

At the Game

Indians score early Friday in opening football game

By Betty Jean Winston
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The Indians caught the Eagles by surprise on the opening kickoff Friday night for the first score of the game. A few minutes later they took advantage of a Colby miscue for the second touchdown. This gave them 14 points midway through the first quarter. Those late for the game missed the most exciting 6 minutes of the contest.

Colby kicked the ball to St. Francis to open the game and before the Eagles could get their defense set, Trent Raile used his blockers to break free and his speed to race 91 yards for six points. This was a much appreciated opening of the season for the local fans. Trevor Hilt rushed for the two-point conversion and the Indians were up 8-0.

"We played hard," Coach Tim Lambert said.

After receiving the kickoff from the Indians, Colby collected a couple of first down using a small amount of yardage on the ground and their passing game to move the ball. Unfortunately for them, on a third-and-nine play, the snap went over the quarterback's head and St. Francis raced to recover the ball in the Eagles backfield. It was a group recovery with Trevor Hilt having the final hold on the ball.

The field position was perfect and taking advantage of opponent's turnovers is an important part of the game. And the Indians did just that. Drew Zwegardt ran the ball to within 3-yards of the end zone from the 13-yard line and T. Raile went the rest of the way for the touchdown. The conversion passing attempt was not successful but Saintry was ahead 14-0.

It was time for the Eagle offense to step up and control the ball

which they did for the remainder of the quarter. A completed pass earned them one first down and they went for the second one on a fourth down attempts. The runner gained 6 yards and Colby retained the ball. A call of illegal procedure did not help them on the next series of downs and when the quarterback looked for a pass receiver on third down, Saintry had everyone covered. The first period ended with Colby faced with another fourth down situation and 11 yards to go for the first down.

The Eagles moved the ball on occasion through out the night but Saintry never let them close enough to the goal line to be able to move the ball in for six points.

The final Indian touchdown came in the second quarter.

During the first half of the second quarter, the Indian backfield of Adam Guthmiller, T. Raile, Hilt and D. Zwegardt ate up the clock. They used rushing and a completed pass to come within the Colby 25-yard line. Unfortunately a fumble on the hand off stopped the motion without a St. Francis score.

The next time the Indians were on offense, they again used the run to sustain the drive. They were helped by a Colby penalty which gave Saintry a first down and by a pass which was caught after being juggled.

With the time down within 2 minutes before halftime, T. Raile went in the end zone on a 7-yard run. The conversion run was unsuccessful and Saintry led 20-0. No scoring took place in the second half.

Saintry controlled the clock most of the second half but did not end up with a sustained drive to the end



TRENT RAILE heads to the end zone – Teammates Drew Zwegardt (5) and Tyler Larson (57) are among those helping to protect the runner.

Herald staff photo by Leslie McCormick

zone. Both teams were unsuccessful when attempting fourth down attempts and both teams recorded a fumble during this time.

At one point, T. Raile intercepted an Eagle pass to have the Indians each had a successful pass reception.

"We are not where we want to be," Coach Lambert said. "We cannot be content. We need to get better like everyone else will be doing. Unless we get better we will be in trouble."

T. Raile led the rushing for the evening, while he and Trent Kinen each had a successful pass reception. Quarterback Matt Raile was 2-of-5 on passing attempts for a total of 26 yards.

Defensively Kinen and Jesse Pacheco each had 11 tackles with T. Raile close behind with 10. T. Raile

also had a pass interception and Hilt a fumble recovery.

Saintry had 14 first downs compared to 10 for Colby. The Indians had five penalties for a total of 40 yards compared to seven penalties for a total of 35 yards for the Eagles.

After each game, coaches review the action and work to find ways to improve both the offense and the defense.

The Indians stand 1-0 both in the Northwest Kansas League and overall.

Next action

Next on the agenda is a trip to Phillipsburg, a member of the Mid-Continent League. On Friday night Phillipsburg defeated Norton, another member of the Mid-Continent League by the score of

22-6.

"We have a tougher schedule than we have had for a long time," Coach Lambert said. "We wanted an opportunity to strengthen our schedule and we have."

Phillipsburg has been in the 3A playoffs and is a good team, he said.

