

# Canton Blitzed, 25-0

By FRED DeLANO

Plymouth Canton football fortunes have only one way to go — up. And despite the fact that the Chiefs were shut out 25-0 in their varsity debut, Coach Jim Muneio has reason to believe the wait won't be long.

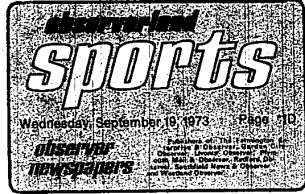
Class B Canton of the Western Six, Observerland's newest interscholastic entry, has only ninth, 10th and 11th graders. Yet, in the Grosse Ile non-league opener, Canton took on one of the key contenders for the Huron League crown. Last autumn, the Red Devils were 5-4 and they started 10 seniors and one junior against Canton.

Had it not been for a fleet-footed Grosse Ile sprinter named Fritz Jackson, the traditional fun provided by a full September moon, pretty cheerleaders and the renowned Plymouth band which combines musicians from both high schools, the

night might just have been accompanied by a first-time-ever Canton gridiron varsity victory. But the 180-pound Red Devil, a senior who was all-league last fall, cast a pall over the moon and the rest of opening night fans with brilliant touchdowns of 59, 82 and 81 yards — all in the first half. In fact, he got the first two before the game was seven minutes old and then clicked on the 81-yarder just before intermission.

This third one was the TD that broke Canton's back, for only moments before the Chiefs had driven to the Grosse Ile one-yard line, but had failed to score while trailing, 13-0.

A touchdown there could have sent them into the half-time respite trailing perhaps no worse than 13-7; instead, the board read 19-0 at the half and it became a different tactical game. For the record, Grosse Ile got one



more score on a 14-yard burst by Tim Cortis late in the final quarter. So where does Muneio find his optimism as the Chiefs prepare for their second test, which will come Friday afternoon, at Dearborn Heights Annapolis — a team which itself was beaten 26-6 by Oak Park in the opener?

Partially from the fact that his club put together five second-half first downs against Grosse Ile's two, and

twice stopped the Red Devils inside the Plymouth 20. Partially from an overall stout defensive performance against more experienced talent, particularly by linemen such as Dave Edwards, Mike Verduce and Jim Moore.

Partially from a display of offensive cohesion that he found in the drive to within 36 inches of the goal led by the stabs of Mike Ogden, Kimmy Hammonds, Jeff

Young, Bob Ayotte and Scott Danuga.

Partially from knowledge that this week he can go all the way with his No. 1 quarterback, Tom Close, who played only briefly Friday after missing most of the week's practices because of a throat infection. Then, too, this enabled the back-up field general, Brian Seeminger, to gain combat seasoning not otherwise available.

Partially because first-game pressure is now behind these kids.

And finally, because Muneio feels it is almost impossible that any football team, no matter how inexperienced, can possibly fumble 12 times two weeks in a row. In brief, while the jittery Chiefs weren't good, they weren't all that bad either. And there's one other thing going for Muneio as he looks into the crystal ball of the Canton future: He's the only coach in the Western Six who will have every varsity member back for the 1974 season 12 months hence.



CAUGHT BY A RED-DEVIL — Plymouth Canton's Jeff Young (24) is about to be hauled down by Grosse Ile's Gatty Jones (87) in Canton's first taste of varsity action which ended in a 25-0 defeat. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

# 40 Yard Field Goal Wins It For Borgess

Tom Birney enjoys kicking the football and Bishop Borgess' Coach Fred Moshinski gets a bigger kick out of watching him.

The All-Observer kicker, his junior season, opened his senior campaign and Borgess' '73 season with a kick Brother Rice didn't enjoy.

Birney split the uprights from 40 yards out with 13 seconds remaining to give

Borgess a 16-14 decision over a club that crushed them two years ago in the Catholic championships 20-0.

Borgess let a 13-0 half time margin slip away and fell behind, 14-13 with 3:28 remaining. Birney then did his thing and Borgess was in the win column.

Halfway through the second quarter, Dan Kelly intercepted a Rice pass on the

Borgess four. Eight plays later, Greg Dryden uncorked a 51 yard, loss to Devon McCarthy. Birney converted and Borgess had a 7-0 lead.

Another Rice turnover started the Borgess cause again.

Chris Rzezniak recovered a Rice fumble for Borgess and a drive was started on the Spartans' own 41. Ten plays

later, with 43 seconds remaining in the half, Kelly spurred loose for 17 yards off tackle. The point after was blocked but Borgess had a surprising 12-0 lead over favored Rice.

With 9:31 left on the clock, Rice broke its scoreless mark. A nine play 38 yard drive was capped by a three yard run by Mike Cullen, Don Hendricks ran over a two-point play and the score was sliced to 13-8.

