

Middleboro snuffs Randolph in EFL

Cobras take 28-0 playoff semifinal

By Mike Mimoso
ENTERPRISE CORRESPONDENT

MIDDLEBORO — Carl Fisher returned to action just in time for Middleboro Saturday night as the Cobras shut out the Randolph Oilers, 28-0, in an Eastern Football League semifinal playoff game at Battis Field.

Fisher, playing in his first game after missing five straight contests with cracked ribs, rushed for 92 yards and scored two touchdowns, including one on the opening kickoff for an 85-yard score.

"That kickoff return certainly set the tone," said Middleboro head coach Dave Harrison.

Fisher picked up Larry Gagger's kickoff at the 15 and raced behind a wall of Cobras up the middle of the field, avoiding a tackle at the 50, and sprinting into the end zone.

"This is amazing," said Fisher. "The hole, that was it."

The Cobras will face the winner of Sunday's semifinal game between Hyde Park and Charlestown held at Daley Field in Brighton (2 p.m.)

The Cobras return to the championship game with hopes of meeting up with Hyde Park (9-1), the only team to defeat Middleboro (10-3) this season.

"I'd like to play Hyde Park," said Harrison, "but I wish that could be at home."

If Hyde Park is victorious today, it will host the Cobras next Sunday.

"If we play like we play tonight," said Fisher, "it doesn't make a difference who we play."

"We'll definitely work hard this week and pick it up a notch," said Fisher. "Hopefully, we'll take it."

The Cobras' defense carried its stellar play into the playoffs, holding the Oilers to seven first downs and quarterback Bob Witt to only three completions in 19 attempts, for 26 yards and an interception.

"The defense has been doing it all year," said Harrison.

Cobra quarterback Bob Barrett kept the Oilers off balance, completing 6-13 psasses for 92 yards and two touchdowns.

Barrett capped off a five-play, 53-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown strike to Abington's Alby Sebastyn. Sebastyn bobbled the ball from Barrett twice before catching it deep in the end zone with 9:17 left in the second quarter. Sebastyn had three catches for 50 yards.

Mike Gonsalves booted the extra point, giving Middleboro its 13-0 halftime lead.

After a scoreless third quarter marred by penalties and a bench-clearing brawl touched off by ex-Patriot Bill Turner of Randolph, the Cobras put 15 points on the board in the final 15 minutes.

Barrett threw his second TD pass of the game, this time to wide receiver John Montalbano on a quick slant to the corner of the end zone with 8:49 remaining.

Kelly Brooks took the snap on the extra-point attempt and scrambled in for two points making it 21-0.

On the ensuing kickoff, Tom Leaden stripped Oiler returner Greg Martello of the ball and Middleboro's Bill Veno recovered the fumble on the Oiler 35-yard line.

Two plays later, Fisher burst down the sideline 25 yards for the final score.