Game stats

St. Francis had a total offense of 216 yards. It consisted of 190 yards on the ground and 26 yards in the air. Colby had a total offense of 142 yards with 96 yards rushing and 46 yards passing.

Scoring: T. Raile 18, Hilt 2.

Rushing: T. Raile 86 yards, D. Zwegardt 45, Guthmiller 39, Hilt 14, M. Raile 5.

Tackles: Kinen 11, Pacheco 11, T. Raile 10, D. Zwegardt 8,

Sam Sowers 8, Ethan Zwegardt 7, Guthmiller 6, Scott Ford 5, Cody Sherlock 4, Terrence Lamb 4, Shawn Warren 4, M. Raile 3, Garrett Figgins 2. Having one each were Alex Long, Hilt, Tyler Larson, Casey House and Brooks Hobrock.

Punts/kick-offs: M. Raile had four kickoffs for a total of 165 yards; T. Raile had two punts for a total of 55 yards.

Scores

League teams: St. Francis 20, Colby 0; Ellis 12, Atwood 6; Oakley 32, Goodland 0; Osborne 34, Oberlin 14; Trego 26, Hoxie 22.

District teams: Leoti and Syracuse are in the same district with St. Francis and Atwood. Scores Satana 20, Wichita County-Leoti 16; Syracuse 36, Ness City/Dighton 16.

Young players set to increase skills

By Betty Jean Winston
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Oberlin was the first opponent the Saintry junior high volleyball players faced in the new season. The four seventh grade girls had their first occasion to represent St. Francis in an athletic endeavor.

The volleyball players were involved in three different categories, with an A-team match, a B-team match and a C-team match. Oberlin proved to be victorious in all three matches.

A-team

The final scores in this match were 8-25, 13-25. Saintry had a total of 19 good serves in the two games.

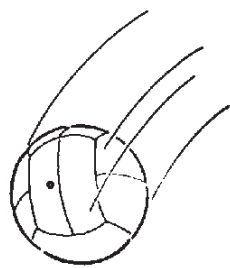
Good serves: Clarice Neitzel 4, Laura Brunk 4, Krissy Harris 4, Taylor Archibald3, Ally Northrup 2, Katie Lambert1, Jandy Dunn 1.

"Over all I think we did an OK job," Coach Tina Elliott said. "We had good serves and decent passes but just couldn't get it all put together. Oberlin had a tough team with hard serves that we weren't prepared for, so we definitely know some areas that we need to work on."

"I think we did pretty well at getting along and working together as a team, we just need to practice on our set and spike approach and receiving "hard" balls. It's gonna take some work, but I am confident that we will improve as we continue through this season."

B-team

The final scores of the B-team



contests were 17-25 and 16-25.

The following players had good serves: Bailey Merklin 12, Nariah Hamilton 5, Randee Grover 4, Taylor Archibald 3, Sarah Whitmore 1, Aubrey Mills 1.

"Our match against Oberlin was many of these ladies first volleyball experience, and I feel they did a really good job," Coach Leigh Ann Faulkender said. "I expected to see some first-game jitters but we came out and scored 17 points in the first set."

