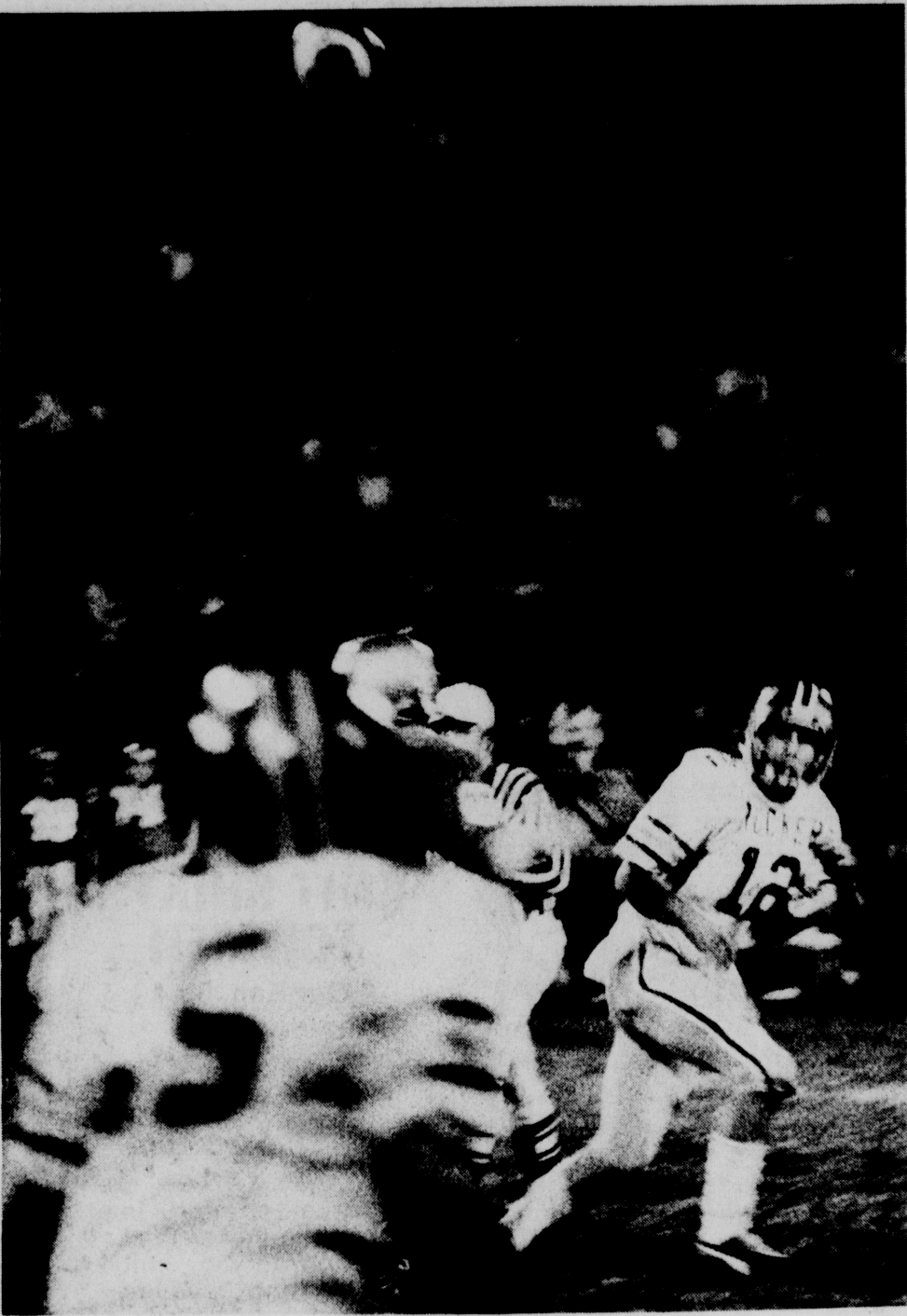




Aerial Attack

Norwalk's Wes Douglas took to the air, above, Friday night when Shelby's defense thwarted the Truckers ground attack. Protecting Douglas are Larry Leibold (44) and Eric Lendrum. After Douglas surveyed the situation he launches the pass to tight end Dave Hinkley, left in foreground. (photos by Nettie Prack)

Shelby Scores 'Timely' Win Over Truckers

By EDWARD L. RONDERS
Reflector Sports Editor

SHELBY — Some teams would rather be lucky than good. Shelby was good Friday night and Norwalk's luck was all bad as the Whippets knocked the Truckers further out of the Northern Ohio League race with an 18-7 triumph.

Shelby used the good ball control running of tailback John Armstrong to slap down a gallant effort by the Truckers to tighten the league race.

As for Norwalk, don't anyone tell head coach Bob Hart about bad luck on Friday the 13th.

