

NL 'Flies' To First Win

Every member of the Firelands Conference has at least one victory at the halfway mark of the 1975 season.

New London became the last team to reach the victory column with a sensational come-from-behind nod over Western Reserve to make homecoming a festive occasion.

The Wildcats produced more points in the first period (13) than they amassed in the first four games (8), but still had to come back to earn a 19-14 decision.

Western moved ahead at 14-13 with 10:31 left in the game, but New London roared back to forge ahead for good in 72 seconds.

On the second play after the kickoff, Rolly Schick retreated and fired the bomb to streaking end Brian Granneman who outraced the stunned Western Reserve secondary and grabbed Schick's well-thrown toss to complete a 60-yard scoring strike.

New London's defense was put through the test later in the quarter, but

finally closed the door on the Roughriders at the 25 with 3:51 left.

The Wildcats, 1-2 in the conference and 1-4 overall, scored twice in less than 2½ minutes in the first quarter.

Virgil Harris capped a 59-yard, 11-play drive with a one-yard plunge at the 4:38 mark. On the first play from scrimmage following the kickoff, New London recovered a Western fumble at the visitors' 23.

Four plays later Harris again bulled his way three yards to paydirt and Mike Scheerer added the bonus points on a kick for a 13-0 lead.

Western went to the air for its success. The Roughriders drove 67 yards in 10 plays with time running out in the first half. Quarterback Mark Strimpfel connected on five aeriels in the drive, including the payoff pitch to Bill Schnell covering the final 25 yards with only 14 seconds remaining in the first half. Schnell bolted in for the two-point conversion and Western was in the game although trailing 13-8.

The Roughriders moved ahead in the first 90 seconds of the fourth period. After being stopped at the New London eight, Western was in possession moments later after the Wildcats punted.

Coach Ray Gonter's squad drove 37 yards with Bill Burras sprinting 27 yards to the one, then hammering in from the one on the next play to send his team in front for the first time.

It didn't take Schick and Granneman long to get that score back, however.

The loss dropped Western Reserve into sole possession of last place in the conference standings at 0-3. Norwalk St. Paul and South Central are winless in two games and tangle tonight at Whitney Field in Norwalk.

Scheerer was the workhorse for the winners with 106 yards in 18 carries, while Schnell rambled for 121 yards in 18 carries for the Roughriders.

The statistics were comparatively close. New London had 235 yards on the ground to 164 for Western and the latter held a slim 67-64 advantage in passing yardage. Both teams also collected 13 first downs.

Firelands Suffers 4th Loss

In a three-year span from 1972 through 1974 Firelands compiled a dazzling 26-4 record.

Today, in 1975, the Falcons have already suffered four defeats...in succession.

Coach Jim Solomon's squad will be playing for pride the balance of the season following a 42-12 pounding at the hands of invading Highland Friday.

The loss was the third in as many Inland Conference games for Firelands.

Jim Kendal sparked the winners to their fifth straight victory, and third in a row in the conference. He personally gained 155 yards in 22 carries and scored four touchdowns.

The visitors jumped off to a 15-0 lead in the first period as Kendal hammered in from the three and Bob Jones exploded for a 31-yard scoring jaunt.

Firelands closed the gap to 15-6 by intermission. John Golden dashed 15 yards in the second period to put the hosts on the board.

