

Okemos

-- *the champions*

published by the Towne Courier



1966

THE TITLE YEAR

A booklet saluting

Okemos High School's

Capital Circuit champions

This booklet reviews Okemos High School's 1966 football season.

It has been prepared to commemorate the outstanding season achieved by the varsity and junior varsity teams. Each won or tied for the Capital Circuit League Championship.

Prepared by the Towne Courier as a community service, it includes articles, pictures and other material published in the Towne Courier during the past season.

The stories were written by Tim Staudt, with some special stories contributed by Dixie Lee Premer and Brian Zemach. The Okemos Boosters Club also contributed to the selling and production of the book.

The varsity team won the school's first championship in modern history as well as the first Capital Circuit championship ever, by compiling a 6 won, one lost and 2 tied record. The Junior Varsity won 6 and lost one en route to a tie for the championship with Howell.

Besides the outstanding records, Okemos High School began playing its games on the new athletic field behind the high school this fall. The field, which includes an all-weather track, is said to be one of the most brilliantly illuminated playing surfaces in the state.

This booklet is dedicated to these efforts and shall be a lasting remembrance of the fall athletic year, 1966.



COVER PICTURE: Dave Jones, Okemos coach, gets a lift onto his players shoulders after 32-7 win over Haslett. Captain Don Ambrose and Meridian Jaycee's president Doug Uptegraft hold up the Traveling Trophy presented to Okemos. The trophy, awarded for the first time this year, goes to the winner of the Okemos-Haslett game each year. Towne Courier photo by Bob Smith.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING. . .

There were many notable achievements made statistically this past season for the varsity football team.

Byron Johnson led the team in rushing, with 811 yards, for a 5.8 average. He had 3 runs of over 40 yards, all against Eaton Rapids. Byron had 223 yards gained in that game, 209 in the first half alone.

Larry Wheeler had 631 yards gained, to finish with a 4.3 average per gain. Rob Hill completed 32 of 52 passes for 459 yards and 7 touchdowns. Rob had a fine 62 per cent completion average. He threw 3 touch-

down passes alone in the Haslett game. Don Ambrose led the receivers, with 17 grabs out of the air. Jeff Austin was next with 8.

Bill Kennedy led the team in tackles easily. He had 76. Larry Zweering was one of the better punters in the league, ranking high among the leaders.

Marc Neifert completed 5 of 10 passes for 151 yards and a 31 yard per completion average. Dave Hassell kicked 6 extra points.

The records

OKEMOS VARSITY FOOTBALL RECORD

Okemos 13, Jackson St. John 13
Okemos 14, Howell 7
Okemos 6, Mason 0
Lansing O'Rafferty 6, Okemos 0
Okemos 6, Holt 6
Okemos 59, Eaton Rapids 0
Okemos 7, Lansing Gabriels 6
Okemos 32, Haslett 7
Okemos 26, Flint Atherton 0

Record: Won 6, Lost 1, Tied 2

OKEMOS JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL RECORD

Okemos 12, Howell 6
Okemos 26, Mason 0
Lansing O'Rafferty 27, Okemos 7
Okemos 32, Holt 6
Okemos 60, Eaton Rapids 6
Okemos 25, Lansing Gabriels 21
Okemos 33, Haslett 6

Record: Won 6, Lost 1

OKEMOS FRESHMEN FOOTBALL RECORD

Howell 7, Okemos 0
Okemos 26, Mason 26
Lansing O'Rafferty 21, Okemos 0
Okemos 13, Holt 0
Okemos 14, Waverly 7
Lansing Gabriels 24, Okemos 0
Okemos 7, Haslett 0

Record: Won 3, Lost 3, Tied 1



Gina Crandell, 1966 Homecoming Queen receives flowers at halftime of the O'Rafferty game. Don Ambrose is barely visible in the background escorting Gina. Don was the homecoming king.

The players on Okemos's varsity



Don Ambrose

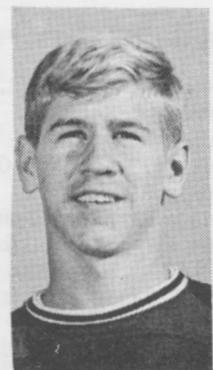


Jim Wiley

Name	Position	Height	Weight	Class
Tom Johnson	QB	5'10"	170	12
Mark Niefert	QB	6'2"	175	10
Rob Hill	QB	5'10"	160	12
Larry Wheeler	HB	5'9"	150	12
Byron Johnson	HB	5'10"	165	11
Larry Zweering	HB	5'10"	160	11
Jack Nimphie	HB	6'1"	190	12
Tom Gaa	HB	5'9"	160	10
Dave Peets	HB	5'9"	150	12
Darrel Griggs	HB	5'10"	160	11
Tim Schirmer	HB	5'11"	160	12
Bob Miller	HB	5'9"	160	12
Tom Guthrie	C	5'10"	160	11
Mark Stoll	C	6'2"	200	11
Bill Kennedy	C	5'10"	170	12
Bill McGlone	G	6'2"	190	12
Dennis Dyke	G	6'	160	11
John Patenge	G	5'10"	160	11
Jim Wiley	G	5'10"	180	11
Mike Premer	G	5'9"	165	11
Doug Swenson	G	5'9"	145	11
Mike Pollard	T	6'1"	210	11
Mark Meadows	T	6'3"	200	11
Dave Hassell	T	5'11"	200	12
Mark Premer	T	6'	180	12
Bob Storrer	E	5'9"	160	11
Don Ambrose	E	5'11"	170	12
Dick Ahti	E	6'3"	180	12
Jeff Austin	E	5'11"	170	12
John Dale	E	5'10"	165	11
Duane Dorn	E	6'	160	12
Nick Hall	E	6'3"	150	11



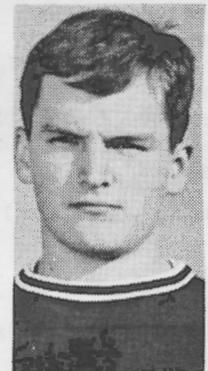
Duane Dorn



Larry Zweering



Dave Peets



Tim Schirmer

On the following pages appears the chronological story of the successes of the Okemos football team. . .

Okemos short 3 coaches

By TIM STAUDT

There'll be some changes this fall from the last for this season's Okemos High School football team.

New coaches, new faces, and possibly a new field will be available as twice-a-day practice sessions begin August 29.

Coach Dave Jones expects to greet about 42 candidates for the team.

Right now Okemos is looking for at least 3 new coaches.

Ken May, last season's varsity assistant is gone and Dave Schuele replaces the departed Don Kiger as freshman coach. Bob Porritt is the new varsity backfield coach, but that's it.

Currently, no reserve coaches and no freshman assistants have been assigned.

Jones will probably have fewer problems finding men to fill positions.

Though losing some key personnel from last fall's 2 won, 6 lost and 1 tied team, Okemos should be strong defensively and fairly strong in the offensive backfield.

Chief rebuilding will have to be done in the interior line, where the absence of D. J. Drake and Doug Rittenger leaves a gaping hole. Kurt Hoysradt's absence leaves center unmanned, and the loss of Mike Glliam and Tom Burke will also be felt.

Jones will try to build these spots back up with Mark

Stoll, Dick Ahti, Dave Hassell, Mark Meadows and others.

The backfield seems to be in good shape except for quarterback and according to Jones, "finding someone to throw the ball will be the biggest problem." Jay Breslin, standout as a Junior last year, transferred to East Lansing High School, but Jones feels his loss "won't hurt that much."

Rob Hill and Tom Johnson are the chief quarterback candidates.

Halfback will be solid with Larry Wheeler, Byron Johnson and Bob Scott on the scene. Other backfield returnees are Tim Schirmer, Bob Miller and Jack Nimphie.

The rest of the line candidates from last season's squad include, Captain Don Ambrose, Jeff Austin, Bill Kennedy, Bill McGlone and Jim Wylie.

"We should be strong in the defensive secondary and fairly set up front" Jones said, "But the offensive triangle (both guards, center, and quarterback) is our definite weakness. However, we feel we have the boys to fill in capably."

The schedule is exactly the same as last year's, with each away game becoming a home affair, and vice-versa. Flint Atherton comes in for the first game.

In the Capital Circuit, Jones sees each team as being "strong," and for a "real dogfight to occur in the first division."

Wanted: football coaches

By TIM STAUDT

Wanted: Football coaches. Some background, must like to work with high school boys. Apply Okemos High School.

This headline you may see in the classified section of this and other newspapers before too long.

That advertisement just about sums up the biggest problem Okemos head coach Dave Jones will face as practice begins August 29.

He still needs at least 3 more coaches to go with the 2 he already has. As of this writing, there still are no more in sight.

Jones pondered some other problems the other day, such as who will be his passer, his punter, his line-backers, his interior linemen and last but certainly not least, his losing opponents.

The Okemos mentor feels that just one mistake in the lost games last fall led to those losses.

A drive would stop because of a penalty, a fumble, an interception or whatnot.

"Mistakes don't win games for you and so that is what we are going to go right to work and do: correct our mistakes."

Another major item Jones will try to iron out is his passing game.

Passing was definitely not a strong point last fall, with numerous different quarterbacks trying to move the club. Jay Breslin was the most successful and he is gone.

Tom Johnson and Robby Hill are the chief prospects, both having some experience last fall, both with little success.

But Jones is confident one of the two will shape into a leader to move the offense.

The kicking game will be adequate.

Dave Hassell did the kick-offs and extra-points last year, and Jones feels with a year's experience behind him, Hassell will handle the chore amply this season.

There is no punter around, but Jones figures someone will pop up to replace Breslin's 42.5 average of a year ago.

Okemos will have adequate speed with Byron Johnson, Larry Zweering, Larry Wheeler, Jack Nimphie and Tom Gaa the chief breakaway threats. All now have at least one year of experience.

The depth is average with weaknesses at guard and center, but with strong points at tackle and end along with the backfield.

The days are getting shorter as practice approaches and Dave Jones mentally prepares himself these days for the many problems he still has to solve.

Okemos team in good shape

By TIM STAUDT

One week down, two weeks left 'till the opener. If Okemos High School football coach Dave Jones has these next 2 weeks of practice go like the first one, his team will be "ready" for Jackson St. John, September 16.

Hard, twice-a-day sessions ended with a scrimmage last Friday night.

The club is whipping into fine shape, with no major problems yet to solve except for quarterback. The offensive line did a "good job" in the scrimmage, with Don Ambrose, Mike Pollard, Bill McGlone and Denny Dyke drawing praise from Jones.

The speed of the backfield so far has been good with Byron Johnson, Larry Wheeler and Larry Zweering toting the ball, and capable Bob Miller spelling the 3.

Jones reports his team is in good physical shape. Dave Hassell, Jack Nimphie and Miller had slight injuries and hobbled around for a couple of days. But

Jones expects all 3 to go back at it this week.

Friday's scrimmage concentrated on offense, with "moving the ball" the order of business. Jones reported that "the blocking was solid and crisp and the execution and timing of plays was pretty good."

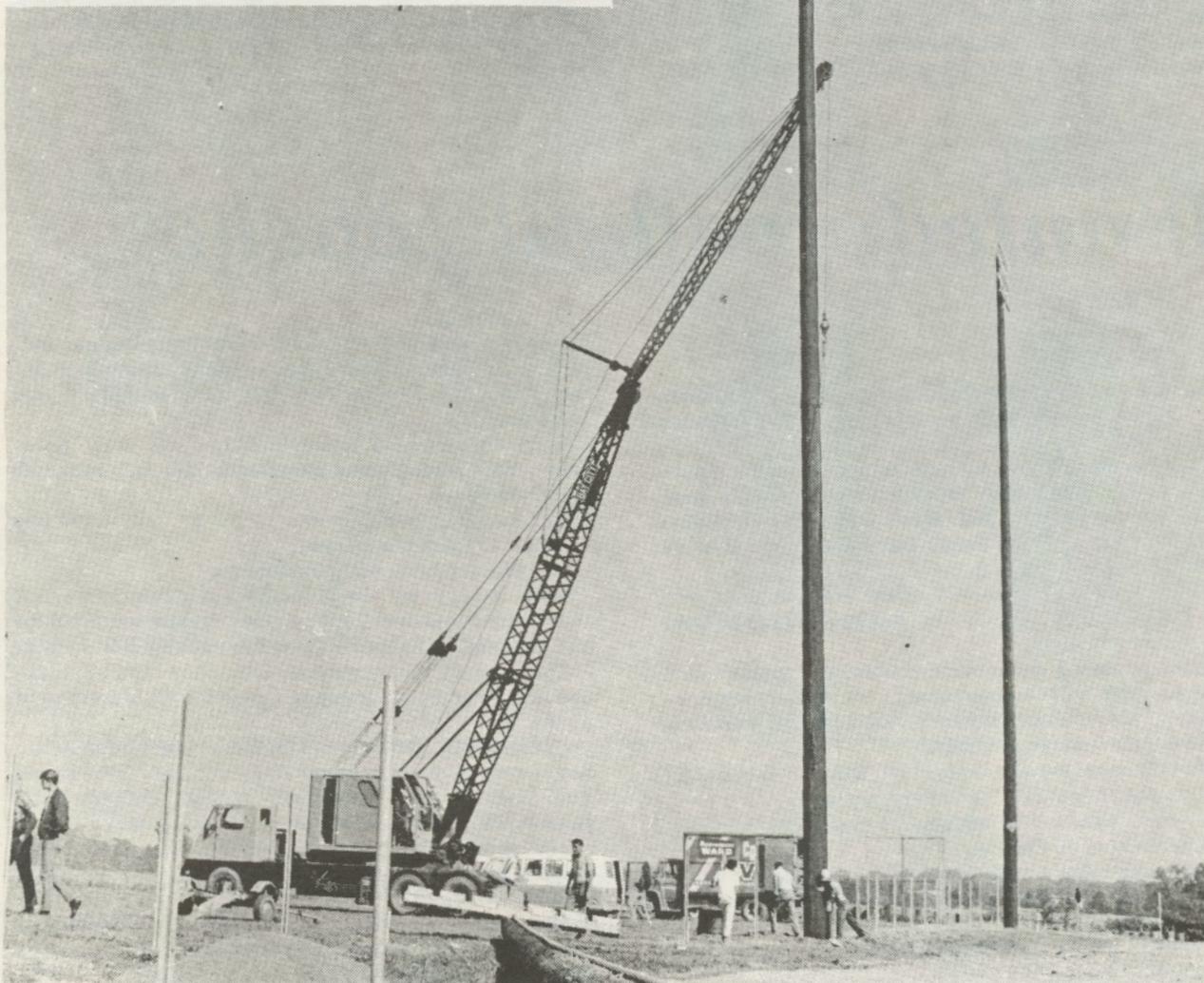
The first wait went 45 minutes before exchanging to the reserves and Jones was satisfied with the night's work.

