

Press Clippings 11/02/19

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---11/02/2019

Running into problems

Oswego too much for Elgin in Maroons' return to playoffs

By: Kevin McGavin



Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) throws a pass against Oswego during a 8A playoff game at Oswego High School in Oswego, IL on Friday, November 01, 2019 *Sean King for the Daily Herald*

Making its first Class 8A playoff football appearance in nine years, Elgin tried a different wrinkle against Oswego in first-round action Friday night.

Unfortunately for the Maroons, Oswego quarterback Cole Pradel outplayed the three signal-callers Elgin coach Anthony Mason employed.

Oswego, the fifth seed, scored on five consecutive possessions bridging the end of the first quarter through its opening possession of the second half.

The Panthers' Anthony Cikauskas fell on a fumble in the Maroons' end zone for a sixth unanswered score as Oswego cruised to a 42-8 victory over Elgin at home.

Pradel threw for three scores and ran for another -- all in the first half -- to lead the Panthers (9-1).

Xavier Bonds, the Maroons' electric threat receiving, rushing and on special teams, had a late score on a 7-yard rush to avert the shutout for Elgin.

"It didn't go as planned, but I'm proud of my team," the uncommitted Bonds said. "We came out and did the best we could. Everybody fought. Nothing slipped away. We got unfocused, we got undisciplined. (The Panthers) took advantage of it and played a great game."

The No. 28 Maroons (5-5) had their five-game winning streak snapped.

The teams' defenses exchanged fourth-down stops to begin the game.

But the Panthers forced a punt on the Maroons' second possession.

Oswego would need only two plays to score its first touchdown and twice as many on its next possession to double the advantage.

Pradel found his third different receiver for a scoring reception on the Panthers' next drive; the senior then called his own number from 13 yards away to give Oswego a commanding 28-0 lead at halftime.

"We started getting it going," said Pradel, who was 8-for-9 in the first half for 135 yards. "From there, we just clicked. The passing game worked tonight."

"(Pradel) was smart," Mason said. "He didn't make the same mistakes he made last week against Minooka (the Panthers' only loss)."

Mason, meanwhile, tried a myriad of different looks behind revolving quarterbacks Jeffrey Lomax, Giovoni Griffin and Alex West.

"The rationale was, we never had a guy who really took off (in the regular season) and led this team," Mason said. "All three guys stayed pretty even the whole season."

The Panthers' physical and massive defensive line did not help matters as the Maroons' quarterbacks were sacked four times in the first half.

As a result, Elgin entered halftime with only 10 positive yards on the ground.

Elgin also lost a pair of fumbles in the opening two quarters as the field conditions only worsened after halftime.

"That's football," Bonds said.

"It's a great platform for us to get better," Mason said of the Maroons' first playoff berth since 2010.

---Courier News---11/02/2019

Strong outing

Karpowicz bounces back from early safety as South Elgin rolls to first-round win

By: Paul Johnson



South Elgin's Samuel Robles (23) celebrates after picking up a first down during the third quarter of a Class 8A first-round playoff game against Oswego East on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019. (Brian O'Mahoney / Courier-News)

Talk about an auspicious start for South Elgin's Ben Karpowicz in his first-ever playoff game.

The sophomore quarterback began on his own 2-yard line Saturday after an impressive stand by the defense stopped Oswego East's first drive.

On the first snap from center, however, he was tackled in the end zone for a safety.

"It was a really weird start," Karpowicz said. "We did a really good job of bouncing back, though."

Karpowicz was a big reason for it, passing for 93 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for 105 yards on 14 carries as the Storm won 35-8 in the first round of the Class 8A playoffs.

South Elgin (9-1) will travel to Chicago and face Brother Rice (6-4) next weekend for its second-round game.

"I was just looking forward to my first play, get all the nerves out of the way," Karpowicz said. "After that, it was just a normal football game.

"I had full trust that that would happen. We were mentally tough and we were able to fight through that."

