

The Saint Francis Herald

At the Game

Indians win; advance to Sectional play

By Betty Jean Winston

The St. Francis Indians move on to Sectional play on Friday night in Smith Center after a convincing 58-14 victory over the LaCrosse Leopards at Greene Field on Saturday afternoon. St. Francis used the combination of a strong ground game, good blocking and good defense to put the game in the win column.

This moves their record to 8-3 for the year plus having earned the District 13 championship, the Bi-District championship and the Smith Center game is scheduled for Friday night at 7 p.m. St. Francis coach Tim Lambert will be taking his Indian squad to play against his high school football coach Roger Barta on his high school field.

A strong football program has been developed at St. Francis and the Smith Center Redman also have a strong program. Since 1982 Coach Barta has had only one losing season. They have won three state championships and have played in five state championship games. During Coach Lambert's senior year in high school, the team compiled a 13-0 record, which means they won State that year.

"I have a lot of respect for Coach Barta," Coach Lambert said. "We're excited for the chance to play Smith Center. If nothing else we'll see just where we are."

"We are getting better each and every week and we want to continue to have fun."

"The greater the challenge the more joy you should get out of playing the game."

On Saturday afternoon against LaCrosse the Indian offense collected 506 total yards with 470 on the ground plus an additional 36 in the air to completely outplay the LaCrosse defense. It was Indian "power" football in motion with the offensive line putting out another strong effort. Two Indians, Joel McAtee and Gabe Smull, collected over 100 yards rushing in this game. Weekly either Derek Ross, McAtee or Smull, sometimes two or three of them, have come in with 100 yards or more. Matt Brown again handled the quarterback duties.

Defensively Ross intercepted a pass and Gabe Gienger and Tanner Kinen each recovered a fumble. Leading with tackles was Ross with 10. Six of them were unassisted.

"We played well, which was obvious with what we were doing on the field," Coach Lambert said. "We've come a long way. Six weeks ago they (LaCrosse) would have given us a fit. We handled them pretty good on Saturday."

After a short offensive effort by LaCrosse to open the game, St. Francis took over on the Leopards 31-yard line. They moved the ball



HEADED FOR A TOUCHDOWN — Joel McAtee (5) has the ball and is working his way up the field in the LaCrosse vs. St. Francis game held Saturday in Greene Field. Dong a good job of blocking is Derek Ross (33). Seth Swihart (65) is also coming to help.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

69-yards downfield, collecting four first downs on runs by Smull, J. McAtee, Ross and Brown. McAtee took the ball in from the 2-yard line with Brown adding the two conversion points for an 8-0 St. Francis advantage.

A fast answer by the Leopards saw quarterback Andrew Schroter race 68-yards to score for LaCrosse less than 20 seconds after the Indian score. A pass added two points and the score was tied 8-8.

The next touchdown by St. Francis showed their ability to come right back and take control of the game.

St. Francis scored their second touchdown later in the quarter. The drive began with a 40-yard punt return by A.J. McAtee giving Saintry good field position. Smull took the ball in from 2-yards out with 1:57 on the clock. No points after were collected so the score stood at 14-8.

The first quarter ended with St. Francis on the move again. They used less than a minute on the clock in the second period to score. J.

McAtee turned an 18-yard run into a Saintry score and Brown added the two extra points for a more comfortable 22-8 lead.

Saintry was holding LaCrosse to very few yards on the ground, forcing them to punt on fourth down.

The clock said 2:51 left until halftime when the Indians struck again. They went almost the whole field before J. McAtee went in for his third touchdown of the game. A Brown-to-Adam Peter pass put two more points on the board and Saintry was up 30-8.

The third quarter was more of the same. St. Francis would get the ball and move down the field first down by first down. J. McAtee went into the end zone on the opening drive just a little over 2 minutes after play resumed. With no conversion points, the score was now 36-8.

LaCrosse took over on the Indians 30-yard line. Unfortunately for them, they fumbled on their first play from scrimmage. Kinen fell on the football for St. Francis. Quarterback Brown surprised the LaCrosse defense by opening the series with

a pass to Kinen which resulted in a touchdown. This was less than a minute after the McAtee touchdown. On this occasion Ross added two points for a 44-8 advantage.

Various Indian substitutions had taken place since halftime, but the Indian offense continued to move and the defense was still tight.