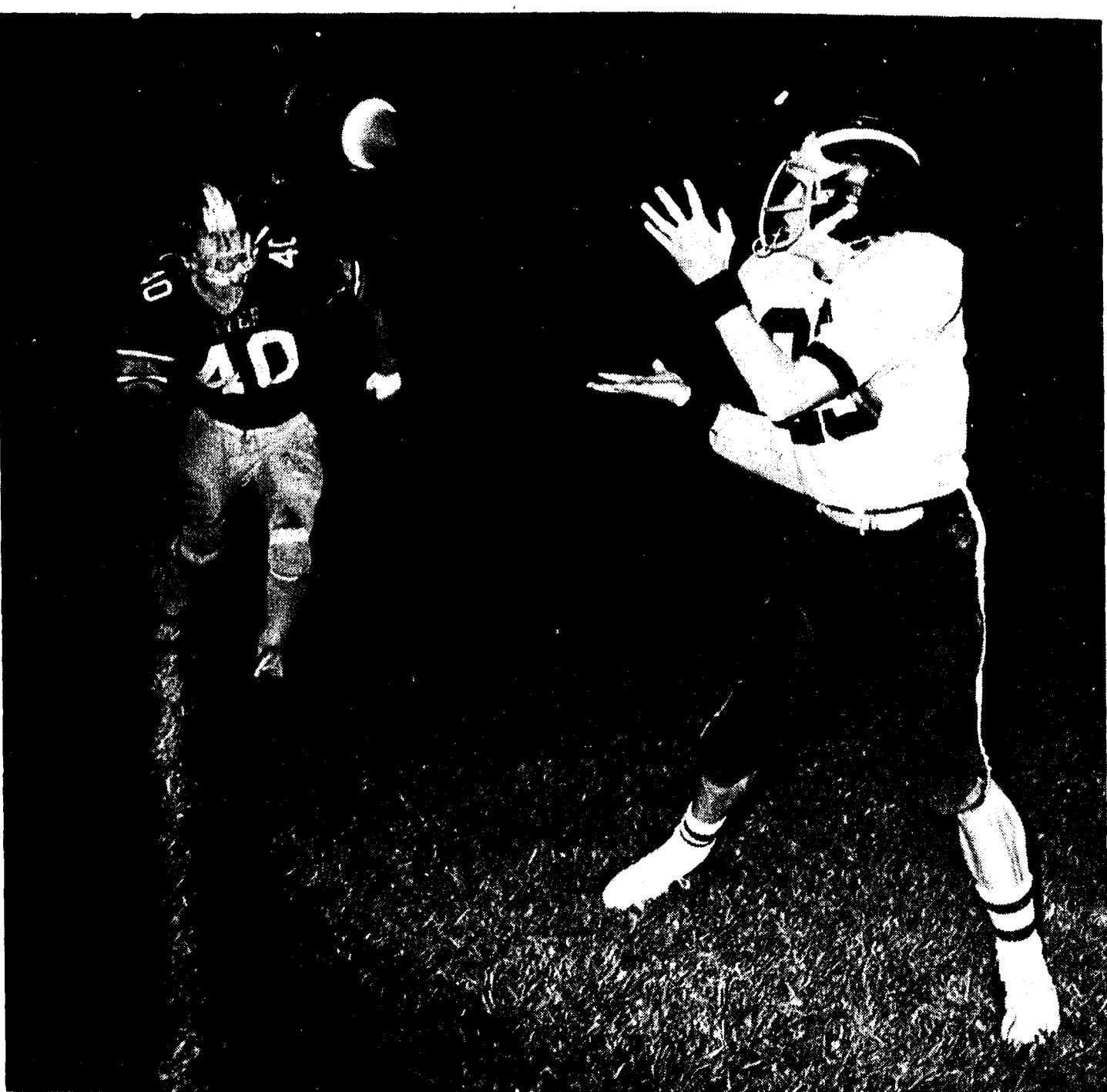
However, Kendal exploded for a 61-yard jaunt and knifed in from the two in the third period, then plunged the final yard in the fourth quarter after Jones struck paydirt for his second time.

Firelands' second tally came on Jim Billingsley's one-yard run in the closing moments of the game.

Statistics		WR	NL
First Downs		13	13
Net Yards Gained Rushing		164	235
Yards Gained Passing		67	64
Total Net Yards Gained		231	299
Passes attempted/completed		13/6	4/2
Passes intercepted by		0	0
Fumbles/lost		2/1	1/1
Penalties		3/10	3/25

SCORE BY QUARTERS		W. Reserve	London
1st		0	15
2nd		6	0
3rd		0	6
4th		0	19

Scoring:
New London — Harris, 1 run. (pass failed).
New London — Harris, 3 run. (Scheerer, kick).
Western Reserve — Schnell, 25 pass from Strimpfel. (Schnell, run).
Western Reserve — Burras, 1 run. (Pass failed).
New London — Granneman, 60 pass from Schick. (run failed).



MONROEVILLE'S TIM HAUGHAWOUT SET TO HAUL IN A MARK BORES' PASS ... Haughawout later caught a touchdown pass for temporary lead.

Black River Has 'Extra' Punch In Halting Eagles

By JIM RANGE
Sports Writer

It will take an extraordinary matchup in the remaining four weeks of the Firelands Conference season to equal Black River's pulsating 21-20 victory over Monroeville Friday night in a head-on collision of unbeaten squads.

It was a spellbinder from cover to cover, especially in the fourth chapter which eventually saw Monroeville's hopes for a perfect season end and a possible Firelands championship fade. The Eagles had won their first four games (two in the FC) by shutouts.

Slick quarterback Jim Young authored the victory for the hosts, who are now tied with Edison for sole possession of first place in the league with a 3-0 record.

Young clicked on 10 of 13 pass attempts for 119 yards, and although his effort did not outshine that of Monroeville's Mark Bores (seven of 12 for 161 yards and one touchdown), he made the key play time and again for coach Terry Forbes' Pirates.

The biggest of all the completions came with just under four minutes to play on Black River's winning touchdown drive. Young faced a second and 27 situation from his own 45 yard line, but calmly hit wingback Rod Rogers for 26 yards. The Pirates made the first down, proceeded to chalk up two more first downs and finally tallied the tying touchdown with just 50 seconds to go in the game.

In addition to his arm, Young used his toe to drive through three perfect extra point placement kicks and the final boot was the winning margin.

The Eagles' mentor complimented the Black River squad. "I would have to say they were a bigger, stronger, faster, quicker and better football team," he said.

