

LOOKING AHEAD TO WEEK 7

Clearview at Lutheran West, Friday, 7:30 p.m.

We've reached Week 7, so it's time to focus in on conference races, which are beginning to heat up. After three weeks of the Patriot Athletic

Conference season, Clearview, Lutheran West and Oberlin are the top contenders in the Stripes Division. The Clippers will travel to Rocky River on Friday for the game that could eventually decide the league race.

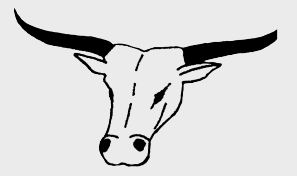
The Clippers are 6-0, 3-0 in the PAC, and have had just one close game, a 14-7 win over Buckeye. They handled Brooklyn 41-14 Friday night.

The Longhorns are 4-2, 2-1 PAC, following a 34-14 win Friday over Keystone. After next

week's showdown, the Longhorns travel to Oberlin (5-1, 2-1).

Clearview hosts Oberlin in Week 9. Last season, the Clippers hosted the Longhorns and won 34-24 in the clash that gave Clearview the PAC title and relegated Lutheran West to runner-up status.

Other games of interest in Week 7: Oberlin at Brooklyn; Midview at Avon; Brecksville at Olmsted Falls.



BUCKEYE 28

WELLINGTON 19

Kelly helps Bucks stop Wellington

Adam Ferrise

The Chronicle-Telegram

WELLINGTON — Mike Kelly, who struggled through Buckeye's first four games, looked his most comfortable under center this season in leading the Bucks to their second straight win.

Kelly completed 6-of-9 passes, one for a 70-yard touchdown, and rushed for 68 yards in the Bucks' 28-19 win over Patriot Athletic Conference Stars Division opponent Wellington on Friday.

"Mike's an athlete," Buckeye senior Cory Reisner said. "That's

something we didn't have last year. It's good for both of us to use our speed and quickness."

Both players' elusiveness was on display. Reisner rushed for 153 yards on 21 carries, scored three rushing touchdowns and intercepted the final pass of the game on the Buckeye 10-yard line with 50 seconds left.

Buckeye coach Billy Burke said the duo feeds off each other.

"When we go Cory, Cory, Cory, teams can forget the quarterback is a very capable runner as well," Burke said. "That's how

our offense is going this season."

In the Bucks' run-heavy offense, both players said their in-game communication has been essential in the last two wins.

"We watch how they line up and we talk each other through the play," Kelly said.

With the Bucks ahead 21-19 in the fourth quarter, Kelly faked two handoffs and decided to rush himself. He avoided a slew of Duke defenders in the backfield with a nifty spin move and took the rush 28 yards to the 1-yard line.

Reisner capped the drive on the next play with his third touchdown.

"I feel both me and Corey can make the big ones," Kelly said. "We just go with whichever is better that play. We both feel either of us can make the play."

Kelly connected with Darren Boulton for a 25-yard touchdown on fourth-and-7, giving the Bucks a 21-7 lead with two minutes left in the first half. Boulton had five receptions for 57 yards.

Dukes quarterback Steve Simonson took the next play

from scrimmage 74 yards for a touchdown on a draw play to cut the lead to eight at halftime.

Wellington (1-5, 1-2 PAC) matched Buckeye (2-4, 2-1 PAC) throughout the first three quarters touchdown for touchdown, though they failed to convert two extra points.

Simonson, who rushed for 143 yards on 11 carries and connected on 12 of 22 passes for 122 yards, led Wellington on a nine-play, 82 yard drive at the end of the third quarter to make the score 21-19.

Reisner's 1-yard touchdown came on the next possession and was set up by Kelly's 28-yard burst on third-and-4.

"We had to stop their offense and it seemed like we had them stopped a couple times and that's kind of been the story of our season. We gave up long third- or fourth-down conversions," Wellington coach Matt Stoll said. "That's kind of what's happened to us all year."

Ferrise may be reached at sports@ohio.net.

ROUNDUP

Russo sparks Falls to win

BEREA — Brandon Russo had four rushing touchdowns to lead Olmsted Falls to a 35-28 win over Midpark in Southwestern Conference action Friday night.

Russo's 2-yard TD run in the fourth quarter was the game-winner, while John Atkinson scored the winners' fifth touchdown in the third quarter.

Berea 19, Brecksville 0

BRECKSVILLE — The Braves (4-2, 2-1 SWC) led 12-0 at halftime and added an insurance touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Shaw 52, Admiral King 14

EAST CLEVELAND — The Cardinals (5-0, 1-0 LEL) scored 46 unanswered points after Anthony Harrison of the Admirals (4-2, 0-1 LEL) scored the Lake Erie League Erie Division game's first touchdown.

Michael Taylor ran 78 yards for the second Admiral King touchdown in the third quarter.

Bedford 47, Southview 6

BEDFORD — The Bearcats (3-3, 1-0 LEL Erie) scored all of their points before Josh Biber caught a 40-yard touchdown pass from Ricky Earl to keep the Saints (1-5, 0-1 LEL Erie) from being shut out.

