

Mountaineers Nip Patriots 27-21

Touchdown With 0:03 Left Sinks Madison

The Madison High Patriots turned in their strongest performance of the season Friday night before a large homecoming crowd at O.E. Roberts Stadium. Unfortunately, their best fell just short of being good enough. The visiting Mountaineers of Mitchell County High returned home on the winning end of a 27-21 score.

For much of the game, it appeared that the Patriots would record their first home victory of the season against the Little Mac-leading Mountaineers. Madison led throughout most of the game until the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

The conference rivals waged a defensive battle in the opening quarter, with neither team being able to move the ball. The Patriots defense shut down the Mountaineers, forcing the visitors to punt three times in the opening stanza.

Mark Plemmons picked off a Mountaineer pass in the first quarter to set up the Pats first scoring opportunity of the night, but Madison was unable to capitalize on the chance.

The newest additions to the Patriot lineup, Gary Webb and Danny Gouge, combined for a sack that halted Mitchell's first serious drive of the night.

The Patriots broke the scoreless deadlock early in the second quarter. With 10:41 left in the half, Keith Kramer opened the drive with a first down pass to Mark Shook at midfield. On the next play, Kramer again took to the air, hitting Fred Holtkamp for a long gainer down to the Mountaineer six-yard line.

The Mountaineer defense drove Kramer back to the 11 on the following play.

On third and goal, Jackie Honeycutt put Madison in front with a touchdown run

around right end. Mark Plemmons added the first of his 15 points with the extra point attempt.

The Mountaineers wasted no time in getting back into the game. On their first play from scrimmage, Mitchell quarterback Mike Buchanan hit Jim Phillips with a long TD pass. Buchanan then put the Mountaineers in front, 8-7, when he scored the two-point conversion on a keeper.

The Patriots then saw a golden opportunity wasted on the Mountaineer kickoff. Jackie Honeycutt took the kickoff on the Madison 20. After fumbling the ball, Honeycutt gained control and broke three tackles, running 80 yards for what appeared to be the Patriots second TD of the night.

The score was wiped out, however, when officials called a foul on Patriot Tim Plaut.

Instead of six points, Madison received possession on the Mitchell 45-yard line. Even this field position was not to last long. On the next play from scrimmage, the Patriots were assessed a 15-yard penalty and moved back into their own territory.

The Patriots then turned the ball over when Kramer was intercepted on a pass instead for Jackie Honeycutt.

Madison got the ball back on the next play when the Mountaineers fumbled. Kramer kept the ball on the ground following the interception. He handed off to tailback Ian Fillis who carried for a first down to the Mountaineer 42. On the next play, with 2:30 remaining in the half, Mark Plemmons broke for a long gainer down the sidelines, carrying to the six before being hauled down. Plemmons capped the drive on the next play

with a run over tackle for a touchdown, his first of two on the night.

Plemmons then added the extra point to give Madison a 14-8 lead.

The Mountaineers threatened again in the closing seconds of the first half. A pair of Mountaineer passes to Danny Jarrett gave Mitchell good field position with two minutes remaining.

Danny Gouge halted the Mountaineer threat with his excellent defensive play. With 1:59 remaining, the newest Patriot sacked QB Mike Buchanan for a loss deep in Patriot territory. On a fourth down play, Mountaineer back Danny Young gave the visitors a first and goal opportunity with a 20-yard run. A Patriot penalty gave Mitchell the ball on the 6. On third and goal, Gouge came up with a Mitchell fumble, stopping the Mountaineer drive. The Patriots then ran out the clock to take a 14-8 lead at the intermission.

Friday night was the annual homecoming at Madison High. The halftime activities approached a record for longevity held by the Academy Awards. A dozen candidates for homecoming queen and their dates were presented at the halftime ceremony. When it was finally over, Cheryl Rice was named the 1982 homecoming queen. Miss Rice was escorted by Morris Lisenbee.