Defense was pretty much forgotten last week, but this week the offense will take a backseat. Jones will take his club down to Milford Friday night to scrimmage Milford and North Farmington, a pair of Class A schools.

This scrimmage will give the Okemos mentor another look at his quarterbacks. They are Rob Hill, Tom Johnson and Marc Niefert who has recently come into the scene.

Okemos still lacks depth in a couple of places especially at guard, but Jones feels he has a dedicated squad of workers.

The new field nears completion as workmen erect one of the gigantic new light towers. The poles are 80 feet high and the lighting they will throw out will give Okemos one of the most illuminated surfaces in the state.



Gridmen gird for opener

By TIM STAUDT

The coach's voice bellowed to a row of linemen set to hit a blocking sled.

"Set. . . .GO! You're too high, get lower, get lower." Another row lined up.

"Set. . . .GO! Fire out now, let's move, be quick!"

Dave Jones, Okemos High School football coach, was conducting a practice session last week. He was preparing his club for a challenge and his enthusiasm was loose on the field. And off the field.

Last Friday, Jones drove to Ypsilanti to scout a Jackson St. John scrimmage in the afternoon. Then he drove over to Milford to conduct a scrimmage for his own club that evening. He arrived in Okemos about midnight, but bright and early Saturday morning, Jones was on his way to Howell to scout his 2nd week's opponent.

The class B high school football season begins in the lower peninsula this Friday evening. Of the several hundred class B schools in action, Okemos plays the toughest team of all here at Okemos.

Jackson St. John, 1965 state champions and owners of a 9-won, 0-lost season, invade Okemos in a non-league battle. The two teams squared off in Jackson last fall, 20-0 the final score. Okemos trailed 6-0 with a few minutes remaining and threatened to score when a fumble put an end to it.

Okemos hasn't forgotten that game. It started a 2-6-1 season, one that was filled with disappointments and bad breaks. But that was last year.

Jones has drilled his team hard for the opener. He'll open the season with a smaller team than last year, one

with less depth, and one with a lot of question marks. But Jones says this team is a "squad of fighters, with plenty of enthusiasm and desire." Sometimes that's all it takes.

Jackson will go into the game a heavy favorite, but observers aren't selling Okemos short. While there are problems, there are also strengths. It appears Jones has rebuilt his line. The average weight is 171 down the line. Captain Don Ambrose and Dick Ahti are fine pass-catching ends. Mark Meadows and Dave Hassell are experienced tackles with capable Mike Pollard alternating.

Bill McGlone and Denny Dyke are the guards. If one gets hurt, Hassell will take over. Mike Guthrie is the center, Mark Stoil backing him up.

The backfield is of the "pony" variety with the average weight 145. Byron Johnson, Larry Zweering and Larry Wheeler are quick-running backs, Johnson probably being the best of the 3.

The quarterback spot is still a mystery to Jones and he'll probably end up alternating Robby Hill, Tom Johnson and Marc Niefert.

Jack Nimphie, another runner, is injured with a broken rib, but is expected back by the Howell game. Other than that, the squad is in good shape.

Most of these boys will go on defense, trying to stop St. Johns power wing-T offense. Bob Miller will be in the secondary. Jones will have to go with inexperience if the situation arises.

FIELD NEAR COMPLETION

...A COLUMN BY TIM STAUDT

Hooray for Okemos! Regardless of what the football team does this fall, Okemos people still have something to shout about concerning football. The new athletic field, needed for years, finally is just about a reality.

No longer will Okemos fans have to go over to the junior high school and sit in cramped stands. No longer will fans have to slish through the mud to get to their seats. No longer will the field be obliterated in mud and water nor will the poor lighting hinder play.

The new field is nearing completion. By the Oct. 7 Howell game, it should be ready. Eighty-eight foot light towers, 6 of them, were sunk last Thursday. The lights will produce over 40 candle power of light on the field, making it one of the most illuminated fields in the state. The 164 lamps only have to be aimed now, a task that will not be difficult. The wiring is all completed and just the transformer needs installing for the lights to work.

In a nutshell, 3 main chores remain. 1) Installing the bleachers. The permanent bleachers on the west side of the field will take the longest. They will be built on 160, twelve-inch concrete supports and will provide an excellent view from every seat. Temporary stands will be placed on the east side for the visitors. The stands at the junior high school will be dismantled and transported over to the new field.

2) Finish the detailed parts of the field. This includes the lining of the field and erection of goal posts. Holes have already been dug for the goal posts. Other such things as benches need installing yet.

3) Finish the track. The Grastex surface must be installed as well as painting the lane markings. The track will also have an all-weather surface for the high jump which will be in the south end near the scoreboard. The shot put will be in the north end. The pole vault and long jump areas will be behind the east side team bench.

When the school expands, a permanent ticket window and concessions booth will be built, maybe next fall. In the off-season, the football equipment will be stored there. This season, the field will seat about 2,500. Eventually, 6,600 seats will be available.

The league track meet probably will be held at Okemos next spring. The old junior high field will be turned into a playfield. Problems will crop up at the new field, but they won't be as serious as the former ones at the old spot.

The field is in a beautiful surrounding. It sits in a natural bowl, perfect for the spectator.

The people of Okemos can be proud of this new facility. From just about the worst, Okemos now has one of the best facilities for track and football of any school around.

Okemos ties St. John of Jackson

By TIM STAUDT

Somebody wrote a song called "Hail to the Chief" and intended it for the President of this country. Had the author been in Okemos last Friday evening, he may have forgotten our chief executive. Instead, he might have put the title into the plural form, calling it "Hail to the Chiefs" in honor of the Okemos High School Chieftain football team.

Anyway you look at it, Okemos deserves some recognition after banging heads on even terms with the 1965 Class B State Champions, Jackson St. John, last Friday night.

Fighting their hearts out the entire game, the Okemos players ended up with a 13-13 tie and had the ball in their possession on the St. John 5-yardline as the game ended.

It was a bruising battle, dominated by the defenses. Each team stuck mostly to the ground, Okemos rushing for 137 yards and the Jackson team 111.

The score, however, is misleading. Okemos actually scored 3 touchdowns.

Six plays before the half ended, Okemos had the ball on its own 49 yardline. Jeff Austin beat his man deep and quarterback Rob Hill lofted a pass into his arms. Austin raced into the endzone untouched, but a red flag at the line of scrimmage convicted Okemos of off-sides and the play was nullified.

Okemos had to charge from behind despite leading early in the game 6-0. Trailing 13-6 at halftime, Okemos' final score came midway through 3rd quarter. After taking the 2nd half kick-off, Okemos moved the ball to mid-field, but ran out of downs and had to punt.

Larry Zweering kicked deep into Jackson territory and a good St. John punt return brought the ball back to the Jackson 31. On the first play, the Jackson runner fumbled and Okemos lineman Bill Kennedy recovered.

Okemos picked up a first down on a 3rd and 7 situation when Byron Johnson ran 12 yards to the Jackson 16. Then workhorse Larry Wheeler carried 4 straight times and got it to the 1 yard line, before Johnson swept the left side for the score. Johnson again went around end on the extra point attempt and the game was tied for good.

Okemos scored its initial touchdown in a much similar fashion.

A Jackson fumble 2 plays after the opening kick-off was recovered by Okemos on the St. John 36 yardline. Wheeler made 22 yards in 3 carries to the 14, and then Johnson picked up 6 yards on the next play. With a 3rd and 1 situation, Wheeler just got the nose of the ball past the 7 yardline for a first down. Johnson carried the ball the next two times, scoring on the second try from the 3 yard line.

Jackson tied the score the next time it got its hands on the ball, marching 75 yards in 14 plays. Quarterback Jerry Sykes punched it over from the 2 yardline. The conversion failed.

Okemos returned the ensuing kick-off to the 31 yardline and after Johnson picked up 2, Hill lofted a pass for

Austin, that Jackson's Paul Satanski picked off and lugged to the endzone unmolested. St. John lead 13-6.

On its final drive of the game, Okemos' Kennedy again pounced on a Jackson fumble at the St. John 48. Wheeler picked up 13 yards and Johnson 10 more as Okemos quickly advanced the ball to the Jackson 25 yard line.

After Wheeler made 3 yards and a first down, Johnson went 14 yards around left end to the 8 with time running out. Jackson was off-sides on the next play and the ball went to the 6 yardline with just seconds remaining. Wheeler ran wide on the right side, but the rugged Jackson forward wall stacked him up at the five as the gun went off.

It was a tense battle, start to finish, and it was evident from the start that Jackson was in for a tough evening. Time and again, Jackson's all-state halfback Dick Walicki, a bruising, 6 foot, 3 inch, 203 pounder was stacked up just past the line of scrimmage.

Okemos held him to 52 yards in 12 carries. Sykes, the quarterback, was the next most productive St. John runner getting 22 yards in 15 tries.

Wheeler had 67 in 21 for Okemos, while Johnson adding 60 in 12.

Okemos coach Dave Jones was extremely proud of his troop's performance against St. Johns.

"We handled everything they threw at us," he said. "I thought we were the better team and I thought we played the best game."

Asked why St. John had so much trouble with the Okemos defense, Jones answered, "Don Ambrose and Dick Ahti did simply tremendous jobs playing end for us. I can't say enough about their play. They were magnificent forcing the play to the inside. Our pursuit was good, though we need to make it better. Mark Stoll did a good job filling in for Mike Pollard at guard when he was injured."

"We knew that Walicki was tough," Jones continued. "We knew he was bruising 5 yards past the line of scrimmage, but that he was slow getting into the secondary. That's why we had to contain him before he could shake free." Walicki never did shake loose, but he was never tackled by one man either. It was always a gang-tackle job, but it worked.

Hill answered the mystery of who the Okemos quarterback would be. Hill played the entire game and called most of the plays himself.

"He did a fine job," Jones said. "Perhaps if we would have let him call the whole game, we would have won." Jones went on to say that the offensive line "bogged down in the second quarter" which hurt.

Friday night, Okemos travels to Howell for the league opener. Howell was defeated by Fenton last Friday, 2-0, on a safety in the fourth quarter. Howell is reported to be a strong defensive and running team, with most offensive thrusts off the tackles.

"They're a good football team and we'll have to play hard to win," Jones said.

Hill hits 9 of 10, Okemos overcomes Howell

By TIM STAUDT

There is one man in Okemos who must believe in the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Dave Jones, Okemos High School football coach, appears to be subscribing to that theory.

Jones is in his 3rd season as the Okemos head coach and he hasn't enjoyed the first two seasons very well. Okemos won only one game in 1964, and captured just 2 victories and a tie last fall.

But on September 16, Okemos tied the 1965 State champs, Jackson St. John, opening the current season, and then defeated Howell for the first time in history last Friday evening, 14-7.

Okemos stung Howell the first time it got its hands on the ball and built up a 14-0 lead by halftime. A second-half offensive lapse kept the game from being a rout, for defensively Okemos was far superior.

Mr. Okemos for Jones Friday night was senior quarterback Robby Hill, previously considered a weak passer.

Hill dispelled any doubts as to whether he could pass Friday night. The 5-10, 160 pounder merely completed 9 out of 10 passes (8 in a row), threw for two touchdowns, completed another pass for an extra point, and racked up 113 yards through the air altogether.

Hill wasted no time going to work on the slow Howell defense. After Howell punted to the Okemos 39 on its first series of plays, Hill calmly faded back and heaved a 43 yard strike to end Dick Ahti. Ahti would have gone all the way for the score, but the pass was a little short, forcing Ahti to slow up just a bit. The Howell defender caught up at the Howell 18 yardline.

Three running plays got the ball to the 10 yardline where Byron Johnson, who led Okemos with 80 yards in 19 carries, picked up 3 yards to the 7 and a first down. After Larry Wheeler (55 yards, 15 carries) lost 4 yards in 2 attempts, Hill tossed an 11-yard touchdown pass to Don Ambrose. Johnson's run for the extra point was good.

The other Okemos score came near the close of the first half. Tom Guthrie fell on a Howell fumble at the Howell 38 yardline. Seconds later Hill found Jeff Austin

wide open and coolly tossed him an over-the-shoulder beauty that went to the 5 yardline. After 2 runs made only 2 yards, Hill faked once and laced a pass to Austin registering 6 more points. A Hill to Ambrose pass was good for the extra point.

Midway through the 2nd quarter, star tackle Dave Hassell suffered a bad ankle sprain and was forced to leave the game. His absence was felt in the 2nd-half, as Okemos never did get a sustained drive started.

Howell's lone score came at the start of the last quarter. After receiving a punt at the Howell 49, quarterback Chuck Pennell found halfback John Dicke wide open and heaved a beauty to him for 51-yard touchdown.

Okemos all but iced the game a few minutes later, when a Larry Zweering punt was downed on the Howell 3 yardline. Howell could only move the ball to the 12 and had to punt. Okemos ran out the clock, using 5 running plays.

"Our plan was to blend some passing with our running game," Jones said, "and we accomplished that. The first half was the best half of football we've played since I've been coach, but Hassell's injury hurt us some in the 2nd half. Mark Premer did a good job filling in for him."

"We were real pleased with our defense," Jones went on. "We still must work on our pursuit, but except for a few lapses, Howell couldn't run on us."

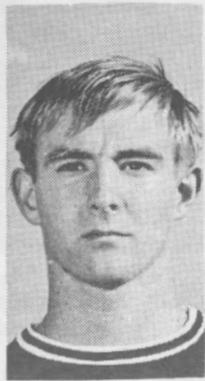
Asked about Hill's performance, Jones commented, "Anytime you complete 9 out of 10, the statistics speak for themselves. He was accurate and he threw to the right spots. Most of his success was a result of the excellent protection the linemen gave him. Our passing helped balance our offense more than ever."

Jones takes his team to Mason this Friday. Owners of a 0-2 record, Mason is not considered as tough as Jackson St. John or Howell, but Jones is still wary of a let-down.

"They'll still be tough and our boys can't feel this will be an easy week. We must improve and play harder."



Rob Hill



Larry Wheeler



Dave Hassell



Dick Ahti



Jeff Austin

Unbeaten Okemos plays 1st game on new field

By TIM STAUDT

Warning: All high school football fans with weak hearts, stay away from Okemos. One more game may be fatal.

Indeed it may well be. After 2 tense games to open the season, Okemos went through another pulse-pounder last Friday night in Mason, before finally coming out with a 6-0 victory.

