

Atoms to Work Hard On Avoid ing Errors

FALLS CHURCH — Ed Henry spent his Sunday afternoon watching films while the rest of the family enjoyed the usual fare of National Football League action on the television.

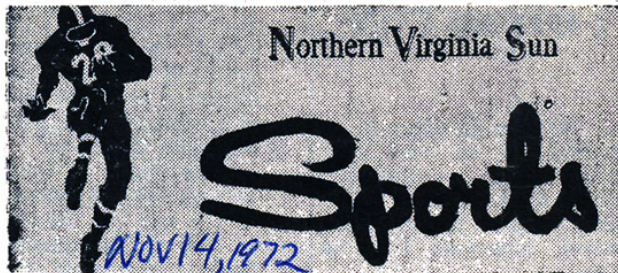
Henry, however, was more interested in the films of his 7-6 victory over Madison last Friday night. He wasn't really impressed with the victory, either on the field or as it unfolded before his eyes on the screen.

"We, like everybody else in Northern Virginia this year, had our bad game. Fortunately, for us, we won it," was the way Henry sized it up.

It was hard to believe but Marshall lost seven fumbles to Madison. "If we do that Saturday against Annandale it will probably cost us 49 points...yes, it could," said Henry.

Marshall takes on Annandale, 49-19 victors over Fairfax last Friday night, at Woodson Saturday afternoon for the Northern Region AAA football championship. The winner of this game will go on to the state semifinals and an opportunity to win it all.

"We were tight, just like we were scared to death," said Henry in reviewing the mistakes his team made against Madison. The seven fumbles came about as the



result of two dropped punts, two bad exchanges between the quarterback and center, two pitchouts that went astray and one drop of the ball by a ball carrier.

"We had a new kid at quarterback in Greg Schwemley. He's only 14 and a freshman. But he called a great game. It was a lot of little mistakes that hurt us," Henry said.

Mike Oliff, the Statesmen's No. 1 signal-caller who suffered an ankle injury in the Oakton game two weeks ago, will resume practice today at Marshall. "He'll be there on one leg. We'll get him ready for the big one Saturday," said Henry.

Oliff should be completely healed by Saturday but, if for some reason he's not, Henry said he would not hesitate to go with Schwemley.

"For a 14-year old kid making his first varsity start, he did all right. We can't blame him for our poor game.

With the exception of a few little mistakes he called a great game. I think Greg will be a great quarterback for us in coming seasons," Henry added.

Everyone knows, and that includes Henry, that Annandale is the type of team to take seven fumbles and put them on the scoreboard in the style of seven points each.

"On defense they just lay back there and wait for you to make a mistake. If we play like we did the other night they won't have long to wait. We just can't play that kind of ball against them.

"On offense I think Annandale has one of the best teams ever. You won't find any other team in the state with outstanding football players like end Tom Fadden, quarterback Pete Conaty and running back Mike Lucido, all on one team.

"They've got a little guy playing middle guard, Mike Mehlfelt, who I would say is

one of the best defensive football players around," Henry commented.

Annandale will outweigh the Statesmen man-for-man, but Henry is not taking this as a crutch to lean on.

"Heck, we've faced bigger teams as a matter of routine every week. I'm not letting that fact worry me. We can't use that as an excuse. I just hope my kids don't go into this ball game as tight as we were against Madison.

"If we go in there uptight we're going to lose. We should be ready and loose because we've had the bad game and we were lucky," Henry said.

In addition to his concern over whether or not his team is loose, Henry is worried about controlling the ball against Annandale.

"Those seven fumbles we gave up stripped us of any chance to play ball control. To beat a team like Annandale we'll have to run more plays than they do and that's something we haven't been able to do lately. Heck against Washington-Lee we ran the ball 36 times and they ran it 72 times, exactly twice as many times. We won that ball game but, not taking anything away from W-L, they're not Annandale.

