Mud overcome in squashing Mitchell

by Ron Price

The Owen Warhorses wrapped up the Little Mac Conference football title and a trip to the state AAA play-offs as they blew out the Mitchell County Mountaineers 21-0 Friday night. An unexpectedly large crowd braved threatening weather to watch the contest played on soggy Shuford Field which had been transformed into a giant mudhold by three days of steady rain.

Despite the miserable conditions the Warhorses played relatively error-free football, losing only two fumbles, but were stung by penalties at bad times.

The Warhorses drove deep into Mountie territory in the first quarter behind the running of Randy Scott but were stalled by a fumble at the visitors'6 yard line. Mitchell retaliated with their only serious threat of the game as they unleashed a furious drive to the Owen 15 highlighted by 49-yard burst by Jeff Byrd. Will Goure saved the touchdown as he fought off a terrific downfield block from an official and wrestled Byrd down at the Owen 45. Allen Silvers passed the Mounties in close before the Warhorses solved the Mitchell passblocking and sacked Silvers twice for long losses.

The Warhorses took over and drove to the first score of the night with Randy Scott carrying for the final yardage and the six-pointer. Brad LeVine added the conversion for the 7-0 halftime lead as the balance of the half was all defense on both sides.

During the halftime show a strong wind blew up out of the east and Coach Hicks instructed his forces to defend the east goal instead of asking for the ball. The strategy paid off beautifully as the Warhorses kept Mitchell bottled up in their own end during the entire third quarter.

After forcing a Mitchell punt the Warhorses took over on their own 35 yard line and began digging the Mountaineers' grave. Robbie Rucker swept the left side and raced 65 yards untouched for a would-be score but the play was called back due to a personal foul. Unable to pick up the first down Owen was forced to punt and Don Reese pinned the Mountaineers to the wall with a 66 yard kick. Mitchell couldn't move and punted back to the Warhorses with the kick traveling only 29 yards to their own 37.

Scott powered the Warhorses to the Mitchell 7 but another penalty stifled the threat and the Mounties took over on downs still bottled up neat the goal line.

With the final twenty seconds of the quarter running out and faced with another punt into a strong wind the Mountaineers attempted to run out the clock and get the wind behind them but the Warhorses spotted the ploy and called time out. Once again the strategy worked as the ensuing punt traveled only 25 yards to the Mitchell 43.

This time the Warhorses were not to be denied. After a holding penalty set Owen back across midfield Rucker hit Scott with a neat screen pass and the big fullback powered to the Mitchell 23 for the first down. Brad LeVine ripped into the mountie secondary twice to put the ball at the 9 and Scott pounded out the score on three straight carries. LeVine fought off the wind to kick the point after and the Warhorses led comfortably 14-0 with only 8 minutes left to play.

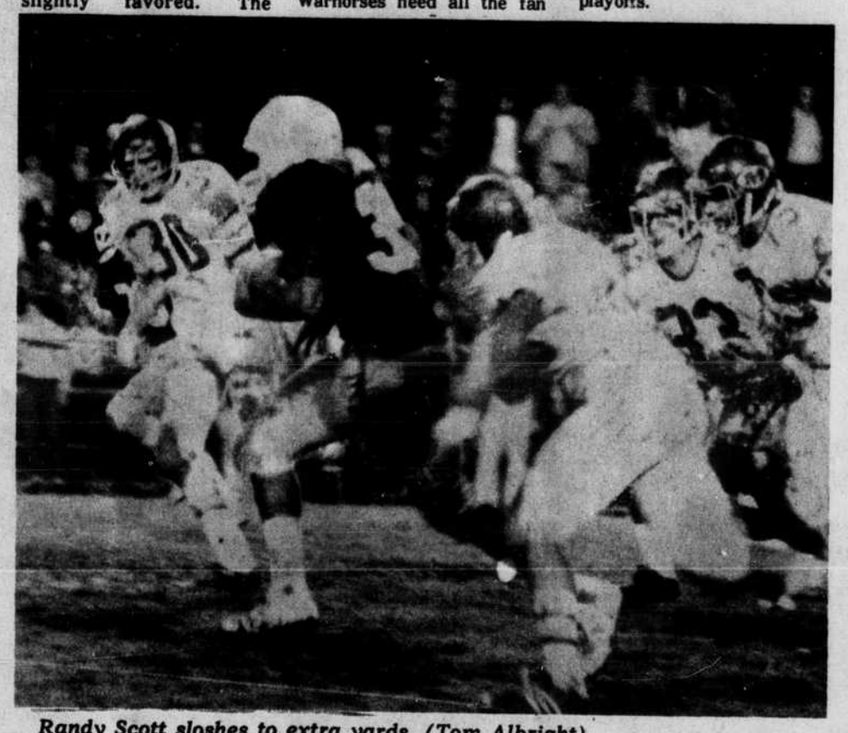
Owen added another score in the last minute when Don Reese intercepted a Silvers pass at the 50 and returned it to the 12 yard line. Senior defensive specialist John Payne came in at fullback and plowed in from the three for his first touchdown in over a year and LeVine's kick capped the scoring.