The win left Okemos with 2 wins and a tie for the season, including a perfect 2-0 record in the conference. Okemos is in a tie for first place with Lansing Gabriels and Lansing O'Rafferty in the Capital Circuit scramble.

Everyone at Friday's game was left breathless at the conclusion. Playing inspired football, Mason valiantly tried to pierce the Okemos endzone. But stout defensive work by an equally inspired Okemos eleven kept the slim lead intact.

With 4 minutes remaining in the game, Okemos was forced to surrender the football. Larry Zweering punted 36 yards to the Mason 29 and the Okemos defense was in for 4 minutes of absolute anguish.

A pass and run netted 22 yards to the Okemos 49. After a 3 yard run, Mason quarterback Ron Underwood found 6-1 end Jim Powers open and shot a pass downfield. Powers caught it, and was hit instantly. At the moment of contact he lateraled it to teammate Carl Lawson who moved the ball to the 34 yardline for a first down. Underwood and Lawson teamed up for 15 yards on the next play for another first down at the 19.

After a pick-up of a yard, the Okemos defense finally had enough. As Underwood faded back to pass, Mark Stoll and Don Ambrose shot through to nail the Mason runner for a 14 yard loss to the 32 yardline. With a 3rd down situation, Underwood then shot a pass to Steve Strickland who gathered it in but fumbled on a jarring tackle by Larry Wheeler. Wheeler recovered and the Okemos fans thought it was all over with just 1 minute left to play.

But alas, how things change.

A bad center-quarterback exchange produced an Okemos fumble, and a Mason player dived on it at the Okemos 18 yardline. Underwood shot a pass toward the endzone, but Ambrose was in the right spot to break it up. Underwood went back to pass again, and this time Okemos' Tom Johnson picked it off as time ran out.

It was an excellent finish for Johnson who enjoyed an outstanding game. Earlier in the quarter, Johnson picked off another pass, and played an outstanding game altogether at linebacker. It was his first game as linebacker.

Okemos coach Dave Jones had nothing but praise for his entire defensive unit. Mason scored 38 points in its first 2 games, but against Okemos, Mason managed just 94 yards rushing. The defensive line consisted of Stoll, Mark Meadows, Bill Kennedy, Ambrose and Dick Ahti. Tom Guthrie and Tom Johnson were the linebackers, and Wheeler, Mark Niefert, Byron Johnson and Bob Miller were the deep backs.

Jones had special praise for Kennedy, Tom Johnson, Ambrose, Meadows and Guthrie. "All the boys did fine

jobs," he said, "but these boys were outstanding, Meadows and Kennedy especially."

Okemos scored its lone in the 4th quarter. Meadows fell on a Mason fumble at the Mason 18 yardline to start the drive. After Wheeler made 2, Robby Hill tossed his 3rd touchdown pass of the season, this time to Ambrose who made a beautiful grab. It was Ambrose' 2nd scoring catch of the year.

Okemos tried the same play for the extra point, but this time Mason broke it up.

Okemos scored 2 more touchdowns that didn't count and were driving when the clock stopped a 3rd.

In the first quarter, Johnson ran a punt back 40 yards to the Mason 14 yardline. After 3 runs netted only 2 yards, Wheeler took a hand-off and ran to his right. Suddenly he stopped and fired a pass to Jack Nimphie in the endzone. But Nimphie's right foot was just past the end line, and the score was nullified.

The 2nd score called back came again as a result of Johnson. The tricky 5-10, 165 junior shot around end early in the 3rd quarter and danced and weaved 45 yards to the endzone. But a clip at the Mason 40 brought the ball back to midfield.

Near the end of the half, Okemos started a drive at its own 34. A run by Johnson got 6, and then Hill passed to Johnson for 17 more on a screen pattern. Five more runs brought the ball to the Mason 9 as time ran out.

Mason provided Okemos with some unusual problems. On the first series of downs, Mason ran plays without a huddle trying to catch the defense off-guard. Okemos held on and forced a punt. Jones quickly called his defense together and "held school" as he told them. He moved Stoll and Meadows closer to tackle to stop the Mason thrusts at that spot. It worked well and Mason was forced to pass to gain yardage.

And pass they did, 19 times in all, completing 10 for 124 yards. Okemos, however, picked off 4 of them. Okemos also recovered 4 fumbles.

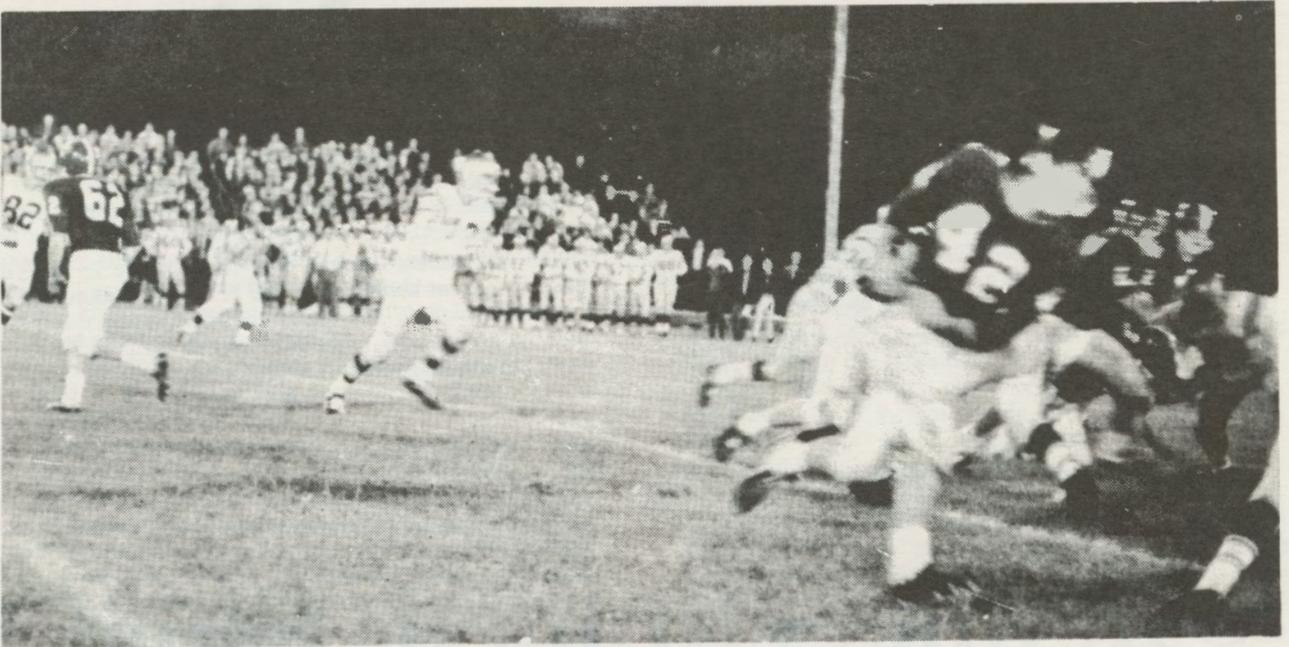
"Defensively, we played poorly in the first half," Jones said. "But the 2nd half, we adjusted better. Our penalties (for 63 yards) hurt our drives. Four times we were called for clipping in key situations. Offensively we need work. We'll concentrate on our offensive running game in practice this week.

They completed 10 passes on us, but we were in a prevent defense where we'll give them the short ones to stop the long ones," he added.

The game was a bruising affair. Dave Hassel, Denny Dyke and Kennedy, all were banged up, but all should be in action this week. Mike Pollard, who has been out since the first game of the season, should also be ready to play Friday.

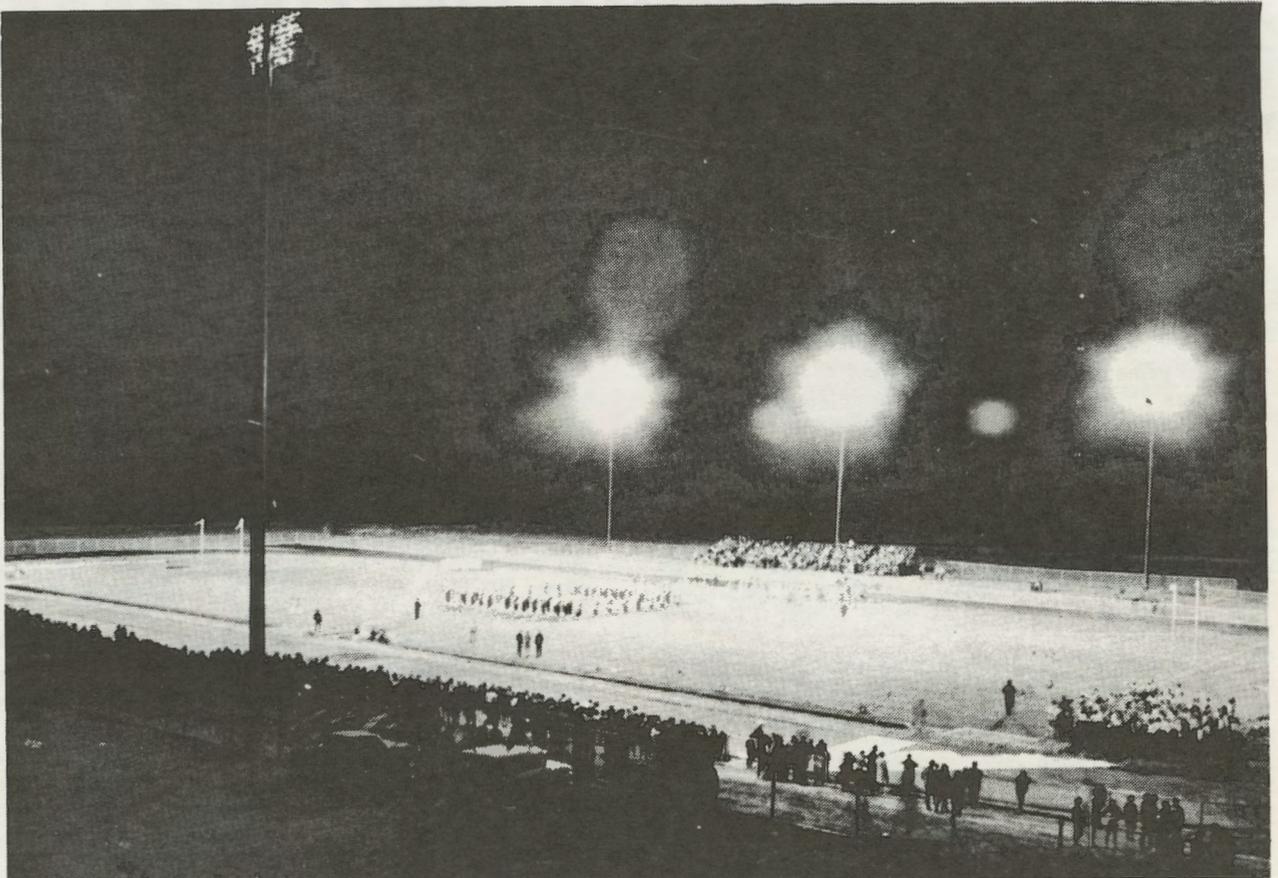
This Friday is going to be a big night. It is homecoming, and it also is the first game on the new athletic field. O'Rafferty is the opponent and will provide plenty of problems.

O'Rafferty won a 6-0 toughie last year, and Jones hasn't forgotten it.



Larry Wheeler (No. 42), Okemos's leading ground gainer in the school's surprise opening game performance

against Jackson St. John, speeds around right end. Wheeler gained 67 yards in 21 carries.



This was the scene prior to the opening kick-off on the new field at Okemos's game with Lansing O'Rafferty this fall. The varsity band is seen performing on the

field, while the Junior High School band is in the lower right hand corner waiting its turn to perform. The overflow crowd is clearly evident.

Okemos inaugurates new field

A new era dawns for Okemos High School Friday evening. The brand new football field will will experience its first varsity game.

Lansing O'Rafferty is the opponent, in a key game in the Capital Circuit football race. The field will have a temporary set-up for the opening game only.

Because of steel shortages, temporary bleachers will be set in. The bleachers will be put on rollers and moved onto the field, hopefully by Wednesday evening.

There won't be an over supply, but Okemos officials believe that some fans would rather stand at the game, rather than have it played on the old field, at the junior high school.

With the exception of the bleachers, the rest of the field is just about ready.

The permanent stands may be in place in time for the subsequent home game Oct. 21 against Eaton Rapids.

Fans can get a preview of the set-up when the freshmen on Wednesday night and reserve team on Thursday night play their games with O'Rafferty.

THE SEASON'S ONLY SETBACK

Okemos stopped--Chiefs lose new-field debut

By TIM STAUDT

The gun sounded ending the game. The three officials headed to the locker rooms with the rest of the players. Larry Mangles, the umpire, turned to one of his colleagues. "That", he said, "was a magnificent football game."

They had just completed officiating the Lansing O'Rafferty-Okemos football game last Friday night in Okemos. An overflow crowd of 3,000 or more watched the inaugural game on the new Okemos field.

It was an astonishing, almost peculiar game, and it was magnificent if one viewed it impartially.

The scoreboard showed O'Rafferty the winner, 6-0, but the fans knew the score was unique for the type of game played.

It was the first loss of the season for coach Dave Jones' team. The Okemos record is now 2 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie. Jones' team dropped to 3rd place in the Capital Circuit with a 2-1 reading, 1 game behind O'Rafferty and Gabriels.

But in a way, O'Rafferty can be thankful for getting the win. For Okemos turned the parochial school team back all night, only to have one offensive mistake give O'Rafferty its lone touchdown.

Even more frustrating for Okemos was the fact that it had moved the ball to the O'Rafferty 22, 1, 23, 2, 34, 5, and 19 yardlines on 7 different occasions without punching it across once. Fumbles, pass interceptions, penalties and poor play execution cost Okemos a score each and every time.

O'Rafferty scored its lone touchdown on an Okemos miscue. Okemos had the ball, 4th down and 8 at its own 25 yardline. Daryl Griggs, replacing the injured Larry Zweering, went back into punt formation, standing on his

15 yardline. Griggs wriggled his fingers to receive the center snap, but the ball went over his head and bounced to the Okemos 4 yardline. There Griggs and a host of O'Rafferty tacklers pounded on it.

The ball, however, went to O'Rafferty on downs, and 2 plays later quarterback Tim Brogan sneaked over from the one yardline.

Later in the dressing room, Dave Jones sat at his desk, chewed on a cigarette and tried to figure out what happened.

"What can you say, just what can you say, when you do what we did tonight and still get beat?" he said disgustedly.

"We did everything but score. We simply made too many mistakes. You can't make the mistakes we did and win a football game, that's all there is to it.

