



The Saint Francis Herald

At the Game

Football season ends for Indians

By Betty Jean Winston
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The St. Francis Indians traveled to Meade on Saturday to compete with the Buffaloes in regional football action. Both the Indians and the Buffaloes had won their district during the regular season and also defeated their opponents in bi-district action. Now it was time to see which team would advance to the sectional playoff this weekend. Meade entered the game with a 10-0 record and St. Francis with a 7-3 record.

The Buffaloes will be playing in the sectional-playoff game by virtue of defeating the Indians 48-6 on Saturday.

St. Francis finished the season as the regional runner up after having been named the district champion and bi-district champion. The season ended with a 7-4 record.

"Meade was a good, big football team with good athletes in the skill positions," Coach Nathan Smith said. "They executed very well."

"We had a good game plan going into the game," he said. "We were a little slow coming out of the gate but were better near the end of the first half and during the second half."

Seniors playing their last game for the Indians included Grady Brunk, Darris Keller, Terrence Lamb, Alex Long, Jeff Meyer, Ben Neitzel, Matt Raile, Trent Raile and Drew Zwegardt.

St. Francis had 221 yards rushing in the game and 45 yards passing for a total offense of 266 yards. Six players had rushing stats with Trent Raile leading the way with 121 yards on 23 carries.

Defensively 15 players helped with the tackling. Quarterback Matt Raile had seven solo tackles and six assists while Adam Guthmiller had six solo tackles and eight assists to pace the team.

Action began in Meade with the Indians kicking off to the Buffaloes with play beginning on the 48-yard line. Alex Long is the kicker for St. Francis.

The very first Buffalo series ended with a Meade touchdown by Benear from 1-yard out. Six plays had transpired, with two first downs and a penalty against St. Francis. No after-touchdown points were scored, leaving the score with Meade ahead 6-0.

St. Francis was three-and-out on their first series. Action began on the 20-yard line and ended with a fourth-and-12 punt. The time was 7:02 and the Indians hurt themselves by having two



INDIAN TRENT RAILE (36) races down field at a recent football game. Protecting him along the way is Garrett Figgins (34), Adam Guthmiller (54) and Ty Zwegardt (26). St. Francis played their final game of the year at the regional contest held in Meade on Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Kristi Guthmiller

additional penalties.

Another touchdown was scored by Meade on their second series. This one began on the Indian's 13-yard line following a bad snap to the punter and took just 2 minutes of playing time. Benear scored from 2-yards out. The scoreboard showed Meade 12, St. Francis 0, as no conversion points were successful. The clock said 4:59 left in the first quarter.

St. Francis went three-and-out again on their next drive forcing them to punt with Meade taking over on their own 17-yard line. They were moving down field, collecting first downs when the quarter ended.

Meade continued toward the goal line when play resumed and with 9:25 on the clock they

scored on a 4-yard run by Hernandez. A pass play added two conversion points and the score stood at 20-0 Meade.

The Indians punted following three attempts to move the ball 10-yards and the Buffaloes began play on the Indian 42-yard line. At 6:05, Hernandez scored from 7-yards out. This time the Buffaloes decided to have Castillo kick the extra point and he was successful making it 27-0.

Following their next series, the Indians punted the ball to Meade but this time Meade was forced to punt the ball back to St. Francis when facing a fourth-and-10 situation. This was the Buffaloes first unsuccessful series of the game.

The Indians spent the remainder of the period moving the ball down field in their best series so

far. They collected first downs and had success both running and passing. Unfortunately time ran out before they reached the end zone as there was limited time left on the clock when they received the ball.

The half-time score was 27-0 in Meade's favor.

The third quarter saw the Buffaloes score two more times. The first time was on 36-yard pass from Benear to Hernandez with a run by Benear scoring the additional two points. The second score was a 12-yard run by Davis with a successful kick by Castillo. Going into the final period, Meade led 42-0.

