

Comets Next Foe For Jackets After Weekend Win

Gamble Pays Off In 20-13 Triumph; Elliott Gets 3

By Bob Shraluka

Decatur's Yellow Jackets played the role of the Mississippi Gambler Saturday night and it paid off—not only in spades, but in allowing the Jackets to cash in their chips for a fifth 1964-65 victory in six starts, and their fourth conference win.

Paced by Mighty Max Elliott, the Yellow Jackets saw a daring third period gamble pay off and enable them to edge Elmhurst by a 20-13 score and solidify their second place position in the Northeastern Indiana Conference.

It was one of those contests where both teams appeared to be trying their best to give the other a victory, and Elmhurst made the final "no, thank you," by fumbling on the Decatur eight-yard line with just seconds remaining in the battle.

Elliott, the four-year veteran, turned in another spectacular performance, as he scored all three Decatur touchdowns. His second three-try TD game in a row enabled the swift speedster to move within five points of Ted Barker, the Elmhurst fullback, in the NEIC scoring race. Barker scored one six-pointer and ran for a point-after Saturday evening.

Much of the game was a battle between these two standout backs. Elliott gained 180 yards rushing in 16 carries, while Barker picked up 197 yards on the ground, but in 28 carries. Elliott also had a 42-yard kickoff return.

The Gamble
The daring Yellow Jacket gamble came with just 1:42 left in the third period, and Decatur leading, 13-6. The Jackets had stalled an Elmhurst drive on the Decatur 11 when Big Dave Hammond broke through to throw Trojan quarterback Greg Jackson for a loss on a fourth and three situation. Bill Blythe was dropped for a yard loss before Elliott shot to the Decatur 23 on a double reverse for a first down.

A pass from Dave Anspaugh to Elliott was incomplete, and Sam Blythe picked up six yards in a pair of off-tackle carries. The Jackets were on their own 30, needing four yards for a first down, when they decided to gamble on fourth down and go for the necessary yardage.

More Than First
But they got more than the first down! Elliott shot through a big hole in the left side of the line and outran the entire Elmhurst eleven on a 70-yard TD jaunt. Anspaugh booted the point to give Decatur a 20-6 lead. The touchdown turned out to be the winning score, as Elmhurst came right back to narrow the gap to seven points again.

Beginning from their own 32 after the kickoff, sophomore Ross Bush, brought up from the reserves to replace two injured halfbacks for the game, broke loose on a 31-yard run to the De-

catur 37. Barker got 10 yards before Jackson tossed an 18-yard pass to Dave Vervalin on the Decatur 9. Four plays later, Bush went two yards for the score, and Barker plunged for the PAT, making the score 20-13 with 10:23 left in the game.

On the ensuing kickoff, Elliott rambled 42 yards to the Trojan 39. When Bill Blythe went off the left side of the line, barged over a tackler, and moved to the Elmhurst 10, it looked like another Yellow Jacket score. Bill fumbled on the next play, however, and Barker recovered on the Trojan 13.

Start Drive
Elmhurst then started its own drive, and at their 46, Barker broke loose over left tackle and scampered to the Decatur 31 where he was hit hard and fumbled, with Yellow Jacket Ron Smith recovering.

Moments later, Trojan tackle Roger Spice was ejected from the fray for tossing several punches at Elliott, and the 15-yard penalty gave the Jackets a first down on their 46. A clipping penalty and an eight-yard loss soon had Decatur back on its 19 and Elliott was forced to punt. The pass from center wasn't good, and Elliott picked it up and tried to run it out, but failed when knocked out of bounds on the Decatur 27.

Elmhurst took over their with four and a half minutes to play. "Bugs" Sprunger stopped Bush after a three-yard gain, and Barker got three more in two carries. On 4th and four to go, Bush went around left end and was stopped about a yard short of the first down by Sprunger, giving Decatur the ball.

Big Penalties
Then came what probably saved the victory for Decatur. A Trojan player asked the officials to measure to be certain they hadn't gotten the first down. His request was denied. So was the one by coach Warren Hoover, and one word led to another and Elmhurst had a 15-yard penalty. As official Ned Brenizer was walking off the penalty, Bush's language became a little uncompromising, and it cost the hosts 15 more yards. When Brenizer finally put the ball down, it was on the Decatur 47.

