

Blocked PAT gives Plymouth Salem 21-20 win



HIGH STEPPING IT PAST the Andover defense is Plymouth Salem's Tim Dillon (24) in the Rock's 21-20 opening victory. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

Despite a 14-point halftime lead, it took a blocked conversion attempt in the final period to give Plymouth Salem a 21-20 football victory over Bloomfield Hills Andover in the season's opener — but the triumph may have cost the Rocks the services of their top running back for the season.

Doug Ward, 167-pound senior, who paced Plymouth's ground attack with 95 yards from scrimmage on 12 carries, suffered a broken right arm as he plunged inside Andover's 10-yard stripe in the final minute of play. Also the team's top punter and a standout on defense, Ward's gridiron days may be at an end.

IT WAS THE FOURTH year in a row that Plymouth had topped Andover, but the Barons came back from a sluggish first half to knot things at 14-all in the third quarter and had a chance to tie it up again after seeing the Rocks move out in front, 21-14.

Quarterback Jim Breaugh's third touchdown pass of the night, a seven yarder to Jerry Meter, brought the visiting Barons to 21-20 at 7:37 of the final period — and that's when Plymouth's onrushing line proved the difference as Terry Henderson's try for the extra point was batted down after he had successfully kicked two others.

Not only was sustained ball control the key factor in all three Plymouth touchdowns, it again proved the ace in the hole for the Rocks as they kept possession from then on and were at Andover's eight yard line at the final gun.

As dominant as the Rocks were on the ground—with fullback Scott Agnew getting all three touchdowns on short plunges in climaxing a team effort that netted 243 yards overland to Andover's 126—the Barons were equally potent through the air.

PLYMOUTH MARCHED 83 yards in 11 plays the first time it got the ball. The drive was highlighted by a

27-yard sprint by Tim Dillon and a 12 yarder by Ward, Agnew going over from the three. The first of Doug Tripp's three conversions made it 7-0.

The Rocks pushed it to 14-0 in the second period on a three-play drive that covered 64 yards. Dillon started it with a 15 yarder and then Ward rambled 43 yards to Andover's six-yard line. Agnew went in standing up on the next play.

The Barons failed to penetrate inside Plymouth's 20 in the first half, the one threat which did reach the 21 being cut off when Mike Telekesy picked off a Breaugh pass for the night's only interception.

It was a perfectly placed punt by Andover's Meter which went out of bounds on Plymouth's five that got the Barons back in the ball game after intermission.

The Rocks were forced to kick out of trouble and with first down at the Plymouth 33 Breaugh found Rick Flessland loose in the end zone for his first aerial tally at 6:26 of the third period. No sooner had Henderson's conversion made it 14-7 than the Barons came right back to score the same way the next time they got possession.

