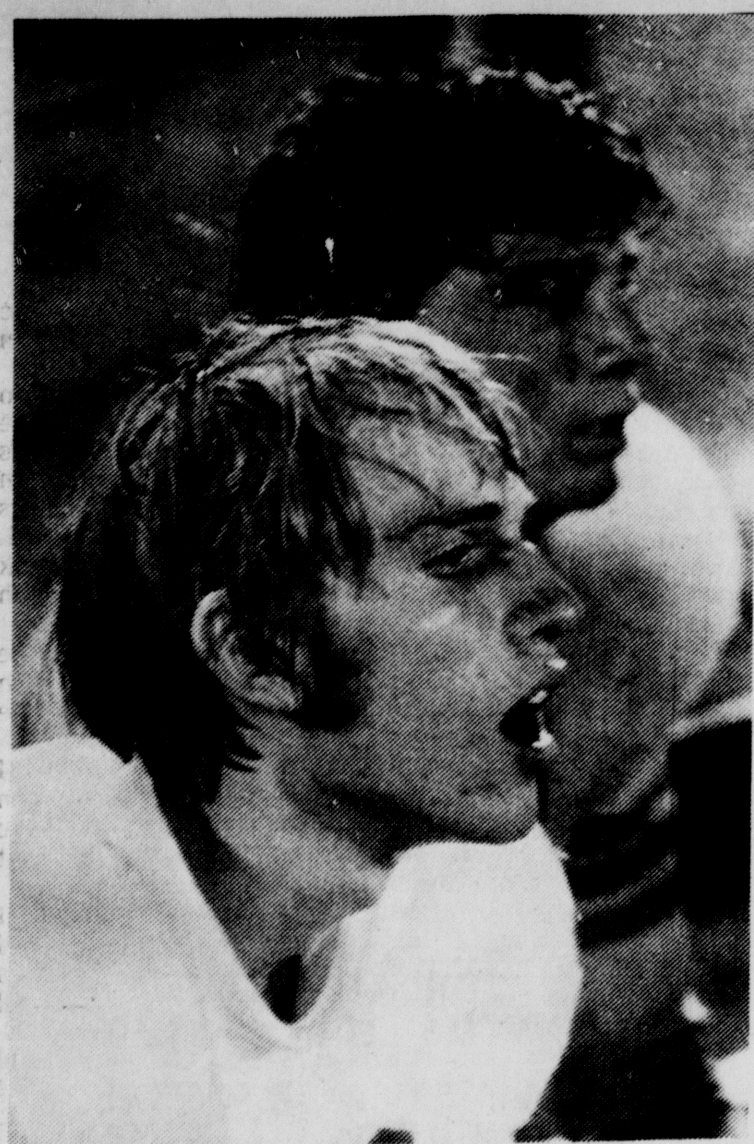




C'MON DEFENSE! — Ned Loughridge, left, and Steve Hester cheer from the sidelines while they watch the defensive squad work against Vermilion Friday night. They combined on a zany pass play for one of Norwalk's touchdowns.



GOT IT AWAY — With Norwalk Denny Harkness (37) bearing down on him, Vermilion's quarterback Jon Clark (26) gets his pass away in the third period.

Harkness bowled over Vermilion's Tim Smith (20) in getting to the quarterback while Mike Chappelear (64) starts his rush.

Twitchell, Fresch Shine

Offense Clicks In 22-22 Tie

By GEOFF HAMMILL

VERMILION — Nobody can blame Scott Twitchell or Jim Fresch that Vermilion's unbeaten string was stretched to 16 games Friday night. They gave it all they had.

Twitchell ramblled for 165 yards and two touchdowns and his fullback partner gained 74 yards. But in the end, it was the Vermilion offense which passed itself to a 22-22 tie.

The tie snapped Vermilion's winning streak but the Sailors still haven't lost in 16 games. The Trucker broke their own four-game losing streak.

The Truckers looked like winners after Twitchell galloped 15 yards for a touchdown at 9:11 of the fourth period, giving Norwalk a 22-14 lead. The momentum was with the visitors who had stymied Vermilion in the second half.

But then Vermilion's southpaw quarterback senior Jon Clark went to work, picking apart the Trucker secondary.

Following the kickoff after Norwalk's TD, Clark piloted his team to four first downs, three of them in the air. Twice he connected on fourth down plays to keep the drive alive.

After 16 plays, senior halfback Ed Griffin dived over from the one-yard-line for the touchdown and Vermilion trailed by 22-20.

