

# Fine playing futile as Warhorses lose in playoff

by Ron Price  
The Owen Warhorses traveled to Brevard to meet the top ranked Blue Devils in the first round of state play-off action Friday night and almost pulled it off before being eliminated 19-7. The heavily favored Blue Devils found the Warhorses nobody's

pussycats and came within an inch of being eliminated themselves before rallying to salvage the win and advance to the quarter final round. It was obvious from the opening kick-off that the Owen coaching staff had burned the midnight oil as the well-prepared Warhorses checked Dwayne Norman, allowing

him to break free and hurt them only once. But an outstanding effort from Brevard quarter back Jack Cole proved to be the Warhorses' downfall. Cole personally figured in 18 of the Blue Devil points, scoring twice himself and passing for a third T.D. beyond the Norman-conscious Owen defense.

On Brevard's first possession the Warhorses swarmed on Norman and after picking up a couple of first downs the Blue Devils punted. Owen took charge and Randy Scott plowed through the Blue Devil line play after play, advancing the ball to the Brevard 35 before a third down mix-up in the Warhorse

backfield forced a punt. Don Reese's high kick deprived Norman of a return and the Warhorses downed the ball at the Blue Devils' 1-yard line. With Norman's break-away threat thwarted, Brevard settled into a ball-control offense with Norman and Phil Jerome grinding out consistent 3 and 4-yard gains to move the ball to the Owen 27. Cole then kept on the option play and blew in for the first score of the night on a weaving run through the Warhorse secondary. Rick Wright added the conversion to top off the 9-minute drive which ran well into the second quarter.

Owen took the kick-off at their own 36 and proceeded to shove the ball down the Blue Devils' throats, driving 64 yards to pay dirt to knot the score. A personal foul penalty against Brevard moved the ball to the 35 and then Rucker managed to avoid a tremendous pass rush to complete a pass to Brad LeVine at the Blue Devil 9. Scott carried on 4 straight plays to score and Brad's place-kick was true with 5 minutes left in the half.

On the next series came the play which proved to be the turning point of the game. On third down Cole was hit just as he attempted a pitchout to Norman and Ken Dotson pounced on the free ball at the Brevard 24 to set the Warhorses up to salt the game away. But an old enemy came back to haunt the Warhorses on their first play as Rucker's handoff to Scott went bouncing into the Blue Devil secondary and Brevard recovered at their own 16.

Norman took a third down pitchout at the Brevard 19 and broke his only long run of the night to the Owen 32 where he was caught from behind and smashed to the turf by David Ford. With the Warhorses' looking for Norman again, Cole lofted a perfect strike to Tim Madison for a 13-7 lead. Wright's placement was blocked by one of the onrushing Warhorses and the Brevard rooters began to feel the pressure of a possible 1-point loss.

However Owen was unable to mount a serious threat in the second half as Brevard made the necessary adjustments to stop Scott and the final 24 minutes degenerated into a defensive battle. The Warhorse defense pounded Norman unmercifully and Brevard's defense was equally inhospitable to Randy Scott as



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- 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.
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