

Sainty falls short at sub-state

By Betty Jean Winston

The Saint Francis Herald
The weather was beautiful but the final score was not what the St. Francis Indians had planned. Claflin was the winner, 42-6, in the Class 2A sub-state football game played in Claflin and advances to the state finals Saturday. Sainty earned its lone touchdown of the game in the first quarter on a pass from quarterback Ty Long to Marcus Dodd, a 68-yard play. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful. Claflin was a big, strong team and they gave a good effort both offensively and defensively. The three St. Francis fumbles were also very important in the outcome. "Our turnovers took us out of the football game," Coach Tim Lambert said "Claflin played a super game." "That last touchdown pass just be-

fore halftime was a backbreaker. Being down by two took us out of the game. With a team that good, if you get down, they bury you. "We knew we needed to stop their run and make them beat us by throwing the ball which is what happened. They also made some great adjustments during halftime." The Wildcats posted scores following the first two Sainty turnovers. "The win is a credit to them," Coach Lambert said. The Indians collected 274 total yards, including 170 on the ground and 104 in the air. Jonathan Roelfs led the tackling with 10 followed by Dunn with nine and Travis Hilt with seven. St. Francis kicked off to Claflin to open the game and the Wildcats begin play on the 35-yard line. The Indians

were so eager to get into the action they were charged with encroachment on a long count on the first play from scrimmage. The next attempt was for short yardage, but that was followed by a nice run which put the Wildcats in Indian territory. Sainty was preventing the big play but Claflin was just grinding out the yards, although the Sainty defense was playing hard. It looked like the Indians might have an opportunity to receive the ball on downs, but a fourth-down attempt by the Wildcats was successful. By the time 7 minutes had passed on the clock, Claflin was in the end zone with its first touchdown of the day. A successful conversion attempt saw the scoreboard move to 8-0. Claflin was looking for the running of Sainty's Dustin Dunn and Kyle Buffington and they keyed in on them.

A pass to Ben Swihart was successful but Sainty was forced to punt on fourth down. A penalty put the Wildcats in a first-and-20 situation and they could not work their way out of it, so Sainty again received the ball. This time they make short work of getting into the end zone when Marcus Dodd broke loose following a pass from Long. It was a fast scoring drive and the Indians were within two points of the Wildcats when the conversion attempt failed with 24 seconds remaining in the first quarter. The first of Sainty's fumbles happened in the second quarter and Claflin had the ball again before the Indians could mount a drive. This resulted in a Claflin touchdown four plays later. A tip by Roelfs prevented the conversion pass from being successful but the Wildcats had a 14-6 advantage.



Good blocking by the Indians this season allowed No. 44 Kyle Buffington to make his way down the field. Photo by Karen Krien/The Saint Francis Herald



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