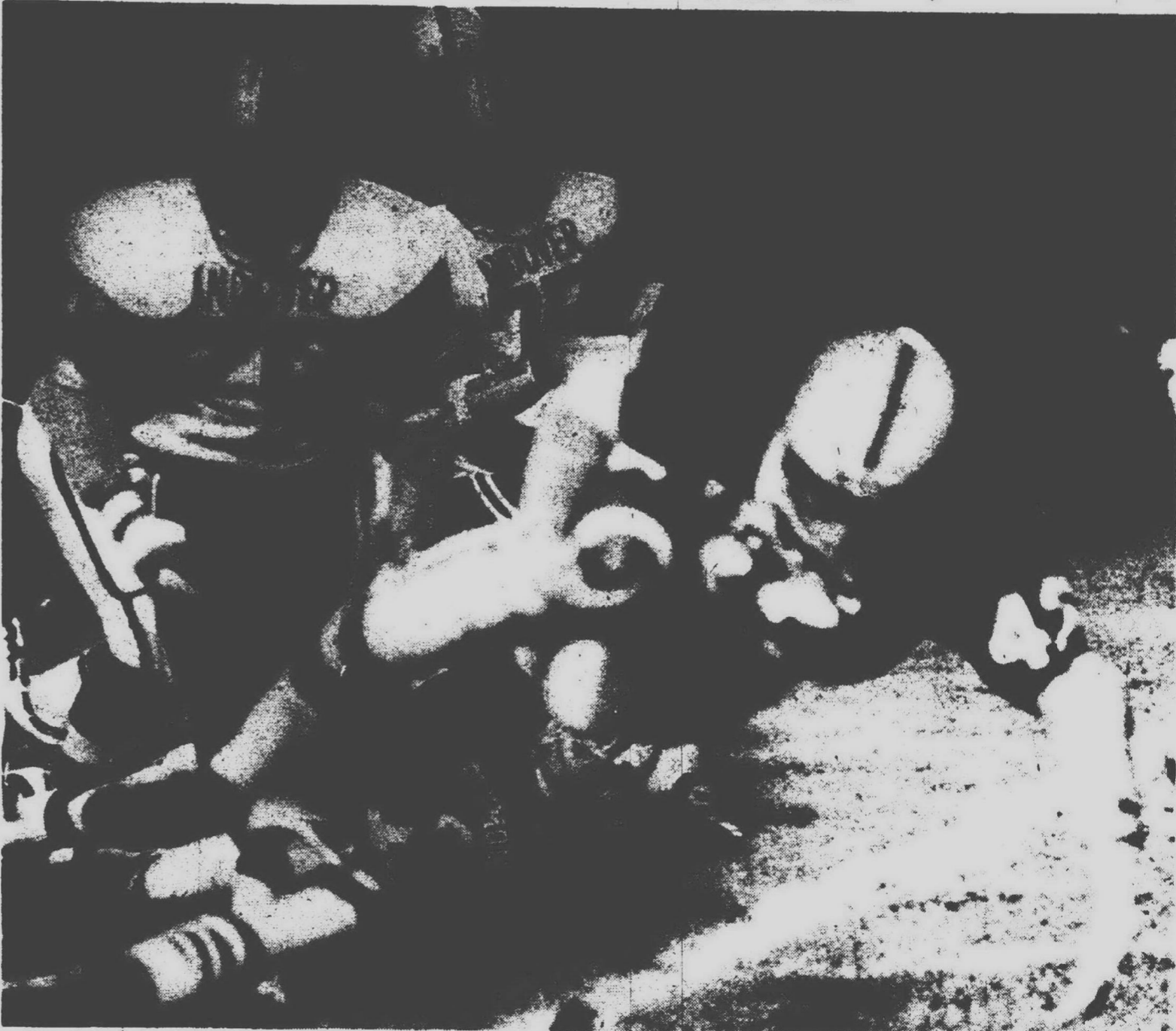
THIS TIME it was a 50-yard pitch on third down from Breaugh to Flessland that paid off and in less than

three minutes it had gone from 14-0 to 14-all.

The following series was marked by several penalties against both clubs but saw Plymouth score after starting on its own 35. Agnew got the tally on the fourth down from a yard out after an interference penalty had given the Rocks a first down at the four.

With this 21-14 edge Plymouth still needed that final block of the extra point after the third Baron touchdown to notch its victory.

With Breaugh hitting on six of 10 passes, Andover had a margin of 124 yards to 26 in the air and Bob Holway set the pace for the Barons on the ground with 68 yards on 14 carries.



SCORING PLYMOUTH SALEM'S first touchdown of the 1974 campaign is "this blur of a Rock", Scott Agnew, who tallied for all three

scores in an opening 21-20 victory over Bloomfield Hills Andover. (Staff photo)

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

In just two weeks Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley will have to announce the dates for thoroughbred racing for 1975 and then two weeks later he'll have to make known his allotment of nights for harness racing in the Detroit area and at Jackson.

The Legislature took care of that last spring when it changed the racing act and made it mandatory for the commissioner to announce the running dates by Oct. 1 and the harness racing allotment by Oct. 15. In previous years the tracks had to wait until Dec. 1 and Dec. 15.

It isn't going to be an easy task for Commissioner Leo Shirley who once again faces the problem of deciding whether to give the summer harness racing dates back-to-back to Hazel Park and Wolverine Raceway or figure out some way to give the two big tracks most of the lucrative summer programs and Northville Downs the rest.

IT'S GOING TO be interesting to see what the commissioner comes up with this time. The thoroughbred dates are almost set automatically and should find the Detroit Race Course opening the season in late February and continuing for 120 days. Hazel Park will pick up in mid-July and operate for 120 days into the early part of December.

That much is almost assured since the managements agreed on dates some time ago and it's just a question of whether the commissioner will ac-

cept them as requested or make a chance of a day or two.

The harness dates are something else.

In the first place, Jackson-at-Northville has opened the new year by operating during the month of January at Northville Downs. Then the 'Downs took over and had a relatively short winter meeting.

This year, Executive Director John Carlo has asked for 34 nights from Jan. 1 through Feb. 8 and since it is his track then one would surmise he would get the opening dates.

IN THE PAST, Leon Slavin, president and general manager of Jackson Raceway, consented to operate during the month of January for the simple reason that nobody else wanted the dates.

The situation is a bit different this year. Slavin is critically ill in St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor recovering from an open heart operation. It will be months before he is able to take charge, as he has for the past 26 years, and there is some question as to whether he will ever be able to get back to his old pace.

