

OHS Wildcats meet Redmen for title

Opeongo High School has been strong in several sports, notably track and field and cross-country, and now a junior football championship just may be coming to Kelly's Corners.

First, though, the Wildcats have to beat the Arnprior and District High School Redmen in the title game and they get their opportunity on Friday at ADHS.

Both teams should be ready for what shapes up to be quite a game. There are Wildcat players who were on the team during the drought which began in 1983 and they'll be anxious for a big win.

Roaming the sidelines during Opeongo's exciting 14-10 victory over the pesky RCI Raiders at OHS on Friday afternoon were at least two people from ADHS scouting the game. Whether or not this will help them in the title game remains to be seen, but they were taking rather detailed notes.

Who the Redmen would meet was in doubt up until the final few moments of the third quarter.

After stopping a threatening RCI drive on the Wildcat 33 earlier in the quarter, Opeongo quarterback Don Pierce started to direct a march in the other direction by mixing a couple of running plays and firing passes to John Dellaire and Todd Lynch. Lynch's grab moved the ball down to the RCI 35-yard line.

The Raiders probably wished that Dean Peever wasn't playing football, because on Friday it was his catch for the touchdown that ended RCI's season. You may remember a week earlier in Renfrew he also hauled in a throw for an important TD.

Pierce rolled out and spotted Peever, who managed to work his way in behind the Renfrew deep backs into the clear. The Opeongo running back made an over the shoulder catch and cruised into the end zone.

Murray Gallagher's convert was

successful and the Wildcat's had a 14-10 lead much to the delight of their fans who enjoyed both the game and the warm sunshine. As was the case at RCI, the Raiders had their hands on the ball on a couple of more occasions, but the Wildcats stopped a third down try to squelch one series and an interception by Allan Bruce finished off another.

First Half

Opeongo took advantage of a Renfrew turnover to score the game's first touchdown early in the first quarter.

RCI's Cory Sweeney mishandled a pitch-out, fumbling the ball. It was recovered by John Dellaire and OHS had a first down on the Raider 11-yard line. It didn't take the home team long to score for on the same series Wade Barrington bashed his way into the end zone from 11 yards out. The extra point was good—7-0 Opeongo.

In the second quarter, Opeongo had another great chance to add to their total when the Wildcats dragged down the RCI punter after forcing him out of protection.

With the ball 25 yards from their goal-line, the Raider defence gave the Wildcats nothing on two running plays. A costly objectionable conduct call on third down against the visitors put OHS back in business, though, on the 10.

Again, Renfrew's defence put the clamps on Opeongo and facing a third down, the OHS coaches decided the best route to go would be to try a field goal. However, the outcome didn't turn out exactly the way it was drawn up.

The Raiders broke through and blocked the line-drive kick. The ball was picked up by Morgan Larocque and he brought the ball back about 100 yards. To the relief of OHS and their fans, the play was wiped out because of a clip at centerfield.

Second Half

Opeongo dodged a bullet on the block but wasn't as fortunate as the

second half started. *Nov 6/85*

Sweeney, who had fumbled earlier, took the kick and confidently weaved his way past tacklers, breaking toward open field enroute to an 80-yard touchdown which came as a sudden shock to OHS supporters.

They were even quieter when Sean Worth gathered in a Bob Craig pass for the two-point convert. RCI 8, Opeongo 7.

On the ensuing kickoff Opeongo wound up just five yards away from its own goal line, not a great spot to be in. Forceful runs, particularly by David Lewis, moved the ball into a workable area, but penalties served to destroy the OHS momentum.

Punter Dellaire, standing in his own end zone and feeling he couldn't get the ball off due to an RCI rush, conceded a two-point convert raising the Raider total to 10.

Later, defensive co-ordinator John Scott said the play was not planned, but added the move by Dellaire was a wise one, noting that Renfrew had some heat on and the punt had the potential of being blocked.

