

SPORTS HOURS:

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The Progress **SPORTS**

Angels push Yanks to the brink — Page 10
Coming Monday: Baseball playoffs



File Photo by Logan Cramer III

Clearfield's Dave Richards, shown here running the football against Bradford earlier this season, rushed for 325 yards on 34 carries as the Bisons defeated Philipsburg-Osceola, 48-21, on Friday night at P-O's Memorial Field. Richards scored six touchdowns in the game.

Richards runs wild in Clearfield's 48-21 win at P-O

By Chris Morelli
Sports Editor

PHILIPSBURG — Clearfield senior tailback Dave Richards has a penchant for making the big play. On Friday night at Memorial Field in Philipsburg, Richards made all the big plays. Richards shredded the Philipsburg-Osceola defense for 325 yards on 34 carries in Clearfield's 48-21 thrashing of the Mounties on Homecoming. Richards scored six times in the contest, five coming on the ground and one on a punt return. Richards scored on runs of 1, 9, 13, 43 and 67 yards. The punt return went for 55. It was, quite simply, one of the best-ever performances by a running back wearing the red-and-black. It nearly left Clearfield head coach Tim Janocko speechless. "Dave ran the ball well," Janocko said matter-of-factly. "I thought he did a real nice job tonight." The performance left P-O head coach Jeff Vroman frustrated. "He definitely was the difference," Vroman said. "We knew what was coming and we couldn't stop it. I thought we played well at times, we just gave up too

Senior tailback racks up 325 yards, six TDs

many big plays." And most of those times, the Mounties (1-5 overall) were left chasing No. 10 into the end zone. Although he was outdone by Richards, P-O junior tailback Adam White had a memorable night. He rushed for a career-high 197 yards on 21 carries and a pair of touchdowns. White scored on runs of 80 and 57 yards. "Adam White did a heck of a job tonight," Vroman said. Clearfield (4-2 overall) normally likes to have a balanced offensive attack, but with rain and wind swirling around Memorial Field, Janocko was forced to ground the passing game — at least the long passing game — and put the football in the hands of Richards. Needless to say, it worked out pretty well. "The wind was a big factor," Janocko said of Richards' 34 rushing attempts. "It was treacherous out there." Clearfield quarterback Michael Sayers threw the ball just 12 times. He complet-

ed six of those passes for 50 yards. He also threw one interception. The Mounties — who were faced with a short week of practice after losing 47-3 at Indian Valley on Monday night — looked like a team with a hangover. On their first play from scrimmage, the Mounties fumbled and the Bisons recovered at the P-O 18-yard line. The Bisons needed just three plays to find the end zone. Sayers gave the Bisons a 7-0 lead when he plunged in from a yard out just 1:11 into the game. On Clearfield's next drive, Richards scored his first of the night, also a 1-yard run. Just like that, it was 13-0. But the Mounties didn't pack it in. Just 14 seconds after Richards scored, White broke loose for an 80-yard TD run. That cut the lead to 13-7. White would give P-O its first lead of the game when he scored on a 57-yard run with 11:10 to go in the first half. That made it 14-13. However, the Bisons would get two more scores in the half. Richards scored on a 13-yard scamper with 7:56 to play in the half to give Clearfield a 21-14 edge.

Then, he scored on an impressive 55-yard return of a Tyler Chintella punt. That came with 1:02 to play in the half and swung momentum in the Bisons' favor heading to the locker room. "That punt," Vroman said, "wasn't supposed to go to him." In the second half, the Bisons looked to put the game away. So they put the ball in Richards' hands once again. Almost three minutes into the third quarter, Richards broke loose into the P-O secondary and scored from 67 yards out. That made it 35-14. After P-O trimmed the deficit to 35-21 on a 2-yard TD run by Chintella, Richards all but iced the game with a 43-yard score. He closed the scoring with a 9-yard run midway through the fourth quarter. His 325-yard effort gives him 1,151 for the season. The single-season rushing record for the Bisons is owned by Ken Wisor, who rushed for 1,491 yards in 1998. "We had one kid to stop," Vroman said, "and we couldn't do it." After starting the season at 1-2, the Bisons have now won three straight by a combined score of 135-34. "We're getting better," Janocko said. "I think we're in a good situation."

