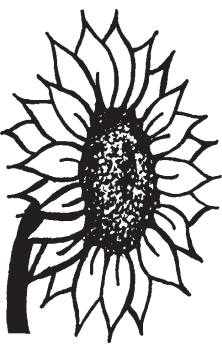


The Saint Francis Herald

At the Game



THE INDIANS HAVE opened a hole for Jordan Gienger (26) to gain yardage for St. Francis. The Indians won the Regional title at Meade on Saturday afternoon and will be playing for the Sectional title at Ellis on Friday night.

Photo courtesy of Cara Weeden

Indians one of eight teams still in 2A playoff race

By Betty Jean Winston

The 2A field is now down to eight football teams and St. Francis is one of them. Each of these teams won a Regional Title in action over the weekend. The remaining teams include Smith Center, LaCrosse, Ellis and St. Francis in the lower half of the bracket. Smith Center and LaCrosse will meet this weekend as will St. Francis and Ellis. In the upper part of the bracket Lyndon will play Olpe this weekend and St. Marys will play St. Mary - Colgan (Pittsburg).

Following the regular season where the St. Francis team earned the District 14 Championship, the Indians moved into post-season play. The road to the State Championship game moves from Bi-District (Sainty defeated Trego County on Oct. 31), to Regionals (Sainty defeated Meade on Nov. 4), to Sectionals (Sainty plays Ellis at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10), to Substate (Nov. 17 or 18), and then the State Championship game (Nov. 25).

With the single elimination games which are taking place, the field will be reduced until there are only two teams for the Championship game and only one eventual State Champion.

St. Francis defeated the Meade Buffaloes by the score of 36-0 on Saturday in a Regional game.

"We played awfully well at Meade," Coach Tim Lambert said. "I was happy."

"The defense shut them down and the offense was efficient." Meade recorded a first down on their first drive but were stopped later on a fourth-down play when they attempted a pitch out.

Jordan Gienger made a first down on the Indians first play from scrimmage and the offense worked their way down the length of the field to the end zone with a continuous drive.

The period was near the end when Gienger went in from 8 yards out. Joel McAtee, who returned to offensive play in this

game, scored the two conversion points for an 8-0 Sainty advantage. The first quarter came to an end without any additional scoring.

In the second quarter, the Indians again stopped the Meade Buffaloes in their offensive attempts.

Sainty scored their second touchdown of the game on a 33-yard drive which ended when Gienger went into the end zone from 2-yards out. J. McAtee added two points. Having a two-touchdown cushion going into the second half was a plus for the Indians.

Meade kicked off in the second half with the ball going out on the 39-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, J. McAtee took the pigskin 61 yards to put the Indians up by another score. Gienger added the two conversions points on a rushing attempt making the score 24-0.

The shutout continued when Sainty put together a 57-yard drive which culminated with a 1-yard run by Guthmiller. An AJ McAtee to J. McAtee pass contributed to the drive. The after-touchdown points were unsuccessful and the score stood at 30-0.

One last score was earned by the Indians in the fourth quarter. It was a 57-yard drive that include many rushing plays and a pass from A.J. McAtee to Adam Peter. Guthmiller scored for the second time of the day, this time from the 3-yard line.

Noteworthy statistics include pass interceptions by AJ McAtee and Trent Raile, Levi Weeden collecting 18 tackles while Adam Peter had 11 and St. Francis having 361-yards total offense compared to 72-yards for Meade.

Team stats

St. Francis listed first followed by Meade: first downs:



16/5; rushing yardage: 313/44; passing yardage 48/28; total offense: 361/72; fumbles lost: 2/0; penalties: four for 25 yards/three for 15 yards.

Individual stats

Rushing: J. McAtee, 147 yards on 14 attempts, 10.5 yards per carry, one touchdown, one extra-point completion; Gienger, 79 yards on 11 attempts, 7.2 yards per carry, two touchdowns, two extra-point conversions; Guthmiller, 54 yards on 18 attempts, 3.0 yards per attempt, two touchdowns; AJ McAtee, 33 yards on 10 attempts, 3.3 yards per carry, one extra-point conversion; Drew Zwegardt and Trent Kinen each had two attempts.

Passing: AJ McAtee, two completion on four attempts for a total of 48 yards.

Pass receiving: J. McAtee one completion for 25 yards; Adam Peter, one completion for 23 yards.

Scoring: Gienger, 14, Guthmiller 12, J. McAtee 8, AJ McAtee 2.

Place kicking: Gienger, one extra-point attempt

Kickoffs: Weeden, six for 220 yards, a 36/7-yard average.

Punt: Mac Frewen, one for 25 yards.

Punt returns: AJ McAtee, one for 25 yards.

Pass interceptions: T. Raile, one; AJ McAtee, one.

Tackles: Weeden 18, Peter 11, J. McAtee 8, Gienger 7, Russell Rogers 7, AJ McAtee 5, BJ Killingsworth 5, T. Raile 5, Nathan Ketzner 4, M. Frewen 3, Brennon Wilger 2, Jesse Pacheco 2, Josh Carpenter 2, Justin Sherlock 2, Keaton Frewen 1.

