

Margaretta does balancing act on Port Clinton

By EDD PRITCHARD
Staff Writer

PORT CLINTON — It was a balancing act any football coach would envy.

With 269 yards rushing, 116 yards passing and a defense that bent but only broke once, Margaretta moved to 8-0 on the season — 4-0 in the Sandusky Bay Conference — with a 35-14 win over Port Clinton.

Port Clinton, 2-6 and 1-4 in the conference, was spotted a 7-0 lead with 8:27 left in the second quarter. But before the half was over, Margaretta had a comfortable 21-7 cushion.

The Polar Bears just don't like being on the short end of the score, Coach John Zang said.

"What it did was make us that much more determined," Zang said.

It's not that the Polar Bears were not trying in the first quarter. The defense made cer-

tain Port Clinton's biggest plays were punts, while the offense mounted two long drives.

But try as they might, the Polar Bears couldn't put points on the board and keep them there.

There was a 58-yard, 12-play drive that ended with no points. Another drive featured a touchdown by fullback Tim Yeager, but a clipping penalty canceled the points.

Port Clinton running back Chris Goebel finally found some chinks in Margaretta's defense as the second half started. In four carries he moved the ball from Port Clinton's 24 to Margaretta's 41.

Quarterback Doug Cooper bootlegged to his left for 18 yards and passed to Tom Shepperd to put the Redskins on the 9-yard line.

At that point Margaretta's defense stiffened again, forcing

one incomplete pass before sacking Cooper for an 8-yard loss.

Port Clinton finally scored when John Crisologo passed to Shepperd, who battled two defenders before coming down with the ball.

With the Redskins went on top, coach Don Drusbacky was optimistic.

"I really thought we had some good things going," Drusbacky said.

But after the extra point, it was all Margaretta. The scoring was fast and furious.

Two plays after Port Clinton's touchdown, Joe Miller ripped through a gaping hole on the left side, cut left and sprinted 48 yards down the sidelines for Margaretta's first touchdown. No one came close to tackling him.

After forcing a punt, Margaretta had the ball on Port

Clinton's 37. On the first play, Yeager tried to get back his lost touchdown, breaking through the right side for 36 yards. He was caught at the one, but went in for the score two plays later.

Margaretta got the ball back when a Cooper pass bounced off Shepperd into the hands of defensive back Mike Coukart. Quarterback Mike Coukart then directed a 7-play, 28-yard drive that ended when he found Mark Ambrose open in the end zone.

Port Clinton's only other score came in the third quarter after Ambrose ran seven yards to put Margaretta ahead 28-7.

Ambrose, who had launched three first-half kickoffs into the end zone, kicked short. David Libben scooped up the ball and charged up the right sideline toward a crowd.

Libben negotiated his way through the pack. Breaking tackles, Libben picked up

blockers who took care of Ambrose and opened a lane toward across the field. Libben cut right and sprinted into the end zone.

Ambrose and Coukart closed out the scoring as the third quarter wound to close.

Coukart lofted a perfect pass and Ambrose — who beat two defenders as he sprinted down the sideline — hauled the ball in over his shoulder.

"We did some things tonight that we hadn't done for three weeks. We were balanced and unified," Zang said after the win, his team's first ever on Port Clinton's field.

Zang was confident his offense could attack Port Clinton. He put every weapon to work.

Miller rushed for 130 yards in 18 carries, while Yeager had 80 yards in 12 carries. Coukart completed 11 of 18 passes, including five to Ambrose.

"We're achieving the offen-

sive balance we're capable of," Zang said.

Margaretta's only glaring problem was penalties. The Polar Bears had eight for 90 yards. Besides nullifying a touchdown, several other good offensive plays were called back.

