

Cougars start slow, but finish with the win

By Mike Hoffman
Contributing sportswriter

Not since 2004 has the Carroll Cougars football team won the first game of the season. Friday night they recorded a big 28-6 victory over the Tri-County Cavaliers 28-6.

Cougar fans did not know what to expect. Would the team be ready? Physically? Emotionally? Would they be aggressive on the field and

play tough on both sides of the line?

And in the first half, fans got their answer. The Cougars weren't aggressive and at times they missed tackles. The offense was sluggish much of the first quarter. But the Cougars did manage to find the end zone with 1:41 left in the first half. Ben Bennington scored on an 18-yard TD run. The extra point kick was blocked. That scoring drive took 12 plays and 87 yards. The score was set up by a Randy Hoffman fumble recovery. The score was 6-0 Carroll, as time ran out in the first half.

The second half was a different story. The Cougars played aggressive and physical, both lacking in 2007 on the field. This coaching staff is teaching the players how to win. They don't run the same plays over and over.

Coach Steve Keown is willing to go that extra mile for the kids. He was Carroll's interim coach in 2007, but is now head coach. His staff includes Tom Hall, offensive line and defense line coach; Bill Dillon, defensive coordinator; Shawn Wickersham, JV coach; and Steve Ogle, freshman coach; plus some volunteers.

2008 is a new beginning for Cougar football. These coaches are trying to bring winning back to CHS.

The Cougars put another good drive together in the third

quarter. They scored again with 2:08 (3) on the clock, when Drew Yoder ran it in from the 22-yard line. Ben Bennington ran the 2-point conversion, making the score 14-0 CHS.

The fourth quarter was all Carroll. The Cougars scored on a 28-yard TD pass from Riley Eller to Yoder and Skylar Bagwell's kick was good. Then Bennington scored on a 36-yard run when he bolted through the host team's line and down the field to the end zone. Bagwell had another good kick and the score was 28-0 CHS.

Tri-County then scored on a 19-yard run by Zeph Bickett. The extra point was no good and the game ended 28-6 CHS.

Offensively the Cougars looked a lot better, as QB Eller was 7 of 14 for 97 yards and 1 TD pass to Yoder. Yoder scored 2 TDs - a 28-yard pass from Eller in the fourth quarter and a 23-yard rushing TD in the third quarter.

Bennington also scored 2 TDs, both were runs. The first was in the second quarter on an 18-yard TD run. His second came in the fourth quarter when he broke through the Cavaliers' defensive line and went 36-yards for the score. The way he broke tackles was reminiscent of former Carroll football standouts Billy Dillon and Frank "The Train" Vega. Carroll had 10 first downs



Breaking tackles

Ben Bennington (#32) is seen right before he made Carroll's first touchdown late in the first half Friday night. He ran 18 yards for the score after quarterback Riley Eller hit him with a pass. The Cougars defeated Tri-County 28-6. Photo provided

and rushed 34 times for 213 yards. Eller had 97 yards passing and completed 7 out of 14 passes.

Defensively, the Cougars need to work on a few areas

but hard work should yield results. Big Thomas Gillam, Josh Pine, Randy Hoffman and Yoder all played tough, as did Carson Spesard and Eller. Friday night is the annual

county championship, the Bacon Bowl. The host Delphi Oracle team will be coming off a big defeat by Lafayette Central Catholic. Kick-off is 7 p.m.

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Scoring drive

Oracle quarterback AJ Beckett is setting up a pass to Braden Atwood, good for 43 yards, in the fourth quarter. The drive ended about a minute and a half later with Cory Smith running in from the two-yard line for Delphi's first and only touchdown score. Final score was 54-7, Central Catholic. Bill Stauffer photo

Rankin's team wins national championship

Comet staff report

Zakk Rankin is a member of the U-15/16 Carmel

United soccer team that won the 2008 U.S. Soccer Development Academy U-15/16 national title.

They kept their 16-game win streak intact and won four more games, including the tournament championship, a 1-0 victory over the U-15/16 PDA team from New Jersey. The tournament was held at the U.S. Soccer National Training Center in Carson, Calif.

Rankin is the son of Pat and Pamm Rankin, former local residents.

"Zakk is still up in the clouds with this one. What a ride!" said his mother.

"Zakk started playing soccer the first year Carroll County Youth Soccer League was formed," she continued. "I believe he was four, just about to turn five years old. From the beginning, he loved to play. With much guidance from Indiana Youth Soccer, training sessions, and just plain watching the sport, Carroll County Youth Soccer League began to understand and develop this game. With that said, CCYSL helped my son and many others fall in love with and desire to play soccer. For our son and family, CCYSL opened up an opportunity to play a game that has won our hearts."

The Rankin family now resides in Fishers.

Knights run past Oracles

By Todd Swank
Contributing sportswriter

The second time around didn't start well for Oracle coach Vince Burpo as the third ranked Central Catholic Knights lived up to their ranking with a 54-7 victory.

CC gained 295 yards on 21 carries for a 14-yard average. They also tacked on 198 yards passing to dominate the stats sheet. The Oracles' lone touchdown came in the fourth quarter after the Knights had built a 54-0 lead.

CC went ahead 7-0 on their first possession on a 12-yard run by speedster Mike Murphy. Tom Almond scored on an 11-yard run for the Knights the next time they had the ball. A missed extra point made the score 13-0 going into the sec-

ond period.