"They never got to us and stopped our thrusts, we stopped ourselves. We tried to sweep when we got in close, but they waited outside. We should have run inside the ends."

Jones then second-guessed himself. "If I had to do it over, I suppose I would have passed when we got in there close. They were tough inside, but still we moved offensively. We made the mistakes, they didn't."

3 of Okemos' top interior linemen were out of action against O'Rafferty. Dave Hassell, Denny Dyke and Mike Pollard did not dress. Dyke is through for the season, as the result of a concussion sustained in an earlier game.

Okemos lost one more top player last Friday, when ace punter Larry Zweering had some cartilage ripped in his leg making a tackle. He is expected to be lost for the remainder of the season.

O'Rafferty had only one sustained drive in the whole game against Okemos, but the drive ate up precious time

in the 4th quarter and gave Okemos poor field position.

Okemos got the ball on the O'Rafferty 42 late in the fourth period on a blocked punt, quarterback Rob Hill shot a pass to Don Ambrose that netted 16 yards to the 26, where Okemos asked for a timeout. Bob Miller then tried a sweep and got out of bounds after making only a yard with 20 seconds left. Hill then hit Larry Wheeler for 6 and Okemos had it at the 19. With only a few seconds left, Hill faded back to pass. But O'Rafferty, expecting the pass, had 6 men deep and intercepted the pass on the goal line as the game ended.

What about the other Okemos drives? How did they start and end? Here's the rundown.

1) Okemos took the opening kick-off and moved down the field in 6 plays, only to see Wheeler fumble at the O'Rafferty 22 yardline.

2) Byron Johnson returned a punt to the Okemos 45 yardline. From there, Okemos moved 9 plays to the O'Rafferty 20 as the first quarter ended. O'Rafferty coach Ron Rittenburg was then assessed a major penalty for a personal foul and Okemos had it at the 10. Byron swept the left side on the next play, and cut inside to the goal line where he was hit on a jarring tackle. The ball squirted loose, and an O'Rafferty player pounced on it. Many Okemos players lined up on the goal line, but the officials decided no, and thus O'Rafferty had it at its own 1 yardline.

3) O'Rafferty punted on its series, and Okemos had it at the O'Rafferty 49 yard line. An O'Rafferty personal foul advanced the ball to the 33, where Okemos ran it to the 24. On 4th and less than a foot, Wheeler was stacked up for no gain.

4) On the last drive before the half, Jeff Austin returned a punt to the O'Rafferty 30. Seven runs got it to the O'Rafferty one with 3rd down coming up. Wheeler lost 2 trying to sweep and Johnson could only get a yard through the middle as the half ended.

5) Okemos started a drive at its own 45 in the third period, and 7 plays moved the ball to the O'Rafferty 34. A 15-yard penalty stymied the drive, so Okemos punted.

6) Wheeler and Mark Meadows caused O'Rafferty's Greg Keast to fumble and Okemos recovered on the O'Rafferty 8 yard line. Three runs netted 3 yards and on 4th down and 5 from the 5 yardline, Johnson lost 5 trying to sweep the left side.

Okemos led in every phase of the statistics. Led in first downs 12 to 9, total yards 165 to 163, and passes completed, 3 to 1. Johnson tallied 83 yards in 21 carries, while Wheeler had 43 in 17.

Johnson is the leading gainer for Okemos this season with 281 yards in 65 carries, for a 4.3 average. Wheeler is next with 248 in 76 carries, 3.3.

Hill, a senior quarterback, completed 16 of 28 passes for 211 yards and 3 touchdowns. Ambrose, also a senior, had 7 grabs and Austin 3.

Okemos plays at Holt this coming Friday. Holt was defeated last week by Howell 25-6, a team Okemos beat earlier 14-7. Jones, however, doesn't take Holt lightly. "They're tough at home," he said. "And they'll be gunning for us, you can be sure of that."

Holt is 1-3 for the season. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

From dream to reality

A dream became a reality in Okemos last Friday night. After years of below average football facilities, the town silenced its critics by unveiling the brand new athletic field before an overflow throng estimated at 3,000-plus.

It was probably the largest crowd to see an athletic event in Okemos history.

The field was not completely finished when the game was played, however, and a makeshift set-up was used. But the fans in attendance still were impressed with the beautiful set-up that is being completed bit-by-bit. The 6 light towers poured out streams of brightness all over the football field and the sky was lit bright enough to be seen coming into Okemos on Grand River avenue.

The field had a professional look to it, thanks to the work of Babe Bennett, Okemos' number one fan. Babe put the hash marks in and even had 2 maroon "O's" on the 50 yardline. He had the goal-lines done in yellow, and had some colorful "zig-zags" in the end-zone.

The fact that it was Homecoming also added a spirited air to the surroundings. The goal posts were done up in maroon crepe paper and a new concession stand was located right behind the main gate.

For the first game only, both teams benched on the east side of the field. The track surfaces weren't completed enough on the west side to permit a team to bench there, but by the next home game--October 21 with Eaton Rapids--things will be much more complete.

The field grass was in perfect shape. Three dirt lines ran across the field where workmen had laid the cables connecting the east side light-towers. But in time the grass will grow over making the field uniform.

The track eventually will have a shade of red color and Okemos officials are excited over the red and green

...A COLUMN BY TIM STAUDT

layout of the field and track.

The Okemos officials say it will be a year for things to get settled before the set-up will have a permanent look.

Who is there to thank for the facility? In August, hardly a thing had been completed, and there was little hope of having this season's games played on it.

Of course, original credit goes to the Booster Club, the organization that has lived and died with every Okemos success and failure. The club hammered its message home to the people of Okemos that things were needed. The message got across.

Credit must also go to Dave Schuele, Okemos' Athletic Director, who owns an endless supply of energy when it comes to seeing the school improve its athletic standards. Schuele handled the post for the first time last year, and got the ball rolling.

When the contracting company informed Schuele that the permanent stands could not be completed in time for the O'Rafferty game, he rented bleachers, and set them up himself.

He has nurtured the field along this fall, in addition to coaching the reserve team to 2 wins in 3 tries.

A good deal of credit must also go to the people of Okemos, who after all voted the bond issue through and are paying tax money that their youngsters might have the facilities they have been lacking.

Besides the athletic field, the new tennis courts are the finest anywhere, and the baseball field has added fenced-in bullpens.

From the worst, Okemos now has the finest athletic facilities that can be attained. A hearty congratulations to all involved.

HOW OKEMOS STANDS NOW

With the Okemos High School football loss to Lansing O'Rafferty last Friday night, many people after the game said "Okemos blew it" and "They lost the championship."

Here is how Okemos stacks up with the rest of the league. O'Rafferty and Gabriels are now 3-0, while Okemos is 2-1, 1 game behind. Each team has 4 conference games remaining.

Of the 3 schools, observers and officials say Okemos has the lightest schedule remaining. Okemos must play at Holt next Friday night. Holt is 1-2 in the league,

1-3 for the season. Okemos plays Eaton Rapids (0-3 and 0-4) the following week at home, and then takes on Gabriels at home. It finishes the season at Haslett (1-2 and 1-3).

O'Rafferty, however, must play host to surging Mason next Friday night, followed up by Holt at home. O'Rafferty then closes on the road at Eaton Rapids, before playing Gabriels on a neutral field.

Gabriels has the toughest road to travel. It plays Haslett next Saturday at home, and then travels to Howell and Okemos before closing with O'Rafferty.

Okemos flag hopes dim; Eaton Rapids is next

By TIM STAUDT

With its hopes of a Capital Circuit championship considerably dimmed, Okemos High School's football team will try to regroup its forces for a Friday night home encounter with Eaton Rapids.

Eaton Rapids pulled off a 13-12 win last year and Okemos coach Dave Jones is eager for his team to return to the win column after several weeks of frustration.

Eaton Rapids is one of the weaker teams in the Circuit this fall. But it has played some good football and Jones is worried of Eaton Rapids' potential.

The championship hopes melted in Holt Friday, as Holt put together a strong running game and potent defense to force Okemos into a 6-6 stalemate.

Okemos had to fight to get its lone touchdown; it came as a result of a Holt gamble that failed.

A strong 20-mile an hour wind was in Okemos's favor for the 4th quarter. With Holt leading and holding the ball, the Okemos defense faced a 3rd and 1 situation at the Holt 35.

Halfback Jim Cooley tried to go off right guard, but Don Ambrose, Okemos's standout end, was there to meet Cooley and hold him for no gain.

Facing a 4th down, observers figured Holt would punt, but Holt coach Darold Briggs thought differently and tried a sneak once more. Joe Bochenek carried this time and a big pile-up resulted near the 36.

The officials called time and brought in the chains. Okemos held by less than a foot, and with 6 minutes left to play in the game had the ball on the Holt 36.

3 running plays brought the ball to the 23, where quarterback Rob Hill then teamed up with Ambrose was wide open in the deep left secondary.

It was Hill's 4th touchdown pass this season, the 3rd to Ambrose. Okemos tried the same type of play for the extra point, but this time it was batted down.

Holt also scored in the 4th quarter, when Cooley swept left end 2 yards, capping a 70 yard drive that

took 19 plays. The drive was strictly on the ground and each run gained yards in the 4 to 5 distance category.

Okemos ran 8 plays to open the 2nd half, and didn't see the ball offensively again until after the Holt score.

Each team threatened once in the first half. Holt took the opening kick-off and moved straight down the field to the Okemos 2 where it ran out of downs.

Okemos's drive came early in the 2nd quarter, starting on its own 36. Nine runs took the ball to the Holt 10 yard line, where Hill fumbled a hand-off on the next play to end the threat.

The strong wind hampered each team's passing game and Holt was forced to stick almost exclusively to the ground. It did pass 3 times, but completed none. Okemos' Hill managed to complete 4 of 7 for 33 yards.

Holt completely dominated the statistics, however. It led in first downs, 15 to 11, rushing yardage 240 to 178, and total yards, 240 to 211. Holt's rushing yardage was the most Okemos has given up all year. Larry Wheeler led the Okemos runners with 87 yards in 16 carries, while Byron Johnson had 60 in 14.

The loss left Okemos with a 2 wins, one loss and 2 ties, and a 2-1-1 record in the conference. It will take a small miracle to win the title now.

Okemos has now managed to score just 12 points in the last 3 games. Okemos has rushed for 716 yards this season and passed for 244 more. Hill has completed 20 of 35 passes, good for 4 touchdowns, one of the outstanding passing records in the area.

Ambrose has caught 8 of those passes for 111 yards and 3 touchdowns. Ambrose also leads the team in scoring with 19 points. Johnson has 14 points, and Jeff Austin the other 6.

Wheeler and Byron are leading the running game with 335 and 341 yards respectively.

Jones will try to get the offense back in gear for the last half of the season, which, in addition to Eaton Rapids, features Gabriels, Haslett and Flint Atherton. Haslett is the only away game left.

Okemos's best game: 40 points in 24 minutes

By TIM STAUDT

The clock on the locker room wall read 10:15. It was Friday night at Okemos High School, where only 45 minutes earlier, the hometown football team galloped into the dressing room with a 59-0 victory over Eaton Rapids.

Okemos Coach Dave Jones and his assistant Bob Porritt were alone with a visitor in their office, nervously awaiting the outcome of another game. These 3 men were the only people left at the school. The visitor made a phone call with the purpose of finding out the Lansing Gabriels--Howell football score, the game the coaches were anxiously anticipating. This was at least the 20th phone call that so far had produced no results. Both coaches knew a Gabriels loss was mandatory for Okemos to remain in contention for the Capital Circuit Championship.

On this phone call, the result came through. "35-13, Gabriels lost," Jones was told.

The coach's nervous face broke into an expression of disbelief. It meant that Okemos and Gabriels were to play the showdown game the following Friday in Okemos for possibly the top spot in the conference race.

Gabriels and O'Rafferty are tied with conference records of 4-1, while Okemos is a half notch back at 3-1-1. Should Okemos win, it would then finish the season at Haslett the following week. Haslett has hovered near the basement all season long.

Okemos's hopes ride on several "ifs." First Okemos must beat Gabriels. Then O'Rafferty must lose a game; O'Rafferty's climatic game is Nov. 6 against Gabriels.

Friday was a mighty big day for Jones. After 2 frustrating games resulting in a loss and a tie, his team literally ran Eaton Rapids off the field. Okemos which had scored just 39 points all season long, tallied 40 alone in the first half.

The runners ran as never before, gaining 434 yards. The blockers, opening huge holes, helped the backs break loose for 19 carries that gained 10 yards or more. The tacklers lit extra hard, forcing Eaton Rapids to lose 4 fumbles. The defense also picked off 2 stray Eaton Rapids passes.

It was the largest margin of victory in Okemos history, and how many teams have scored 40 points in 24 minutes of football?

The players were confident before the game ever started.

"We know we're still in this thing," captain Don Ambrose said earlier in the week.

"We're going to run Eaton Rapids off the field," Larry Wheeler threatened.

"We'll come back, wait and see," Dave Hassell, star lineman said.

The players kept their promises on all counts. The game was a team victory, the players and coaches will tell you that.

But the Okemos player who put on the greatest show was junior halfback Byron Johnson, who turned in an outstanding first half performance. Byron picked up 209 yards rushing in that half alone on just 12 carries. He scored 2 touchdowns and had 3 runs of 40 yards or more. He finished the game with 223 yards, despite spending most of the second half on the bench.

Tom Gaa, a 5-9, 160-pound sophomore wingback, had the most exciting run of the night, however, Tom took a screen pass from another sophomore, Mark Niefert, at the Okemos 47. He proceeded to dance his way past 8 Eaton Rapids defenders en route to the end zone, reversing his field twice.

Okemos scored its first of 9 touchdowns with 7 minutes left in the opening quarter. Quarterback Robby Hill plowed over from the 1 foot line.

2 minutes later, after a blocked punt by Mark Stoll, Byron Johnson knifed over left tackle for a 41-yard touchdown.

Okemos scored once again in the first period, as Larry Wheeler swept right end for an 18-yard touchdown run.

The 2nd quarter elapsed just 17 seconds, when Wheeler scored the 4th touchdown from 8 yards out.

Touchdown number 5 came with 9 minutes to play in the half, as Byron Johnson scored from 47 yards out. It was a beautiful play. Johnson was stopped for an apparent loss behind the line of scrimmage, but the hard-working junior kept plugging away until he got free.

The Okemos reserves entered the game in the 2nd quarter, and immediately joined the scoring parade. Substitute quarterback Tom Johnson took the team from the Eaton Rapids 33 down to the 5 yard line, where on 4th down, he threw a pass to Jeff Austin who made a diving catch in the end zone.

