

Oilers' offense is hotter than weekend weather

The only thing hotter than last weekend's brutal heat wave was the Randolph Oilers' offense.

Bobby Witt threw for three touchdowns and Jay McGee led a crunching ground attack as the Oilers bounced back from an opening-game loss with a 34-0 whitewash of the Methuen Outlaws in Methuen Saturday.

"We played very well. It was a good way to bounce back," said Oilers general manager Peter O'Kane. "Our line was very strong which enabled us to run the ball and Bobby Witt had a big game."

Witt was razor-sharp. He set the tone with a 57-yard touchdown pass to his brother Ricky on the first play from scrimmage. He was 7-10 for 132 yards,

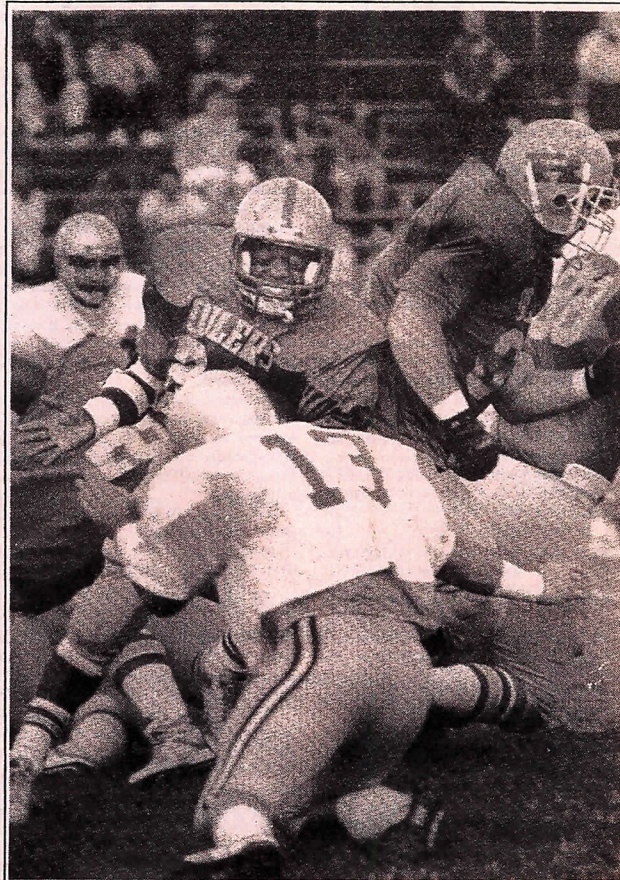
three touchdowns, no sacks, no interceptions. Almost perfect.

Ricky Witt had a pair of TD catches and Mark Harding had one. Mike Walsh had a pair of catches while tight end Ron Cassford had one.

McGee had 64 yards in eight carries and a touchdown and he had plenty of help. Mike Waithe had 36 yards in six tries, fullback Brian Heffernan had 23 in five carries and Terry Branch had 34 yards in four carries and a touchdown.

"Our running game was well balanced," said O'Kane.

And the reason was the line which cleared gaping holes. Frank Brack, Jay Clark, Lance Olbering, Ed Penn, Norm Eliason and John Boughner all had strong



Oiler Jay McGee, #21, takes a hard hit and holds the ball against 200-lb. Dennis Kelley in the season opener vs. Methuen on July 12.

games up front.

The Oilers were in complete control on defense. They did not permit a first down until the fourth quarter and Methuen never penetrated the Oilers' 30. Safety Tracy Manter played a fine game. Bob Burr and Leo Cooney recorded sacks and Lance Selman had an interception.

The Oilers' depth enabled them to play well despite the 100-degree heat Saturday afternoon. "We have a big squad and we got a chance to play everyone which is good," said O'Kane. "The heat never really bothered us. We had enough people to play in that kind of weather."

The Oilers went up early, 7-0, when Ray Almeida kicked the first of his four extra points following Bobby Witt's touchdown pass to Ricky Witt.

Randolph made it 14-0 in the first period on a 39-yard drive in five plays. The march was entirely on the ground and McGee finished it with a six-yard scoring run.

The Oilers made it 21-0 in the second

period when Witt connected with Harding on a 37-yard scoring strike on a fourth-and-five play.

The Oilers went back to the ground game for an 80-yard scoring march in the third. The only pass of the drive resulted in the score as Bobby Witt connected on for fourth down again for a six-yard TD pass to Ricky Witt.

A Lester Pina fumble recovery at the Methuen 25 set up the final score late in the fourth period. Branch raced 21 yards on first down and then went in from the four for the 34-0 final.

The win sets up a key Eastern Football League match for the Oilers against the Middleboro Cobras in Middleboro Friday night at Battis Field at 8 p.m. The Cobras lost a close one to the Marlboro Shamrocks, 7-3, last week. The Shamrocks snapped the Oilers 15-game winning streak in the league opener.

"Middleboro had the ball on the Shamrocks four at the end of the game and just missed scoring," said O'Kane. "We're looking for a tough game."