A 1-yard TD run by Marquis Gillespie II gave South Elgin a 7-2 lead with 4:27 left in the first quarter.

Oswego East (5-5) answered with a 16-play drive that resulted in a 2-yard TD pass from Michael Ford to Keion Battle.

Karpowicz made sure that 8-7 deficit was short-lived, though. He threw a 38-yard TD pass to Calin Gurau on the next drive, and the Storm never trailed again.

"He bounced back really well," South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic said of Karpowicz. "He threw a great throw to Calin on that post.

"It was a tough scenario in his first playoff game, but overall, pretty good. He's a very tough kid."

Ford lit it up through the air for Oswego East, completing 24 of 40 passes for 379 yards.

He had two 100-yard receivers as Battle turned eight catches into 120 yards and Jackson Allison added six catches for 105 yards.

But when it mattered most, South Elgin's defense responded. Led by senior linebacker Vince Clinite, the Storm stuffed the Wolves three times on fourth down.

Oswego East only rushed for 21 yards on 24 carries.

"We didn't care about his numbers," Clinite said of Ford's passing totals. "In the end, the scoreboard, those are the only numbers that matter."

Karpowicz threw an 8-yard TD pass to Gurau in the second half. Corve King and Davion Cherwin added rushing TDs.

The Storm now face a unique challenge in traveling to Brother Rice. The Crusaders won 28-8 on Friday against Bartlett, which is South Elgin's rival.

"This was a huge game for us, showing everybody what we're all about," Karpowicz said. "Hopefully, we can go get Brother Rice, get some more recognition after that."

"It will be cool because they have a lot of tradition over there. Every year they're really good. We're up and coming, so hopefully we can go make a statement."

Press Clippings 11/03/19

---Courier News---11/03/2019

Not Green's Day

'Irreplaceable' Rivelli scores Bartlett's only TD in playoff loss to Brother Rice

By: Paul Johnson



After making a first down, Bartlett's Tyler Rivelli is tackled by Brother Rice's Khary Shaw. Bartlett's only touchdown in the last game of his career. (H. Rick Bamman/ Courier-News)

Bartlett junior quarterback Mike Priami wanted to make sure senior Tyler Rivelli had one last chance to score a touchdown late in Friday's Class 8A playoff opener against Brother Rice.

Priami called an audible to a play the Hawks hadn't run all night, and the running back rewarded Priami's faith in him with a 24-yard touchdown run.

It was the lone score for ninth-seeded Bartlett in a 28-8 loss to 24th-seeded Brother Rice, but Rivelli ended his career in style.

"I have to thank Mike for that," Rivelli said. "I wouldn't have had it otherwise. He audibled out just so I would have another chance to get into the end zone one last time."

Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh was happy to see Rivelli go out like that for the Hawks (8-2). Rivelli rushed for 60 yards on eight carries and also played linebacker against Brother Rice (6-4).

"Tyler is an irreplaceable guy," Erlenbaugh said. "He does everything. We're going to miss him tremendously."

Erlenbaugh was not surprised that Priami helped Rivelli have that moment.

"We trust Mike 100%," Erlenbaugh said. "This was an unbelievable year, just to see the strides and the growth from the guys, how they came together. They're brothers. They've built lifelong relationships. They'd do anything for each other."

Bartlett hung around in the first half. The Hawks trailed Brother Rice 12-0 late in the second quarter, but any chance at scoring before halftime ended with their third turnover.

“In the playoffs, you can’t have mistakes like that,” Rivelli said. “It was a big, game-changing moment. Regardless of that, we thought we were going to come back. Obviously, it didn’t happen. It didn’t turn in our favor.”

The Crusaders rode quarterback Jack Lausch and the versatile Willie Shaw to the win. Both rushed for over 100 yards and two touchdowns despite the extremely muddy conditions.

“The conditions were bad for both of us, but they won the battle upfront,” Erlenbaugh said.