With 8 and one-half minutes to go in the game, Bobby Miller dashed 14 yards over center for 6 more points. Tom Guthrie ended the mis-match once and for all with a 1-yard plunge, capping a 42-yard drive.

Okemos piled up 21 first downs to Eaton Rapids' 6, while it picked up 484 yards on the ground to 111. Okemos amassed 542 total yards to Eaton Rapids' 121.

Besides Johnson's fine running, Wheeler had 114 yards, Daryl Griggs 75, Miller 53 and Jack Nimphie 22.

Jones and Porritt both had praise for their team Friday night.

"The backs did a great job," Porritt said. "The reserve quarterbacks (Tom Johnson and Niefert) pleased us with their play. Johnson and Griggs also played outstanding games."

"That Niefert is a magician with the ball," Jones added. "I think Gaa did an outstanding job for us. He's probably the best broken-field runner we have. Doug Swenson also showed us a lot at linebacker."

But Jones was most pleased with his offensive line. "Our blocking tonight was the best it has ever been," he beamed. "Ambrose, Austin, Mark Meadows, Hassell, Bill McGlone, Jim Wylie, John Patenge and Guthrie were all in there for us and hit real well."

For the first time this year, Jones had his extra point tries kicked. Hassell was the man nominated for the job and he made 4 of 8. Niefert ran one over on a broken play.

How Okemos, Gabriels shape up

Friday night's football game at 7:30 p.m. between Okemos and Lansing Gabriels will probably decide the Capital Circuit champion. Here is background information on the Okemos home game.

Site: Okemos Field, Okemos High School.

Team Records: Okemos, 3-1-2 overall and 3-1-1 in conference play.

Gabriels, 5-1 overall and 4-1 conference.

Last year's game: Gabriels won 27-13 en route to an undefeated season. Okemos led early in the game, but the strong Gabriels attack eventually over-powered Okemos.

Common Opponent results: Okemos defeated Howell 14-7, whereas Gabriels lost, 35-13. Both teams whipped Mason, Okemos 6-0, Gabriels 13-7. Gabriels defeated Holt 25-0, while Okemos settled for a 6-6 tie. Both teams shut-out Eaton Rapids, Okemos 59-0, Gabriels 22-0.

Team strengths: Okemos will be slightly smaller in the line and backfield, but will possess greater speed. Okemos will have more depth in the line. Gabriels' boasts a balanced running game with a big, strong line.

Team weaknesses: Okemos lacks a powerful running back that can consistently get 3 or 4 yards. Gabriels is a question mark in the passing department and lacks overall team speed.

Comparisons: Okemos will boast a little stronger passing game and a faster attack on both offense and defense. Gabriels will rely on power, sticking mostly to the ground. Gabriels has the stronger runners, while Okemos has the speed.

Statistical comparisons: Okemos' defense has allowed just 19 points, while Gabriels has yielded 42. Gabriels, however, has outscored Okemos, 93-85.

Remaining conference schedule: Gabriels finishes conference play against O'Rafferty at home, while Okemos travels to Haslett.

Okemos nips Gabriels in even game

By TIM STAUDT

Magnificent, unbelievable, tremendous. Those 3 adjectives only tell minutely of the football game between Gabriels and Okemos High Schools last Friday night. Mere words can't tell the story, unless you were one of over 3,500 fans that jammed Okemos field for the titanic struggle.

It will go down as the great game in the Capital Circuit this year to date, and it wasn't decided until the last 5 seconds, and only then, by inches. It was a dandy, and Okemos was fortunate enough to come out the winner, 7-6.

By winning, Okemos now has a definite shot at the Circuit title, while Gabriels can help by beating arch-rival O'Rafferty this Sunday afternoon in the traditional league finale. Okemos will have to beat Haslett on Friday night before worrying about Sunday's game, however.

Friday's game was decided by toes. Okemos's Dave Hassell kicked his team's extra point while Tom Eiden missed by only a few inches his attempt to tie it up for Gabriels.

There were stars galore for both sides. For Okemos, Don Ambrose was magnificent. Both coaches praised his defensive and offensive efforts. Okemos' Byron

Johnson, Larry Wheeler, Bill Kennedy, just to name a few, also drew the coaches' praise.

Eiden, Ben Weeks, Chuck Spadafore, Rick Terres and Chuck Lott spearheaded the Gabriels forces, while the rest of the team played superbly too.

Each team was loaded down with determination and pride, and each team was gunning for the championship.

Trailing 7-0, Gabriels fought back with just 1:45 left in the game. Okemos faced a 4th down and 4 situation at its own 24 and was forced to punt. Larry Zweering's boot rolled dead at the Okemos 47. Expecting a pass, Gabriels' quarterback Chris Rundle sent fullback Chuck Lott through the middle on the first play and the big, 170 pounder ripped for 17 yards to the 30.

With the entire throng of people on its feet and screaming, Gabriels moved 17 yards in 2 plays to the Okemos 13.

After completing a short pass to the 12, Gabriels quickly lined up as the clock was still moving. Terres faked his usual pattern and cut over the middle to the center of the end zone. Rundle bulleted a pass at him but the ball was sailing high. Terres leaped high as Niefert, Wheeler and Byron Johnson all hit him. Down came all 3 defenders and down came Terres, miraculously holding the ball for a touchdown.

Momentary silence filled the air. And then suddenly, the Gabriels players and fans jumped for joy, yelling and prancing around. Terres didn't get up. The impact knocked the wind out of him, but Terres finally was helped off the field to a resounding cheer.

On his way back to the bench with Terres, Brooks looked at his players who were getting ready for the extra point.

"Make it," he yelled.

The teams lined up, as a crowd gathered in the end-zone to await the kick by Eiden. A Gabriels fan stood along side Okemos athletic director Dave Schuele.

"He'll never make it," the observer said. "He always seems to kick that ball to the left."

The ball was snapped, and Eiden swung his foot and the ball sailed through the air, as all eyes in the stadium, watched the pigskin. Seconds later the Okemos defenders jumped up and down as the official signaled the kick was wide. The Gabriels players protested, but meekly.

"He (Eiden) swung his foot too much to the left," Okemos's Tom Gaa said, "Had he kicked the ball straight, we might have blocked it."

"Our kids thought the ball went over the top and then the wind blew it to the left," Gabriels coach Brooks said. "But the official made the call and no arguing would have done any good. The kick must have been no good, that's all there is to it."

Gabriels didn't give up, however, and tried an on-side kick, but the clock ran out as the Okemos players fell on it.

While the Okemos players went wild with joy, the Gabriels team sadly headed back to the locker room. Brooks and Okemos coach Dave Jones met in the center of the field.

"Congratulations Dave," Brooks said softly. "We'll do everything we can to win for you next week." The two parted and left the field.

* * * *

Okemos had a little easier time scoring. Okemos took possession of a Gabriels' punt on its own 20, and marched 80 yards for a fourth period touchdown.

Don Ambrose made a play during the drive both coaches said was the turning point in the game. Don ran a pattern down the middle where a Hill pass was deflected toward ground. Ambrose dove and just picked it off his shoe tops for a completion at the Gabriels' 27.

Seven plays later, Okemos had the ball first and goal on the 4 yard line. Bob Miller tried a sweep, but the Gabriels' line red-dogged and dropped Miller for a loss back to the 8. Okemos kicked out on the next play and Wheeler ambled down to the 1. Wheeler scored easily on the following play as Okemos fans let loose of hundreds of maroon and white balloons in celebration.

Now came Hassell's kick. He got two tries.

The first was blocked cleanly by Chuck Spadafore. But the Gabriels' end was offside and Hassell tried again from the 8 yard line. This time the ball sailed through the middle with 6:30 left in the game.

Neither team moved the ball in the 3rd quarter, but Okemos had 2 good scoring chances in the first half.

Larry Wheeler picked off a Rundle pass in the first quarter, and Okemos moved down to the Gabriels' 11 before losing the ball on downs. Larry Zweering softly punted to the Gabriels' 11 in the 2nd quarter, where it bounced off a Gabriels' mans knee, and Ambrose fell on it for Okemos.

Three runs moved it to the 3, where a 4th down pass for Ambrose was short.

* * * *

The statistics showed it was an even game. Okemos had 235 yards total offense, compared to 210 yards for Gabriels. Okemos had 171 yards rushing and 64 passing, while Gabriels' had 127 rushing and 73 passing.

Byron Johnson picked up 98 ground yards to lead Okemos, while Mike Lott paced Gabriels with 75.

Coach Jones was not jubilant in the locker room after the game. It was a tough game and he nervously watched every play. He congratulated all his players and gave them their jerseys to wear in school the following Monday to commemorate their win.

"It was a great ball game," said Jones quietly. "our kids did everything to win. We took away Gabriels' running game and won the game in the 2nd half. We had a good week of practice and I think the kids were as ready as they could be.

"Our pursuit was pretty good, but we still hurt ourselves a little in that first half. We didn't expect to pass as effectively as we did, but we had good success with short passes. Gabriels also had a strong passing attack in this game. Gabriels' has great pride and great attitude and our players respected this."

Jones praised all of his players, but a couple individually. "Ambrose-- he was magnificent. He's been great all year. His catch off of the ground was the turning point. Dick Ahti did a good job in the 2nd half and Mike Pollard is going to be a fine football player before he's done."

"We played well," Gabriels' coach Brooks said. "Our kids were disappointed because they thought they let everyone down. They thought they should have won. Our defensive line did a great job. We threw to Terres more because we knew their style of defense would keep our short receiver, Jim DiVietri, pretty well covered. Several times we had Terres open deep, but didn't throw to him."

"I take nothing away from Okemos," he added. "They hit very hard and are extremely quick." "We're going to try to help them. We haven't lost 3 games in a row in 5 years and the kids won't let down. O'Rafferty is also a key team for us to beat."

5 teams still in race for title

The Capital Circuit football race goes down to the wire this week-end, and still 5 teams have a shot for at least a share of the title.

Only Holt, Haslett and Eaton Rapids have been eliminated. Holt and Eaton Rapids play Friday in the only Circuit game that will have nothing to do in deciding the winner.

O'Rafferty can wrap the championship up by beating Gabriels. Okemos can win if it beats Haslett and O'Rafferty loses. If O'Rafferty ties, then Okemos and O'Rafferty would share the title.

Gabriels can get a title share if Okemos either ties or loses and Gabriels beats O'Rafferty. Howell and Mason play and the winner can get a share of the title under the last set of circumstances.

A four-way title tie is also possible. The Howell-Mason winner; Okemos, if it ties Haslett; Gabriels, if it beats O'Rafferty; and O'Rafferty. Ties count 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost.

For Coach Dave Jones: a season to remember

...A COLUMN BY TIM STAUDT

This was his finest hour. He had suffered through 2 losing seasons, never winning more than 2 games. The "he" is Dave Jones, Okemos football coach.

Dave has had 2 bad years, yes. But this year is one to remember, regardless of what happens in these remaining 2 weeks. Jones assured himself of his first winning season Friday night, with a big win over Gabriels. He now has a chance at the first conference championship and the best overall record in the history of Okemos High School.

You have to go back to first season, 1964, when his team lost 7 straight, before beating Haslett 25-21 in the last minute, to see where the improvement started.

"The boys then had practically no fundamentals," he said. "They just didn't know much about football."

So Jones started to teach them the basic fundamentals. He started with strong freshman and reserve programs.

While last year's varsity team was struggling, the reserves went undefeated. But he lost a lot of experienced hands through graduation and it didn't look too rosy this fall.

On top of that, he had little or no coaching staff and no field to play the home games on. Discouraging?

Yes, but Jones doesn't discourage easily. He got Bob Porritt to assist him with the varsity and Dave Schuele to handle the reserves. Okemos found 2 former Michigan State players, George Bronsen and Santo Pasqualucci, to fill the remaining vacancies. Okemos still could use 2 more coaches. But 5 would have to do.

With all of the other problems, Jones nevertheless went to work on developing a team of players he had

worked with for 2 previous seasons. Through his guidance, Okemos tied Jackson St. John, last year's state champs, and then flew past two toughies, Howell and Mason. Since then, he has lost just one game and is currently one-half game out of the championship spot with the last conference week coming up. How has he built a winner in so short a time?

"In general," said one Okemos parent, "The kids love to play for Dave and Bob. They respect both men and they feel they are having fun playing the game."

"Mr. Jones is a great coach," another player said. "We have confidence in him and Mr. Porritt and we enjoy working together."

Jones is generally mild-mannered, but he does get upset now and then. When he does, his players follow right along. Take last Friday's game with Gabriels.

On a play where Gabriels was going for a long gain, Jones and the other players thought the official blew his whistle, ending the play. But the runner kept going for 20 more yards before an Okemos player tackled him. The official claimed he didn't sound his whistle. Jones complained, but to no avail and the ruling stuck. Dave calmed, and went about quieting his players. But his players were mad. They thought they had been slighted and wanted to stop Gabriels for their coach. Right there, they did.

"That was the game's turning point," one player said later. "He (Jones) fired us up. He knows how to talk to us."

On Friday evening, Jones and the rest of his team will try to stop Haslett, to stay in the championship running.

Dave Jones will have his team ready to play. The players will see to that.



Okemos's defense managed to contain Gabriels running game most of the night last Friday. Here Gabriels' Mike Lott (20) runs into Okemos tacklers as he tries

to sweep right end. Okemos players are Don Ambrose (80), Dave Hassell (72), Byron Johnson (21) and Jeff Austin (82). The other Gabriels player is Ray Baillargeon.

Okemos wins first Capital Circuit title

By TIM STAUDT

1966 Capital Circuit Football Champions--that honor went to Okemos High School last week-end, culminating its greatest football season.

It was the first time in history that Okemos had won the Capital Circuit championship since joining the league in 1959. To the knowledge of the Okemos coaching staff, this was also the first championship in history. Okemos never won in the old Ingham County league.

Okemos whipped Haslett 32-7, on Saturday, and then waited anxiously for Sunday's Gabriels-O'Rafferty outcome. Gabriels had to win and did 19-0, handing Okemos the undisputed crown. Okemos finished 5-1-1, while Gabriels, O'Rafferty and Howell ended up at 5-2.

The "well-done" tag can be put on the Okemos team, a group that experts had figured would have rough going during the season. Okemos never led the league standings all season until Sunday.

Sloshing through the mud and snow of a cold November afternoon, Okemos and Haslett played their annual football game before a sparse gathering of fans, Saturday.

Spotting its opponent 7 points, Okemos charged back with 5 touchdowns and racked up an impressive 32-7 victory. The win upped Okemos' Capital Circuit record to 5-1-1, while Haslett has 1-6 mark. Haslett ended its season with an over-all 1-7 record, the lone win coming over Eaton Rapids.

