

Rocks Champions All The Way

SPORTS OBSERVER

By George Maskin

Champions all the way! It made no difference whether Plymouth High School's football team won, lost or tied against Redford Union last Friday night.

Coach Mike Hoben's Plymouth forces already had tucked away the school's sixth Suburban Six League grid title in nine years.

But there was a matter of pride at stake. All of which no doubt explains the roaring rally Plymouth staged to best Redford Union, 26-20, in one of the most thrilling games seen in these parts in a long time.

With the triumph Plymouth finished its league schedule with a perfect record of five victories and no defeats. The heartbreaking loss left RU with a 2-3 standing in the conference and a share of fourth place instead of a tie for second spot.

For the better part of three quarters, it was Redford Union's night.

RU jumped into an early 13-0 lead when the spectacular passing of Chuck Shelton set up a three-yard run by Jim Spayd for one touchdown and then a two-yard buck by Ken Wangbichler for another score.

Most teams would have folded. But not Plymouth.

By halftime, Plymouth had sliced into the RU lead when Dick Schryer ran into pay-

dirt. That made the intermission tally read 13-6 for Redford Union.

Early in the third period HU struck again. This time a Shelton pass to Rudy Speerschneider sailed 30 yards and put the ball in position for Wangbichler to crash across from the one. Spayd converted and RU held a commanding 20-6 edge.

Certainly at this stage Plymouth appeared doomed. But, the Hoben team wasn't dead.

Before the quarter ended Hugh Sarah streaked in from the 11 and with the conversion Plymouth lagged by only seven points.

Early in the fourth stanza,

Jim Dart went 32 yards for a counter. But the Plymouth extra-point try miscued. It was still RU on top. However, the lead now had narrowed to one point, 20-19.

Time was running out. With some five minutes left, Plymouth took over around its own 30. The land of gold stretched a mighty long way off. But Dart, Schryer and Sarah gulped up the ground in short order. And with a long pass from Schryer to oDn Stremick for 27 yards chipped in, Plymouth quickly had the ball on the Ruu 15.

On the next play, Sarah scampered across and Plymouth had capped a sensational comeback. It made a

little difference now when Wayne Cummings fashioned the extra point.

The defeat nullified a dazzling passing exhibition by Redford Union's Thornton. He drilled 30 aeriels, completing 18 for 210 yards. Johnson and Speerschneider each picked off six passes, while Spayd nailed three.

The game produced some other interesting statistics as Redford Union became the first league foe to tally more than one touchdown against Plymouth.

In the first period, Plymouth controlled the ball for only three plays while RU ran for 12 and passed on 11

more. It was RU passing eight times and running 10 in the second period as Plymouth ran 12 and passed three.

RU moved six times on the ground and eight times in the air in the third period as Plymouth settled for eight running plays and one aerial. In the closing period, Plymouth ran 15 times and passed twice to three RU aeriels and eight runs.

Dart and Sarah were the chief ground gainers for Plymouth which picked up 221 yards on the ground and 52 in the air. Dart carried 11 times for 84 yards, Sarah eight for 47.

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MAKING IT SHORT AND TO THE POINT:

In passing out the area's football orchids, let's start with little St. Agatha High School from Redford Township. Here's a Class D school from an enrollment standpoint which has whipped teams with Class B and Class C standing. That's the same as the Tigers winning from Denver or Birmingham.

We might add—and unhappily so—that St. Agatha officials are going to face a problem hanging on to Dave Brazil, their football and basketball coach.

Like his dad, the famed Lloyd Brazil of the University of Detroit, Dave is destined for greatness in the coaching ranks.

It's almost a cinch, he'll receive overtures from Class A and B schools in the near future. Nobody could blame Brazil if he accepted a chance to move up the ladder.

More orchids belong to Mike Hoben for the job he turned out in leading Plymouth to the Suburban Six League championship. Not too many rated Plymouth as the team-to-beat in the pre-season selections.

This makes six titles in nine years for Plymouth. You'll go some to find very many schools which can match the record.

Yes, Redford Union and its coach, John Rogers, deserve some orchids.

After going without a victory in something like 22 straight games, RU arose to win a couple in the league and make its presence felt in most every game.

It sounded funny, but really it wasn't.

Football coaches usually are the ones who come down with ulcers.

In the Jack Hudnut family — he's the veteran grid mentor at Livonia Bentley High School who moves to new Franklin high in Livonia next fall—the coach is okay, but it's his wife who has been struck with ulcers.

