

Oilers win with defense, special teams

By Jay Pinsonnault
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RANDOLPH — When part of your game is not going well, then you have to look to other parts to offset the difference. That is exactly what the Randolph Oilers did in its 25-13 Eastern Football League victory over the Ocean State Buccaneers last night at Randolph High School's Memorial Field.

The Oilers' offense struggled up into the fourth quarter, however Randolph's defense and special teams built an 18-0 lead halfway through the second quarter.

Randolph's Tracey Manter fielded the high-towering punt and handed off to teammate Mark Harding, who

scampered 73 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown. Ray Almeida kicked the extra-point, giving the Oilers an early 7-0 lead.

The Oiler defense would register its first of two safeties on the Buccaneers next possession. The Oiler defense literally ran Buccaneer quarterback Tom Dennehey out of the endzone, giving Randolph (3-2) a 9-0 lead.

"I think the defense and the special teams played very well," said Oilers Bob Turner. "They both played an excellent football game."

It was not until midway through the final quarter, that the Oiler offense came alive.

With 9:07 remaining, Greg Martel-

lo took a handoff from quarterback John Pina and dodged several Buccaneer defenders, gaining seven yards and placing the ball at the Oiler 43.

On the ensuing play, Martello recovered his own fumble, losing eight yards, which brought up a 3rd and 11.

Pina followed with a floater that Ron Cassford caught in traffic in the middle of the field for a 21-yard pickup.

After an Oiler infraction, Mike Waithe took the handoff from Pina and picked up 37 yards. Waithe appeared to be headed for the endzone, but Ocean State's Bob Adams made a touchdown-saving tackle at

the nine.

Randolph would score two plays later. Oiler Jay McGee picked up two yards and Pina (5-8, 2 TD, 95 yards passing) hooked up with Harding for a seven-yard strike, giving Randolph its 25-13 advantage.

"Our offense came alive and Ronny (Cassford) made a great catch and Mike (Waithe) had a great run," said Turner. "If we don't score right there it's anybody's ballgame."

Randolph built a 16-0 lead three minutes into the second quarter. Pina and Harding (three catches, 63 yards) hooked up again, this time for a 20-yard sideline pass to the two. Brian Heffernan took it from there for Randolph's second touchdown.