

Nov 6, 1972

Titles Decided In Two Races

It's all over but the shouting for all practical purposes in two of the three high school football leagues in the area. With Marshall's 17-7 victory over Oakton, the Statesmen clinched the Great Falls District title. If Marshall was to lose the game of the season against Madison, it might be the biggest upset of a season that has seen some big upsets but it wouldn't alter the results, since the closest team (Oakton) could not equal the number of Marshall wins (6).

Technically, the race is still open in the Gunston District. Fort Hunt and Williams are tied with 5-1 league records. Both should win Friday. Fort

Hunt plays Mt. Vernon and Williams plays Groveton. The only way the standings can change is if one of the two teams lose. Otherwise the Gunston number one team will be claimed by both. It's only a matter of pride for the Gunston teams because they will not likely have a shot at the regional playoffs. Marshall and whoever wins the Northern District will have higher Virginia High School League ratings and will likely meet for the regional title.

In the Northern District it boils down to Fairfax and Annandale. This is a game that fans have been looking forward to all season as the game that will determine the

championship. They won't be disappointed. The winner of the game will be the league champion. If by chance there is a tie, Fairfax would end a better VHSL rating and would participate in the regionals.

Fairfax had a chance to win it all last week. All they needed to do was defeat Stuart. Regardless of what Annandale did, the Rebels would have been number one if they had beaten the Raiders. But Stuart, who has been tough against the tough teams, beat Fairfax. The Raiders now have the distinction of being the only team to blemish the Annandale and Fairfax records.

Henry Forgot Regional

Arlingt

on, Va. Thursday, Nov. 9, 1972 . 9

al Date, Not Figuring the Impossible

By GEORGE BRANTNER

Sun Sports Editor

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FALLS CHURCH--Ed

Henry was being honest yesterday. Not at all implying that Henry is not honest all of the time, but the personable coach admitted that he was caught up in the T.C. Williams bandwagon and never really gave thought to his team having an opportunity play in the Northern Regional championship game on Nov. 18.

"I never gave a thought to our being in the regional. Of course, we're not there yet and won't make it unless we can beat Madison Friday night. One of the assistant coaches commented about a week ago that we'd be in the regional if Williams would lose another ball game.

"Man, I really let him have it for that remark. I saw no way that we would get to the regional and no way Williams would lose another ball game. Then it happened and all of a sudden I find myself in a funny

position, being the guy who didn't think we could make it," Henry commented.

Henry was not alone in his belief that there was no way Marshall would get to the big game and that Williams would lose another game.

Ed Henry and his Marshall team will be in the regional game at Woodson High School on the afternoon of Nov. 18 if the Statesmen can get past Madison in the final game of the season on Friday night.

The Statesmen will be going with a quarterback who hasn't yet started a varsity football game plus there will be few other patches placed in the Marshall machine.

Mike Oliff, the senior quarterback who Henry rates as the best in Northern Virginia, will be watching this one from the sidelines being supported by a pair of crutches.

Oliff, injured after pitching out on an option play in the Oakton contest, will definitely not play Friday night although the Marshall team physician, Dr. Pat Palumbo, told Henry the other day he could probably get the signal-caller ready in case of emergency.

Dr. Palumbo, more noted as the Washington Redskins' team doctor and his treatment of another famous patient, Sonny Jurgensen, has diagnosed Oliff's injury as a sprained ankle.

"The doctor said he could be ready on an emergency basis for the Madison game but we're not even planning for him to play. We've made our game plans with Mike Oliff out of them and that's the way it will be.

"We'll need him more on the 18th than at any other time," Henry commented.

As for not thinking about the regional, Henry said there was "no excuse" for his ignorance on the date. "I didn't realize until the other day that the game was to be played on the 18th. I should have known better...there's no excuse, but never did I feel that we'd have the opportunity to be in the game."

Henry, who one coached at Annandale, is making no predictions about the Annandale-Fairfax game this week because, "honestly I don't see how there can be a favorite in this rivalry."

"I will say, however, that this is the best Annandale team in five years. With the exception of T.C. Williams, Annandale probably has the strongest offense in Northern Virginia. T.C. makes a lot of mistakes on offense like fumbles, while Annandale doesn't give the football away. You've always got to be aware

of their pass-catch combination of quarterback Pete Conaty and receiver Tom Fadden. They're explosive.

"I look for Fairfax to come back loose now that the pressure of an undefeated season is over. If Fairfax is tight it will be to their disadvantage.

"If I were picking a team for any one reason, I'd go with Annandale because the Atoms have been in this pressure situation many times. They've faced the big game and have become accustomed to it. And there's probably no better coach than Bob Hardage to get a team ready for a game of this type. But I'm not picking Annandale or Fairfax. I'll just get ready to play the winner if we get past Madison Friday night," Henry commented.

When asked which team he would rather play, Annandale or Fairfax, Henry said:

"It really doesn't make much difference. Of course, having played and lost to Fairfax earlier in the season, it might be to our advantage to play Fairfax again. The advantage would be knowing what we did wrong in the loss to them and being able to correct it.

"I'll take anybody and we'll be ready. Heck, I'd go in there against T.C. Williams but the way I figure it the only chance Williams has would be for us to lose to Madison," Henry said.

Williams and Fort Hunt, now tied for first place in the Gunston District, should both finish with 6-1 league records and 8-2 overall. Only a loss by Marshall would give Williams a chance and that might be a longshot to be decided by the Virginia High School League rating system.