How does Mrs. Hudnut explain her plight?

"Simple," she says. "The coach just has to worry about his players and winning. The coach's wife has to worry about the players, winning and the coach, too."

Watch for Livonia's Knot-hole basketball team to appear on television one of these fine Saturday noons with the Detroit Pistons on Channel 7.

The kids, who are being sponsored by the Recreation Department in the Pistons' city-wide knot-hole circuit, spent a couple hours Tuesday before the cameras at Broadcast House on Ten Mile Road.

On deck, too, were several of the Pistons who offered pointers to the youngsters on how and how not to play basketball.

The youth program is a public service enterprise staged by Channel 7 in connection with the President's Physical Fitness program.

Happy to welcome our Plymouth friends aboard ship. We couldn't do so at a more appropriate time what with the Rocks celebrating the capturing of the Suburban Six League football and cross-country titles.

With the high school basketball season just around the corner, there's one new rule which you should know about.

The preps will follow the professionals in not awarding a free throw when an offensive foul is called. In other words, if Livonia Bentley has the ball and one of its players charges or blocks, the foul will be called and assessed against the guilty player.

But the opposing side won't shoot a free throw. It merely will gain possession of the ball at the nearest out-of-bounds spot.

See Bright Days

If the showing of its all-sophomore football team means anything, Livonia Franklin High School appears headed for some bright days when it starts tackling varsity rivals next fall.

Troia twice dashed around end for touchdowns. The first time he went 20 yards, the second 40. Black also engineered a pair of TD's, going 20 and 10 yards on rollouts.

The Franklin gridders have won five of their six games with two tilts remaining, against Taylor Center Thursday and then at Walled Lake next Wednesday.

Union Reserves Swamp Pakers

Redford Union high school's reserve football team found Allen Park no trouble last Thursday. The score was 26-0 for RU.

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Coach Hails Bentley Rally

Coach Jack Hudnut takes pride in talking about his Livonia High School football team.

"Sure we didn't win the Suburban Six League championship. (Bentley wound up second, each with a conference two defeats.)

"But these kids did a fine job. Remember we got off to our worst start in history. We lost our first three games. Since then we've won three out of four.

"These boys could have quit. But they didn't. And as a result they've gained considerable respectability for a job well done."

From a Bentley standpoint, it's a shame the school's griders couldn't have played every game they did last Friday night in running over Trenton, 49-0.

Trenton was minus some of its regulars because of injuries and other matters.

"But it wouldn't have made any difference," said Hudnut afterwards. "Our kids would have beaten any team last Friday night... and that includes Plymouth's league champs."

Bentley truly capitalized on its opportunities as very little went wrong for the Livonians. They had the ball for only 11 different series of downs and on seven of the occasions the Bentley forces wound up with a touchdown. They added five extra points and picked up a safety.

The massacre of Trenton started when Jim Johnson barged across from the one-yard line in the opening quarter to cap a 32-yard drive which began after Bentley has gained the ball following a partially blocked punt.

The second quarter saw Bentley count three touchdowns plus a safety. Ernie Benyon began the TD parade on a two-yard smash. Tom Handyside then broke loose on a 61-yard scoring gallop through the line. A 25-yard pass from Paul Portney to Craig Mapes produced another six pointer.

Just before the intermission, Boris Dimitroff spilled a Trenton back in the end zone for a safety.

Bentley upped the score in the third quarter to 37-0 when Steve Powers drilled a 30-yard pass to Handyside. Lanny Carrier booted his fifth straight conversion at this point.

Shortly afterward, Dimitroff enjoyed one of the great thrills which come to a lineman who seldom get their hands on the ball or make a point. He picked off a Trenton pass and dashed 52 yards to the land of honey.

To finish the night's scoring, Rick Davis pegged 42 yards to Carrier.

All that's left for Bentley is an invasion of Farmington next Friday afternoon. Bentley will catch Farmington all fired up. The letter ended a 14-game losing streak last Friday.

The kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m.