Saintry again went on a long drive with a number of first downs using up the clock. They began on their own 27-yard line and the drive culminated with David Guthmiller scoring late in the quarter. A Ross kick saw the score at 51-8.

LaCrosse opened the final period with a score of their own. They used a long pass to the 13-yard line to help move their drive into the end zone. This gave them 14 points as the conversion attempt failed.

The final touchdown of the game came when Dylan Loyd scored midway through the fourth quarter. This was a 57-yard drive and many reserve Indians were on the field. Loyd was handling the quarterback duties at this time. A Ross kick added the final point and the Indi-

ans had their 58-14 victory.

Team stats

St. Francis listed first followed by LaCrosse: first downs: 24/8; rushing yardage: 67 attempts for 470-net yards/34 attempts for 169-net yards; passing yardage: two attempts for 36 yards, one completion, no interceptions/seven attempts for 169-yards, three completions; total offense: 506/244; punts: one for 29 yards/six for 251 yards; fumbles lost: 1/1; penalties: five for 50 yards/four for 26 yards.

Individual stats

Rushing: J. McAtee, 147 yards on 13 attempts; Smull, 127 yds on 20 attempts; Ross, 89 yards on 15 attempts; Guthmiller, 51 yards on seven attempts; Jordan Gienger, 38 yards on six attempts; Loyd, 13 yards on three attempts; Brown, 5 yds on three attempts.

Passing: Brown, two attempts, one completion, 36 yards, no interceptions, one touchdown, one extra points

Pass receivers: Kinen, one for 36 yards, one touchdown; Peter, one for conversion points

Scoring: J. McAtee, four touchdowns, 24 points; Guthmiller, one touchdown, 6 points; Loyd, one touchdown, 6 points; Smull, one touchdown, 6 points; Kinen, one touchdown, 6 points; Ross, one two-point conversion; two conversion kicks, 4 points; Peter, two-point conversion, 2 points

Extra point kicks: Ross, two Kickoffs: Ross, nine for 370 yards and a 41.1-yard average

Punts: Ross, one for 29 yards Punt return: AJ McAtee, two for 52 yards

Pass interceptions: Ross, one

Fumble recoveries: G. Gienger, one; Kinen, one

Tackles (total: unassisted/assisted): Ross 10, AJ McAtee 8, Loyd 8, Levi Weeden 7, JD Hawkins 6, Kinen 6, J. McAtee 5, Peter 3, Smull 3, J. Gienger 3, Mac Frewen 3, Trevor Richard 3, Cody Barnhart 2, Devin Rohweder 2, Gabe Walz 2, G. Gienger 2, Brennon Wilger 1, Chance Hobrock 1, Guthmiller 1, Heath Owens 1, Josh Walters 1

League coaches honor Indians

By Betty Jean Winston

Eleven St. Francis Indians were awarded All-League honors for their efforts during the football season by Northwest Kansas League coaches. Seniors, juniors and sophomores were named to either the first team, second team or honorable mention offense; first team, second team or honorable mention defense or first team, second team or honorable mention special teams.

Oakley was the winner of the small school league division with Goodland winning the larger school title.

Three athletes, Derek Ross (2002, 2003), Gabe Walz (2003) and Tanner Kinen (2003), are repeats as they previously received league honors.

Receiving first team honors were: Senior Ross: offensive team, running back; defensive team, linebacker Senior Walz: offensive team, guard; defensive team, defensive line Senior Seth Swihart: offensive team, tackle

Senior Kinen: offensive team, tight end

Senior Cody Barnhart: defensive team, defensive line

Receiving second team hon-

ors were:

Senior Kinen: defensive team, defensive back

Sophomore A.J. McAtee: defensive team, defensive back

Junior Gabe Smull, defensive team, defensive end

Receiving honorable mention honors were:

Sophomore Joel McAtee, offensive team, running back

Sophomore Brennon Wilger, offensive team, guard

Sophomore Levi Weeden, defensive team, linebacker

Junior Dylan Loyd, defensive team, defensive back

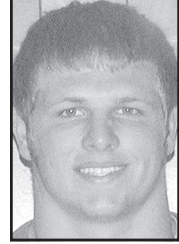
The following players from the eight Northwest Kansas League teams, Colby, Decatur Community, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley, Quinter, Rawlins County, St. Francis, received league honors.

