

Eagle teamwork wallops Wittenberg 33-3

STAFF SPECIAL

Ashland College's mighty football team scored its fourth straight victory in as many weeks, smashing the best grid team in Ohio over the past fifteen years, Wittenberg University by a 33-3 margin.

AC's 30-point win was the worst for Wittenberg since 1960 when Muskingum College blasted them 36-0. The Eagles have not won against them since 1946.

goal.

On the Eagles' next series, quarterback Ron Slater connected with Randy Fierbaugh for a 32-yard gain and then Slater found favorite target Bob Rosati open on the five-yard line for a 24-yard touchdown pass. Groza added the extra point for a 10-0 lead with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter.

As soon as the Eagle defense had stopped the Tigers cold,

Wittenberg launched its only scoring drive of the game late in the first quarter. Tiger quarterback Lloyd Ball added first down passes and some good running from Glen Hendrix, but the drive collapsed on the AC 12-yard line. Wittenberg finally scored on Jeff Burkam's 28-yard field goal with 11:44 remaining in the half.

Eagle defensive back Marc Gulling intercepted a Ball pass

on the Witt 34-yard line. Payne completed a 33-yard pass to Steve Foulk and then quarterback-sneaked one yard for the score. A pass for the extra points was incomplete, and the score remained 33-3.

While the Big Purple Machine ate up 450 yards in total offense, the Eagles were probably most jubilant about the "return of the defense." In spite of holding the first three foes to seven points

"The defense anticipated and reacted better than they ever have before," stated Head Coach Fred Martinelli. "I'm just amazed by their performance. That was our best combined offensive-showing of the year. It might be the best game we have played in my 14 years at Ashland. It was a complete team effort all the way. The films certainly substantiated that fact."

Ashland's Jeff Groza grabbed



At left Tom Payne (12) scrambles for extra yardage in the fourth quarter while at right the Eagle offensive unit led by Quarterback Ron Slater (11) and Fullback Jon Viar (32) marches down the field behind Blockers Kim Watkins (66) and Tony Wood (28).

T-G photos

The soaring Ashland team moved the ball down the field for scores against the Tigers the first three times they had the ball to build up a 17-point lead, just in case Wittenberg played its normal type of ball game.

Before 5100 Dads' Day fans, Ashland took the opening kickoff and marched to the Wittenberg four-yard line before settling for a 21-yard Jeff Groza

Slater passed to Rosati for 12 yards and then a perfect block by flexback Mark Neiderhauser enabled tailback Bob Mahl to gain 40 yards on an end sweep to the Witt 18-yard line.

Mahl gained 13 more yards before being sidelined with a head injury. Fullback Jon Viar blasted through from the Tiger five-yard line to make the score 17-0 after Groza's kick.

midway through the second quarter on the Witt 46-yard line. Slater then mixed his plays to set up a seven-yard Slater to Rosati aerial for a 24-3 lead at halftime with Groza kicking the extra point.

Early in the third quarter Slater again found Rosati ready and waiting for a 20-yard gain, but the Eagles lost their downs on incomplete passes. Groza once again came on the field, this time to boot a 37-yard field goal to make the score 27-3.

Split end Rosati tied a school record minutes later as he grabbed his eighth pass of the evening. Bill Seder has owned the same mark for most receptions in one game since 1967.

Tom Payne took over as quarterback in the fourth period and engineered the final Eagle drive of the game. A fumble recovery by Tony Volpi placed the ball

each, it wasn't the Ashland defense of past years. But there was no question about it Saturday as Witt's runners gained less than "a field's worth"—80 yards to be exact. Though the Eagles yielded 108 yards passing, they permitted only nine completions in 25 Wittenberg passes.

Eagle defensive coordinator John Valentine had a simple two-word explanation for the Eagle prowess—"mental alertness."

the position of Ohio's top-scoring kicker with 25 points. He scored nine points in each of the last two games on four field goals and 13 extra points.

Eagle punter Randy Fierbaugh ranked 15th in the nation last week with a 41.6 yard average. His mark dipped to 41.2 after Saturday's four kicks.

Ashland looks for its fifth straight win Saturday in New Concord against Muskingum College at 1:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL STATISTICS

	AC	W
Total First Downs	21	10
First Downs Rushing	9	4
First Downs Passing	11	5
First Downs Penalty	1	1
Yards Gained Rushing	252	104
Yards Lost Rushing	1	24
Net Yards Rushing	251	80
Yards Passing	199	108
Total Offense	450	188
Passes Attempted	26	25
Passes Completed	14	9
Passes Had Intercepted	1	2
Punts	5	7
Punt Average	38.2	38.3
Fumbles	2	2
Own Fumbles Recovered	2	0
Penalties	8	2
Yards Penalized	80	16

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