CC's Murphy showed his speed early in the second when he sprinted 47 yards to put CC up, 21-0.

A 20-yard pass from AJ Beckett to Justin Salyer, who moved to receiver early in the game after starting at QB, gave the Oracles their first down of the game. A 30-yard pass from the same duo on the next play gave the Oracles some momentum. They had a first down on the CC 15. An interception by the Knights' Jake Mikalis stopped the threat.

After moving the ball into Delphi territory, a sack by the Oracles' Daniel Clawson forced the Knights into a passing situation. On the next play Salyer made an interception to stop the Knights. After failing to move the ball, a 50-yard

punt by Salyer put CC back at their 22-yard line to start their next series. A 41-yard run by Cody Christopher capped a three-play drive to extend the lead to 27-0 going into the half.

The route was on, when, on the first play of the second half the Knights completed an 87-yard pass to run the score to 34-0. The next three Oracle possessions ended in interceptions. Each turnover led to another TD by CC. The lead had been doubled to 54-0 with four minutes still to play in the third.

The Oracles scored their only touchdown with a drive that began with a bad snap on a fourth down punt attempt. The punter, Salyer, picked the bouncing ball and ran around left end for a seven-yard gain and a first down. Beckett

tossed a pass to Braden Atwood good for 43 yards. An interference penalty on CC in the end zone gave the Oracles a first down on the Knights' nine-yard line. Cory Smith finished the drive with a two-yard TD run to finish the scoring for the game.

While the Oracles were soundly beaten and need work in several areas, they have nothing to be ashamed of. CC is probably the best team that the Oracles will face this year. They have one of the fastest teams around the area and can go deep into the tournament at the end of the season.

Delphi will be home again playing host to the Carroll Cougars in the annual Bacon Bowl. The game at Berto Field will start at 7 p.m.

South American adventure once in a lifetime for recent graduate

Former Comet intern gets new culture

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Recent Delphi Community High School graduate Jenna Buehler was accepted by DePauw University for the fall semester. While researching the school's Web site after acceptance, she registered for a trip sponsored by the school's foreign language department. Buehler volunteered to be part of a group and travel to the South American country of Ecuador in August. She had an inkling of what she was going to see, but no idea about what she would truly experience.

"I agreed to teach Ecuadorian children to speak English," Buehler said. "In preparation for the trip, I was at DePauw for three weeks practicing my Spanish and doing community service work."

"There were 15 freshman in the project," she continued.

"We prepared for the trip by teaching children in a church camp in Indiana to speak Spanish."

"For five weeks we were only allowed to speak Spanish," she added. "Being misunderstood was awful. But we were not allowed, by contract, to speak English during that time. You really learn how much of what you say is unimportant. I wasn't conjugating verbs anymore - I had to survive - and it just came out!"

Buehler said the trip was good for her and the others because it made them aware of the differences in the two cultures.



Buehler

"You really learn how much of what you say is unimportant."

Jenna Buehler

"You can read about how Ecuador is, but experiencing it is much different," she said. "We read about the amount of trash there. But to walk in it and step in it makes it very real."

"There was constant heckling of tourists - mostly directed toward the girls," she added.

The constant presence of street-vendor children were

one of the hardest things for Buehler to accept in the different culture. She said the children's parents trained them to beg visitors to buy whatever they were selling. The methods used by the children to engage tourists troubled Buehler.

"Parents would watch their children from park benches to teach them how to beg to sell things," she said. "I cried when a little girl vendor who was selling cigarettes grabbed one of the group member's legs to get his attention. Her

parents trained her to do that."

Buehler was also shocked at how locals drove vehicles in the mountainous area located near the Amazon Rain Forest.

"All the drivers were impatient and they ignored traffic signals," she said. "I didn't feel safe most of the time we were on the roads."

The program required volunteers to spend one night with a local family, which meant eating indigenous food. In Buehler's case, that food was guinea pig, which is considered a delicacy in Ecuador. Buehler will major in communication and political science at DePauw. She is a member of media fellows that affords her advance opportunities to work in media outlets. She will be an on-air personality on the campus radio station, WGRE, Sundays from 6 to 8 a.m.

She is the daughter of David and Karyn Buehler of rural Carroll County.

"It was a great experience," Buehler concluded. "It made me appreciate what I had growing up here in the United States. This really showed me the difference in reading about something and experiencing it."

Campers need to heed firewood restrictions

Those planning to camp at an Indiana state park, state recreation area or state forest for Labor Day weekend or at any other time should be aware that there are restrictions on the firewood these properties allow through their gates. The reason is to help slow the spread of the invasive insect emerald ash borer.

The only hardwood firewood that can be brought into state properties is (1) from non-quarantined Indiana counties, (2) scrap kiln-dried lumber with no bark attached to it, and (3) that which was purchased at a commercial store and that has a USDA compliance stamp.

Campers should also be

aware of the source of any firewood they purchase to use when camping at non-state properties. Many private campgrounds also restrict firewood brought in to their properties.

For tips on protecting forests when camping, go to dontmovefirewood.org. More information about EAB, including quarantines and identification materials, can be found online at entm.purdue.edu/eab or by calling (866) NO-EXOTIC (663-9684). Questions regarding EAB should be directed to Purdue University entomologist Jodie Ellis at (765) 494-0822, ellisj@purdue.edu.



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