"Annandale can hold the

football and drive. They don't give the ball away and the only way to beat them at this game is to keep the football and do just what they try to keep you from doing," Henry said.

Henry is expected to conduct light workouts this week in preparation for the game.

"We've got too many little hurts to really knock heads all week. Heck, if we haven't learned to hit by now, it's too late to learn. We don't need a lot of hard work this week.

What we need is teaching more than anything else and concentrating on not making the little mistakes that can kill us against Annandale," Henry said.

Renew Old Acquaintance

Nov 13, 1972

Coach Bob Hardage never admits to be looking past the team he happens to be playing that particular week. No matter who his Annandale Atom football team faces he claims that is the only thing on his mind whether they be the league patsies or a serious challenger.

Maybe that's something he learned from his old coach, Ed Henry. Hardage played football under Henry at Mt. Vernon some 20 years ago. The association doesn't end there. Hardage was assistant coach under Henry at Annandale from 1960 through 1965. When Henry moved to Marshall Hardage picked up the head coach job at Annandale.

Friday the teams coached by these two men meet for the Northern Region Championship. Henry is another man who never downgrades the upcoming opponent. He seems to always have something positive to say about any team before he plays them and after the game is over.

Neither Hardage nor Henry are ones to belittle their own teams performance. They both have a quiet confidence that their boys can do the job even while praising the opponent's quarterback, or defense, as the case maybe.

Both Marshall and Annandale have 9-1 records. They are the only teams in the area that have survived the season with a record as good. Hence they are the teams meeting to decide which one will have a shot at the state semi-finals and possibly the state championship.

Hardage claims his former association with Henry will be no factor in the game. It is just another big game for him. "The biggest game of the season." (All season long Hardage has called his next game the biggest game of the season but when you look at the schedule of games his team played you can almost agree with him.)

Hardage is no stranger to post-season games. This is the second consecutive year that the Atoms have been District

In 1967, the Atoms participated in the first regional playoffs in the state. They beat Yorktown, 27-7 in that game and were named tri-state champions on the basis of their perfect 11-0 record.

In 1968, Annandale went into the regional games with a record identical to this year's record, 9-1. It was Stuart that year also who spoiled an undefeated season by one point, winning 25-24. The Atoms were successful defenders of the region title that year, beating Mt. Vernon 14-7.

Hardage looks for a fine ball game--as any playoff game should be. "We both play the same kind of game," said the Atom mentor, "We both like to put the ball into the air. Of course, when you make a statement like that it usually ends up being a conservative game."

The Atoms will be going against one of the finest defensive teams, statistically, in the area. Marshall allowed no points in four of the games they played this year. In four other games they allowed no more than one touchdown. Their one loss came at the hands of Fairfax, but the Rebels only scored 21 points against them.

"They might be the best defensive team we've played," says Hardage. He compares them to Fairfax. "Both teams generally forced the other team to make mistakes and then capitalized on them."

Offense hasn't been a strong suit for Marshall. They haven't outscored a lot of

teams by big margins. They just manage to squeak by Madison 7-6 last week. Hardage sees it differently. "They have done what they have had to do offensively to win. While they haven't set the world on fire, they have scored enough points to come out on top and that's what counts."

Annandale will be healthy for the game. They have been fortunate all year to escape the serious injury to key personnel. Marshall lost their first string quarterback last week to an ankle injury, but Mike Oliff, the veteran of three years of Northern Virginia football will be back Friday to give his team both the physical and mental leadership he has provided all season.

Hardage says that his team won't be doing anything different. That means Marshall can look for Mike Lucido, the outstanding junior running back, to be carrying the ball every third or fourth play on the average. It means that Pete Conaty, the Atom quarterback will complement the Lucido running attack with handoffs to Kerry Mullin and pin point passing. If things go as they have in the past, about half of Conaty's passes will be directed at Tom Fadden, a man who can catch the ball and who knows what to do with it after it is in his hands.

If things go as Hardage hopes they will, the interior defensive line and linebackers will play an outstanding game, as they have generally done all season.

