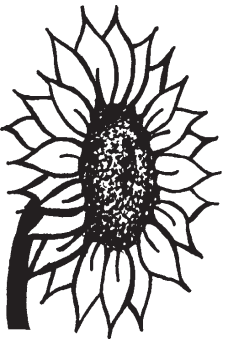


At the Game



Indians lose by one touchdown

By Betty Jean Winston

Two very good high school football teams met at Greene Field in St. Francis on Friday night to compete for one of four 2A Sectional crowns. Two break-away runs plus one additional drive carried the Smith Center Redmen over the St. Francis Indians 20-14. The outcome of this game was not decided until the final buzzer sounded.

"I thought we were just about ready to burst through the door," Coach Tim Lambert said.

"We talked to the kids before the football game and said that usually six plays decide the (winner of the) game," Coach Tim Lambert said. "In this game (Smith Center/St. Francis) we can look and see that maybe with one play being different, the outcome could have been tipped in our direction.

"You can't take it (that play) away though. You play every play and every play counts.

"You have to hand it to them (Smith Center). They made the plays when they had to."

Smith Center earned the right to advance to Sub-state action this weekend against the Oakley Plainsmen, who defeated the Hoxie Indians in another Sectional competition held Friday. In the other 2A bracket of play, Pittsburg Colgan defeated Lebo and St. Marys defeated Remington with Pittsburg Colgan and St. Marys meeting in the other sub-state game.

The previously high scoring teams (St. Francis/Smith Center) found the defensive units controlling the game, especially in the scoreless second half.

Smith Center had a total of 23 yards rushing and 28 yards passing between halftime and the end of the game.

It was a contest that showed the caliber of play from both the defending 2A State Champion Redmen and the Indians.

Smith Center had a total offense of 286 yards on Friday night with 136 of those yards coming from two touchdown runs. St. Francis collected 215 yards on the ground and 45 yards in the air for a total offensive effort of 260 yards.

The Redmen scored the first touchdown but St. Francis answered the challenge by taking the ball in at 4:26 of the first quarter.

Smith Center broke the 6-6 tie early in the second quarter when Jones went on a 54-yard run on the

first play following a St. Francis fumble. This made the score Redmen 12, St. Francis 6.

The second quarter saw St. Francis pull ahead 14-12 when they had a successful conversion attempt following their second touchdown of the game. It seemed like this might but the halftime score but with seconds left before the locker room break, Smith Center went in from the 1-yard line for what proved to be the winning touchdown.

Captains for the St. Francis team on Friday were Joel McAtee, Dylan Loyd and Brennan Wilger.

Levi Weeden kicked off for the Indians and Smith Center began their series back on the 14-yard line. After one short yardage rushing play, the Redmen took the ball 82 yards for a score on the next play. It was only 11:11 on the clock when the conversion attempt failed.

It was important for the Indians to answer this score before the Redmen could score again and develop a larger advantage.

After some back-and-forth play, St. Francis set out on a 57-yard drive which culminated with J. McAtee taking the ball the last 24 yards on a running play. An unsuccessful conversion attempt by the Indians left the score tied 6-6. The time was 4:26. The backfield of J. McAtee, Jordan Gienger and Gabe Smull moved the ball on the ground for the score. Matt Brown handles the Indians quarterback play.

Plays during the first quarter saw a number of Indians with alert tackling to stop the Redmen's momentum. Ted Crabtree broke up one third-down play which forced Smith Center to punt; David Guthmiller stopped a punt return and JD Hawkins broke up a third-down play which was also important.

It was also in this quarter that Smull was brought off the field with an injury and was lost for the remainder of the game.

The period ended with the score still 6-6.

St. Francis began the second quarter with a fumble which set up the second Smith Center touchdown. On the first play from scrimmage, Jones, one of their leading rushers, went 54-yards down field for the touchdown. The clock said 11:44. Again the conversion attempt was no good but Smith Center now led 12-6.

It was time for the Indians to answer the call and they did. AJ



JOEL MCATEE (5) USES his blocker to work his way through the Smith Center line. McAtee carried the ball for 96 yards against the Smith Center Redmen.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

McAtee returned the kickoff to the 35-yard line and the Indian methodically began moving on their way to the goal line. Guthmiller was worked into the Indian back field and he began the drive with two rushing plays.

The Indians converted on two fourth-down plays including a short pass to Gienger. The official measurement after the pass showed St. Francis with a first down. The 5 minute 14 play drive ended with Guthmiller scoring from the 1-yard line. For the first time in the game, a team's conversion attempt made it into the end zone. St. Francis now held a short 14-12 advantage.

