

Oilers fall short in opener

By STEVE PARZIALE

RANDOLPH - The Randolph Oilers were not happy summer campers following their season-opening game played Friday night on their home field.

Disappointment was written on their faces after a 21-9 defeat against the very team which had made their season a great year last year - the Marlboro Shamrocks.

The Oilers beat Marlboro three times last season on the way to their first Eastern Football League championship in their 18-year history.

Marlboro came back and got some revenge on Friday in the season-opener for both teams.

"They had nothing to lose, we had everything to lose," said Randolph head coach Bob Turner, who felt that his players weren't thoroughly prepared for the first game.

"We knew it two weeks ago," he added.

Randolph's lone exhibition game, a 39-6 win over Maine, seemed to give them a false sense of security, but now they realize that they must work hard for every win.

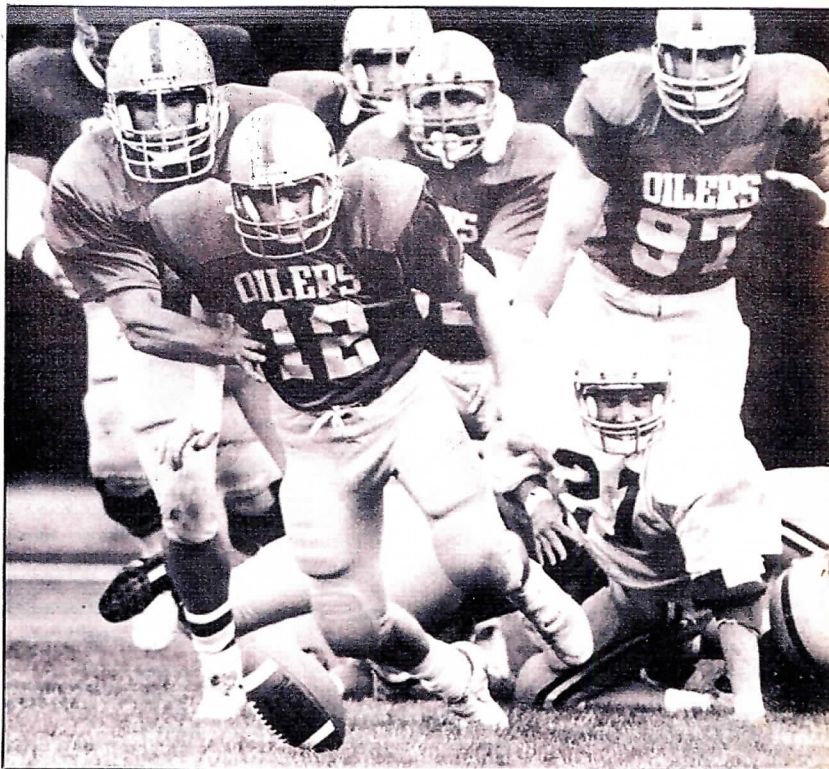
"We have a good football team," added Turner, "and we're going to be in this thing. ...Let's see what kind of football team we are next week."

The Oilers practice twice a week to prepare for a game - Tuesday and Thursday - and Turner expects his players to prepare well.

This week they play on Saturday at Methuen in a 4 p.m. start. The following week (Friday, July 26, at 8 p.m.), Randolph is at Middleboro, who defeated Methuen, 27-0, over the weekend. Randolph's next home game is Friday, Aug. 2 at 7:30 p.m. against Charlestown.

The Oilers' lone scoring against Marlboro was a 32-yard field-goal by barefoot kicker Ray Almeida in the second quarter (a 7-3 deficit) and a 60-yard pass play from quarterback Bobby Witt to receiver Mark Harding with six minutes remaining. Randolph's Bob Burr recovered a Marlboro fumble after linebacker Pat McCormack jarred the ball loose, setting up the Randolph scoring strike.

It was Marlboro which did most of the scoring, though, as they took a 7-0 lead on quarterback Bill Polymeros' 37-yard touchdown toss to Mike Kelly in the first quarter. An interception set up that score. In the second quarter, they took a 14-3 lead on a 50-yard touchdown pass from Polymeros to Rich Flecca. Kelly scored again in the third quarter and Randolph could not recover.



ON THE BALL - Randolph Oilers Tom Dennehey (12), Nick Oleson (97), Leo Cooney (66), and Pat Harte (79) try to gain control of the football which was fumbled away by Marlboro in the first half of Friday's game in Randolph. (Staff Photo by Debee Tlumacki)