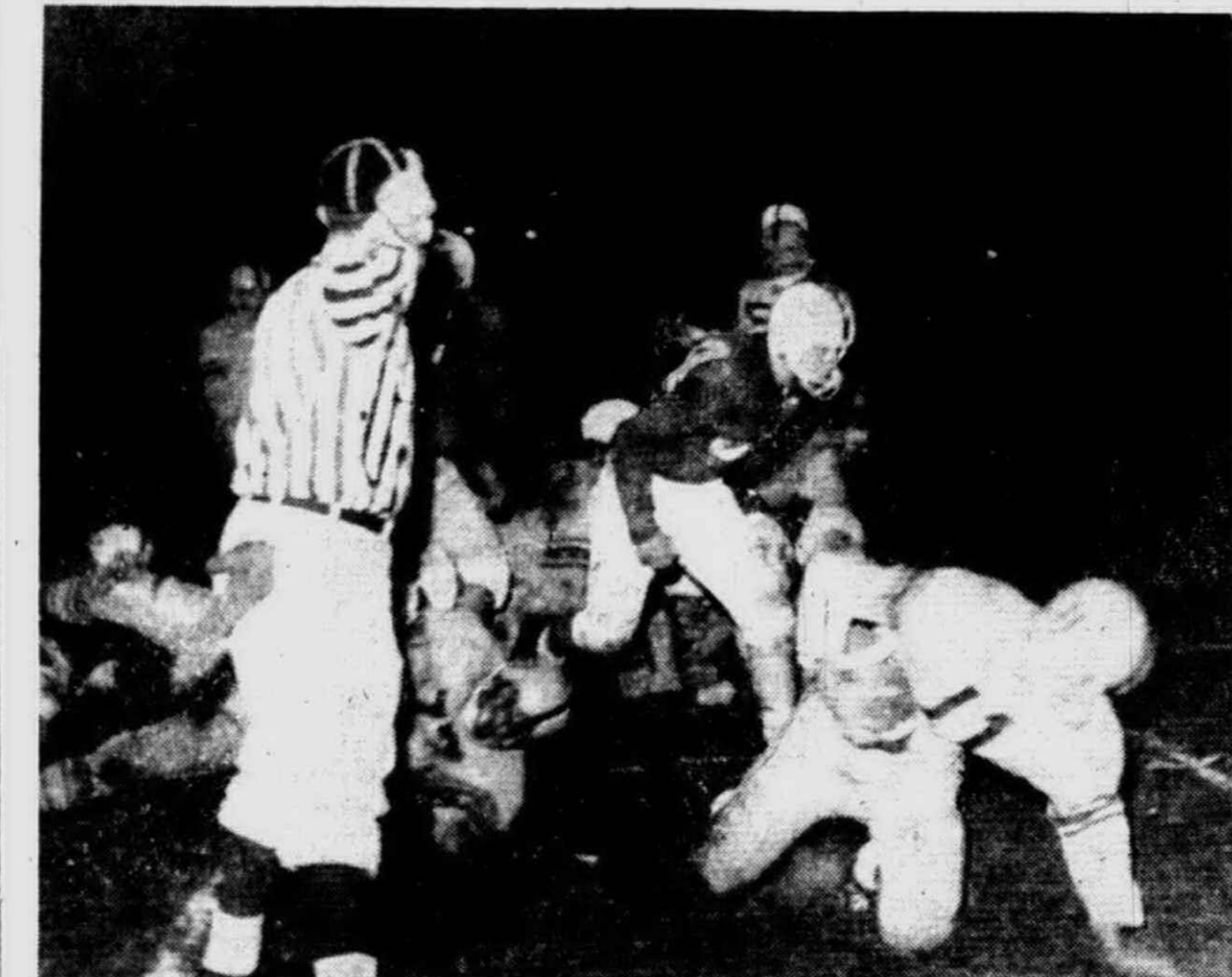
Kaufer Stars In Jays Win

Thurston high school's reserve football team accomplished what the Blue Jays varsity couldn't... the second stringers downed Lutheran West, 26-7.

Dave Kaufer was the hero for Thurston. He ran for three touchdowns on dashes of 35, 20 and 10 yards.

Harry Atkins took a pass from Tom Tanner on a play which covered 50 yards to wind up the Thurston scoring.

Tom Belton, former two-time Big Ten tennis champion from Michigan State, is superintendent of parks and recreation at Austin, Minn.



"BACK BOYS" is the order to Plymouth as Sandy Black charges ahead for what he hoped was a gain. Nevertheless Plymouth won the game 26-20. Hot on pursuit of the ball carrier is R. U. player Mike Srock.

Season Too Long

Maybe Thurston high school's football team should never have embarked on the second half of its 1961 schedule.

