

First Varsity Game Ever Played
Sept. 2, 1972

Evening News Sat.

Pirates Win Opener 6 - 0

Scoring the games only touchdown in the first quarter, the Charlestown Pirates nipped visiting Springs Valley at Jeff Field Saturday night, 6-0 in the Pirates first varsity football game. Last year, gridiron activity was confined to junior varsity competition.

The Pirates score came with seven minutes left in the first period.

Attempting a punt on his own 27-yard line, Springs Valley punter Cameron Goldman bobbled a high snap from center, with Charlestown gaining possession.

Starting from Springs Valley 27-yard line, it took the Pirates six plays before senior Jim Cole charged through the Blackhawk defense, giving his team a 6-0 lead.

Second quarter action was a battle between the two defenses, resulting with neither team scoring in this stanza.

During the first few minutes of the third quarter, it appeared the Springs Valley offense was starting to move. Blackhawk quarterback Danny King led his team into Charlestown territory several times, but penalties and a "sticky" Charlestown defense halted Blackhawk surges.

With only two minutes left in the third quarter, the Pirates received a "key break" in the game. With fourth down and 16, senior Mike McCoy was forced to punt on his own 29-yard line.

After getting off his kick, McCoy was clobbered by Springs Valley defenders, resulting in a 15 yard penalty for roughing the kicker.

The situation was now fourth and 1, with McCoy kicking the ball deep into Blackhawk territory, ending third quarter action.

Again during the fourth quarter, Springs Valley made a futile attempt to score, charging deep into Charlestown territory.

With fourth and one and Springs Valley on its 20-yard line, the Pirates defense, led by Charlie Lewis and Eddie Stewart, halted the Blackhawk drive and took possession.

The Charlestown offense made little gain and was again forced to punt. This time, McCoy's punt was blocked and a Springs Valley defender recovered the ball on the Pirates 10. Adding to the Pirates woes was a penalty moving the ball halfway to the goal, leaving the ball on the Charlestown 5-yard line.

On fourth down the Pirates defense dug in and held the Blackhawks on the 1-yard line.

A penalty on Springs Valley helped move the ball to the Charlestown 15 and the Pirates took over.

With only one minute left in the game and Springs Valley fans starting to leave, the Blackhawk's started another drive, with quarterback Danny King connecting to John Mills on a pass, bringing the ball to the Charlestown 21.

On the next few plays, the Blackhawks advanced as far as the 1-yard line, but time ran out, and Charlestown had won its first varsity football game by a 6-0 score.

Pirate Coach Ron Dowdell praised McCoy's punting and the aggressive defense played by Stewart and Lewis.

"We kind of jelled in the fourth quarter," said the Pirate coach, "in fact we used a goal line stand in the last minute when they were on our 10 yard line."

The Pirates next contest will be Saturday when they take on Mid-Southern Conference foe Scottsburg at the Jeff Field.



Picking up long yardage for Charlestown is Pirate quarterback #10 Charlie Lewis in Saturday night's clash with Springs Valley. The Pirates gained a 6-0 win.