

Witt, Cassworth rally Randolph past Hyde Park, 13-7

By Richard Powers

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RANDOLPH — Tight end Ron Cassford was a forgotten man for the better part of three periods, but he certainly emerged the hero in Randolph's 13-7 overtime win over the Hyde Park Cowboys in a key Eastern Football League game Friday night.

With first-place riding on the outcome, the Oilers came alive in the fourth period, utilizing the 6-4 Cassford to perfection.

Hyde Park had made a 7-0 lead stand through the early stages of the final period when Oilers quarterback Bob Witt of Rockland went to work.

The Cowboys secondary was basically giving the Oilers the pass underneath with only 2:07 left in regulation when Witt hit Cassford with a 14-yard strike and a first down at midfield.

Three plays later Witt again found Cassford alone over the middle and he drilled in a shot for another key first down, carrying to the Cowboys' 30.

Witt then crossed up Hyde Park with a play-action fake and a scramble to his left before throwing back across the field to a wide open Mike Waithe, who was finally knocked out of bounds at the

With just 27-seconds remaining in the game, Witt found his brother Ricky in the corner of the end zone for the score.

Ray Almeida split the uprights with the PAT and the two teams entered the overtime deadlocked at 7-7.

Randolph won the toss and started from the 10-yard line with four attempts to score.

Witt wasted little time in finding Cassford, who made a clutch, diving grab in the end zone.

The Cowboys blocked the point after, but eventually hurt their chances when a 15-yard personal foul was tacked on and Hyde Park had to start from the 25.

The Oilers defense, which had an outstanding night shutting of veteran quarterback Mike Fallon, rose to the occasion one more time and turned back the Cowboys' final shot.

The Cowboys took the early lead when Fallon hit Lamar Capehart with a 39-yard strike carrying inside the Oiler 11 early in the second period.

The Cowboys held, but two plays later Pat McCormack picked

off a Witt pass and a 15-yard spearing called following the play gave the Cowboys the ball at the Randolph 21.

Following a pass interference call in the end zone, fullback Lynn Clark banged over for the score.- Mark Meade nailed the PAT for a 7-0 lead.

It appeared the lone score would stand up as the Oiler offense sputtered and didn't cross midfield

until late in the third period.

Randolph's only scoring bid prior to the late-game heroics came when Witt found Cassford with an 11 yard strike and Waithe ripped off an 11 yard run to the Cowboy 12.

Two plays later, Bubba Pina picked off a Witt pass at the goal line and things were not looking up for Randolph.

When the Oilers finally got the ball back, Witt worked his magic

and Randolph is now sitting on top of the EFL with a 4-0 mark.

Defensively Randolph had several standouts, but Mike Nye (third quarter interception), Keith Coy (two key knockdowns in the end zone) and defensive tackle Bill Turner had strong games.