



Michael Boyle

It's a long way to Barcelona

Early next week, former Milton Trident Lorne Lesuk should be patrolling centre ice in a country which probably didn't play hockey until just a few years ago. Lesuk, a 28-year-old native of this area, will shortly sign a contract to become a player-coach in Barcelona, Spain. It's his second overseas venture already this winter but the bad taste from his first encounter in Belgium hasn't deterred the player's thirst for European hockey.

Lesuk originally signed to play in Antwerp, Belgium but a rigorous training schedule left Lesuk unhappy and he returned to Canada last Tuesday.

"I went to have a good time and play hockey," explained Lesuk. "We practised twice a day at 10 in the morning and 10 at night for two hours. It's the Russian way of practising and by the time the games rolled around, we were just too tired to play well."

The players on the team got together early in the schedule and demanded two days a week off. The squad played most games on Fridays and Saturdays so it was decided Sunday and Monday would be days off. Simple enough, except the players had to go on strike for the time off.

"The problem was with the coach," added Lesuk. "He was the coach of the Polish national team as well and he ran his team hard. It was like being in the army."

"There were curfews every night, we couldn't have been on the bus or anything like that. It wasn't fun anymore."

One of the problems with the squad which played against seven Dutch teams was the team was owned by the rink both literally and figuratively speaking. The players spent much of their time at the rink.

"The coach didn't speak English so he had an interpreter on the ice which just complicated matters. We were known as one of the roughest teams in the league."

Lesuk goes to Spain with an open mind, he says, not discolored by his first European hockey experience.

"In Spain, you get a lot of time off. From what I understand of the system, the players play hockey but also have time to see the country—which is how I want to take it."

Lesuk said he learned quite a bit from his six-week experience in Antwerp.

"They treat Canadians like gods over there. Hockey players get nothing but first-class treatment. Once they found out you're from Canada, they couldn't do enough for you."

"It was culture shock going over there. The traditions, language and culture were completely different and hard to get used to."

It was Lesuk's first trip to Europe although he has travelled extensively through North and South America.

"I enjoyed myself over there but I felt I was in the army," he says. "I really enjoyed the big ice surface because I like to skate and it suited my style."

"I saw a lot of sites, once we got the time off. Nine of us went down to Paris for a couple of days and had a good time. We also went to the second biggest Oktoberfest in the world in Weize (Belgium). I have never seen so many drunks at one place. They came from all over Europe in busloads. They all went nuts."

Lesuk said he sees the difference between the two styles of play but cautioned North America against tacitly accepting the European style.

"There's no way you can adapt the European hockey game to our rinks. There's more skating room over there, but here you just don't have the room to free wheel."

"I'd advise anyone who can do it to go and learn the lifestyle. I think they'd appreciate our lifestyle more. I just thought I'd do it for a year because I was still young."

Lesuk added he felt he would be back in Milton next winter in an Aeros uniform.

Aeros rolling along with two big wins

Some of Milton Aeros supposed 'lesser lights' came through in the clutch to allow Aeros an 11-4 romp over Smithville Sunday in Smithville.

It marked Aeros' second win in a row, leaving the intermediate B team with a 4-4 season's record.

Aeros dealt Ayr Rockets a 6-2 setback Friday night at Memorial Arena after dropping a 6-3 decision to Dunnville last Tuesday night, also at Memorial Arena.

The line of Jerome Noel, Keith McKinnon and Bill McGilloway combined for five goals and 11 scoring points to pace Aeros past Smithville.

Smithville led 3-2 at the end of the first period but Aeros went on the rampage connecting for seven unanswered goals in the middle frame to salt away the win.

"We started slowly as we usually do," said Aeros' coach Barry Elliott. "But in the second period we started to forecheck and carried nearly all the play."

Aeros outshot Smithville by a 19-3 margin in the second period and we were so much in control of the game no shots-on-goal statistics were kept for the final period.

The game was significant in that just one penalty was called against Aeros while Smithville was saddled with six penalties including four at one time when Smithville defenceman Dave McCollum attacked McKinnon from the back late in the second period.

After an altercation in front of the Smithville goal, McCollum attacked Mc-

Kinnon who wisely resisted. McCollum received a minor for slashing, a major for fighting, a game misconduct and an automatic two-minute minor while McKinnon skated away scot-free.

Aeros used the nine-minute power-play advantage to score three goals which brought the score to 9-3 and effectively ended the contest.

