

Randolph Oilers notch another win

RANDOLPH — The Randolph Oilers appear to be back on the right track.

After a slow start, the Oilers have now won two straight games and three of their last four after a 25-13 victory over Rhode Island in Eastern Football League action on Sunday night.

The Oilers suffered a major loss early in the season when starting quarterback Bobby Witt went down for the year with a knee injury. However, Randolph is now 2-0 with John Pina as the starting quarterback.

Pina, who also won two games as a starter in the Randolph championship season in 1990, completed six passes for 105 yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown pass to Mark Harding against Rhode Island.

Harding was also a major factor in the Randolph offensive scheme. The speedy wide receiver and punt returner accounted for more than 180 yards in total offense and got the Oilers on the board early in the first quarter.

Rhode Island could not generate any offense in its first offensive possession and was forced

Oilers 25, Rhinos 13

to punt. Harding gathered the punt in at the Rhody 27, found a hole up the right sideline and blazed in 73 yards for the touchdown. Frank Almeida, who has been perfect on points after touchdowns, converted the first of three to give Randolph a 7-0 advantage.

The Randolph defense got into the act. The Oiler defensive line sacked Rhode Island quarterback Bob Jean in the end zone as the Oilers ended the first quarter with a 9-0 lead.

The Oilers got a huge break in the second quarter as the Rhode Island special teams showed a keen lack of judgement. A Rickey Witt punt (five punts, 41-yard average) landed at the Rhino 13. The Rhode Island returner decided to field the dead ball in a crowd of Oilers and proceeded to fumble. Randolph's Dave Adams recovered the ball inside the 10.

Two plays later, Brian Heffernan scored on a

two-yard plunge to give Randolph a 16-0 lead.

The Oiler defense struck again as Bubba Pina sacked Jean in the end zone for Randolph's second safety and an 18-0 advantage.

Rhode Island made a late run as Jean connected with Bob Tennett for two touchdown receptions. The second one, a 35-yard reception, put the Rhinos within striking distance at 18-13.

However, Pina teamed with tight end Ron Cassford for two completions before finding Harding on a seven-yard touchdown pass with four minutes left.

Mike Waite rushed for 87 yards for the Oilers while Leo Cooney and Tracey Manter had interceptions to pace the Randolph defense.

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The Hockomock Colts and the Methuen Outlaws have rescheduled their game that was postponed on Saturday. The two teams will battle in Mansfield on Sept. 21.