

Rest and recovery

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Coming off two weeks of nail-biting finishes and a grueling schedule without any breaks the Randolph Oilers have finally reached their well-deserved week off.

"With Taunton and Western Massachusetts coming up we felt it was a good time to give the guys a break from practice," Oilers coach Ed Penn said.

It had been eight weeks in a row that the Oilers had practiced and battled on the weekends and for a team with a lot of nagging injuries and depth problems, the break came at the right time. Next on the schedule are the Western Massachusetts Blitzin' Bears who are undefeated and coming off a big victory over the EFL's second best team, Taunton.

"We have to approach these games like we are already in the playoffs and give them our best shot because the chances are once we are actually in the playoffs we will see these guys again," Penn said.

The approach will be a difficult one to implement because the Oiler statistically locked up a spot



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The Oilers play the two best teams in the EFL in back-to-back weeks and are taking a week to recover from a multitude of injuries.

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in the playoffs with their victory over Hyde Park last weekend. However, the week off will give one of the team's most important players a chance to recover from the injuries that have driven him from the line up in previous games.

"Ryan Myers has played great for us despite shoulder and groin injuries and hung on in the pocket until his receivers got open," Penn said. "You might notice he hasn't run around quite as much but he's still been very good for us when he plays."

Myer's injuries opened the door for other players to step up as the season has gone on. Back up quarterback James Merrick played in place of Myers for a

couple games proving that if Myers were to suffer a setback, the Oilers passing attack would still be in capable hands.

Another byproduct of Myers' injuries has been the continued growth of the Randolph running attack that has emerged to compliment the Oilers typically pass-oriented offense particularly in their last game when Brooke Payne made everything he could out of his 18 carries going for 138 yards.

"We've put a lot of emphasis on running the ball in practice and we saw that with Brooke Payne and the way he was running," Penn said.

While Payne ate up clock and yardage in the game against Hyde Park, it was Karl Wells that took over goal line rushing

duties as an oversized short-yardage back.

It will be a challenge to continue that type of dominance on the ground in successive weeks against the two best teams in the league but the hope is with some rest, the team can bounce one or both of the league's most intimidating foes.

"We have a week off to get healthy and that will be important because the injuries have really hurt us because we aren't that deep of a team," Oilers general manager Peter O'Kane said.

The game against the Blitzin' Bears was originally scheduled to be an away game from the Oilers but it has been relocated and rescheduled to Randolph High School on Sept. 10th at 8p.m.