

Bulldogs Drop Playoff To Weldon, 28-8

Midnight struck and the golden chariot turned back into a pumpkin for the Cinderella Louisburg Bulldogs Friday night as the mighty Weldon Chargers stopped the locals, 28-8. Given a chance to finish the season with a 5-5 record and placed by most writers in third place in the conference, the Bulldogs rode the ray of their fairy godmother to a respectable 8-2 season record and their first conference championship. But the fairy deserted them Friday night.

In a blistering 35-mile-per hour wind and temperatures too ashamed to rise above the freezing mark, the Bulldogs held Weldon to a lone touchdown in the first quarter although all but 1:15 of the period was played well inside Bulldog territory. It was at this mark that Louisburg was forced to punt and Larry Fuller kicked to the Weldon 46 where the period ended.

Weldon scored with 2:17 left in the first period after quarterback Mike

Edwards spotted end Nate Harris not covered on the Bulldog 15 and tossed one of his many passes. On the next play, Frank Yarborough galloped for the Charger score. The Bulldogs held fullback Craig Williams out on the PAT try and Weldon led, 6-0.

In the second frame, Steve Roberson recovered a fourth down fumble by Edwards on the Weldon ten yard line and it looked as if the Bulldog luck was changing. On the first and ten, Neill McDonald ran but the Bulldogs picked up a backfield in motion penalty, moving the ball back to the Weldon 15. Randy Seidel carried to the six yard line on two tries and Fuller threw to Robby McDonald on third and fourth downs. McDonald, surefingered passing reception leader in the conference, couldn't hold on and Weldon took over, leaving the Bulldogs scoreless. With 5:15 left in the half, Weldon kicked to their own thirty-eight yard line. Seidel picked up

six yards to the 32 and Phillip Redmond moved to the 30 and a first down. A five-yard penalty put Louisburg back on the Weldon 35. Charlie Hobgood and Seidel carried for no gain. On fourth down from the 35, Fuller threw to Hobgood in the end zone for the lone Bulldog score. Neill McDonald rammed just the tip of the ball over for the conversion to give Louisburg and 8-6 lead. Edward Pergerson intercepted a Charger pass on the Louisburg 10 yard line and ran it back to the 25 as the half ended.

Many of the estimated 2,000 freezing spectators rushed back to their cars to get warm while the teams rested in the dressing rooms. Somewhere between the field and the dressing room, the Bulldogs lost their spark and the Chargers got recharged.

As the third period started, Louisburg had the ball and at the 8:25 mark, the end came. Most observers along the sidelines noted the turning

point in the game came at this point. Nursing cold fingers—an occupational hazard all night—Charlie Hobgood fumbled on the Louisburg forty. Yarborough grabbed the loose ball and ran to the Bulldog six. The Bulldog defense held Williams out on two tries but finally gave up the ground on the big fullback's third plunge. The Charger pass failed but Weldon led, 12-8.

Carey Wrenn returned the Weldon kick to the Louisburg 35 with 5:13 left in the third frame. Louisburg fumbled, recovered and lost to the 23. Fuller hit Hobgood with a bullet pass but it was short of the needed first down and Fuller was forced to punt. The kick landed on the Weldon 42 and used a faked kick on fourth down to pick up their biggest first and ten of the night and moved the ball to the Bulldog 14 as the third period ended.

Yarborough picked up a first down on the Bulldog 12 and another on the

Louisburg eight from where Edwards tossed to Bobby Johnson for the score. Williams rammed over to make it Weldon 20, Louisburg 8. The door was closed and latched and the season was over for Louisburg but there was still time and the Bulldogs were still in the game.

Forced now to play catchup ball, the Bulldogs went to the air and the Chargers knew they would. Playing prevent defense, the Chargers had pass defenders strung out. It paid off. Johnson picked off a Fuller pass on the Louisburg 25 and raced for the final Charger score. Williams ran the PAT and Weldon had the regional title sewed up at 28-8.

There were some standouts in the game. Needless to say, Edwards, Yarborough, Williams and Johnson pleased the Weldon Coach. The Bulldogs contained classy halfback Fred Frazier, however.

For Louisburg, Fuller, Seidel and

Hobgood were the offensive standouts while Pergerson was without doubt the defensive star. Steve Roberson, Mike Leonard and Dan Hayes also played well for the losers.

Playing their final game for Louisburg were the following seniors: Randy Seidel, Neill McDonald, Charlie Hobgood and Larry Romero from the backfield. Line men Edward Pergerson (a junior playing out his eligibility), Steve Roberson, Dan Hayes, and John Kornegay.