Statistics

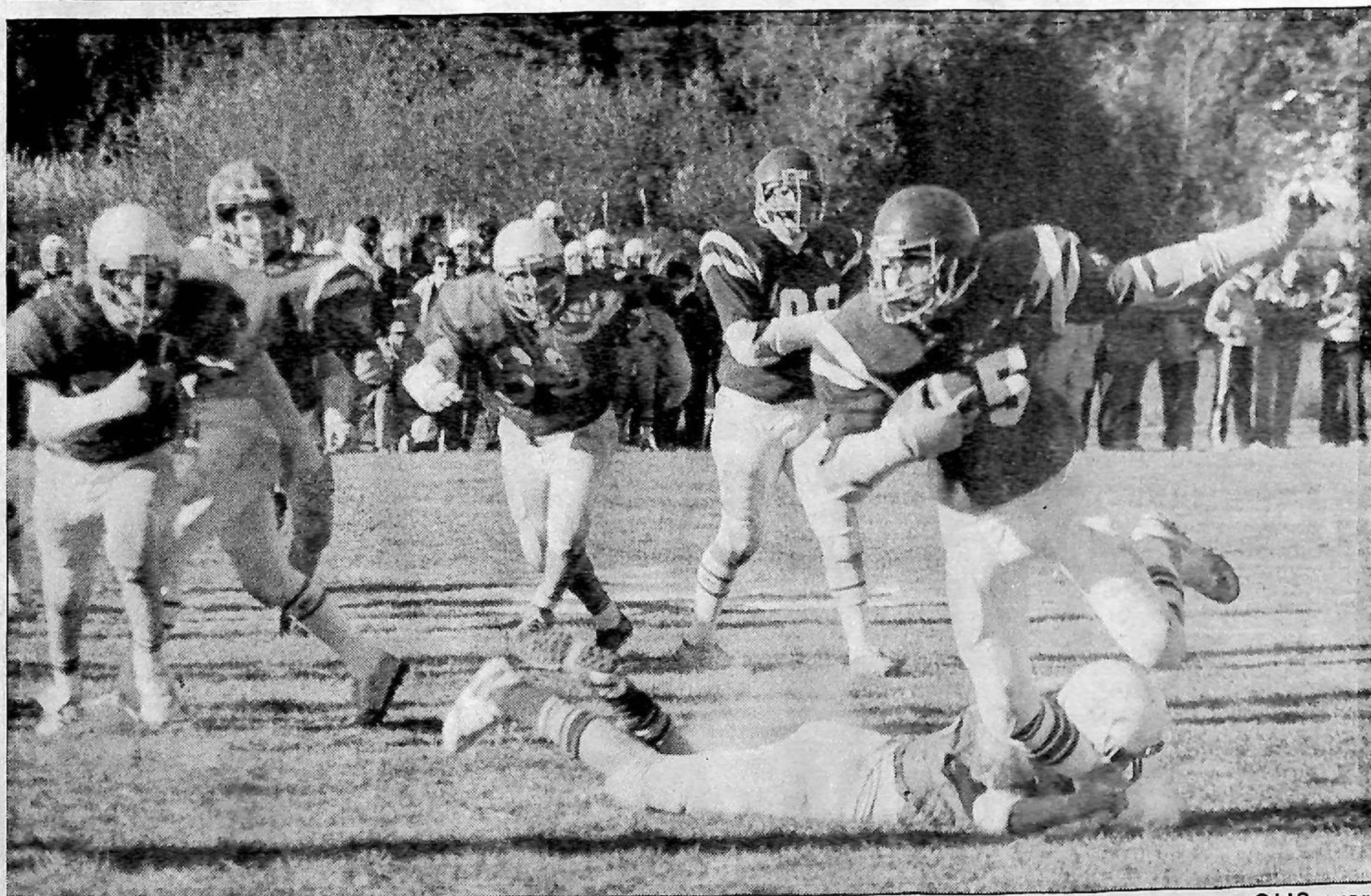
Lewis was the busiest Wildcat running back, receiving 13 hand-offs for 52 yards. Peever had four carries for 26 yards, Wade Barrington, three for 26 and John Dellaire five for 34 yards. Graham Barrow was called upon three times for nine yards.

In the air, Pierce connected on four of six passes for 90 yards. Todd Lynch had two catches for 28, Peever, the big TD reception for 28 and Barrington, one for 34.

Not only was he an outside threat carrying the ball on offence, Dellaire, also enjoyed a satisfying day on defence, collecting six unassisted tackles. Tim Bulmer was in on three unassisted stops, Dave Bulmer, two. Dave Bulmer and Gallagher participated in a score of 'gang' tackles.

Coach Scott was pretty happy following the game.

"We played well," he said. "The guys really deserved that game."



This runner for the RCI Raiders tries to head upfield but an Opeongo High School Wildcat has a

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toehold on him impeding his progress. OHS won the semi-final game at home on Friday 14-10.