

# District 6 Round-Up

By BRIAN CARSON

BELLEFONTE – Playing in weather conditions that were more fitting to Noah and his ark building days, the Bellefonte Red Raiders, without star running back Josh Gentzel, overcame the sloppy conditions and first-game jitters.

Bellefonte battled the elements and a hard-nosed Punxsutawney squad to come away with a season opening, 9-7 Mountain Athletic Conference Seven Mountains victory over the Chucks at Rogers Stadium on Friday.

Andy Masullo scored all the points the Red Raiders would need with a third quarter, 25-yard interception return for a touchdown and a game-winning 32-yard field goal with 2:27 left in the third quarter.

“We practiced field goals from 30-to-40 yards out all summer long and he (Masullo) practiced those kicks every day,” said Bellefonte head coach Tom Gravish. “The hold was there, the snap was there, everything was executed perfectly.

“Both teams played very hard. It was a good game for both teams. Punxsutawney has solid skill players and they’re much improved from last season. I’m very proud of our kids and the way they played.”

After a scoreless first half that saw each team stall on four drives, Bellefonte struck first with a key defensive play.

With the Chucks pinned back on their own 12, quarterback Zach Smith overthrew tailback Austin Furman, Masullo intercepted and broke it down the right sideline for the 25-yard score. The PAT failed and the Red Raiders led 6-0.

Punxsutawney answered on its next possession by marching on a 9-play, 75-yard drive that culminated with Mike Smiley busting it up the middle from eight yards out. Furman made the PAT to give the Chucks, losers of 14 straight games, the lead with 4:31 left in the quarter.

“I thought our guys came out and played really hard and really smart,” said Punxsutawney head coach Blake Moilan. “The turnover really hurt and we had some drives stall because of penalties. It was a hard-fought game on both sides. This is one of those games where you hate to see either team lose. Overall, this is a game we can build from and go on to have a good season.”

Bellefonte battled back to take the lead for good on a 7-play, 63-yard drive that ended with Masullo’s field goal from 32-yards out. The key play of the drive was a 40-yard strike from quarterback Ryan Poorman to wideout Heath Sprout that put the ball on the Punxy 12.

For the game, Poorman threw for 189 yards on 11-of-25 passing. Sprout had seven grabs for 125 yards, while Matt Fisher had four receptions for 64 yards.

“We came out with a plan to pass more regardless of the conditions. We have a solid group of young receivers who are only going to get better,” exclaimed Gravish. “This is one of the youngest groups we’ve ever had here. They’re only going to get better.

“I think the kids responded well. We just have to be more consistent and execute better in key situations. That will come in time and with more experience. Anything can happen on opening night and a win is a win. We’ll take it. That’s what we have to do, just take it one game at time and let the chips fall where they may.”

The Chucks were led offensively by Smiley, who rushed for 73 yards on 15 carries.

“This is a new generation of Red Raiders. We did some things well, but there are some things we need to work on,” said Gravish. “The kids are working hard and I think before the seasons over, we’ll have a pretty good football team.”

Bellefonte travels to take on Philipsburg-Osceola on Friday.

#### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Punxsutawney        0 0 7 0 - 7

Bellefonte            0 0 9 0-9

Third quarter

B-Masullo 25 interception return (PAT failed), 8:34.

P-Smiley 8 run (Furman kick), 4:31.

B-Masullo 32 FG, 2:27.

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Punxy-Smiley 15-73, Pisano 7-30, Furman 5-19, Decker 3-10, Steffey 2-3, Smith 4-(minus 7). Bellefonte-Benscoter 9-38, Poorman 8-21, Bechdel 5-15, Lucas 2-1, Maddox 1-(minus 1).

PASSING: Punxy-Smith 8-19-1-75. Bellefonte-Poorman 11-25-1-189.

RECEIVING: Punxy-Pisano 2-34, Smiley 2-28, Decker 2-9, Weaver 1-7, Furman 1-(minus 3). Bellefonte-Sprout 7-125, Fisher 4-64.

INTERCEPTIONS: Punxy--Furman. Bellefonte-Masullo.

TEAM STATISTICS	P	B
First downs	11	12
Yards rushing	36-128	25-74
Passing (comp.-att.-int.)	8-19-1	11-25-1
Yards passing	75	189
Total yards	203	263
Fumbles lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	5-40	3-15
Punts-avg.	5-33.2	5-29.4

Around District 6:

Brookville 13, P-O 12

The Blue Raiders got a 73-yard touchdown run from Joe Gailbreath and a 65-yard scoring run from Max Kutz to pick

up the victory over the Mounties. Philipsburg-Osceola had four drives stall in the Brookville red zone for zero points.

