

# Sports

## Sylva Spoils Madison's Playoff Dreams

By TAMMIE YOUNG  
Sports Correspondent

The 1987 Madison High School varsity football team finished its season Friday night in a heart-breaking 19-14 loss at Sylva-Webster.

The loss ruined any chances the Patriots had at making the state 2-A playoffs, and assured the Golden Eagles of a berth in the post-season tournament.

The Patriots led the Eagles for the entire game, until Sylva-Webster snatched the victory away with 47 seconds remaining in the game.

Madison's Brian Godfrey scored both Patriot touchdowns, while Kevin Boone tacked on both extra points.

Godfrey was the game's leading rusher, with 121 yards on 21 carries.

After a 72-yard drive, Madison got on the scoreboard first, on a one-yard run by Godfrey at the 3:09 mark in the second quarter. Boone's extra-point gave the Patriots a 7-0 lead.

But Sylva scored on its next possession, thanks to a 35-yard kickoff return. Decklin Austin scored from the 6-yard line, but the extra-point attempt failed and Madison held a 7-6 lead at the half.

lead at the half.

Madison was not intimidated and came back strong in the second half. Godfrey scored from 19 yards out to cap off a 61-yard TD drive. Boone's PAT gave Madison a 14-6 lead at the 6:33 mark in the third period.

Sylva pulled within two points at the midway point in the fourth quarter on a six-yard pass from Austin to Steve Bird. Austin's two-point conversion pass to tie the game fell short, and Madison held a 14-12 lead.

The score stayed at 14-12 until late

in the game, when Sylva ended an 80-yard march with a two-yard TD plunge by Cary Turman.

Madison had Sylva's back against the wall on a fourth-and-10 situation in that drive, but the Eagles were able to get a first down on a 26-yard pass.

The loss ended the Patriots' season at 4-6, and at 1-3 in Western Highlands Conference 2-A play.

"We could have done better," said Patriot player Steve Messer.

"We should have done better," added Chris Craine.

Madison was hurt throughout the season by a number of serious injuries, including broken legs, pulled muscles and twisted arms.

By the time the Sylva game rolled around, 11 Patriots — including seven starters — were injured too seriously to play.

Foremost on the injury list was Gary Mace, who fell into a coma for several days after making a tackle.

Mace and his family are doing much better and the team and school have been behind him 100 percent.

Madison fans say they are proud of the Patriots.

"They didn't quit. They did a great job," said Stacy West.



Brian Godfrey  
...gains 121 yards

## North Buncombe Drops Last Game To Owen, Looks To Next Season

By MICHELLE WYATT  
Sports Correspondent

The North Buncombe Black Hawks concluded their one-win season last Friday with a 34-22 loss to Western Athletic Conference 3-A foe Owen at Swannanoa.

North Buncombe jumped out to a quick lead, but Owen came roaring back behind the offensive efforts of running back Al Ellis, who ran for 105 yards and four touchdowns on 15 carries to spur Owen to the win.

"We played well offensively," said Black Hawk Coach Tom Weaver. "We did a good job defensively. Al Ellis is a very good running back and when he got outside, he ran well."

The Black Hawks had 205 yards rushing on the night and 65 yards passing.

"We moved the ball pretty well," Weaver said.

"The team played hard. Owen has a good football team that I believe is the next best team to Brevard," he said.

The first touchdown of the game came when Black Hawk quarterback Scott Whitt scored on a nine-yard dash early in the first quarter.

Earl Rohrbach booted through the point-after, and North Buncombe had a 7-0 lead.

But on the next kickoff, John Keeter caught the kick and ran 82 yards for Owen's first touchdown. The extra-point attempt failed, and North Buncombe held a slim 7-6 lead. Ellis then scored two second-quarter touchdowns for the Warhorses — one from 23 yards out and one from 10.

Owen held a 21-7 lead until North Buncombe marched up field and Rohrbach kicked a 26-yard field goal to cut the halftime margin to 21-10.