It looked for one quarter like Haslett might give Okemos a tough battle. Taking the opening kick-off, Haslett consumed 18 plays and all but 2 minutes of the quarter to score its lone touchdown. Haslett quarterback Pete Raphael found Randy Goodman open over the middle and hit him with a pass on a 4th down play for the touchdown. Raphael faked beautifully on the conversion attempt, and skirted left end untouched to make it 7-0.

The 7-point margin was short-lived for Haslett as Okemos charged back. Okemos quarterback Rob Hill found end Don Ambrose wide open in the Haslett secondary and hit him with a 53-yard touchdown pass. Jack Nimphie made a key block on Haslett's Larry Klusack at the 30 yard line to enable Ambrose to go all the way. Dave Hassell's conversion kick sailed wide, and Haslett still led as the quarter ended.

Shortly into the second quarter the game became a one-sided affair. Haslett moved the ball after the ensuing kickoff to the Okemos 40, where on 4th and 2, fullback Jeff Erskine was stacked-up in the middle for no gain.

Okemos ran 7 plays to the Haslett 2, where Larry Wheeler swept left end for 2 yards and the go-ahead touchdown. A bad snap from center ruined the bid for the extra point.

Haslett gave up another touchdown after Dick Ahti fell on a Raphael fumble at the Okemos 44. Two plays

later Hill hit Jeff Austin for a 59-yard touchdown. Byron Johnson's run for the conversion was good.

Hill wasn't finished throwing touchdown passes. Hill quarterbacked Okemos from its own 47 to the Haslett 8 yard line, where he hit Tom Gaa with a pass in the left flat. Gaa followed a wall of blockers into the end zone for the score.

Hill threw 5 times in the game altogether, completing 3 for 3 touchdowns. Rob now has completed 30 out of 50 passes for 60 per cent, good for 428 yards and 7 touchdowns. Ambrose has caught 4 touchdown passes, while Austin has 3 and Gaa 2.

Okemos got its last touchdown the easy way. With the game hopelessly out of reach, Haslett coach Tom Penrod emptied his bench. Haslett faced a 4th down on its 10 yard line, when it went into punt formation. The reserve linemen got their signals crossed, allowing Okemos's Doug Swenson to come charging through and block Jeff Erskine's kick. A wild scramble for the football resulted, and Okemos's Bill Kennedy recovered it in the end zone for the first touchdown in his career at Okemos. Hassell's conversion kick was good ending the scoring.

Despite the one-sided score, Haslett was not badly beaten in the statistics. Okemos led in first downs 12 to 10, rushing yardage, 97 to 36, and passing yardage, 160 to 67. Okemos intercepted 2 passes and recovered 2 fumbles while Haslett had none in those 2 categories. Okemos only had to punt once, while Haslett punted 3 times.

Both coaches felt the slippery field hurt the running games, but there were 26 passes in the contest, and it was passing, felt Haslett's Penrod, that cost his team the game.

"They have good receivers and we made mistakes in our secondary that enabled them to complete the long touchdowns," Penrod said afterwards. "We showed a lot of spirit after scoring early, but that first touchdown of theirs really took it out of us. Okemos has a well-balanced attack on offense and defense, as can be seen by the fact that not one man scored more than once for them.

"We didn't give them any long drives, but the 2 long passes and the blocked punt accounted for 19 points and except for those, it would have been close."

"We wanted to stay on the ground more," Okemos's Jones said, "but we couldn't move effectively that way, so we had to pass. It worked very well. They were only playing with 2 deep backs and we took advantage of it."

Jones had praise for Hill, John Dale and Doug Swenson, while Penrod was pleased with the efforts of Goodman, Jim Armstrong, and Erskine.

Byron Johnson led Okemos with 49 yards in 10 carries, while teammate Wheeler had 40 in 8. Raphael led Haslett

29 in 9, followed by Erskine 26 in 10 and Goodman 23 in 7.

Hill completed 3 passes in 5 attempts for 120 yards, his best effort of the season. Raphael completed 7 of 14 for 67 yards. Erskine caught 3 of the passes, while Armstrong snagged 2.

Although Haslett's season is completed, Okemos must play Flint Atherton at home Friday evening. Atherton is 4-4 on the year and Jones is impressed by Atherton's backfield. Flint's offense is basically an unbalanced straight-T formation.



Haslett contained Okemos's running game most of the afternoon, as shown in this picture. Larry Wheeler (20), Okemos halfback, ran into a wall of Haslett defenders, and is hit both high and low, stopping the speedy back's progress.



Jack Nimphie

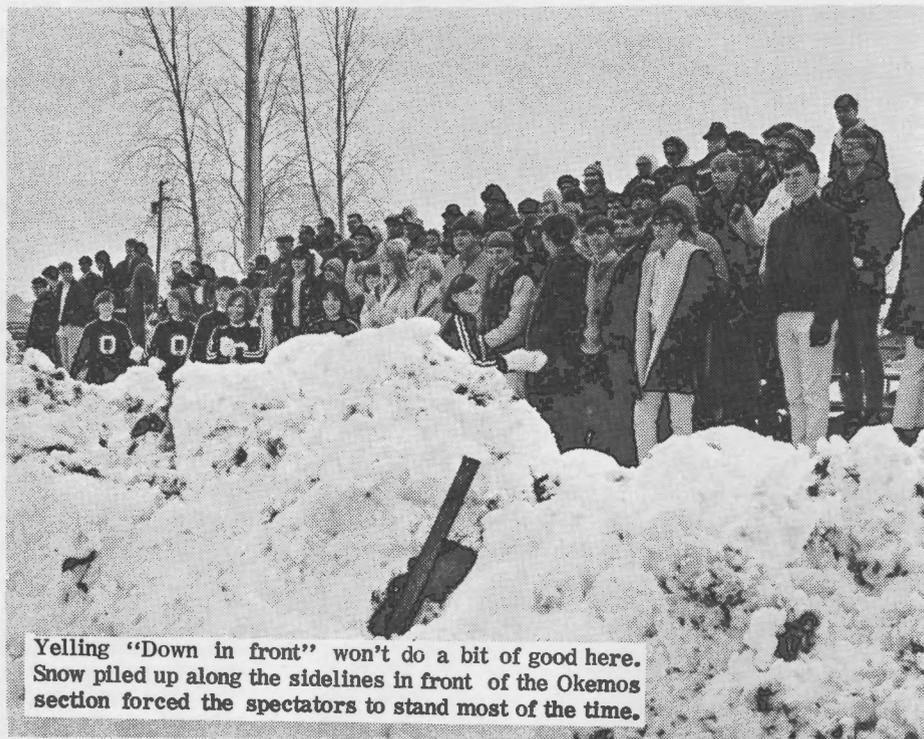


Mark Meadows



Mark Stoll

No pictures--
Mike Pollard
Denny Dyke
Bob Storrer



Yelling "Down in front" won't do a bit of good here. Snow piled up along the sidelines in front of the Okemos section forced the spectators to stand most of the time.

Hail to the Chiefs

...A COLUMN BY DIXIE LEE PREMER

Cries of "Prejudice!" may be heard, and I can't altogether deny it. When I start on the Okemos football teams, I have to admit to prejudice.

Disregard the fact that I'm an Okemos resident, that my 5 sons were until this year all in Okemos schools, that for 5 years, one, 2 or 3 of them have played on the various football teams (one year, one each on the 3 teams), and that I've attended almost all football games for 5 years in spite of snow, sleet, rain, and sometimes lack of baby-sitters.

Prejudice or not, the Okemos football teams are the greatest. The pride in them is shared by all of Okemos.

After years of near-misses and complete shut-outs, the varsity team can shout "We're Number One!" as they captured the Capital Circuit League title when Gabriels beat O'Rafferty Sunday. The 29 members of the squad are indeed each "number one."

The reserve squad deserves equal praise. Undefeated during the 1965 season, they only bowed this year to the jinx of all the Okemos teams--O'Rafferty. At present, they are tied with Howell for the reserve championship. If Mason should upset Howell this weekend, Okemos will have 2 championships.

The freshman squad hasn't had a championship record--they've won as many as they've lost -- but this is

their first year, and if spirit and pride in their team means anything at all, they are champions as much as anyone.

Speaking of spirit, that coming from the bleachers has at times been less than enthusiastic, especially earlier in the season. It grew as the team kept winning and reached its first high point during the Gabriels game when the crowd became as incensed as Dave Jones and the team over what they considered a bad call by the referee. Their urging to "Go get 'em!", however belated, provided a background of boosting that Okemos could use at every game no matter what is involved.

The Okemos turnout at the Haslett game on Saturday and the deciding Gabriels-O'Rafferty game on Sunday, in spite of the snowdrifts and slush and mud, was an underwriting of the pride for the champions and the spirit behind them, even if it is somewhat subdued at times. If the pitch can continue, Okemos could come up with champions in other sports as well.

And none can overlook the fact that sharing in the triumphs are the coaches who survived the occasional brickbats of criticism and mounting tension. They are in part paid with the respect and regard of the teams they coach.

Any prejudice on my part has to be ignored. No amount of it could detract from the greatness of the teams and from the fact--WE'RE NUMBER ONE!!!

Okemos sits back and wins

...A COLUMN BY TIM STAUDT

"We're number 1, "We're number 1", chorused the Okemos fans.

It was Sunday afternoon, at Lansing's Centennial Stadium. Gabriels was leading O'Rafferty, 12-0, with just minutes left on the clock. Everybody in the stadium knew that a Gabriels victory would give Okemos the Capital Circuit football championship. Okemos coaches Dave Jones and Bob Porritt sat in the stands along with the players and fans, but neither were smiling.

"It's still too early yet," Jones said to himself. "I'm sure glad everybody else is confident, because I'm sure not."

The fans were filing out of the stands. Still Jones and Porritt wouldn't chance a victory smile. Then, on a 4th down play, Gabriels scored another touchdown, and took a 19-0 lead with 3 minutes to go. That loosened the coaches up.

Jones and Porritt suddenly grinned from ear to ear, and began acknowledging congratulations from their players and Okemos parents.

Carolyn Jones, Dave's faithful wife, leaned down and spoke to her elated husband.

"You be sure and thank Phil," (Gabriels coach Phil Brooks, a close friend of Jones) she said.

"Don't worry," he assured her.

The seconds ticked away and finally the game was over. As Jones filed down the stadium steps he yelled

to Brooks who was idly accepting congratulations on the field.

The Gabriels coach grinned up at him and waved 1 finger in the air signifying that Gabriels lost the championship by one point. (Okemos defeated Gabriels one week earlier, 7-6) Jones finally made it to the field and Brooks.

The two shook hands and exchanged congratulations. Brooks spoke.

"We wanted to win it ourselves of course, Dave, but we're glad you won it if we couldn't. We were behind you always and you are deserving of it."

And so another Capital Circuit race for football honors had ended. It went right down to the final game, and Okemos won for the first time in history.

It was a fitting ending for Okemos, despite the fact it still has a game Friday. None of the experts gave them much hope, but through the dedicated efforts of the coaches, players and fans, the dream of a championship was realized.

"It's an honor to be on top of the other teams in this league," Jones said. "We could have had a good team and finished 5th, that's how tough it was. It's a credit to the league that the race went down to the wire. I feel it's one of the best Class B leagues in the state."

"We felt we weren't as bad as our record indicated," Haslett's coach Tom Penrod said. "But this league is so tough, you have to have a great team to do well in it. Okemos must have been good to win it."



The Varsity Cheerleaders (left to right): Gina Crandell, Sheila Corkrey, Kathy Magee, Laura Cheney, Kathy Keena and Sylvia Stevens.



The Junior Varsity: Cindy Caul, Judy Parisian, Barb Oxender, Julie Olds, Nancy Graham and Trudy Carmany.



The Freshmen: Sue Prosser, Kathy Christensen, Judy Fox, Karen Morgan, Marty Moore and Marilyn Schultz.

How Capital Circuit finished

By TIM STAUDT

After one of the closest finishes in history, the Capital Circuit directors awarded Okemos football coach Dave Jones the championship trophy Monday night.

Okemos won the title by beating Haslett 32-7 on Saturday, while Gabriels defeated O'Rafferty 19-0 on Sunday afternoon.

Okemos finished with a 5-1-1 conference record, while Howell, Gabriels and O'Rafferty all tied for 2nd place with 5-2 records. Mason was fifth with a 4-3 mark,

Holt 6th at 1-4-1, Haslett 7th at 1-6, and Eaton Rapids finished last, 0-6. The Holt-Eaton Rapids game was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

Okemos lost only to O'Rafferty 6-0 and tied Holt 6-6. Gabriels lost to Okemos and Howell, Howell lost to Okemos and O'Rafferty, while O'Rafferty lost to Gabriels and Mason.

There were some oddities during the season. Of the 27 league games, 15 were by a shut out. Okemos ran up the largest defeat, whipping Eaton Rapids, 59-0. O'Rafferty won its 5 games by shutout, while ironically it lost both of its games by a shutout.

Okemos football team finishes in fine style

By TIM STAUDT

What's the best way to end a great season?

How about scoring a touchdown on the last play of the last game?

That's exactly what Okemos High School's football team did last Friday night. Five seconds remained in the game against Flint Atherton with the ball resting on Atherton's 16 yard line. Quarterback Tom Johnson handed off to Jack Nimphie who rolled right and then suddenly stopped and threw downfield to Jeff Austin. The pass was short, but Austin picked it deftly off his shoelaces, turned around and dove headlong into the end-zone.

Okemos scored once in each quarter, as it capped the greatest football season in the school's history, finishing with a 6-1-2 record.

Okemos rolled up 398 yards total offense for the game, 221 on the ground and 177 through the air. Byron Johnson ran for 105 yards, ending the season with 811 total yards. Larry Wheeler added 73, and finished up with 631.

Four Okemos passers completed 10 of 16 passes, as sophomore Marc Neifert showed that the quarterback slot will be in good hands next year. Marc connected on 4 of 6 passes for 102 yards and one touchdown. Regular quarterback Rob Hill was successful on both of his attempts for 31 yards, while Tom Johnson connected on 2 of 6. Nimphie was 2 of 2 for 31 yards.

It appeared Okemos was going to run Flint off the field early in the game. After taking the opening kick-off, Larry Wheeler ran 23 yards in 2 tries to the Flint 37. Bob Miller promptly found a big hole over right guard on the next play and sped into the end zone untouched. Dave Hassel's kick put Okemos ahead 7-0 with only 46 seconds gone.

But the Okemos offense bogged down until 9 minutes of the 2nd quarter remained, when Wheeler dashed 6

yards off left tackle to add another score. The run capped an 80-yard drive in 10 plays.