Can anyone else in the conference beat Black River, Fornasaglio was asked "Justus," he muttered. "Just us."

The latter will have to be proven, but it was evident from the outset Friday night Black River is a strong, well-coached ball club.

Monroeville gained just 81 yards on the ground, after averaging over 200 per game since the beginning of the year. Of

course, the Eagles' shutout string was also cracked for the first time.

Black River took a 7-6 halftime lead when bruising fullback Tim Hartong raced 62 yards over his right guard and Young added the placement kick with 7:14 until halftime.

Monroeville had broke on the board by taking the opening kickoff 71 yards into paydirt with junior Tom Smith lugging the ball the final seven yards. Monroeville missed the first of two important

Bores' arm and the smooth junior found classmate Tim Haughawout open deep over the left side for the score from 31 yards out. Bores pumped the ball once, Haughawout raced past the Black River deep back, and Bores hit him with a perfect spiral.

The same combination daringly hooked up on a successful conversion pass play and the Eagles had a 20-14 spread with just 6:05 left.

Black River started at its own 44 on the ensuing drive and Young found Hamby for 18 yards and a first down to the Monroeville 38. A 15-yard holding penalty set the Pirates back with the second and 27, but Young clicked with Rogers for the big gainer.

Young connected another pass to the Monroeville 15, but from there on in it was either Hartong or Mark Hoffman barreling against the Monroeville forward wall. Monroeville desperately held the Pirates out three plays from the three, but on the fourth and goal from the one-foot line, Hartong slid outside left tackle for the score. Young's kick was perfect and the Pirates had the one-point spread.

Smith nearly broke the kickoff for another touchdown, but was caught at Black River's 46. Bores' first pass was intercepted, but penalties on both clubs nullified the play.

With a first and 25 at his own 45, Bores found Schaffer for a 15-yard gain to Black River's 30... nearly field goal range for Ted Haughawout. However, with 11 seconds to play, Bores' aerial over the middle was swiped by Pirate Dave Adelman. Time ran out on the play and the delirious Black River fans poured out of the stands.

Black River outgained Monroeville on the ground, 222-81 and in first downs, 13-10. The Eagles had the edge in the air, however.

Hauler led Monroeville with 46 yards on 17 carries. Hartong had 106 (62 on the first-half touchdown jaunt) on 17 thrusts for Black River.

Statistics		M. B.R.
First Downs (total)		10/13
by rushing		3/8
by passing		6/5
by penalty		1/0
Rushes (number)		33/43
net yards gained		81/222
average gain		2.5/5.2
Forward Passing		
attempted		12/13
completed		7/10
had intercepted		1/1
net yards gained		161/119
Total Plays (rushes and passes)		45/56
Total net yards gained		242/341
Fumbles (number)		0/5
ball lost		0/3
Penalties (number)		8/6
yards penalized		67/56

conversion attempts when Ted Haughawout's kick was wide to the left.

The big plays in the drive were Bores' aeriels to Smith for 25 yards into the right flats and to Gary Schaffer for 31 yards on a swing pass into the left flats area.

The Eagles' defense had its moments in the first half also. The brightest came with 2:46 left in the first quarter when three Black River plays from the four failed to produce a touchdown. The final play was Young's fumble that Len Leber recovered.

Monroeville pushed its second score in on its first possession in the second half. Behind Bores' passes of 13 and 28 yards to Schaffer and 13 yards to Tim Haughawout, and the best running of the night by Mark Hauler, Monroeville marched from its own 23 to paydirt on 16 plays. Hauler wedged into the endzone from a yard out on a fourth down play. Bores was sacked on the conversion attempt, but Monroeville led 12-7 with just 1:43 left in the third period.

Black River jetted right back into the lead. The Pirates drove from their 37 for the score with a 29-yard gallop by Rogers around left end and an 18-yard pass play from Young to tight end Dave Hamby the big ground gainers. Hartong again got the call on a short touchdown run.

Trailing 14-12, Monroeville got a big break with 8:12 left to play. Hauler fell on a Young fumble at the hosts' 36 yard line. Three running plays netted just five yards, so Fornasaglio decided to use

Loudonville Has Easy Time With Plymouth

Plymouth was shut out five times in 1974 and was blanked in all 10 games the year before that, but the Big Red managed to avoid being blanked for the first time this season at Johnny Appleseed Conference foe Loudonville Friday night.

Coach Mike McFarren's squad tallied its lone touchdown in the 46-8 shellacking with just 10 seconds left on the clock when Mike Weaver took a pass from Brad Thurson and raced into paydirt. The play covered 50 yards and Thurson also provided the extra point toss when he flipped to Randy Kennard.

Loudonville overwhelmed the visitors with 326 total yards, including 231 on the ground.

The Big Red, now 1-3-1 overall and 0-3 in the league, was also plagued with fumbles, losing four of seven.

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