

Oilers get offensive; score EFL come-from-behind win

By Bob Buckley

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RANDOLPH — This may be the year the Randolph Oilers have discovered the offense that will put them in contention for the Eastern Football League crown.

The Oilers, on a night where no sane human being would even think about football, scored four second-half touchdowns to overcome a 14-0 deficit and beat the Middleboro Cobras, 25-14, Friday night.

"Tonight we showed we could score some points," said Randolph coach Tom Pileski, "and our defense made the plays to put us in that position."

The Oilers, who were collared by a stringent Cobra defense in the first half, took advantage of two key Middleboro turnovers en route to the second-half comeback.

John Davis recovered a fumble at the Cobra 13 late in the third quarter when the Oilers trailed, 14-6. Thirteen difficult yards later, on fourth-and-one, quarterback Bobby Witt found Sean Crowley for a one-yard touchdown toss to cut the deficit to 14-12.

Randolph had a chance to take the lead early in the fourth after a Chris Johnson fumble recovery.

However, Witt went for all the marbles and was intercepted at the goal line by Middleboro's Bill Jones.

Witt would not be denied, though. After a Middleboro punt, Witt found John Larkin for 19 yards. Witt then found a streaking Tony Cavallo down the left sideline for a 31-yard touchdown strike to give the Oilers a lead they would never give up.

"They (the Cobras) were so concerned with our fullback coming out of the backfield," said Pileski, "that we utilized our outside (receivers) to our advantage."

Jay McGee (13 carries, 151 yards) ended any possibility of a Cobra comeback as he ran up the middle, cut left and blazed for a 78-yard touchdown run.

"Jay McGee has a gift," said

Pileski. "His speed is a big weapon for us."

The Cobras were in complete control in the first half. Middleboro did an excellent job of containing Witt, keeping him from effectively running the Oilers' roll-out offense.

Meanwhile, Cobra head coach Dave Harrison took the helm at quarterback after a scoreless first quarter. The Cobras received an immediate boost.

After a fumble recovery by Dave Arruda at the Oiler 27, Harrison found Mike Gonsalves for a 12-yard pass reception to bring the ball inside the 15. Four plays later, Kelly Brooks dove over from the one to give the Cobras the lead.

The Oilers turned the ball over four times in the second quarter and Middlebro graciously accepted the final Randolph gift. Witt was viciously sacked by Bob Guiliani and George Feroli recovered the errant ball at midfield.

Three plays later, Harrison connected with John Montalbano for the prettiest touchdown of the night. Montalbano ran a fly pattern and then cut across the middle at the goal line. Harrison led him perfectly and the Cobras had a 14-0 halftime lead.

The listless Randolph offense did a complete metamorphosis in the second half.

Witt got the offense rolling early in the third when he connected with Jim Clifford for a 31-yard touchdown strike.