

At the Game

Time is here for District action

By Betty Jean Winston

The first six football games of the season, all against Northwest Kansas League teams, are now in the record book. The Indians defeated Oberlin, Goodland, Colby, Hoxie and Quinter and suffered a loss to Oakley giving them a 5-1 record. District games begin this Friday when St. Francis meets Syracuse at Greene Field in St. Francis for the first of three games which will decide which squads will represent District 14 in post-season play.

The other two teams in this district are Wichita County/Leoti and Rawlins County/Atwood. St. Francis will play Wichita County in Leoti on Friday, Oct. 19, and Rawlins County in Atwood on Thursday, Oct. 25. The two teams with the best District record will qualify for bi-district play.

Each team in the state begins District play with a 0-0 record.

"We think we are getting better," Coach Tim Lambert said. "We feel pretty good about where we are at."

"We don't need to worry about anything else, we just need to worry about ourselves."

The Indians offensive unit was explosive on Friday night when the Bulldogs from Quinter played the Indians in St. Francis.

The win was truly a team victory as the bench was called on to contribute.

Scoring for St. Francis was in double figures in each of the four quarters for a total of 58 points. Quinter scored 20 points.

With little over two minutes of action after the opening kickoff, Saintry had six points on the board. A 14-yard pass from Ted Crabtree, quarterback, to Keaton Frewen gave the Indians the lead.

This touchdown was answered quickly by the Bulldogs as they returned the kickoff 86-yards for their first score of the night. The clock said 9:25 and the game was tied 6-6.

Saintry scored again in the first quarter when Crabtree reached

the end zone on a 25-yard run. The conversion attempt by Trevor Hilt was successful and the first period ended 14-6.

The second quarter also saw the Indians score two touchdowns. The first one was by Crabtree on a 75-yard run and the second one was on a 2-yard run by Hilt. Both conversion attempts were successful with Hilt having a rushing attempt after the first touchdown and Crabtree hitting Frewen with a pass for the second attempt. Trent Raile was instrumental in the second score of the period when he moved the ball 40-yards down field on a rushing play, putting the ball within 2-yards of the end zone.

The halftime score stood at 30-6.

Scoring in the third quarter took place on a 25-yard run by T. Raile and a 1-yard run by David Guthmiller. Guthmiller was one of three players who had over 100 yards rushing for the evening. The other two were Crabtree and T. Raile. Hilt had a successful kick after the Guthmiller touchdown.

Finishing off the scoring for the evening for Saintry was a 1-yard run by Terrence Lamb with a Hilt kick for seven points and a 2-yard run by Drew Zwegardt and a conversion run by Lamb for the final eight points.

Game stats - Quinter

Scoring: Crabtree 12, Hilt 12, Frewen 8, Lamb 8, Guthmiller 6, Raile 6, Drew Zwegardt 6.

Rushing: Crabtree 194 yards on 13 carries, T. Raile, 161 yards on 13 carries; Guthmiller, 104 yards on 17 carries; Hilt, 65 yards on 11 carries; D. Zwegardt, 30 yards on nine carries; Lamb, 26 yards on five carries; Garrett Figgins, 17 yards on two carries; Matt Raile, 4 yards on one carry.

Passing: Crabtree passed for 40 yards, being successful three-of-six attempts. Frewen was the recipient of the three passes for 40 yards.

Tackles: Twenty players had either unassisted or assisted tackles for the



PASS RECEIVER KEATON FREWEN scored the first Indian touchdown of the game on Friday night. He received a pass from Ted Crabtree, quarterback, and ran the ball into the end zone. Sam Sowers (74) and Ethan Zwegardt (66) are providing protection for the runner.

Herald staff photo by Leslie McCormick

game. Having six or more tackles were Scott Ford 12, D. Zwegardt 9, Shawn Warren 8, Guthmiller 7, Sam Sowers 7, T. Raile 6. Others contributing were Grady Brunk, Josh Carpenter, Crabtree, Figgins, Frewen, Tye Gilliland, Hilt, Talon Jones, Trent Kinen, Lamb, Alex Long, Jesse Pacheco, M. Raile,

Ethan Zwegardt.

Kickoffs: Hilt had six kick-off attempts for a total of 250 yards while Long and M. Raile each had one attempt for 25 yards.

Additional stats: Ford and Sowers each had one sack; Crabtree had one kick off return.

Saintry had 25 first downs for the

evening and received five penalties for a total of 40 yards.

Junior varsity

The junior varsity team traveled to Quinter on Monday. The final score of the contest was Bulldogs 6, Indians 0.

"I felt like we played with very little energy and enthusiasm during

this game," Coach Ted Busse said. "Then we made many mental mistakes that often comes when you are not focused to perform."

"I felt like our effort was lacking," Coach Devin Dinkel said.

Man recounts when lion was spotted

In 1954, Wilmot Klie came upon a big animal in his pasture and it made the headlines of the June 17 *Saint Francis Herald*. He was not the only person to spot what all believed to be a lion roaming in the area.



Klie

Mr. Klie, now 80 years old, was recently in *The Herald* office. He told how frightened he was and, even today, he remembers running to the house as fast as he could.

