

BLACK TORNADO GAINS PREP CLASS A-1 GRIDIRON SEMI-FINALS

Gresham Gophers Humbled In Quarter-Final Fracas; Benson Next for Medford

Championship fever and fervor quickened the pulse of Medford fandom today in the wake of the Black Tornado's latest blustering storm. And eagerly awaited is the word on the scene of conflict for Medford High school's next bid in its ambitious quest for Oregon Class A-1 prep football's greatest prize.

Medford's rumbling gridiron forces overcame their second toughest challenge thus far this season Friday night to remain unbeaten and place a Tornado team in state play-off semi-finals for the first time in eight long years. Their 27 to 12 outburst over Gresham's dauntless stubborn Gophers propelled the Medford Whirlwind into the round-of-four against Benson of Portland's upsurging No. 4 and 5 ranked club in the A-1 championship chase.

The Mechanics, champs of Oregon's metropolis, fought by tough McMinnville 13 to 8, also Friday, to advance along with No. 2 rated Medford.

Could Be Here

Tornado next week end try for a first finalist berth since the championship year of 1944 could be at the Medford stadium. The possibility is good. But the decision rests with Oregon School Activities association leaders and won't be made until Monday morning. Local school officers have made a strong bid to bring the game to Medford.

Sluggish at times against strength it's met second only to Marshfield's, the Tornado blazed its might in streaks and flashes to chalk up its ninth triumph of the year. Medford jumped to an early and seemingly comfortable lead, saw it sharply challenged then pulled together and rose to heights, striking with power, lightning and surprise to tuck away the quarter-final tussle.

It was the first and only loss in a 10-game season for the Gophers, champs of District 3 and runner-up to Marshfield's Golden Pirates for the Oregon banner last year.

Surprise Kick

Medford's District 3 titlists with their host of fine backs sharing the ball carrying load capitalized on a 24-yard drive after a long punt return and on a 62-yard surge for first half touchdowns and on a 64-yard ramble and a quick strike after a surprise short high kick-off for fourth quarter scores.

The Greshamites, spearheaded by the running and passing of quarterback Bob Schloredt and the scampers of halfback Jerry McKee turned a Medford fumble into a 46 yard TD drive in the third quarter then moved 65 yards, mainly through the air-lines, to the Medford goal in the fourth.

Halfback Eldon Francis and fullbacks Loren Christean and Bob Gee of Medford crossed the final stripe on short smashes and Gee broke away for a 30-yard TD jaunt. Schloredt ran 14 yards for a Gopher touchdown and passed to end Larry Morgan for 18 yards for the other.

The Tornado relied again on its slugging ground offensive. Gresham mixed conventional T plays with split formations which gave the Tornado, with its hot and cold pass defense, a hectic worrisome night.

Francis' Run Nullified

Penalties, hitting Medford the hardest hurt both clubs. A 76-yard touchdown dash on a punt return by Francis was called back as was a 40-yard scoot deep into Tornado territory by McKee.

End Tom Hamlin, playing his outstanding game of the fall, and linebackers Jim Funston and McLaughlin, turning in their usual fine games were the defensive leaders of the Tornado. Deep backs Gary Riley and Gordon Owsley were in on numerous tackles and had their moments along with Hamlin, Funston and Francis in busting up Gopher aerials.

Gresham came to Medford with a record for strong defense

and while the Gophers couldn't hold the Tornado consistently, their grudging resistance pointed up their reputation. McKee, tackles Jerry Olson and Garry Stensland, center Don Sleeper, Schloredt, ends Morgan and Douglas Lewis and halfback Dave Woodfor all had big roles in the effort to upset the Tornado.

The Black Tornado punched to a touchdown on its first opportunity with the ball. Halfback Gordon Owsley's 50-yard punt return set up the chance. He got away after a key block by quarterback McLaughlin but a Gopher defender slipped through to trip him on the Gresham 24-yard line. McLaughlin and Francis alternated in packing from there and on sixth scrimmage play Francis poked the last half-foot over right guard. End Dick Coppel's kick was good for the extra point and a 7 to 0 lead.

Clipping Called

Medford held Gresham to a net of six yards on its next series of downs then almost collected a touchdown on the punt return. Francis went 76 yards down the right sideline to the south goal aided by the Tornado screen. But what appeared to be a key block by tackle Larry Cranston, as Francis got underway, was called clipping. The long dash was nullified and Medford put back on its 22.

Penalties also wrecked a big bid by Gresham as the first quarter drew to a close. The Gophers took the ball on their 27 and completed a pass, Bob Schloredt to fullback Ray King, but were set back to 22 for illegal procedure on their spread for the play. A run by Jerry McKee got back almost to the original line of scrimmage. Another spread pass, Schloredt to Lewis, connected but illegal procedure again cost five yards.

Schloredt punted but guard Bob Apple was charged with roughing the kicker, giving Gresham the ball on its 36. Halfback Dave Woodfor went to a first down on the 40 then gained to the 48. From there, McKee, faking out two would-be tacklers nicely, broke away to the Medford eight where he was forced into out-of-bounds. However, the Gophers were called for clipping, putting the ball back on their own 33.

Christean Scores

Trying to move from there, the Gophers lost ground. Schloredt punted and Medford took over on its 38 to begin the drive to its second quarter touchdown. The promenade required 10 plays with Christean and Riley doing the lugging and with Christean crunching for the last three yards.

Offside and holding infractions cost the Tornado 20 yards on the march and a Riley to McLaughlin pass actually lost a yard. But McLaughlin threw to Coppel, who made a lunging catch and tumbled to the ground on the Gresham 21. It was a 36-yard gainer and put new life in the drive.

