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The Progress

SPORTS

Dragons fall to Blairsville — Page 8

DuBois gets first win — Page 8

Kroell blitzes Mounties for 7 TDs; Bisons rout P-O 54-6

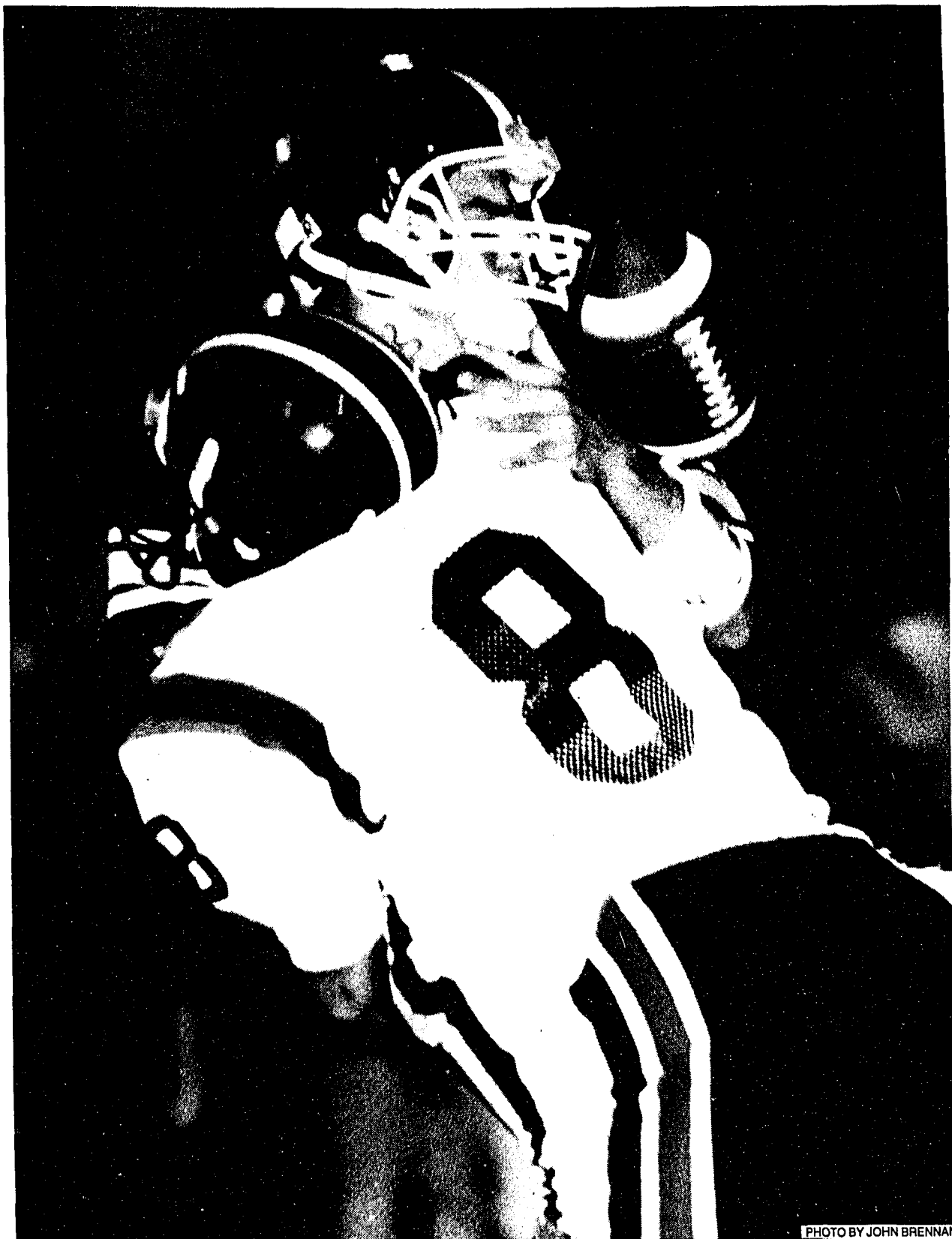


PHOTO BY JOHN BRENNAN

Sack Time — Clearfield linebacker Adam Gibson sacks Philipsburg-Osceola quarterback Dave Stewart which caused a fumble. The Bisons took advantage of the turnover and turned it into Chad Kroell's fourth TD pass of the game in the Bisons' 54-6 rout of the Mounties.

