

# Randolph Oilers run into Granite

## Oilers fall on road 13-7 for second EFL loss

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Wicked Local Randolph

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Photo/K. MacDonald

*Randolph's Brooke Payne scored the only touchdown for the Oilers against Granite State. The Oilers will play the Bay State at Bridgewater State University on Saturday, August 9 at 6 p.m.*

Manchester, New Hampshire — The Randolph Oilers hit the road for the first time this season and suffered their second consecutive loss of the Eastern Football League season Saturday evening, as they dropped a frustrating 13-7 decision at the hands of the Granite State Knights.

“We got off to a slow start in the first quarter,” said Oilers General Manager Peter O’Kane. “After that we dominated play, but couldn’t put points on the board when we need them.”

The game was played in extreme weather conditions as thunderstorms, lightning and driving rain were the rule of the day. The start of the game was delayed for nearly twenty minutes as game officials halted play because of lightning strikes in the area.

The Knights got off to a fast start as they scored on their very first two offensive possessions, to race out to a 13-0 lead in the first quarter, before the vaunted Oiler defense, led by linebacker John Guy, could stop the Granite State (3-2) ground attack.

It was all Oilers after the slow start as Guy, along with Colby Gallagher and Michael Farley led a spirited team defense that totally dominated play. Karl Wells and Matt Stokes had outstanding games playing nearly every down in the game.

The Oilers offense sputtered for the second consecutive week as they failed to capitalize on green zone scoring opportunities, particularly in the second half. Brooke Payne gave the offense a brief lift as he

scored on a one-yard run to close the score to 13-7 in the third quarter. Quarterback James Merrick and the speedy Patrick Kromah hooked up on a nifty 50-yard pass play to set up Payne's plunge.

The Oilers had two apparent touchdowns called back on questionable calls in the third period. One was on an offensive pass interference call and then a second when a pass to Will Price was overturned on a shaky out-of-bounds call.

"We need to score more than 13/14 points each game," said Head Coach Ed Penn. "It's all about taking advantage of green zone scoring opportunities."

The Oilers (2-2) have a stern test this Saturday as they face the Bay State Bucs at Bridgewater State University on Saturday, August 11. Game time is 6:00 p.m.

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