St. Francis over Trego 30-6

By Betty Jean Winston

St. Francis earned the title of Bi-District Champions when they defeated the Trego County Golden Eagles 30-6 on Tuesday night, Oct. 31, at Greene Field. St. Francis had won the District 14 championship on Thursday night, Oct. 26, therefore they played the second place winner of District 13 which was Trego.

St. Francis moved forward to playing a Regional contest in Meade on Saturday. Details are elsewhere in this issue.

The Tuesday contest ended with a 30-6 victory for the Indians over the Golden Eagles. At the conclusion of the action, the Indians received a plaque recognizing their Bi-District victory.

"Trego has a pretty good football team," Coach Tim Lambert said. "They have good coaching."

"It was a good football game."

"I feel like we are getting better."

The Indians gained 396 yards during the Trego game while holding their opponents to 47.

The evening included cheering by the Indian fans in response to a number of good plays by the St. Francis team. To have the Indians move out to a two-touchdown advantage in the first half is always something to cheer about.

Fumbling of the football during the evening was one of the few concerns. St. Francis lost the ball on three occasions.

The first quarter saw the Golden Eagles receive the ball, but immediately find out how hard it is to move against the Sainty defense.

The Indians had their first offensive opportunity when Trego was forced to punt on their first series. The home team immediately took advantage of having the ball by earning a first down and then a touchdown. They began play on their own 47-yard line as AJ McAtee had returned the punt to this field position.

David Guthmiller earned the first down on the second play from scrimmage and three plays later Jordan Gienger scored on a 23-yard

run. The clock said 8:43. AJ McAtee added two points on a rushing play and the Indians were 8-0 on the board.

After the Golden Eagles had to punt again on their next possession, Sainty went on a long 89-yard drive which ate up the clock. They collected six first downs along the way and the action moved into the second quarter.

The linemen and the blockers were protecting the Sainty runners and Guthmiller, Levi Weeden, Gienger and AJ McAtee had a steady movement down field. The drive included a successful fourth down running attempt.

Gienger took the ball in for touchdown number two from the 6-yard line. AJ McAtee again added the two extra points.

The Golden Eagles attempted two unsuccessful passes on their next series of plays but again were forced to punt.

The remainder of the first half was noteworthy only for the turnovers and the dependability of the Sainty defense. Sainty lost the ball both by fumbles (one they recovered) and pass interceptions, but the defense did not give the Golden Eagles an opportunity to score. Trent Raile intercepted a Trego County pass during this time which again stymied the opponent's passing game.

Sainty received the kickoff but lost the ball shortly thereafter. Trego County again had the ball for only a short time. On one play the Indians moved into their backfield and had a good rush of their quarterback.

The next Sainty possession began on the 9-yard line and the team used seven minutes of the third quarter gaining yardage and first downs. This drive included a successful fourth-down conversion, a first down on a 15-yard run by Gienger, and a pitch out to Gienger. After Gienger moved the ball to the 2-yard line Guthmiller plunged over on the next play.

The remaining 4 minutes of the third quarter saw the teams trading

possession with Sainty having control going into the fourth quarter.

After a holding call against the Indians, Weeden gained back 10-yards on a rushing play and facing a fourth-and-three, AJ McAtee moved the ball to the 11-yard line and a first down.

The clock said 9:34 when Gienger went in for a touchdown from the 1-yard line. Weeden added two points and the Indians had a 30-0 lead.

Trego scored in the final 4 minutes on a fake fourth-down play. They passed the ball and entered the end zone.

The final score was St. Francis 30, Trego County 6.

Team stats

St. Francis listed first followed by Trego County: first downs: 18/3; rushing yardage: 396/47; passing yardage 8/74; total offense: 404/121; fumbles lost: 3/0; penalties: two for 15 yards/2 for 10 yards.

Individual stats

Rushing: Gienger, 153 yards on 24 attempts, 6.4 yards per carry, two touchdowns; Guthmiller, 122 yards on 28 attempts, 4.4 yards per carry, two touchdowns; Weeden, 80 yards on 17 attempts, 4.7 yards per carry, one extra point completion; AJ McAtee, 41 yards on six attempts, 6.8 yards per attempts, two extra point completions.

Passing: AJ McAtee, one completion on six attempts for a total of 8 yards.

Pass receiving: Joel McAtee, one completion for 8 yards.

Scoring: Guthmiller 12, Gienger 12, AJ McAtee 4, Weeden 2.

Kickoffs: Weeden, four for 127 yards, a 31.8-yard average.

Kickoff returns: AJ McAtee, one for 8 yards.

Punt returns: AJ McAtee, two for 58 yards, an 29.0-yard average.

Pass interceptions: T. Raile, one. Tackles: BJ Killingsworth 10, Adam Peter 9, Weeden 8, AJ McAtee 6, J. McAtee 6, Brennon Wilger 5, Gienger 5, Mac Frewen 4, Russell Rogers 4, Justin Sherlock 3, Josh Carpenter, Keaton Frewen, Nathan Ketzner and T. Raile, one each.