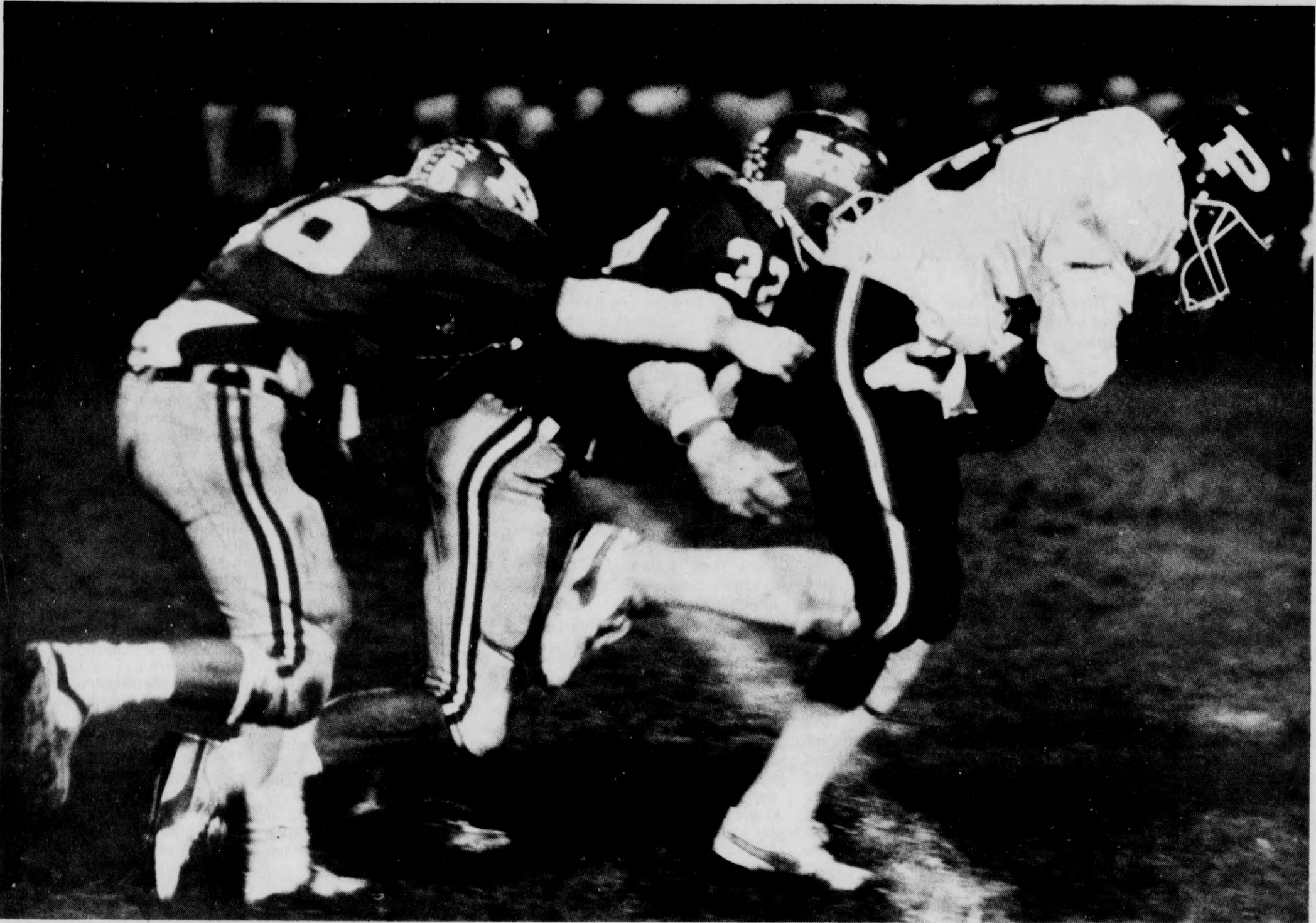
But the way Margaretta played, the penalties seemed like nothing more than distractions to the Polar Bears.

Every time the Polar Bears lost yardage to a penalty, the offense gained it back, said Drusbacky.

"I don't think the penalties really bothered them that much," he said, adding that Margaretta's aggressive play attributed to the mistakes.

But, Zang does not want to see his teams making those mistakes.

"We had too many penalties," Zang said. "We have to eliminate those."



Register photo — STEVE LOWRY

Perkins sophomore Lonell Taylor, right, surges forward as two Huron defenders close in. Scott Mamere (32), with help from a teammate, is making the stop for the Tigers who suffered a 7-0 loss in the Sandusky Bay Conference battle Friday night.

Early score holds up as Pirates blank Huron

By DAN ANGELO
Staff Writer

HURON — Ked Varble wanted his Perkins squad to play the role of spoiler the rest of the Sandusky Bay Conference season, and at this point he is getting his wish.

The Pirates turned a blocked punt into a touchdown and made it stand as Perkins upset Huron 7-0, for the Pirates second straight shutout of the Tigers.

"We knew we went in with the spoiler role," Varble said, "but

tonight our defense played fantastic, terrific, or whatever adjective you can find."

