

Hartford Defeats Weaver, 26 to 14



HARTFORD BACK HEADS GOALWARD: On the very first play from scrimmage Hartford High's speedy halfback Bill Wilson found a big hole in the Weaver line and ran untouched behind excellent blocking 37 yards for the game's first touchdown. Hartford added three more touchdowns enroute to a 26 to 14 victory

Thursday morning before a paid crowd of 7,800 at Dillon Stadium. The win also gave the Owls sole possession of the city championship (Courant Photo by Robert B. Ficks).

Owls Win City Title In Finale

By PAT BOLDUC

Hartford scored first and then had to battle back with two fourth quarter touchdowns Thursday morning to defeat Weaver 26 to 14 before a paid crowd of 7,800 at Dillon Stadium. The victory regained for the Owls the city football championship they held in 1958 but surrendered to Bulkeley last year.

It was the sixth win in eight starts for the offensive-minded Owls who finished second to New Britain in the race for the Capital District Conference title. New Britain ended with a perfect 6-0 mark in CDC warfare against Hartford's fine 5-1 mark.

Weaver, which carried a four-game winning streak into the Thanksgiving Day finale, closed out with an overall 6-3 record. The setback also dropped the Beavers into fourth place in the conference with a 3-3 mark.

Thursday's clash went according to the script. It was strictly an offensive show but eight Weaver fumbles helped turn the tide in favor of the speedy Owls. Hartford recovered four of the fumbles and converted two of them into scores.

Weaver's trouble began with the opening kickoff. The Beavers fumbled the kick which was recovered by Hartford's rugged fullback Brian Smith on the Weaver 37-yard line.

Consistent Gainer

On the morning's first play from scrimmage Hartford halfback Bill Wilson, a consistent gainer all morning, went straight up the middle to author the game's first touchdown. Not a single Weaver defender laid a hand on the Hartford speed merchant Smith crashed over his own right guard for two points and a quick 8-0 lead.

But the gallant Beavers wasted little time getting back in contention, parading 57 yards with the ensuing kickoff to score in just eight plays. Brilliant ball handling deception by quarterback John Lee and productive end sweeps by Amado Cruz, who picked up 36 yards in four carries, moved the ball to the Hartford two from where Cruz tallied on a sweep around his right flank. But Hartford's Don Faucher broke through to spill O'Dell Blocker on the run for the extra points.

Weaver came up with a tremendous opportunity to take the lead when Hartford fumbled the ensuing kickoff and the Beavers' Eddie Jackson recovered on the Owls' 19. But the break was soon nullified when Hartford's diminutive Georgie (Porgie) Dixon intercepted Lee's ill thrown pass on the nine-yard stripe.

Another Weaver fumble was recovered by Hartford's racy Eddie Griffin on the loser's 39-yard line early in the second period. A personal foul penalty against Weaver gave the Owls a first down on the 23 and six plays later Smith barreled over his right guard for the final yard.

Beavers Battled Back

Again the Beavers battled back gamely, marching 71 yards before another fumble, their fifth in the first half, ended the threat on the Hartford nine. Smith fell on the loose ball for his second recovery in the half.

The Beavers finally squared matters in the third quarter, driving 80 yards in 11 plays after a Hartford punt had rolled dead on the Weaver 20. Lee dropped a short pass into the waiting hands of halfback Jim Butler who was stopped on the Hartford one-yard line after picking up 33 valuable yards. Faucher, a tenacious defensive performer throughout broke through to nail Lee for a three yard loss but Lee came right back with a beautiful fake to fullback Cruz before handing off to Blocker who waltzed untouched around his right end for the score. Blocker also bucked over his right guard for the all-important points which gave the Beavers a 14-14 tie.

Hartford's attack, which bogged down in the third quarter, suddenly came to life again and Coach Ralph Worth's high-scoring club completely dominated the action in the final 12 minutes.

Hartford moved swiftly, after taking the next kickoff. Mass blocking paved way for timely runs by Wilson for 14 yards and Griffin for 13 yards before Wilson climaxed the 53-yard march by going over from the three with only four minutes gone in the fourth period.

Griffin Scores for Owls

The Owls were back in business once more when a fourth down Weaver gamble for eight yards fell short on the Hartford 36. Griffin, who received the Syd H. Conn trophy as the game's "outstanding player," personally directed a six-play, 64-yard touchdown drive. The elusive 160-pound junior, playing his first season of football, got free for 21 big yards on an end sweep which netted a first down on the Weaver

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yards to the Weaver nine-yard line only to fumble and see the Beavers' Jack Wilcox come up with the recovery.

Also, another budding Weaver surge ended with a fumble on the Owls' 40 early in the third period.

The victory increased Hartford's edge to 27-9 in the series which has produced only one stalemate since 1924.

HARTFORD

Ends: Staweckl, Faucher, LaSala.
Tackles: Borders, Post, Brasswell.
Guards: Murphy, Alexander, Brown, Costa.
Centers: Colangelo, Womack, LaPenta.
Backs: Bernier, Wilson, Griffin, Dixon, Perillier.

WEAVER (14)

Ends: Marlin, Nelson.
Tackles: Hilton, Wimbish, Demers.
Guards: Holliday, Wilcox, Marder.
Centers: Kaiser, Roane.
Backs: Cruz, Dolan, Blocker, Lee, Jackson, Butler, Holloway, Mitchell.

Hartford	8	6	0	12-26
Weaver	6	0	8	0-14

Scoring:
Hafd, Smith, 1 run (run failed).
Weav, Cruz, 2 run (run failed).
Hafd, Smith, 1 run (run failed).
Weav, Blocker, 4 run (Blocker run).
Hafd, Wilson, 3 run (run failed).
Hafd, Griffin, 27 run (run failed).

STATISTICS

HARTFORD		WEAVER
14	First Downs	16
268	Yards Rushing	235
8	Yards Passing	77
3	Passes Att.	13
1	Passes Compl.	4
0	Passes Intc.	1
3	Fumbles	8
1	Own Fumbles Recovered	4

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27. Griffin then sneaked through his left tackle, cut back sharply to his right and outraced the Weaver secondary to the end zone for his team's final TD.

Early in the first quarter, Griffin, a picture runner once past the line of scrimmage, raced 44