

# Randolph Oilers' strike it rich!

Win second straight; sit atop EFL standings

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*The Randolph Oilers hosted the Charlestown Townies Friday night at Randolph High School.*

**By Bob Whitney**

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Randolph —

The Randolph Oilers have made an early statement that they will be serious contenders for the 2012 Eastern Football League title. The Oilers, sporting a new look uniform as well as playing on the brand new artificial surface at Randolph High School, have roared out of the gates with two impressive wins over the highly touted Clinton Irish Blizzard (14-7) and the surprising Charlestown Townies (14-8).

In the season opener against Clinton on July 6, wide receiver Pat Kromah provided the late game heroics with a fourth quarter touchdown catch to give the Oilers a 14-7 win.

In the Oilers second game, in front of a huge crowd on Friday evening, superb play by both the offensive and defensive line sparked Randolph to the win over a very athletic, but overmatched Charlestown Townie squad.

“It’s a great start for our team,” said Oilers GM Peter O’Kane. “The Randolph High School football field is a big plus and the crowd support has been tremendous. You couldn’t have asked for a better start.”

The Oilers opened the scoring in the first quarter after a strong defensive stand, spearheaded by the inspired play of linebackers Colby Gallagher and Michael Farley, gave the ball to the Oilers near midfield.

With quarterback James Merrick directing the offense Payne and McBean sliced through gaping holes in the Townie defensive line to set up the Oilers first score.

Merrick found the speedy Will Price for a 24-yard throw-and-go that moved the chains to the Townie five-yard line. On the next play Merrick threw a perfect strike to Pat Kromah on a quick slant to give the Oilers the lead for good.

Veteran place kicker David Canavan, with Vinny Ventosi providing the hold, split the uprights to give the Oilers an early 7-0 edge.

The Oilers, courtesy of a nifty 17-yard run by the hard-working Leon McBean, poked through for what would be the deciding score midway through the second quarter. The Oilers offensive line opened a huge hole that allowed Payne to roar into the end zone untouched from the 8-yard line.

Once again, Canavan split the uprights with the kick to give the Oilers a comfortable 14-0 lead at the half.

In the second half, the Oilers had some anxious moments as the Townies scored on a busted pass play to make the score 14-8 after a successful two-point conversion.

The defense rose to the challenge and made a pair of outstanding big plays to preserve the win. A couple of Michael's, namely McGonagle and Farley, led the defense in the second half.

Coach Ed Penn, in his post game remarks, was pleased with his squad's early season performance. "The offensive and defensive line have been excellent," noted EFL veteran Penn. "We obviously have a lot of work to do but it's a great start. The fan support has been outstanding."

The Oilers will enjoy a bye week and return to action on Friday, July 27, against the Quincy Militia. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at Randolph High School.

Read more: [Randolph Oilers' strike it rich! - Randolph, MA - Randolph Herald](http://www.wickedlocal.com/randolph/features/x1109738798/Randolph-Oilers-strike-it-rich#ixzz2oyvjoxQc)  
<http://www.wickedlocal.com/randolph/features/x1109738798/Randolph-Oilers-strike-it-rich#ixzz2oyvjoxQc>

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## **PHOTO GALLERY: Randolph Oilers vs. Charlestown Townies**



*Randolph's Matthew Stokes encourages his teammates during Friday night's Eastern Football League game against the Charlestown Townies played at Randolph High School.*



*Oilers coach Jon Gates discusses defensive strategy during Friday night's Eastern Football League game against the Charlestown Townies played at Randolph High School.*



Wicked Local Photo by K.A. MacDonald

*Oilers wide receiver Will Price lays out for a pass during Friday night's Eastern Football League game against the Charlestown Townies played at Randolph High School. The pass was incomplete.*



Wicked Local Photo by K.A. MacDonald

*Oilers quarterback James Merrick looks to throw the ball as Leon McBean protects him.*





*Wicked Local Photo by K.A. MacDonald*

*Randolph's Brooke Payne looks for running room during Friday night's Eastern Football League game against the Charlestown Townies played at Randolph High School. The Oilers won the game 14-8.*



*Wicked Local Photo by K.A. MacDonald*

*Randolph's Derrek MacQueen takes to the air to try to catch a pass in the end zone during Friday night's Eastern Football League game against the Charlestown Townies played at Randolph High School. The pass was incomplete.*



*Wicked Local Photo by K.A. MacDonald*

*The Oilers celebrate their second touchdown of Friday night's Eastern Football League game against the Charlestown Townies.*