Penns Valley 8, BEA 0

Ram tailback Chris Korn ran for a career-high 226 yards and scored the games only touchdown to lead Penns Valley past the Eagles to claim the Iron Bell.

Altoona 41, Hollidaysburg 0

QB AJ Alexander ran for 163 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Mountain Lions to the shutout victory over the Golden Tigers in the final game played in this long-standing series.

Tyrone 16, Bellwood-Antis 0

The Golden Eagles held all-state back Josh Kleinfelter to only 87 yards rushing, while Johnny Franco ran for 164 yards and a score to lead the eighth-ranked Tyrone squad to the shutout over the Blue Devils. All-state lineman Tyler Hoover recorded a safety with a sack of Bellwood QB Evan Hughes.

Juniata Valley 26, West Branch 0

Joey Basil ran for 118 yards and a touchdown as the Green Hornets picked up over 300 yards on the ground to record the shutout over the Warriors. The win is the 17th over the past 18 regular season games for Juniata Valley.

Huntingdon 35, Mount Union 14

The Bearcats out-gained the Trojans 325-99 to come away with their seventh straight win over Mount Union. Joey Riley led Huntingdon with 139 yards rushing, including a 55-yard touchdown run.

Bedford 25, Bishop McCort 24 (2 OT)

Freshman kicker Kyler Myers made a PAT at the end of the second overtime to give the Bison the victory over the Crushers. The Bedford defense forced five turnovers and Jesse Feaster ran for 80 yards and had a 94-yard punt return for a score to lead the way for the victors. QB Pete Westwood hit receiver Zach Forgas for a 21-yard touchdown in the second overtime.

Johnstown 14, Penn Cambria 6

Antwuan Reed rushed for 73 yards, including the game-winning score from 22 yards out to lead the Trojans to the victory over a tough Panther squad. Penn Cambria turned the ball over three times in the contest.

Bishop Carroll 17, Central 16 (OT)

Carroll kicker Noah Creany booted the game-winning extra point to give the Huskies the overtime victory over the Scarlet Dragons on Saturday.

Forest Hills 30, Westmont-Hilltop 8

Travis Rearick passed for 161 yards and three scores, all to Ross Carpenter (5-86) to give the Rangers the victory

over the Hilltoppers on Saturday.

Scores:

Juniata (Dist 3 AA 1-0-0) 7 Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 0-1-0) 0  
West Perry (Dist 3 AAA 1-0-0) 12 Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 0-1-0) 0  
Bedford (Dist 5 AA 1-0-0) 25 Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 24 OT  
Northern Bedford (Dist 5 A 1-0-0) 41 Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 8  
Tussey Mountain (Dist 5 A 1-0-0) 20 Claysburg-Kimmel (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 6  
Windber (Dist 5 A 1-0-0) 20 Blacklick Valley (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 0  
Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 1-0-0) 41 Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 0-1-0) 0  
Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 1-0-0) 9 Punxsutawney (Dist 9 AAA 0-1-0) 7  
Blairsville (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 29 Homer Center (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 6  
Central Cambria (Dist 6 AA 1-0-0) 27 Somerset (Dist 6 AAA 0-1-0) 7  
Central Mountain (Dist 6 AAAA 1-0-0) 35 DuBois (Dist 9 AAAA 0-1-0) 21  
Glendale (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 28 Everett (Dist 5 AA 0-1-0) 7  
Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 1-0-0) 35 Mount Union (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 13  
Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 1-0-0) 14 Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 6  
Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 26 West Branch (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 0  
Ligonier Valley (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 14 Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 0  
Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 1-0-0) 27 Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 12  
Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 1-0-0) 8 Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 0  
Portage (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 42 Ferndale (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 6  
Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 32 Northern Cambria (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 20  
Richland (Dist 6 AA 1-0-0) 14 Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 6  
Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 43 Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 14  
Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 1-0-0) 16 Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 0  
United (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 33 Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 0-1-0) 24  
Brookville (Dist 9 AA 1-0-0) 13 Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 12

Saturday's Games:

Bishop Carroll 17 (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 17, Central (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 16 OT

Conemaugh Valley (Dist 6 A 1-0-0) 14 Shade (Dist 5 A 0-1-0) 0

Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 1-0-0) 30 Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 0-1-0) 8

Sunday's Game:

State College vs. Cedar Cliff