By Rich Rhoades
Sports Editor

PHILIPSBURG — This time, Chad Kroell outdid himself.

The Clearfield Bisons quarterback was in "The Zone" last night against the Mounties and most of his passes wound up in another zone — the one that scores six points.

Now in the state spotlight for his chasing single-season and career touchdown passing marks, Kroell turned in a once-in-a-lifetime performance in his team's 54-6 rout of rival Philipsburg-Osceola at Memorial Field.

The P-O homecoming crowd watched in amazement and the Mounties secondary seemed helpless as Kroell passed for seven TDs, six in the first half, which nearly tied a national high school record of seven.

Kroell's first five TD strikes came in the first quarter and helped the undefeated Bisons to a 34-0 lead just under 11 minutes into the game. A stunned Mounties' defense watched Kroell and his receivers hook up on TD passes on five consecutive plays from scrimmage.

"It was just a beautiful night throwing the ball," Clearfield head coach Tim Janocko said. "Chad was hurting the past couple of weeks and he was finally healthy. I thought our receivers ran their patterns well and there was time to throw the ball. He was throwing some ropes tonight and the coverage wasn't that bad."

His 12-of-16, 271-yard performance put him over the 4,000-yard milestone for his career (4,225) — 1,361 yards for this season. His TD outburst raised his season mark to 26 — nine behind the state single-season record — and career total to 56, 18 fewer than the state career mark.

And not to be outdone on defense, Kroell, as a safety, made three of the Bisons' five interceptions thrown by Mounties quarterbacks. More on that later.

P-O head coach Steve Guthoff, who coached the game from the press box to get a better look at Clearfield's defen-

sive schemes, saw his own defense simply get outmatched no matter what was tried.

"Kroell's a fabulous athlete," Guthoff said. "We went back to the locker room and played sort of a Monday morning quarterback and concluded that it was the best performance of a quarterback we've seen at this level. Unfortunately, it came against us."

The P-O defensive game plan was to try to delay the Bisons receivers' routes and pressure Kroell. It didn't work.

"I'm not sure what we could have done to stop him," Guthoff said. "We thought the only way is to delay the receivers and get pressure. They just had more firepower than we could handle."

The TD log:

TD No. 1: A 16-yard pass to slot back Adam Gibson, who made an over-the-shoulder catch on a play over the middle.

TD No. 2: A 25-yard pass to Gibson on the first play from scrimmage following Kroell's first interception and a 16-yard return.

TD No. 3: A 49-yard pass to Nate Wilson, who made a nice dive to reach the goal line as he was tackled. The scoring play came one play after Kroell's second interception.

TD No. 4: A 22-yard pass to tight end Steve Ogden, one play after a Gibson sack resulted in a Bisons fumble recovery.

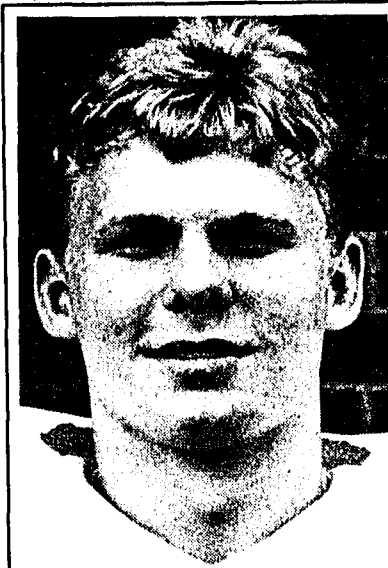
TD No. 5: A 19-yard pass to Wes Dahlem, one play after a Greg Dixon interception, which finished the first quarter deluge.

Five plays from scrimmage, 34-0 Bisons.

"It's the worst first quarter I've been part of as a coach," Guthoff said. "We were excited about the opportunity to delay (Kroell's attempt at the TD records) that. If Tim would have let him go, he would have gotten what he needed tonight."

