



Sports off Campus

By Jerry Ulmer
Staff writer

High School Game of the Week Lakeridge stings Rex Putnam

Lakeridge's Dane Walker returned the opening kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown Friday night, setting the tone as the number one ranked and unbeaten Pacers stung Three Rivers League rival Rex Putnam 45-0 before a homecoming crowd at Lake Oswego High School.

The victory pushed Lakeridge's record to 5-0, keeping them tied atop the TRL with number three ranked Canby, who won at West Linn 41-22 Friday. Lakeridge will play at Canby Oct. 30. Putnam fell to 3-3 in league and fifth place with the loss.

When senior Mike Miadich hit Mike Held for a 98 yard scoring pass to make it 14-0 midway through the first quarter, it was apparent that Lakeridge would gain revenge for last year's 35-27 loss to Putnam.

Miadich went on to throw four touchdown passes, three to the senior Held, en route to 346 yards passing on 15 for 26. The effort included touchdown bombs of 70 and 64 yards in the fourth quarter for the Pacers final two scores, well after the game was out of reach.

Putnam's offensive game plan fizzled when it lost its leading ground gainer, senior Dan Ruhl, to a season-ending knee injury early in the second quarter. But even with Ruhl, the Putnam offense was stagnant as the Pacers dominated the line of scrimmage, led by senior defensive end Ben Finklea.

The Putnam offense managed just 119 total yards to 490 for Lakeridge. Putnam quarterbacks Dan Keswick and Brock Dressel were constantly dealing with a ferocious pass rush and were sacked four times by a defense that registered its se-

cond consecutive shutout. "I thought we played very, very well," said Lakeridge Coach Tom Smythe.

If there was any doubt about the Pacers 17-0 halftime lead, it was quickly put to rest at the start of the second half. Lakeridge marched 70 yards on nine plays to make it 24-0, capped by Held's 17 yard touchdown run. During the drive, Held carried the ball five times for 51 yards, running exclusively to the left, as they got "back to basics," said Smythe.

The next Lakeridge drive stalled at the Putnam 10 yard line when Miadich was intercepted by Jeff Peters. But Keswick fumbled the snap from center on the next play, and Lakeridge linebacker Carmen MacDonald recovered at the Putnam seven. Held scored his third touchdown on a seven yard pass from Miadich to follow. That made it

31-0 and the hunt for the astronomical victory margin was on.

Lakeridge looked for more in the fourth quarter. Miadich stayed in and fired touchdown bombs to Chris Richards and Garrett Sullivan, and even had a 58 yard touchdown pass to Richards called back because of holding.

Smythe's fourth quarter play calling raised questions as to whether he was making Putnam pay for last year. Let's face it, if the situation was on "You Make the Call," how many of us would call for the long ball with a 31-0 lead?

"We're getting ready for the playoffs, and we want to play our starting quarterback for at least one play in the fourth quarter," said Smythe, "I didn't see them take their first stringers out. If they're going to play a seven man front and blitz people and expect us to hand the ball off and get killed, that's bull---! If you think I'm running up the score, you're way off base."

Was Smythe thinking of last year? "Last year is over, this is a new year," he said. "Last year, when they (Putnam) hurt our quarterback (Jason Palumbis), 5,000 people gave their defense a standing ovation. Tonight, after Ruhl got hurt, we showed some class."

"This team doesn't care who

gets the credit," said Smythe as the Pacers won for the thirteenth time in 14 tries versus Putnam. "We got 45 guys pulling together."

Putnam Coach Rusty Law knows his team can't afford another loss. "We'll be back to work Monday with a positive attitude," said Law. "We've got to win two in a row to get into the Kansas Plan, at least. I'm not disappointed, I'm proud of our kids. They played hard."

The sprinkler system mysteriously came on with four minutes left in the game, but not even that could douse the spirits of a Lakeridge parade.

	PUT	LAK
First Downs	9	17
Rushes-Yds	21-68	27-155
Passing Yds	51	335
Total Yds	119	490
Turnovers	4	5

PASSING - Lakeridge - Miadich 15-26-2
346, Nussmeier 0-2-0-0 - Putnam - Keswick 5-15-1-41, Dressel 3-13-1-27, O'Neill 0-1-0-0.

RUSHING - Lakeridge - Miadich 11-53,
Held 9-77, Nussmeier 3-11, Richards 1-3, Gatto 1-1, Walker 1-3, Smith 1-7 - Putnam - Hedrick 6-42, Stenholm 5-5, Ruhl 4-8, Passadore 2-9, Swanson 2-0, Williams 1-2, O'Neill 1-2.

RECEIVING - Lakeridge - Held 3-125,
Richards 5-107, Gatto 3-14, Basson 2-28, Walker 1-8, Sullivan 1-64 - Putnam - O'Neill 2-19, Kobs 2-13, Swanson 2-12, Dressel 1-10, Brandel 1-14.

1st- LAK Walker 96 KO return 7-0
LAK Held 98 pass from Miadich 14-0
2nd- LAK Martinez 23 FG 1-7-0
3rd- LAK Held 17 run 2-4-0
LAK Held 7 pass from Miadich 3-1-0
4th- LAK Richards 70 pass from Miadich 3-8-0
LAK Sullivan 64 pass from Miadich 4-5-0

Lakeridge 14 3 14 14-45
Putnam 0 0 0 0-0



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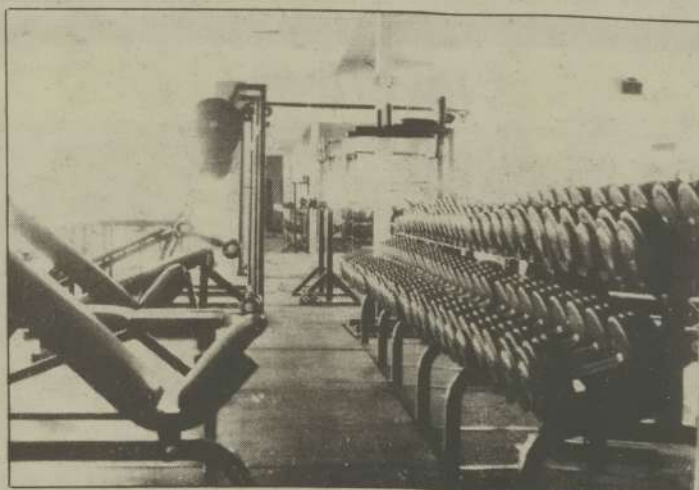
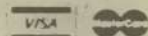


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