The following was taken from *The Herald*.

Stories concerning the purported lion said to be roaming loose in Cheyenne County continued to reach *The Herald* this week with the latest report coming from an area almost exactly on the Colorado-Kansas state line. This report was made by Wilmot E. Klie, a young Cheyenne County farmer living approximately 1/2 mile south of U.S. 36, 16-miles west of St. Francis.

According to Mr. Klie, he first heard what he identified as the roar of a lion, about 10:15 Friday night as he was moving chickens from his brooder house to the regular chicken house. The next morning, while checking cattle in his pasture, he saw the animal and was able to shoot at it four times before it disappeared.

Mr. Klie told *Herald* editor Kent Slyhoff, Dr. J.H.A. Peck and others who were at his place Saturday morning to investigate the report, that he first became aware something was wrong when a horse in the corral adjoining the chicken house, suddenly began raising a fuss and after a few minutes of snorting and pawing, ran at full speed to a corner of the corral where it remained cowered against the fence. When the horse quieted, Mr. Klie heard, from farther south in his pasture, a roar which, he said, was exactly like

those he had heard from lions at the Colorado Springs zoo.

After running to the house and getting his 30-30 caliber rifle, he said he waited for sometime but did not see or hear anything else out of the ordinary.

However, shortly after dawn Saturday morning, Mr. Klie said he decided to check the cattle in the pasture and, taking his rifle, started south in his farm truck. About a quarter mile south of the farm house, he came up over a small hill and saw, going up the opposite side hill approximately 100 to 150 yards away, what he said was a lion.

Upon seeing the animal, Mr. Klie said he stopped the truck and, at the same time, the animal also stopped and turned to look at him. It was, Mr. Klie said, at this time, while the animal was turned broadside to him that he fired the first shot. He said he saw the dust kick up above the animal which turned and bounded up over the hill and out of sight. He said he fired three more shots at the animal as it ran over the hill.

When the animal was out of sight, Mr. Klie said he started off in pursuit in the truck after stopping once to open a gate, sighted the animal once more as it bounded up the side of the next hill. Upon gaining the top of the hill in the truck, he was unable to see the animal.

Driving back to his farm house, he called Dr. Peck in St. Francis who immediately went to the farm. Robert Ackerman, St. Francis IHC dealer and owner of an airplane, took off in his plane and began searching the area from the air.

The area from the Klie farm to the river, approximately 2 1/2 miles, including the pasture in which the animal was seen, is extremely broken and hilly with many outcroppings of rock overhanging the canyons.

Many fresh tracks were found in the dust at the bottom of the hill where Mr. Klie first saw the animal as well as at other places along the route the animal took in making good its escape. Tracks measuring nearly 4-inches long and 3 1/2-

inches were found in the soft dirt bordering a wheat field and which Dr. Peck said, after taking a plaster cast of them, "undoubtedly were made by a large animal weighing several hundred pounds and which quite possibly could have been a lion."

Although the search was carried on throughout the day Saturday by men on foot and by John Grace in an airplane, the animal Mr. Klie saw could not be located. Saturday evening, a bad rain and hail storm stuck the area around the Klie farm and all tracks were eliminated.

However, fresh tracks made since the rain Saturday evening were being investigated Wednesday by Dr. Peck who reported to *The Herald* by telephone from the Klie farm, that the new tracks were identical to those found shortly after Mr. Klie reported seeing the animal Saturday morning.

Now two persons, miles apart, have identified the animal as a lion and several others have reported seeing or hearing what "might have been one."

The story of the purported lion came out on Monday, May 24, when police officer Emil Zimbelman reported seeing what he positively identified as a lion, cross Main Street about 1:30 a.m. Since then large unidentified tracks have been found at several locations, all near the river bottom. On May 26, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Winston reported a large unidentified animal across the street from their home during the night.

On June 7, dogs barking suddenly and the discovery of large animal tracks entering the city near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Breninger, led observers to believe the "lion" might have been in town again.

Fred Flowerdew, local police chief, followed the tracks from the Breninger place back to near the city light plant where he lost them. The next day, June 8, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Juhl and three grandchildren heard what they said sounded like a "lion"



roar at the Juhl feedlot located about a block from the light plant and bordering the jungle-like river bottom at that point.

Nothing more was heard about the "lion" from Tuesday, June 8, and shooting at it on Saturday, June 12.

The following week, a dog owned by Henry Abraham was found mangled in the pasture along with more large tracks believed to be made by the lion.

The Abraham farm was just northwest of the Klie farm. According to Dr. Peck, who spent many hours following up the reports of the lion, the dog was killed by a large animal which ripped its abdomen completely open with one power swipe.

Mr. Abraham said the dog was a large sheppard-type weighing around 75 pounds. It was quite aggressive and apparently not afraid of anything. Tracks near where the dog was killed were identified by Dr. Peck as the same found previously.

Editor's note: After the killing of the dog, there was no mention of seeing the lion again. As one of the articles asked, "Is there a lion or isn't there?" Those who saw it were sure of it but it seemed to disappear as mysteriously as it appeared.

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