First team offense

Running back: Matt Smith, Oakley; Ross, St. Francis; Brock Lohr, Goodland; Jordan Vickers, Hoxie

Quarterback: Derrick Raymer, Goodland

Receiver: Lance Fortin, Decatur Community; Ben Grafel, Rawlins



Barnhart



Kinen



Ross



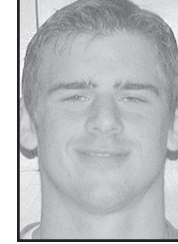
Swihart



Walz



Loyd



Smull



AJ McAtee

County, David Livengood, Goodland Center; Dexter Deeds, Goodland Guard: Jeff Dennis, Oakley; Walz, St. Francis

Tackle: Devin Cooper, Hoxie; Gannon Reichert, Decatur Community; Swihart, St. Francis

Tight end: Brett Jamrin, Goodland; Kinen, St. Francis

Kicker: Matt Smith, Oakley

Punter: Derrick Raymer, Goodland

Second team offense

Running back: Toliver Bird, Hoxie; Sam Munderloh, Colby; Reid Werth, Quinter; Lane Winter, Goodland

Quarterback: Tyler Baker, Hoxie; Matt Augustine, Colby

Receiver: Calder Keller, Oakley; Tim Erwin, Hoxie

Center: Cole Hablieb, Oakley

Guard: Eric Gaede, Hoxie; Drew Martin, Decatur Community

Tackle: Mark Starr, Goodland; Brandon Cowan, Goodland

Tight end: Levi Younkin, Oakley; Brad Eland, Hoxie

Kicker: Derrick Raymer, Goodland

Punter: Matt Smith, Oakley

Honorable mention offense

Running back: Jeff Riener, Rawlins County; Josh Fortin, Decatur Community; Cole Garcia, Colby; J. McAtee, St. Francis

Quarterback: Rodney Rippe, Rawlins County; Shawn Kuhlman, Oakley

Center: David Morris, Decatur Community

Guard: Todd Ziegelmeier, Colby; Wilger, St. Francis; Blake Saint, Goodland

Tackle: K.C. Higley, Rawlins County; Chris Mader, Quinter

First team defense

Linebacker: Ross, St. Francis; Brock Lohr, Goodland; Toliver Bird, Hoxie; Adam Martin, Oakley; Jason Thomas, Decatur Community

Defensive back: Matt Smith, Oakley; Matt Augustine, Colby; Lane Winter, Goodland; Jordan Vickers, Hoxie; Calder Keller, Oakley

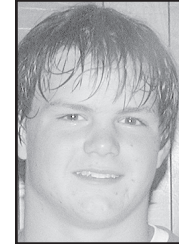
Defensive line: Walz, St. Francis; Bamhart, St. Francis; Chad Baalman, Oakley; Devin Cooper, Hoxie

Defensive end: Jeff Dennis, Oakley; Tim Erwin, Hoxie

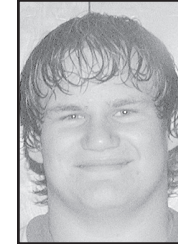
Second team defense



J. McAtee



Weeden



Wilger



Linebacker: Derrick Raymer, Goodland; Weston Foltz, Colby; Dalton Holliman, Rawlins County; Reid Werth, Quinter

Defensive back: Kinen, St. Francis; Mitchell Lowry, Rawlins County; Jase Herl, Goodland; AJ McAtee, St. Francis; Gerid Spesser, Hoxie

Defensive line: Mark Starr, Goodland; Brandon Cowen, Goodland; Gannon Reichert, Decatur Community; Drew Martin, Decatur Community

Defensive end: Smull, St. Francis; Brett Jamrin, Goodland

Honorable mention defense

Linebacker: Cale Farber, Hoxie; Kyle Riecheck, Oakley; Shawn Kuhlman, Oakley; Weeden, St. Francis

Defensive back: David Barth, Decatur Community; Jesse Juenemann, Decatur Community; Brad Eland, Hoxie; Tyler Baker, Hoxie; Dylan Loyd, St. Francis; Drew Wilkens, Goodland; Brice Kesler, Quinter

Defensive line: Matt Havel, Rawlins County; Taylor Finley, Colby; Anthony Benevides, Goodland; Ross Benisch, Quinter

Defensive end: Eric Gaede, Hoxie; Johnathan Porter, Oakley; Trent Mazanec, Colby; Craig Finger, Quinter

Special teams

First team: Matt Smith, Oakley

Second team: Adam Martin, Oakley

Honorable mention: Heath Chatfield, Goodland