

Cards end season with convincing win

photos by
Wayne Hams

The Ione Cardinals ended their 1982 football season Friday night with a convincing win over Dufur, 42 - 28.

The high-scoring Cardinals rolled up impressive yardage on their way to the victory, burning Dufur on both pass plays and long-yardage running plays.

Ione was off to a quick start in the homecoming contest. After taking the opening kickoff Denny Starr connected on a 47-yard pass to Craig Hams, which set up a 19-yard run off scrimmage by Howard Leavitt for the first TD.

Dufur came right back, however, taking the ball all the way to the Cardinal eight-yard line before the boys in red held.

Ione's offense proved unstoppable, as the Cards started a drive on their own eight, which ended with a 63-yard run by Leavitt for the second TD and a 14 point edge.

Dufur failed to score in the first quarter but bounced back in the second stanza driving the ball to the Ione one before punching over for six. The conversion was successful and Dufur pulled to within six.

The ball changed hands twice before Dufur was forced to punt. Ione came back and on a "fine" pass from Starr to Tim Patton on fourth down on the three yard line for the score. Leavitt ran in for the conversion and Ione was now up 22 - 6 at the half.

"It was a fine throw and a fine catch," Head Coach Gordon Meyers said of the Starr-Patton connection.

In the second half Ione kicked off, but held Dufur after they pushed to the 17-yard line.

The Cardinals took over and drove all the way down field until Craig Hams capped the drive with a 38-yard run off tackle for the score. Leavitt scored the conversion for the Cards.

In the fourth quarter the "wheels fell off our game," said Meyers, as Dufur scored 22 points and put a scare into the Cards.

Dufur scored first when a bad snap from center on a punt bounced into the endzone and the Dufur players recovered on the two-yard line, which Dufur promptly punched in for another score, making it a 30 - 28 ballgame in favor of Ione.

But a miraculous catch by senior end Tim Patton on third and 25 yards to go turned the game around for Ione.

"They kicked off and we drove down field," said Meyers. After a holding penalty the Cards were pushed back and it was third down twenty-five yards and things looked shakey for Ione.

But Patton pulled off the catch of the season as he reached over the Dufur defenders to pull in a 38-yard pass from Starr.

Patton had a nose for the goal line as he took the ball, and dragging one defender behind, went five more yards for a TD.

"That was the turning point of the game, it gave us some breathing room," said Meyers.

Ione's final score of the game came when Hams scored on a 40-yard dive play which made it 42 - 20.

Dufur finished up the scoring with a touchdown in the final seconds of the game.

"We had a good season," Meyers said. Many other teams in the league have one final game, however, Ione's



Ione's defense closes in on Dufur player. No. 20 is Howard Leavitt, 22 is Denny Starr, 88 Tim Patton, 44 Craig Hams, and 60 is Don Taylor.



Cardinal end Tim Patton goes high for pass. He missed this one but made five catches for 69 yards and two TDs in game.

last weekend was a bye. "The kids have nothing to be ashamed of. They had a 5 - 2 record and came within eight points of going to the playoffs."

Ione lost to Echo by eight points earlier in the season, but "they were not that much better than us," Meyers commented.

In the Dufur game Meyers pointed to certain individuals who he felt did a good job.

Craig Hams had an outstanding day, rushing for 167 yards on 17 carries and two TDs.

Howard Leavitt rushed for 114 yards on 13 carries and two TDs.

Denny Starr completed seven of 13 passes for 122 yards and two TDs.

Tim Patton had five catches for 69 yards and two TDs.

Donny Taylor had a good game with exceptional line and downfield blocking.

On defense, linebackers Denny Starr and Tim Patton both had good games as did defensive back Howard Leavitt.

Last Friday was homecoming for the Cards and Sharon Crowell was crowned queen for 1982 activities.



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Don Taylor chases Dufur player.

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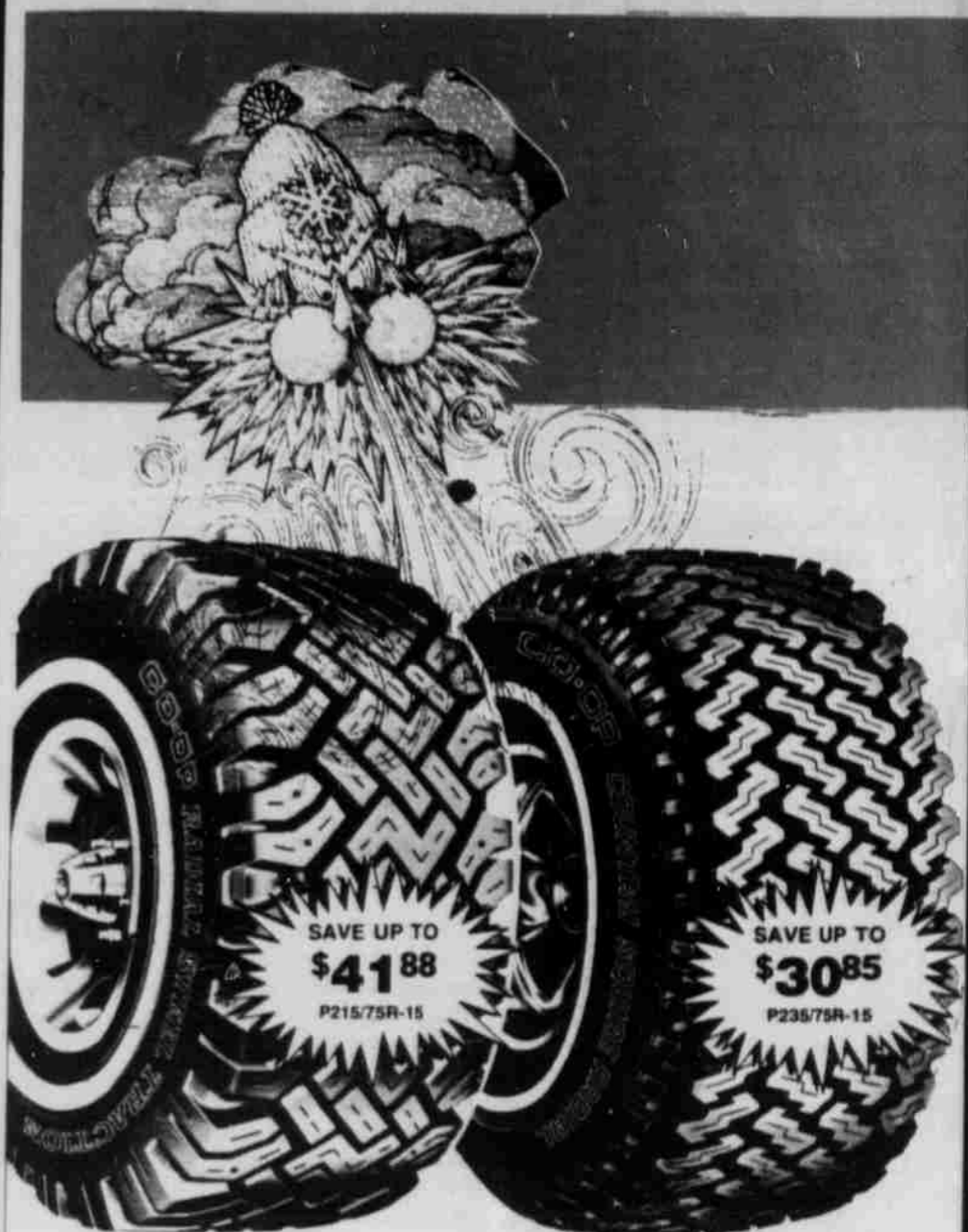
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