Milton played the game with just four defencemen and three lines. Captain Marty Seeds injured his leg against Ayr and is on crutches. In addition, Jim Cole missed the latter half of the game with an injured wrist.

Noel, McGilloway, Ray Evans and Pierre Pilote connected for two goals apiece with singles going to Jim Robertson, Bill Sherlock and McKinnon.

Mario McDonald played his fourth game in a row between the pipes and played well.

Against Ayr, Aeros scored single goals in the first and second periods before adding four more in the third to offset Rockets' two third-period tallies.

Pilote and Noel scored to put Aeros ahead 2-0. Ken Fay fired what proved to be the winning goal early in the third before Ayr got rolling with one score.

Evans quickly ended any Ayr thoughts for a comeback when his pass from the corner was redirected into the goal by net-minder Jim Balkwell.

Aeros subsequently added goals by Robertson and Evans to preserve the win. The game was relatively quiet until a

third-period fight between Seeds and Dave May. With less than two minutes remaining, Rocket George Almond incurred the wrath of the referee by disputing a holding call and was unceremoniously ejected from the contest.

"I guarantee the next time won't be the same as tonight," said Rockets' acting coach Frank Trousdell. "Once we start working together we'll be a lot better."

Trousdell, a player, took over the coaching reins last week when Bruce Davey left because of work commitments.

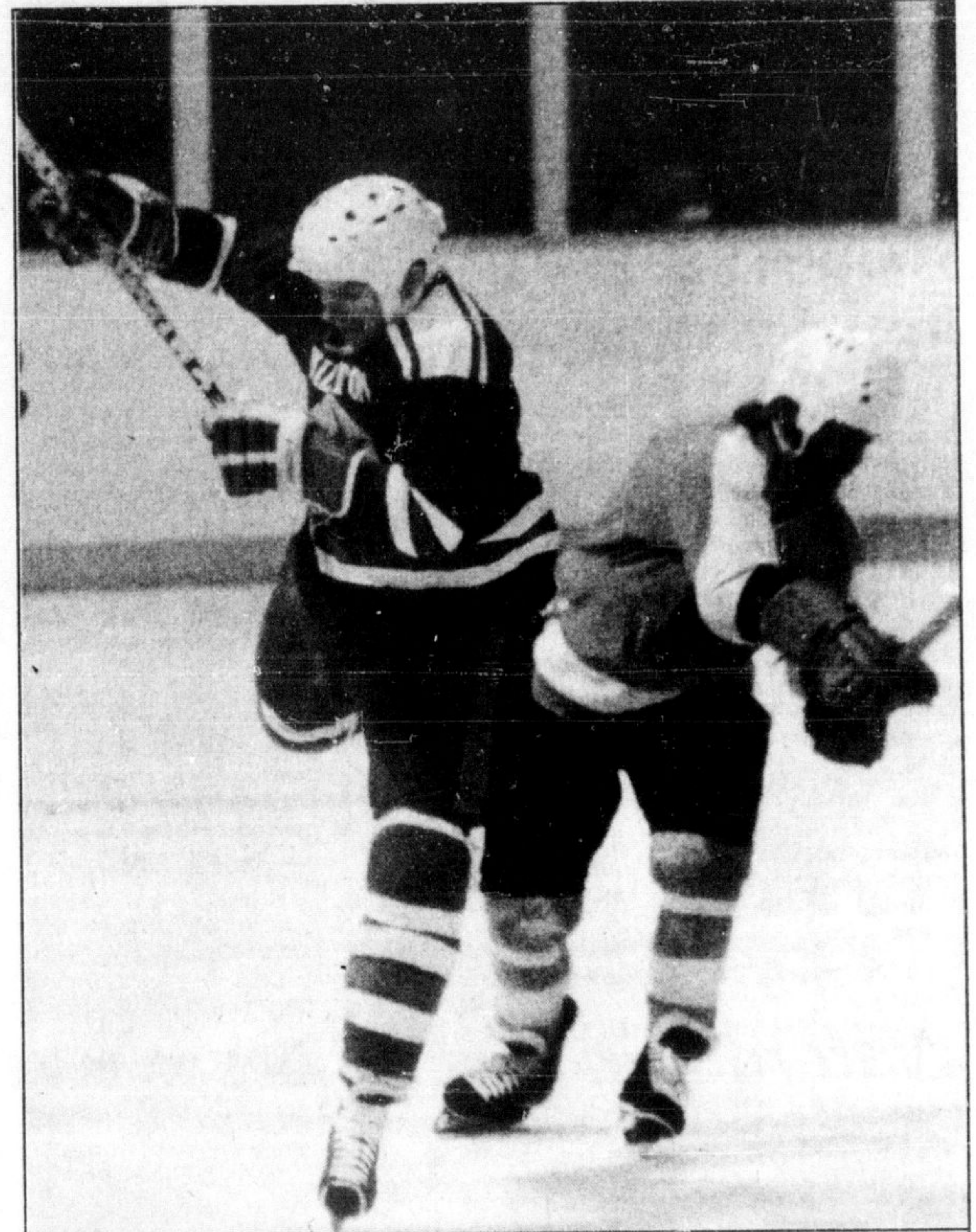
Aeros are negotiating with Georgetown Raiders for winger Tom Dailey. He wants to play in Milton. He was Ray Evans' linemate for five years.

