

Oilers must win remaining games

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The Brockton Oilers will face the first of two must games in winding up their Eastern Football League schedule when they meet the Hyde Park Cowboys at the Jamaica Plain Field Friday at 8:30 p.m.

In the EFL on Saturday night, the Middleboro Cobras will host the co-leader (the Marlboro Shamrocks), while the Plymouth Rocks will be at Manning Bowl in Lynn to meet the Lynn Packers.

With Hyde Park and Marlboro tied for first place in the standings with 7-1 records (the Oilers a step behind with a 6-2 mark), Brockton must beat both the Cowboys and the Shamrocks in their last two games if they want a piece of the EFL title.

Last week against the cellar-dwelling Lynn Packers (0-8), the Oilers had their troubles before eeking out a 3-0 win on the strength of Dave Ostrom's field goal.

Injuries have taken a toll on the Oilers players since the mid-way mark, and it is doubtful that some of the key players sidelined will be ready for Hyde Park.

Hyde Park has the toughest defense in the league and has an explosive offense with a super passing game behind Mike Fallon and a host of receivers and a good ground game.

The Oilers, it seems, will definitely need more than Ostrom's educated toe to upset the Cowboys.

For Middleboro, it has been an especially down year after winning the title last year.

Sporting a 3-5 record, the Cobras also have been hurt with a number of injuries to key players and this will hurt Middleboro if some of the players are not back by Saturday to face the Shamrocks.

It doesn't look too optimistic, though, as the Cobras get ready for Saturday's game because there were more injuries to key players after the 14-7 loss to Hyde Park last week.

Dennis Green, the Cobras leading punter and kick-off return man and defensive back will be lost due to a hand injury, while defensive end Mel Fernandes has a shoulder injury and Dick

league pushing leader has missed the last two games because of a shoulder injury and could be out for the season.

Place kicker Ernie Branco has also missed the last few games due to a groin pull and may be ready for the play-offs.

Plymouth (1-7) beat Lynn for its only win of the season during the first half of the schedule, and more than likely will win its second game in meeting Lynn again.

A questionable starter for the Rocks, though, is quarterback Fred Kelleher who was hurt in the Marlboro game last week. He is definitely a doubtful starter and this could hurt the Rocks.

Back-up quarterback Bob Pagnini (he was sidelined with injuries), is expected to take over in calling the signals if Kelleher is not available.