



Jeffrey Sauger/The Patriot Ledger

Randolph's Mark Harding, right, can't hold onto pass Friday night after being hit by Larry Dorey.

## Oilers open with loss to Marlboro

By Liam Collieran  
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**RANDOLPH** — After a 1990 Eastern Football League season which featured a league title and an undefeated record, the Randolph Oilers' search for their 13th straight victory proved to be an unlucky one.

Although the Oilers (0-1) entered the 1991 season as the league favorite to cruise through the schedule and recapture the league title, Randolph was slapped with an early-season setback. The Marlboro Shamrocks (1-0) handed the host Oilers a 21-9 defeat Friday night.

"We got the monkey off our back," Randolph coach Bob Turner said. "Did we learn a lesson from this? We're going to see what type of football team we are."

For the Shamrocks, the victory

was especially sweet. It avenged last year's losses. Randolph was the only team to beat Marlboro — twice during the regular season and once during the playoffs.

"We were really intense to-night," Shamrock safety Wayne Beckwith said. "We have a new coaching staff this year; they really didn't change much around here, but they fired us up to beat their streak."

After Marlboro won the toss and elected to receive, the Shamrocks fumbled on their 30 and Randolph recovered. The Shamrocks stuffed the Oilers on the ensuing drive, causing penalty flags to fly and forcing them to punt from the Marlboro 48.

Marlboro scored first when Shamrock Mike Grassi intercepted a Bob Witt pass and returned it 33 yards to the Randolph 37-yard

line. One play and 30 seconds later, Mike Kelly hauled in a Bill Polymeros pass for a 33-yard touchdown strike. The extra point gave the visitors a 7-0 edge.

Randolph got on the board four minutes into the second period. However, the credit should be given to the Marlboro defense, which withstood an Oiler drive and allowed only a 32-yard field goal by Ray Almeida.

After a 50-yard kickoff return by Marlboro's Gregg Moore and a 50-yard touchdown pass on the next play, the Shamrocks coasted to a 14-3 halftime lead.

Marlboro scored once more in the second half to get all it would need. However, Randolph made the game interesting by putting together a five-play drive capped by a 60-yard touchdown pass from Witt to Mark Harding.