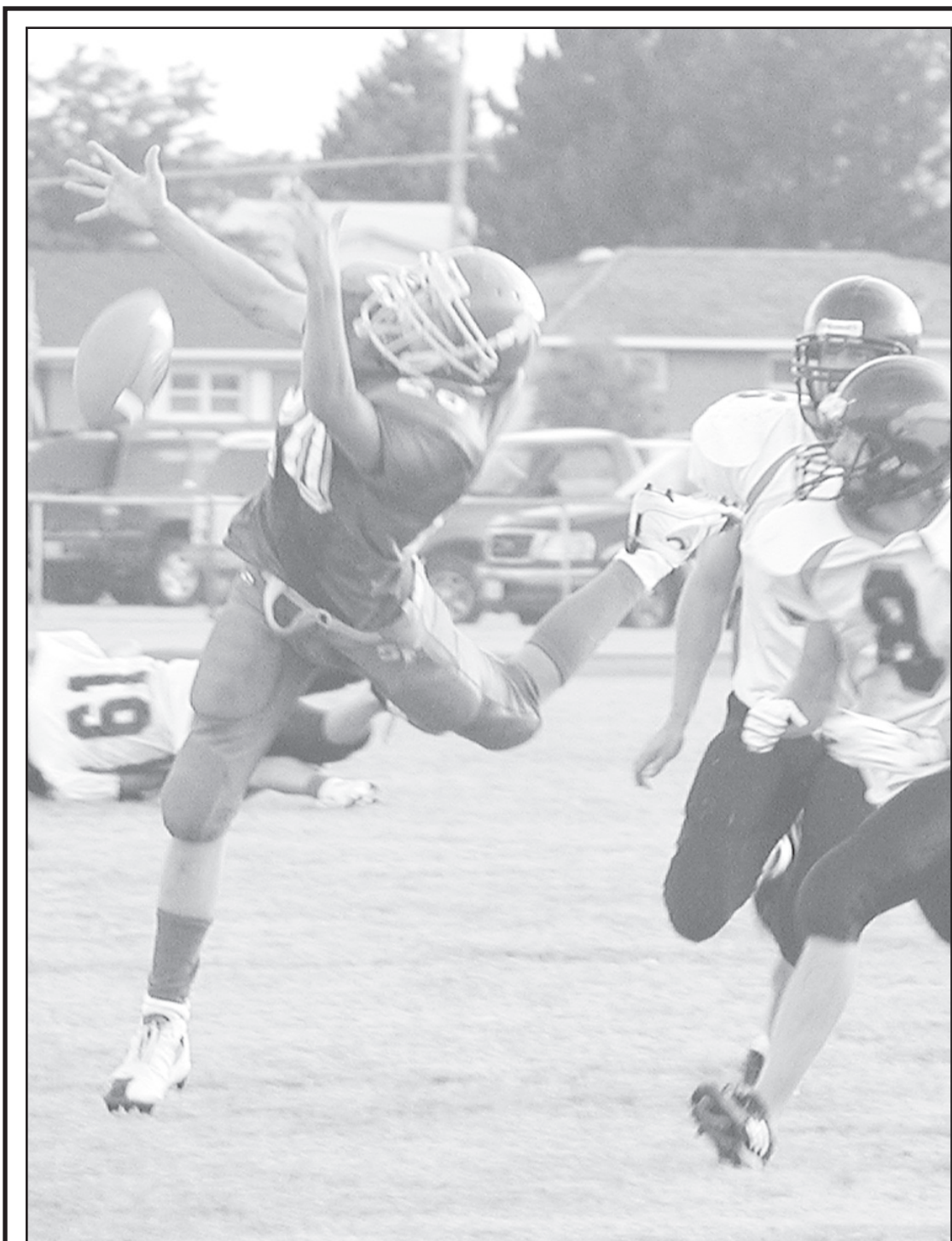
"I am always telling them that serves are so vital to a game and we have been working hard in practice on this skill. I was very pleased with the number of serves we got over the net."

"Two other areas we will focus on as the season continues are consistent passes and team communication. I feel at this level of competition if you can get these things mastered (serves, passes, communication), you will be successful."

C-team

The final score for the C-team game was 22-25.

Having good serves were Grover 5, Mills 4, Jacy Hilt 4, Hamilton 3, Merklin 3, Whitmore 1.



TRENT KINEN may have been unsuccessful in this receiving attempt but he caught a 13-yard pass during the Friday night win over the Colby Eagles..

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Saintry scores a victory

By Betty Jean Winston
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The junior varsity volleyball season opened in Hoxie on Sept. 2 with St. Francis competing with both Hoxie and Golden Plains.

In the Hoxie match, St. Francis was defeated by Hoxie in the first game 25-27, won the second game 25-14 but lost the third game 13-15.

"For the first matches of the year, things went reasonably well," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "We were ahead of Hoxie in all three games but we allowed Hoxie to come back to win the match."

"Mistakes at the net and serving cost the match. When the game is close a missed serve is a point for the other team and often a 2-point swing in the match. When you lose the match by a total of 4 points each missed serve becomes important. We also ended up in the net repeatedly. These are mistakes that we can reduce in the future."

St. Francis defeated Golden Plains in two games. They won the first one 25-21 and the second one 25-16.

"The Golden Plains match was much like the Hoxie match in the level of play," Coach Olofson said. "We actually missed more serves in this match. The key difference was we got several points off serve in a row."

"We passed extremely well in both matches and the mental focus and energy of play was excellent."