Cody Sherlock put St. Francis on the board with a 5-yard run in the final frame. St. Francis began play on the Buffalo's 45-yard line.

They used T. Raile, Sherlock and Cody Killingsworth to earn first downs and keep the ball in motion. A face-mask penalty was called on Meade which moved the ball to within 5-yards of the end zone. The conversion attempt failed.

One final score was earned by Meade. It was a 64-yard run to pay dirt by Benear with about 2 minutes left in the game. This left the final score Meade 48, St. Francis 6.

Offensively T. Raile had 121 yards on 23 carries; Lamb had 50 yards on eight carries; Sherlock had 31 yards on 11 carries and one touchdown; Ty Zwegardt had three carries for 9 yards; Killingsworth had 8 yards on four carries and M. Raile had 2 yards on five carries.

M. Raile was 4-of-11 on pass-

ing attempts with Garrett Figgins have two catches for 30 yards and Keller two catches for 15 yards.

The following players earned defensive points: M. Raile, seven solos tackles, six assists, 20 points; Guthmiller, six solos, eight assists, 20 points; T. Raile, four solos, four assists, 12 points; Figgins, three solos, four assists, 10 points; Lamb, two solos, six assists, 10 points; Sherlock, one solo, five assists, 7 points; Keller, one assist, one tackle behind the 30, 5 points; Long, four assists, 4 points; Killingsworth, three assists, 3 points; Alex Draper, one tackle behind the 30, 3 points; Brooks Hobrock, one solo, 2 points; Meyer, one assist, 1 point; Martin Hnizdill, one assist, 1 point; Zach Gienger, one assist, 1 point; Ty Zwegardt, one assist, 1 point.

Indians defeat the Decatur Red Devils

By Betty Jean Winston
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St. Francis defeated Decatur Community on Tuesday night by the score of 44-12 and therefore earned the bi-district championship. This gave the Indians the right to travel to Meade on Saturday for regional play (see related article).

"The kids played very well in all areas," Coach Nathan Smith said concerning the Tuesday game. "We had a complete game for the first time this year."

The Indians collected 478 yards on offense with 430 of those coming on the ground and 48 in the air.

Trent Raile again ran for over 200 yards. Tuesday's output was 206 yards on 27 carries. He led the team in rushing although six other players also carried the ball, including Terrence Lamb who was just at 100 yards on 20 carries and Cody Sherlock who netted 81 yards on 17 carries.

"The offense moved the ball well," Coach Smith said.

The Red Devils used the air numerous time. They had 29 passing attempts for 170 yards. It should be noted that 124 of those yards were in the fourth quarter when the younger Indians were playing. Most of their successful at-

tempts were for short yardage, Coach Smith said.

The Indians dominated play beginning in the first quarter.

After receiving the kickoff and being unable to make a first down, Decatur needed to punt to the Indians.

St. Francis let the ball drop on the 44-yard line and had a first down on the initial play. Continuing down field they converted a fourth-and-4 when Matt Raile moved down the sideline for a 16-yard run. Saintry collected their first touchdown at 6:12 when T. Raile went in from 4-yards out. The extra points were no good.

Decatur began action on the 15-yard line, following the Indian kick off. St. Francis caught the quarterback behind the line on the first play, then the Red Devils had a short completed pass and an incomplete pass but no first down.

St. Francis' second series began at the 45-yard line. Again they collected first downs and ended up with a touchdown with 1:53 on the clock. Lamb went in for the score and T. Raile collected the extra points. The score now stood at 14-0.

Decatur bobbled the ball on the kickoff but gained control and made it to the 28-yard line. With 1:35 on clock, Matt Raile inter-

cepted a Red Devil pass and returned the ball to St. Francis.

Saintry had a couple of first downs and were about 5-yards out when the quarter ended.

On the first play of the second quarter T. Raile scored for the Indians making it 22-0. Matt Raile made the conversion.

