

Patriots, Rosman Play To 14-14 Tie

By WILLIAM LEE

For the Madison High Patriots, their homecoming game last Friday night didn't exactly come off as they would have hoped. It was a frustrating and disappointing night as the best the Patriots could muster was a 14-14 tie with the Rosman Tigers.

"As far as I'm concerned, these boys did what they had to to win it. In my personal record book I'm putting it down as a win," said head coach Woody Ammons, shaking his head in disbelief of a penalty call that erased the winning touchdown for the Patriots.

It came with only three minutes left to play as quarterback Mark Gosnell hit Chris Carter from 43 yards out. Carter sidestepped one tackle and raced into the end zone, only to have the TD called back because of an ineligible receiver downfield.

It was that kind of evening for the Patriots. Things started off on the right foot, however. In the opening drive, a Mark Gosnell pass was tipped right back into the hands of its intended receiver, Kevin Honeycutt, who raced 36 yards down the sideline for the opening score.

The fact that the new scoreboard at Roberts Field was not in working order should have served as a warning that things weren't going to go smoothly, however. On its next offensive set, the Patriots fumbled the ball away on their 20. The Tigers were quick to capitalize, tying the score at 7-7.

Madison's ills were just beginning. When Mark Gosnell went out with an ankle injury on the next play, an obvious shift in attitudes of the two teams took place. Rosman began to play inspired football and, as coach Ammons put it, the Patriots "got down in the well just a bit."

Without Gosnell for most of the remainder of the first half, the Patriots

were unable to put much offense together. Rosman, however, was quick to respond again as running back Vinnie Shelton raced around end for a 62-yard touchdown gallop against the downtrodden Patriot defense.

Backup quarterback Ross Tomberlin put together a couple of good drives in the second quarter, only to have one stopped on an interception and the other halted by a couple of quarterback sacks. Frustrated by the fired-up Tiger defense, Tomberlin would draw a personal foul for throwing the ball into the turf and was later ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct as the half closed.

Without Tomberlin, Gosnell was forced to return in the second half. The resilient Patriot field marshal engineered a six-play drive capped with a TD pass to Kevin Honeycutt, his second of the night. Honeycutt twisted his way the last couple of yards to edge his way across the goal and tie the game at 14-14.

A reborn Patriot defense led by sacks from Tim Ballard, Brian Grindstaff, Travis Metcalf and Tony Goode completely shut down the Tigers in the second half.

Meanwhile, as the Patriot offense seemed capable of moving the ball at will, the homecoming crowd waited anxiously for the Patriots to pull off a come-from-behind victory.

But it was not to be. Early in the fourth, Gosnell moved the ball down the field some 60 yards, helped by some good catches from tight end Steve Norton. But Rosman's Mark Chapman made a diving interception at the two-yard line to thwart the Patriot drive.

The Patriots seemed to have pulled the game off late in the fourth, as Gosnell hit Crain on a 20-yard strike and the junior running back sped past the Rosman defender for another 25-yards and what would have been

the winning TD.

"We should have beat them by two or three touchdowns," said Ammons. "I mean you could see that we moved the ball downfield against them. And our defense came back in the second half and shut them off completely."

"We pulled it out and tied, and that's all we could do," Ammons added. "This team's just got to do a little soul-searching and decide just how much they really want to win."

The Patriots open conference play on the road this Friday night, facing Avery County in an 8 p.m. contest. Last year's Madison-Avery game ended with members of both teams brawling at mid-field after a hard fought contest. Madison returns home Oct. 17 for a non-conference tilt against West Greene (Tenn.) H.S.



WITH AN INJURED MARK GOSNELL looking on from the bench, Patriots fell behind in Friday's Homecoming contest. The Patriot senior returned in the second half to lead Madison to a 14-14 tie.

Dingle Is Commissioned

David A. Dingle has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Lt. Dingle received his commission following completion of Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Dingle is the son of Joseph and Mildred Dingle of Alexander.

Smith Completes Training

Airman Douglas R. Smith has graduated from the aircraft armament systems training at Lowry AFB, Colo. The 13-week course prepared students to maintain, install, modify and repair aircraft bombs and rockets. Students also were instructed in loading nuclear and non-nuclear munitions, explosives and propellant devices on aircraft. Smith is the son of James and Linda Smith of Leicester.

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Bear Season Opens Oct. 13th

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is again asking for hunters' assistance in determining this year's bear harvest. Bear season will once again be split into two parts in North Carolina: from Oct. 13 through Nov. 22 and from Dec. 15 through Jan. 1, 1987.

Wildlife Resources Commission personnel want to collect upper premolar teeth for aging, weight and other information from the bear harvest as well as the reproductive tracts from female bears. This information is valuable to biologists who must evaluate the state's bear population and regulate proper harvests.

Bear hunters are reminded of the mandatory tagging requirements. Tagging regulations state that hunters must cut out the month and date on the tag and tag the carcass

visibly at the scene of the kill with the appropriate tag from the big game hunting license. They must then take the animal directly to a Wildlife Cooperator Agent, who will supply a copy of the big game kill report card.

The tag must remain on the carcass until it is skinned or dressed for consumption and a kill report must be obtained prior to skinning or dressing.

Big game kills made by hunters who are exempt from hunting license requirements need not be tagged, but must be reported.

Bear hunters with information on kills should contact one of the following local Wildlife Resource personnel: Park Peterson (456-7662), Patrick Farrell or Keith Robertson at (627-3970), Randy Porterfield (627-2534) or Joffrey Brooks (452-0245.)

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