After the final horn the Champions went to the center of the field to receive congratulations from the Mitchell team and then retired to the sidelines to celebrate. To show their heartfelt gratitude and affection the Warhorses promptly threw all the Owen coaches and Principal Charles Lytle into a large mudpuddle near the sideline gate as the crows cheered wildly.

Randy Scott had a terrific night on offense as he carried 213 times for 169 yards. Randy reached a milestone as he passed the magic 1000 yard mark in the third quarter, a goal he missed by only 8 yards in 1976.

David Ford led a stingy Owen defense with 15 tackles despite a cut on the head suffered at the end of the first half. The Warhorse defenders returned to their old form by limiting the Mounties to only 56 yards rushing of which 49 came on one play. The shutout was the fourth of the season which saw the Warhorses give up an average of only 8.5 points per game.

Now the Warhorses enter the second season as they travel to Brevard Friday night to meet the Blue Devils who are undefeated and ranked first in the west. How long the season lasts will depend on whether they can upset the Blue Devils who must be slightly favored. The Warhorses feel if they can contain Duane Norman they have a good chance and could bring home the first state championship ever in any sport to Owen High. The Warhorses need all the fan support they can muster for the showdown so lets everyone turn out and support them. From the Black Mountain News: Congratulations, Champs! Best wishes in the playoffs.



Randy Scott sloshes to extra yards. (Tom Albright)

Terri Matone wins scholarship

Terri Matone has won the Century III Leaders Scholarship competition at Charles D. Owen High School, according to Charles A. Lytle, principal.

The 17-year-old senior is now eligible to compete with other high school seniors throughout North Carolina for one of two $1,000 scholarships and also for a $10,000 national scholarship that will be awarded in a conference of state winners in historic Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

The Century III Leaders Scholarship Program is a national future studies, writing, citizenship, and current events awareness competition. Terri scored highest at the school in a current events examination and the writing of a brief essay on America's needs and challenges for the future. The program is administered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and funded by Shell Oil Company.

Ms. Matone, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Matone of Black Mountain, now competes with other high school winners form around the state for two scholarships and an opportunity for the $10,000 top national scholarship.

The two North Carolina winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the third annual Century III National Leadership Seminar in Williamsburg, February 24-27, to participate in seminars on current issues. In previous years, speakers at these seminars were such notables as architect–futurist Buckminster Fuller and anthropologist Rene Dubos.

Entries were judged on the basis of the student's demonstrated leadership potential and their viewpoints, as written, on particular issues that America is likely to confront and how such challenges should be met.

Pick the Winners.... Be a Winner in

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS FOOTBALL CONTEST

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

TEAM	TEAM
Winner and Score	Owen vs Brevard _____

NAME..... ADDRESS..... PHONE.....

Contest Rules

Winners will be announced the following week.

1) Predict the winners in the football games of the week. Ties can be picked also. print your predictions clearly on the official entry blank on this page.

2.) be sure to include your name and address in the blank.

3) Entries must be received at the Black Mountain News no later than 5:00 Friday of each week.

4) Mail to: Black Mountain News,, P.O. Box 8, Black Mountain, N.C. 28711

5) Tie breaker must be closest to total combined score of the winning team. Winner must be picked.

6) Decision of the judges will be final. Contest open to everyone except employes of this newspaper and their families.

1st Place
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15 out of 16

2nd Place
BOB WHEELON
15 out of 16

3rd Place
BRAD FRANKLIN
Draw
(not available for photo)

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