



At the Game



GARRETT FIGGINS (left) with the football follows his blocker, Cody Sherlock, through the line to gain yardage for the Indians.

Herald photo courtesy of Kristi Guthmiller

Indians work for a District 7 victory Friday against the Ellis Railroaders

By Betty Jean Winston
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Garrett Figgins, Cody Sherlock and Cody Killingsworth each scored a touchdown for the St. Francis Indians Friday night but it wasn't enough to overcome the Oakley Plainsmen. Oakley, who was fighting for a Homecoming victory, ended the game as a 32-20 winner. This was both a Northwest Kansas League and 2A District 7 game. With three regular season games remaining on the schedule, the Indians have a 1-5 season record and an 0-2 District and League record.

Although the weather has been great at a number of the games this fall, Friday there was intermittent rain during the evening.

Following the opening kickoff, Oakley returned the ball to the Indian's 40-yard line where they began the drive that ended up in the end zone. A 35-yard touchdown pass and a good conversion gave the Plainsmen eight points. This all took place in the first minutes of play.

Taking advantage of opportunities was the key to the two initial Indian scores. The first successful touchdown drive began when Figgins intercepted an Oakley pass late in the first quarter. The Indians now had the ball to begin their next drive.

Early in the second period was when Figgins made his 14-yard touchdown run scoring six points for the Indians. An unsuccessful conversion attempt left the Plainsmen leading 8-6.

The next Indian score took a more extensive drive. It all began when Brett Lampe, Indian quarterback, intercepted an Oakley pass and returned it to midfield. During this drive Saintry was forced into several fourth-down situations as they navigated the remaining 50-yards to the goal line. Each time an opening was available for the runner to push through to make a successful first down.

"The last successful first down was near the goal line and Sherlock took the ball into the end zone on the next play for the score. Figgins added two points on a conversion rushing attempt to make the score St. Francis 14, Oakley 8 with a little over 2 minutes to half time."

"We are finding people who can run the ball and we are being more consistent," Coach Nate Smith said.

Oakley tried to score before half time but the rushed drive ended with two incomplete passes and the Indians had maintained their 14-8 lead going into the locker room.

"The kids are keeping on competing," Coach Smith said. "They played well in the first half."

"There has been an adjustment switch and the defense is really coming along. We have adjusted our defensive coverage relieving some of the responsibility of the defensive backs so they don't have to read as many things."

Unfortunately the Indians

lost their advantage in the third quarter when Oakley took control and scored three times while holding Saintry scoreless.

The first Oakley touchdown following the opening kickoff. The drive took over 60 yards but ended successfully. When the conversion attempt was no good, the score stood tied at 14. Following a St. Francis punt on a fourth down attempt, Oakley scored next on a 14-yard run after taking over midfield and moving down the field. This put the score at Oakley 20, St. Francis 14.

An Indian fumble set up the final Oakley touchdown of the quarter. The fumble occurred on the Indian 12-yard line. One play later Oakley ended up in the end zone to make the score 26-14.

St. Francis fans had some excitement when Killingsworth broke away for a 76-yard run shortly after the Indians begin their next drive. This moved the Indians score up to 20 points.

St. Francis had a strong defensive series in the fourth quarter then they stopped Oakley on a fourth-and-5 near the 10-yard line. At this time there were 3 minutes remaining in the contest.

The Indians ended their final drive on their own 5-yard line. They attempted two passes which fell incomplete, forcing them to turn the ball over to Oakley.

Oakley took over on the Indian 3-yard line and scored with

1:21 remaining on the clock.

After St. Francis had a failed drive, Oakley took over and held on until the final buzzer for the final score of Oakley 32, St. Francis 20.

The Indians had 206 yards rushing for the evening while Oakley had 224 yards. Killingsworth and Figgins were close with 94 and 93 yards respectively while Sherlock had 23.

Lampe and Figgins each had an interception while Adam Guthmiller caused a fumble. Guthmiller also led the tackles with 16 followed by Zach Gienger with 10.

At this point in time Ellis and Oakley are 2-0 in district action; Oberlin/Decatur Community and Atwood/Rawlins County are 1-1 and St. Francis and Leoti/Wichita County are 0-2.

The Indians will meet Ellis on Friday night in St. Francis for another District 7 game.

"We need to play responsible football," Coach Smith said. "We are making three or four good plays and then make a mental mistake. We will continue to work."

"Ellis is a dominate 2A power," he said "Their coach does a nice job getting a good number of players out. They have some big kids up front and they have an athletic quarterback who moves well. We will have to contain him."

The Indians and Railroaders will begin play at 7 p.m. on Friday at Greene Field.

Team splits games in Saturday action

The St. Francis, Dundy County, Neb., and Holyoke, Colo., junior varsity volleyball squads met in St. Francis on Saturday in a triangular. The Lady Indian team lost to Dundy County in two games 23-25, 14-25 and defeated Holyoke in two, 25-22, 26-24.

"In the first set against Dundy County we got off to a decent start with balanced scoring," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "We made few mistakes at the service line and this kept the set close."

