

Oilers blank the Cowboys

in season opener

By Brendan Flaherty

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RANDOLPH — The Randolph Oilers opened the 1987 Eastern Football league on a positive note Friday evening with a decisive 14-0 victory over the Hyde Park Cowboys.

The Oilers played a well-balanced game, but it was the defensive quickness that propelled Randolph to its victory over the EFL's pre-season favorite.

"Our quickness is the team's best attribute," said fifth-year Randolph head coach Tom Pileski. "We forced five fumbles (three of which were recovered) because of our quickness. We can make teams make mistakes because of it.

completed a 15 yard pass to tight end John Larkin to give the Oilers a first down on the Cowboys 19. Three plays later, Witt passed to Tony Cavallo, who fumbled the ball but recovered it at the eight with 42 seconds left.

Witt then rolled right and found Jim Clifford deep in the end zone for an eight-yard touchdown pass. Locke converted the extra point and Randolph had a 7-0 lead at half.

The second half was much like the first, with the Oilers defense shutting down the Cowboys and Witt moving the ball on offense.

The Oilers took advantage of another turnover which resulted in seven more points.

Ken Walton hit Cowboy quarterback

EFL

"If we had to play defense all the time, teams would wear us down because of our size. Our defense made the turnovers and we controlled the offense."

Neither team was able to do much in the first quarter. In the second, Randolph had a chance to score on a 28-yard field goal attempt by Rollie Locke, but the kick missed just wide to the right.

Randolph got the ball back when tri-captain Tom Kirlis recovered a fumble in Hyde Park territory late in the first half.

The Oilers faced a third-and-six with three minutes left in the half and Bob Witt

John Pina forcing a fumble at midfield, which was recovered by Ingemar Marshall. On a second and ten situation, Witt passed up the middle to Ron Cassford for a first down on the Hyde Park 37.

The fleet-footed Jay McGee (84 yards) then took a Witt handoff up the left side and bobbed and weaved for a 37-yard touchdown run. Locke's extra point gave Randolph its 14-0 margin.

Hyde Park mounted a drive after the kickoff but was eventually shut down by the tough Oilers defense. Mike Farrall caught a Pina pass in the end zone but was ruled out of bounds on a third down play and Randolph took over on downs after stopping the Cowboys on a fourth down play.