Midway through the first quarter, Huron was forced to punt on their own 46-yard line. Mick Schell broke through the line and blocked the Tim Esposito punt and Don Spence scooped it up at the Huron 26 and raced in for the score. Corey Bammer booted the point after to make the score 7-0.

"We had our punt return on, but if the other team lays back

we go for the block," Varble said. "I didn't think that the seven points would hold up with an offense as explosive as the run-and-shoot, but the longer we played excellent defense, the better I felt."

The Tigers were stymied through most of the game. They were able to mount one long drive early in the third period. Huron marched the ball 78 yards in 19 plays. With second-and-goal at the Perkins' ten, Jarret Barnes broke away from the line

and headed for the end zone. Perkins' Fred Hannah jarred the ball loose and the ball squirted into the end zone where the Pirates recovered it.

"We didn't play well at all," said Huron Coach Tony Munafo, who saw his team fall to 3-2 in the SBC (5-3 overall).

"On our on good drive of the game, we blew it," Munafo added. "Obviously neither offense or defense lost this game. The blocked punt won it for them, plus I thought that Perkins

played pretty good defense."

Huron lost on the night that their new scoreboard was dedicated. Coca-Cola Bottling Co. donated the scoreboard, while many Huron-area civic groups paid for the installation and Barnes Nursery installed the landscaping.

The Perkins' ball-control offense did the job, as the Pirates gained 104 yards on 45 carries. Lonell Taylor led the attack with 41 yards in 16 tries.

"Our offense didn't do a bad job tonight," Varble said. "We've had some key injuries with our starting fullback, Dennis Neate, out. On defense, Mick Schell had a great game. Besides the blocked punt, he led the team in tackles."

Huron was unable to get much going on the ground, gaining just 60 yards in 18 carries. Pat Lagando passed 35 times and completed 16 for 166 yards. Lagando was picked off twice.

Lagando's second interception ended the Tigers last chance to score. Huron had moved to the Perkins 36 in four plays when Shane Burrows stepped in front of the throw for the Pirates, with 1:05 left to play.

"Our timing was off," Munafo said. "We threw an awful lot of passes. Maybe we got away from the running game too soon."

Munafo, ever the optimist, found a ray of light in the defeat.

"The only thing that this loss does is knock us out of the conference race, but we won't lose many computer points," said Munafo. "We just have to re-adjust our goals."

Next Friday, Perkins (3-5, 2-3) goes against Clyde at the Pirates home field, while Huron travels to Oak Harbor.

Oak Harbor downs Edison to stay in SBC race

MILAN — Oak Harbor remained just one game off the pace in the Sandusky Bay Conference race as they downed Edison 27-13 Friday evening.

The Rockets (7-1, 4-1) got a standout performance by senior Dwayne Weirick as he rushed for 99 yards in 20 attempts and scored all four of the Oak Harbor touchdowns.

The first score of the night came with 6:36 on the clock as Weirick capped off a two play, 12 yard drive with a one yard run. John Benner booted home the conversion to make it 7-0.

The Chargers (3-5, 1-4) came back to tie the score with Steve Houser scoring from the one with 8:14 left in the first half. Edison had put together a 14 play, 80 drive, for the score. Houser added the placement to make it 7-7.

The Rockets put a sustained drive of their own together marching 74 yards in 10 plays with Weirick once again going in from the one. This time the kick was wide and it was 13-7 with 3:36 left.

The Rockets rushed for 224 yards in 43 attempts while Edison recorded 178 in 40 attempts. In the passing department Oak Harbor went 3-for-9 for 35 yards while the Chargers managed 3-for-7 and just 17 yards.

"We had our punt return on, but if the other team lays back

Total plays	65	42
Total Net Yards Gained	385	169
Fumbles (number)	1	1
ball lost	1	1
Penalties (number)	8	2
yards penalized	90	20

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Margaretta	0	21	14	0
Port Clinton	0	7	7	0
Scoring:				
Port Clinton — Tom Shepperd, 17 pass from Mark Crisologo. (Jim Stegeman, kick).				
Margaretta — Joe Miller, 48 run. (Mark Ambros, kick).				
Margaretta — Tim Yeager, 1 run. (kick failed).				
Margaretta — Ambros, 13 pass from Mike Coukart. (Keith Keegan, pass failed Coukart).				
Margaretta — Ambros, 7 run. (Ambros, kick).				
Port Clinton — Dave Libben, 73 yard kick off return. (Stegeman, kick).				
Margaretta — Ambros, 33 pass from Coukart. (Chris Leibacher, kick).				