PSU play callers dropped the ball



Todd Irwin

Gameday notes and observations.

I don't know who was calling the offensive plays in Penn State's 42-35 loss to Iowa last Saturday. We're not privy to what percentage of the plays offensive coordinator Fran Ganter and Joe Paterno call during a game. I wonder about this because whoever was calling the plays blew it. I've given credit where credit is due this season as far as inserting some imagination into the offense, but I was scratching my head last week. As hard as the Hawkeyes were rushing Zack Mills and as much success as they were having getting to him, I'm wondering where the screen pass and the shotgun formation were for most of the game. The screen worked well in the fourth quarter. Yeah I know, the final play in overtime was a screen pass. Mills was throwing to tailback Larry Johnson, but wound up hitting center Joe Iorio in the back. But during the fourth-quarter comeback, Mills was able to dump the ball off to Johnson and tight end Casey Williams as the Hawks pinned their ears back and rushed him. Given that rush and Johnson's ability in the open field, the Nittany Lions should have been using the screen pass the whole game. Once the Hawks started defending the screen, then other things would start to open for the Lions. With Mills getting battered dropping back five to seven yards on pass plays, you would think the coaching staff would have had him in the shotgun for most of the game. That way, he could have had more time to pass and a clearer view of the defense. Wisconsin has four less sacks than Iowa in one less game going into today's game with the Nits, so the Badgers' pass rush might not be as good. But you can bet Wisconsin will use much of the same defensive game plan that Iowa used. So, the Lions will need to adapt.

Take a knee, Larry

What the heck was Johnson thinking? All of Nate Kaeding's kicks were booted into the end zone — not far into the end zone, but usually a few yards into it. Johnson took all of them out of the end zone but one. His best return was 17 yards. I can see taking the first two out, but not two of the next three. If you down the ball in the end zone, you get the ball at the 20. There comes a time in a game when a returner has to accept that there are no holes and the protection isn't there.

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Still perfect

Black Knights go to 6-0 with win over rival Warriors

By Todd Irwin
Assistant Sports Editor

HOUTZDALE — As the defensive slugfest between Moshannon Valley and West Branch swiftly moved into the fourth quarter, it appeared the Warriors, leading 2-0, were going to pull off the upset for the second straight year. And then Mo Valley quarterback Jack Kephart and wideout Todd Passmore dashed the Warriors' hopes. With the Warriors in a jubilant frenzy on the sideline, the Black Knights faced a third-and-14 from their own 19. Kephart then threw a very well-placed bomb to Passmore, who hauled it in, sprinted down his own sideline and outran everybody to the end zone for an 81-yard touchdown pass with 8:22 left in the game. Stephen Deao would add a field goal later to give the Knights a 10-2 victory on a very windy Homecoming at Hilltop Stadium on Friday night. The win kept the Knights' record perfect at 6-0 and dropped the Warriors to 2-4. "I knew that West Branch's defense, especially their defensive front, was pretty strong," Mo Valley coach Howie Camberg said. "We knew we had to mix our pass attack in, and we kept trying. We finally caught them with an enormously big pass to Todd Passmore. That was just an unbelievable play. Jack threw it in a place where it couldn't be caught. It was just a tremendous high school football game." "It's real tough. It's probably as tough as one as I've had in this program since I've been here," said dejected 13-year West Branch head coach Gary Hubler. "We didn't do quite enough things offensively. Defensively, what are you gonna say? We give up one score on one play." The Warriors ran 23 more plays and outgained the Knights, 212-164, getting 81 yards rushing from fullback Jared Ricotta. The West Branch defense limited the Knights to just 29 yards rushing. West Branch used up much of the first-quarter clock with a 16-play drive that started at its own 6 and ended at the Mo Valley 15. Nathan Owens, who got the start at quarterback, dashed 8 yards to the 15, which was a couple yards short of a first down. The Warriors got another golden opportunity in the quarter when the ball was snapped over Kephart's head out of the shotgun and recovered by Ricotta at the Mo Valley 26. But on the first play after the turnover, Ricotta fumbled and

