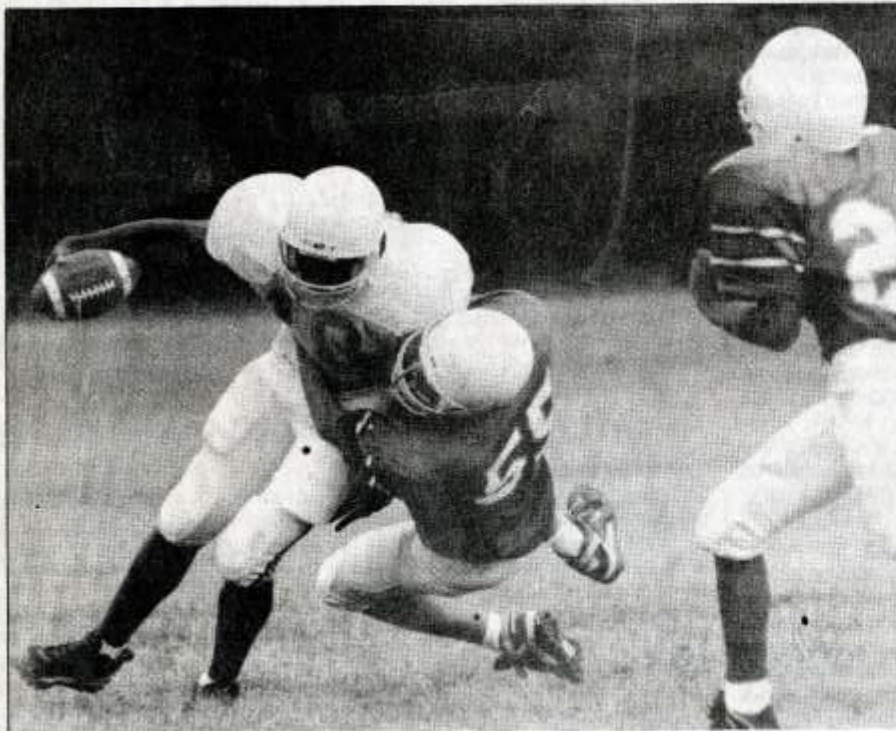


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SPORTS

Middle schools off to lopsided start



By Don Coble
Clayton News/Daily

The first day of the middle school football season featured a lot of fireworks — a lot of one-sided fireworks.

Of the five games featured in Week 1, the best was a 26-6 victory by Mundy's Mill over Morrow. The rest were blowouts.

Two teams — Lovejoy and Kendrick — matched their entire win totals from 1996 with victories. Lovejoy pounded Forest Park 32-6 and Kendrick ran over Adamson 34-8.

Other scores included a 30-0 victory by Riverdale over Jonesboro and a 46-0 win by Pointe South over North Clayton.

Babb had the week off.

While five teams posted impressive wins, at least one will fall back to reality next week when Pointe South and Mundy's Mill play. Other games next week include: Morrow at Adamson, Forest Park and Babb at Kiwanis Field, Jonesboro at Lovejoy and North Clayton at Riverdale.

Here's a look at Wednesday's games:

Kendrick 34, Adamson 8

Padrick Marshall scored on runs of 63 and 57 yards and teammate Antoine Harvell added scoring runs of 55 and 67 yards to lead the Comets to a season-opening victory.

"It was fun," said Kendrick coach Kim Braswell. "Coming from high school, I'm still learning to be more patient with these kids. They gave me everything they had. We ran our basic plays. We got a couple breaks and made two or three big plays."

Said Adamson coach Steve Miller: "They were bigger and faster. We started nine seventh-graders and they outmanned us."

Mundy's Mill 26, Morrow 6

Morrow scored first, but Mundy's Mill closed out their season opener with 26 unanswered points.

The Razorbacks rebounded from a 6-0 deficit with a 40-yard touchdown pass from Chris Parker to Brandon Griffin. Then Mundy's Mill added a safety, a 60-yard kickoff return by Patrick Dugger and an 18-yard run by Parker.

"Morrow jumped on us pretty good," said Razorbacks coach Jerry Anson. "After that, our defense got after them pretty good after the first couple series."

Lovejoy 32, Forest Park 6

It took three quarters for Lovejoy to score more points than it did during the entire 1996 campaign.

"Our defense played real well and I thought our specialty teams played extremely well," said Cougars coach Richard Simmons. "We've already tied last year's record (with one victory). I'm really happy with the way we looked."

Lamarcus Bufford started the scoring with a 41-yard interception return. Then he added a 26-yard run, an 84-yard kickoff return and a 5-yard touchdown run. The Cougars also scored on a 40-yard fumble return on a punt by Tim Barlow.

Barlow led Lovejoy with 91 yards on 10 carries.

Riverdale 30, Jonesboro 0

The defending county champions started their defense with a top-sided loss.

Maurice Joyner had two 15-yard touchdown runs and teammates Eric Nayntakyi (48-yard run) and Rashad Rogers (9-yard scamper) helped the Spartans start the season in impressive fashion.

"We played a pretty good ball game," said Riverdale coach Rickey Hershey. "We didn't make a whole lot of mistakes. When you don't make mistakes, you win ball games. Any coach will tell you that."

Pointe South 46, N. Clayton 0

Pointe South played all 35 eighth graders and nothing seemed to stop the onslaught.

Macio Usher scored three touchdowns on runs of 40, 50 and 60 yards, then defensive end Martin Seay got into the action by tackling the Tigers quarterback in the endzone, forcing a fumble, then recovering the miscue for a safety.

The rest of the Vikings scoring included a 6-yard run by Corri Thomas, a 10-yard run by Wesley Cook, and a 55-yard run by Tuqwan Taylor.

"We played well," said Pointe South coach Bob Ryan. "We have several talented running backs, and we got a great effort from our offensive line."

"Also, the defense is coming around. They pursued well and they ran to the ball well."

Kendrick won its second game in school history Wednesday, matching the number of wins garnered a year ago during its inaugural campaign. Quarterback Padrick Marshall (top, far left) is tackled by Adamson's Keith Daniel, but running back Greg Lee (top, 20) escapes the pressure from Jerod Tubner. Adamson's Fred Strickland (below) has plenty of time, but no open receivers.

