

NHS ENDS LOWER MERION STREAK, 7-6

Gene Bishop's Extra Point Kick Caps 13-Yard TD Bolt By Charlie Holmes In Major Suburban Upset; LM Gets Four Tries From 1¹/₂ Yards Out And Fails

By RED McCARTHY Times Herald Sports Editor

Move over, Milwaukee! There's more dancing to be done in the streets! Out of the way, Sputnik! They'll be shootin' the moon around here, too!

Exploding with unharnessed offensive energies in the opening half, and digging in with a burning defensive determination, in the final half - Norristown High School last night cashed in with one of its all-time great football victories.

A Lower Merion High School team, unbeaten over 32 games since 1953 — winner of 29 straight, in that span was buried amid wild shouting eulogies, 7-6, at Roosevelt Field.

It was a slashing 13-yard bolt by fullback Charlie Holmes, and a perfectly executed extra point placement boot by Gene Bishop, early in the first quarter, that engineered the major upset.

It was a tremendous goal-line stand by a line of determined heart, in the final four minutes of play, which preserved it for Coach Roy Kent and associates.

The goal-line stand was one of the epochal moments in Norristown High sports annals. Seldom will you find the likes of this one on any football level, scholastic, collegiate or professional. The determination with which it was executed was the story of a determined ball club's will to win the 'big one'.

A third period Lower Merion touchdown had cut the Norristown advantage to 7-6, the slim—but very big—margin of Gene Bishop's extra point kick.

Pulling out all the stops in an effort to extend their streak to 33 straight, LM drove from midfield deep into Norristown territory. There were just five minutes remaining to be played when Fritz Brenman's boys registered a first down only one and one-half yards from the touchdown zone defended by the Eagles.

Grady Walters hit the line and Norristown stopped him dead. Nick Stuart got the next chance, but the NHS forwards yielded only inches. Quarterback John McMillan tried a sneak, but he was snuffed again with only inches. Stuart was given another try at it, and the entire NHS line smothered him for no gain.

A tremendous effort by the local lads and NHS took over the ball on the one foot line - preserved their victory of the night and ended four years of Lower Merion victory celebrations.

A great team conquest for Norristown. No one man 'the individual hero. Stew Percy, the guiding genius, was a whirlwind on defense, too. Holmes, Suber and Lee carried the offensive with Percy.

And, every last lineman, led by Capt. Bob Eastwood wrote their names into NHS history books.

Not to forget Gene Bishop and his contribution of one point—the all-deciding point in one of the school's greatest triumphs. And Roger Adelman, the charging end who partially tipped LM's opportunity to tie on the extra point kick.

There were so many who contributed. All of them will be found in the agate type which makes up the lineup at the end of the story.

Norristown rolled to nine first downs in the first half, compared to four by LM. In the second half Norristown didn't register a first down, while LM picked up six.

The Eagles went to work with the opening whistle, scoring ten plays after putting Lower Merion's kickoff into play on the NHS 29. Holmes plunged for three and bulled for 12 up the middle, earning a first down at the 44. But then three carries by Suber, Holmes and Lee only moved it to the 49.

Frank Bishop got off a good punt to Gus Dingle, but the LM safety man butterfingers it into a fumble and alert Jim Shells recovered for NHS at the Lower Merion 22.

Suber slipped off tackle for four yards. Holmes banged for two and Lee ripped for three to the 13. It was fourth down and one at the 13 and Holmes was given the assignment.

Big Charlie took care of the job, slashing and ploughing for the 13 yards and a touchdown. Gene Bishop's extra point boot was as perfect as you'll ever find one and Norristown led, 7-0.

Lower Merion came back with an offensive of its own. In three plays, after receiving the kickoff, the Ardmore Aces moved from their 35 to the NHS 24, the big ground gainer a 24-yard romp to the left by Grady Walters. Percy finally dropped him.

The LM drive flivved right there. In the ensuing three plays, Norristown pressure pushed the visitors back to the 41.

Norristown picked up two more first downs after taking the punt on the 16, a 23-yard 'almost-away' run by Suber being the highlight. The march halted when Willie fumbled at the LM 41 and Steve Howard recovered for the visitors.

In the second period the Eagles advanced well into LM territory twice—one from their own 21 to the opposition 34 before Frank Pinkner of the Aces picked off a Suber pass.

Three plays later a great diving interception by Percy of John McMillan's pass gave NHS possession on the Norristown 48.

Percy pitched out to Suber and Willie passed downfield to Lee for 23 yards and a first down on the LM 29. It was reversed on the next play and Lee flipped to Suber, who scampered all the way to the 5 before getting tackled.

But on the play NHS was detected clipping at the 15 and the ball was put in play on the 30. Lee's nine-yard bolt and Suber's one-yarder got a first down on the 20. Percy's jump pass to Roger Adelman was good for a first down on the LM 9, and Norristown stands were in hysteria again.

