



The Saint Francis Herald

At the Game

Panthers outscore Indians on Friday

By Betty Jean Winston
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The Indians and Phillipsburg Panthers played an exciting football game on Friday night with action from beginning to end. The Panthers sealed the 28-22 victory in the last seconds of play.

Fans, who were late reaching Greene Field for the game, would have missed a 73-yard run by Trent Raile which ended near the Phillipsburg goal line. The touchdown was scored moments later by Cody Sherlock with the clock showing only 56 seconds of playing time having passed.

There was also a great deal of excitement late in the game when Drew Zwegardt blocked a Panther punt and recovered it on the Panther 33-yard line. This took place with approximately 2 minutes remaining and St. Francis was down by only eight points, meaning a touchdown and a successful conversion attempt would tie the game.

The Indians used the final playing time to move to within 10-yards of the goal but with seconds left, Phillipsburg intercepted an Indian pass.

In between, there was some solid football playing and some lapses with the score remaining close throughout the game.

"We played better than we did in week one," Coach Nathan Smith said. "For the most part we had better defense."

The coach said that sometimes the kids are in a better position to make the plays and he needs use this knowledge in the games.

"We have to be more consistent," he said. "The kids are doing everything that I ask them to do. We look very good on some plays but we are not consistent."

There was additional action in the first quarter after the opening touchdown. A Panther punt to St. Francis turned out to be a touchdown factor for Phillipsburg. Midway through the quarter, St. Francis fumbled the punt return and the Panthers recovered the ball within 10 yards of the Indian goal line. The clock said 6:20 when the score went from a St. Francis advantage to a 6-6 tie.

Just seconds before the first quarter ended, St. Francis completed a drive which began back on their 25-yard line. A penalty on the conversion play moved the ball back and the attempted pass failed. The score was now St. Francis 12, Phillipsburg 6.

The only scoring in the second quarter had Smith of Phillipsburg completing a 60-yard run into the end zone. Smith carried the ball successfully a number of times during the game. This time Phillipsburg not only caught up to St. Francis on the scoreboard but added a successful conversion passing attempt to take the lead 14-12.

Unfortunately St. Francis did not take advantage of the kickoff, as Phillipsburg had a short wobbly attempt. The Panthers recovered their own kick and took over on the 30-yard line. This was early in the quarter and this time the Indian defense held strong and the Panthers were not allowed to take advantage of the Indian miscue.

The two teams exchanged the ball the remainder of the quarter as neither team could complete an extended drive.

The teams totaled four touchdowns in the first half (two each) and three more came in the second half, but two of the three were on the Panther's side of the board.

St. Francis and Phillipsburg both

came back from the locker room in the third quarter ready to play ball and fight for the win.

Near the end of this quarter, after the two teams had traded offensive series, T. Raile broke loose for another of his long runs. This 73-yard race ended up in the end zone and he also had a successful conversion run making it St. Francis 20, Phillipsburg 14.

Just two minutes later, the Panthers answered the challenge with a touchdown of their own. The score now stood at Phillipsburg 22, St. Francis 20.

During the complete fourth quarter, the Indians continued working hard to recover the lead.

A fumble early in the quarter gave the ball to Phillipsburg. It appeared that M. Raile interrupted the Panther drive when he intercepted a pass but the yellow flag was on the field and St. Francis was charged with a penalty, roughing the passer.

This put Phillipsburg near the Indian goal line and they successfully scored the final touchdown of the game.

Phillipsburg had taken the 28-20 victory even though St. Francis attempted to take advantage of the blocked punt in the final minutes.

Offensively T. Raile earned 193 yards on 16 carries which included two runs of over 70 yard each. He had one touchdown and one successful point-after touchdown attempt; Cody Sherlock had 43 yards on 12 carries and one touchdown. D. Zwegardt had 31 yards on 10 carries, and M. Raile had 18 yards on 10 carries and one touchdown.

St. Francis completed 2-of-6 passing attempts for a total of 36 yards. D. Zwegardt had one completion for 13 yards and T. Raile one for 26 yards.



HERE COMES MATT! St. Francis quarterback Matt Raile jumps over his opponent in his determination to gain yardage for the Indians.

Herald staff photo by LeZlie McCormick

Coach Smith gives a score to each player for their defensive accomplishments per game. Against Phillipsburg, 12 players had either an unassisted tackle (two points), an assisted tackle (one point), or the following for additional points: a knocked down pass, a sack, a blocked kick or a fumble.

Defensive points earned are as follows: Adam Guthmiller, seven solo tackles, eight assists, 24 points; Sherlock, five solo tackles, eight assists, 18 points; D. Zwegardt, one solo tackle, seven assists, one blocked kick, one fumble recovery, 17 points; M. Raile, four solo tackles, two assists, 10 points; Terrence Lamb, three solo tackles, three assists, 9 points; Alex Long, four solo tackles, one assist, 9 points; T. Raile, three solo tackles, three assists, 9 points; Tyler Lauer, two solo tackles, four assists, 8 points; Garrett Figgins, two solo tackles, two assists, 6 points; Garrett Brunk, two solo tackles, one assist, 5 points; Ty Zwegardt,

one solo tackle, 2 points; Martin Hnizdil, one solo tackle, 2 points.

Next action

The Indians will travel to Goodland on Friday.