Clark forsook the air attack which was Vermilion's bread and butter and handed off to Tim Smith who cracked around the left end for the tying points. Smith led Sailor ball carriers with 90 yards.

Trucker coach Bob Hart said afterwards "I thought the defense would hold them after we went ahead 15-14," Hart said. "We'll be doing a lot of work with our defensive secondary. We're not getting the rotation and the boys are getting hung up between zones."

Hart didn't feel that the Sailors should have scored as much as they did. "They should have never gotten 22 points. Their offense wasn't that good. But we will really have to work on our defensive assignments."

Statistically, this game was a complete reversal from Norwalk's 24-0 setback against Huron last week. The offense churned out yardage consistently, playing a fine game of ball-control, especially in the first quarter when the scoring drive ate up about six minutes.

The Truckers rushed for 252 yards compared to 165 for Vermilion. Trucker quarterback Ned Loughridge threw 14 times, completing six for 102 yards including a zany 29-yard touchdown pass to Steve Hester at 1:30 of the third period.

Norwalk amassed 21 first downs, 15 on the ground, a

good comeback after being held to just two last week. The Sailors picked up 15 first downs.

It was the Vermilion aerial display that ruined Norwalk's upset hopes. Clark passed 13 times and his sticky-fingered receivers, maybe the best in the area, nabbed nine of the tosses for 112 yards.

Ironically, Vermilion didn't score a point through the air.

Norwalk's first touchdown came at 4:07 of the first period when Scott Twitchell rushed eight yards for the score, capping a nine-play 88-yard drive.

Dan Kerkhoff made the kick to give Norwalk a 7-0 lead after one period. Vermilion began a drive at the end of the first period that carried over into the second, resulting in a touchdown at 9:40. Smith got the score on a one-yard buck into the line. Mark Seker added the kick.

The Sailors took the lead at 1:52 of the second period



GETTING CLOSE — Norwalk's Scott Twitchell (1) isn't going to make it to the goal line as Andy Lasko (76) closes in for the tackle. The Truckers were stopped short of a touchdown in this action.

when Seker swept into the endzone from ten yards out and then added the kick for a 14-7 Vermilion lead at the half.

Loughridge's touchdown pass to Hester — probably the poorest thrown toss of the night — came at 1:30 of the third period to make it 14-13.

It was a high wobbly pass, and a Vermilion defender and two Truckers jumped to catch it. One of them tipped the ball and when it came down, Hester was waiting for it on about the 20 yard line. He eluded one tackler on his way in for the TD.

Loughridge then found Kerkhoff all alone for a two-point conversion.

Hart explained later, "I went for the two points because we didn't want a tie. We wanted a victory. With the tie, though, I think the kids feel that they've done something in breaking their kids (Vermilion's) winning streak."

Hart lauded the performance of his two running backs but expressed concern about the loose footing that seemed to plague Twitchell throughout the game.

"He had new cleats on but he just didn't seem to be able to get them to bite in the turf," he said.

Phil White also came in for praise for his work at defensive tackle. "He looked tough on defense. He was a replacement for Jim George since Jim had hurt his ankle."

"Phil is normally a third-string defensive end but we moved him to backup tackle and he did a real good job," Hart added.

Now that the independent games are over, the Truckers next face Bellevue, perhaps the most balanced squad in the Northern Ohio League.

Bellevue dropped Port Clinton 21-6 last week and demolished Perkins 48-6 Friday night.

	N	V
First Downs Rushing	15	6
First Downs Passing	4	7
First Downs Penalties	2	2
Total First Downs	21	15
Passes Completed	14	13
Passes Attempted	6	9
Passes Intercepted	0	0
Net Yards Rushing	252	165
Net Yards Passing		102
Fumbles		1
Fumbles Lost		1
Penalties		3
Yards Penalized		35

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Norwalk 7 0 8 7-22

Vermilion 0 14 0 8-22

Friday Grid Results

NORTHERN OHIO LEAGUE	FIRELANDS CONFERENCE
Norwalk 22 Vermilion 22	Monroeville 26 Plymouth 12
Willard 6 Ontario 6	Edison 14 Wellington 14
Bellevue 48 Perkins 6	New London 6 Smithville 21
Clyde 35 Bucyrus 6	South Central 25 Seneca East
Columbian 20 Fostoria 21	Mapleton 6 Hillsdale 14
Shelby 0 Ashland 33	Black River 26 South Amherst 0
Galion 12 Crestline 8	

Seneca East Blanked 25-0

Trojans Have 1st Streak In 6 Years



SETTING UP — South Central's Guy Ebinger (18) cranks up for a first period pass while his tailback Chuck Rinehart (88) watches for any unwanted Seneca East defenders. Ebinger completed four of eight passes Friday for 50 yards.

