

# *Potter Football 2012 Week by Week Complete*

*Our 115<sup>th</sup> Season*  
*Compiled by Frank "Digger" Dawson*

## **Beaver Local**

**August 24, 2012**

<1> Billed as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the East Liverpool, Beaver Local clash, the 2012 game was actually the 34<sup>th</sup> renewal of the contest, as the pair of rivals did not meet from 1966 to 1980. They also skipped 1988 and 1989.

To veteran observers, it seems like only yesterday when the initial contest was played at Patterson Field on Sept 15, 1962. The Beavers, led by quarterback Jim McLaughlin, and middle linebacker David Myers were coached by Wellsville native Jack O'Rourke, who pulled off an impressive 16-12 upset victory.

Other games in the series that were memory-builders include: Beaver Local's 1993 26-22 comeback win; the 2001 (28-21) ELHS triumph played three days after the 911 terrorist attacks – a game in which the Blue and White, coached by Bobby Thayer came in at number two in the AP poll and almost blew a 21-0 halftime lead, scoring only seven points in the second half to the Beavers 21.

In 1995 Thayer, in his first year, won 7-6, his only time to come out on top all season, but better days were ahead. When he resigned to take the Westlake job in 2004, the popular coach held the school's top over-all record 67-38 (also 27 wins between 1996-1998, most in any three year period).

Following a 29-22 Beaver Local win in 2008, the Potters under Coach Mark Asher and his crew, handed the Beavers a 20-14 loss in 2009 and won a 16-10 overtime thriller at Patterson Field in 2010.

The tide started to shift, however, in 2011, under the Blue and White's rookie coach Rick Prescott, a 2000 graduate of Beaver Local High School and Mt. Union University with the Class of 2005, as the Potters suffered a 20-8 loss at the Beaver Dome in a game that seemed to go on forever due to player cramping and a multitude of passes.

2012 would see Prescott back for his second season, but his old mentor, Rich Wright, would no longer be roaming the Beaver Local sidelines. His retirement after 14 seasons led to the hiring of former Lisbon coach Jeremy McElroy, also a Mt. Union grad, to fill the vacancy.

Kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

The game started under a beautiful sky with an impressive crowd of between five and six thousand filling Patterson Field, as the Beavers won the toss and elected to receive, going three and out.

The Potters couldn't do much better following the punt, although they did manage to get the ball across midfield to the 39 from where EL quarterback Kade Reynolds was intercepted.

Setting up shop on their own 43, the Beavers commenced a nine-play, 57-yard drive that featured their senior running back Daniel Lattaznio, who picked up 29 yards on five carries, the final being a 14-yarder to the end zone with nine seconds remaining in the first quarter. Justin McCoy made it 7-0, and he wasn't done. His ensuing kickoff was fumbled by the Potters on the Beaver 29.

An incomplection and a three-yard run by East Liverpool transfer Travel Thompkins took the ball to the 26 and before the Potters caught their breath it was 14-0 in favor of the Beavers. The TD came when first-year Beaver Local signal caller Phillip Beohm found Justin Osbourne, who made a sensational catch on the one and rolled into the end zone.

The only other score of the game with 8:24 left to play in the fourth quarter when Thompkins took it to the house, from the four and McCoy booted his third straight conversion to make it 21-0, the final.

#### Coach's Comments:

"We just lost to Beaver Local. It is going to sting a little bit. It's going to hurt. If it didn't, something is wrong," East Liverpool coach Rick Prescott said following the game. "They are going home tonight. They are going to feel it. They are going to lick their wounds, but our challenge has got to be how we respond from here."

"We have been here before," the second-year coach said. "We just have to go back and fix some little mistakes. That's it. That is all we can do," Prescott concluded.

#### Digger's Dugout:

It was nice to see the 2011-2012 East Liverpool High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class introduced prior to the game. The group included Josh Martin, Robert Jackson, Jenny McVay, Ricky Carter, Mark Douglas, George Hornick and the late Tyler Butler.

Ironically, the Potters led in nearly every statistical category, but the quick TD by the Beavers to start the second quarter took the wind out of the Blue and White's sails.

