

Cards pound Spray 36-12

Quarterback Dennis Stefani tossed a 52-yard scoring pass to Robin LaRue on Ione's fourth offensive play of that game, establishing a lead that was never threatened as the Cards rolled to a 36-12 opening game victory at Spray Friday.

The Cards showed a balanced attack, picking up 148 passing yards and 185 yards on the ground. Much of the yardage came in the first half as Stefani connected on 7 of 12 passes for 103 yards and Ione runners racked up 129 yards before the intermission.

Ione carried a 30-0 lead into the locker room at halftime as linebackers Marvin Johnson and Terry Starr led the defensive shut out effort. Johnson, the only senior on the team, was credited with four unassisted tackles and four assists in the game. Starr was in on seven tackles and had one unassisted stop.

Defensive end Scott Sherer had three unassisted and three assisted tackles while lineman Gary Gaustad had to be double and sometimes triple-teamed to keep him out of the Eagle backfield.

Although Spray scored only twice, they did stay in the game statistically with 135 yards rushing and an even 100 in the air. Ione totaled 10 first downs to Spray's eight.

After the initial scoring pitch, Ione wasted no time in getting back on the scoreboard. Kevin McCabe returned a Spray punt 19 yards to the Cardinal 46. Stefani then directed the Cards to the eight yard line where he hit Gaustad for the second touchdown. Gaustad grabbed another Stefani aerial for the two-point

conversion.

In the second quarter, another Spray drive stalled and Ione took over on downs at the Card 41. Ione moved to the Spray nine before Stefani was intercepted. Spray lost a fourth down gamble when Shawn LaRue pulled down an Eagle runner short of a first down. Two plays later, Stefani went 22 yards up the middle for the Cards third TD.

On the second play after the ensuing kick off, Mark Patton covered a Spray fumble at the Eagle 30. When four running plays failed to pick up a first down, Spray took over only to fumble a second time. Patton again came up with the football to set up another scoring play—this one a 22-yard pass from Stefani to Greg Rietmann.

The third quarter saw Ione up its lead to 36-0 as Robin LaRue scored on a 10-yard reverse. Spray put together a 40-yard drive which ended when Treve Peterson recovered a fumble at the Card 36. Barney "Too Tall" Rea came in to direct the Ione offense and spun eight yards up the middle for a first down. Rea was later intercepted but Brett Sherer came right back with a pick off of his own.

After Ione lost possession on downs, Spray finally got untracked with a 41-yard run by Steve Hyde who later put the Eagles on the board with a one-yard plunge.

Punts were exchanged back and forth in the final quarter until Hyde scored again on a 63-yard pass play with less than four minutes remaining.

Meyers, "...didn't back off an inch."

Ione coach Gordon Meyers doesn't feel that his Cardinals got too much of a test in their opener against Spray but he was still pleased with the outcome which found the Cards on top by a 36-12 margin.

It was a turnaround from last year when Ione came up on the short end of a similar score against the Eagles.

"We took it on the nose last year but a lot of these players have really matured," Meyers said. "Even the freshmen stuck right in there and didn't back off an inch."

Meyers said that although the Cards are not in mid-season form, the execution and blocking looked good.

"In a lot of ways, this eight-man game calls for better skill development than the 11-man game," Meyers said. "You can't always count on someone being there to help you out."

"I still want to pass more to open the game up," said Meyers. "We'll be doing a lot of options and passing and then send some up the middle to keep the defense honest."

This week Ione will again be on the road to face an improved North Powder eight.

"It will be a better test this week," Meyer said. "We'll get a better idea of what we have."

Ione volleyball looking up

When Ione volleyball coach Barbara Stefani returns to her duties next week, she will be greeted by 19 players including five varsity members from last year.

While Stefani has been on maternity leave, the team has been under the direction of basketball and tennis coach Martha Doherty. Doherty said the returning players plus some improved jayvees form "a good nucleus" and she is hoping for an improvement over last year's performance. Three freshmen and three new players have also joined the squad.

The team is now working on becoming more aggressive on the court and emphasis is being placed on improving

spiking, blocking and diving techniques. Ione played its home opener Tuesday against Condon after the G-T press deadline.

The varsity team, led by senior captain Susan Thompson, includes; seniors Grace McElligott, Natalie Tews, Carol McElligott, Jan Peterson and Jeanie Piening along with juniors Darcy Rea, Janet McElligott and Michelle McElligott.

