

Pt. Pleasant Not Forgetting '76 Loss To GW

By CHUCK LONDON
Daily Mail Sports Writer

George Washington 30, Pt. Pleasant 0.
Coach Steve Safford and his players haven't forgotten that 1976 score. The Pats embarrassed the Big Blacks that evening in Pt. Pleasant and the Mason Countians have been plotting their revenge ever since.
And, this season Pt. Pleasant believes it has the players to do it. After four straight shutout victories over the likes of Barboursville, Meigs (Ohio), Gallipolis (Ohio) and Hurricane, the Big Blacks come to Charleston at 8 p.m. Saturday to take on GW at Laidley Field. Only one thing will be on Point's mind, too... revenge.
"GW stuck it to us pretty good a year ago," said Safford, who is in his third year as head coach after graduating from Herbert Hoover and Glenville. "And, we've been talking about that 30-0 score a lot this week. We haven't forgotten."
Of course, there's nothing Pt. Pleasant would like better than to reverse last year's outcome. That would give the Big Blacks a 5-0 record and a fifth straight shutout.

"We think we've got a real good defense," said Safford, "but we don't worry about whether we shutout a team or not. It's just a case of us not having played teams with real potent offenses. But, we have been playing real good defense. And, one of the reasons is we have an excellent pair of linebackers. They're Timbo Roberts and Paul Krimm and both of them have been playing well. Roberts is 6-3, 205 and Krimm is 6-2, 200, so they have good size, too.
"Those two are the standouts, but I'm also very pleased with middle guard Mike Martin and our secondary. Actually, we have a very balanced defense. And, I think that's the biggest reason for our success defensively."

Safford realizes his defense faces a formidable opponent in quarterback Mike Estes and his cohorts, however.
"GW is pretty good," said Safford. "They're strong, well coached and their offense causes people problems. And, Mr. Estes doesn't do a bad job, either. They've got a much better balanced offense this year, but I still think you have to stop the pass to stop GW."

But, Pt. Pleasant is no slouch on offense, either. The Big Blacks have a big offensive line paced by 6-4, 228-pound Stonewall Jackson transfer Scott Thomas. Joining Thomas at tackle is 6-3, 225-pound Stan Burdette. At one guard is 5-11, 215-pound Tim Neibert and the other guard is manned by a trio of linemen who rotate and bring in plays. The center is 180-pound Bob Messick.
Pete Sommer, 5-10, 160 halfback, puts that big line to good use, too. In four games, the speedy Sommer has rushed for approximately 420 yards.
Needless to say, Pt. Pleasant has GW head coach Steve Edwards worried.
"I've got to be concerned about them," said Edwards, whose Pats are ranked sixth. "They're ranked eighth in the state, they're 4-0 and they're unscored on, so they have to be doing something right. I've seen them play and I'm impressed. They're a senior ball club, they're big and they execute well."
And, the Big Blacks are hoping to "execute" GW.
"We don't plan on coming down there and letting the game get away from us like it did last year," said Safford.

East Bank vs. Charleston — Despite Charleston's 0-4 record, East Bank coach Joe Craffey is worried about the Mountain Lions.
"Teams like Charleston are dangerous," said Craffey. "They have to be loose. They don't have anything to lose. They couldn't have any concerns. And, they're better than people think. They've had a couple of bad breaks, but you have to remember that they're as big as we are."
Meanwhile, CHS head coach Frank Vincent is only promising one thing... the Mountain Lions will show up. "We'll be there," he said. "But, I'm not sure how healthy we'll be. We've got Hans Bittelhoffer out with a broken thumb and Maurice Harris is sidelined with an eye injury."

Nitro at Ripley — For the third week in a row the Wildcats face an undefeated opponent.
"We've played Poca, DuPont and now Ripley and they were all undefeated when we played them," said Pat Vance, Nitro head coach. "And, just like the others Ripley worries me. They have a great passing combination in quarterback Jerry Ocheltree and wide receiver Jeff Waybright, but that's just part of their offense. They must run 30 formations. They use a multiple offense and look like the Dallas Cowboys or something. They shift all over the place and that makes them hard to defense."

South Charleston at St. Albans — SC head coach Homer Criddle isn't fazed by St. Albans' 1-2 record. He knows the Red Dragons are much tougher than their record indicates.
"They've been in every game they've played and I think they're capable of beating any team in the KVC on a given night," said Criddle. "They've got good talent and real good size. Of course, beating Sissonville last week really helped us. We needed a win and now I hope we can just keep improving. But, what you have to remember is three of the teams which have beaten us are ranked in the top 10."

SA offensive guard Bobby Harper has a badly pulled neck muscle and may not play and SC defensive end Mike Ward is sidelined with a broken wrist.
Dunbar at Sissonville — Both Dunbar head coach Delmar Good and Sissonville head coach Forest Mann hope their teams can continue the momentum they gathered last week.
"It was real nice for us to win one," said Good. "We needed to change our ways. Our defense has been good, but our offense hasn't been scoring enough points. But, in the second half last week we played like we're capable of playing."
"I just hope we can get some of our injured players well by Saturday. We have running back Sam Henderson out with a bad hip, running back Joe Panucci has a bad shoulder and lineman Rod Gist has an injured knee."



PATRIOT DEFENDERS — Point Pleasant's defense is unscored upon, but the defense of George Washington, which faces the Big Blacks Saturday night at Laidley Field is no reason for an offense to relax either. Members of the Patriots' defensive line are, from left, 5-11,

180-pound Charles Bradbury, 6-1, 205 Ron Little, 6-2, 210 Rick Bannister, 5-11, 225 Jerry DeJarnette and 5-10, 170-pound Bob Shaffer.

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