Jerry Gibson, three for 91 yards; Roy, five for 85 yards; and Dave Harding, four for 71 yards.

Thurston hosts defending league champion North Farmington in the opening Northwest Suburban game Saturday, (Sept. 30) at 2 p.m.

"We are really looking forward to this one," said Majeski. "We will have to keep our mistakes to a minimum."



LOOKING FOR RUNNING ROOM is Thurston's Tom Dowdy as two Romulus defenders close in for the tackle. Thurston lost its second game, 14-6. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

## GC East Topples Flint Central; 'Rookies' Ready

The first year team could be ready to kick down the doors of the Northwest Suburban football conference.

Garden City East scored its second straight shutout victory over Flint Central, 26-0, and it's now into league competition against Livonia Franklin Friday night.

East toppled Riverside in the opener, 27-0.

FRANKLIN has also won its first two games over Garden City West and Dearborn Ann Arbor.

Now comes the test of one of the best from the defunct Mid-Wayne League and a strong member of the always tough Northwest Suburban Conference.

"This game should be a good comparison of just how the two leagues stand up in talent," said East Coach Gary Humphrey. "I just hope we don't have a letdown after our big win over Flint Central."

"The kids were really up for this one. Fordon just got by Flint Central a week earlier and Fordon is No. 3 in the state," added Humphrey.

The Flint Central triumph was the first outstate game ever for East in an attempt to gain state recognition.

Senior running back Dennis Burton was the top offensive star. The 5-11, 160 pound halfback racked up 190 yards in 17 carries. That makes 399 yards in his first two outings.

EAST OPENED its scoring early in the second quarter with a Tim Arner pass interception starting a Panther drive.

A 23-yard runback made it first down for East on Flint's 40 yard marker. Burton worked the ball in and QB Steve Orr connected on a 10 yard pass play to Jim Wisniewski for six points. The Rich Jost extra point was blocked but East led, 6-0.

The Panthers stopped Flint again and took over on their own 25.

ON THE FIRST PLAY, Burton scampered 75 yards on point play missed and East led, 12-0, at the half.

Flint didn't get inside the East 30 yard line the entire contest, and mustered only 88 yards total offense.

East marched downfield early in the third stanza when Terry Heatie hauled in two key first downs passes and Orr spurted over from the one to

elimax a 60 yard drive. Jost converted and East was on top, 19-0.

ORR SCORED AGAIN midway through the fourth quarter on a 10 yard romp only to have it called back.

The East QB didn't let that stop him and came back on the next play with a 25 yard scoring play. The Jost kick was good and East was in high gear, 26-0.

Top Panthers in the defensive unit were Keith Auletner at linebacker, Rich McCain at middle guard, Andy Arena at halfback, and Arner at another back.

EAST PILED UP 406 yards, 177 in the air on 12 of 22 passes and 229 on the ground with Burton getting 190.

### Stevenson Runners Win Second

Stevenson High scored its second consecutive cross-country victory, beating Churchill, 16-47, while capturing six of the first seven positions.

Churchill's Mark Kappler was the lone runner who kept Paul Holmberg's squad from scoring a perfect win with a 17:05 fifth place finish.

Dave Mathia took first for Stevenson at 16:51 with Bill Walker second at 16:56. Rick Galindo finished third, also at 16:56 and Steve White a 16:59 fourth.

Pat Opsommer and Chuck Minear placed sixth and seventh respectively for the Spartan runners.

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## Orchard Ridge Golfers Strong

The Orchard Ridge golfers of Oakland Community College are off to Cleveland and Syracuse to participate in two of four Fall Invitational College Golf Tournaments.

The defending regional champions, Orchard Ridge, has five of its top six players returning from last year's undefeated squad.

Mark Bartolotti, 71 Flum Hollow club champion, will lead the Raiders all-sophomore team. Mark was the No. 1 player last year with

an average of 75.1 stroked while earning all - Michigan and all - regional honors.

Key performers from last year's 30-0 team include: Rick Vershaup, all-regional honors from Pontiac Central; Mark Blemly, all-Michigan and all-regional selection from Southfield; Jim Pashene, No. 5 player from Redford Union;

and Karl Dialek, 72 letterman from Bloomfield Hills Lahser. Coach Dick Robinson brings a four year record of 78-13 into the '72 season.

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