

Gresham game

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tacked on to advance Sandy to midfield.

When Gresham finally regained the ball they were buried on the 14 yard line. Gaylord refused to believe the Gophers were in trouble and burst through the middle for an 86 yard touchdown run.

Other than Gaylords run, the Gophers seldom started their drives their own territory.

"They were able to capitalize on our mistakes," said head coach Greg O'Meara. "They got the ball in close and took advantage of the opportunities."

The Pioneers refused to die and pushed to Gresham's 20 in the next two minutes. At fourth and 10, the Pioneers decided to gamble on a pass and lost with Tod Ronson getting the interception on the 10.

Just two plays later, Wolfe was on the receiving end of a 30-yard touchdown pass. After Ronson's PAT, the score was 28-0.

The Pioneers forced some turnovers themselves, hitting hard on defense and refusing to give up.

"This is the first game we've been really physical in," said Hutchinson. "I think Brian Silvey set the tone with some early hard hits."

This kind of play forced a fumble and the recovery by

the Pioneers on the 45 brought some hope for Sandy but Ronson brought more bad news with another interception. Gresham pushed but Sandy held on at the five yard line and the Pioneers took over with only five seconds left in the game.

With receivers open downfield, Sandy quarterback Mark Shelton found a slick spot instead and fell in the end zone for a safety to make the final score 30-0.

Hutchinson said Shelton's pass attempt was a good example of his attitude.

"He wasn't about to settle for falling on the ball," said Hutchinson.

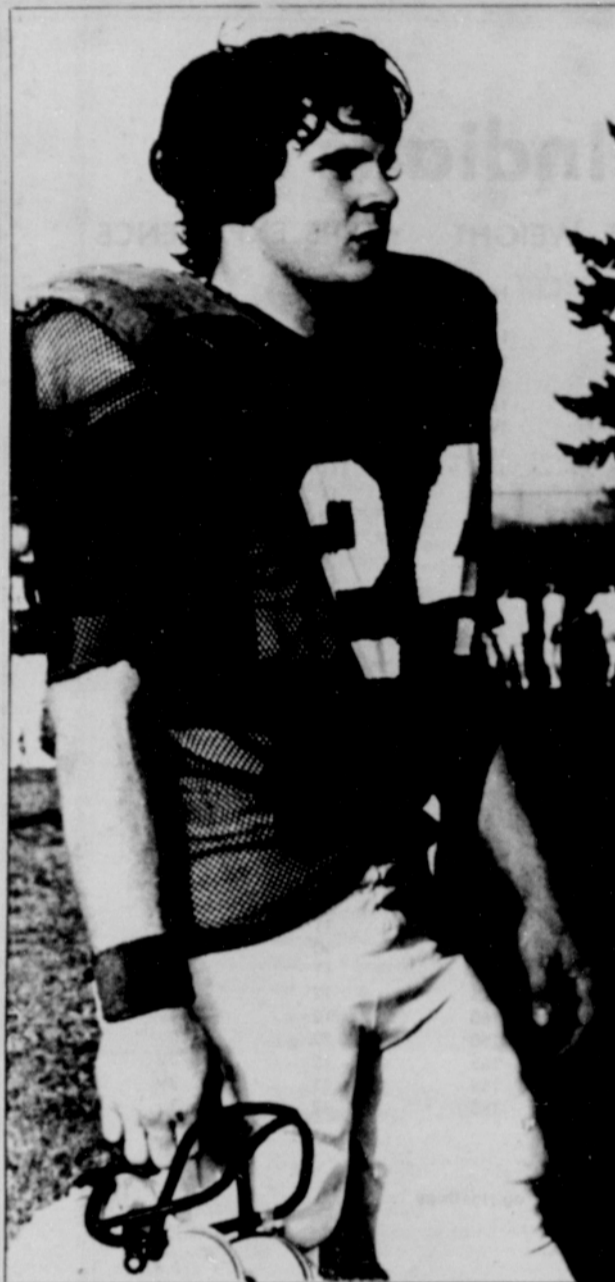
"If we are behind we will try and score and Mark doesn't give up, regardless of the score, he is a team leader and has been all year."

Hutchinson expects Shelton to have a big part in the game against the Dalles Friday.

"His passing has been excellent, and he is a very composed player under pressure," he said.

If the game lives up to Hutchinson's expectations it should be a tough fight between two evenly matched teams.

"It will come down to who makes the most mental mistakes," he said.



Ryan Coombs

Coombs ready

Ryan Coombs spent most of last season watching Chuck Kearney pile up 100-yard games. This year he figures it is his turn and is well on his way to a 1,000 yard season.

Coombs is averaging over 100 per game with an outstanding game against Reynolds, 161 yards.

Anxious to give credit where credit is due, Coombs says it isn't just his improvement that is totaling up the yards.

"It is getting easier because the whole team is starting to mesh," he said.

"We have been running a lot of blasts up the middle and I have been getting some really good blocking."

Coombs is a "real hard worker," said head coach Greg O'Meara, "he pushes himself."

He has plenty of opportunities to push himself, having been in the game on every offensive play against Reynolds and missing only two against Gresham.

"I like to play," said Coombs, "no matter how tired I am, I'll stay in there."

Coombs is a sprinter on the track team, and offensive

ordinator Randy Hutchinson says he makes good use of his speed and natural balance.

The hard work carries over to a weight program Coombs has followed since he was a sophomore. Hutchinson said he a strong player, able to dead lift 460 pounds.

Though Coombs split time with the JV team last year, Hutchinson said the coaches recognized he would be their main runner last season.

"It is a hard thing to play behind the caliber of Scott Skipper and Chuck Kearney," said Hutchinson, "the idea was to give Ryan playing time, we knew he would perform."

"Performing" has presented some problems for Coombs.

"It seems like they start to hit a little harder when I start going someplace," he said.

Coombs takes those hits well, though he is probably a little less than the listed 175 pounds and only 5' 8".

"He has a low center of gravity and a lot of strength in that frame," said Hutchinson.

VB tourney set

Barlow and Sandy high schools will be hosting the Mt. Hood Volleyball Invitational at both schools Saturday.

Sixteen teams from all over the state will be on hand for the tourney that begins 8 a.m. with pool

play. From there, the teams will be seeded into a single-elimination tournament.

Semi-final matches begin at 6 p.m., the finals for 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students. The fee is good for all day.

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