In Regional Game Annandale Favored

Nov 15, 1972

Annandale, 28; Marshall, 0. That sounds about right for the Northern Regional championship football game coming up this Saturday afternoon at Woodson High School.

Marshall has a good football team but Annandale is just Annandale and that's the reason for the selection in this corner.

It's all been said in the past. Annandale is a team led by a coach who excels in getting his team ready for pressure games. This is not saying that Marshall's Ed Henry doesn't have the same ability, but the choice of the Atoms stems from many things.

Man-for-man the Atoms are a bigger ball club. Henry says this doesn't bother him in the least because his team has been outweighed every week of the season and still has a 9-1 record to show for its efforts.

However Marshall may be going with a one-legged quarterback in Mike Oliff. Oliff, the snazzy senior signal-caller, suffered a sprained ankle in the Oakton game and just Monday returned to practice. It figures he'll be favoring the ankle somewhat mainly because Oliff isn't going into this game figuring to lose and would want the ankle in even better shape should his team make it to the state semifinals.

Marshall, if it hopes to have any chance of winning, will have to cut off the powerful Annandale running attack led by junior Mike Lucido. The closest Marshall can come to matching Lucido is Peyton Bailey and Bailey will have to have the best game of his high school career to outdo the powerful Annandale running back.

The passing game is another department in which the Atoms excel. Henry readily admits that Atom quarterback Pete Conaty is probably the "best pure passer in Northern Virginia." Conaty's favorite target is Tom Fadden and that combination rates as the best in Northern Virginia.

How Marshall goes into this game psychologically will mean a lot in the final outcome. With Oliff on the sidelines—we don't know if this was a factor—the Statesmen went against Madison last Friday night and were tight as a well-sealed drum. Here was the league-leader playing

scared against the last-place team that was to score only 66 points all season.

If ever there was an overwhelming favorite it was Marshall last Friday night but the Statesmen just managed to get by, 7-6. A successful two point conversion by Madison and the Statesmen would have been looking on from the stands this Saturday while T. C. Williams and Annandale would have had their rematch.

The weather may be a factor this Saturday. The long-range forecast calls for rain and if the going is slippery it may show on one of the two clubs, mainly Marshall which coughed up the ball seven times on a dry field against Madison.

Marshall appears more prone to losing the football than Annandale. The Statesmen can't fumble seven times this week because if they do, it will in all probability mean 49 points for Annandale.

Henry summed it up well the other day when he said that Annandale was the type of team that just "lays back in wait" of a mistake and then turns it into a touchdown. "If we play like we did against Madison they won't have very long to wait."

Annandale doesn't have one of its great defensive teams of the past. It seems the Atoms geared themselves up for the T. C. Williams game to start the season and have been content to slug it out with opponents since then.

In that first game with the defending state champions, the Atoms won, 24-15. It was called by Annandale coach Bob Hardage "the best defensive game we've ever played." On the season the Atoms scored 293 points, third behind Williams (346) and J. W. B. Stuart (316). On defense Annandale allowed 123 outranked in that department (66), Fairfax (75) Wakefield (76), and Fort Hunt (77).

Statistically speaking Marshall has the best defense in Northern Virginia, but hasn't been faced with the week-to-week opponents of Annandale.

In their only venture against a Northern District team, Marshall lost to Fairfax, 21-6, the team Annandale beat for the Northern District title, 41-19. So, on comparison of the two scores Annandale appears to be the superior team. Annandale, 28; Marshall, 0.

Henry Sees Team Hurt

Nov 15, 1972

FAIRFAX--Weather could be a factor in Saturday's Northern Regional championship football game. On this point both coaches, Ed Henry of Marshall and Bob Hardage of Annandale, agree.

"I don't think it will have much of an effect on us. We've played in rain before," said Hardage. "Anyway," Hardage added, "we have a rain date set for the game if the weather is bad."