"Goodland does some different things that we have not seen so far," Coach Smith said. "They spread the ball out and throw the ball more."

"We will have to have good ball control."

Lady Indians meet Colby, Oberlin in triangular



By Betty Jean Winston
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After winning two volleyball matches on the home court on Sept. 1, the Lady Indians traveled to Colby on Sept. 8 to begin a busy week of volleyball.

On this day St. Francis took Colby to three games before the Lady Eagles earned the win. St. Francis won the first game 25-17, making Colby play catch up the remainder of the match. Colby won the second game 25-13 and the third game and the match 25-19.

"We played a good match against Colby," Coach Talley Morrow said. "They are always 'supposed to' come out and stomp us, but we caught them off guard by playing big at the net."

"Mikaela Grace had a really good night with five kills for the match. Christina Hilt was right behind her with four, and Aubree Schlepp had three."

"Our serving was good, but not quite at our team goal of 90 percent. We aced them nine times and served 80 percent. Our leading server was Aly Marin, with 8 of 9 serves, three being aces."

Coach Morrow said the Sainty offense could have been better in that they didn't pass as well as they can.

"Our big plays at the net depend

heavily on our passing ability, namely serve-receive work, and while the majority of set-up passes were great, we had too many just good ones, which doesn't allow for all offensive options to be used.

The coach said they are working on that and will show improvement before too long.

vs. Decatur Community: 15-25, 20-25

The Decatur Community match was a two-game match with St. Francis falling 15-25 in game one and 20-25 in game two.

"Decatur Community is ALWAYS a tough customer, but not unbeatable, as I think our score shows," Coach Morrow said. "They are going to be more a psychological challenge for us than an athletic one and at some point, we will overcome them."

The coach indicated that St. Francis did not serve quite as well as in the Colby match, serving only 77 percent as a team.

"The Varsity squad should be serving at 90 percent or better consistently, so that is something we will be working on in practice."

"Most folks think that serving is 'just getting the ball over the net', but I really try to encourage the girls to be aggressive when they serve, looking for a soft spot

in the opponent's defense and always working offensively on every move. Sometimes it is more of a challenge than other times, and this was one of them.

"We face tough and well-trained opponents all season long, and we are working hard to improve our mental toughness."

"Our offense was well-grounded with our libero Jodie Hilt's excellent passing. She had 18 perfect serve-receive passes, which leads to open attack options on the net. Shayla Hilt set the ball up 20 times with no mistakes, and Marin set it up 26 out of 28 times, for a 93 percent setting score. Together, including our out-of-system setting, the team set 63 times with only two errors."

The coach said that C. Hilt led the team with four kills. Kaitlin Figgins was right behind her with three for the night. Schlepp led the defense with two stuffs this match.

"Overall, I am very proud of the team in spite of finding our first two losses this night. The girls are working hard and have much desire to correct their mistakes and prevent them from happening time and time again. We have lots of hustle and a passion to be better than we were before."

Christina Hilt made the team

5-25, 20-25.

"We were caught off guard this time," Coach Talley Morrow said. Wauneta-Palisade is always a good team, and we let their LACK of height fool us.

"They were defensively sound and never left the ball unattended. We couldn't pull anything over on them!"

In this match Aly Marin earned

an 88 percent serving being successful 7-of-8 times. It was near the team goal of 90 percent

Shayla Hilt was 29-of-30 setting for 97 percent while Marin was 50-of-53 for 94 percent. These players met the team goal.

Marin led the team with three kills and four blocks for the night

Christina Hilt made the team



MIKAELA Grace and Kaitlin Figgins play the net.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

hitting goal by being 9-of-10 for 90 percent.

"We didn't serve-receive as well as we can, which is one reason we didn't score in the second set, Coach Morrow said. "We had only eight kills and 17 hitting errors for the night, which is the other reason we didn't score well."

"It was a lesson in why communication and focus are so im-

portant in the game of volleyball and we let ourselves down. We did come back, however, and give Wauneta-Palisade a scare in the third set, but it was too late."

"If I had anything to remind the team about that night it was to never underestimate the opponent, no matter how big or small they seem."

Young Indians compete

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There was a lot of football action at Benkelman on Thursday night when the St. Francis Junior High and the Dundy County Junior High met.

A number of touchdowns were scored during the game which ended up Dundy County 46, St. Francis 32.

Several Indians were involved in the scoring including Derek Queen, Mason Schiltz, Wyatt Landenberger and Cade Brace- lin. Each of the touchdowns were scored when a running back broke loose for at least a 30-yard run.

"We really didn't play as well as the score would suggest," Coach Jeff Beims said. "They were pretty good-sized up front, and had a good tailback that we were either unable or unwilling to tackle. We played soft on both sides of the ball, and it cost us a chance to win this game."

"Our boys are learning that in order to be successful in this game you have to bring a certain amount of aggressiveness to the table and you have to bring it every play. We didn't do that against Dundy County, but we will be better against Oakley."

St. Francis will take their 0-2 record to Oakley tonight (Thursday).

The scoring for St. Francis follows:

First quarter, Derek Queen, 61-yard run.

First quarter, Mason Schiltz, 52-yard run.

Third quarter, Queen, 55-yard run.

Fourth quarter, Schiltz, 70-yard run.

Fourth quarter, Landenberger, 33-yard run. Successful conversion run by Bracelin.