By JIM BUSEK
GREENWICH — "We're going to make believers out of a lot of people before the season is over."

The speaker was coach Ron Minard whose South Central Trojans had just closed the credibility gap for Seneca East with a 25-0 whitewash Friday night.

Minard's Trojans made believers out of Plymouth last week with a surprise 20-6 win over the Big Red.

Seneca East was playing its first interscholastic football game in history but the Trojans were nobody's pushover. The fact, coupled with the first two-game winning streak in six years, is why Minard is looking for believers.

The Trojans used a varied attack to systematically work over the Tigers. Roy Howard had two touchdowns on short runs from his fullback position and Chuck Rinehart ran for another. The fourth TD came on a pass from Guy Ebinger to sophomore Ben Usselton.

Rinehart broke the ice with just 19 seconds left in

the first quarter to cap a 49-yard drive. He was responsible for the big play that put the ball on the five — a 31-yard run down the left sideline. After the score, Howard kicked the extra point for a 7-0 SC lead.

Half of quarter two elapsed before Howard popped over from the six-inch mark to make it 13-0. A series of penalties helped move the Trojans within scoring range.

Highlight of the night's scoring came in the final quarter when Ebinger teamed up with Ben Usselton, a sophomore end recently moved from the back-up quarterback spot. First, the 127 pound receiver snaked a pass pro-style for a 19-yard gain. Four plays later, on a fourth-and-six call from the 15, Ebinger hit Usselton on a slant into the endzone for the 19-0 lead. Howard's kick was wide.

Scoring ended with 1:09 left as South Central moved 51 yards in 10 plays with Howard again going over from the one. The kick was blocked.

In all, Minard was happy with his squad's performance. "We got off to a slow start although we tried to open things up," the second year mentor said. "We did complete a few passes in the second half so maybe we'll get a little confidence in the passing game now."

SC walloped the visitors in the stats with a 20-6 lead in first downs, a 231-30 lead in rushing yardage, and a 50-46 margin in passing. Both teams were hit heavily with penalties. South Central had 10 penalties for 80 yards and Seneca East seven for 95 yards.

Minard gets a chance to start the whole world believing when conference favorite Edison invades next Friday.

	S	C
First Downs Rushing	2	3
First Downs Passing	3	3
First Downs Penalties	2	6
Total First Downs	7	12
Passes Attempted	8	10
Passes Completed	4	4
Passes Intercepted	0	3
Net Yards Rushing	231	30
Net Yards Passing	50	46
Punts-Average	1-34	4-27
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Penalties	10	7
Yards Penalized	80	95

SCORE BY QUARTERS

South Central 7 6 0 12-25

Seneca East 0 0 0 0-0

Penalty Calls Have Fans Wondering

VERMILION — Norwalk and Vermilion fans were all scratching their heads at a pair of "unsportsmanlike conduct" calls during the Trucker-Sailor game Friday night.

The calls were the result of a new wrinkle added this year by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and came as a surprise to Norwalk coach Bob Hart.

The first call was on Norwalk following a Vermilion punt in the second period. Vermilion booted from its own 45 and it appeared that Norwalk's Scott Twitchell called for a fair catch.

Red flags flew as the referees surrounded the area where the ball finally came to rest after Twitchell backed off, not catching the pigskin.

When the referee signaled "unsportsmanlike conduct," the officials explained that a fair catch must be signalled with a

waving arm, which Twitchell evidently didn't do.

Twitchell held up a hand, the usual signal, but the referees said that the arm must move visibly back and forth. As a result, Norwalk was penalized 15 yards, returning the ball to Vermilion which got a first down on the Norwalk 40. Two plays later the Sailors scored for a 14-7 lead.

Vermilion fell victim to the same call in the third period, permitting Norwalk to march into the endzone for a 15-14 lead.

"I didn't know what he was doing," exclaimed Hart later. "At least he (the referee) was consistent in his calls."

Hart explained that he attended a coaches' meeting before the season but he had never heard of the new rule.

"No, I didn't know about that rule. And I didn't understand it when the referee was explaining it to me."

2 Mistakes Cost Edison Second Win

By DON HOHLER
WELLINGTON — The Edison Chargers made just two mistakes Friday night but both of them led to enemy touchdowns in a 14-14 tie with Wellington.