Oberlin 41, Columbia 0

OBERLIN — Aaron James had three rushing touchdowns for the Phoenix (5-1, 2-1 PAC).

Tim Hill added touchdowns on a punt return and an interception return for the winners in a Patriot Athletic Conference Stripes Division game.

Black River 35, Brookside 6

SHEFFIELD — The Pirates (2-4, 2-1 PAC) scored all of their points in the first half as Brookside remained winless in PAC Stars Division action.

Fairview 21, Firelands 14

FAIRVIEW PARK — The Falcons (2-4, 0-3 WSC) couldn't hold onto a 14-0 lead as previously winless Fairview won with three short touchdown plays in West Shore Conference action.

Mitch Hagg of the Falcons opened the scoring with a 7-yard TD run, and teammate Paul Garcia had a 2-yard TD run in the third quarter.

Ryan Waldman caught a 2-point conversion pass from Jared O'Keefe for Firelands' last points.

CLEARVIEW 41

BROOKLYN 14



CARL SULLENBERGER / CHRONICLE PHOTOS

Clearview's Anthony Hitchens is barely slowed down Friday by Brooklyn's Rob Cardinal during the Clippers' win.

Clippers speed by 'Canes

Shaun Bennett

The Chronicle-Telegram

SHEFFIELD TWP. — A blur of blue flashed past Clearview coach Mike Collier and a smile quickly spread across his face.

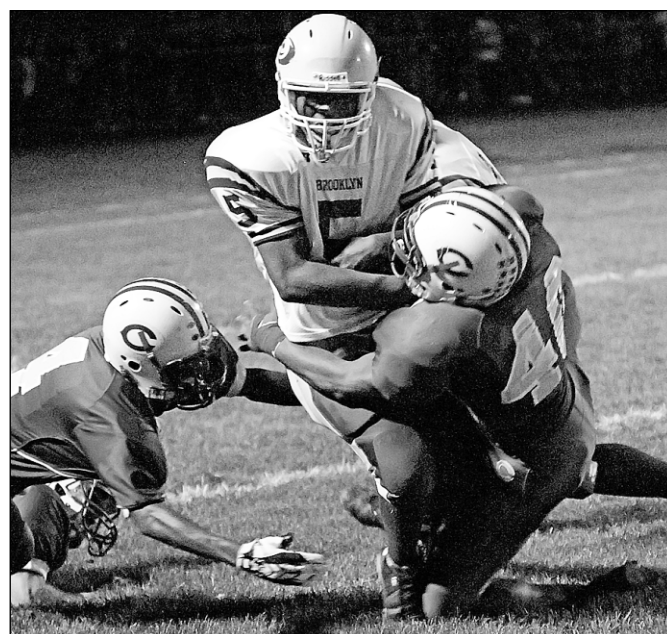
"Tony Williams did a great job of finding a seam," Collier said. "Once he gets through a seam, there are not a lot of people who can catch him."

Williams caught the opening kickoff on the Clippers' 17-yard line and streaked down the field for an 83-yard touchdown return, giving his team the lead just 11 seconds into Friday night's game against Brooklyn.

Junior running back Anthony Hitchens carried the ball 12 times for 141 yards and three touchdowns, and caught two passes for 32 yards and a fourth score — giving the Clippers the spark they needed to hand the Hurricanes a 41-14 defeat in a Patriot Athletic Conference Stripes Division showdown.

"Their speed is tremendous," Hurricanes coach Chris O'Brien said. "They took us out of the game from the start. That speed was difficult to deal with on both sides of the football."

After Williams scored Clearview's first special teams touchdown of the season,



Clearview's defense stood tall all night, including on this play by Michael Mealing (left) and Cordell Howe. The runner is Brooklyn's Andrej Sessions.

Hitchens scored twice on 1-yard runs and caught an 11-yard pass from junior quarterback Zach Anderson to give Clearview a 28-0 lead with 23 seconds left in the opening quarter.

Clearview's defense didn't allow Brooklyn to gain a first down until midway through the second quarter, and held the Hurricanes to minus-5 total yards in the first quarter

and 47 in the first half. The Clippers also recovered four of the Hurricanes' seven fumbles in the game.

"The defense has been stepping it up and improving every week," Collier said. "We're going to have to continue to do that the rest of the season if we want to be successful."

Clearview (6-0, 3-0 PAC) added to its lead when senior

tight end Lucas Wright hauled in a 29-yard touchdown pass from Anderson — thrown on third-and-14 late in the second quarter — and Hitchens scored on a 6-yard run on the Clippers' opening drive of the second half. The Clippers led 41-0 and pulled their starters from the game.

"We really used our speed to our advantage tonight," Hitchens said. "Once we showed off that speed early, we just went to power football and ran it up the gut."

"As a team, we're still developing and I think we can end up being very good."