“I wouldn’t want to see (Shaw) on turf or on a dry field.”

Lausch scored his two touchdowns in the second half, converting two-point conversions on each, to push the lead to 28-0 before Rivelli was able to get the Hawks on the board.

Rivelli recalled his sophomore year, when the Hawks went 2-7. Erlenbaugh took over before last season, when the Hawks went 7-3, and they won a share of the Upstate Eight title this season.

“We’re growing here at Bartlett,” Rivelli said.

“That’s the most important part. I just hope I impacted these guys. I just hope that we made a difference. We’re just moving up. Watch out, Bartlett is coming. We’re not a team to joke around with. We changed the culture around here a lot.”

---Courier News---11/03/2019

South Elgin stands tall, stops Oswego East

By: Jerry Birchfield

By Jerry Birchfield

Daily Herald Correspondent

Usually it is the explosive offense that wins games for South Elgin. This season the Storm have a 45.7 margin of victory.

But it was the defense that made the big plays in the Storm's 35-8 Class 8A first round playoff win over Oswego East Saturday.

South Elgin's defense stopped the Wolves on five of their six trips inside the red zone, including two successful goal-line stands and recovered two fumbles that turned into Storm scores.

South Elgin (9-1) will play at Brother Rice (9-1), a 28-8 winner over Bartlett, next weekend.

The defensive unit was tested on Oswego East's first possession of the game. On the first play from scrimmage, Wolves quarterback Michael Ford (22 of 32 for 347 yards) connected with Keion Battle (8 receptions for 141 yards) for a 66-yard pass that put Oswego East at South Elgin's 3-yard line. The D-line held, stopping the Wolves at the 1-yard line.

"I thought our defensive play was outstanding, the entire game. They had a great 66-yard pass in the first part of the game, we came up with a big stop," said Storm coach Dragan Teonic. "I think we came up with four or five big stops in the red zone.

On the Storm's first play on the ensuing drive, quarterback Ben Karpowicz was tackled in the end zone for a safety.

Oswego East's next drive ended when Dylan Bernal recovered a fumble at the Wolves' 36-yard line and returned it 25 yards. Two plays later, Marquis Gillespie ran seven yards for the score to give South Elgin a 7-2 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Wolves got back in front on their first possession of the second quarter on 6-yard toss from Ford to Battle.

The lead was short-lived as South Elgin scored on its next drive on a 38-yard pass from Karpowicz to Calin Gurau.

The Storm scored their third TD of the first half after another Oswego East (5-5) turnover on a 5-yard run by Corve King.

The Wolves threatened again late in the second half. Facing fourth-and-goal, Ford completed a pass to Zoye Harden, who was stopped at the 1-yard line.

"We didn't play our best football where we needed to play our best football, in the red zone," Oswego East coach Tyson LeBlanc. "They were more physical than us. That was the issue in the red zone."

South Elgin led 21-8 at the intermission.

The Storm extended their lead to 28-8 in the third quarter. On a fourth down conversion attempted, Davion Cherwin ran 44 yards for a touchdown.

South Elgin's defenders turned Oswego East away again in the fourth quarter. A 36-yard pass from Ford to Jackson Allison gave Oswego East a first down at South Elgin's 1-yard line. The Wolves were unable to advance any closer to the end zone.

"Our motto is 9, 5, 9. We have nine dudes, five yards between the ball, 90 percent of the times," said senior defensive back Vince Clinite. "We exceeded that today."

An 8-yard pass from Karpowicz to Gurau in the fourth quarter completed South Elgin's scoring.

The Storm gained 238 yards on the ground, with Karpowicz rushing 15 times for 121 yards. Cherwin rushed for 48 yards. Karpowicz completed six of nine passes for 99 yards. King (3 receptions for 49 yards) and Gurau (2 for 46) were his favorite targets.

Press Clippings 11/04/19

Press Clippings 10/04/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.
