We Worked On Kickoff All Week: O'Donnel

"We blew it, that's all there is to it, we where the ball was." just blew it

Clyde High School football coach Jim O'Donnel, disconsolate over the Fliers 26-0 whitewashing by the Margaretta Polar Bears, stood outside the door to the Flier dressing room Friday night and shook his head.

"There can be no question their two quick touchdowns really hurt us and I'm entirely to blame for the first one. It was all my fault," he said.

THE FIRST Margaretta touchdown was set up when Don Meyers recovered, the opening kickoff at the Clyde 35.

"Our linemen had been too slow dropping back to setup for our runners in kickoffs," O'Donnel explained. "So this week I told them to really get back there. Well when Clyde kicked off the ball only went 20 yards or so, but our kids were so busy getting back to setup that they just didn't pay any attention to

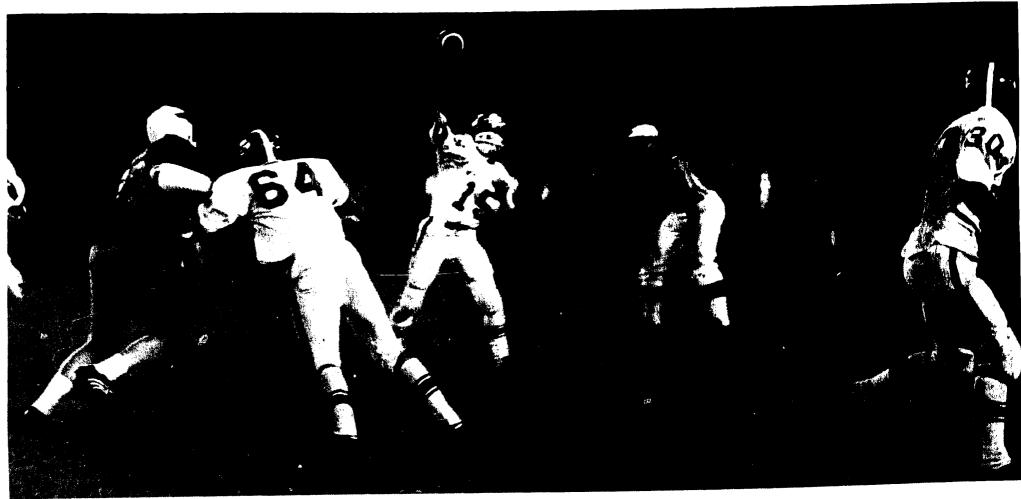
Margaretta coach Bill Lodge said he couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Clyde linemen completely ignore the loose pigskin.

"Our kids just took it to them again," the enthusiastic young coach bubbled after the game. "We played even better defensively than we did in beating Lakota last week.

"And I'd say our offense was on a par with last week. I'll just be happy it it doesn't get any worse.'

LODGE, WHO has now guided the Bears to three consecutive wins. repeated the familiar "we play 'em one at a time" when asked if he expected his club to be undefeated at this stage.

"But I'll say this, we've got by three tough ones. It's just unfortunate that they don't get any easier. It looks like they're all gonna be tough in the SBC



MARGARETTA QUARTERBACK JERRY GILL UNLOADS WITH ONE OF HIS SIX PASSES . . . Gary Lyons (64) keeps Clyde's Jeff Burkin (73) from pressuring passer

Margaretta Capitalizes On Clyde Mistakes

By CHARLIE VINCENT Register Sports Writer

Jim O'Donnel, who lives by defense, died by defense Friday night.

The Clyde Flier head coach watched helplessly from the sidelines as the Margaretta Polar Bears used an alert defense to coast to a 26-0 victory over his fliers before a packed house at time in letting O'Donnel know what kind

Margaretta High School Stadium.

It was the third consecutive win for Coach Bill Lodge's Bears and upped their Sandusky Bay Conference record to 2-0. Clyde, in the meantime, was falling to 1-2 for the year and 1-1 in SBC

THE POLAR BEARS wasted little

Gibsonburg Rips Lakota, 42-3

The Gibsonburg Golden Bears routed Lakota, 42-3, in a Sandusky Bay Conference game Friday night, sending the Raiders to their third consecutive thrashing of the season.

Lakota managed to keep it close for the first half, trailing only 14-3 at intermission. But the Bears got its offense rolling in the second half and scored twice in each the third and fourth periods.

RON MAUCH got things started for Gibsonburg, recovering a Lakota fumble at the Raider 24 and returning it for a touchdown early in the first quarter. Mauch also added the extra points on a plunge.

Lakota's only points of the night came later in the initial stanza, on a 27-yard field goal by Chris Knight.

Mauch made it 14-3 with a 23 yard run

in the second period.