The Black Hawks scored quickly in the third period, when fullback Mike Miller rambled across the goal line from the seven. North Buncombe went for two points, but fell short and trailed 21-16.

Ellis scored again from the 36 and

Owen again failed to convert on the extra-point attempt.

North Buncombe's Miller answered with another touchdown from 7 yards out to cut Owen's lead to 27-22 going into the fourth quarter.

The Warhorses were able to hold on for the win in the final period, as Ellis added a 13-yard TD run and Benji Ford connected on an extra-point attempt to make the final score 32-22. The loss gave North Buncombe a 1-9 record on the season and 1-4 in conference play.

"We improved basically each week," Weaver said. "It was a big letdown against Franklin; we didn't play up to standard set the week before."

A winless Franklin team came to Weaverville on Oct. 30 and upset North Buncombe 10-7 in the last home game for Black Hawk seniors.

Weaver says he is optimistic about North Buncombe's chances in the 1988 season.

"There will be a lot of returning



Mike Miller  
...scores two TDs

people. If they work hard, there is a lot of potential for a good football team next year," Weaver said. "There are 16 lettermen returning next year."

## Lions Lose 40-35 Shootout With Lenoir-Rhyne

The Mars Hill Lions and Lenoir-Rhyne Bears waged a shootout for four quarters and when the smoke had cleared the Bears had hung on for a 40-35 win over the homesteading Lions, who dropped their fifth straight game and their second straight at home.

The loss came on the heels of the results of drug-testing of Mars Hill College football players. Four of the Lions' 95 players tested positive for marijuana use. Those players, whose names have not been released, were suspended for Saturday's game.

Besides scoring 75 points between them, including 39 in the final quarter, the two teams also combined for four school records.

Lenoir-Rhyne established a new school record with five touchdown passes and with 392 yards passing while Mars Hill set a new mark for most first downs in a single game (30) and most yards rushing in a single game (445). The two teams combined for more than 1,000 yards in total offense.

After taking over from its own 20 after a Mars Hill punt, Lenoir-Rhyne mounted the first serious threat of the day.

The Bears consumed more than six minutes on the clock and with a 52-yard completion moved to a first-and-goal at the Mars Hill 6. But a penalty moved them back and two plays later quarterback Brian Bryson was sacked and fumbled with Mark Mennitt recovering for the Lions.

That got the Lions going as they marched from the 27 to the Lenoir-Rhyne 5, staying on the ground for the majority of the drive. The Lions settled for a 21-yard field goal from Tony Gibson that made it 3-0.

Lenoir-Rhyne came right back with a 54-yard kickoff return and the Bears moved to the Mars Hill 14 before the defense stiffened and forced the Bears into a field goal try. Dan Queen connected on a 31-yarder that knotted the score.

The Bears capitalized on a Mars Hill miscue, intercepting a Mars Hill pass and turning it into a drive to take the lead, but they failed on a 40-yard field goal and the game remained even.

Mars Hill came back to take a 10-3 lead when Mike Sims scored on a 5-yard run.

But, typical of the entire day, when one team scored, the other team would come right back with a rally, and that's exactly what Lenoir-Rhyne did, marching 87 yards with Queen tacking on the second field goal of the day. His was a 20-yarder to close the

gap to 10-6.

The Lions, however, were undaunted, marching 70 yards in 11 plays with Johnny Mitchell capping the drive with a 3-yard run, his first collegiate score, the TD coming with just 52 seconds left in the half to up the Mars Hill advantage to 17-6 at intermission.

It took the Bears less than three minutes to hit paydirt in the second half when Bryson connected with tight end Rex Harrison on a 53-yard bomb that made it 17-13.

After exchanging punts in the third quarter, Mars Hill finally got another score, quarterback Gary Lackey scoring his first collegiate touchdown on a 4-yard run to give Mars Hill a 23-13 advantage.

In what turned out to be a wild fourth quarter, the Bears got the ball rolling when they scored on the first play of the final period, Bryson connecting with Mark Sanders for a 23-yard touchdown that cut the lead to 23-20.