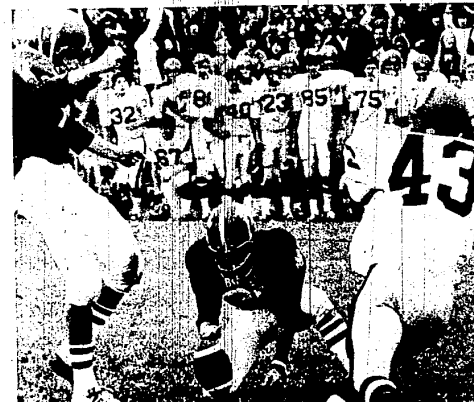
Cullen set up the next Rice score with a 46 yard punt return. Jim Livois struck paydirt with a five yard burst, a two-point play failed and Rice had the lead for the first time with 3:28 remaining, 14-13.

Borgess' final push was started by sophomore Jim Kozlowski on a 26 yard kick-off return to his own 31. Nine plays and three first downs later, Borgess had the ball on its 22 with 18 seconds left.

In came Birney, who last year toppled Bishop Gallagher with a 41 yarder, and he made good on the three point play and Borgess was the victor.

Rice collected 12 first downs to 11 by Borgess and also won the passing game, 119 yards to 97, hitting on seven of 13 compared to four of six by Dryden for Borgess.

Borgess did outrush Rice, 165 to 148, with Kelly collecting 121 yards in 20 carries to complement his two interceptions on defense.



40 YARDER COMING UP — Tom Birney of Bishop Borgess prepares to put his foot into a 40 yard field goal with 13 seconds remaining to upend Brother Rice, 16-14. Glenn Varlesi has the ball positioned for the kick. (Photo by Doug Johnson)

# Churchill Nips Thurston

It took an overtime period and one extra offensive play, but the Churchill Chargers managed to hang on to their winning streak which now stands at 10.

Churchill sneaked past Thurston High in its prep football opener, 13-7.

Thurston, which controlled a better portion of the contest, drew first blood in the second quarter. On a third down play, a long pass fell incomplete but the Chargers passer call and Thurston had life.

Eagle quarterback Gary D'Ascenzo then completed a

pass to Ray Ivey who dashed down to the 19 where Jim Wagman completed the drive with a spurt around left end. D'Ascenzo converted to give Thurston a 7-0 lead, and that's the way it was at the half.

"Thurston's line was just taking the play away from us," commented Churchill Coach Ken Kaestner.

A Charger gambled paid off in the third quarter.

Churchill had the ball on its own 42 with a fourth and one situation and sophomore tailback Matt Foster got the call, made the first down and quarterback Mark Roncoli

followed with a 27 yard toss to Foster.

"I guess the fourth down play was a bad football," added Kaestner. "I gambled, we won, and the following pass play seemed to change the attitude of the whole team."

Foster and Bill Reardon pushed the ball inside the 10 with a seven yard screen pass from Roncoli to Foster completing the march. Al

Leirstein made good the kick and with 4 1/2 minutes remaining in the third, it was seven-all and that's the way it ended at the end of regulation play.

Thurston won the overtime flip of the coin and went to the offense. Its first of four plays gained six yards to the four. Two illegal procedure calls pushed it back to the 14, and a 15 yarder made it second down and 22. A pass play fell incomplete and Churchill's Dan Lamarand ended any hopes Thurston had with a pass interception and it was Churchill's opportunity to score on four plays.

The Chargers made short work of the overtime as QB Roncoli spurred around on the first play and it was 10 straight for the Western Six defending champions.

# Plymouth Salem Romps, 35-0

The Plymouth Salem Rocks put together a complete offensive and defensive show in their 73 gridiron opener to crush Bloomfield Hills Andover, 35-0.

This makes it three straight season opening wins for Tom Moshimer's Rocks who tipped Andover in '71, '74, and blanked them last year, '70.

"Our defense really surprised me," commented Moshimer who finished at 6-3 last year. "It will get its real

test come Suburban Eight competition."

Plymouth will be going up against the Eight defending champs, Edsel Ford this Friday at home.

Plymouth Salem scored the very first time it got its hands on the ball. The Rocks marched 62 yards in 12 plays with Jeff Horton scoring the six-point and Doug Tripp making good the point after to make it 7-0.

The second time Plymouth got the ball Rick Neu made

short the offensive work with a 68-yard punt return. Mark Kraay ran over a two-point play and Salem was up, 15-0, at the end of one stanza.

A 65-yard drive in seven plays capped by an 11-yard run by Kraay and a conversion by Tripp made it 22-0 early in the second.

The half ended with Salem scoring again. This time Horton finished a 54-yard, eight-play march with a two yard burst. The point after was

missed but Moshimer was smiling a 28-0 grin.

Salem's final score came in the fourth. A 66-yard drive in 16 plays was sparked by a three-yard dash by Kraay, his second score. Horton made good the conversion

Plymouth picked up 15 first downs compared to four by Andover.

Andover was held to just 73 yards on the ground and eight yards in the air while Plymouth hit on two of five passes for 24 yards.

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