

TIGER FLASHBACK

EAST HALL

1980

The East Hall Vikings sailed their ship, packed with helmeted Northmen, into Tiger Stadium to take on the Black and Gold ferocious felines of Tigertown in the eighth game of the 1980 season, and left the confines of the Commerce battlefield a battered and beat up bunch of hairy tin coated men still with no win in the series, as the Tigers thumped the Vikings (34-19) to make the series record for the Tigers stand at (15-0-0) following the victory.

Commerce had to overcome a Viking lead of 19-14 early in the third stanza and won the contest going away by scoring three unanswered touchdowns in the second half to pull away from the Vikings for the win.

The Tigers took the opening kickoff and drove 83 yards on 12 plays for the first tally to begin the evening and one that sported eight touchdowns by the two teams combined. Halfback Clark Williams carried around left end and scored standing and untouched from nine yards out for the initial tally of the game. Fullback Tony Smallwood then thundered the PAT through the uprights for a (7-0) Tiger lead with 5:33 remaining in the period.

The drive saw Ray Lamb's charges march methodically down the field using their traditional wishbone attack highlighted by quarterback Bobby Lamb's 28-yard scamper on an option keeper to set up the score.

However, East Hall coach Jim Lofton, who had been at Jefferson for ten years from 1965-74, had his team ready for it was a fierce battle until late in the game as they stormed back to go ahead on two separate occasions on the evening.

The Vikings evened the game up in the second quarter on a six-yard pass from Garnett Bailey to Dexter Blackwell. The pass play capped a 66-yard drive which took 10 plays with the PAT conversion knotting the score at 7-7 following the first play of the second period.

Following the kickoff, horror struck the Tiger faithful when Bobby Lamb's pitchout was fumbled with the Vikings pouncing on the loose pigskin at the Commerce 34 setting up the second Viking score.

However, the East Hall offense was given a tough go by the Tiger defense who forced

the Vikings to use thirteen plays to cover the meager 34 yards for the score. The drive ended when fullback Stan Stephens plunged over the goal line from one yard out for the touchdown with 3:33 to go in the half. The PAT kick then sailed wide leaving the Vikings up by a 13-7 score.

Commerce came right back down the field to score in six plays with just over a minute left before the halftime horn sounded. On the Tigers first play from their 20, Lamb kept on the option to midfield for 30 yards and a first down.

Three plays later, Taylor Rucker from his left halfback position reeled off thirteen more to move the chains again to the 32. Lamb then hit HB Delano White on a 15-yard swing pass to set up Smallwood's 17-yard thundering burst up the middle for the Tigers' second venture into pay dirt.

Smallwood's boot then put the Tigers up at halftime (14-13), and an eventful half it was as the first 24 minutes sported long, time-consuming drives by both teams.

The Vikings came out of intermission and took the second half kickoff by Smallwood back to their 37 from whence they proceeded to march 63 yards in nine plays to go ahead for the second time in the game. Shannon Faulkner finished off the drive with a 13-yard option pitch to stroll into the end zone. The two-point conversion run by Faulkner was shut down by the Tiger defense leaving the score at 19-14 in favor of the Vikings at the 6:18 mark of the third period.

Bobby Lamb led the Tigers right back down the field to score the Tigers' first of three TD's in the final half. Smallwood's one yard buck up the middle of the East Hall defense for the score was set up on this 10-play excursion through the Viking defense by a 34-yard pass from Lamb to brother Hal and a 21-yard burst around the left side by halfback Clark Williams, as the Tiger wishbone machine was back in gear enabling the Tigers to retake the lead at (20-19).

However, the attempt to put the Tigers up by three with a two-point conversion was unsuccessful, as quarterback Lamb's pass fell incomplete leaving Commerce with a precarious one point lead. On the kickoff, the final play of the quarter, the EH return man was hit viciously by a host of Tigers and coughed up the ball with Clark Williams claiming possession for Commerce at the Viking 23.

From here Lamb and Company stuck a knife into the heart of the visitors, as the Black and Gold Commerce team scored a minute and a half later.

Smallwood toted the mail three plays thereafter on a 15-yarder up the middle to the one and then smashed over guard on the next play for the tally. The big fullback then nailed the extra point kick through the uprights to boost the Tiger advantage to (27-19) with 10:49 to go in the game.

Later, Tiger defensive back Vaughn Howington set up the Tigers in good field position

once more by picking off a Bailey pass at the EH 42, but it was all for naught as B. Lamb fumbled on a triple option exchange giving the ball to the Vikings at their 22.

However, five plays later linebacker Rick Zak retaliated and set up the final Tiger score when he intercepted a Viking pass on the East Hall 39 and returned it ten yards to the Viking 29.

Six plays later, quarterback Lamb streaked 13 yards on the option for a touchdown, as he sped around right end to glory land. Smallwood's kick ended the scoring on this mild football night, as he again boomed the PAT kick to make the final score (34-19) with less than a minute to go in the game.

Bobby Lamb led all Tiger rushers with 112 yards and one touchdown run, Smallwood added 63 yards and three rushing touchdowns with Williams picking up 37 yards and a TD. Rick Zak and Steve Allen led all Tiger tacklers with nine stops and Clay Hendrix pitched in with seven more.

Commerce went on to post a record of (6-4-0) for the 1980 season with the Tigers also defeating Cartersville, Madison County, Hart County, North Gwinnett and Loganville while losing to Buford, Oconee County, Duluth and Jefferson.

Others on the 1980 team were: Eddie Allen, Phillip Allen, Nathan Anderson, Rodney Bell, Terry Cook, Bill Finch, Brian Hill, Terry Howard, Mark Howell, Todd Jones, Brad Klugh, Keith Lacey, Tracy Milford, Tim Nunn, Steve Orenstein, Tim Pritchett, Tim Seabolt, Britt Wilson, Kenny Wood, Lane Woodall and Greg Zak.

Partially compiled from *THE COMMERCE NEWS* reports

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