

FOR 30th VICTORY IN ROW

Blue Knights Rise Up In Second Half To Defeat Maxton 30-22, For 7th Win

The Southern Pines Blue Knights, finding themselves in the peculiar, and unfamiliar, position of being behind in a ball game Friday night, rose up in determined efforts in the second half and knocked off the Maxton Rebels 30-22 to keep their season record clean.

Winning that game meant everything to the Blue Knights, for a variety of reasons. Number one, and probably most important, the Rebels hadn't lost a game all year (they went in with a 7-0 record) and were rated as the Knights' most serious threat to another perfect season. Number two, the fine record that Coach Irie Leonard has built up since coming here in 1951 would, with a victory, be over the magic 30 mark, a number that few high school coaches can boast.

So, the Blue Knights had their work cut out for them when the opening whistle blew.

Maxton scored first, the six points coming on a 30 yard dash around end by Mac MacInnis, who incidentally, scored the other TD's for the Rebels and turned in a whale of a game. The point after was good and the Rebels led 8-0 before many fans could find their standing spots.

Lynn Van Benschoten, still running like he was chasing All-American honors, romped home a few minutes later after evading Rebels for 43 yards. Watkins

kick for the extra point was no good and the score was Maxton 8, Southern Pines 6.

Later in the same period the Blue Knights scored again, this time on a 50-yard pass from Bobby Parker to Tony Parker.

The score came after Charles Watkins had thrown Dickie Hord, fleet Maxton back, for a 12 yard loss to quell a threat.

At the end of the quarter the Blue Knights had gained possession again on an interception by Watkins on the Maxton 32. Only three plays had transpired between the Knights' kickoff after the score to the interception.

The Rebels turned right around and pulled the same stunt themselves as soon as the second quarter got underway. Hord, who was outstanding all night, intercepted a long Blue Knight pass on his own 25 and ran it back to the 32 before he slipped on the muddy field. There was little doubt that he would have gone all the way had he not slipped.

But the Rebels had to kick and it was well placed. Lynn van Benschoten allowed the ball to touch him and it rolled dead on the Southern Pines 13. Two running plays got it out to the 19 where Benschoten elected to pass. Hord intercepted again, running the ball back to the Southern Pines 21.

One lay later, Hord had passed to MacInnis in the end zone. The kick was good and Maxton went out front 16-14.

It was just minutes later that the most confused situation ever to come about at a local football game was witnessed, and booted, by the fans. The referee called a 15-yard penalty on Southern Pines for illegal substitution. In trying to find out why the penalty should cover 15 yards (the rule

book lists such an infraction at 5 yards) Leonard let a slow burn turn into a hat on the ground gesture and the Blue Knights got another 15 yards.

With the ball then resting on the Knights' eight-yard line, the Rebels elected to hit hard at the line. Three carries by Tony Stanton put the ball within striking distance. MacInnis smacked the line again and scored standing up and the Rebels held on to the largest margin a team has piled up against Southern Pines in at least four years.

Minutes later, with just seconds left, the Blue Knights came knocking. A 40-yard pass from Bobby Watkins to Tony Parker put the ball on the Rebels' 6 yard line. On a center smash, Benschoten didn't make it. But a pass from Watkins to Parker in the end zone was good and, with Watkins adding the extra point, the Blue Knights went out with a tied up score: 22-22.

The last half belonged to Southern Pines and, if you follow defensive play, mostly to Bobby Parker. He turned in what may well be one of the finest performances a Blue Knight ever has.

In the third quarter the Blue Knights got their last touchdown of the night, as Kenneth Creech took a handoff, headed for the right sideline, cut back to the center of the field and raced through the entire Rebel team for the score. The run was good for 45 yards.

Billy Hamel added the extra point for a final score of 30-22.

Outstanding for Maxton were Dickie Hord, the 165 pound tailback who performed every chore with a mechanical like ability, Tony Stanton, Jackie Medlin, Morris McKenzie and MacInnis.

Blue Knights who were outstanding had to include the entire team. But Bobby Parker's last half defensive work was easily the outstanding job on the field.

The Knights have but one remaining game—against Rowland this Friday night. And they're heavily favored to make it victory number 31 and a spot in the district playoffs.

If they defeat Rowland they will meet Boone Trail of Harnett County on a site to be determined later.

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