When play resumed, Danny Gouge picked up where he left off in the first half. On the opening kickoff, Gouge managed to recover the ball when the Mountaineer receiver failed to gain control. The recovery gave Madison the ball on the Mitchell 18.

From there, Mark Plemmons took control, carrying four times for a first down and goal on the Mitchell eight-yard line. On third down, Jackie Honeycutt carried to the Mitchell four before being halted,

forcing Madison to settle for a field goal attempt.

Plemmons set up for a 21-yard attempt. Before he could put his foot into the pigskin, the Patriots were assessed a five-yard penalty for being offside. When the Pats tried a second time, Keith Kramer couldn't find the handle on a snap from center and Plemmons never had a chance for the three-point play. The Mountaineers took over on their own 20.

The Patriot defense shut down the Mitchell attack and held on to the 14-8 lead as the fourth quarter opened.

The Patriots appeared to have the game on ice in the final period. They opened the quarter with a 58-yard scoring drive. Tailback Ricky Edwards sparked the drive with a first down run into Mitchell territory. Kramer then hit Honeycutt at the 30 with a pass. With 10:30 left, Edwards carried down to the Mountaineer 25 yard line for another first down.

Kramer again hit Edwards with a pass under heavy pressure to move down to the Mountaineer seven. Mark Plemmons then capped the drive with a seven-yard TD. His extra point kick gave Madison a 21-8 lead with just 6:32 remaining. At this point, the homecoming crowd sensed an upset over the conference-leading Mountaineers. The joy was to turn to bitter disappointment in the game's closing minutes.

With just five minutes remaining, the Patriot defense again stopped the Mountaineer attack. Danny Gouge picked up another sack to force Mitchell into a fourth down punt.

The Mountaineers turned the punt into a score when Jackie Honeycutt fumbled the kick after signalling for a fair catch. The fumble gave Mitchell the ball back on the Patriot 25.

The Mountaineer's Greg

Cooke carried down to the Patriot three before being stopped by Jackie Honeycutt. Jim Phillips then capped the drive with his three-yard run for the score. Ricky Robinson's extra point moved the Mountaineers within six, 21-15, with 4:33 remaining.

Mitchell attempted a squib kick on the ensuing kickoff. The ball bounced through a Patriot's legs before Jackie Honeycutt fielded it and ran it back to the Madison 18. The Mountaineer defense halted the Patriots, forcing a fourth down punt.

Mitchell took over on their own 45 with 3:33 left on the clock. The Mountaineers reached the Patriot 45 before being halted.

The Patriot defense appeared to have the drive stopped. On third and eight, Mountaineer passer Mike Buchanan threw incomplete under heavy pressure from the Patriot front line. The Mountaineer drive was kept alive when the referee called Madison for roughing the passer on the play. The 15 yards gave Mitchell a first down on the Madison 25.

Buchanan called his own number to reach the 10-yard line. A Patriot offside penalty moved the ball inside the five. With 1:04 left, Buchanan tied the score on a keeper.

Mitchell missed the chance to go ahead when Robinson's PAT try was wide of the uprights.

The Patriots had a final attempt to pull out the victory with less than a minute remaining. Looking for long yardage in the final seconds, Keith Kramer again took to the air. The Mountaineers sacked the Patriot QB on a third down attempt. On fourth and long yardage, Kramer's pass was intercepted on the Mountaineer 40 by safety David Young. The Mitchell senior ran for the far sidelines before reversing direction and crossing the field toward the

goal line. He alluded the swarm of Patriot tacklers and crossed into the end zone with just three seconds remaining to give Mitchell the come from behind victory.

The loss dropped the Patriots' season totals to 1-5, 0-2 in conference play. The Mountaineers' win gives them a share of the conference lead with North Buncombe.

Mark Plemmons led the Patriot attack with his two touchdowns. The Patriot senior accounted for 15 points on the night, rushing for 62 yards in seven carries. Ian Fillis ran for 38 yards in 14 attempts. Jackie Honeycutt picked up 23 yards in four carries.