Regional games officials, in an effort to end the football season a week earlier than originally planned, moved the regional game up a week from Nov. 25. Should weather interfere there is still one week in which to make up the games.

However, it remains doubtful, that a normal rainfall would stop the game "It would probably have to get pretty bad before we'd put the game off," Hardage added.

"Rain, and wet grounds, are always a factor in a football game. It always works to the disadvantage of the more explosive team," Henry commented. Yesterday's rain which was heavy during the morning hours, failed to put a crimp in either of the team's practice schedule.

"We worked as we would get ready for any ball game. The fact remains we may have to play under the same conditions so we might as well practice under them," Hardage commented.

Annandale has played in the rain once this season and actually fared well. It rained during the second half of the Robinson game and the Atoms scored a touchdown to beat the Rams, 14-3, in one of their close calls of the season.

On the same night Marshall was playing in the rain and defeating Langley, 18-7.

"We're not a real explosive team like Annandale so I don't think the rain will bother us. I'd have to say that the weather will have an effect on the game. I think it's true in all cases. Look at what happened to Williams against Fort Hunt," Henry added.

Williams, the defending state champion, was knocked out of a regional title berth when it lost to Fort Hunt, 8-7, on a field of mud

"Without a doubt the weather cost T.C. Williams the ball game," Henry said.

It was that same weather situation that projected Marshall into the regional title picture. Had Fort Hunt not beaten Williams it would be Williams and Annandale playing at Woodson Saturday afternoon in a rematch of the opening game of the season.

Adding to his comment that the rain couldn't effect his ball club, Hardage commented

"I don't think it will bother us because we don't rely on a lot of fancy stuff. We stick with straight football. True the goings might slow us down but I don't think we'll be stalled by the weather. Mike (running back Mike Lucido) can move on heavy ground as he holds onto the football," Hardage said.

"He's all right. The ankle is sore but he'll have to play on a sore ankle this week. It doesn't appear to be favoring it but we're not really knocking heads this week," Henry commented.

Over in the Marshall camp quarterback Mike Oliff returned to practice Monday and ran the first unit.

Regional Game Facts

Nov 15, 1972

Date: Saturday, Nov. 18
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Woodson High
Teams: Annandale (9-1)
Marshall (9-1)
Tickets: \$2 general admission
at gate.

Ticket Sales:

Both participating schools through Friday. \$1 for students, pre-sale only; Philip York Clothing store, Pickett Shopping Center; Cross Roads Cleaners at 4816 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria; 7117 Columbia Pike, Annandale; 5800 Seminary Road, Bailey's Cross Roads; Jerry's Barber Shop, Springfield Plaza Shopping Center. Team Records:

ANNANDALE (Northern District)		
24	Williams	15
47	Yorktown	0
21	Stuart	22
36	Falls Church	18
14	Robinson	3
28	Edison	8
27	Jefferson	6
24	Wakefield	13
32	Woodson	20
41	Fairfax	19
MARSHALL (Great Falls District)		
7	Falls Church	0
27	Edison	0
26	Yorktown	0
28	Herndon	12
18	Langley	7
6	Fairfax	21
20	McLean	6
17	W-L	0
17	Oakton	7
7	Madison	6

Annandale, Marshall to Clash This Afternoon for AAA Title

Nov 18, 1972

By GEORGE BRANTNER
SUN Sports Editor

FAIRFAX — All systems are go for this afternoon's Northern Regional football championship at Woodson High School.

Annandale, the Northern District champion, and Marshall, title winners in the Great Falls District, will do battle at 1:30 and the winner will advance to the state semi-finals against the Central District on Dec. 2 at Woodson.

Both Annandale and Marshall finished the season with 9-1 records. Annandale lost to Stuart in the Northern District and Marshall lost its only game to Fairfax, another Northern District power.

The teams would up their week of drills yesterday with everybody in top shape. There will be nobody missing from the starting lineups because of injury.

Annandale, which lost the Regional title last year to T.C. Williams, 28-0, is highly favored in this game to defeat Marshall.

