

# Oilers bounce back with close win over Hyde Park

*The Randolph Oilers locked up a playoff spot in the EFL on Saturday.*

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## Photos

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*The Oilers punishing running game helped the Oilers lock up a playoff spot*

**By Bob Strickley**

**Wicked Local Randolph**

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Randolph —

The post game atmosphere was one of relief and accomplishment after the Randolph Oilers held on to a 41-34 lead over the Hyde Park Seminoles as time expired.

“Two straight weeks of playing extremely close games and I was definitely worried about where we would stand if we would have lost this game,” Oilers coach Ed Penn said.

Last week the Oilers lost on a heartbreaking play as time expired but this time the team rallied despite long injury timeouts and more unsteady play on special teams.

“Our defense really came out and played well on that last series and kept them out of the end zone to help us get this win tonight,” Penn said.

Up by seven with 1:38 remaining in the game, the Oilers squib kicked to the Seminoles and from there the defense only allowed the Seminoles to pick up yardage on three of the Seminoles ten remaining offensive snaps.

“The guys really played hard tonight and overcame some penalties to secure the lead and give us a spot in the playoffs,” Penn said.

Penalties and poor special teams coverage kept the Seminoles in the game along with a depleting 11-minute scoring drive that had the Oilers defenders gasping for air and looking for an answer to the Seminoles attack.

Enter Oilers running back Brooke Payne who chose a good night to have his most dominant game of the year compiling 138 yards on 18 carries.

“Brooke Payne did a great job tonight and we had focused on running the ball better in practice and I really like the way Payne ran the ball and killed a lot of clock,” Penn said.

While Payne only had no negative rushes and only had one carry that resulted in less than three yards, he left the scoring on this night to his lead blocker, Karl Wells.

“I usually play defense and when I’m in at fullback I had only blocked until tonight,” Wells said.

On Wells’ first four carries of the season he had 27 yards and two touchdowns setting a high standard for the 295-pound lineman-turned touchdown producer.

“You get really excited when the coach calls your number and I was fired up to get some carries,” Wells said. “Hopefully this means they will work me into the game plan a bit more in our next game.”

Wells attributed his punishing 25-yard touchdown run in the second half to his work ethic developed while working for the family landscaping company.

His workman’s approach is shared league-wide as these athletes put their bodies on the line every contest. A reminder of the violence of the game came during a scary moment in the third quarter when a Seminoles player had to be immobilized and removed from the field via ambulance.

“It’s a workman’s league and when something like that happens you just get together and hope the guy is OK and focus on what we really care about in this game,” Penn said.

The injured player was released from the hospital after the game and Seminoles general manager Delaney Roberts said his player should be fine after some rest.

After a 25-minute delay play resumed and Oilers quarterback Ryan Myers rallied his players to maintain their focus and execute down the stretch.

“I told the guys to maintain focus and only talk about football related things during the delay and we did a good job maintaining our focus,” Myers said.

Myers focused finishing the Oilers possessions with touchdowns as he threw for four on the night, three to Brian Gallo who had touchdown receptions of 60 yards, 33 yards and 27 yards and one to Will Price. Myers finished with 156 yards in 16 pass attempts.

“Our coaches give me a lot of leeway to call audibles and get us into the best play for the defense that I see,” Myers said. “Gallo and I have developed a good amount of chemistry and communication from playing together for a few years and I think that was why we connected on a few scores tonight.”

With a playoff spot assured by Saturday’s victory the Oilers look ahead to their two biggest challenges of the season against the top teams in the EFL, Taunton and Western Massachusetts.

“We’ve played eight straight games and have had a lot of guys banged up and playing through injuries so I decided to give the guys some practices off just to rest and get refocused on the big challenges that face us going down the stretch,” Penn said. “We need to approach the Taunton and Western Massachusetts games as though we are already playing in the playoffs and get some good looks because chances are we will face those guys again.”

Randolph’s next game will be the weekend of Sept. 10-12 against Western Massachusetts with dates, times and locations to be announced.