STATISTICS			P	H
First Downs (total)			9	15
by rushing			9	6
by passing			0	8
by penalty			0	1
Rushes (total)			45	18
net yards rushing			104	60
passes attempted			4	35
passes completed			2	16
had intercepted			1	2
net yards passing			20	166
Total plays			49	53
Total Net Yards Gained			124	226

Fumbles (number)	1	2
ball lost	0	2
Penalties (number)	5	4
yards penalized	55	20

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Perkins	7	0	0	0
Huron	0	0	0	0
Scoring:				
Perkins — Don Spence, 26 yard return of blocked punt. (Corey Banner, kick).				

STATISTICS			SM	C
First Downs (total)			8	17
by rushing			2	13
by passing			4	4
by penalty			2	0
Rushes (total)			17	56
net yards rushing			38	221
passes attempted			25	10
passes completed			11	7
had intercepted			2	0
net yards passing			96	117
Total plays			42	66
Total Net Yards Gained			134	338
Fumbles (number)			1	0
ball lost			1	0
Penalties (number)			1	6
yards penalized			5	57

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
St. Mary's	0	0	0	0
Clyde	7	14	7	0
Scoring:				
Clyde — Bruce Helmes, 4 pass from Wendell Baker. (David Gregg, kick).				
Clyde — Baker, 1 run. (Gregg, kick).				
Clyde — Gail Cunningham, 2 run. (Gregg, kick).				
Clyde — John Esquivel, 1 run. (Gregg, kick).				

Black River maintains lead in FC

PLYMOUTH — Black River survived an early scare, but the Pirates came on to take a 22-7 Firelands Conference win over Plymouth. The victory leaves Black River on top in the conference race with an unblemished 6-0 FC mark. The Pirates are 7-1 overall.

Plymouth opened the scoring when Steve Hall bulled over from the one after the Big Red marched 63 yards in 13 plays. Randy Myers' boot put Plymouth on top, 7-0.

Black River got a break when a Plymouth punt misfired and left the Pirates on the Big Red 29. Six plays later, Steve Trezinsski dashed in from seven yards out. Matt Pfeiffer converted the two-pointer to put Black River ahead for good, 8-7.

Pfeiffer added a four-yard scoring run late in the third quarter, as Black River took advantage of a Plymouth fumble at the Big Red 29.

The Pirates finished the scoring with 3:41 remaining in the game when Greg Channel broke away for a 26 yards touchdown gallop, and then he added the two-pointer.

Black River dominated the game on the ground with 200 yards rushing. Billy Castle led the Pirate charge with 78 yards in 15 carries. Black River also added 46 yards through the air.

Plymouth (3-5, 1-5), only had 130 yards total offense. The lone bright spot was Randy Jordan, who carries the ball 15 times and picked up 86 yards.

St. Paul 28 South Central 14

GREENWICH — St. Paul and South Central were locked into a see-saw battle for the first half, then the Flyers found the key to stop the Trojans and gained a 28-14 Firelands Conference win.

St. Paul moves to 4-3 in the FC, with a 4-4 overall mark, while Soth Central falls to 2-5 in the conference and 4-5 for the season.

St. Paul struck first, as Jeff Nickoli scored the first of two Flyr touchdowns. Larry Fisher's kick made it 7-0.

South Central roared back with two consecutive scores to take the lead. Steve Dotson, the games leading ball carrier with 122 yards in 21 carries, went over from the three and Randy Kinney added the point after to knot the score with 4:04 left in the half.

The Trojans took the lead with just over a minute left in the half as Mike Lowery bulled over from the one. Kinney's booted made the halftime score 14-7.

The Flyers controlled the game the entire second half, scoring three times. The first came with 6:21 left in the third quarter as Todd Berry hauled in a 35-yard pass from quarterback Paul Myers. Berry and M er-shooked up for the two-point conversion to give St. Paul a 15-14 advantage.

In the fourth period, Nickoli hit paydirt for the second time, this time from three yards out. Then with less than two minutes left to play, Gary Sprague bulled over from the three to end the scoring.

St. Paul won the statistical war, netting 321 yards total offense. The Flyers gained 206 on the ground and 115 through the air. Nickoli was the leading rusher with 108 yards in 26 tries.