

F.O.O.L. Update Season 5

Week 10 (Home Team in caps):

White Knights 20, MAROON DRAGOONS 38

This one was for the right to get into the playoffs, and neither Maroon nor White had been doing well late in the season, as the Black Bandits clinched the division. The game was almost a reversal of the earlier meeting when White got the better of a game loaded with turnovers, especially interceptions. This time league passing yardage leader Cain was held to 210 yards and was intercepted 5 times, while the Maroon QB's were intercepted thrice. Both teams suspected the other of tricks on pass defense and tried to run the ball. Maroon, here again, was more successful, with runners gaining 280 yards while White's backs got a still respectable 181, but not enough to alter the course of the game. Maroon got ahead early on an impressive opening drive to a TD, and another quickly after Cain threw an interception on his first play. Both sides had interceptions and missed opportunities, but White got back with an Ephraim reception to make it only 17-10 at halftime. Reed broke a long run for a TD in the third. White got a FG but then Reed caught a long pass to put the game away, with late TD's just padding the stats.

Play of the Game: In the fourth quarter with 10 minutes left, White trailed by just 11 after scoring a FG. After getting a first down thanks to a 5 yard offside penalty on DT #78 Washington, Maroon Q#11 Liske threw deep to H#23 Reed, who caught it on the run and breezed past S#27 Sisera to put the game away.

Game Ball: Maroon #47 Lyly After playing at LCB most of the season, Maroon went with 5 DH's against White, with Lyly moving back to safety. Result: 3 interceptions, and Cain had a miserable day at 17-33-5 and only 210 yards.

Key stat: Time of possession, Maroon 33:20 to 26:40. Turnovers gave each team 10 points by the time of Reed's decisive reception. But Maroon kept possession with 51 running plays and 25 first downs, while White kept giving the ball away. White got lots of ground yards, but not as consistently.

Also of note:

White? Still Rushing?: The Knights had 219 yards on 50 rushes last week, and 181 on 26 attempts this week, but still lost both games. Throw the ball, Cain!

The Baz was back: White TE#85 Mahershallalhashbaz, a crowd favorite and again bane of announcers, started and caught 4 passes for 40 yards.

Is Reed the next Raleigh? Maroon H Reed had 12/91 rushing and 4/142 rec'vg.

Got 'im, got it! Maroon MLB #67 Shakespeare got the only sack of the game, giving him just enough to win league sack title with 11 for the season. (unofficial?)

The Quick or the Dead: Maroon H #21 Swift saved his team from an early end of season with a 24/114 yard rushing performance.

Next: Maroon at Black for the Capitol Division Title and a ride to the Championship

Peridot Pumas 10 at BLACK BANDITS 45

This game lacked any real meaning for the Bandits as they had already clinched their division. They wanted to avoid embarrassment and injuries, while preparing for the playoffs. The Pumas hoped to build for next year, and earn some respect. The Bandits achieved their goals, and were resting their starters before the first half was over. The Bandits scored on their first two possessions, with Croscer throwing precision passes. After a Puma FG, Black threatened again but Roland fumbled on 4th down at the Puma 23. After a Black FG, Jongkind and Whackit came in. F #30 Whackit, still limping from an injury a few games ago, was expected to run out the clock and maybe set up another FG. But, carrying the ball 6 times, he capped off the drive with a 43 yard TD run to make it 24 to 3 at the half. After a #8 Q Jaguar interception, Whackit again did the heavy lifting in rushing 51 yards and a TD on Black's next drive, then scored yet again on the next drive, after which he left to give someone else a turn. Peridot did not get a TD until just 6 minutes were left in the game.

Play of the Game: The 2nd quarter with 1:20 left in the half, Peridot was at the Black 14 with 1st and 10. F #35 Mountgorilla was hit by LMLB #54 Lautrec and fumbled, giving Black the ball with 1:10 left. Whackit scored before the half. This play thus turned a potentially manageable 17-10 game to a 24-3 rout.

Game Ball: Black F #30 Whackit made a personal statement with 16 carries for 153 yards and 3 TD's on three drives just before halftime to early in the 4th quarter. He was an important part of Black's offense earlier, before the injury. He's baaaaack.

Key stat: Black 590 yards of total offense to 311 yards for Peridot.

Also of Note:

First Pick: This game ends a miserable first season for the Pumas, who at least will have the consolation of the first pick of the draft, already planned.

Otherwise, not bad D: If you take away Whackit's exceptional performance, the Pumas played pretty good defense, holding the rest of Black's league leading runners to 131 yards on 32 carries, and the receivers to 306 yards. With a more potent offense and some ball control, and this capability could win games.

Ball Control: Both teams showed an ability to control the ball, with the Pumas converting 6 of 13 third downs and getting 20 first downs. Unfortunately, Black converted 8 of 12 and had 31 first downs. With only 60 minutes to split, Black got most of it: 34:50 possession time.

Next: Bandits host Maroon in the Capitol Division Championship.