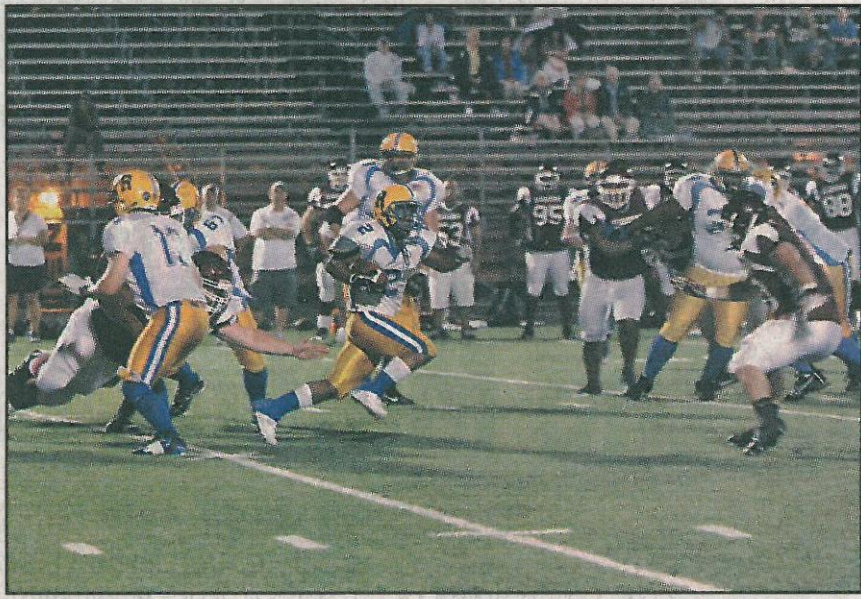




The Oilers brain trust looking for ways to solve the Gladiators defense.



Leon McBean lead the rushing attack against the Gladiators.

SEMI PRO FOOTBALL

Oilers dropped by Gladiators

Oilers fall 28-6 to Taunton

By Bob Whitney
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The Randolph Oilers are at a crucial point in their 2011 Eastern Football League season having dropped a disappointing 28-6 decision to the first place Taunton Gladiators last Friday evening at Taunton High School. The Oilers are now 2-5 and need

to win their final three EFL games, plus get some help from other teams, to qualify for post season play.

The Oilers got off to a poor start as they botched a pitch on the games first play. Taunton recovered on the 20 yard line and three plays later hit pay dirt to make the score 7-0. The Oilers responded in kind as quarterback James Merrick found speedy wide receiver Will Price wide open at the Taunton 20 yard line and Price raced into the end-zone and it appeared the Oilers had some momentum on their side.. The extra point attempt was unsuccessful and the score was 7-6.

The Gladiators were able to disrupt the Oilers offense with a variety of blitzing defenses and held the Oilers scoreless for the balance of the first half. Taunton's Ray Tolliver (2010 EFL Defensive Player of the Year) and Ryan Powdrell(USC and Seattle Seahawks alum)lead the defensive effort. Meanwhile, the Gladiator offense was the beneficiary of this immense defensive effort and punched across two touchdowns to leave the field at halftime with a 21-6 lead.

In the second half the Taunton defense continued to stymie the Oiler offense with a variety of blitzes and hard nosed tackling. Another turnover created by the Gladiator defense resulted in a late fourth quarter touchdown and the final score of 28-6.

The Oiler defense was lead by the determined play of tackle Marcus Barrow and defensive ends Mike Farley, Billy Mallory, and De Yoman Nelson. The linebacking corps of John Martell, Colby Gallagher, Jabari Prince, and Tim Miller did a fine job of con-

taining the Gladiators powerful running game.

The Oilers were able to move the ball in the second half, behind the hard running of Leon McBean who rushed for 86 yards against the vaunted Gladiator defense. In spite of McBeans effort, the Oilers offense just could not generate any consistent and sustained drives against the Taunton defense. The Oilers next opponent is a must win game against the Bay State Bucs on Saturday, August 27 at Bridgewater-Raynham High School. Game time is 7 p.m.



TD Thompson (77) and Kevin Clark (51) opened huge holes for Leon McBean.



Defensive end Bill Mallory looking to make another tackle. COURTESY PHOTOS/ RANDOLPH OILERS FC