TD No. 6: A 17-yard pass to Dahlem at the 5:41 mark of the second quarter, topping off a six-play drive set up by Kroell's third interception. Kicker Mike Sunderland's extra point would make the score 41-0, which

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Chad Kroell
6 TDs in first half

Kroell's record night

PHILIPSBURG — Bisons quarterback Chad Kroell's seven touchdown passes against Philipsburg-Osceola last night, most certainly setting an area record, can be mentioned in the same breath with some all-time national high school performances.

Kroell's seven TDs came up three short of the national record owned by Clifton Davis III of Sardis North Panola High School (Miss.), who tossed 10 in a game in 1990. Davis is also the leader in career TD passes with 104.

Kroell's six TDs in the first half tied the second place mark held by Arthur Baird of Woodlands McCullough High School (Texas) in 1985. The all-time mark is seven shared by two quarterbacks — James L. Hogan Jr. of Newport News, Va., (1966) and Ron Cuccia of Los Angeles Wilson, Calif., (1977).

It was not known at press time whether either of Kroell's marks broke state records.

Unbeaten Claysburg escapes Warriors, 19-12

By Shawn Fox
Sports Writer

ALLPORT — Even though there's no such thing as a good loss, the West Branch Warriors can't be too hard on themselves after last night's 19-12 setback to Claysburg-Kimmel on Homecoming Night at L.T. Drivas Memorial Field.

Consider that the Bulldogs entered the game undefeated and an honorable mention team in the Harrisburg Patriot-News' Class A high school football rankings and had outscored their opponents 140-38 so far this season.

Not so bad after all.

"Obviously you're never happy when you lose, but I can't be down on the kids," Warriors head coach Gary Hubler said. "Something people have to remember is that that's a hell of a football team over there on the other side of this locker room. They're not where they're at for no reason."

"As far as I'm concerned, we played them as well as anybody that's played them all year."

Before the Warriors (3-2-1) held Claysburg to 19 points, the fewest total the Bulldogs had been held to was 20 in their opening win over Juniata Valley. The six-point margin was the lowest for a Bulldogs opponent this season.

The Bulldogs (6-0) opened the game with an impressive 7-play, 60-yard drive that ended when senior tailback Brad Weise broke two West Branch tackles and went around the left side 14 yards for the touchdown. The two-point conversion run failed, giving Claysburg a 6-0 just 3:19 into the game.

Weise was the Bulldogs' workhorse on the ground, carrying the ball 25 times for 221 yards and two touchdowns. Backfield mate senior Aaron Burket had 87 yards on 20 carries. As a team, Claysburg racked up 328 yards on 58 carries.

"Brad Weise had a real good game," Claysburg head coach Jeff Lingenfelter said. "He got a lot of yardage on second effort. Up until now Aaron's been outgaining him, but tonight we needed fullback blocking and tailback running against their defense, and that's what we got."