They were key penalties because on the first play, Decatur again fumbled and Vervalin recovered on the Yellow Jacket 47, as the clock showed 2:01 to play. Two passes went astray before Barker gained nine yards and a 15-yard penalty on Decatur put the Trojans on the 23. Barker got nine more before fumbling on a four-yard gain, and Jackson recovered on the Yellow Jacket 10. Twenty-three seconds remained when Barker went off right tackle and was hit hard by three Decatur tacklers. The ball popped loose and big Steve Beavers outraced a Trojan for the pigskin

and gathered it in at the 8-yard line. The final gun sounded seconds later.

New Haven Again?
It looked like the New Haven game all over again when the Yellow Jackets marched from their own 31 to the Trojan 10 in 13 plays the first time they got the ball. It looked that way because four plays later they were a yard farther back and gave up the ball to Elmhurst—and the Trojans promptly pointed their way to the game's first score.

Beginning at the outset of the second period, Elmhurst marched 89 yards in 17 plays, with Barker running into the end zone from eight yards out with 3:19 left in the period. Dave Schwartz' PAT kick was low, and Elmhurst led 6-0.

Any further similarity to the New Haven game ended right there, however, as the Jackets bounced back and went on a scoring drive of their own, that required only nine plays. Bill Blythe returned the kickoff 25 yards to the Decatur 44 to start the drive.

On the first play, Elliott scooted around right end, shook loose from a tackler and romped 23 yards to the Trojan 33. Sam Blythe, who turned in another sterling job, blasted up the middle and was finally caught on the 16-yard line. Three plays later, Sam got a first down on the Trojan 6.

Grab Lead
End Dave Anderson dropped a pass in the end zone, but Sam Blythe picked up three yards off tackle and Elliott shot around right end and into touchdown territory. Anspaugh's PAT kick was true to the mark, and with 39 seconds left in the half, Decatur held a 7-6 lead. It was a lead they never lost, but one which they had to hang onto for dear life at the conclusion of the game. The Yellow Jackets go for win number six at Kendallville next Friday (the same number of victories as last season) in the finale of a three-game road trip. They then come home to wrap up the campaign against Concordia and Angola.

The Decatur NEIC record is 4-1, which solidly entrenches them in second place. Elmhurst owns a 2-2-1 conference mark and a 2-3-1 overall slate.

Pleasant Mills CSO To Sponsor Supper

The Pleasant Mills community school organization is sponsoring a homemade chili and chicken noodle soup supper, to be held at the school Friday evening from 5 to 7 o'clock. Also on the menu will be sandwiches, salads, pies, cakes, etc.

A cake walk and public auction will be held after the supper. Any donated items will be appreciated by the organization.

5th Win - - - A Thriller

Scoring Summary:

Decatur ----- 0 7 13 0—20
Elmhurst ----- 0 6 0 7—13

Decatur — Elliott 3 run (Anspaugh kick); Elliott 20 run (kick failed); Elliott 70 run (Anspaugh kick).

Elmhurst — Barker 9 run (Schwartz kick failed); Bush 2 run (Barker run).

	DECATUR	ELMHURST
First Downs	11	17
Yds. Rushing	304	310
Yds. Passing	4	18
Total Yardage	308	328
Pass Attempts	8	8
Pass Completions	1	1
Fumbles Lost	2	2
Punts	0	0
Yds. Penalized	35	60
Kickoff Ret. Yds.	75	65
Interception By	0	0

Individual Rushing Yds.: Decatur — Elliott, 180 yds. in 16 carries; S. Blythe, 88 in 12; B. Blythe, 48 in 9; Anspaugh, 12 in 2. Elmhurst — Barker, 197 in 28; Bush, 63 in 14; Hetrick, 35 in 10; Jackson, 15 in 4.

Pass Receiving: Decatur — S. Blythe, 1 for 4 yds. Elmhurst — Vervalin, 1 for 18 yds. (Statistics by Mike Thoele)

50-Yard Line Flashes

By Bob Shraluka

Every team has its bad games. When you can have a bad one and still win, determination has a lot to do with it. Such was the case with the Yellow Jackets Saturday night.

