

Friday Night Slate Also Matches Norlina And Bluestone

Warrenton To Get Grid Test At Weldon

Warrenton hopes of retaining its Tar-Roanoke Conference crown are slated to get a first-rate test Friday night when the Jackets travel to Weldon for a loop headliner expected to reveal a clearer picture of the 1962 title race.

Weldon and Warrenton, two grid foes of long standing, were rated as pre-season dark horses in the six-team conference.

Warrenton has surprised many pigskin followers on the strength of its win over Apex last weekend, while Weldon has proved something of a disappointment to its fans, and especially to Coach Donald Johnson.

This week, after reviewing scrimmage sessions, Johnson admitted the Tornadoes were troubled in their first two contests, but added "we're set for

Warrenton."

While the Warrenton-Weldon clash will be a highlight of this week's grid card, several other area clashes will vie for the attention of fans.

Norlina, suffering a 6-0 setback last week, hopes to spring back Friday night at the expense of Bluestone, a consolidated school in Mecklenburg County, Va.

Coach Bob Price's Blue Waves, contenders for conference honors in past years, have not been able to polish their attack thus far this season, but Price is hopeful that Friday night's contest at Norlina will mark a turning point for his young squad.

Louisburg, currently holding the loop leadership, is slated to get a non-conference test from visiting Spring Hope. Littleton, a member of the

Roanoke Conference, will be trying to better its scoring punch Friday night when it hosts Elm City, a team which mauled Roanoke Conference mate, 31-0, two weeks ago.

In Friday night's clash at Weldon, the Tornadoes will attempt to overcome a flurry of miscues which has stopped scoring drives inside their opponent's 20-yard line.

Johnson said he believes his boys are ready to break loose and he says he thinks his light team (averaging 150 pounds) is ready to reveal itself as a definite title threat.

"Some of our newcomers are looking good and we expect to give Warrenton a good battle," he said.

His Friday night's foe has been working daily in preparation for the game which is

slated to begin at 8 p. m. Coach Preacher Parker says his club is in good physical shape and that it has been strengthened this week by the return of guard Gilbert Mustian, who had to sit out the Apex game because of an injury.

Parker reflected on the Apex game this week and admitted that his most pleasant surprise came from the performance of junior quarterback Billy Benson. Benson, who was a defensive regular last year, actually was playing his first game behind center Friday night.

"That boy played a fine game, and I don't think he could have called a better game play-wise," Parker said about Benson's performance. While only passing three

times, Benson's fakes to fullback Steve Clark in the first half allowed the Parkermen to execute their end sweeps almost to perfection.

Billy Rogers, a senior center, also came up for a large share of praise from Coach Parker. "Billy was a mountain on defense," Parker said of his 195-pound co-captain. Also receiving praise for their performance against Apex were fullback Steve Clark and guard Ricky Etheridge. A. C. Collier, playing his first varsity game, drew praise for his defensive work.

Parker admitted that team blocking left much to be desired at the conclusion of last Friday night's game. However, he said he felt confident that blocking would improve as linemen—four of whom are seeing action for the first

time—gained experience.

Parker said a scouting report by assistant coach Jimmy Webb indicated that Weldon had a potentially strong team but that the early-season miscues of the Tornadoes had belied their real strength.

Weldon, always a thorn in the side of the Yellow Jackets, has in years past seemed to have held a jinx on the Jackets at games in Weldon. Last year, playing here, the Jackets were forced to turn on the steam to overcome Weldon, 12-6, en route to the crown and an over-all 11-2 season.

Warrenton is expected to field the same starting team that opened the season at Apex. Weldon starters are slated to be John Tyler and Hubert Edwards at end, Ray Harlow and Carroll Carlyle at tackle, Haywood Rose and Bill

Shearin at guard, Bob Caudle at center, Marion Wise at quarterback, Jumbo Dickens and Randy Mitchell at halfback and Charles Pierce at fullback.

Key man in Weldon's plans this season is Wise, beginning his third year at the quarterback post and an able field general.

"His passing almost killed us last year, and we will have to be ready for a top performance from our defensive backs if we are going to stop him Friday night," Parker admitted.

Parker recalled that last Friday night Wise engineered a Tornado drive that reached the Louisburg seven-yard stripe in the final quarter, but a fumble cost the Tornadoes a chance to gain a tie with Louisburg.

Three Clubs In Race For Title Expected In TR

With Tar-Roanoke Conference action just under a week old, coaches and fans alike are comparing scores and studying performances in an effort to guess which of the three front-running elevens should rate as a favorite to win the loop trophy come November.

Cream of the current football crop in the six-team league seems to be a tossup between Louisburg, Warrenton and Oxford Orphanage. None has tasted defeat this season and both Warrenton and Oxford Orphanage were impressive in their openers last Friday night.

