

F.O.O.L. Update Season 5

Week 9 (Home Team in caps):

Violet Storm 20, WHITE KNIGHTS 17

In a game that was fairly even until a late interception and subsequent score, Violet added to their reputation as the premier Century Division team. Both teams gained more on the ground than in the air, a surprise since Cain leads the league in passing and Abel has (perhaps) the top passing rating. Given the Knights' tendency to intercept in the early season, and their massive line, Violet planned to run, but lost B #45 early. White, perhaps just to show they could or to upset Violet's game plan, also did a lot of running. The result was a tight game with defenses dominating. White got ahead early on a H #29 Agag TD run. Both teams capped long drives with field goals. Violet tied by halftime thanks to a catch by Kansas in the back corner of the end zone on a 4th and goal at the 1 as time ran out. White threatened in the 3rd quarter, but B #10 Smythe lost a fumble at the Violet 20. After a Violet FG for a 3 point lead early in the 4th, the Knights went on 4th and less than a yard on their own 31 and failed, but Violet gave it back on a Mandley fumble. An exchange of punts left White on their own 24 with 5 minutes left. On one of his few deep passes all game, Cain was intercepted by Fencter, and Kansas scored 4 plays later for a 10 point Violet lead to put the game away. A late White TD proved futile when Bryant smothered the onside kick with a minute left.

Play of the Game: Fencter's interception and 30 yard runback with 5:20 left in the game took a tight game in which both teams struggled on offense, and gave Violet the ball on White's 26. This time Violet scored. Given what Cain did the next time White got the ball, the TD resulting from Fencter's heroics won it.

Game Ball: Violet's G #66 Clovis. Violet had some trouble moving the ball on the ground, but don't blame Clovis. He was blowing away some pretty good White defensive linemen all game, and got stronger at the end. For example, he threw the key block to get FB #32 Mandley a 16 yard gain to the White 7 after the interception, blocked for H #22 Kansas's two runs to get the TD, and on almost all of the other runs as well.

Key stat: Interceptions: Violet got one; White didn't. It won the game.

Also of note:

White? Rushing?: The Knights had 219 yards on 50 rushes. Not bad for a pass oriented team, but they lost with only 110 on pass attempts. Maybe Cain should have passed more.

Othniel hurt: The star FB for Violet may be limping, but he will be able to play.

Next: Violet travels to a Gold team fresh off a victory over Maroon in a playoff preview. White visits Maroon in a game both must win to make the playoffs.

Chartreuse Falcons 10 at BLACK BANDITS 24

In another tough defensive game, the Black Bandits showed that they could run the ball even against the Falcons' tough D. The win gives them home field for the division playoff game and eliminated Chartreuse. The Falcons scored first thanks to two long third down passes by Q #12 Merkens and a 17 yard TD run by H #43 Garrett. The Bandits were stopped at the Chartreuse 4 and on 4th and 3 took the FG. On the next Bandit drive, H #44 Bellini took a quick pass in the flat, dodged two DH's and ran for 65 yards to the Falcon 7. FB #34 Roland took it in to give Black the lead. Chartreuse's star W #82 Manders caught a 30 yard pass to set up a tying FG as time ran out in the half. After an exchange of punts, Chartreuse's long drive ended at the Black 12 thanks to a fumble by Garrett when OLB #66 Lippi hit him and CB #23 Botticelli recovered. Q #10 Croscer then led Black downfield with accurate passes, and F#34 Roland scored on a draw from 11 yards out. Trailing by a TD, Chartreuse could not generate much offense thanks to an aggressive blitzing defense led by S #28 Pissarro, despite recovering two Black fumbles. Finally, a 30 yard completion to #82 Manders got them to Black's 17. Gains on two runs were wiped out by a #92 David sack, leaving Chartreuse with 4th and 8 with 4 minutes left. Q #12 Merkens dodged an intense wave of rushers to get the ball off to W #82 Manders on a crossing pattern, but it was too high for him. Black was held short of a first down to leave a chance for Chartreuse, but S #34 Skelton grabbed F #30 Whackit's face mask to cost his team 15 yards. Black eventually got another score.

Play of the Game: The 4th quarter 4th and 8 pass that left Chartreuse without a needed TD to tie it up. Credit to rookie S #42 Mattisse on the coverage.

Game Ball: Black #28 Pissarro dominated Chartreuse's offense with coverage and blitzes. He had 2 sacks and caught backs behind the line of scrimmage 3 times, stopped a screen for zero gain, and on other plays scared them wide into the embrace of teammates. He almost took a handoff, and generally caused chaos in the backfield.

Key stat: Chartreuse had negative yardage on 14 plays, incl. 5 sacks, 3 pen.

Also of Note:

Loose ball control: Chartreuse's G #61 Nashe recovered two Chartreuse fumbles, or the game might not have been so close. Chartreuse had fewer fumbles lost than Black, thanks to alert play by the "other guard" (normally Nottingham gets all of the notice) and who otherwise played a good game as well.

The Falcons' answer: Regan, the RLB, almost did for the Falcons what Pissarro did for Black. He recovered one fumble that he shook loose, and was in the pile on the other, both late in the game when Chartreuse needed that kind of break. Unfortunately, the offense couldn't score either time.

Another TE down: Black's ground game took another loss when rookie TE Watteau was lost for the season. He won the position when #80 Breugel was lost in preseason. Black has lost starting FB, TE and T, but apparently can still run.

Next: Bandits host Peridot, and Chartreuse visits Hematite as both teams end the regular season playing expansion teams in rather meaningless games.