



QUARTERBACK WAYNE ALLEN of Crater gets hauled down by Pelican defending fullback Ron House as Jan Cox (85) comes up fast to lend a helping hand. The Pelicans fell to the Crater Comets 27-18 Friday night at Central Point in a District 6-A-1 conference game. The loss placed the Pelicans at the bottom of the district standings, but they went down fighting hard in what was their best offensive attack of the season.

Crater's Fired-Up Comets Dump Klamath Pels 27-18

The Klamath Falls Pelicans dropped a heartbreaking game to the Crater Comets Friday night at Central Point, 27-18, as the two teams put on a thrilling offensive show.

The loss dropped the Pels into the District 6-A-1 cellar, but they will have a chance to pull the Ashland Grizzlies down with them when the two teams meet Friday night on Modoc Field in the final game of the season for the Pelicans.

It was a do or die effort on the part of the Comets, plus coming out on the long end of the breaks, that proved to be the difference between the two teams.

The Pelicans played the Comets on even ground and matched them score for score until the final quarter, and for the first time this season the KU air arm proved exceptionally effective.

Quarterback Frank Ballard was in fine throwing form and the Pel receivers seemed to have glue on their fingers, gathering in two scoring tosses, setting up their other score, catching 10 of 19 attempts good for a total of 262 yards through the air.

However, the KU ground game was stymied for only 40 net yards rushing.

The Comets on the other hand stuck mostly to the ground accumulating only 92 yards by passes, but 276 yards on the ground.

Playing their finest game of the season, the Pelicans were in scoring contention twice in addition to the three times they were able to push across the goal line and it was one of these drives that appeared to have made the difference in the final score.

With the ball on the Crater one-yard line and second down, a slight mix-up caused the snap to go over the shoulder of the tailback Ankeny and back to the 16-yard line.

It was strictly second guessing whether if the Pels had been able to push over this go-ahead score, they would have won the game, but when Crater took over on downs on their own 12-yard line and drove for a score, it seemed to knock the wind out of the KU team momentarily and the Comets' one touchdown difference held up.

The Comets jumped off to a quick 7-0 lead when on the second play from scrimmage, junior quarterback Wayne Allen passed 40 yards to end Gerald Kime, who had slipped behind the Pel defense, had to come back up field, took the ball between two Whitebird defenders on the KF 10-yard line and spun around and went over standing up.

Halfback Kerman Bennet ran the extra point.

The Pelicans were not to be outdone though, taking the kickoff and on three pass completions went 82 yards for their first score.

Ballard connected to Ankeny on the KU 40 and behind good blocking and some hard running he carried down to the Crater 26-yard line.

The next play was a reverse of the 56-yard gainer as Ankeny hit Ballard for five more yards.

Then Ballard tossed to Dick Humphrey who took the ball over his shoulder on the 10 and went scooting over for the touchdown. Ankeny's pass for the extra point was incomplete.

The Comets took the kickoff and drove to the Klamath three-yard line but the Pel defense would give no more and they took over on downs.

In the second quarter the Pelicans jumped out to a 12-7 lead after taking a Crater punt and in eight plays crossed into paydirt.

Starting from their own 45-yard line, little Smiley Herrera scampered through left tackle for 12 yards, on some smooth ball handling and deception by quarterback Ballard.

Jan Cox then leaped high into the air to take a Ballard pass good for 30 yards to put the ball on the Crater 13-yard line.

From the eight, Ballard faded to pass, couldn't spot an open receiver, noticed that the Comet defense had drifted to the right to

cover the KU receivers, so on a keeper he skirted his own right end and went over the goal line standing up.

Bill Santo's try from placement was not good.

However the lead was short lived. The Comets came right back to drive 72 yards to take a 13-12 lead at halftime.

It was on this drive that Allen dropped back into punt formation on fourth down and 12 yards to go on the Klamath 45. Allen took the snap and as the Pelicans drifted back to take the punt, he put on the steam and went around right end picking up 13 yards and a first down.

This was all the spark the Comets needed as halfback Allen Barnes went over from the two-yard line eight plays later.

With a minute and 18 seconds remaining in the first half, Rich-

ard Humphrey took the kickoff and behind beautiful blocking headed full steam down the side-

line, going from the KF eight-yard line down to the Crater 32.

The only man between Humphrey and the goal line was Crater's quarterback Allen, who calmly stood his ground, waited for Humphrey to come to him and stopped the Pels' possible scoring run cold with a fine tackle.

With time running out KU pulled their well coordinated single wing play with three men handling the ball, snap goes to fullback House who runs to the line, handoff to the short man, Ankeny, who then tosses back to the tailback Ballard, and Ballard then threw to Ankeny for a nine-yard gain.

Ballard then threw to Herrera who was open in the end zone, but the ball was just inches over his fingertips.

Then came the play of the evening.

Ballard faded to pass, but he couldn't spot a receiver open, so he decided to run but the Crater defense surrounded him.

He spotted Ankeny open off to the side and tossed a lateral pass to him and Ankeny headed for pay dirt, but was hit hard on the 18 and had the ball jarred loose.

Crater recovered and killed the Klamath scoring threat as the half ended.

Neither team could get moving offensively during the third quarter.

The Pels were able to penetrate to the Crater 16 in the third quarter but could go no farther. Crater took over and drove 88 yards for their score with Allen connecting to Kime on fourth down to give the Comets another first down gamble and was the key play of the drive.

Halfback Kerman Bennet went over right tackle for 25 yards and a score. He also ran the extra point.

But again the Pels jumped right back with a quick score. On the first play from scrimmage after taking the kickoff, Ballard threw a perfect 42-yard pass to end Jan Cox who didn't have to break his stride as he gathered in the ball in a race with a Crater defensive back.

Cox put on the steam with a burst of speed and went gamboing over the goal line all alone. Santo's try from placement was blocked.

However, Crater was determined not to be outdone either. Taking the kickoff, the Comets on a sustained drive traveled 75 yards for the final score of the game.

With a 45-yard run by Bennet sparking the drive the Comets moved to the five-yard line where Barnes hit a closed hole over right tackle, but bounced back and turned around right end and went over standing up. Allen ran the extra point.

The Pelicans tried valiantly to come back with another score, but their passing attack rolled off and the Crater defense tightened, as they intercepted two Pel aerials to run out the clock.

To those who watched the game, it was a hard fought battle, with both Crater and Klamath Falls checking their defense and going all out offensively.

Crater got the breaks when they needed them and the Pels didn't, that was the difference.

Score by quarters:

Klamath Falls 6 6 0 6-18

Crater 7 6 0 14-27

Klamath Falls scoring: Humphrey (21, pass from Ballard); Cox (82, pass-run from Ballard); Ballard (8, end run).

Crater scoring: Kime (62, pass-run from Allen); Barnes (2, plunge); 5, run; Bennet (25, run).

Statistics:

Total first downs 13 15

Yards gained rushing 98 285

Yards lost rushing 56 17

Net yards rushing 42 368

Net yards passing 262 92

Total net yards 684 460

Passes attempted 19 18

Passes completed 10 4

Passes intercepted by 0 2

Fumbles lost 1 0

Yards penalized 15 25

Number of punts 1 1

Average length punts 21 26

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