"Except for a few plays in key situations we really executed well. A dropped pass, a fumble and other little errors did us in," he said.

The epitome of the Truckers' bad luck came late in the third quarter with Shelby leading 12-7. The Whippets had done an outstanding job to that point of keying on Norwalk's yeoman fullback, Jim Arlin.

The Truckers had countered with the sweeps of tailback Larry Leibold, but Arlin was able to bust loose through the middle and ramble for 24 yards before being dragged to the turf.

The jarring tackle resulted in a dislocated shoulder for Arlin. The senior standout was transported to Fisher-Titus hospital where he was admitted in satisfactory condition.

Arlin, the team's leading ground gainer and rusher, will be out the remainder of the season.

Ironically, Arlin joins his mother at Fisher Titus. She was admitted for emergency surgery earlier in the day.

"We were playing well," Hart recalled. "But when Jimmy got hurt the kids got down a little. But I give them credit, they fought back."

The Truckers had to fight back early in the game due to some costly mistakes.

After holding Shelby on its first offensive possession, Craig Colvin gathered in the Whippet's punt and streaked 62 yards down the right sideline for a touchdown. The play was called back however because of clipping.

The Truckers then failed to move the ball on their next two possessions as the two squads were jousting for field position throughout the most of the first quarter.

But Shelby got untracked late in the opening stanza behind the powerful running of Armstrong. Starting at the Shelby 35, Armstrong took a pitch and gained eight yards and then went up the middle for 16 more.

After a jaunt by fullback John Lewis, which gained one yard up the middle, Armstrong turned on the jets and roared 23 yards to the Trucker 17.

On second and 10, Armstrong then bolted 11 yards up the middle to the Norwalk six.

An illegal procedure penalty wiped out a certain Shelby touchdown. But Whippet quarterback Pat Rose rolled right on the next play and found Jerry Roth in the end zone with 1:02 remaining in the quarter to put Shelby on top 7-0.

Rose's pass for the extra point failed.

The Truckers then took to the air to overcome the deficit in the second quarter.

Starting from their own 13, the Truckers moved down the field swiftly, combining the deft passing of Wes Douglas and the determined running of Leibold.

Norwalk navigated the 87 yards in 10 plays, including four consecutive pass completions by Douglas.

On a third and six at the Norwalk 36, Douglas found slot end Gary Wilde with a perfect spiral which Wilde took to the Shelby 28.

Three more plays advanced the pigskin to the Shelby 15 where Douglas went to the air again and found Craig Colvin in the right corner of the end zone with 1:54 remaining.

Arlin booted through the extra point (his final one of his high school career) and Norwalk carried a 7-6 lead into the lockerroom at the half.

What happened in the lockerroom during the intermission remained a mystery.

The Truckers were slow coming out for the second half and were penalized 15 yards on the kickoff for delay of the game.

"I didn't realize we were late coming out," Hart explained. "The officials came in and told us we had four minutes left. We looked at our watches with a minute and a half to go and went out on the field. Then they should have given us another three minutes to warm up, according to the rules," Hart explained.

The officials didn't give the Truckers the additional time and the two squads lined up for the kickoff with Shelby booting from Trucker 45.

The ball sailed to the Trucker 10 where Colvin tried to pick it up. But the speedy slot end fumbled the ball and Steve Arnold fell on it at the Trucker two.

Norwalk wasn't intimidated however, and the defense rose to the heights of determination forcing Shelby into a fourth and one at the one.

After a time out, Armstrong crashed over the middle to put Shelby ahead for good, 12-7. The point after failed.

The Whippets continued to bottle up Arlin and the Trucker offense until Arlin's fatal run midway in the third quarter.

"They were keying on Jimmy like bandits," Hart said.

"We were running Leibold to set up Jimmy and not vice versa," he added.

Norwalk's deepest penetration in the second half came early in fourth quarter when Douglas hit Leibold with a screen pass to the Shelby 47. But on the next play, Douglas fumbled the snap and Shelby recovered.

The Whippets added another touchdown late in the fourth quarter on a 66-yard, six-play drive.

Armstrong capped off his evening by slicing over from the two.

"Armstrong sold me tonight," Hart said of the 179-yard effort by the Shelby tailback. "Either he's the best back we've faced this year or I'd have to admit that our kids are lousy tacklers and I won't do that," Hart exclaimed.

"The key errors on our part kept us in the hole and their touchdown early in the third quarter were the difference."

"They brought their second monster back up," Hart explained of the Truckers offensive problems. "Then they had a two corner defense as soon as we started hitting on the short side with our sweeps. So we went to the long side."

"And just before Jim got hurt, we had him set up the middle," Hart concluded.

The loss drops Norwalk to 2-2 in the NOL.