Marshall coach Ed Henry admits his team should be the underdog but also points out that the Statesmen have the best defensive record of any team in Northern Virginia.

"We'll have to play our best defensive game against Annandale. I'm still concerned that we might not be able to control the football against Annandale and I felt that is what we have to do in order to win," Henry said.

"We're not taking Marshall any different than any other team this year," said Annandale coach Bob Hardage. "We worked as hard getting ready for this game as we did for any other game this season." Hardage added.

The Atoms possess a potent

offense led by senior quarterback Pete Conaty.

Conaty, 6-1, 165, has as his favorite target wide receiver Tom Fadden. Fadden, small for his position at 5-8, 150, still manages to get the football wherever it's thrown. On the season he's caught 54 passes for 1,033 yards and nine touchdowns.

When not throwing the ball to Fadden Conaty's favorite running back is Mike Lucido. Lucido, only a junior at 5-11, 192, averages better than 100-yards per game.

This is the offense that causes Henry much concern.

"They're going to be tough to contain. We know they're going to move the ball and for that reason we'll have to play the best defense ever," says Henry.

Marshall allowed only 66 points in 10 games this season and started the season with three straight shutouts.

A sellout crowd is expected to be on hand for the game. There are 9,000 seats available at the Woodson Stadium and tickets will be available at the gate. Only general admission seats will be on sale today, however, and they are priced at \$2 each.

Gates will open at Woodson today at 11:45 a.m.

Defense Keys Ball Control, for Marshall



Mike Lucido, Annandale's 100 yards plus per game running back, will present a major problem for Marshall's defense in Saturday afternoon's regional

title game at Woodson. Kickoff is set for 1:30 p.m. and the winner advances to the state semifinals.

(SUN Photo by Ann Stevens)

Injured Players Return

FALLS CHURCH — Controlling the football and continuing to play defense as in the past will be keys to victory if Marshall hopes to pull it off Saturday against highly-favored Annandale in the regional championship game at Woodson.

The teams square off at 1:30 and close to 10,000 fans are expected to watch the action.

Marshall, representing the Great Falls District, allowed only 66 points in 10 games starting off the season with three straight shutouts.

But controlling the football has become a problem for the Statesmen. "Against Washington-Lee they ran twice as many plays as we did. We won, but it was our defense that did it. Last Friday night against Madison we fumbled seven times, giving them what amounted to 28 additional downs. That can get rough on a defense but luckily we had our bad game and won it," Henry commented.

Against Annandale the going will be a lot tougher. No team loses seven fumbles to the Atoms and gets away without a thorough lacing. "I don't expect to get fumbles and pass interceptions from Annandale because they make so few mistakes. We can't really go in there Saturday hoping to cash in on their mistakes. That would be foolhardy. We just have to play the best

game of football ever. I have confidence in our defense. We've allowed fewer points than any other team in Northern Virginia and the way it looks we'd better keep playing the same brand of defense. The Statesmen have been working this week on getting more punch into their offense. In addition to defense it would help if the Statesmen could control the football.

"We just haven't been keeping our hands on the football. Annandale had a scare against Robinson because Robinson controlled the ball most of the first half. We have to control the ball and run more plays than they do. That's going to mean eliminating the seven fumbles we coughed up last Friday night against Madison," Henry said.

Henry is convinced that he'll have to do something with the

offense this week. "We haven't been scoring a lot of points and that has me worried," the personable coach added.

One good bit of news was being given by Henry and that is that all of the starters will be ready for the game. Three players have been playing sporadically for the last month and all will be in the line-up Saturday. They include Mike Atalla, safety, hobbled for three weeks with a leg injury; Larry Caynor, wide receiver, out for the better part of three weeks with a hip pointer, and Mike Oliff, quarterback, out with a sprained ankle since the Oakton game.

"They might be hobbling but they'll all be there," said Henry. Over at Annandale Hardage reports all are ready and there will be no lineup changes.

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