Everything was pretty nice for the Blue Jays in September and early October. At least they were unbeaten with two wins and two ties and figured prominently in the picture for the Mid-Wayne League championship.

But the roof fell in.

The Jays now have dropped their last three games and that's left is next Saturday afternoon battle with Redford Union for the Township championship. The kickoff at Thurston is slated for 2 p.m.

"There was a pretty good reason for our losing (20-0) to Lutheran West last Friday," declared Coach Gordon Young. "We started the game with six of our first stringers out with injuries and then we lost Keith Spicer (Thurston's fine quarterback) with an ankle injury."

Another reason—but hardly a good one—was the fumble which bestruck Thurston. Three times the team bobbled inside the Lutheran West 20 and the Lutherans grabbed the pigskin on each occasion.

And then there was the match by Thurston to the Lutheran two where the Jays ran out of gas and yielded the ball on downs.

Richard Niemi was the big gun for Lutheran West as he scored his team's first two touchdowns. He scampered 30 yards around end in the first quarter and then went the same route in the second stanza to give his team a 13-0 edge at the intermission.

In the third quarter a 50-yard gallop by Harry Dubke wrapped up the West scoring and the rest was strictly a defensive performance as far as the winners were concerned.

Thurston Coach Young is hopeful all of his regulars will be back in time for Saturday's clash with Redford Union.

"We've kicked away some golden opportunities this fall," said Young. "Maybe we can at least haul in the township laurels."

However, the ways things have been going for Thurston, the Jays must rate as a two-touchdown underdog for Saturday's contest.

Before the curtain drops on the Clarenceville campaign next Friday, an opportunity will present itself for the Livonians to engineer one of the major upsets of the season in suburban and state-prep football.

For Clarenceville has a home date with Northville's newly crowned Wayne-Oakland champs. Win, lose or draw against Clarenceville-Northville has the undisputed tucked away following last Friday's developments which saw Northville crush Clarkstone, 52-0, while second-place Bloomfield Hills was jolted by West Bloomfield.

Clarenceville will fire its star one-two punch of Ron Ridling and Monroe Ashley against Northville. Ridling and Ashley have developed into a pair of terror runners. The pair is averaging better than 12 yards per carry. What's more, each has built up a reputation for scoring on spectacular runs.

Take the game with Brighton. Ashley started the scoring with a 24-yard run. He also ran for the point.

A little later it was Ashley again. This time he went 71 yards, an effort which Ridling duplicated just before the half ended. After Ridling's run, Ashley went over for the extra point — and what a point it proved to be.

With a 20-point bulge, Clarenceville appeared to be in for a picnic.

But Brighton had different ideas. Andy Marks scooted 40 yards to the Clarenceville 2 and two plays later bounced over from the one.

In the fourth period Bob Amenson dashed over from the nine and then it was a Marks pass to Tom Barker which pulled Brighton within a point of a tie. But the conversion failed and Clarenceville escaped with the victory.

The Jug Remain's at Riley

Like Michigan and Minnesota, Riley and Whitman Junior High Schools of Livonia battle for their own Little Brown Jug each year in football.

And just as Minnesota won last Saturday to retain possession of its prized jug, so did Riley beat Whitman, 25-7, to keep the bucket for which the two junior highs fight.

It marked the third time in the five years that the schools have had the Jug at stake that Riley has taken the laurels.

The passing of Harvey Jaksch featured the victory which kept Riley unbeaten in Livonia's Junior high circuit. Jaksch hit George Cecut on a pass-run play covering 56 yards for the first Riley TD, then clinched on a seven yard aerial to John Harrison for a score.

Harrison ran 17 yards and Dennis Lopez six yards for the other Riley tallies, while Harrison added one extra point.

Whitman Junior High blanked Bryant on a pair of explosive runs. Ron Estep cut loose on a 45-yard gallop just before the end of the half. Then Bob Geisler went the same distance in the third period.

Estep ran for both the conversions.

Emerson stepped out of the league and was no match for Plymouth, bowing, 34-0.

500 Year Hopes Slim

Livonia Bentley high school's reserve football team must win its final two games of the season to finish with a .500 record.

A 13-6 loss to Belleville last Thursday left Bentley with a 2-4 mark. Larry Carr, accounted for the only Bentley score on a 20-yard run.

Belleville tallied on a punt return and short run while capitalizing on fumbles.

Bentley hosts Trenton Thursday evening and winds up at Berkeley next Wednesday night.

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