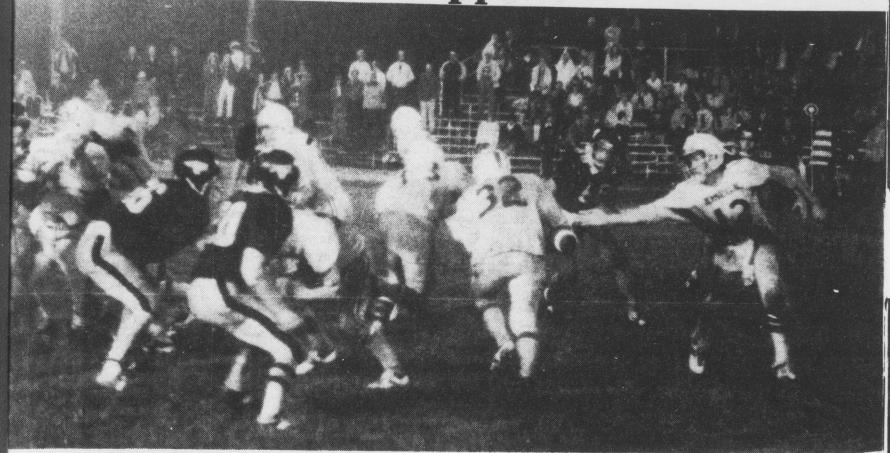
What happened?



Pete Splain (32) heads for open territory, but the football heads for the ground. Somehow, Pete and quarterback Brian Ney (12) didn't connect. Pete held on with his elbow for a second, then the ball fell and a Solanco Mule scooped it up. It was a bad night for the previously unbeaten Indians.

An eerie silence hung over the football field at Donegal High last Friday as the Solanco Mules stomped the Donegal Indians 15-7.

Football expert Mac Rutherford had predicted that the Indians, who won their first three games this season without allowing an opponent to score, would scalp the Mules 27-0.

What happened?

Most obviously, Solanco used the right strategy. Solanco's big offensive linemen, charging from a tight formation, opened holes in the lightweight

Donegal defense.

The Indians' speed and reflexes have made up for their size in past games, but Solanco was able to consistently and single-mindedly batter its way through the Donegal line.

The Indian offense didn't turn in its usual performance, either. In the second half, the offense got the ball five times. Twice, they fumbled the ball away. Twice, they lost the ball on 15 yard penalties. The fifth time, they were stopped by their opponents.

Brian Ney scored the Indian's touchdown on a 1

yard plunge and Pete Splain kicked the extra point.

Heavy rain prevented the bands from playing, and the Donegal bleachers didn't make much noise during the second half.

The strange silence and the unexpectedly tough opponents may have affected the Indians' confidence. Donegal backs carried the ball around the wrong end of the line twice — something they have never done before this season.

Next week, the Indians will get a chance to make a

comeback, when they take on highly-rated Manheim Central.

Central is another big team, and they have a very capable quarterback named Ron Brown.

The Susquehanna Times would like to make a prediction: we predict that Mac Rutherford will pick Central to win.

Rutherford doesn't make many mistakes, but his predictions about the Indians have been 75 percent wrong this year.

The unpredictable Indians may surprise everyone again next weekend.

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Donegal schools sports schedule

This is the Donegal district sports schedule for this week, Sept 28 to Oct 4:

Wednesday the 28th: Jr. High football vs. Wheatland, home, 4:00; Hockey vs. Manheim Central, home, 4:00; Freshman hockey vs. Edward Hand, home, 4:00; Girl's tennis vs. Conestoga Valley, away 3:45; Jr. High soccer vs. Hempfield, away, 4:00.

Thursday the 29th: soccer vs. Pequea Valley, away, JV 6:30, V 8:00.

Friday the 30th: Freshman hockey vs. Solanco,

Julie named co-captain

Julie Meszaros Smith, a 1974 DHS grad, was recently elected a captain of the Shippensburg State College field hockey team.

Julie, from Marietta, is a senior elementary education major there. She has been an outstanding varsity line player for 3 years, and scored 3 goals last year.

Julie is also active at Shippensburg in the Women's Atheltic Assoc., the Tau Kappa Gamma athletic sorority, and the Delta Rho sorority.

home, non-league, 4:00; Girl's tennis vs. Cocalico, home, non-league, 3:45. Football vs. Manheim Central, away, 8:00.

Saturday the 1st: Soccer vs. Lancaster, home, JV

6:30, V 8:00.

Monday the 3rd: JV football vs. Manheim Central, home, 4:00; soccer vs. Solanco, away, 4:00; Jr. High soccer vs. Garden Spot, home, non-league, 4:00

Tuesday the 4th: hockey vs. Lebanon, away, 4:00; freshman hockey vs. Hempfield, away, 4:00.

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