

Randolph Oilers bitten by Cobras

QB Myers out with injury - offense sputters

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Wicked Local Randolph
Posted Aug 09, 2011



James Merrick sets up in the pocket

Randolph —

The Randolph Oilers dropped another disappointing Eastern Football League contest, falling 27-0, last Saturday evening to the powerful Middleboro Cobras. With starting QB Ryan Myers shelved for several weeks due to a shoulder injury, and three of the team's top six offensive linemen unable to make the game due to personal issues, the Oilers prospects for an upset were grim at best. The Oilers mounted a spirited defensive effort in the first half and left the field with the score knotted at 0-0. "We wanted to shorten the game and give ourselves the chance to win it in the second half," said Coach Ed Penn. "We accomplished that goal but couldn't deliver in the second half."

James Merrick made his Oilers debut at quarterback filling in for the injured Myers. Merrick showed why he is one of the Oilers toughest competitors as he stood in the pocket all night, exhibited strong leadership and an easy command of the offense. Merrick displayed an accurate passing touch and never got rattled against one of the league's best defensive lines. "Merrick did a nice job for us," said Penn. "He just needs some more reps in practice." The Oilers make shift offensive line also put forth an impressive effort. Karl Wells and Mike Wright filled in at offensive guard and played well under the circumstances. Veterans Pete Hogan, Kevin Clark, and T.D. Thompson all also had strong performances in handling the blitzing Cobras.

The Oilers were their own worst enemy early in the second half with the score still knotted at 0-0. The Cobras blocked a punt and recovered it in the endzone for a touchdown that broke the scoreless tie. On the ensuing kickoff, the football glanced off an Oiler and the Cobras recovered and scored a second touchdown on the very next play. In a matter of less than a minute, the Oilers found themselves in a 14-0 hole and with a patchwork offense little hope for a comeback victory. The Cobras increased their lead in the fourth quarter to win going away 27-0. "You can't spot a team like the Cobras two touchdowns and expect to win," said offensive lineman T.D. Thompson. "We gave it our best shot but it just wasn't enough."



Will Price returns a punt for the Oilers.

The Oilers received excellent defensive efforts from linebacker's John Martel and Colby Gallagher. Defensive tackles Marcus Barrow and Byron Goss and defensive ends Billy Mallory and Mike Farley chipped in with solid play. Dan Carroll, Norm Burns, and Johnny Epps were solid in the secondary. Rookie Tim Millerick continues to make a strong statement about grabbing Rookie of the Year honors as he showed speed, athleticism, dependable tackling, and toughness.

The Oilers record is now 1-4 at the halfway mark in the 2011 EFL season. "We need to keep working on our offense with Myers out," said Penn. "With five games left we are looking to finish on a strong note."

The Oilers next EFL game is Saturday, August 13 against the E. Mass Seminoles (2-3) at Moakley Stadium in South Boston. Game time is 5 p.m.

Read more: [Randolph Oilers bitten by Cobras - Randolph, MA - Randolph Herald](http://www.wickedlocal.com/randolph/archive/x919520027/Randolph-Oilers-bitten-by-Cobras#ixzz1ViI2Bnwl)
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