Then Ted Smith took over. Smith got both of Gibsonburg's third period touchdowns, on runs of two and seven yards and Jim Stout added a two point conversion after the later.

IN THE FOURTH period, quarterback Frank LaSalvia raced in from five yards out and Jim Shull got the final touchdown from the one. LaSalvia passed to Tom Jurski for a twopoint conversion after the first of those

The Bears outgained Lakota 166 yards to 44 on the ground and completed seven of nine passes for 110 yards. Lakota failed to connect on any of its seven aerial attempts.

fell on the opening kick-off while Clyde's receiving team stood around and watched the pigskin skitter along the

With quarterback Jerry Gill expertly moving the Bears down the field it took them exactly five minutes to get on the scoreboard, fullback Don Bard getting the final four yards. Gill then passed to Bard for the extra points and the Polar Bears had all the points they were to

But the Margaretta defense had just begun to show its muscles.

Before the night was over it was to swipe four passes, recover one Clyde fumble and block a punt attempt.

Senior end Gary Borchardt was the villain of the blocked punt, crashing through to slap it to the ground as soon as it came off Joe Cooper's foot. Borchardt scooped up the ball and raced 34 yards into paydirt to make it 14-0 with 5:05 remaining in the first period. Gill's pass for the extra points fell incomplete.

MARGARETTA DIDN'T get on the scoreboard again until the fourth stanza, but the defense was kept busy in the meantime.

It blunted Clyde's first sustained drive of the night late in the first half, when Larry Esposito crashed into the Fliers' Nick Farrer at the Margaretta nine, jarring the ball loose. Denny Highlander fell on it for the Bears at the 15 and ended a Clyde threat that had started at the Flier 21.

The Polar Bears didn't allow the visitors a first down in the final half until the game was safely out of reach

of night it was going to be. Don Meyers and reserves were logging time with less than three minutes on the clock.

Gill, Don Nemitz, Dave Pfeiffer and Roger Dauch all intercepted passes for Margaretta—on four consecutive Clyde possessions in the second half. And after the thefts by Dauch and Nemitz the Polar Bears chalked up touchdowns.

DAUCH RETURNED his steal 19 yards to the Clyde 21 and it took just six plays for Gill to find Bard in the end zone with a two-yard pass. The extra point try was no good and it was 20-0 with 7:22 left in the game.

Nemitz returned the ball from Clyde's 47 to the 39 just two plays later and Margaretta was on the way to its final touchdown of the night.

Five plays later Gill hit Larry Esposito with a seven yard scoring pass and the extra point attempt again failed.

Lodge rested his regulars in the final three minutes and Clyde put together its second scoring threat of the night, moving from its 28 to Margaretta's 33 before Pfeiffer intercepted at the 15.

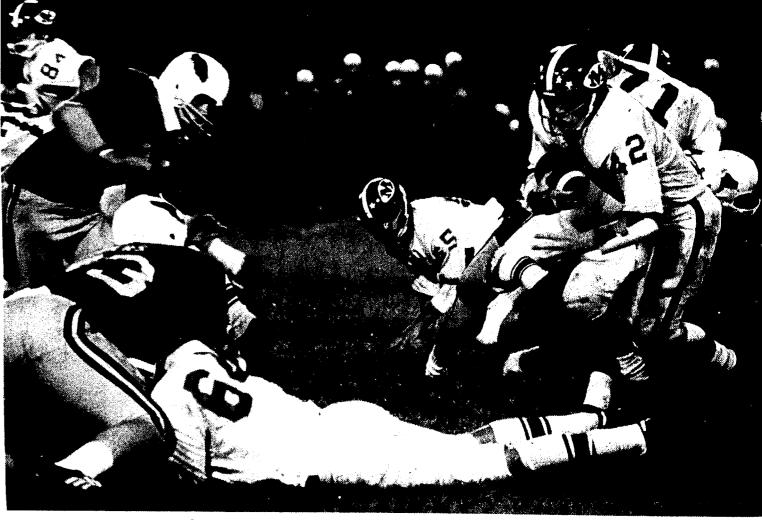
The Polar Bears just ran out the final 1:40, savoring the taste of their third consecutive victory.

It was Margaretta's first win over Clyde since 1965.

GILL, WHO puts the ball in the air only when he needs to, threw just six times, completed four of them and two went for touchdowns. He was less fortunate on extra point pass attempts, however, hitting on just one of four.

Defensively, the gang-tackling Polar Bears were led by Chuck Highlander and Larry Esposito as well as the quartet who swiped Flier passes.

David Nieset and Louis Snyder stood out defensively for the losers.