Goaltender Al McSorley became victim to the numbers game and was released by the team. McSorley, an import, couldn't qualify as a home brew.

Ken Fay leaves later this week for an extended vacation in California. He'll be lost to the team for at least one month and possibly more. Aeros still have one import card and about nine local cards available for signing.

McGilloway returned to the line-up Sunday after suffering a two-game suspension against Paris. Brad Evans was the back-up goaltender against Ayr and Smithville.

Aeros resumed play last night at home to Waterdown. They play in Waterdown Sunday before returning to Memorial Arena next Tuesday night against Rock-



COLLIDING WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED PLAYER WITH MILTON CHRYSLER IS RACER'S EDGE TOUGH RIGHTWINGER LES WILSON (RIGHT). RACER'S EDGE WON 4-2 IN MILTON INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE ACTION.

LORNE LESUK



BALL CARRIER Ian James runs over his own blocker en route to a big gain against Georgetown. The MDHS juniors won their first game 14-12 last Thursday at Georgetown.

Six MDHS runners qualify

Six cross-country runners from Milton District High School qualified for the all-Ontario championships as a result of their fine performances at the Peel-Halton championships Wednesday at Kelso Conservation Area.

Four members of midget girls qualified as a team for finishing second while senior boys Roy Poloni and John Phelps finished fourth and sixth respectively to reach the all-Ontarios. That meet will take place Saturday morning at an area just outside of Kingston.

The top four midget girls for Milton are Denise Worth, Lynda Wingfield, Tracy English and Lynn Copeland.

Teams from Georgetown District High School completely dominated the meet, qualifying all six teams and winning each division.

To show the power of Georgetown, the girls overall gathered 58 points compared with second-place Chinguacousy at 243. The Georgetown boys also handily won the boys overall by a 91-371 margin to MDHS.

Milton finished third overall at the meet behind Georgetown and Chinguacousy pleasing MDHS coach Bert Vella.

"Overall, that's our best showing since I've been here, anyway," said Vella, a five-year teacher at MDHS.

"It's also the first time any girls from the school have qualified for OFSSA championships.

Aside from the six qualifiers, two others barely missed making the trip to Kingston. Toni Chambers was ninth in senior girls while Mike Baynton was tenth in

senior boys just missing the qualifications by one placing each time.

The top two teams plus the top three runners in the top ten qualified not on a qualifying team advanced to OFSSA.)

The MDHS junior boys barely missed qualifying as a team by seven points.

The six runners who advanced to OFSSA leave Friday along with their coaches to prepare for their runs the following morning.

In the finale, Rowan and Pollen dominated the play. Pollen netted three goals including the game-winner and clincher in the last one minute and 16 seconds.

Pollen hit for three goals and an assist while linemate Rowan tallied twice and assisted on each of Pollen's scorers.

Milton led 3-0 at one point but a late second-period score and two more later in the third brought North Bay even.

Pollen then went to work scoring at 1:16 and seven seconds to ice the victory. Terry Boudreau picked up a pair of assists in the contest.

In league action last week, Milton handled Oakville by a 7-1 margin. Pollen scored twice with singles to Mike Mangotich, Trevor Riebot, Tracy Harding, Hood and Lassaline.

Milton then tackled North Bay Pinehill twice on successive days. Captain Pollen again was the spark plug notching Milton's lone goal from Rowan at the midway point of the game. The lead lasted seven minutes before North Bay evened the score.

American born

Caufield trying hard to improve his game

Several years down the road, Jay Caufield may look upon Milton as the place where he got his real start in hockey.

He hopes to see this place and his spot with Milton Flyers as a stepping stone to a hockey scholarship at an American college.