Brooklyn (3-3, 1-2) ruined the shutout bid when freshman running back Travis Burgess went wild in the final quarter. Burgess — the younger brother of starting running back Randy Burgess — ran seven times for 141 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the final six minutes.

HONOR ROLL: It was Homecoming night, and the Clippers always honor a former graduating class before the Homecoming game. Friday night's honoree was the class of 1958, and a large group strolled down the track in front of the home grandstand.

Contact Shaun Bennett at 329-7137 at sbennett@chroniclet.com.

AVON LAKE

From D1

Scoring points was a difficult task for the Shoremen all night, but they needed just over three minutes to tally the winning touchdown.

With 6:28 remaining in the game, Avon Lake took possession at midfield and marched to the North Olmsted 31-yard line, where junior running back Mike Mansnerus got loose to put the Shoremen in front for good. Mansnerus took a pitch to the left side before cutting back inside and darting untouched down the right sideline.

Mansnerus, who was filling in for an injured Steve Mares, was the AL workhorse, rushing for 183 yards on 28 carries.

The Shoremen stopped themselves in the opening half, losing a pair of fumbles on promising drives and committing penalties that dogged them for the duration.

"We're usually error-free, but this was a comedy of errors," said Shoremen coach Dave Dlugosz. "A win's a masterpiece, but this was an abstract. We had fumbles, we had injuries, we had penalties, but we overcame all of that."

"We felt at halftime that it should have been 21-0."

Mansnerus had 124 yards by halftime, and got plenty of assistance from Cody Bennington and Nick Marinkov, who helped Avon Lake to a 286-99 edge in rushing yards.

Avon Lake was penalized 11 times for 95 yards; the Eagles six times for 60 yards.

North Olmsted, which was celebrating Homecoming, had two possessions to tie the game and win it with an extra point over the final 3:13, but as it did all night, Avon Lake's defense stood tall.

"Our kids are growing and coming together, especially defensively," Dlugosz said.

For Ptacek and the Eagles, it was another lesson in futility against an annual nemesis.

"I thought our defense played well," Ptacek said. "Offensively, we moved the ball. We knew we were going to have to score two touchdowns. We just weren't able to get the second one."

FALLEN HERO: Avon Lake players wore American flag and No. 66 decals on their helmets, honoring former Shoremen standout Capt. Michael Medders Jr. — the son of Elyria Police Chief Michael Medders — who was recently killed in Iraq. There was a moment of silence prior to the game.

"We played for him," said junior Nick Marinkov. "He was a great player."

Contact Chris Assenheimer at 329-7136 cassenheimer@chroniclet.com.

AVON

From D1

the football, so he doesn't get tons of opportunities," said Avon coach Mike Elder. "He's our No. 1 guy at the corner position. He's solid and he's always around the football. Finally, some fell into his hands. He actually dropped one, so I'm a little upset he didn't have five."

Avon (6-0, 3-0 West Shore Conference) needed a leader to step in to carry the load. Running back Marques Harrell was under the weather during the week and did not start. However,

Harrell contributed to the victory by running 14 times for 57 yards and one touchdown. He also caught one pass for 3 yards and kicked off for the Eagles.

"This win feels good not because we lost to them last year, but our kids' hard work in the off-season is paying off," said Elder. "We stretched our win streak to six. We know we won't be 5-5 now, so that's a good thing."

The Sailors (2-4, 2-1 WSC) found themselves in a 21-0 hole before the first quarter ended. While the defense limited Avon to one score in each of the remaining quarters, the offense needed to move the ball down

the field quickly. Clark attempted 28 passes, but had five intercepted. In addition to Logan's four, Collin Krebs had a pick.

"He got a little frustrated just like the rest of us," Vermilion coach Frank Horvath said of Clark. "Avon made some plays. They put pressure on him and their defensive secondary did a good job. We had some passes dropped, too."

"He started to force things. When you play a good team like Avon, we try to do things to get back in the game and he was forcing the action."

While Clark struggled to find throwing lanes, Avon quarter-

back Ryan O'Rourke had good pass protection and connected with seven receivers. In the waning minutes of the second quarter, Avon took possession of the football at its 32-yard line.

After a chop-block penalty and incomplete pass, O'Rourke faced a third-and-12 from the Vermilion 42-yard line. The senior threw a fade route down the right sideline. With a defensive back in coverage, Logan laid out and hauled in a 31-yard catch, his lone reception.

Logan's catch set up a 12-yard touchdown pass from O'Rourke to Zak Wearsch.

"It's big to get a win after the

game last year," O'Rourke said. "To have it coming on their home field is great. Matt's been talking about this game for a while. He wanted to play Vermilion."

"I don't mess around with him, mechanically speaking," Elder said of O'Rourke. "He's as polished a quarterback as there is in the state of Ohio. He now has a grasp of our offense and he's making smart decisions with the football. I'm not going to jinx him, but he hasn't done anything bad at that quarterback position yet."

Contact Matt Florjancic at 329-7135 or ctsports@chroniclet.com.