"In the second set, things went awry and we could not get serves in, pass to the setter, or get decent attacks. The score reflects this. The young Lady Indians were completely flat both in play and

emotion. It was frustrating for everyone involved."

The win over Holyoke was a good way to finish the action. Both sets were close with the finals being 25-22, 26-24.

"The second match against Holyoke was exciting," Coach Olofson said. "The scores were close throughout. The young Ladies served well throughout and this put Holyoke on the defensive."

"In the second set however they had a server who ran off 8 points giving them set points. It would have been easy for the Indians to quit but they did not and were able to pull back and eventually win the match."

League tourney scheduled Oct. 21

The St. Francis junior high A-team, B-team and C-team competed with volleyball squads from Dundy County on Thursday, Sept. 30.

St. Francis is nearing the end of their season, which has been a winning one, with only the Northwest Kansas League Tournament left on the schedule. The tournament, which includes teams Atwood/Rawlins County; Hoxie, Oakley, Oberlin/Decatur Community; Quinter and St. Francis, will take place on Thursday, Oct. 21.

"Our regular season is finished with a great record going into the League Tournament with the A team's record of 10 and 3, and the B team's record of 9 and 4," Coach Tina Elliott said.

"These girls have come a long way this season and I am very proud of the hard work and effort they have contributed this year and I look forward to them ranking high in these season's final tournament."

St. Francis won the A-team match over Dundy County by scores of 25-15, 20-25 and 16-14.

Having good serves were: Justice Wiley 20, Echo Jones 11, Ashlee Orth 3, McKayla Taylor 3, Valerie Wurm 3, Kyla Bandel 2, Mariah Beikman 2, Abby Fernandez 1.

"The A team came out strong in the first set but we tried a new rotation in the second set which threw us off a bit but we came back from behind in the third set to take the win," Coach Elliott said "This was great to see the drive to never give up from these girls."

The B-team scores ended with 8-25, 13-25 for a loss to Dundy County.

"The B team had a hard time with serves and barely getting the ball over the net which set up Dundy County to spike it right back down at us," Coach Elliott said. "We let ourselves get down and couldn't get back up. So the overall scores pretty much showed the struggle we had with a loss in two."

Having good serves were: Kayla Reed 4, Kattie Jenik 4, Journey Lee 3, Sydney Sundstrom 2, McKenzie Taylor 1, Kylie Sherlock 1.

"The C-team played two sets to 21 and we split them one and one," Coach Elliott said. The final scores were 19-21, 21-15.

Having good serves were: Bandel 5, Sundstrom 4, Jenik 3, Fernandez 3, McKenzie Taylor 3, Hannah Stafford 2, Reed 2, Wiley 2, Emily Elfers 1.

Junior varsity defeats Plainsmen 28-16

In junior varsity football action on Monday evening in St. Francis, the young Indians earned a 28-16 victory over Oakley

Saintry collected their entire 28 points in the first two quarters while Oakley scored one touchdown each in the first quarter and the fourth quarter.

Oakley did have an 8-6 advantage over the Indians after the first period but from then on St. Francis took control.

For St. Francis, Dylan Wolaver broke away and raced 70-yards for the first Indian score with the conversion attempt failing. In the same period Oakley scored on an

8-yard run and also earned the two-after-touchdown points.

Wolaver struck twice in the second period, one time on a 25-yard run and the second time on a 31-yard run. He also had a good conversion attempt after his second score of the quarter.

Finishing the scoring for the Indians was Keegan Sherlock on a 1-yard run with Mikey Leibbrandt added two conversion points.

Oakley scored their second touchdown on an 18-yard run in the final quarter.

The Indians will travel to Atwood to meet the Rawlins County Buff next Monday.

Team ends season with a decisive victory

St. Francis defeated Grant Junior High in Goodland in the final junior high football game of the year. The score was Saintry 32, Goodland 12. "This was a great win to end the season for several reasons," Coach Jeff Beims said. "We got on them early and our defense played great all day, forcing a couple turnovers, and generally slowing their spread attack."

"Getting ahead early afforded

us the opportunity to play some of our younger kids in the varsity game, giving them a taste of the 'big time'" added the Coach.

"It was also rewarding for our guys in the fact that they got to see that all the coaches bickering about technique and discipline will bear fruit if they stick with 'the plan'."

St. Francis had two touchdowns in the first period with Justin Pacheco scoring the first

one on a 1-yard run and Riley Shay the other one on a 4-yard run. Travis Rogers had a successful conversion after the Shay touchdown. St. Francis had 14 points when the first quarter was over.

Rogers scored a second quarter touchdown to move the Indian score to 20.

Garrett Brunk had a 42-yard run for a score in the third period with Lane Hobrock adding

a 27-yard run. These two scores moved the Indian total to 32.

"I'm not sure I've ever coached a team that has come this far in their development as these young men have over the last two months. Every player on the team has shown a willingness to learn and a desire to get better, and it paid off for them in Goodland."

The season ended with a 2-4 record.