Shelby has a first place showdown next Friday when the Whippets travel to Galion. Galion shares the top spot with Shelby, with its matching 4-0 mark.

Bowling

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8. Monroville Marine	13-11
9. Belle Enterprise	13-11
10. Adobe Style Salon	13-11
11. Norwalk Furniture	12-12
12. Battles	

44 Yards Rushing

By RUSSELL V. LEFFLER

PLYMOUTH — The rugged Clear Fork defense shut out the Big Red's homecoming, taking a hard-earned 13-0 victory Friday night.

The Big Red dominated much of the early going, but could never quite find that last hole in the Colts' defense. Plymouth's second offensive possession provided much of the excitement for the large crowd, and gave the Big Red field advantage for almost the entire first half. Plymouth got that chance when its iron five defensive front smeared the Colts' Greg Sharp on fourth and three.

Operating from his own 31, Plymouth quarterback Jim Robinson handed the ball to burly fullback John Ross on a belly play. Ross burst through the line and rambled 30 yards to the Colt 29. Plymouth continued to move, gaining a first down at the Colt 14. On third and three, a halfback sweep seemed to netted a first and goal at the three only to be called back by a holding penalty. The subsequent field goal attempt was very high but very short and the ball rolled dead inside the Colt one.

Clear Fork then showed why they are an excellent football team as they moved the ball out of the shadows and punted out to midfield. The Colt defense then reared its awesome head for the first time, and two Plymouth plays lost eight yards. A quick kick by John Ross rolled dead at

the Clear Fork 16 and again Plymouth had Clear Fork backed up. The Big Red defense held, and on the strength of a 27 yard pass play Plymouth moved to the Colt 10 on Plymouth next offensive series.

But Clear Fork's defense stiffened, and another field goal try was low to the left.

It seemed that the teams were destined to battle to a scoreless first half, but an exchange of punts gave Clear Fork their best field position since their initial possession. With only 3:00 remaining the Colts were 62 yards from paydirt. Suddenly the four talented Colt runners were galloping for yardage. With a pass thrown in for 24 yards, senior quarterback Rob Fellure expertly guided his team to the Big Red three with 55 seconds left. Two plays netted only a yard and it looked as if time were going to run out. However, a Plymouth player was shaken up and the Colts were able to set up during the time out. Rolling left, instead of right, Fellure hit tight end Dave Carroll with a perfect toss at the back of the end zone. Only three seconds remained on the clock when Jerry Layfield rammed through the extra point to give Clear Fork a 7-0 half-time margin.

Then the Colt defense seized command. Adjustments were made at half-time to deal with the wide splits used by Plymouth. As well the superior strength began to tell as the game moved into the late stages. Plymouth coach Mike McFarren acknowledged the chance for winning

grew less as the game went on. "They outmuscled us all along the line, and when that happened we went to the pass. We had to; that's why we went to the pass even before they scored their second touchdown. And then you saw what happened," he said.

What happened was five quarterback sacks and lots of negative yardage.

As well the Clear Fork offense controlled the ball with running back Kurt Hahn proving very difficult to bring down. Plymouth had its best chance to score in the second half when a fumbled exchange was pounced on at the Colt 18. But a fourth down completion was five yards short of the end zone.

Clear Fork scored in the second half by capitalizing on opportunity. In the fourth quarter with Plymouth getting desperate, Dave Carroll picked off a Big Red pass and returned to the 25. Those yards were swept over in five plays with quarterback Fellure sweeping left for the final seven. The kick failed, but the game was sealed 13-0. Plymouth did connect on a 40 yard pass play after that—from Robinson to Tim Berberick, but the drive ended in a humiliating pass rush. But Plymouth has nothing to be ashamed of. It was almost an error free game, and Clear Fork was just a little bit stronger in every department. The Big Red tries to get back to winning against Lexington next week.

Galion Trips Rams; Shelby Showdown Next

UPPER SANDUSKY — Galion increased its Northern Ohio League record to 4-0 Friday night when the Tigers defeated Upper Sandusky, 28-20.

Neither team gained an advantage until the second quarter when Galion's Jim Householder started things moving on a two yard scoring run. Bob Ford kicked the point after.

Moments later, Dave Agee went 25 yards for the touchdown, however the extra point conversion pass was incomplete.

Galion's scoring surge carried on early into the third quarter when Kirk Beach took

the ball in from the 15 to score. Beach ran in the conversion play to give the Tigers a comfortable 21-0 lead.

Upper Sandusky started its comeback in the third quarter when Russ Young pilfered a Tiger pass and returned it 23 yards to score.

Tim Lautermilch scored the Rams second touchdown on an eight yard pass from Troy Turley in the fourth quarter. The point after run failed.

Galion pits its 4-0 record against undefeated Shelby in the NOL showdown next week. Galion also has a 4-0 league mark.

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