

Fumbles, Magic runs batter Elyria, 34-12

Outside game is Barberton's key to victory

By JOHN MOORE

BARBERTON — Failure to contain an outside running game plus the inability to hang onto the ball cost Elyria High's football team a 34-12 drubbing at the hands of the Barberton Magics last night before 4,500 fans in the season's opener.

The Barberton offensive line from tackle to tackle, except when a guard had to pull to run interference, hardly had a workout.

The Magics ran 45 plays from scrimmage not counting punts, with just two of the plays going between the tackles.

Operating from a winged-T formation with an unbalanced line, they ran 19 end runs with the wingback crossing over and running to the short side and not once was the play thrown for a losses while back to pass and unfor for scores.

Barberton gained 235 yards rushing while losing 73 for a net ground gain of 162. Sixty-three of the yards lost were charged to quarterback Jim Stewart on losses while back to pass and unable to get the ball away.

Retains his poise
Yet in spite of the losses, Stewart never lost his poise. He completed four of six aerials for 68 yards with two going for touchdowns.

Elyria fumbled the ball eight times and lost possession on five of the bobbles. Three Barberton scores were set up by fumbles.

Following the game, Bill Barton, Elyria coach, shook his head and said "How can you justify eight fumbles? We haven't even fumbled in practice and against John Marshall in last week's scrimmage we didn't lose the ball once."

He continued "We just got soundly beaten. Anything we say would sound like an alibi. This is the worst looking opener we have ever played."

"We felt at the start of practice it would take us three games to learn who to play where. Some of our young boys showed promise. They will have to hang in there. I don't think they will give up even if we get clobbered a couple of times. We're going to get better — I hope!"

"S-I-I" spells trouble
Barton failed to mention that sickness injuries and inexperience were big factors in last night's loss. Elyria went with two sophomore quarterbacks Dave Strickler and Lowell Cavin while Barberton went all the way with a senior letterman.

Injuries to Ken Lehman and Dave Walker kept them out of uniform while Roger Stevenson, scheduled to start at quarterback when Bob VanValkenburg was stricken with mononucleosis, played defense but his broken thumb kept him out of the offensive line-up.

Bill Balnbridge did a good job on Stewart as did Neil Jalowiec and Pete Flaherty yet Stewart was able to twist away several times to complete passes. Henry Laison and Gary Goodman played good ball. Harrison Jackson showed promise as a runner.

Elyria gained a total of 172 yards on the ground while losing 41. However, the passing attack was non-existent as the Pioneers threw three times and had one completion for a gain of three yards. Their total offense was 131 compared to 245 for the Magics.

Magics lose halfback

Nate Hagins was the leading ground gainer for Elyria with 68 yards. Al Brown led Barberton with 124. The Magics may have lost halfback Irv Cheatham, who gained 60 yards in nine carries, for the season, due to a knee injury suffered early in the third quarter.

Elyria received a set-back on the second play from scrimmage. Bob Williams returned the opening kickoff 17 yards to Barberton's 34. Cheatham circled left end for eight.

On the next play, as Elyria evidently was expecting a short yardage attempt, Brown went around the other end 58 yards for a touchdown. Stewart passed to Dan Cramer for the conversion.

Late in the first quarter, Williams recovered Houston Love's fumble on Elyria's 11 and Stewart promptly passed to Cramer for six points. The conversion failed. Craig Crozier caught Cheat-

Elyria team statistics

	Elyria	Barberton
Total first downs	9	22
Rush-Play-Play	8-0-1	7-5-0
Yds. gain	172-44	235-73
Yds. lost	73	83
Total offense	131	245
Passes att. comp.	4-1	3-1
Punts average	39	31
Pen. Yds. lost	1-15	6-39
Fumbles opp. rec.	6-5	4-3

Individual

	Elyria	Barberton
Strickler	4	10
Young	4	10
Hagins	17	71
Love	3	16
Pioneers	2	10
Jackson	2	35
Cavin	2	18
Brown	13	124
Cheatham	9	64
Stewart	0	54
Strickler	1	0
Stewart	1	0
Cheatham	1	0
Brown	1	0
Strickler	1	0
Young	1	0
Hagins	1	0
Love	1	0
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