Expected back next year are starters: Larry Fuller, Phillip Redmond, Carey Wrenn, Jimmy Wrenn, Robby McDonald, Eddie Edgerton, Jack Versteeg, Mike Pearce, Jerry Holmes, Mike Leonard, Jerry Riggan, Johnny Pernel and Steve Perdue. Of these, eight are All Conference or honorable mention.

Weldon will meet Manteo Friday night for the Eastern title and a chance to go into the championship playoff.

1969 Bulldogs Set New Records

The 1969 edition of the Louisburg High School Bulldogs broke a number of old school records, matched some and set some entirely new ones. Unofficially, here's what happened.

BEST OFFENSIVE TEAM—Scored 247 points 10 games. Old record, set in 1958—179 points.

BEST OFFENSIVE TEAM—All Games. Scored 256 points 11 games. Old record set 1959—203 points.

3rd BEST DEFENSIVE TEAM—Gave up avg. 8.5 points 10 games. Top: 1961—7.6 and 1962—8.0.

BEST WON-LOST RECORD—8-2-0 broke 1962 record of 7-2-1.

LONGEST WIN STREAK—six. Old record, four set '59-'61-'62.

PLACED FOUR PLAYERS ON TOP TWENTY ALL-TIME

SCORERS—Randy Seidel, Neill McDonald, Larry Fuller, Phillip Redmond.

PLACED NINE PLAYERS ON ALL-CONFERENCE SQUAD—Old Record, five in 1968 and 1962.

TIED RECORD OF TWO SAFETIES IN ONE SEASON—with 1960 squad.

WON FIRST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP.

PLAYED IN FIRST PLAYOFF GAME.

HAD FIRST COACH OF THE YEAR.

PLAYER RECORDS

LARRY FULLER, sophomore quarterback rewrote the record book as he became:

TOP OFFENSIVE PLAYER—Passed 11 touchdowns, scored five for total offense of 96 points breaking top record set by William Rowe—83 in 1962.

TOP PASSER—Set new record of 11 TD tosses. Old record of four set in 1967 by Jimmy Geddle, tied in 1968 by Fuller.

TOP SINGLE GAME PASSER—Three TD passes against Littleton. Old record of two shared by Fuller, Geddle and Mike Wrenn.

TOP PASSING GROUND GAINER—Threw for 951 yards 10 games. Old record was 394 set in 1959.

TOP COMPLETIONS—Threw 107, completed 49—46 percent. Old record 1968 43 of 110 for 40 percent, 1968.

TOP PUNTER—Average 41 yards. Old record, 1968—31 yards.

MOST TD PASSES CAREER: 15 (two years).

LONGEST TD PASS: Two 70-yarders broke old record of 68 set in 1968 by Fuller.

RANDY SEIDEL, senior halfback, set new records and joined top offensive players:

SECOND, MOST TD'S SINGLE GAME—three. Top, four by Bill Williamson, 1964.

THIRD, MOST SINGLE SEASON—ten. Record, 12 by Richard Marshall, 1958 and William Rowe, 1962.

SIXTH, LONGEST RUN—79 yards against Norlina. Top, 98 yard.

ROBBY McDONALD, junior end/halfback set new receiving records.

MOST TD PASS RECEPTIONS—six. Old record, 3, by Terry Nash, Mike Wrenn and Richard Marshall.

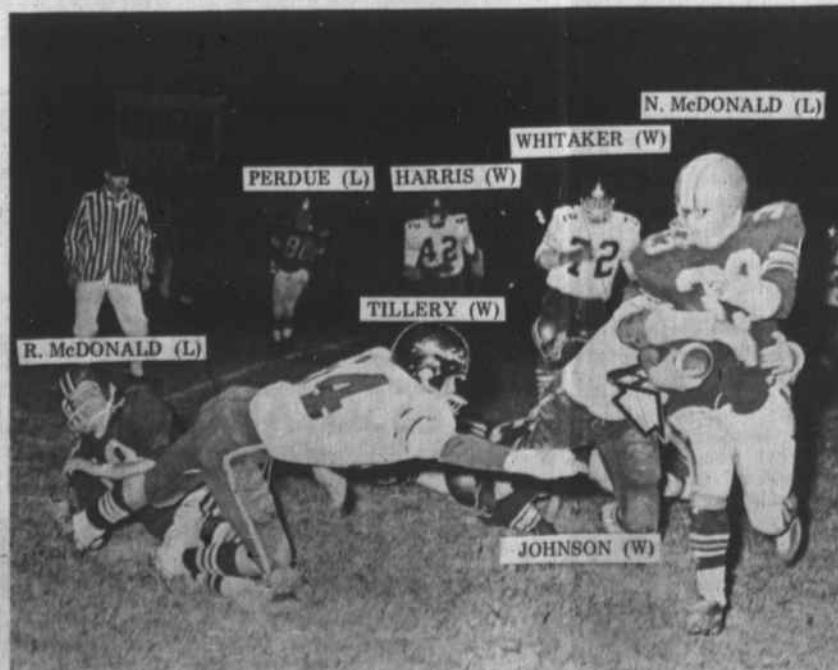
MOST TD PASS RECEPTIONS, SINGLE GAME—Two. Tied old mark by Nash and Marshall.