Louisburg, with few losses at the end of the 1961 season, already has a win and a tie under its belt. The Bulldogs fought Nashville to a tie in the opener, then came back last Friday night to open conference action with a 7-0 verdict at Weldon.

Bleachers Near Completion; \$100 More Is Needed

Cement bleachers lining a portion of the John Graham High School football field will be ready for use when the Yellow Jackets play their first home game, Peyton Rogers, head of a group supervising stand construction, said Thursday.

Warrenton's football club will host Nashville Sept. 21, and Rogers said that he had been assured that stands would be completed by that time. All that remains before construction is complete, he said, is the placement of cement slabs which will serve as seats for the hundreds of spectators expected to use the new stands.

The bleachers, expected to cost about \$3,000 when completed, will furnish spectators with the best view of the playing area since the field was laid off.

The lowest bleacher seat, located on the south and home side of the field, will be approximately two feet above the heads of persons following action from the sidelines.

Rogers said that a flurry of last-minute donations had pushed gifts within \$100 of the goal, and he urged those who have not yet made donations to do so as quickly as possible. He said he hoped to receive all donations by Sept. 21.

Jackets Win Opener; Norlina Bows, 6-0

Warrenton sounded a warning to future opponents last Friday night as it came from behind in the final minutes of its opening contest to take a 19-14 thriller over Apex.

Fullback Steve Clark, a workhorse for Coach Preacher Parker's eleven, churned over the goal line with two and a half minutes left in the contest to give the Yellow Jackets a hard-fought victory over their Class AA foe.

Warrenton lost an early two-touchdown lead and then had to come from behind, mainly on Clark's running, to open the season on a winning note.

Clark scored two touchdowns for the winners and his last, scored from a yard out, erased a 14-13 Apex lead.

Warrenton started the game by taking advantage of Apex errors and by making good use of its pitchout patterns to jump into a 13-0 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Clark got Warrenton's first touchdown on a 20-yard gallop early in the game as he bulled his way into the Apex secondary and found clear running room to the end zone.

Before Apex could regain its feet, Jacket halfback Al Blaylock intercepted an Apex aerial and moved the ball deep into Apex territory. Running mate John Coleman, only a sophomore, tore over the goal line from four yards out to give the visitors a 13-0 lead.

Apex struck back in the second quarter for two touchdowns and a one-point lead that stood up with three minutes remaining in the game. Jonathan Allen raced into the end zone from four yards out to climax a 60-yard drive and chalk up their first score. On the ensuing kickoff, Warrenton fumbled the ball and Apex recovered on the Jackets' 35. Allen capped the drive with a one-yard plunge and then kicked his second extra point of the night to give the hosts a narrow lead.

Apex put on a desperation attempt to regain the lead in the dying minutes of the contest but a leaping pass interception by Warrenton's Roddy Drake killed the losers' chances.

While Warrenton was stepping into the football ring on the right foot, Norlina never got up and a miscue with five minutes remaining set the stage for a 6-0 defeat at Davie.

The two clubs played on fairly even terms during most of the contest, but Davie broke through to block a Norlina punt and take over on the visitor's five-yard line late in the game.

Two rushes by Jesse Bryant pushed the ball over for the Blue Devils, and although Norlina blocked the attempted conversion, the damage had been done.

Coach Bob Price's club, lacking the experience which had characterized Norlina teams of the past, failed to seriously threaten during the contest.

The Blue Waves made a bid for a six-pointer in the third period when it marched to the Davie 26, but three plays into the line netted only a single yard and on fourth down the

paydirt with the score coming on a 15-yard pass from Bill Johnson to Jim Cart. Later in the half Benson got its second tally on a 40-yard drive ended by a four-yard plunge by Cart.

Benson picked up 290 yards via the ground and air routes during the contest staged on the winner's home field. Coach Tommy Satterfield's Blue Devils, trying to jell an inexperienced backfield, man-

aged to gain only 40 yards during the affair. Fullback James Caudle bucked over from one yard out to give Franklinton a 6-0 over a yearling Helena club in a non-conference bout.

Davie club dropped a Norlina passer for a ten-yard loss.

Davie failed to capitalize on a golden opportunity in the second quarter after Pete Bryant took a Norlina punt at midfield and raced to the Norlina 15 before being knocked out of bounds.

The Blue Devils tried two ground plays and added a couple of passes but could not pick up the necessary yardage.

Louisburg scored in the first period last Friday night on halfback William Rowe's smash from the three-yard line. Bob Hobgood's 50-yard punt return put the ball on the Weldon 8 to set up the only score of the night.

Benson scored twice in the first half last Friday night and never gave Littleton running room as they gained a 14-0 win in a non-conference contest.

Benson took the opening kickoff and drove 70 yards to

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