

F.O.O.L. Update Season 5

Week 3 (Home Team in caps):

Black Bandits 17, PERIDOT PUMAS 9

The up and down Bandits barely survived this encounter with the expansion Pumas, after thoroughly dominating Maroon and being crushed by Gold in the previous weeks. Black, desperate for a fix, traded draft choices to acquire Q#10 Croscer, F#30 Whackit, and G#62 Titus from Hematite to bolster their offense. The Pumas scored two FG's early on good punt returns and sharp passing to gain position, then held the Bandits scoreless for the first half. QB #10 Croscer came in in the second half and led Black on a drive capped by a 1 yard TD run by former Hematite teammate #30 Whackit. Key was a 30 yard run after a short reception by #4 TE Sullivan. Peridot then capped a 6 minute drive with another Iguana FG to retake the lead, 9-7. But the rest of the 4th quarter belonged to the Bandits. A long drive and Velazquez FG made it 10-9. When the defense forced a Peridot punt, Croscer led the Bandits 48 yards to a #32 Renoir TD to clinch the win with less than two minutes remaining. The Bandits scraped by with a lot of thanks to the new guys from Hematite against a tough and scrappy Peridot team.

Play of the Game: Black was trailing 0-6 with 3 minutes left in the 3rd quarter, with 4th and 2 on Peridot's 4 yard line after a 6 yard #30 Whackit run on 3rd down. K #2 Velazquez had missed a FG from this same distance earlier. Whackit, lined up behind T #79 Hines and TE #84 Watteau, took a quick handoff straight ahead and had 3 yards and a first down before MLB #50 Sabertooth could react. Whackit scored a TD to give Black the lead on the next play.

Game Ball: Black #10 Croscer, who came in at halftime and was 8-12-0 while leading Black's comeback. Playing with veteran cool and patience, he overcame a 7 yard first down sack on Black's first scoring drive and kept Black moving on long drives in the fourth quarter. Clearly he made a difference, and will be expected to start in the upcoming game against Chartreuse.

Key stat: First downs- Black 22 and Peridot 12. Black also held the ball 37:50 to 22:10, and converted 9 of 17 third down situations. Black tries to control the ball, and in this game clearly succeeded.

Other things noteworthy:

Just in time: Peridot W #88 Condor had 119 yards on 6 catches. Q #8 Jaguar sent many under fierce pressure of Black's blitzes. Black had no sacks.

No record: Peridot MLB #50 Sabertooth made an incredible number of tackles, but since the league keeps no records of that stat, so sorry, no fanfare.

Next Contest: Black visits Chartreuse, both struggling, and expansion teams Peridot and Hematite meet, with one of them expected to gain a first win.

WHITE KNIGHTS 36 Maroon Dragoons 19

The White Knights arrived 2-0 over expansion teams, but having never beaten the formidable 1-1 Maroon team. Maroon, after a shellacking by Black in the opener, beat Chartreuse soundly the following week. The first quarter saw White hang on while Maroon failed to score more than a field goal despite starting three drives in White territory. One Maroon drive stopped on an interception by #24 Daniel, another when #20 Gideon blocked a FG. Meanwhile, White's offense also stalled. In quarter 2, #6 Cain found W #19 Ehud deep on a 52 yard loft, setting up a 3 yard TD flip to #43 Clifford. Then when #13 More threw the second of his 7 interceptions, to S #27 Sisera, White Q #6 Cain led the Knights on a 44 yard drive to score again, overcoming two deep sacks on the way. The next time Maroon had the ball, Sisera picked off yet another pass and finished the job himself for a TD to put White up 20 to 3 at halftime. #13 More left the game injured near the end of the third quarter after a safety on a sack with the score 36-12, and rookie #11 Liske finished the game (and threw no interceptions).

Play of the Game: With 1:10 left in the second quarter, Maroon regained possession trailing 14 to 3 after #37 Benton's TD. A successful drive would keep Maroon in the game, and More had done the same before. He lofted the ball deep to H #23 Reed over the middle, but S #27 Sisera watched it in and caught it on the run. His 62 yard return for a TD gave Maroon a long road to travel. Both teams subsequently threw an interception each before halftime.

Game Ball: White's #43 Clifford, who suffered a broken leg toward the end of the second quarter, but had already made 10 catches. Many of them were key possession grabs that sustained the drives for the White Knights' first two TD's. He is lost for the season. Clifford, who improved markedly from the young anonymous backup of a year ago, had been an important part of the offense. He had 315 yards and 4 TD's in the previous game against Hematite. Clifford, we hardly knew ye.

Ket Stat: White and Maroon combined for 12 interceptions and 6 fumbles (2 lost). White had the advantage, 7-5, on the interceptions, with 2 for TD's.

Other things noteworthy:

Oh yeah? Wait till next time!: White CB #23 Joel had an interception in the first quarter, but was hit by Maroon #75 Lear and fumbled, with QB #13 More recovering to keep control on Maroon's first drive to score a go-ahead FG. Joel subsequently had two more interceptions, one for a TD to make the score 27-3.

No Boos: Maroon QB #13 More was not booed. (It was White's home field.)

Bad News: Both teams lost key players: Maroon lost veteran star Q #13 More who led the team to two championships. White lost W #43 Clifford. Both are gone for the season.

Next on the Schedule: White at Violet showdown of unbeaten teams; Maroon hosts Gold in a Championship rematch.