But the Eagles came up a with one pass too many, and on the next play Dingle intercepted Suber's aerial on the LM 5 and the touchdown bid was thwarted, the half ending shortly thereafter.

Lower Merion got its third quarter score seven plays after it kicked off to open the second half. A Norristown fumble on its own 25 on the first play from scrimmage set the stage.

A third down pass, McMillan to Walters, gave the Aces a first down on the 9. Percy forced Nick Stewart into a one-yard loss, but on the next play Shippen streaked to the left on a reverse for ten yards and the TD.

Adelman blazed in from his end position to partially tip Bill Davidson's extra point boot, and the bid was no good, Norristown holding a minimum lead of 7-6.

From here on it was a brutal struggle —Lower Merion battling like all blazes to get the edge that would prolong its winning streak —Norristown battling like all get out to preserve its margin and end one of the longest winning dynasties in Philadelphia suburban annals.

Things which transpired before were tremendous, but for sheer determination, fight and ribbed spunk, nothing could top the great goal-line stand of the fourth quarter.

It wrapped up everything which the coaches and team had put into preparations for this game. It provided the satisfaction that Norristown has been hungering for since its last win over LM in 1945.

NORRISTOWN

Ends—Bono, Adelman, Shells.

Tackles—Eastwood, Duckworth.

Guards—Branca, Spence, Avery, Hopple,

Center—Knerr

Backs—Percy, Lee, Suber, F. Bishop, G. Bishop, Johnson, Meinick, Holmes, Detwiler.

LOWER MERION

Ends - Dugan, Raezer, Ponzer, Howard

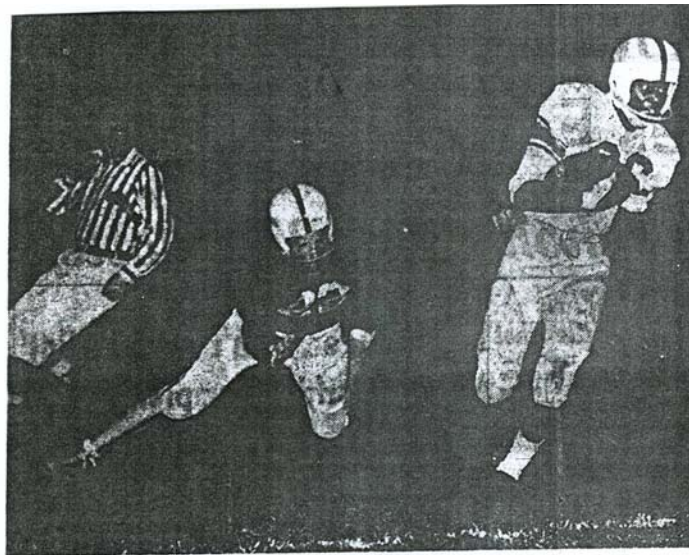
Tackles - Simons, Keyser, Lynch, Willet

Guards - Holcombe, Galloway, Ring Phillips, Paul.

Centers - Scott, Davidson.

Backs - McMillan, Buck, Dingle, Shipper, Seidman, Stuart, Walters

Norristown ...	7	0	0	0
Lower Merion...	0	0	6	0



ON THE MOVE — Wille Suber, NHS halfback, eludes Lower Merion's Steve Howard in a 23-yard romp, during last night's first quarter action at Roosevelt Field. Head Linesman Carson Thompson follows the play. *(Times Herald Photo)*

A Streak Ends

1953
 Lower Merion 21; Haverford 6
 Lower Merion 7; Cheltenham 0
 Lower Merion 6; Upper Darby 6
 Lower Merion 21; Chester 0
 Lower Merion 26; Radnor 7

1954
 Lower Merion 33; Ridley Twp. 0
 Lower Merion 18; Easton 0
 Lower Merion 14; Abington 7
 Lower Merion 28; Haverford 0
 Lower Merion 40; Cheltenham 0
 Lower Merion 61; Upper Darby 0
 Lower Merion 41; Norristown 7
 Lower Merion 39; Chester 7
 Lower Merion 33; Radnor 7

1955
 Lower Merion 45; Downingtown 13
 Lower Merion 40; Ridley Twp. 0
 Lower Merion 38; Norristown 0
 Lower Merion 35; Chester 14
 Lower Merion 33; Upper Darby 6
 Lower Merion 40; Abington 0
 Lower Merion 53; Cheltenham 0
 Lower Merion 39; Haverford 7
 Lower Merion 27; Radnor 7

1956
 Lower Merion 42; Ridley Twp. 6
 Lower Merion 34; Norristown 0
 Lower Merion 28; Chester 6
 Lower Merion 60; Upper Darby 0
 Lower Merion 27; Abington 0
 Lower Merion 41; Cheltenham 6
 Lower Merion 12; Haverford 6
 Lower Merion 33; Radnor 12

1957
 Lower Merion 19; Camden 9
 Norristown 7; Lower Merion 6