Junior varsity members include; junior captain Robin Leavitt, senior Tammy Tucker, sophomores Carol Cheney, Cathy Gutierrez, Tanna Hams, Shelly Connors, and Lori Edwards and freshmen Margaret Kincaid, Teena Lindstrom and Janet Hams.

preparing for their second home game this Friday against Oregon Trail and Sporseen said they will find the going a little tougher. Quarterback Jerry Cutsforth is testing his injured knee on the practice field this week and hopefully will be ready to go by game time.

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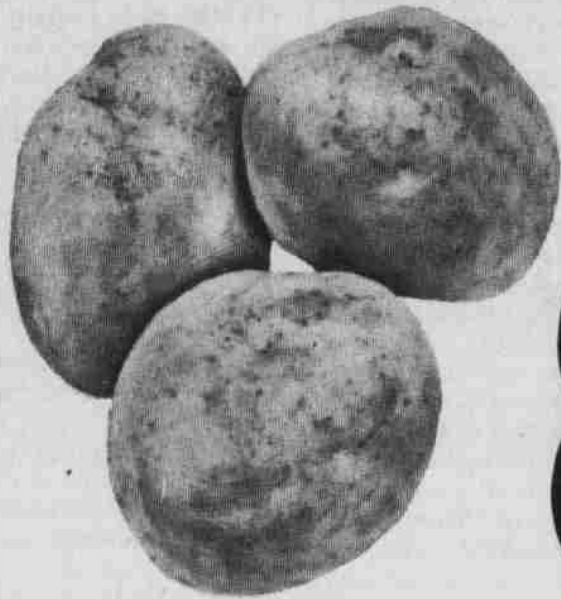
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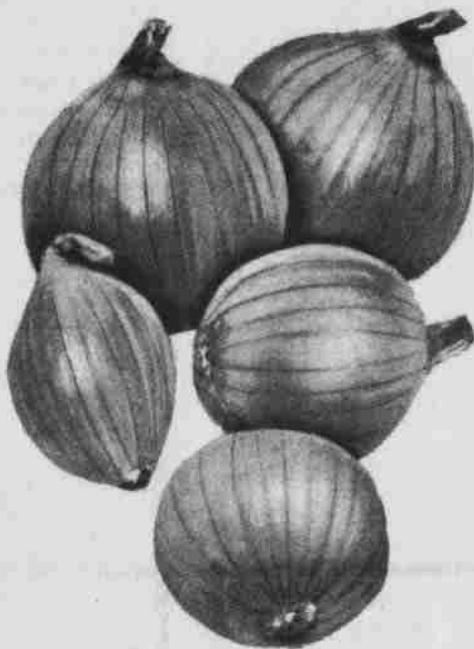
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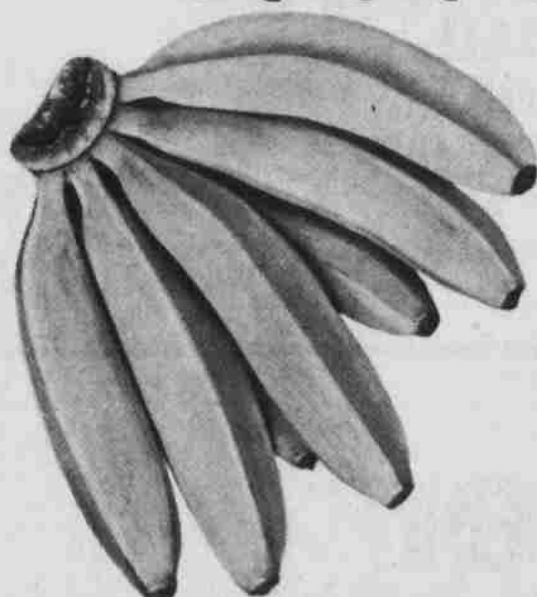
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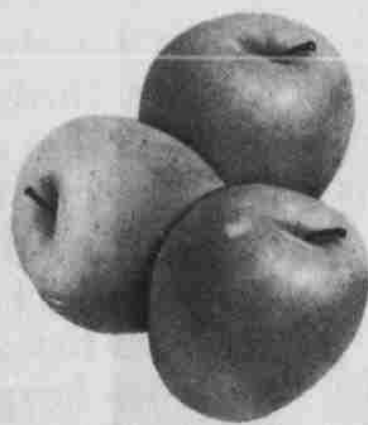


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"That was partly a preparation problem," Sporseen commented.

Concerning the brawl that was touched off at the end of the game, Sporseen said, "I'd just as soon forget about it—you won't see it happen again."

The Mustangs are now