They had a bad one, no doubt about it. It was beginning to look like the game was rigged, but neither team knew which one was supposed to win. In the final analysis, however, it was the determination of a lot of guys who want to win that paid off.

The Yellow Jacket defensive line stood up all night, not charging for some unknown reason. But those last two times Elmhurst had the ball close to pay dirt, they dug in and did the job. The Elmhurst offensive forward wall was tearing Decatur's line to shreds in the first three periods.

This was one case where a good offense was the team's best defense. Elmhurst controlled the ball a good portion of the game, but still scored one less time. Mighty Max was superb, and played what was probably his best game of the season in scoring all three touchdowns.

Much of the credit for his performance though must go to his backfield partners, the Blythe brothers and Dave Anspaugh. Elmhurst undoubtedly scouted the Portland and Bluffton games and discovered keying on Elliott

wouldn't stop the Yellow Jacket attack. They didn't key and the Mighty One had himself a field day.

This writer is inclined to believe the Jackets were beginning to take their opposition a little lightly after those two easy previous wins. This isn't a rap at the players, as any team, high school, college or professional, has this to contend with.

We just hope the Jackets learned a good lesson Saturday night. They've now got a good shot at winning eight ball games, almost unheard of in this city. Kendallville is next. They've been beaten six straight, and lost several players last week for disciplinary reasons.

But no one can be taken lightly, including Kendallville. Eight victories is still a long way off!

Decatur Jaycees To Meet Tuesday Night

An important general membership meeting of the Decatur Junior Chamber of Commerce will be held Tuesday evening.

The regularly-scheduled meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Jaycee meeting quarters above the First State Bank.

President Wayne Roehrig has requested that all members be present for this meeting, as several important items are slated for discussion, including the state outstanding young farmer banquet.

Golf Meet Postponed

The "Steuery" Fall Handicap Golf Tournament, originally set for yesterday, was postponed until next Sunday because the greens at the local golf course received a heavy amount of frost during the night Saturday. Norm Steuery, tournament chairman, said today.

Steuery, along with Luke Majorki, local PGA pro and owner of the Decatur Golf Course, decided to postpone the tournament when the golf course was forced to remain closed until nearly 11 o'clock Sunday morning due to the heavy frost. It was felt by the tournament committee that too many golfers would not be able to complete their 18-holes after the course was opened due to the lateness, and re-scheduled the individual handicap tournament for next Sunday.

Revival Continues At St. Paul Church

Revival meetings, now in progress at the St. Paul Missionary church, located on the county farm road, will continue each night, except Saturday, through Oct. 18.

Tonight, Rev. Ache, a former missionary to Africa, will give an evangelistic missionary message, also pictures of his work in Africa. Friday night, he will tell his life's story. Services are at 7 p.m. The Rev. Robert Welch, pastor, invites the public to attend.

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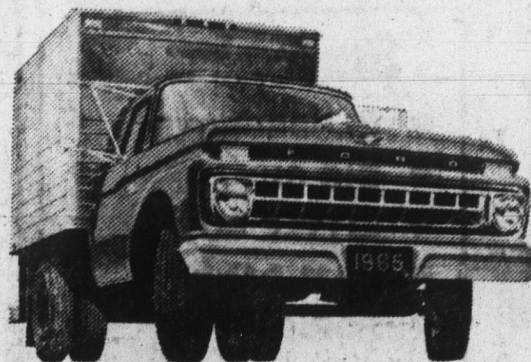
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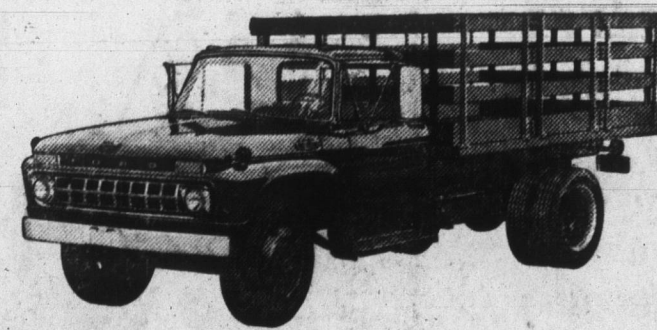
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