

Tri-Town knocks off Randolph Oilers

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— Tom Pileski

"Our offense didn't have the ball," said Pileski. "We allowed them to control the ball on the ground and make sustained drives in the first half."

Larry Tagger made two big defensive plays in the second quarter, throwing MacAlister for losses which pushed the Tigers back to the Oilers' 27 — 3 yards farther

FRANKLIN — The Tri-Town Tigers, behind the rushing of Paul Hill, pulled off a major upset in the Eastern Football League Sunday afternoon by knocking off the Randolph Oilers, 14-7.

In avenging a season-opening loss to Randolph, Tri-Town keeps its slim playoffs hopes alive while the Oilers dropped to third place in the EFL with a 4-2 record.

Tri-Town won the game in the fourth quarter after Mike Gallagher recovered Greg Martello's fumble on the Randolph 27-yard line. Quarterback Jason MacAlister capped the 27-yard dive, taking the ball over from the 1-yard line. A Doug Stone PAT, and the Tigers held a 14-7 lead for 2:45 minutes to record only its second win of the season.

Tigers' Paul Hill was the difference in the game. Hill finished the game with one TD and 130 yards rushing on 25 carries which was five yards more than the combined total of all the Oiler ballcarriers.

"Hill was on fire today, he was hot. It was a great performance," said Tiger coach Rick Pannis.

Both teams had opportunities to score in the first half but missed field goal attempts and a good defensive stand by the Oilers left the game scoreless at halftime.

The Oilers pulled a disappearing act on coach Tom Pileski during the first half, as they only handled the ball for four snaps in the entire first quarter.

than Doug Stone's field goal attempt.

Just before halftime the Tigers were threatening again, knocking at the Oiler's goal from 2 yards out, but Steve Muncy, Jim Boughner and big Bill Turner shut down the first three Tigers rushing attempts, bringing up a 4th-and-2 feet. On the next play, linebacker Jim Brodie broke through and dropped the Tiger ballcarrier for a 6-yard loss.

Randolph finally woke up in the third quarter, scoring the game's first points, along with their initial first down of the game.

The Oilers took possession at their own 32 after Sean Crowley stripped the ball from Dave Masuccio, and Oiler Tom Kirlis recovered the fumble.

Three plays later, Terry Branch broke off left tackle and raced in from 32 yards out to score the game's first TD, and a Ricky Witt PAT made it 7-0.

The Tigers came right back thanks to the running of Hill and the costly penalties to the Oilers who ended the game with 70 penalty yards.

On a Tiger fourth down punt, the Oilers were penalized 15 yards for too many men on the field to keep the Tigers' drive alive. They scored six plays later when Hill went off right tackle to score the game-winning touchdown.

"We made too many mental errors," said Pileski. "We had 12 men on the punt return team and we gave them 15 yards which led to their score."

The Oilers tried to come back, driving the length of the field on the arm of Bob Witt who made several beautiful throws to Ron Cassford, Terry Branch and Mike Waithe, but the game ended before Witt could get the snap at the 1-yard line.