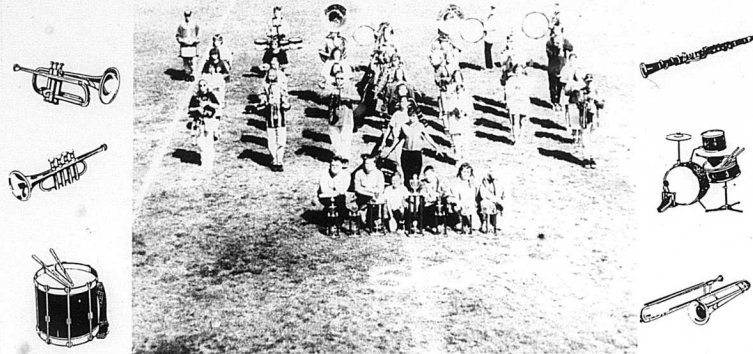


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SPORTS

Raceland Rams rampage Bluejackets 37-22

By Leif Brookshire
Special To The Mercury
The Raceland Rams unleashed a potent offensive machine on Nicholas County last Friday night (Oct. 20) at Raceland, defeating the Bluejackets 37-22 in a key district matchup.

The Bluejackets came out fired up Friday night, hoping to capture a district win and home field advantage in the state playoffs to begin next week. Senior tight end Rodney Mitchell recovered a Raceland fumble on the opening kickoff, giving the Bluejackets their first break and excellent field position at the Ram 30 yard line. The Bluejackets took the ball and marched it down to the 2 yard line, where junior runningback Colin Broderick slammed it in for the first Nicholas County touchdown. Rodney Mitchell caught Roger Vice's pass for the two point conversion, giving Nicholas County an early 8-0 lead.

"It always gets you fired up to come and get a break like that early," Letcher said. "We proved we could move the ball on Raceland, but when it came time to punch the ball into the end zone they just played good defense. Penalties hurt us, but you have just got to give their defense credit."

When the Bluejackets returned to the field in the third quarter, they were hoping to recover from the first half, but Raceland had other ideas.

The rest of the first half belonged to the Raceland Rams, however, when they proceeded to score three straight touchdowns. The Rams missed all three extra point attempts, leaving the score 18-4 at half-time.

"It's really hard to play as well as we did in the first half, and come out down 12 points," Letcher said. "I wish it had been a little earlier in the game."

Raceland punched in a couple of more late touchdowns, with Nicholas County's only bright spot coming on a 37 yard touchdown pass by Aaron With. "Roger put the ball right on the money," With said, "and I was wide open. I just wish it had been a little earlier in the game."

The Bluejackets completed the scoring near the end of the game when Colin Broderick scampered in with no time on the clock, from the five yard line.

"I was really impressed with Colin's work tonight," Letcher said. "It felt good, even after a loss, to see a player like that laying everything on the line like he did. I'm proud of him and what he stands for."

Capitalizing on a Bluejacket interception, the Rams marched the ball down the field and punched in an early touchdown, increasing their lead to 24-8.

"That pretty much took the wind out of our sails," sophomore tight end Greg Morris said. "We were pretty fired up, but it's hard to stay that way when you just keep falling farther behind."

Broderick led the Bluejackets offensively with 123 yards and two touchdowns on 19. The Bluejackets were led defensively by Rodney Mitchell, who contributed with 13 tackles and one fumble recovery.

"Roger put the ball right on the money," With said, "and I was wide open. I just wish it had been a little earlier in the game."

Nicholas County hosts the Bath County Wildcats this Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the regular season's final game. Bath County probably has one of the best teams they've had in awhile," Letcher said. "We'd really like to close out this season with a victory to get us motivated toward the playoffs. I can't think of a better way to do that than to end the year on a 2-0 with a victory over a good team as the Wildcats."



The Nicholas County Bluejackets met defeat against the Raceland Rams last Friday night at Raceland.

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