A couple of penalties took place, one on each team, but Decatur's was for 15 yards and again they had to punt on fourth down.

St. Francis took over on the 32-yard with 10:11 on the clock.

A pass to Figgins was complete down field but there was a flag and a 15-yard penalty on the Indians so the ball was called back. Saintry continued to make first downs and scored with 4:27 on the clock. Lamb scored the touchdown with the conversion attempt no good.

After the kickoff, Decatur began play on the 38-yard line. They had a nice run on a pass play for their initial first down of the game. A penalty hindered them and they were forced to punt on fourth down.

Saintry had the ball on the 26-yard line with 2:50 remaining. They collected a couple of first downs but failed on the third attempt. This was the first time the Indians had to relinquish the ball on downs.

Just before halftime, Matt Raile intercepted a Red Devil pass but the buzzer stopped the action shortly thereafter.

The score was 28-0 at half time.

"St. Francis played well as a team," Coach Smith said. "Quite a few kids played in this game, nearly all the juniors and seniors."

Things did not run quite as smoothly for the Indians in the third quarter as they were forced to punt when the fourth-down yardage was short. Neither team put any points on the scoreboard.

One of the last plays for the Indians was a completed pass to Darris Keller but it was not enough for a first down.

The Red Devils were still unable to complete a series for a touchdown.

The fourth quarter had a great start for the Indians, as Lamb had an interception. Shortly thereafter Garrett Figgins and quarterback M. Raile got together for a touchdown pass. The ball was right on the mark and Figgins was one of three players (two of them Red Devils) reaching for the ball. Figgins won and recorded a touchdown. T. Raile added two conversion points to put the Indians ahead 36-0. This was a 26-yard touchdown play.

The next touchdown was by the Red Devils. The clock said 9:42 and they scored on one of their successful pass plays. It was a 50-yard play. No conversion points were scored.

Alex Long broke up a Red Devil play and later had an interception. Sherlock was the next Indian to reach the end zone. There was 4:12 left in the game when he traveled the 14-yard to score. Ty Zwegardt collected the two extra points.

The final score was 44-12 as Decatur scored on the last play of the game.

Offensively M. Raile was 3-of-6 passing with one of his passes resulting in a touchdown. Figgins was the recipient of this pass, which was a 26-yard play. Keller received two passes for a total of 22 yards.

Rushing stats are as follows: T. Raile, 27 carries for 206 yards, two touchdowns and two successful extra-point attempts; Lamb, 20 carries for 100 points, two touchdowns; Sherlock, 17 carries for 81 yards, one touchdown; M. Raile, four carries for 33 yards and one successful conversion attempt. Cody Killingsworth, one carry for 5 yards; Zwegardt, three carries for 3 yards, one successful conversion attempt; Braden Schmid,

one carry for 2 yards.

Coach Smith said many of the defensive points were scored by players on the kickoff team as they had a number of opportunities. Starting defensive players spent less time on the field in this contest as Decatur had a number of short series.

A number of the tackles behind the 30-yard line, came on kick off attempts.

Total defensive stats: Zwegardt, one solo tackle, three tackles behind the 30, 11 points; M. Raile, two interceptions, 10 points; Killingsworth, two assists, two tackles behind the 30, one knocked down pass, 10 points; Schmid, one assist, three tackles behind the 30, 10 points; Adam Guthmiller, two solos, three assists, one sack, 9 points; Lamb, one solo, one assist, one interception, 8 points; Long, one solo, one assist, one interception, 8 points; Killingsworth, three solos, one assist, 7 points; T. Raile, two solos, 4 points; Alex Draper, one solo, one tackle behind the line, 4 points; Dylan Wolaver, one assist, one tackle behind the 30-yard line; Figgins, one solo, one assist, 3 points; Zach Gienger, one tackle behind the 30, 3 points; Keller, one solo, 2 points; Grady Brunk, one solo, 2 points.