

Oilers ready to defend their turf

By Ron Dziergowski

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BROCKTON — Just one week into the season and already there are a couple of questions to be answered regarding Eastern Football League teams.

First, are the Randolph Oilers, the defending champions, ready to rebound from last weekend's 21-9 loss to the Marlboro Shamrocks?

Next, are the Hockomock Colts, winners of only one game a year ago, ready to make it two-in-a-row following their 19-7 victory over the Charlestown Townies?

Both Randolph and Hockomock will get a chance to answer those questions this weekend.

The Oilers travel to Methuen Saturday afternoon for a 4 o'clock game with the first-year Outlaws, who got pummeled by the Middleboro Cobras, 27-0, in their opener.

The Colts, who got a pair of touchdowns from Mike Mulgrew on runs of nine and 15 yards, take to the road for the second straight week, traveling to West Roxbury tonight (8 o'clock) for a clash with the always-tough Hyde Park Cowboys, who'll be looking to rebound from a 12-8 loss to Worcester.

Other games this weekend have Marlboro at Middleboro (tonight, 8 o'clock), Rhode Island at Charlestown (tonight), and Worcester at Maine (Saturday night).

"As the old saying goes, we got a monkey off our backs," said Randolph coach Bob Turner, referring to his team's loss. "My team had a lot of pressure to deal with going into the Marlboro game because we went undefeated last year. I think they now realize that everybody wants a piece of the Randolph Oilers."

Despite the loss, Turner did see some good things from his team.

"I thought Ricky Witt (quarterback), Jay McGee (running back), and Bubba Pina (linebacker) all had fine individual games," explained Turner. "I also thought my defensive line played well. They held Fay (Marlboro's Frank Fay) to only 30 yards on 18 carries."

Pina was selected as the Defensive-Player-of-the-Week for his efforts.

"We'll be ready for the Methuen game," continued Turner. "We had a good practice on Tuesday and I'll be expecting another good practice on Thursday."

Hockomock, which had all kinds

of trouble putting points on the board in its maiden season, had 399 total yards offensively last week, and will be looking to carry that kind of productivity to West Roxbury High School.

Mulgrew (122 yards) and Bernard Wiley (128), last year's EFL Rookie-of-the-Year, paved the way with help coming from up front.

"We completely revamped our offensive line," said owner Paul Jodice. "We signed a lot of players from both URI and UConn. The only returning starter is Dick Betro, who use to play for Randolph."

"We've also got a great leader in quarterback Fred Beissner, another former Oiler."

"We'd like a win against Charlestown very much," continued Jodice. "That would really pick things up going into our home opener the following week when we play Maine."

Jodice was also high on tight end Scott Kent, a former All-Yankee Conference player, who hauled in five Beissner aerials for 53 yards.

"He's been timed in 40-yard dash at 4.9," commented Jodice.