Holding a 14-0 lead in the third quarter, the Chargers gave the hosts a touchdown on an intercepted pass. A few minutes later in the Dukes final effort of the game, a Charger defensive back permitted a receiver to get behind him. It allowed a large gain that set up the second score.

Coach Jim Whittington's team completely dominated the first half. The Dukes only first down in the first 24 minutes came via a roughing the kicker penalty.

The Chargers' first touchdown came midway through the second period and if you blinked, you missed it. It was a 60-yard pass play from quarterback Gene Fernandez to halfback Dan Pritt on a first down. Kicker John Bostater converted to make it 7-0.

The Chargers struck again four minutes later, just after Wellington got a first down on the roughing penalty. Bostater broke through the Wellington line and knocked the ball from the carrier's hands. Jim Salmons dove on the loose pigskin 37 yards from paydirt.

Edison halfback Dave Dunham then covered the entire distance in just three plays with the last one going 18 yards after a well-executed trap block. Bostater converted to make it 14-0.

The Wellington pass interception touchdown came on a third and one play on the Chargers' 25. Fernandez looked over the situation and when he saw

the Dukes jump into a nine-man front, he tried to lob a pass over the charging line. The result was a 31-yard touchdown scamper by defensive back Paul Horvath.

The pass for the extra points fell incomplete.

The Chargers had a TD run called back midway through the final quarter after fullback Dan Lake raced 51 yards only to have it whistled back due to a holding penalty.

Things still looked good though when punter Dan Pritt quick-kicked 45 yards to the Wellington 29 with 2:25 left in the game. But Wellington's sophomore quarterback Mark Kepler was not to be denied the hero's role. He threw a 47-yard strike to split end Kevin Conley who drifted behind the Chargers secondary to put the ball on the Edison 13 yard line with 41 seconds left.

A running play gained two yards and the Dukes used their last time out. On the next play Conley ran a flag pattern and Kepler hit him just before he stepped out of bounds for the TD strike.

The extra points were run in by Kepler on a quarterback option.

Wellington ended up with 112 yards on the ground but gained 48 on the first drive in the second half. All 58 of their passing yards came on the final touchdown drive.

	E	W
First Downs Rushing	1	2
First Downs Passing	1	2
First Downs Penalties	0	1
Total First Downs	2	5
Passes Attempted	8	11
Passes Completed	2	2
Passes Intercepted	1	1
Net Yards Rushing	133	112
Net Yards Passing	60	58
Punts-Average	6-35.4	6-33.2
Fumbles	0	3
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Penalties	5	2
Yards Penalized	55	10

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Edison 0 14 0 0-14

Wellington 0 0 6 8-14

Long, Jones Star For Eagles

PLYMOUTH — "We threw well. We ran well. We just had a great balanced attack tonight," was the assessment of head coach Ralph Fuhrman after his Eagles blitzed Plymouth 26-12 Friday night.

Don Long passing to Ron Schaffer stung the Big Red through the air while Marc Jones and Bob Grose ripped Plymouth on the ground.

"Long was really bombing the ball tonight," said Fuhrman, "and Ron Schaffer made some diving catches that were really something."

Long "bombed" his way to a 93-yard passing total with two touchdown tosses to Schaffer and one to Marc Jones. He hit Schaffer with a pair of 20-yard scoring strikes — one in the first quarter and one in the final quarter.

Jones scored the middle two touchdowns with a 35-yard run in the second quarter to make it 12-0. He

then caught a 10-yard Long pass later in the quarter to up the lead to 18-0.

Plymouth scored its only points in the third quarter on a 10-yard pass from Ray Hughes to Rick Stover.

Along with his praise for Long, Schaffer, and Jones, Fuhrman also singled out Dennis Didion and Bob Grose for their solid play.

Didion, a senior playing his first year on the gridiron, did a sound defensive secondary job and caught a two point conversion pass.

Grose ran for 101 yards, seven short of Jones' 108 total.

	M	P
First Downs Rushing	10	5
First Downs Passing	4	2
First Downs Penalties	3	2
Total First Downs	17	9
Passes Attempted	15	12
Passes Completed	8	7
Passes Intercepted	1	3
Net Yards Rushing	224	139
Net Yards Passing	93	75
Punts-Average	2-33	1-43
Fumbles	1	3
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Penalties	5	2
Yards Penalized	70	55

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Monroeville 6 12 0 8-26

Plymouth 0 0 6 6-12