Unfortunately Smith Center managed one more touchdown with just seconds remaining. Although they encountered some penalties, a fourth-and-8 lateral pass gave them a first down on the 6-yard line and from there they beat the clock with a touchdown. The score stood at 20-

14 at halftime just as it did when the game was over.

There were some good plays in the second half, both offensively and defensively.

Among them was a pass reception by Adam Peter, who was surrounded by three Redmen. Brown threw the ball where it needed to be and Peter used great effort in catching it. A pass interference on Smith Center was declined.

The two offenses were dominated by the two defenses and the ball moved back and forth between the two squads with no scoring allowed.

Smith Center fumbled the ball early in the fourth quarter but all of a sudden the Redmen defense tightened even more and the Indians could not convert a fourth-down play.

Several Indians were very aggressive and collected more than the usual amount of tackles including AJ McAtee and Peter with 13

each, J. McAtee with 12 and Dylan Loyd with 10. AJ McAtee, Loyd and Crabtree each had three unassisted tackles.

St. Francis finished the season with a good 9-3 record and had a season which gave the fans a lot to cheer about. Smith Center continued their 27-game winning streak on their way to a second consecutive state championship.

Team and individual stats from the Smith Center game follow.

Team stats

St. Francis listed first followed by Smith Center: first downs: 14/9; rushing yardage: 215/234; passing yardage 45/52; total offense: 260/286; punts: two for a 40-yard average/five for a 37-yard average; fumbles: 2/2; penalties: two for 10 yards/ 11 for 60 yards.

Individual stats

Rushing: J. McAtee, 96 yards on 19 attempts; Guthmiller, 54 yards on 19 attempts; Gienger, 37 yards

on 11 attempts; Brown, 28 yards on six attempts.

Passing: Brown, five attempts, three completions, no interception, 15 yards

Pass receivers: Adam Peter, two for 39 yards; Gienger, one for 6 yards

Scoring: J. McAtee 8, Guthmiller 6

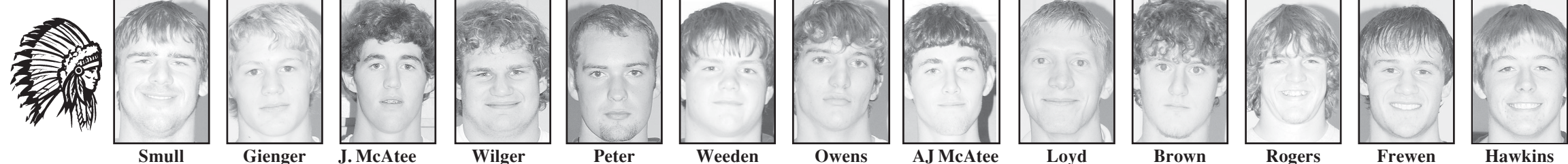
Kickoffs: Levi Weeden, three for 131 yards and a 43.7-yard average

Kickoff returns: AJ McAtee, two for 24 yards and a 12-yard average

Punts: M. Frewen, two for 80 yards, 12-yard average

Punt returns: AJ McAtee, one for 12 yards

Fumble recoveries: M. McAtee 2, Tackles: AJ McAtee 13, Peter 13, J. McAtee 12, Loyd 10, Weeden 9, Brennan Wilger 7, Crabtree 7, Smull 6, Russell Rogers 6, JD Hawkins 4, Guthmiller 2, Heath Owens 2, Josh Carpenter 2, Trevor Hilt 2, Trevor Richard 1



Smull

Gienger

J. McAtee

Wilger

Peter

Weeden

Owens

AJ McAtee

Loyd

Brown

Rogers

Frewen

Hawkins

Many Indian football players receive league honors

By Betty Jean Winston

Thirteen St. Francis Indians were awarded All-League honors for their efforts during the football season by Northwest Kansas League coaches. St. Francis had five seniors and eight juniors named to either the first team, second team or received honorable mention offense; first team, second team or received honorable mention defense or first team, second team, on special teams.

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

Six athletes, A.J. McAtee, Gabe Smull, Joel McAtee, Brennan Wilger, Levi Weeden and Daryl Loyd are repeats as they received league honors in 2004.