MOST TD RECEPTIONS, CAREER—six. Old record, four.

NOTE: No statistics are available on defensive players over the years and the number of tackles and assists are unknown. However, the 1969 defense of the Bulldogs was among the best in the school's 12-year history.



Seidel On The Run



McDonald Carries



Cage Schedule

Wednesday
LJC at Albemarle
Friday
Bunn at Gold Sand
Edward Best at Cardinal Gibbons
Youngsville at Epsom
Saturday
Southwood at LJC
Youngsville - Cardinal Gibbons, Preliminary to Carolina
Cougar Game at Dorton Arena



McDonald Nudges Ball Over For Two Points

SPORTS In Our Opinion

By CLINT FULLER

Needless to say, Louisburg fans are disappointed that the Bulldogs could not take the win Friday night. This disappointment is perhaps exceeded only by that of the coaches and players themselves.

It would have been nice for the boys to have played this week and perhaps to have gone all the way. But this was not to be.

And so, on a somewhat sour note, the season ends. For the seniors, careers have ended and certainly they would like a more pleasant finish. For the others, they can hardly wait until next year. That, of course, will come in time.

In retrospect, however, there can be no criticism of this year's squad and the efforts put out by the players and coaches. It was the best the school has ever produced. The team set new records and so did some of the players. More importantly, they gave their school and their community something of which they could all be proud. The 1969 Bulldogs represented us well.

They played an exciting brand of football and while often times, they cut it a little close, they managed to win the big ones—until Friday night, that is.

Some special note must be taken of those who will not be back for the grid wars next year. Much has already been said about some of them and too little has been said about some others:

RANDY SEIDEL—Like finding a shiny desired toy under a Christmas tree, Randy showed up just in time to add the punch that spelled a difference throughout the year. It may be a long time before Santa is as kind to the locals as this.

EDWARD (BOO BOO) PERGERSON—How do you write about a boy who gives it all he has every game—every play? More importantly, how do you replace him? We doubt the Bulldogs will be able to. More than any other, perhaps, Boo Boo will be missed.

STEVE ROBBERSON—A safety that put Louisburg in position to win the championship will always highlight his football memories, but steady work in that line all year is the mark for which he will be remembered in this corner. He leaves a large hole.

DAN HAYES—Tough Dan. He has made defense a part of this year's success story. Like a million linesmen before him, he seldom got the credit he deserved. He, too, is going to be missed next year.

JOHN KORNEGAY—Big John, sometimes brilliant, sometimes not but always trying. He filled a spot and he filled it well. Many is the back he sent home muttering.

NEILL McDONALD—Steady, dependable, Neill. For short yardage unexcelled. For team spirit and the old school try, he matched the best. If illness hadn't struck, this would have been a banner year. Even so, he managed to make it a real good one. Few will look at the fullback slot in coming years and not remember Neill.

CHARLIE HOBGOOD—Nice guy on and off the field. Injury prone part of his career, Charlie was a team man. He played where he was needed and did a yeoman job.

LARRY ROMERO—The ring of the fans as he ran the kickoff for the touchdown that won the championship will always remain. What a way to go. With a memory such as this one, Larry can live a long time.

BOBBY FULLER—Never quite reached his brother's peak but an important member of the team nevertheless. He closes out his playing days well aware that he was a part of the best.

Other teams bit the dust—or ice, depending on where they were—Friday night and Saturday.

Playing in 17 degree weather—that's twenty degrees warmer than it seemed at Warrenton—Angier fell to powerful Robbinsville, 24-0. Angier coach says they will be better next year; Robbinsville loses one man off this year's squad.

It doesn't say how cold it was, but Vanceboro got a real chill from Manteo as the Redskins dumped the Tobacco Belt Champs, 38-20. And St. Pauls put the deep freeze to North Duplin, 32-8.

Satisfied that Weldon is not 20 points better than Louisburg, the question arises were these other winners that much better or what?

Anyway, Manteo now meets Weldon and St. Pauls gets a crack at Robbinsville. The winners will meet November 28 for the State Championship.

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