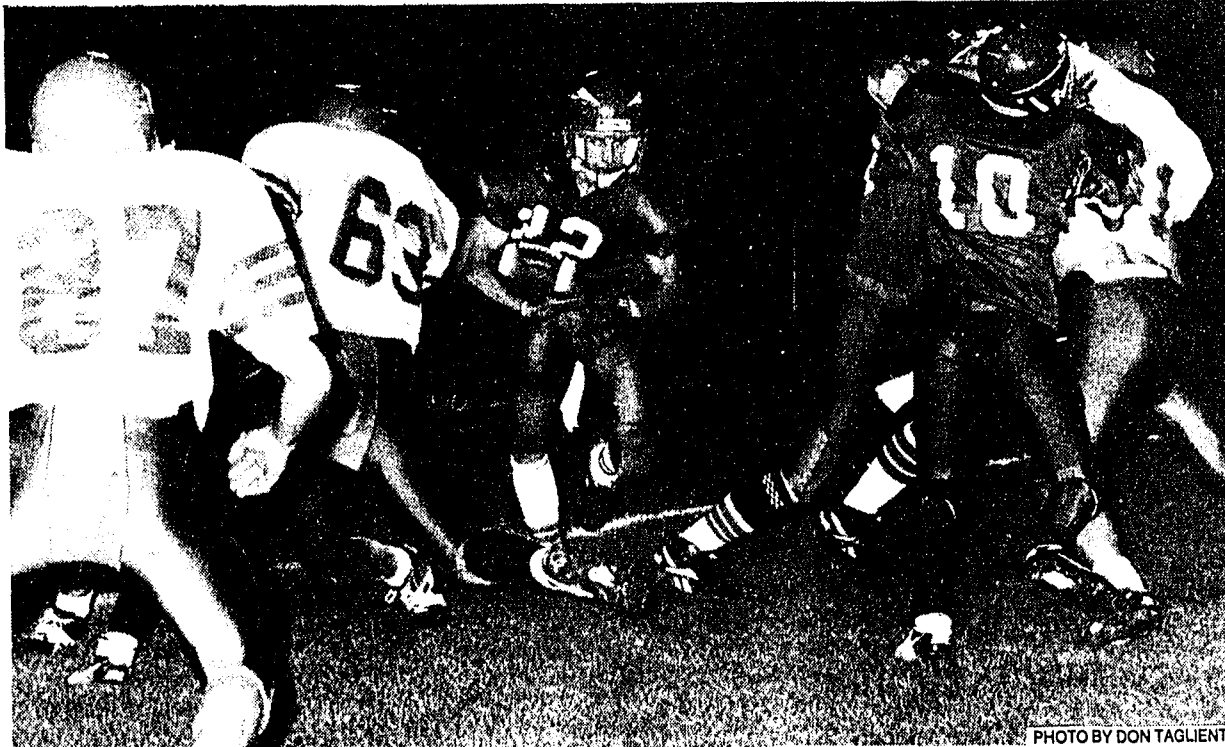


PHOTO BY DON TAGLIANTE

Looking for a hole — West Branch senior fullback Trevor Kephart (22) looks for running room in last night's game with Claysburg-Kimmel. Kephart finished the game with 122 yards on 16 carries. Teammate Hays Bickel (10) and another Warrior block Claysburg's Mark Garnter (61) while the Bulldogs' Chris Burket (63) and Clay Miller (87) pursue. Claysburg won 19-12 at L.T. Drivas Memorial Field.

Weise has now taken the Claysburg team lead in rushing with 722 yards on 103 carries for 9 touchdowns. Burket isn't far behind with 717 yards on 116 carries and 8 touchdowns.

Just when it looked like the blowout was on, the Warriors answered with a 6-play, 77-yard drive in a little more than two minutes.

After the Warriors were whistled for an illegal block below the knees penalty, sophomore quarterback Mark Johnson hit senior fullback Trevor Kephart with a screen pass that Kephart turned into a 50-yard gain.

One play later, Johnson hit senior end Hays Bickel in the corner of the end zone from 14 yards out to tie the score at 6.

For the game, Johnson was 9-of-16 through the air for 113 yards and a touchdown. Entering the game, the Warriors had just 124 total passing yards in five games.

"We just felt coming in tonight that if we could loosen them up some (with the pass), it would just make our running

game that much better, and I think it actually did help," Hubler said.

The Bulldogs took a 13-6 lead just before the half on an 8-play, 93-yard drive after a Kephart punt pinned Claysburg down at its own 6-yard line.

Highlighting the drive was Weise's 69-yard jaunt around the left side. Only a saving tackle by Kephart at the West Branch 25 saved the touchdown. Weise capped the drive with a 3-yard run.

West Branch started off the second half on a high as senior Aaron Vallalla fielded Joe Kennedy's kickoff at his own 13 and raced up the right side of the field 67 yards before being corralled by Victor Ridenour at the Claysburg 20-yard line.

"That was just a great run on his part," Hubler said. "He made a nice cut, the kids did a nice job setting the wedge up, and we had great field position."

Had is the key word because two plays later Johnson was caught in the backfield and coughed up the ball at the Claysburg 22-yard line.

That fumble didn't come back to haunt the Warriors, but on their next possession, a fumbled snap at midfield was recovered by the Bulldogs that quickly went the other way.

Five plays and 51 yards later, Burket plunged in from a yard out to put Claysburg up 19-6.

