

# Oilers get on track, win 34-0

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METHUEN — A week after suffering a bitter loss to their rivals at home, the Randolph Oilers found themselves on the road against one of the Eastern Football League's two expansion teams, the Methuen Outlaws.

And like any good defending champion who is playing an inexperienced and weaker team, the Oilers jumped out early and cruised the rest of the way to post a convincing 34-0 victory.

Methuen players must have watched a lot of expansion teams in their day, because they produced the necessary blunders and mental mistakes at all the right times.

After Methuen opened up with three plays that highlighted all the wrong ways to execute an offensive game plan, Randolph was set to erase any memories of last weeks opening day loss.

Randolph quarterback Rob Witt wasted no time as he led his team onto the field with the first play from scrimmage. Coach Bob Turner called for the long pass and he got the best results possible.

Witt saw his brother Ricky streaking down the right sideline and a mixup in communication in the Methuen secondary left him all alone. Bob had no problem hitting his wide-open brother and Ricky was off on a 57-yard gallop and a quick 6-0 lead.

Stonehill alumni Ray Almeida added the point after and Randolph had a seven-point cushion only 3:13 into the game.

Methuen was again helpless on their next series and if it wasn't for a booming punt from Tim White, Randolph would have been knocking on the Outlaws door right away.

Even with the impressive punt, the Oilers were preparing to strike again. This time the damage was done by a well-balanced running game that was keyed by the tremendous blocking of the offensive line.

"We definitely found our running game this week," understated the victorious Turner. "Our offensive line as a group had a tremendous game for us."

After marching down the field with the total team effort (no less than four Oiler running backs got into the action), it was only fitting that Randolph would punch it in right up the middle for the final seven yards. Jay McGee was the lucky Oiler and his run put Randolph up 14-0 after Almeida split the uprights.

Already up by two touchdowns it was time for the Oilers defense to get some much deserved recognition. Granted, the defense wasn't up against a potent offense, but it's still impressive given the numbers (minus-16 yards total offense, one interception, one fumble, three sacks and no first downs).

With the Oilers defense and the Outlaws offense playing the way most had expected, the Oilers offense was set in cruise control.

Controlling the ball for much of the second quarter, Randolph ran and passed at will against the Methuen defense. The last scoring of the second half came with 21 seconds left and Randolph facing a fourth and six at Methuen's 33.

Witt dropped back in the pocket and found wide receiver Mark Harding in the corner of the end zone for the touchdown. Almeida was becoming known as Mr. Automatic and he didn't disappoint as the Oilers took a 21-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Randolph put the game away early in the third quarter.

With an 11-play, 69-yard drive that ended with another Witt, Bob to Ricky, touchdown through the air of 10 yards, the Oilers had a 28-0 lead and it was time for Turner to empty his bench.

The final score came on the final play of the game when Terry Branch ran it in from four yards out.

"In last weeks game we came out flat and were missing something," said Turner after the impressive win. "Both our defense and offense is now coming around to where it was last year."