



Jeff Keener saves the day for DHS. He's the slightly blurred figure descending on the unfortunate Baron punter. Keener slapped the punt into the end zone where Scott Jones grabbed it for a touchdown.

Indians eke out 14-12 win over Manheim Central to extend win record

"We can't peak too soon. It's like a rocket that goes up—when the fuel runs out, you've got to go down.

"We have the potential to be the best team in the county, but we've got to keep working on it. We could as easily have lost the game [to Manheim Central, last Friday] as won it. We've got to get ready for every game."—Indian offensive tackle Floyd Runkle

With a lot of help from Lady Luck, the Donegal Indians football team extended this year's winning streak to 4-0 last Friday, edging previously undefeated section 2 contender Manheim Central 14-12.

Central won on the ground, with 168 rushing yards to Donegal's 72. They also won in the air, with 122 yards to the Indians' 74. Donegal, however, won the game both mentally and on the scoreboard, during the space of about five furious minutes right after halftime.

The first two periods of the game were painful to watch. Donegal played very weak defense, and almost no offense. By halftime, they were losing 0-12.

How did the Indians, who, when they are playing their usual game, are clearly the county's best team, get themselves into this jam? "We weren't right mentally," said Runkle. "We were just out of sync."

It was the fourth game of the season, and the Indians seem to be jinxed on game number four. Last year, a usually inferior Solanco team beat the Indians in game four, which cost Donegal the official championship. (The Indians will get a chance to avenge that game next Friday, at Solanco).

Pete Splain was sick. He had missed half a day of school. His running game was not up to par, which did not help.

At halftime, the coaches talked calmly and quietly to the team, pointing out their

mistakes. "We sat there and thought about what we had to do," Runkle recalls, "because we didn't want to lose it. The line fired off a lot faster in the second half. We were psyched up to do it, because we knew we had to do it."

When the team marched back onto the field, they looked different. The athletes were grimly determined.

Donegal kicked off, and the coaches began leaping around as energetically as the cheerleaders.

Coach Funk's only advice to the team, as they ran on the field was, "Get fired up. All you've got to do is get fired up."

That seemed to be the only advice the Indians needed.

On the third play of the second half, Frank Brommer grabbed a fumble for the Indians on Manheim's 26 yard line. Four plays later, Brian Ney passed 21 yards to Scott Adams for Donegal's first touchdown.

Splain (whose feet seemed as healthy as ever) kicked the PAT, then booted the kickoff into Manheim's end zone. The Barons, still trying to figure out some halftime changes in Donegal's defensive alignment, went nowhere, and were forced to punt.

Led by Jeff Keener, the Indian punt return team smashed through the Manheim line. Jeff swatted the punt attempt into the end zone, where Scott Jones scooped it up for another touchdown. Splain kicked the PAT, and Donegal, two timeclock minutes into the half, suddenly led 14-12.

After they got the lead, the Indians failed to take complete control of the game, and both sides rocked back and forth, unable to score, for the rest of the game. There were plenty of potentially costly mistakes on both sides.

Central's weak kicking game ultimately lost the day for the Barons. Not only were they unable to convert extra points after their touchdowns but, with 12 seconds on the clock, they managed to completely bumble a field goal attempt from the 14 yard line. The snap was bad, and Donegal blocked it.

The dramatic ending left Donegal fans in a euphoric mood, but the DHS coaches had trouble smiling, after the initial thrill of victory had worn off.

Central may well be the best team in section 2 this year, but they are not as good as they looked in the first half last Friday. Donegal's game had been way off.

"This was the worst

game we've played since Solanco beat us last year," said coach Deshler.

Donegal's 27-0 rout of a top-notch Lebanon Catholic team proved that the Indians have the potential to overwhelm any team in the county—but last Friday's game proved that, on an off night, they are far from invincible.

On the other hand, the team has also proved that it can cope with severe pressure, and can come from behind to win—something they were not very good at last year.

Splain gained 54 yards on 10 carries, Mummau gained 31 yards on 10 carries, Jones rushed 18 yard in 6 tries, and Meszaros was dropped in his backfield for an 8 yard loss in his lone attempt to run the ball.

Ney threw 17 times, completed only 5, and was intercepted for the first time this year. His receivers were Splain (3 catches for 43 yards), Adams (one 23-yard touchdown pass), Mummau (one 7 yarder) and Jones (one 3 yarder). Ney was sacked twice, losing 18 yards in the process.

If the Indians get their revenge against Solanco next week (and they should, unless the jinx reappears), it will be the first time since 1963 that

Donegal has won more than five games in a row in one season. (The Indians' two-year winning streak now extends to 7 games—which means that a defeat for the Golden Mules will tie the old '62-'63 season record).

Solanco has been a very erratic team this year. They have tended to beat their best opponents, and to lose to theoretically poor teams. Since Donegal is, in the minds of many, the best team in the county right now, the Mules will probably be in top form.

The Indians will have to stop Solanco's huge (6'-3", 215 lb.) fullback, Jay Gicker, who has been steamrolling defenders ever since the Mules moved him back from tackle position and started handing him the ball. "They'll be up for us," says coach Deshler,

Maytown Fire Co.

From the period August 1st to August 31st, The Maytown Fire Company responded to eight emergency calls, two structure fires in Marietta, one dumpster fire at Rivermoor, two car wrecks, on plane crash, one recall to plane crash, one search party. There were also three training sessions, seven public service calls and one false alarm.

Property damage for East Donegal Township was \$1,000. for the month of August 1978.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. James Weaver (Laura Obetz), Harvest View Apartments, Mount Joy, a daughter, at General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John Krueel (Donna Crossland), Marietta R1, a son, at St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Book (Tammy Neese), 129 The Meadows, Mount Joy R2, a daughter, at St. Joseph Hospital.



Jubilant Indians celebrate their narrow victory.



Cheerleaders Deana Germer [left], Nancy Boulton [center] and Dalene Hummel [right] watch the ref raise his hands after Keener's big play.