



PREMATURE TACKLE — TOUCHDOWN ACTION: Halfback Tom Rodden of Hartford was tackled prematurely (left) but managed to grab the ball thrown by quarterback Bob Kobus for a seven-yard gain in the third period of Thursday's Hartford-Weaver game at Dillon Stadium. The center photo

shows Weaver's O'Cell Blocker (26) racing across the 10-yard stripe on his way to the Beaver's only touchdown just 16 seconds into the second quarter. Blocker took a pass from quarterback John Lee to complete a 51-yard payoff maneuver. On the right Hartford end Francis Gamble (84) balances the ball delicately

before he wheeled around and ran for Hartford's lone TD. The pass from Kobus was turned into a sparkling 58-yard scoring play. Hartford won, 8-6 before a capacity crowd of 9,700 (Courant Photos by Bob Ficks).

Hartford Wins City Football Crown

Owls Edge Beavers 8-6 before 9,700 At Dillon Stadium

By PAT BOLDUC

All of the scoring was packed into the first two minutes of the second quarter Thanksgiving morning as Hartford High nailed down its 16th, second in succession, city football championship with a bruising and exciting 8-6 victory over Weaver.

A capacity crowd of 9,700 looked on at Dillon Stadium as the Owls closed out a fine 5-2-1 season, mainly on the strength of quarterback Bob Kobus' successful end sweep for the all-important extra points after he had collaborated with end Francis Gamble on a nifty 58-yard touchdown pass.

Hartford's long-range scoring maneuver came only 1:08 after the Beavers had grabbed a short-lived 6-0 lead on a spectacular 51-yard pass play from quarterback John Lee to halfback O'Cell Blocker just 16 seconds into the second period.

But on the try for the extra points Hartford end Dick Stawecki, the game's outstanding defensive player, crashed through to spill halfback Phil Holloway practically at the line of scrimmage.

Owls Second In CDC
 The victory, No. 33 as against nine defeats and one tie in the series which dates back to 1924, also gave the Owls second place in the Capital District Conference with a 3-2-1 mark.

Weaver concluded its season with a 4-4-1 overall mark and dropped to fourth place in the final CDC standings with a 2-3-1 record.

Stawecki, along with Gamble, center Dick LaPenta, tackle Doug Brasswell and halfbacks Charles Womack and Ed Griffin, was magnificent in repulsing four serious Weaver threats in the second half. And the Hartford linemen did an excellent job holding Lee to just two completions in 10 second half attempts which added up to a minus 10 yards.

Hartford halfback Tom Rodden, the morning's top runner with 114 yards in 18 carries, brought the crowd to its feet when he returned the opening kickoff 31 yards to the Owls' 43-yard line. Rodden and Griffin took turns carrying as the winners paraded to the Weaver 18 before relinquishing the ball.

Weaver, unable to advance, punted and was rewarded with the game's first break when tackle Dick Odoms recovered a fumble on the Hartford 34. But three runnings plays lost one yard and the Beavers punted again.

Thrown For a Lost
 Moments later Hartford's Mark Violette got off a 33-yard boot which was allowed to roll dead on the Weaver 45. Blocker and fullback Jim Mitchell alternated in powering the Beavers to a first down on the Hartford 43. But Blocker was thrown back to the Weaver 49 on a fine tackle by Stawecki as the period ended.

On the first play of the second quarter Lee tossed a short five-yard pass to Blocker who cut back sharply to his right and scampered the remaining distance for Weaver's only touchdown.

The speedy and durable Rodden returned the ensuing kickoff 26 yards to the Owls' 39. Rodden then carried for a three-yard gain before Kobus and Gamble hooked up for Hartford's tally.

With a Weaver player tugging on his left arm, Kobus got off a wobbly toss which traveled approximately 29 yards and into the waiting hands of Gamble on the Weaver 3. The Hartford end easily outraced the remaining Weaver defenders across the final white stripe.

Then came the game's most de-

cisive play. Apparently back to pass for the extra points, Kobus found his receivers covered and smartly took off around Weaver's unprotected right flank and went into the end zone untouched.

Weaver, thwarted in earlier scoring opportunities from the Owl's 15, 21 and 19-yard line, came up with its final chance for its first city title since 1945 with only 3:39 remaining in the fourth period.

A weak eight-yard punt which slipped off the side of Violette's foot bounced out of bounds on the Hartford 42. Lee, who saw many of his passes dropped by potential receivers, was off target on a pass. Stawecki barreled through to spill Blocker for a nine-yard loss back to the Weaver 49. A Lee to Blocker screen pass lost eight yards and the Beavers were forced to punt.

Mitchell, who was presented the Sid Conn trophy as the game's outstanding player, was Weaver's best back with 77 yards in 13 carries. Blocker picked up 54 yards in 11 carries.

Captain Bob Hilton and guard Len Putzer, along with backs Mitchell and Jim Norman, stood out like beacons with the Beavers' defensive unit.

STATISTICS		
HARTFORD		WEAVER
173	First downs	158
65	Yards rushing	89
12	Yards passing	22
2	Passes attempted	6
3	Passes completed	0
3	Intercepted by	0
3	Lost fumbles	6-32.3
6-28.3	Punts-Average	32
32	Yards penalized	20

HARTFORD
 Ends: Stawecki, Gamble, Azendo.
 Tackles: Borders, Pouliot, Brasswell, Stelicki.
 Guards: Murphy, Brown.
 Centers: Mahoney, LaPenta.
 Backs: Kobus, Griffin, Rodden, Perhillar, Violette, Dixon, Womack, Foster.
WEAVER
 Ends: Jackson, R. Lee, Springer.
 Tackles: Drifaney, Wimbish, Lewis, Thomas, Odoms.
 Guards: Countryman, Putzer.
 Centers: Berlenger, Bologna, Hilton.
 Backs: Butler, Blocker, J. Lee, Mitchell, Green, Holloway, Norman.

Touchdowns: Blocker (51 yard pass from J. Lee); Gamble (58 yard pass from Kobus).
PAT: Kobus (run).