

# Randolph Oilers nipped by Marlboro's late TD

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RANDOLPH — The Marlboro Shamrocks, trailing 14-0, scored 17 unanswered points en route to a thrilling, come-from-behind 17-14 victory over the previously undefeated Randolph Oilers Sunday in a non-league game at Randolph High's Memorial Field.

Marlboro, representing the Empire League, upped its record to 3-2. Randolph, of the Eastern Football League, fell to 4-1. Randolph still leads the EFL.

Down by four (14-10), the Shamrocks put together their winning drive with just 2:25 to play.

Starting at their own 33, they scored in just 1:39 when quarterback Bob Williamson spun and found Malcolm Pittman in the end zone, giving Marlboro its first lead of the game with just 46 seconds left to play. Dave Wydom's successful PAT increased the advantage to 17-14.

The game-winning score was set up by a John Gatti-to-Pittman 31-yard pass to the Oilers' 18 yard line on a third-and-10 play.

Randolph and quarterback Bob Witt got the ball down to the Marlboro 28-yard line in its final, desperation drive. But any hopes of a last

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second score were ended when Mike Grassis intercepted Witt on the final play of the game.

"It was a real tough loss," lamented Randolph head coach Tom Pileski. "Our defense was outstanding. It stopped Marlboro five times from inside the 20, but I was disappointed that the offense didn't move the ball better after it got the 14-0 lead.

"I figured that in order to win, we'd have to score three times. Obviously we didn't. They (Marlboro) are a great team and we gave them a great game, I'm proud of that."

The Oilers jumped out to a 6-0 lead when Witt connected with his brother, Ricky, for a 56-yard touchdown pass with 9:08 left in the first period. Ray Almeida's successful PAT pushed the lead to 7-0.

Randolph quickly doubled its lead a little more than five minutes later when Bob Witt handed off to running back Jay McGee, who reversed to Ricky Witt and watched as Witt scampered around right end for 77 yards and his second TD of the contest. Almeida's extra point gave the hosts a 14-0 edge.

Pesky Marlboro cut its deficit in half with three minutes remaining in the first half, putting together a nifty 70-yard march, culminating in Frank Fay's seven-yard run up the middle. Wydom's kick made it 14-7.

After holding the Oilers on the ensuing drive, the Shamrocks got closer when Wydom booted a 23-yard field goal with less than a minute left in the half. A Gatti-to-Pittman 50-yard strike set up the score.

Randolph's defense kept it in the game in the second half, stopping the Shamrocks three times from inside the 20 as its offense sputtered.