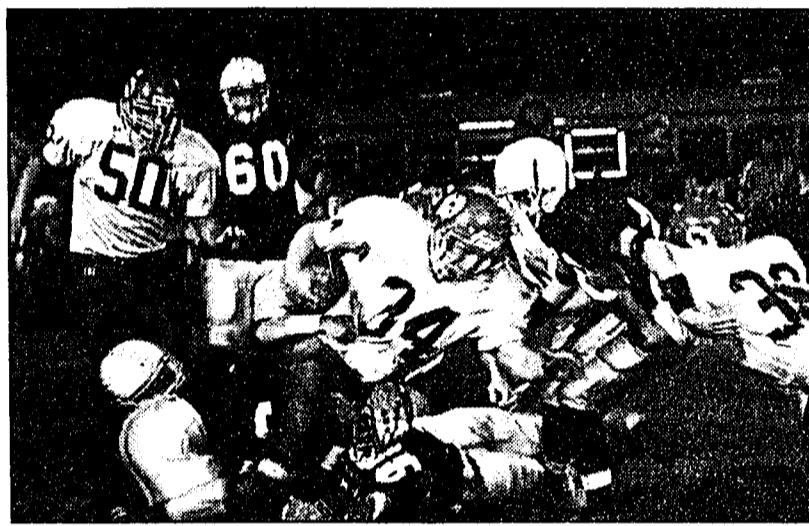


Photo by Todd Irwin

West Branch fullback Jared Ricotta looks for some tough yards against Moshannon Valley in the first half of Friday night's Homecoming Game at Hilltop Stadium. Ricotta ran for 81 yards, but the Black Knights would pull out a 10-2 win.

Steve Holencik recovered for the Knights. The second half started much like the first half did. After the Knights went three plays and out on the first series, the Warriors went on a 15-play drive that took them from their 38 to the Mo Valley 10. Again the Knights' defense stiffened and Owens threw an incomplete pass on fourth-and-five. "We moved the football," Hubler said. "Once we got inside, we just couldn't seem to punch it in the end zone. That's a credit to Mo Valley. They let us drive 60-70 yards and said, 'No, you're not gonna score.' I don't know why the same plays don't work when you get to the 30. I guess if I could answer that, I'd be a genius." But the Knights only made it to their own 19 and elected to punt. Kephart, however, never got the ball as the snap sailed over his head again. This time, it rolled out of the end zone for a safety with 46 seconds left in the third quarter. The Warriors got the ball back at the Mo Valley 49, but running back Steve Sudik fumbled and linebacker Larry Hayward recovered the ball at his 36. "Our defense came on very well in the second half," Camberg said. "We controlled their offense much better. In the first half, we played well enough to keep them out of the end zone." The Knights would move the ball to their own 48, but on third down, Adam Andrasko stepped in front of a Kephart pass and returned it to the Mo Valley 29. West Branch reached the 23, but the Knights' defense buckled down again and gave the offense the ball back at the 23.

Tide hands Kane its first loss of the year

By Rich Murawski
Sports Writer

KANE — To be the best, you must beat the best. The Curwensville Golden Tide have arguably been the best team in the Allegheny Mountain League South Division since joining in 1999. Curwensville was 15-3 against AML South teams coming into this season, and have won the South Division title the last two years. But an early season two game losing streak had some questioning the Tide's ability to compete for the AML Title this year. As ESPN's Lee Corso says, "not so fast my friend." One week after defeating Brockway 14-8 to stay in the AML race, the Golden Tide made the long trip to Kane Friday night and took the previously undefeated Wolves behind the woodshed in a 20-6 victory that spoiled Homecoming for Kane. The Curwensville victory tightens up the AML South race and should make for some interesting football the last few weeks of the season. "We're right where we want to be," Curwensville head coach Andy Evanko said when asked about the AML race. "Everything is earned on the field, and you take them one game at a time." The Golden Tide used the