West Branch answered in the fourth quarter. After taking a punt at the Claysburg 47-yard line, the Warriors put together a 6-play drive that ended when Kephart carried the ball up the middle from the 25 for the score. With 8:58 remaining in the game, the Warriors trailed 19-12.

It would stay that way because Claysburg took the kickoff and went on a 14-play, 64-yard drive all on the ground that ate up valuable minutes.

The Warriors did have one final chance with under two minutes remaining after holding the Bulldogs on a fourth-and-seven from the West Branch 16, but could only move the ball to their own 27 before turning the ball over on downs.

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Black Knights pull out homecoming, 27-22

By Todd Irwin
Sports Writer

HOUTZDALE — Moshannon Valley coach Howie Camberg says he's not a genius. He'd rather give the credit to his players. But on one play against Northern Bedford last night, he came pretty close to the genius tag.

With his team losing 22-21 and facing a fourth-and-nine at the Mo Valley 38-yard line with 5:44 left in the game, Camberg called a timeout. Instead of having Jeff Matia punt, he called for a pass play with quarterback Bob Hawkins, who was doing more running than passing up to that point.

"I just thought we had some plays that would work with our passing attack," Camberg said. "On third, we had the play and we just didn't quite catch the ball. Even with timeouts I didn't want to give them the ball."

"I was surprised," said Panthers coach Joe Nastasi, "but in retrospect we expected them to keep the ball as long as they could because if we get it back and get a couple first downs, the game's over."

Hawkins threw his seventh pass to tight end Matia and completed it for 11 yards. From there, a standing Mo Valley crowd witnessed Scott Latosky's gutsy running, which took the Knights to the 5, where he scored with 2:14 left.

Mo Valley held off a late Panthers rally to grab a 27-22 mini-upset victory in a wild game on Homecoming Night at Hilltop Stadium.

"I'm really, really proud of the kids," an elated Camberg said. "I'm not taking anything away from Northern Bedford, but the kids really hung tough. It's just great for the kids to get a win like that."

Camberg said on Wednesday that he would try to play ball control offense because of the Panthers' explosive offense. Actually, both teams played it as they combined for 115 plays (60 for Northern, 55 for Mo Valley) and 527 yards (288 for Northern, 239 for Mo Valley).

Much of that for the Panthers came on the scoring drive before Mo Valley's winning drive. They went 93 yards on 19 plays

(13 running, 6 passing) and reached payday when fullback Mike Heck scored his third touchdown, bulling in from the 1-yard line.

The big play was also a fourth down call by Nastasi. On fourth-and-five from the Mo Valley 13, quarterback Chris Sipes, getting pressured heavily, threw the ball up for grabs and tight end Jim Frederick hauled it in at the 1 as four Mo Valley defenders surrounded him.

"As late as that ball was thrown and as many kids that we had in the vicinity, I thought we had as good a chance as any to catch the ball," Camberg said. "Frederick made a good catch."

After the two-point conversion pass failed, the score was 22-21. The possession didn't start out well for the Knights as two Hawkins incompletions, the last on third down that Joe Johns almost made a sliding catch on, and a 1-yard Jim Keith run led to the fourth down conversion.

"I think that (the conversion) just gave us the spark," said Camberg, "and from that point it was just a matter of our offensive line getting off the ball and doing the job."

But he also got some extra effort from his running backs. From the Panthers 29, Keith broke a tackle and gained 9 yards to the 20. On third-and-six, Latosky, who gained 103 yards on 16 carries, stretched his 6-3 frame to the 9.

Following a 4-yard gain to the 5, Latosky took the handoff from Hawkins, stayed on his feet after a trip attempt at the 3 and dived into the end zone with 2:14 left in the game. The two-point conversion failed, but Mo Valley led 27-22.

The Mo Valley defense held on Northern's next possession. Sipes, who threw for 150 yards, threw too high to A.J. Nastasi — held to 3 catches for 29 yards due to mixed coverage — on a flanker screen on fourth-and-23 from the Mo Valley 49.

The 23 came after Matia sacked Sipes on third down. "It was a tremendous play," Camberg said of the sack.

But Northern wasn't done yet. After three kneels and a

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