POLAR BEAR'S CHUCK HIGHLANDER FINDS A HOLE . . . behind Gary Lyons' (64) block on Clyde's Jeff Burkin. (Register Photos-McCullough)

Plymouth Rocks Crestline On Beverly's Long Jaunt

Plymouth's surprising Big Red continue to get the big play at the right time, and as a result have matched last vear's win output following a 14-6 decision over visiting Crestline Friday.

Larry Root's club bagged win No. 3 behind the sparkling play of veteran end Ellis Beverly. The win was sweet in that Plymouth avenged a 41-14 shellacking absorbed at the hands of the Johnny Appleseed Conference co-champions a year ago.

PLYMOUTH. WHICH had a 3-6-1 mark in 1968, nursed an 8-0 lead entering the final stanza. The Big Red have problems moving the pigskin in the second half and was deep in the hole again when Beverly came through with a razzle-dazzle 76-yard scoring jaunt on a broken play.

The 150-pound senior went back to punt from his own 24-yard-line on the fourth play of the final canto. The snap from center sailed over his head and the alert two-yard letterman grabbed the ball and headed for daylight.

SUDDENLY, Beverly had broken away from a host of wouldbe tacklers and raced 76 yards to paydirt, and just like that, Plymouth had a commanding 14-0 bulge. The hosts failed to get into Crestline territory, except for that one big play, in the second half.

Banquet Tonight

A banquet and dance will be held at Grotto Hall tonight for the members of the Western Security Bank softball

The dinner will begin at 7 p.m. at the

Beverly, who intercepted two passes in Plymouth's opener to guide his teammates to a 14-6 triumph over South Central tallied the first touchdown on a 33-yard scoring strike from quarterback George Lesho.

Plymouth marched 64 yards in nine plays and Beverly nabbed the perfect toss from Lesho on the one and stepped into the end zone. Co-captain Terry Buzard dashed in for the bonus points and it was 8-0.

BEVERLY'S SENSATIONAL gallop took the heat off the hosts as Crestline came right back to get back in the game. Spencer Adams returned the ensuing kickoff 57 yards to the Plymouth 10

before Corky Gomez knocked him out of bounds. Three plays later Gary Mayer knifed over from the one.

Plymouth accounted for just six first touchdowns, but still had 144 yards rushing, and 58 yards passing on three completions in nine attempts. The hosts were penalized 10 times for 90 yards and had a mere 65 yards in total offense in the first half.

Crestline, previously unbeaten in two starts, tried the airways on 25 occasions and connected six times for 94 yards. They added only 34 yards on the ground and chalked up nine first downs.

Plymouth's next encounter is Friday against winless Crestview, in its second

Hablitzel Scores 2 Touchdowns As **Port Clinton Wins**

In a game that saw all of its scoring line stands and did a good job overall. take place in the second quarter, Port Clinton came out on top, 14-7 over Oregon Clay.

Mike Hablitzel scored each of the victors' two touchdowns on identical three yard runs. Chris Wysin added the two extra points before Clay scored.

Dan Smultz took a 19 yard pass from Jerry Bullock for the Clay score and Norm Zakrezewski added the after goal

"Our defense faltered at times," Port Clinton coach Joe Lucac said after the

We really put one together tonight."

Lucac said his team did a "whale of a job for a bunch of green kids," and noted the game was a hard hitting affair. Each squad had 12 first downs but Clay led in total vardage, 202 to 175.

It was Port Clinton's second win in three games and put the Redskins back in contention in the Great Lakes League. The Eagles were highly regarded before the contest, but helped to even PC's league record to 1-1...the same as Clay who bombed Bowling Green last week 35

THE SAILORS had gone ahead with 2:30 remaining in the first period, when Mick Mayer scored from the three-yard-

with just 54 seconds left on the clock

Friday night to spoil New London's

Homecoming and give the Vermilion

Sailors a 14-6 triumph in the Lakeland

Griffen also ran for the two-point

conversion but at that stage it mattered

Conference opener for both schools.

conversion failed.

Sailors Sink New London

CLYDE QB DENNIS MUSSEL SCRAMBLES VAINLY

... Margaretta's Chuck Highlander (42) chases Flier passer

New London knotted it at 6-6 midway through the final stanza, when Bruce Ewell raced 10 yards to score. New London's extra point attempt also failed and the two seemed destined to fight to a standoff when Vermilion took the ensuing kickoff with just 4:37 left in the

But the Sailors, who had been foiled by penalized 30 yards to New London's 25.

John Griffen slammed into paydirt line. But a run for the two-point a Norwalk field goal last week, were not ready to settle for a stalemate and Griffen's smash gave them all they

STATISTICALLY, THE two teams

battled on even terms. Each rang up 10 first downs and Vermilion finished with 202 yards total offense while New London had a total of 170 yards. Each lost one fumble and Vermilion was

league and their wives. hall with dancing to follow at 9 p.m.

game, "but we held them on two goal 0.