He will have fond memories of this town. But he will have one disturbing reminder. "The flies," he explains. "They buzz around the light and near the window all night. I don't know how you people can put up with them."

Caufield is a huge 19-year-old player in his first real season of organized hockey. His career began almost accidentally in a small Pennsylvania town just four years ago.

He would steal onto a rink in the night to get more practice.

"The rinks are not very close where I live," he recalls in an eastern American accent. "So my brother (Ed, two years older) and I would get up in four in the morning and scale a fence to skate."

"We were caught by the police once. The fine was \$51. It's not like we were doing any damage. We were just skating."

Caufield found out through a friend about the Can-Am summer hockey schools in Guelph and entered the school during the past summer where he was spotted by Flyers owner Vern Gooding and offered a spot at the Flyers' tryout camp in August.

He doesn't have to worry about \$51 fines any more.

Gooding said at the beginning of the year, Caufield would spend all night on the rink if he was allowed. The extra skating can do him well. His major faults are his skating and puck-handling

ability, says Gooding, both attributed to his lack of ice time.

"I was never serious about hockey until the ninth grade," he says. "Back home everything is football, baseball and basketball while hockey is not considered a major sport."

"Things started to change when the (Philadelphia) Flyers were big and more kids became interested in hockey but it certainly didn't ever become as big as the other sports."

Caufield said he became disinterested in the other sports when they ceased becoming fun. He played Legion baseball at 16, considered young, and had several high school offers for football but he turned down the football and turned to hockey.

He played school hockey until he graduated last year and considered giving it up this year.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams I'd be up here playing hockey. If I hadn't come here, I probably would have quit."

"I'm glad that I'm up here playing hockey. I'd like to go to school and

play hockey. (Caufield would like to take a business course but the thought is far from his mind at the moment. He still is concerned with his play this year and how he needs to improve.)

"I've had a couple games where I thought I played pretty good. But I'm thinking too much and hesitating I need to react better to improve."

The sentiments are echoed by Gooding who sees an improvement over the first nine games although Caufield has yet to score a goal.

"His skating is weak," says Gooding, "but Jay's been on skates just since he was 15 so we can't expect him to improve overnight."

"He's got to work on his stickhandling and he's got to use his size better."

Caufield is the biggest player on the team at six-foot-five and 220 lbs. He completely dwarfs coach Scott Sones who is about one foot shorter.

The lanky player considers himself to be fortunate playing in Milton.

"When I came up here, they (the Goodings) made me feel right at home. They put me up for a while and told me if I ever needed any help, to give them a call."

Somewhat reserved and friendly, Caufield has been accepted by the team as a player and not as an American which has added to his good feeling about the area.

He finds himself with lots of idle time having been unable to obtain a work visa and whiles away the hours in his room thinking about hockey.

His parents have been behind his decision and recently, his family drove up from just outside Philadelphia for a weekend to see their son and brother play.

Through it all, Caufield has seen what hockey has become in Canada. He likens it to the emphasis placed on football, basketball and baseball at home.

However, Caufield still can't get accustomed to the flies.

JAY CAUFIELD is trying to make his mark in hockey with Milton Flyers. The 19-year-old native of Pennsylvania scored his first goal of the season last Thursday in Barrie.

James scored the first touchdown himself on a six-yard off-tackle run before booting Milton ahead 7-0 with a convert.

A 40-yard pass to Gord Haines scored

James, Racinsky pace football win

Closing out the season on a winning note, the junior football team of Milton District High School downed Georgetown 14-12 Thursday in Georgetown marking Milton Mustangs' first win of the year.

The squad earned the victory with an all-out effort in the first half when they rolled up a 14-0 lead and completely controlled the game both on offence and defence.

Halfback Ian James constantly threw knots into the Georgetown defence with his constant driving for rushing yardage which contributed to both touchdowns.

James scored the first touchdown himself on a six-yard off-tackle run before booting Milton ahead 7-0 with a convert.

A 40-yard pass to Gord Haines scored

the juniors' other major score with James again converting.

"I'm very pleased with the play of the team," said Milton coach Doug Foley, in his first year of coaching. "They've improved all along and I'm sure most will continue next year. The majority are very enthusiastic about next year."

Jamie Racinsky had a good day on the field. The middle linebacker constantly made sure tackles which quickly snuffed Georgetown drives.

Racinsky also contributed a field-length kick return which was cut in half by a clipping call near the end of the first quarter.

Georgetown scored two second-half TDs but failed each time for two-point converts which would have tied the score.