QB Keith Kramer passed for 82 yards on six completions in 14 attempts. Ricky Edwards punted six times, averaging 35 yards on each.

A disappointed Woody Ammons spoke with reporters after the game, saying, "We've got a better team than they have. I'd sure like to play those guys again with a different referee. This was the best game we've played all season. Our kids played a tremendous football game. It's a shame to have to lose a game like this. We scored 31 points, no matter how you look at it. We had a touchdown and a field goal called back on us. One of these days we're going to beat somebody. We're as good as North Buncombe or Mitchell. If we can play like we did tonight next week, Owen's in for a battle."

The Mountaineer head coach, speaking with Ammons, agreed with the coach's assessment, saying, "You guys beat us. Your boys played a fantastic game. I hate that there had to be a loser in a game like this."

The Patriots try to get back on the winning track Friday night when they will host Owen High School in a 7:30 p.m. kickoff. The War Horses are coming off a 51-20 thumping suffered at the hands of West Henderson Friday night.

Lady Lions Roll

11 Straight Wins; Record Now 21-4

The Mars Hill College Lady Lion Volleyball team hosted NAIA District 26 teams from Guilford and Catawba Oct. 5 at Chambers Gym and soundly defeated both. The Lady Lions were slow in starting against Guilford, falling behind 0-2 and 5-2 before a rally of seven straight points gave them a lead which they retained to win, 15-8.

The second game was very close with ties at 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 9-9, and 10-10 before Denise Groh sparked the team with five straight service points to win the game 15-10 and the twentieth match of the season.

It marks the first time a Mars Hill volleyball team has ever won 20 games. Freshman Lavonda Wagner had 17 kills in the Guilford match.

In the first game against Catawba, the Mars Hill Women rallied from 0-2 on 11 straight service points by senior Lisa Cavanagh. After

allowing Guilford three points, all-state senior Susan Mann responded with a service point to make the score 12-5. Guilford scored twice to make the score 12-7 before a service point by sophomore Shelia Minter and two by senior Kim Keeter won the game for Mars Hill, 15-7.

In the second game, coach Pat Sams inserted a number of different players, including sophomore Kim Henson and junior Susie Mathis. The final score of the game was 15-9 as the Lady Lions won the match, extending their winning streak to eleven.

The Lady Lions rallied in the final two games against Concord College to win a tournament at Concord Oct. 2. After losing the first game 15-8, the team beat Concord 15-11 and 15-10 for the first place finish. Wins to reach the finals were over Salem College 13-13 and 15-7; Emory and

Henry 15-5 and 15-10; West Liberty State 15-12, and 14-16, and 15-7; and Coastal Carolina 15-4 and 15-3.

Prior to the Concord Tournament, the team beat Lees McRae 15-3 and 15-5 and Tusculum 15-6, 17-15, and 15-4 in matches on the home floors of the opponents.

The most important win during the past week came in a tri-match at Lenoir-Rhyne Sept. 29. The team went into the match having previously lost all eleven matches to Lenoir-Rhyne. They lost the first game 16-14, then rebounded in the next two games 15-12 and 15-6 to win the match. They also beat the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the tri-match 14-16, 15-9 and 15-11.

The eleven straight wins made their overall record 21-4.

The District 26 NAIA record is now 6-1 with wins over Catawba, Elon, Guilford, Lenoir-Rhyne, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

After 25 matches and 67 games, seniors Lisa Cavanagh and Geri Petersen have the most successful serves with 261 and 228 respectively. Seniors Susan Mann and Kim Keeter are the leaders in successful serves at 90 percent. Freshman Lavonda Wagner, leads in kills with 324. In addition, Wagner's percentage of successful spikes is an outstanding 59 percent.

The next home matches involve District 26 opponent Lenoir-Rhyne and Lees McRae at 6:00 p.m. Oct. 14 at Chambers Gymnasium.

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November 2, 1982



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Thank you very much,
W.R. 'Bill' Lisenbee



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