Mars Hill came right back, ripping off big chunks on the ground and Reggie Taylor scooted in from the 11 for a touchdown that upped the advantage to 29-20.

It didn't take Lenoir-Rhyne long to counter, moving 66 yards in four plays with Bryson tossing his third touchdown pass of the game, this one covering 38 yards to close to within two at 29-27.

Mars Hill bounced right back as Sims broke loose on his longest run of the year, a 52-yarder that was good for his second touchdown of the day. The Lions failed on a two-point conversion but held on to a 35-27 advantage.

One play following the ensuing kickoff, Bryson went to the air again, this time finding Sanders for a 70-yard touchdown. The Bears went for two but failed as Mars Hill held on to a 35-33 lead.

But the Lions fumbled on their next possession and that was the spark the Bears needed. Lenoir-Rhyne capitalized with a 56-yard touchdown pass from Bryson to Walker, the fifth touchdown pass of the day and the extra point made it 40-35 with just 4:30 left in the game.

The Lions, however, made it exciting. Lackey ripped off 11 yards on first down and Taylor added an 11-yard carry that moved Mars Hill into Lenoir-Rhyne territory. The Lions moved down the field with three more first downs that gave them a first-and-goal at the one-yard line. Lackey kept on first down but was

denied the touchdown and then with time running out, the Lions tried again from the one, only to fumble and have Lenoir-Rhyne recover with just 33 seconds left in the game to dash the Lions' comeback hopes.

Sims and Taylor both rushed for more than 100 yards for the Lions, Sims with a career high 184 yards on 19 carries and Taylor with 148 yards on 28 carries, both career bests for him. Mars Hill ran up 550 yards in total offense while Lenoir-Rhyne had

466 yards.

The loss was the fifth in a row for the Lions who saw their hopes for a winning season fade with the loss, dropping them to 3-6 for the year.

They'll close out their 1987 home season Saturday when they host the nationally ranked Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. It will be the final home appearance for 15 Mars Hill seniors. Kickoff time is 1:30 p.m. The Lions close out the year at Elon next Saturday.

## Pizzo's No. 17 Jersey Retired At Mars Hill College

The number 17 worn by Mars Hill College quarterback Joe Pizzo was retired Saturday during halftime ceremonies of the Mars Hill-Lenoir-Rhyne football game.

Though he played only two seasons with the Lions, Pizzo's contributions were enormous. He guided the Lions to championships both seasons he played, a SAC-8 championship in 1985 and a District 26 championship in 1986.

He was named the SAC-8 Conference Offensive Player of the Year in 1985, the first Mars Hill player to be named the offensive player of the year in the conference. He was twice selected as the SAC-8 All-Conference quarterback and was an Honorable Mention All-American as a junior. Pizzo compiled a mark of 12-5-1 in games he started at Mars Hill.

The 6-3 native of Quartz Hill, Calif., signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers during the summer of 1987 and later signed with the Cleveland Browns during the recent NFL players strike. He currently serves Mars Hill College as an assistant coach in charge of quarterbacks.

During his two years at Mars Hill, Pizzo re-wrote the Mars Hill record book. His school records include:

- The first Mars Hill player to be named the SAC-8's Offensive Player of the Year
- Established a record for most times being named SAC-8 Offensive Player of the Week (5)
- Most passes attempted in a single game (49 vs. Elon in 1985)
- Most touchdown passes thrown in a single year (13)
- Most offensive plays in a single



Joe Pizzo  
...his number is retired

year (387)

- Most yards total offense in a single game (353)
- Most yards passing in a single game (317)

- Most yards total offense in a single season (2080)
- Tied the mark for most touchdowns passes in a single game (three, on three different occasions)

- Tied the record for most touchdowns responsible for in a single game (four) on two occasions.
- Was responsible for 23 of the 30 Lion touchdowns in 1985
- Led the SAC-8 in total offense in 1985

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