VIOLET 27 vs Gold 21

Both teams were undefeated. Gold had easily handled rival Chartreuse and a Bandits team coming off a monster win. Violet had soundly defeated their two expansion team opponents. Violet RB #45 Othniel fumbled on Violet's first play, and Gold #84 Young caught a 19 yard pass to score 3 plays later to give Gold the lead. But thereafter, Violet's offense dominated. 4 minute drive to a FG; Gold punted. 4 minute drive to a TD; Gold 3 and out again. Gold was saved on Violet's third drive. Violet had a first down on the Gold 2 when LB #16 Sims forced a fumble on a sack of #13 Abel. But Beaufort was intercepted and Violet's Bluewhale scored another FG, set up by a 50 yard completion to W #17 "Feast of Stephen" Wenceslas. After an exchange of several punts, Gold's #17 Hooker intercepted Abel and ran it back 30 yards to the Violet 7 with a minute to go. #20 Cromwell scored 3 plays later to make it Gold 14 Violet 13 at halftime, despite Gold's lack of offense. The second half followed the same pattern, but with Violet making fewer mistakes. Gold punt. 4 minute drive to a #30 Cinders TD. More punts. Violet's Abel escapes a sack, gets loose, and scrambles 29 yards to the end zone. Gold started a drive but Hastings failed to snag a pass on 4th and 1. More punts, and then #84 Young was coralled by #48 Galaney and #28 Vortigern 9 yards short on 4th and 20, ending any real chance of a comeback. Gold's #83 Gajan scored a TD with a minute left to make the score look closer than the balance of play in the game had indicated.

Key play: With Gold ahead by one, Violet was at the Gold 27 on their first possession of the second half after a drive sustained by three big plays, two on third and long. Violet QB #13 Abel had an incomplection, and 6 yard #30 Cinders run on which Gold LB #16 Sims missed but #44 Mowbray nailed the little back, bringing up 3rd and 4 at the 21. Making a statement about his opinion of Sims's ability, the Violet coach called the same play. #30 Cinders ran wide right, again dodged #16 Sims, and this time caught CB #44 Mowbray following W #18 Carnet. Dodging the CB, Cinders headed into a collision at the goal line with #34 Sakai, and fell into the end zone to put Violet up by 6 points, a lead never relenquished.

Game Ball: Gold's #20 Cromwell was held to 66 yards on 22 carries; Gold averaged less than 3 yards per carry rushing. The entire Violet defensive line played well, especially #80 Mitchell at LDE. Time and again Cromwell would try RT for only a short gain. LDT #76 Boxely accepted the ball on behalf of the entire unit.

Key Stat: The score, Violet 27 Gold 21. No, seriously, Violet had 440 yards of offense while Gold managed 309. Violet also converted 11 of 21 third downs, and their only fourth down attempt. Gold managed 33% and neither 4th down.

Other things Noteworthy:

Play it again, Cinders: Cinders is remembered for a preseason play 2 seasons ago when he dodged his way past 8 White players on a TD run. He missed the past two regular seasons. This game he did it for pay, if only 29 yards. He wants to be more than a preseason phenom.

No TD? Violet #17 W Wenceslas caught 4 for 166 yards but sorry, no score.

Next Game: 3-0 Violet is at 3-0 White. Gold is at Maroon, Champ. rematch.

Chartreuse Falcons 57 at HEMATITE HEROES 28

This contest featured two teams with nary a win between them. But Hematite had just traded several older stars for draft choices: Q Croscer, F Whackit and G Titus to Black, S Sakai and CB Udet to Gold, and MLB Potiphar and W Nojg to Violet. The replacement free agents were not close to the same quality, and a Hematite team that had presented a threatening offense simply was not able to stay in the game with Chartreuse. Also, some defensive players were being tried at new positions. Chartreuse lept to a 10 point lead in the first quarter while Hematite played tough and had chances, and the game stayed close till halftime as each scored 2 TD's in the second quarter. However, the dam broke as Chartreuse ran up 34 unanswered points in the third quarter, with three of the TD's set up by Hematite turnovers near their own goal line. A couple of Hematite scores late were rather meaningless. Still, this was Hematite's best defensive showing yet (only 57 points given up), and there remains prospects for improvement. Despite the loss, Hematite had shown a capable offense that gained 277 yards, but was not helped by a defense that could not stop the Falcons.

Play of the Game: With 2:40 left in the second quarter, Chartreuse was 3rd and 7 on their own 43 with the score 17-14 Chartreuse. Star W #82 Manders was out with a leg cramp. Q #6 Hamlin rolled right and threw to veteran #10 Douglas on a deep crossing pattern. Both CB #24 Goyathlay and #25 Temujin were there, but Douglass pulled it in giving the Falcons first down on the Hematite 27. A TD two plays later sent the teams into the locker rooms with a 10 point gap rather than a more tenuous 3 point Chartreuse lead. Not that this mattered all that much, given the third quarter.

Game Ball: DE #87 Rome: He had 2 sacks and led a defensive line that crushed Hematite in the third quarter with sack-fumble plays that set up easy TD's. The offensive statistics may have been bigger, but defense played a key part.

Key Statistic: Chartreuse scored on 9 straight possessions. They lost the ball on an interception by #25 Temujin on the first possession but scored on every possession thereafter until #14 Danmeir missed a 54 yard FG attempt with 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Other Things of Interest:

No turncoats: Hematite traded a lot of players, but none to Chartreuse.

Leading receiver: E #93 Trumpswan of Hematite had the most yards with 105 on 8 catches, but no TD. No other receiver had 100 yards or more, as Chartreuse Q #6 Hamlin spread the ball around.

We hardly noticed: Chartreuse K Danmeir missed 2 of 8 PAT's. Not good.

Lost for the Season: Chartreuse #79 Patulski, a rookie who had broken into the starting lineup with his enthusiasm and aggressive play, will be missed. Hematite lost B #41 DeLaTour, an important receiving back. Both are young, and hopefully will be back next season.

Next up: Chartreuse faces Black and Hematite hosts expansion rival Peridot