Receiving first team 2005 honors were:

Senior Smull, offensive team, running back

Junior Jordan Gienger, offensive team, running back;

Junior J. McAtee, offensive team, running back;

Junior Wilger, offensive team, tackle; defensive team, lineman

Junior Adam Peter, offensive team, tight end

Junior Weeden, defensive team, linebacker

Receiving second team honors were:

Senior Heath Owens, offensive team, center

Weeden, offensive team, guard

J. McAtee, defensive team, linebacker

Junior AJ McAtee, defensive team, back

Senior Loyd, defensive team, back

Smull, defensive team, end

Gienger, defensive team, lineman

Receiving honorable mention honors were:

Senior Matt Brown, offensive team, quarterback

Junior Russell Rogers, offensive team, guard

Junior Mac Frewen, offensive team, tackle

Senior JD Hawkins, defensive team, back

League selections

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

First team offense

Quarterback: Chase Sperber, Oakley

Running back: Calder Keller, Oakley; Smull, St. Francis; Gienger, St. Francis, J. McAtee, St. Francis, Marcus McKenna, Hoxie

Center: Cole Halbleib, Oakley

Guard: Jonathan Porter, Oakley; David Obermeyer, Hoxie

Tackle: Brett Ziegler, Oakley; Wilger, St. Francis

Tight end: Jordan Dunker, Rawlins County; Peter, St. Francis

Wide receiver: Tyler Reed, Quinter; Jase Herl, Goodland

Second team offense

Quarterback: Denton Bailey, Decatur Community

Running back: Derrek Fenner, Goodland; Kelly Younkin, Oakley; Sam Munderloh, Colby; Ben Warta, Rawlins County

Center: Owens, St. Francis

Guard: Weeden, St. Francis; Bret Marietta, Decatur Community

Tackle: Mark Starr, Goodland; Drew Martin, Decatur Community

Tight end: Lance Weis, Hoxie; Jason Thomas, Decatur Community

Wide receiver: Jesse Juemann, Decatur Community; Matt Migchelbrink, Rawlins County

Honorable mention offense

Quarterback: Brown, St. Francis; Rippe Kesler, Quinter; Rodney Rippe, Rawlins County

Running back: Ashley Deaton, Quinter; John Richards, Decatur Community; Bobby Miller, Goodland

Center: Mason Newell, Hoxie

Guard: Rogers, St. Francis; Dalton Holliman, Rawlins County

Tackle: Craig Finger, Quinter; Frewen, St. Francis; John Mosbauer, Goodland; Derek Spresser, Hoxie; Aaron Rchette, Oakley

Tight end: Jake Moss, Hoxie; Jeremy Dietz, Colby

First team defense

Linebacker: Toliver Bird, Hoxie; Weeden, St. Francis; Kyle Rietcheck, Oakley, Fenner, Goodland; Younkin, Oakley

Defensive back: Keller, Oakley; Bailey, Decatur Community; C. Sperber, Oakley; Herl, Goodland

Defensive end: Aaron Rchette, Oakley; Porter, Oakley

Defensive linemen: Terry Urbann, Decatur Community; Ziegler, Oakley; Mark Starr, Goodland; Wilger, St. Francis

Second team defense

Linebacker: Thomas, Decatur Community; Ashley Deaton, Quinter; Jeff Riener, Rawlins County; J. McAtee, St. Francis

Defensive back: AJ McAtee, St. Francis; Loyd, St. Francis; Rippe, Rawlins County; Tyler Baker, Hoxie

Defensive end: Smull, St. Francis; Tim Erwin, Hoxie

Defensive line: Matt McGinty, Hoxie; Havel, Rawlins County; Gienger, St. Francis; Tayler Finley, Colby

Honorable mention defense

Linebacker: Tyler Bolt, Hoxie;

Josh Fortin, Decatur Community;

Reed Worth, Quinter; Paul Kuhlman, Oakley; Josiah Jones, Rawlins County; Holliman, Rawlins County, Jared Sperber, Oakley

Defensive back: Mitchell Lowery, Rawlins County; Robert Cooksey, Oakley; Heath Chatfield, Goodland; Wyatt Dautel, Goodland; Cole Garcia, Colby; Joseph Heier, Colby; Hawkins, St. Francis; Richards, Decatur Community

Defensive end: Martin, Decatur Community

Defensive line: Kyle Withington, Rawlins County

Special teams

Kicker

First team: Ren Scherling, Goodland

Second team: C. Sperber, Oakley

Punter

First team: Matt Havel, Rawlins County

Second team: Joe Mondero, Decatur Community

Specialty

First team: Keller, Oakley

Second team: Reed, Quinter