The 3rd quarter touchdown came on Neifert's 18-yard screen pass to Miller, who twisted his way into the end zone. Neifert quarterbacked the entire drive of 80 yards in 11 plays.

Flint had offensive troubles all night. It managed just 1 first down in the first half, and that came as the result of an Okemos roughing the kicker penalty. Atherton had only 13 yards on the ground in the half and never penetrated past the Okemos 33 yard line.

Atherton did manage to find some running room in the 2nd half, gaining 95 yards on the ground. Early in the 4th quarter, Flint moved 44 yards to Okemos's 11 yard line, but on a 4th down play, the Okemos defense gang-tackled an Atherton runner and stopped the thrust.

The most exciting play of the night went for naught. Marty Ross, a sophomore brought up from the reserve team, got into the game on the start of Okemos's last drive. He took a hand-off at his own 33, and found a big hole on the right side of the line. Marty cut to the right and outlegged everybody the distance of the field. But a clip nullified the jaunt and erased Marty's first varsity run.

"It was a fine way to end the season," Okemos coach Dave Jones said afterwards. "Our offense made some mistakes in the first half, and our defense did the same in the 2nd-half. But over-all, we played a very fine game.

"Marc Neifert looked quite good, and he should do a fine job next year for us. It was a very rewarding season all the way. I hate to see it end." said Jones.

Fifteen seniors closed out their careers at Okemos. They are: Captain Don Ambrose, Tom Johnson, Rob Hill, Larry Wheeler, Jack Nimphie, Dave Peets, Tim Schirmer, Bob Miller, Bill Kennedy, Bill McGlone, Dave Hassell, Mark Premer, Dick Ahti, Jeff Austin and Duane Dorn.



Nick Hall



Bill McGlone



Marc Neifert



Tom Guthrie



Daryl Griggs



Doug Swenson



Sports writer Tim Staudt (center) presents the Towne Courier trophy to varsity head coach Dave Jones (left) and backfield coach Robert Porritt (right) at Okemos' Fall Athletic Banquet. The trophy was given to Okemos "In recognition of its greatest football season--1966 Capital Circuit Varsity Champions--Jr. Varsity co-champs. Other team trophies in the foreground are the Capital Circuit trophy and the traveling trophy to the winner of the annual Okemos-Haslett game, presented by the Meridian Jaycees.



Okemos's Byron Johnson picks up a couple of yards to the Haslett 22-yard line Saturday, where teammate Larry Wheeler scored the 2nd Okemos touchdown on the next play. Making the stop for Haslett is Jim McClure, while Jeff Erskine (45) and Jim Armstrong (42) come up to help out.



Larry Wheeler (20) gains ground for Okemos during the O'Rafferty game.

HOW OKEMOS BECAME CHAMPS

...A COLUMN BY TIM STAUDT

"The Story of Champions, an Adventure in 9 parts." Someone could write a book on the Okemos High School football team this year, and use that phrase for a title referring to its 9 games.

This truly was a "story of champions", the likes of which Okemosites have never seen before. Okemos lost just 1 game in 9 tries. That came by a 6-0 score.

It's hard to analyze just where the sudden success lies.

Okemos coach Dave Jones and his assistant Bob Porritt did a magnificent job, especially down the stretch, when the team won its last 4 straight.

"The kids had faith in themselves," Jones said when it was all over Friday night. "They knew they could win after we tied Jackson St. John. They had 3 tough games in the start and we won 2 and tied one, which was a great achievement.

"It was a group of unselfish players," continued Jones. "They were close to each other and they pulled for each other. We had 31 boys on the team and I wouldn't be afraid to play any of them. At the start of the season, I said we had no depth, but many of our players improved so fast that we turned into a strong team. When injuries hit, we could fill in the gaps with men who were playing a position for the first time, yet they all did very well.

"Dick Ahti could be called "Mr. Everything" for us. He played many different positions, filling in wherever we needed him and he was great. Don Ambrose must

get a lot of credit, too. He worked hard as our captain and he kept up the unity, pride and spirit. He did a remarkable job.

"Mark Stoll came along way for us. We needed somebody like him in the middle of the season when Mike Pollard was injured. Mark did an excellent job for us.

"Rob Hill was a poised quarterback, and he improved immensely this year. He had the quality it takes to be a smart quarterback. He was always a step ahead of the situation.

"Of course, we also had a great backfield. Byron (Johnson) and Larry (Wheeler) were fabulous. Our other kids pushed them, and this helped."

"For instance," Porritt said, "Look at Daryl Griggs. He hardly ran with the ball at all. But he did so well when he did run, it kept everybody moving. We had many good backs."

"We could talk about the players all night," Jones summed up, "they were that fine a group."

But it wasn't just the players being praised by the coaches. The players had some thoughts on their coaches also.

"Mr. Porritt has done an outstanding job with our backfield," one lineman said. "He is a heck of a coach and we respect him so much."

"Coach Jones taught us what the game's all about," another added. "He set an example for us and we just followed along. He never lost faith in us and his attitude toward us was the kind that made us want to win for him in the worst way."



Bill Kennedy



Tom Gaa



Tom Johnson



John Dale



Byron Johnson



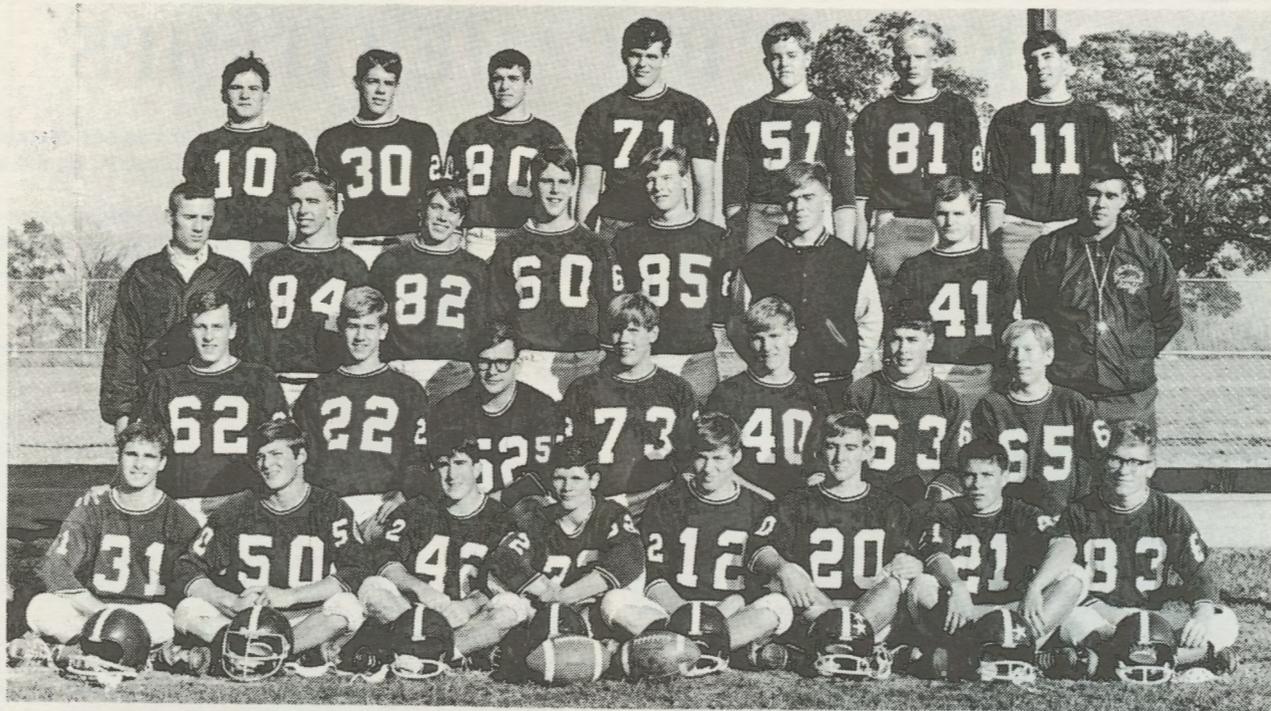
Bob Miller



Mark Premer



John Patenge



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY

Okemos High School's 1966 football team won 6, lost 1, and tied 2, and won the Capital Circuit championship. The squad includes (starting at left):

FRONT--Tom Gaa, Tom Guthrie, Bob Miller, Dave Peets, Rob Hill, Larry Wheeler, Byron Johnson, John Dale.

SECOND--John Patenge, Larry Zweering, Bill Ken-

nedy, Mark Premer, Daryl Griggs, Jim Wiley, Doug Swenson.

THIRD--Bob Porritt (assistant coach), Duane Dorn, Jeff Austin, Bill McGlone, Nick Hall, Dave Hassell, Tim Schirmer, Dave Jones (head coach).

TOP--Tom Johnson, Jack Nimphie, Don Ambrose, Mark Meadows, Mark Stoll, Dick Ahti, Marc Nelfert.

MISSING--Mike Pollard, Denny Dyke, Bob Storrer.

THE COACHES

These were the men instrumental in the football season's success.

Dave Jones, the varsity head coach completed his 3rd season at the head position.

He was assisted by the man on the right, Bob Porritt, who handled the varsity assistant's job for the first time this season. Bob was the head Junior Varsity coach last fall.



Dave Schuele, the chap in the middle, was the head Junior Varsity coach and Athletic Director. Dave had an enormous job of getting the new field in order and also coaching his team.

Santo Pasqualucci and George Bronsen, Michigan State University students also helped coach the underclassmen teams.

The 3 coaches pictured seem to be quite contented with the progress of the multi-thousand dollar field that still isn't completed.

A SPECIAL SECTION

How the JV's and Freshmen did

RESERVES AND FROSH TO OPEN

Okemos High School's freshman football team opens its season next Wednesday evening, Sept. 21, at Howell.

The following night the reserve team opens its season against the Howell reserves in a home game.

Dave Schuele is coaching the reserves, with Santo Pasqualucci serving as his assistant. George Bronson is the sole freshman coach. All of the home games begin at 7 p.m.

Okemos reserves win

Okemos High School's reserve football team opened its season on a winning note last week, whipping Howell 12-6.

Okemos had two other touchdowns called back in the game, but the scores provided by Bob Scott and Ron Wheeler were enough for victory.

Wheeler swept end for 6 yards to start the scoring in the first half, before Howell scored to tie it at the intermission.

In the 2nd half, Bob Scott broke loose for 60 yards and the final touchdown.

"I was real pleased," Okemos coach Dave Schuele said. "We showed a lot of promise and we were sharp offensively. We showed good speed and it was a team effort. It's hard to name standouts, but Scott and Marty Ross turned in fine games for us."

The Okemos freshmen bowed to the Howell freshmen on Wednesday last week, 7-0.

The reserves next game is Thursday, Sept. 29 with Mason at Okemos. The game begins at 7:00 p.m. The freshmen play tonight, (Sept. 28) at Mason.

Okemos reserves gain 450 yards in whipping Mason

Okemos High School's junior varsity football team rolled over its 2nd opponent in lightning style Thursday night, dumping out-manned Mason 26-0.

Okemos rolled up 450 yards in total offense to just 78 for Mason. Okemos also intercepted 6 passes and recovered one opponent fumble.

Bob Scott got the only first half points, when he bolted around end for a 40-yard 6-pointer. But the 2nd-half was all Okemos. Rick Schaberg scored on a sweep from 8 yards out and Marty Ross tallied another from 4 yards distant. Scott picked off a pass and went 30 yards for

the final touchdown of the game. The win upped Okemos' mark to 2-0.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday night, the freshman team had its hands full with the Mason freshmen, and wound up in a 26-26 tie. The frosh now have a tie and a loss in two tries.

Tonight, (Wednesday) the freshmen play Lansing O'Rafferty and Thursday evening the reserves play the O'Rafferty reserves.

Both are home games on the new field at the high school and begin at 7:00 p.m.

Okemos reserves lose 1st since '64

Striking fast, Lansing O'Rafferty shut the door on the Okemos junior varsity football team last Thursday night, 27-7. It was the first reserve loss at Okemos since 1964.

Okemos was simply out-played the whole game, as O'Rafferty ran up a 20-0 lead, before Okemos' Marty Ross swept end for a 20 yard touchdown. Okemos had 2 punts blocked and lost 6 fumbles in the game.

"They stunted well," Okemos coach Dave Schuele groaned after the game. "They also blocked and ran well. They forced us into mistakes. Our offense just didn't kick out and so we couldn't move the ball."

The loss dropped Okemos' record to 2-1 for the season.

Meanwhile, the freshmen were shutout by the O'Rafferty freshmen, 21-0. It was the 2nd loss in 3 tries for the frosh, who also tied Mason.

"The boys are coming along," Okemos freshman coach George Bronson said. "They show signs of improving and they are just getting acquainted with this game. I have 40 boys on the squad, and before we're done, I'm going to have some good football players."

Wednesday, Oct. 12, the frosh play at Holt, while the following evening, the reserves play Holt's reserves in a home game.

Underclassmen trim Holt in 2 football games

By TIM STAUDT

Holt High School's freshmen and reserve football teams ran into buzz-saws in the form of Okemos last week, as Okemos won a pair of underclassmen football games.

The freshmen triumphed, 13-0, on Wednesday night, and the reserves did the same, 32-6, the night after.

The freshmen won their first game of the season for Coach George Bronson, holding Holt to 20 yards total offense.

Okemos had 3 touchdowns called back because of penalties. But quarterback Mark Calcaterra teamed up with Don Reed twice on scoring passes of 40 and 50 yards to give Okemos the victory. Dave Fallette ran the 2nd extra point.

"It was a good game, the best the kids have played all year," Bronson beamed. "We stuck them real good defensively, and the kids finally looked hungry for a win."

The triumph upped the freshmen record to 1-2-1.

The Okemos reserves made a shambles of Holt after the first quarter. Marty Ross scored 4 touchdowns for Okemos, in addition to rolling up 178 yards on the ground.

Ross ran a punt back 75 yards in the first quarter to start the scoring. Holt tied the score in the 2nd quarter when a one-yard plunge capped a 50-yard drive.

A poor center pass gave Okemos the ball deep in Holt territory late in the 2nd quarter. Jim Schaberg then skirted left end 8 yards for a touchdown.

Okemos then intercepted a pass and quarterback Tim Rolph lofted a beautiful 60-yard scoring aerial to Ross. Ron Wheeler ran the extra point.

Ross ran 11 yards around left end in the third period for his 3rd tally. Ross ended the scoring in the last period, racing 50 yards to the end zone.

