

Oilers seek to end EFL slide

By TONY SIRRICO

Enterprise Correspondent

The Brockton Oilers will begin their season-ending five-game Eastern Football League road odyssey with a stop at Plymouth on Friday night at 8:30.

In other games Friday night, the Middleboro Cobras, coming off a 14-11 win over the Rocks that snapped a three-game losing streak will be at home against the Lynn Packers while the undefeated Marlboro Shamrocks will face Hyde Park at Kelleher's Field in Marlboro.

The Oilers, losers of their last two games, will face the

Rocks minus some key players due to injuries.

Bo Powell, suffered a broken tibia in last week's game against Marlboro and will be out for the season.

"We'll miss him," general manager Peter O'Kane said of the fullback.

Jerry Kelly, an offensive guard, will be missing from the lineup with a knee injury while Tim County, an offensive tackle, and Mike Issler, a middle guard, will be out for another six weeks.

Replacements to fill the vacated gaps will include Rich Crabtree, Tim Hickey and Henry Kalawicz, who returned a fumble for a touchdown against Marlboro last week.

The Oilers' big yard gainer, Phil Warsheski, had a tough time last week against Marlboro primarily

because of a lack of blocking by the offensive line.

"We hope to correct that situation this week against Plymouth," Coach Vin Sykes said, "and get our ground game going again."

Despite Plymouth's 1-4 record, the Rocks have been in every game and it is just a matter of time before they start getting into the win column consistently.

Adding some spark to the Rock's offense is running back John Avitabile from Hanover who has had excellent games in his last two outings, rushing for 261 yards to rank second in the league.

After reaching the halfway mark in the league schedule with a 2-3 record, Middleboro is hoping to get a winning streak going and qualify for one of the four post-season play-off berths.

The Cobras will try to make it two straight wins against Lynn, a team they beat easily in their first outing 37-0.

"We had good luck against Lynn in the first game,"

Cobras general manager Wayne Lee said, "and beat them on big plays. We didn't any sustained drives and that could prove to be a factor Friday."

"We're working on more consistency on offense, better pass coverage and better overall team performance."

The Cobras will have two starters sidelined for the Lynn game, with Mark Reale (defensive end and punter) out with a bruised shoulder and Wayne Oliver (middle linebacker) who has an injured knee.

The Cobras feature the top runner in the league in Jeff Rodman, who not only leads the league in rushing (523 yards) but also in scoring with five touchdowns.

Rodman is the only real breakaway threat in the EFL and has already scored on 61, 62 and 87-yard touchdown runs.

Lynn features the quarterbacking of Jim Stanton who has scored both of Lynn's touchdowns and wide receiver Dave Adgurson, Lynn's leading receiver.