From Jackson comes reports that Slavin already has made arrangements to turn the operation of the track over to his daughter assisted by resident manager Robert Mathias. This duo would have charge of operations at Northville Downs when Jackson has dates there and also at the Jackson Fairgrounds.

Northville Downs also requested 54 nights starting May 12 and ending July 12 and Carlo says he has petitions bearing the names of more than 500 ready to protest to the commissioner if Northville doesn't get the summer dates.

WOLVERINE and Hazel Park reportedly requested 82 night meetings starting in late spring and carrying through late October with a four-day break to change the tracks from the thoroughbred to standardbred at the DRC and from the standardbred to the thoroughbred at Hazel Park.

In addition to the dates above, Jackson requested a 51-night meeting beginning Aug. 21 and ending Oct. 18 at Jackson and 61 nights starting Oct. 20

and carrying through the end of the year at Northville Downs.

Our information is that these are the dates requested by the individual tracks. Now we'll wait and see how the commissioner can put them together. It's a sure thing that everyone isn't going to be happy and he faces a real battle from Northville Downs if he goes ahead, as expected, and decrees back-to-back meetings at Wolverine and Hazel Park.

One thing is certain, he won't have much time to talk to the track managements as in the past. He has just two weeks to determine the thoroughbred dates which should be easy and a month to decide what to do with the pacers and trotters... and that's going to be troublesome.

NOW HARNESS RACING fans can turn their attention to the Little Brown Jug classic for three-year-old pacers this week in Delaware, O.

With the exception of Boyden Hanover, the winter book favorite who has had his ups and downs this year, those who attended the Grand Circuit races two weeks back at Wolverine Raceway saw most of the top contenders.

Ocelots bounce U-M Dearborn

Schoolcraft College handed University of Michigan-Dearborn a 3-1 defeat in soccer.

The Ocelots got off to a 1-0 lead early on a goal by Tom Teeters and upped it to 2-0 in the second half on a score by Jorhe Palma. U-M Dearborn came back with a score by Greg Pochmara with Palma's second tally giving the Ocelots a padded margin.

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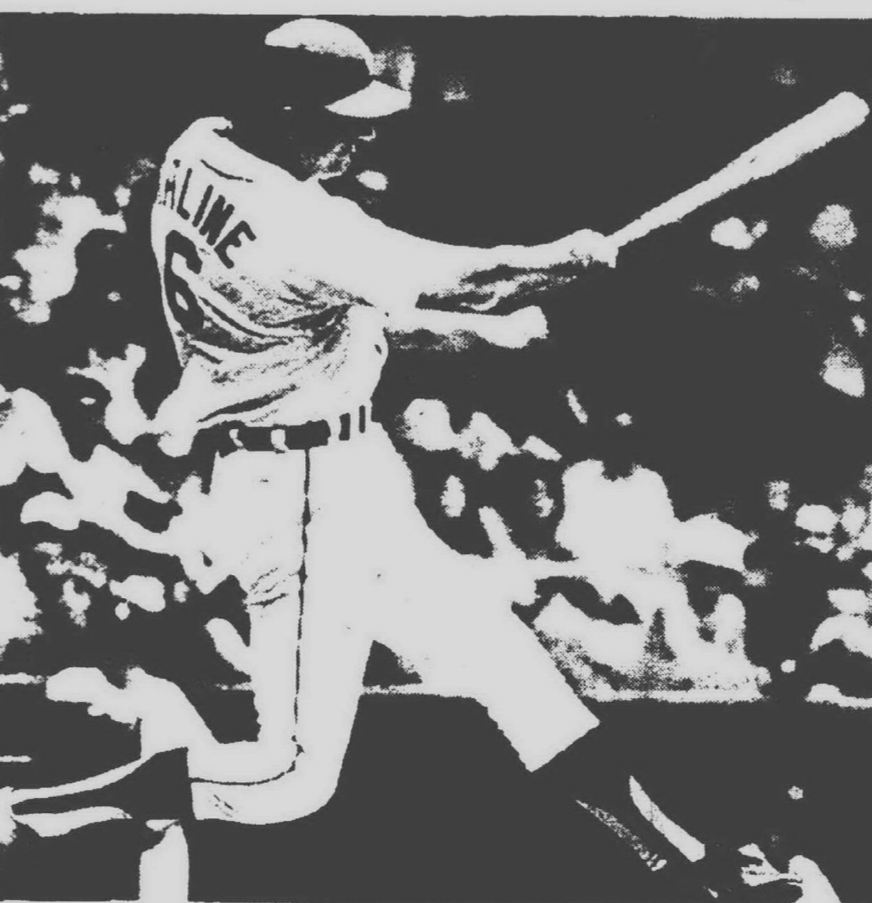


Photo by Tom Donoghue, Detroit Tiger team photographer

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