"The kids played well," Okemos Coach Dave Schuele said. "They started slow, but we hit much better in the 2nd quarter. Earl Downes played a fine game for us and we just ran over Holt in the second half."

Ross was magnificent and I believe he's the best lateral runner I've ever seen in a 10th grader."

The win left the reserves with a 3-1 mark.

The freshmen play Oct. 26 at home with Gabriels, while the reserves play Thursday night, Oct. 20, at Eaton Rapids.

Okemos reserves win

Eaton Rapids provided little opposition for the Okemos High School reserve football team last Thursday night, as the reserves smashed Eaton Rapids 60-6.

Okemos tallied 9 times and held a 28-6 halftime bulge. Marty Ross, having a magnificent season, scored 4 touchdowns upping his season output to 14.

Brian Morrison, Bob Scott, Chuck Campbell, Dave Bowers and Tim Rolph each had 1 touchdown for Okemos.

After trailing 7-0, Eaton Rapids scored on its second scrimmage play. The score seemed to fire Okemos up

as "we just bombed them from that point on," said Okemos coach Dave Schuele.

"It was no contest, but we still played well," the Okemos coach said. "The reserves got to play a good deal, but couldn't hold the score down."

The reserves' record is now 4-1. Thursday, October 20, Schuele's team plays at home with Gabriels.

Meanwhile, the freshmen team beat Waverly 14-7. The win evened the freshmen record at 2-2-1. Tonight, October 26, the frosh play at home with Gabriels.

Freshmen lose to Gabriels

By Brian Zemach

The Gabriels freshman football team emerged as the first freshman football team in the history of Gabriels High School to complete a season undefeated last week as it downed Okemos, 24-0.

"Okemos played a strong game," said Gabriels coach Jerry Sambaer. "But it was our best game of the season. We beat them (Okemos) on desire and guts."

A hole in Okemos' forward wall cost it a touchdown in the first quarter when Gabriels' Dave Greenburg burst through to block an attempted punt. Craig Rundle fell on the ball in the endzone for the touchdown, and promptly booted the extra point to give Gabriels' a 7-0 lead.

Gabriels scored again in the first half when Bill Parker broke loose on a dive play and scooted 70 yards to give Gabriels a 13-0 halftime lead.

Parker blasted off-tackle for a 20-yard score in the 3rd quarter, and Chuck Szedlak went over tackle for a 4-yard touchdown to complete the scoring in the fourth period.

Sambaer had praise for his defense.

"Joe Morales, Greenburg, Rundle and Parker did a fine job of holding down Okemos' offense," he said.

Gabriels' freshmen finish out the season Wednesday with a game against the Gabriels' reserves.

Okemos will end its season at Haslett on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Okemos reserves edge Gabriels

It was a knock down, drag 'em out fight at Okemos last Thursday evening. The Gabriels' and Okemos' High School's reserve football teams met head on, and Okemos after trailing 21-6, fought back to win 25-21.

The win gave Okemos a 5-1 record, while Gabriels ended its season at 5-2. Okemos finishes its season at home against Haslett on Thursday.

Marty Ross opened the scoring for Okemos by running 60 yards for a touchdown giving Okemos a 6-0 lead. But then Gabriels' standout halfback Ralph Marinez went to work. He sped for 3 long touchdown runs, all around end and Gabriels had 21 points on the scoreboard in less than 12 minutes.

With just seconds left in the half, Okemos quarterback Tim Rolph lofted a 24-yard scoring pass to Ross. The extra point failed as the half ended.

Okemos narrowed Gabriels' lead to 21-19 in the 3rd period when Rolph lofted a 30-yard scoring bomb to Bob Scott.

With 7 minutes left in the game, Rolph threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Dave Powers, who made a diving catch in the end zone, to give Okemos the win.

Gabriels fought back after Okemos' fourth touchdown, and was stopped on the Okemos 3 as the game ended.

"This was a great win for us," Okemos coach Dave Schuele said. "We needed to come back and we did. Terry Applegate went in last week against Eaton Rapids and scored and this week, I sent in other reserves who helped contribute in the same manner."

"We have young kids who make mistakes" Gabriels coach John Greenwood said. "We gave them every break in the book and didn't do very well offensively in the 2nd half. Okemos' score before the end of the first half was a great psychological lift."

We had a good season, but with a couple of breaks, I felt this team could have gone undefeated. I'm still very satisfied though."

JV'S ALSO CHAMPS!

By DIXIE LEE PREMIER

The Okemos JVs ended up the season as co-champions in the Capital Circuit reserve division with Howell.

The Okemos reserves moved a step away from the JV Capital Circuit championship Saturday morning as they defeated Haslett 33-6.

Howell bested Mason Sunday 19-14.

Playing in freezing temperatures and a combination of snow, slush and mud, the Okemos squad led off early in the first period to score on a 14-yard sweep by Bob Scott. A 40-yard pass from Tim Rolfe to Dave Bowers in the 2nd quarter, plus successful conversions on each touchdown, took the score at halftime to 14-0.

Starting the 2nd half, Scott's 2-yard plunge over the goalline moved the score to 20-0 when the extra point try failed.

In one of the most spectacular plays of the game, Haslett scored its lone touchdown with a 70-yard kick-off return as Roland Abernath raced down the field.

Two plays after Haslett returned the ball in the kick-off, Okemos retaliated with a 60-yard play when Rolfe completed a pass to Chuck Campbell. The extra point took the score to 27-6.

Final score of the game came in the 4th period when Okemos's Terry Applegate went over on a 5-yard plunge.

"Total offense was 306 yards in the mud which was really a fantastic effort," Okemos coach Dave Schuele said. "It was a fine offense and they just did everything real well."

Outstanding in the offensive backfield were Marty Ross, Bob Scott, and Tim Rolfe, Schuele said. Outstanding linemen named were Bill Drake and Earl Downes. Tagged as outstanding players on defense were Kurt Schirmer, Mike Hill, Bob Scott, Mike Premier and Mike Johnson.

"They're a fine ball club," Schuele said. "If they make it, they deserve to be JV champs."

Haslett's reserve coach Earl Hatfing commented ruefully on his team's final 1-6 record.

"We played good ball for the first 5 games, but then our team spirit fell apart," he said.

The Saturday game completed the season for both reserve teams.

Haslett freshmen bow to Okemos 7-0

The Okemos freshman football team squeaked by Haslett 7-0 last Wednesday night to end the season with a 3-3-1 record. The game was played in weather described by the Haslett coach as "semi-blizzard."

Play seesawed to each end of the field until the 4th period when Okemos blocked a Haslett punt. Jerry Pynnonen took the ball over the goal line in a 12-yard power sweep. Dave Follette ran the extra point.

Haslett threatened a few minutes later when halfback Steve Armstrong made a 55-yard run. With the clock

running out, Haslett had time only for one play and was unable to punch over the touchdown.

"It was another fine team effort," said Haslett coach Tom Motherwell. "Despite losing, I still think we played a fine game."

Coach Motherwell talked about the season his freshmen team had just completed.

"This squad came around considerably since the beginning of the season," he said. "If the goal of a football team is to improve, we certainly succeeded."



The Okemos High School Freshman football team won 3, lost 3 and tied 1. The squad includes (starting at left):

FRONT--Bill Cornell, John Houston, Steve Moyer, Kevin Tribell, Mark Calcatera, Dave Follette, Greg Carpenter, Terry Ottinger, Jerry Miller, Rick Walker, Jack Turner.

MIDDLE--Greg Scott, Gary Weldman, Tom Halm, Dave Stout, Jerry Pynnonen, Lee Corey, Tom DeLind, Ken So, Tom Hagerman, Mike Butcher.

TOP--Gary Sams, Mike Racine, Dick Wagenvoord, Don Reed, Rodney Cornell, Bob Zuhl, Don Roosa, Bill Prouty, Kit King, Carl Vogt, Mike Kistler, Rob Griggs. Coach George Bronsen is on top.



The Okemos High School Junior Varsity won 6 and lost one. The team tied for the Capital Circuit championship. The squad includes (starting at left):

FRONT--Bob Scott, Bill Drake, Ron Wheeler, Tim Rolph, Marty Ress, Dave Bowers, Paul Linnel.

MIDDLE--Brian Morrison, Jim Schaberg, Skylar Tribell, Dennis McDonald, Mike Premer, Mike Hill, Steve Frost. **TOP**--Mike Johnson, Kurt Schirmer, Mitch Rodhe, Earl Downes, John Figy, Kevin Davidson, Chuck Campbell, Glen Skalland, Jim Deemer, Bill Gordon, Jim Coe, Terry Applegate.

Banquet winds up fall athletics

By DIXIE LEE PREMER

Three team trophies, 7 individual trophies, and 14 surpassed Capital Circuit League records marked the wind-up of Okemos High School's outstanding fall athletic season.

Introduced first by cross-country coach John Bjorkquist were members of the varsity and reserve running teams. On varsity, they were Tom Yuncck, Chuck Weaver, Gary Neumann, Don Stacks, Bill Rutherford, Chuck White, Rob Copland, Len Black, and Dave Heerdt.

Individual cross-country trophies went to senior Tom Yuncck for most valuable runner, and to sophomore Gary Neumann for most improved runner. Yuncck, after placing 4th last year in the State Championships, came back this year to run in the same place.

Members of the reserve cross-country team were Tom Peets, Pat Hogle, Bill Copland, Greg Sober, Gary Mikles, Randy White, Jim Frelberg, Randy Lott, Jeff Georgiady, Arvid Olson, Keith Wilkins, Steve Shirley, and Henry Barru.

The freshman, reserve and varsity football teams were also introduced by their coaches. Freshman coach George Bronson of MSU congratulated his team on their improved record over former freshman teams as this year's squad turned in a 3-3-1 record. Included in the team were, Lee Corey, Mark Calcaterra, Jack Turner, Bill Prouty, Dan Holiday, Bill Cornell, Greg Carpenter, Rodney Cornell, Gary Weidman, Dick Wagenvoord, Rick Walker, Tom Rucker, Dave Stout, Terry Ottinger, Kevin Tribell, Kit King, Mike Butcher, Andy Durocher, Mike Kistler, Dave Follette, Gary Sams, Robbie Greggs, and Ken So.

Others were Don Reed, Don Roosa, Dick Rolph, Randy Hebder, John Houston, Bob Zuhl, Greg Scott, Jerry Miller, Mike Wilkens, Tom Delind, Tom Hagerman, Tom Halm, Steve Moyer, and Gary McGuire.

Reserve coach Dave Scheule paid tribute to his team who were co-champions of the Capital Circuit League this year with a 6-1 record. They were undefeated in the 1965 season. Assistant coach for the JV's was Santo Pasqualucci of MSU. Reserve team members were Dave Bowers, Chuck Campbell, Jim Coe, Dennis McDonald, Mike Johnson, John Figy, Kurt Schirmer, Kevin Davidson, Bob Fuller, Bill Drake, Skylar Tribell, Earl Downes, Mike Premer, Mike Hill, Kelly Hienisch, and Glen Skaland.

Also included were Bill Gordon, Tim Rolph, Bob Scott, Terry Applegate, Ron Wheeler, Jim Schaberg, Brian Morrison, Steve Frost, Paul Linnel, Marty Ross, Mitch Rodhe, and Jim Deemer.

The varsity team was introduced by coach Dave Jones who had nothing but praise for each of the league champions. They were coached in the backfield by Robert Porritt.

Jones presented the individual trophies for outstanding performances. They went to Bill McGlone, most improved player; Bill Kennedy, most tackles; Mark Stoll, hustle and team spirit; and to Don Ambrose, the 1966 captain's award and another for the most valuable player.

Ambrose then presented the 3 team trophies to high school principal Warren Dolsen for display in the trophy case.

Junior Byron Johnson was tapped as captain of the 1967 varsity team.

Other awards of plaques went to Steve Behr, trainer and part-time manager of the varsity team, and to manager Rob Horton.

Varsity team members were Tom Johnson, Marc Neifert, Rob Hill, Larry Wheeler, Byron Johnson, Larry Zweering, Jack Nimphie, Tom Gaa, Dave Peets, Daryl Griggs, Tim Schirmer, Bob Miller, Tom Guthrie, Mark Stoll, Bill Kennedy, Bill McGlone, and Denny Dyke.

Others were John Patenge, Jim Wiley, Doug Swenson, Mike Pollard, Mark Meadows, Dave Hassell, Mark Premer, Bob Storrer, Don Ambrose, Dick Ahti, Jeff Austin, John Dale, Duane Dorn and Nick Hall.

The speaker, Towne Courier sports writer Tim Staudt, was introduced by master of ceremonies Robert Baker as a "completely impartial observer of the Okemos football games." Mr. Baker commented that the coverage given the teams by Staudt and his yelling of "go, go, go!" from the sidelines was an inspiration to all players.

Naming the championship season as the beginning of "an era of winning tradition in Okemos," Staudt named other highlights of the athletic program. The new athletic field has lighting 2nd in Michigan only to Detroit's Tiger Stadium. The new Grastex track is unsurpassed in the state. He said the new tennis courts and baseball field will be an inspiration to those teams during the spring season. And the Okemos Booster Club "belongs in some sort of Hall of Fame," Staudt continued.

Staudt told of a team that in August lacked a complete coaching staff, adequate field and equipment. There was no good prospect for quarterback and any chance for a winning team was judged as almost impossible, he said. Then he went on to tell of the highlights of the championship season and of the 14 records broken.

The Boosters this year have sponsored the Golf Day at Indian Hills, the Oldtimers' game on Nov. 13, purchased tackling dummies for the football team, hired a photographer for filming of all games (this will be continued during the basketball season), secured temporary bleachers for the new field, built a temporary concession stand that was manned by the Robert Wisemans and the Henry Bowerses, and are now in the process of purchasing a new net for the gymnasium and a flagpole for the stadium. They have also sponsored the high-school group of Boosterettes who have raised money by the sale of mums and balloons at the games in order to buy a flag for the Michigan State Champion wrestling team of last season.

Two team trophies had been presented to the team before the banquet. The Capital Circuit League trophy was awarded at the league meeting a week ago Monday night. The Meridian Jaycees traveling trophy to the winner of the Okemos-Haslett game was received on the gridiron at the close of that game.

The 3rd one came as Staudt presented varsity captain Ambrose and reserve team representatives Marty Ross and Bill Drake with the 18-inch high trophy inscribed "Given to Okemos High School by the Towne Courier in recognition of its greatest football season--1966 Capital Circuit Varsity Champions, Jr. Varsity Co-Champ."

Staudt, in recognition of his spirited enthusiasm for the Okemos sports, was awarded a plaque naming him an honorary member of the varsity team and a varsity league champion letter "O".

