

12 Fremont News-Messenger Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1971

At Harmon Stadium Friday Elyria Players Ready For Ross

"Our players have been looking to this game for two weeks."

That was the comment of Elyria's head football coach Bill Barton when questioned about his team's attitude for the Buckeye Conference struggle with Fremont Ross at Harmon Stadium Friday.

"I'm sure our kids and also theirs have been looking ahead to this one," Barton said. "We showed it in the way we played against Lorain Admiral King last Friday."

Elyria will be the toughest test for Ross so far this season. The Pioneers have humiliated five straight opponents, but still are not ranked among the Associated Press state-wide balloting.

"Our players and fans think the Associated Press poll is a joke," Barton said. "But, I don't worry about those things. It's too early in the season."

"Polls are for the fans. Winning takes care of everything."

The Pioneers have rolled over their first five opponents by a 216-25 margin. The victims include Toledo Scott (35-7), Cleveland West Tech (41-0), Cleveland East Tech (31-0), Marion Harding (55-6) and Lorain Admiral King (54-12).

The scoring statistics become even more impressive when one considers that three of the four touchdowns allowed by the perennial state power have come as a direct result of a kickoff return. One touchdown was scored on a punt return while the other two came following long run backs.

Elyria's in excellent physical condition if the score by quarters is any indication. The Pioneers still haven't been scored on in the final 12 minutes. They've given up seven points in the first quarter, 12 in the second and six in the third. The second quarter points all came in last Friday's game with Lorain Admiral King.

The biggest point-producing quarter for the Pioneers has been the second when they've tacked 78 points on the board. They have tallied 50 in the first, 46 in the third and 42 in the fourth.

In team statistics the visitors are also impressive. They hold a 1,897-405 total offense advantage over their opponents. Elyria has rushed for 1,665 yards and passed for another 232 while their foes have gained 333 on the ground and 272 in the air.

Ike Maxwell, a senior speedster, is the key to the powerful ground game. He has



IKE MAXWELL
Leading Rusher

already carried the ball 97 times for 874 yards and broken the school's individual rushing record for a single game twice.

Maxwell grinded his way for 278 yards in 29 carries against Lorain Admiral King last Friday.

"Ike has good speed and moves, but it amazes me that we have scored like we have so far this season," Barton says. "Ike needs room to operate though. He isn't a power runner like Liggins or Lytle of Ross."

The Pioneers boast a talented front line that opens gaping holes for Maxwell and his backfield running mates—quarterback John Gawlik, fullback Ira Perkins and wingback Clint Husband.

The left end is Tom Daly (6-2, 185) and the right end spot goes to Dale Griffin (6-6, 225), who also stars in basketball. Doug VanDyke (6-0, 185) and Bob Messaros (6-0, 235) are the tackles while the guard spots are handled by Carson Chlepciak (6-0, 205) and Les Miles (6-0, 210). Sheldon Bcynski (6-1, 210) is in charge of the snaps.

Gawlik has relied on the ground game and has put the ball in the air only to keep the defense honest. He has six completions in 19 attempts for 143 yards.

Overall, Elyria has thrown the ball 28 times for 11 completions. Last season Elyria completed only 13 aeriads during its entire schedule.

Surprisingly, the second leading ground gainer doesn't even start. Phil Oliver (5-9, 165), who takes over for Husband, has 411 yards in 33 carries for a 12.5 average.

Perkins has carried only 26 times. He has 112 yards. Gawlik has called his number 18 times for 96 yards.

Elyria has rushed 220 times and is averaging 7.6 yards a carry.

Maxwell is the leading scorer with 14 touchdowns and a two-point conversion for 86 points. Oliver and Perkins are next in line with 30 and 24 points, respectively.

Elyria has been strong defensively even though it has lost two starters — Fred Jones and Bill Haney — in the backfield.

Barton employs the four man front with three linebackers. The ends are Tim Sweigard (5-10, 191) and Charles Outlaw (5-11, 210). Les Miles (6-0, 210) and Jerry Richardson (5-10, 202).

Don Scarbrough (5-11, 105), Larry Robison (6-2, 195) and Jack Sito (6-1, 176) are the linebackers. Perkins and Don Hawk (5,9, 145) are the corners and Steve Sunagel (5-6, 165) and Bruce McElroy (6-1, 175) rove the deep parts of the backfield.

Even though the defense has two impressive shut outs to its credit, Barton is cautious when analyzing that part of the game plan.

"We really haven't been tested yet," Barton said. "Our kids haven't faced backs like Lytle and Liggins."

What type of game does the veteran mentor expect?

"Both teams should be sky high for this one," Barton said.

"We aren't working very hard on preparing our kids mentally. They get prepared on their own for a big game like this."

"Usually in a game where both teams appear to be evenly matched it will be either real close or lopsided."

"I hate to predict a game that looks so even on paper. I do think we'll have to score several touchdowns to beat them."

UPI Rates Ross No. 5

Fremont Ross was ranked fifth in the United Press International high school balloting today.

Leader in AAA was Niles McKinley. The rest of the top five included Warren Harding, Cincinnati Moeller, Massillon and Ross.

Leader in AA was unbeaten Steubenville Central Catholic. Marion Pleasant replaced Cory Rawson as the Class A leader this week.

Elyria, Fremont, Ross' op...