

Eagles Drive 77 Yards, Edge Chester In Final Minute, 19-13; Nab Title; Holmes Scores Pair, Suber Romps 32

"When the chips are down, they really put forth," was the way Coach Roy Kent looked upon the last-minute touchdown that gave his Norristown High football team a 19-13 win over a tough Chester club, Saturday at Roosevelt Field.

It was the eighth straight win this season, the tenth in a row from tail end of last campaign, and left only one foe, Upper Merion, between the 1957 Eagles and the first unbeaten, untied NHS record since 1923.

"These kids provoke ulcers," Kent chuckled. "They go along, then when time grows short they must look over at the sideline and figure, 'Well, we made him suffer long enough. Let's dig in and get it over with.'"

And Kent could look back to the fourth contest of the season when, defending a 7-6 edge, NHS was being pushed back by a Lower Merion team unbeaten in 32 straight games: When LM got a first down only 1 1/2 yards out, the Eagles dug in, repulsed four scoring attempts, regained possession and finished out the ball game, 7-6.

Three weeks ago, tied with Haverford 13-13, and only five minutes left, Kent's boys called upon the moxie again. They drove 67 yards to score in the last 90 seconds for a 19-13 victory.

The past Saturday afternoon a tough Chester club had roared back from a first quarter 13-0 deficit, scored the same number themselves in the second period, and had the Eagles tied 13 - 13 midway through the final stanza.

There were just about six minutes left to play when 'burning determination' took command again. Capt. Bob Eastwood and his fellows drove 77 yards, consuming 14 plays, to score the winning TD with 45 seconds remaining.

It was another soul-stirring exhibition, and the key to the, magnificent result was a 210 pound, 6-foot-2 fullback who wanted to smash and bang at opposing anatomies with a football under his arm.

Big Charlie Holmes carried eight times in that home stretch drive, picking up 41 of the 77 yards. Most of the time Chester had an idea he was coming—they stopped him only once en-route, that a momentary delay of one-yard loss.

It was alert defenses that led to all three Norristown

touchdowns. Recovery of three Chester fumbles, two by Phil Knerr and one by Roddy Duckworth, provided the NHS impetus. Two pass interceptions, by Al Crews and Ed Hamm, set up Chester scores.

Holmes, who didn't start because of an uncertain ankle, tabbed two of the Norristown touchdowns, Willie Suber the other on a 32-yard sizzler.

The Eagles had the better of it in first downs, 15 to 8.

Norristown's first opportunity came early in the first period after giving the ball over to Chester when a 'fourth-down and one' line stab fell short by inches at the NHS 41.

Chester ran one play but was offside. On the next quarterback Richard Curl fumbled and Phil Knerr recovered for the Eagles at his 46. Eight plays later, big Holmes smashed four yards for the TD. Holmes had come off the bench for the last two plays of the drive, hitting for two yards and the four-yard score.

Suber's 32-yard run was the big romp of the series. After Holmes scored, Gene Bishop kicked the extra point and it was 7-0.

The second NHS touchdown came only moments later. On the first play from scrimmage Chester again fumbled and Roddy Duckworth recovered

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for the Eagles at the Chester 32.

Suber was given the pigskin on a reverse and went 32 yards on a twisting run for the score. After Roger Adelman sprung him loose with a preliminary block, Joe Bono applied a downfield crusher to permit Willie to go the distance. Bishop's attempted point try was tipped and it went wide, but NHS had a 13-0 lead before the first quarter ended.

A pass interception by Crews early in the second quarter, thrown from deep Norristown a territory, gave Chester its first big chance on the NHS 26. Five plays later the Clippers had their touchdown. Dick Adams got the big yardage with a 14-yard spurt then took it over from the 1.

Eastwood blocked the extra point try by Adams and it was 13-6, Norristown.

Another pass interception set up Chester's second touchdown in the second period, NHS had fourth down situation at the Chester 36, when Hamm intercepted Suber's pass on his 10. The little Clipper halfback made a beautiful return upfield, running 57 yards before being hauled down on the Norristown 33.

It took Chester just five plays, to get this one. Adams hit for 10 and a first down at the 23 Hamm got 2, Bob Mitchell 4 and Adams was held to no gain before Curl flipped to the end zone. Adams went up between two NHS defenders and picked off the pass for a 17-yard touchdown play.

The tying count came when Adams lined up to kick a placement, but scooted around his left end instead.

A Frank Bishop - to - Willie Suber pass gave Norristown some measure of excitement, good for 25 yards, before the half ended, 13-13. Mike Branca's recovery of a Suber fumble was opportune for the locals in this quarter, too. The third period slowed up in scoring tempo, with no points on either side, but it was a rugged quarter of football. Practically all of it was in Norristown territory, but the Eagles never had their goal threatened.

The only sustained drive of the period, however, belonged to, NHS. Three first downs took them from their 13 to the Chester 46. Then Frank Bishop got off a fine punt, and Lee made a great tackle of Crews at the Chester 5 on the final play of the period.

Chester used the first part of the final quarter to drive from its 5 to its 44. Adams punted to the NHS 17, and the fired tip Clippers pushed the Eagles back eight yards to their 9 on three rushing plays. The pressure continued when Frank Bishop went bark to punt, and the sophomore had to hurry a boot out to his 30. With six minutes remaining, things looked bleak for NHS.

Then came the Chester fumble at the Norristown 23—the recovery by Knerr—the determined 77-yard drive down-field—and the victory in the final 45 seconds.

Chester rallied gamely, but all visiting hopes ended when safety man Frank Bishop intercepted a Clipper pass at the NHS 40.

NORRISTOWN

Ends-Adelman, Bono, Shells
Tackles-Eastwood, Duckworth, Glazier
Guards-Branca, Spence, Hopple, Avery, Phillips
Centers-Knerr, Lippy
Backs-Percy, Lee, Suber, Detwiler, G.Bishop,
Johnson, Holmes, F.Bishop, Melnick

CHESTER

Ends-Jones, Carliss, Chambers
Tackles-Semcheski, Walker, Sullivan
Guards-Sawczyn, Davis, Brooks
Centers-Mercandante, Hayden
Backs-Curl, Adams, Smith, Crews, Mitchell,
Fellenbaum, Hamm

Norristown 13 0 0 6- 19
Chester.....0 13 0 0- 13

NORRISTOWN SCORING - Touchdowns:
Holmes (4 yd., 1 yd.) Suber (32 yds.). Points after
touchdown G. Bishop (1)
CHESTER SCORING - Touchdown: Adams (1
yd., 17 yd. pass from Curl) Points after
touchdown: Adams (run).
Referee: George Myers, Umpire: Jesse Lewis,
Head Linesman: Win Bean, Field Judge: Herb
Horner.