Coppel's conversion boot this time was wide to the left. Neither club threatened seriously in the remainder of the quarter. McKee intercepted a have carried Medford deep into Gresham territory in the waning moments. Tornado end Mike Stearns and McKee both were shaken up on the tackle and Stearns with a neck injury was sidelined the rest of the game.

Olson Recovers Fumble

If the Medfordites felt that their 13 to 0 midway lead was a safe one, circumstances and the Gopher attack reversed the thought in the third canto. Gresham dominated most of the quarter and a touchdown was inevitable. A Medford pithout, McLaughlin to Francis, went awry in the opening part of the session and tackle Jerry Olson recovered for Gresham on the Medford 46.

In eight plays, with McKee going once for 18 yards, the Goph-



CHRISTEAN TALLIES—Medford high fullback Loren Christean piles over Gresham star tackle Jerry Olson, on hands and knees, for second Tornado touchdown in second quarter of Oregon Class A-1 quarter-final football play-off tangle here Friday night. Other Gresham players on scene too late are quarter-

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE SPORTS

ers reached the nine yard line. Medford was next ruled offside putting the ball on the four. But the Tornado roused to repulse the threat. End Tom Hamlin threw McKee for a five yard loss. A pass fell incomplete when thrower Schloredt was rushed by Coppel and McLaughlin. Then linebacker Jim Funston broke up a Schloredt pass aimed at McKee.

Medford took over and, after McLaughlin pushed to the seven and Christean lost to the three, quarterback Tony Brauner punted. Gresham took possession on the Tornado 38. Schloredt heaved to McKee for 10 yards. Francis spoiled another try of that combination but Schloredt threw to fullback Ray King for 12 putting the ball on the 14. On a fourth toss by the Gopher quarterback on the series, Riley knocked the ball out of end Morgan's hands.

Schloredt Crosses Goal

Schloredt faded on the spread then chose the option to run and sliced off the 14-yard gain to the end zone. Guard Bob McLaughlin's conversion try from placement sailed to the right.

Pressure of the Gopher touchdown served to fire the Tornado into high gear and the Rogue powerhouse unlimbered its might on the ground, got a break and followed that with an explosive thrust to salt away the game.

Owsley returned the Gresham kick-off 22 yards to the Medford 36. With Gee packing the pigskin for the first time of the evening and with Riley, Francis and Owsley also lugging, the Tornado bombarded in 12 plays to a touchdown in the first minute of the fourth quarter. Runs by Owsley and Riley put the ball on the two yard line. From that spot Gee made a headlong leap and sailed into the end zone. Coppel added the bonus for 20 to 6.

The Tornado then struck again with lightning suddenness for a clincher TD. Coppel kicked off high but short and the dazed Gophers permitted the Medfordites scramble alone for the ball. Riley recovered for Medford possession on the Gresham 33. McLaughlin sneaked to the 30. Gee then smashed through right guard and had an easy romp to the goal. Coppel's kick again was good for 27 to 6.

Drive Goes to 14

Medford retained control of the play when a Schloredt pass

High School Scores

FRIDAY FOOTBALL BY UNITED PRESS

(A-1 Quarter-finals)
Marshfield 46, Lincoln 7;
Benson 13, McMinnville 8;
Medford 27, Gresham 12.

(A-2 Quarter-finals)
Central 24, Amity 0;
Silverton 6, Vale 0.

(B Quarter-finals)
Monroe 46, Yoncalla 0;
Colton 7, Corbett 0.

Backs—McLaughlin, Riley, Francis, Owsley, Gee, Christean, Walker, Russell.

Officials—Ed Wellnitz, Pete Taylor, Bill Borcher, Jake Leicht.

Marshfield, Benson Rack Up Triumphs in Grid Quarter-Finals

It will be Marshfield against Pendleton and Medford against Benson of Portland next week in the semi-finals of the Oregon State Class A-1 high school football playoffs.

To the surprise of no one defending champion Marshfield walloped Lincoln of Portland, 46-7, last night in the rain on Lincoln's muddy field. The victory ran the Golden Pirates' undefeated skein to 33 consecutive games. The only blot on Marshfield's record was a 20-20 tie earlier in the season with Medford, a team which very well could face the Pirates again in the Class A-1 championship game.

Medford took the measure of Gresham, 27-12, at Medford last night while Benson was downing scrappy McMinnville, 13-8, at McMinnville.

Pendleton eliminated Albany last week to gain the semi-finals round.

Decisions Monday

The time and sites of the semi-finals contests will be decided Monday by the Oregon School Activities association at a Portland meeting.

In the Class A-2 quarter-finals, Central of Monmouth-Independence downed Amity, 24-0, and Silverton edged defending champion Vale, 6-0.

Monroe crushed Yoncalla, 46-0, and Colton defeated Corbett, 7-0, in quarter-finals games in Class B.

In the Class A-2 semi-finals, Silverton will play the winner of today's Pleasant Hill-Eagle Point game, and Central will meet the winner of the Seaside-Reedsport contest, also to be played today.

Senate Permits Russian, U.S. Athletic Events

Washington — (U.P.) — Two prominent members of the Senate Saturday declared they would favor changing the alien fingerprint law that would permit a proposed "home and home" series between Russian and American track stars.

Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) said, "I would not object to repealing the law for the purpose of cultural and athletic exchanges." The Wyoming Democrat is a member of the Senate judiciary committee which would have jurisdiction over any such legislation.

Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) said he also favors amending the law so that the fingerprint requirement will pose no problem for athletic events.

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