Collins

same formula against Kane that was so successful last week against Brockway. ball control offense and a swarming defense. Curwensville rolled up 325 yards of offense, with 258 coming on the ground, while holding the potent Kane offense to just 156 yards. The Tide also held a distinct advantage in offensive plays, running 59 to Kane's 42. "We did things tonight that we haven't done all year," Kane head coach Rick Bouch said, "and that's allow people to control the line of scrimmage and run the football at us. I don't care who you are, if you can't stop the running game you're in a world of trouble." The main cog in the Tide's rushing attack was senior Brooks Collins, who carried the ball a workmanlike 33 times for 166 yards. "He's a great running back," Bouch said of Collins. "He ran the ball tough inside the tackles, and he was able to squirt outside a few times. He's a very physical runner and he helped them control the football, and it kept the ball away from us."

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Thomas boots Glendale past Juniata Valley in OT

By Jaelyn Yingling
Sports Writer

FLINTON — Sophomore kicker Colt Thomas was 7-for-7 on PAT attempts coming into Glendale's game with Juniata Valley in Week Six. After Thomas' PAT attempt after an Allan Collins' 26-yard touchdown run was no good, the sophomore hung his head as he trotted off the field on Friday night. Little did he know that before the game was over he was going to be a hero. Thomas kicked a 26-yard field goal on the Vikings' first possession of overtime, and the Glendale defense did their part, stonewalling the Green Hornets at the 1-yard line to take home a 9-6 victory. "A win is a win is a win, and we take them however we can get them," said an excited Glendale head coach John Kutz. "For our kids to make a goal-line stand like that is just unbelievable. Juniata Valley kind of dominated the game. But our kids just found a way to win." The Vikings held a 6-0 lead from early in the second quarter until Robert Fox tied the game seven seconds into the fourth quarter with a 5-yard run. The Mark Hall PAT attempt sailed wide right, keeping the game at a 6-6 stalemate. Both teams had numerous chances to score in the game, but Juniata Valley was hampered by penalties. The Hornets racked up nine penalties for 99 yards. Included in those were two unsportsmanlike misconduct penalties. "The only thing that stopped us all night was penalties," said



Collins

Juniata Valley head coach Mike Zinobile. "I bet we had as many yards in penalties as we did on the ground." Juniata Valley 196 yards on the ground. The Hornets also got as deep as Glendale's 6-yard line, but were faced with a fourth-and-goal situation after an incomplete pass. Juniata Valley set up for a 24-yard field goal attempt, but tried a little trickery when Hall attempted a throw into the end zone. The ball was caught, but out of bounds. After the Juniata Valley score, neither team could find the end zone in the rest of regulation and the game went into overtime. It was a new experience for Kutz and the rest of the Vikes, who were heading into the extra frame for the first time. "This was something totally different," said Kutz. "We thought we could do a couple of things. They kind of stuck it to us a little bit (on our first possession)." With a sharp wind blowing and the rain falling at a steady pace, the two teams headed out to the field for the coin toss. Juniata Valley won the flip and opted to let the Vikes take their shot into the end zone first. Glendale got nowhere on its first three plays, notching just two yards.

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Marlin will switch to HANS in 2003

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — Sterling Marlin won't be racing in the EA Sports 500, but the second-generation NASCAR star was the center of attention Friday at Talladega Superspeedway. Qualifying for the race was rained out and the 43-car field for Sunday was determined by season points. That puts Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin, Tony Stewart, Jeff Gordon and Rusty Wallace, all locked in a tight battle for the Winston Cup champi-

onship, up front for the start of the 500-mile race. Missing is the fifth-place Marlin, who is wondering if he might still be racing for the championship if he had worn a different head and neck restraint last Sunday at Kansas City. Marlin will miss the final seven races of the season after fracturing a vertebra in his neck in a race crash. In the wake of the death of seven-time champion Dale Earnhardt from head injuries

suffered in the 2001 Daytona 500, NASCAR has required the use of such restraints since last October's race at Talladega. The only choices have been the Head and Neck Support (HANS) or the Hutchens Device. Marlin, who led the points for 25 weeks before falling into a slump, was wearing the Hutchens, a series of straps that hook onto the helmet and the existing seat belt system.

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