This game tied the series at 17 wins. The shutout was the first since Beaver Local blanked the Potters in 2004.

It may not have been the largest crowd ever to see the game, but it was a good one, as parking was backed up to Route 11, and local office-seekers seemed to be everywhere.

## **Indian Creek**

### **August 31, 2012**

<2> The East Liverpool High School Football Team had not played Indian Creek since the Bob Thayer era when some great memory builders were created. There were large crowds and the contest often would be the WTOV-9 game of the week, with both teams vying for a state playoff berth.

Much changed since those days, but on this Friday night the Potter football team looked like they are on the road to recovery, as they battled for all 48 minutes, but in the end Indian Creek came away with a 26-12 victory at Kettlewell Stadium.

The Redskins took the lead in the first quarter when Alex Young returned a punt 45 yards for a touchdown. A two-point conversion pass failed, and it was 6-0.

The hosts added to their lead with two touchdowns in the second quarter. The first came on a two-yard run by Blake Roar, and the second came on a three-yard run by Logan Woods. Young converted both extra points to make it 20-0.

The Blue and White got on the scoreboard late in the first half, which was set up by a long kick-off return by Zack English back to Indian Creek 13. From there, on fourth down and 11, sophomore quarterback Kade Reynolds hooked up with English for six. The conversion kick failed and it was 20-6 at the intermission.

In the third quarter, an 18-yard scoring run by Darren Gribble put the Redskins up 26-6. The snap on the extra point was botched keeping the Redskins' advantage at 20 points.

The Potters scored their second touchdown of the game on a one-yard run by John Miscuk. The score came on a fourth-and-goal.

East Liverpool finished the game with 105 yards of offense in the game on 51 yards rushing and 54 yards through the air.

Miscuk led the way on the ground with 30 yards and a touchdown, and Reynolds added 20 yards. English was the leading receiver with 28 yards on two catches while Stefan Yoho hauled in two passes for 21 yards and also ran for 19.

The Redskins ended the game with 363 yards of offense, rushing for 276 yards, adding 87 through the air.

Indian Creek picked up 18 first downs, while the Potters recorded nine. The Potters committed 12 penalties for 95 yards, and the Redskins committed nine for 75 yards. Indian Creek fumbled four times in the game. Two of the fumbles resulted in turnovers. East Liverpool did not fumble the ball.

The Potters punted three times for a 34.3 average, while the Redskins punted four times for an average of 25 yards.

#### Coach's Comments:

"We have improved all the way around," second-year East Liverpool head coach Rick Prescott said. "Our guys want to play a physical type of football, and we're learning how to do that. We are growing up right here on the field, and we're just going to keep working and keep getting better."

"Hats off to them, first of all," Indian Creek head coach Andrew Connor said. "They came down and played a hard game. They are tough kids. They have a good coaching staff, and they show improvement."

#### Digger' Dugout:

The Reynolds-to-English touchdown was the Potters first score for the season.

The Potters would be looking to get their first win of the season the next Saturday afternoon when they travel south to Belmont County to take on Bellaire at Nelson Field. The game would be the first of back-to-back Saturday games for the Blue and White, possibly ever.

Who can ever forget John Freeman's 85-yard touchdown interception against "The Creek" in 1997 that won the game for ELHS?

Certainly, everyone would like to forget the long walk up the hill through the parked cars from the visitors' locker room.

### **Bellaire**

**September 8, 2012**

<3> East Liverpool High School has had an off-and-on football relationship with Bellaire dating back to their initial meeting in 1914 when the Blue and White traveled to the down-river town and were soundly defeated, 38-0.

In those days, most teams traveled by trolley, and the ELHS schedule reflected it. From Beaver, to Bellaire, most opponents were located on the street car line. The re-cap of the season looked like a

timetable from C.A. Smith's East Liverpool and Beaver Valley Traction Company's schedule: Beaver, Midland, East Liverpool, Wellsville, Toronto, Steubenville, Martins Ferry and, finally, Bellaire.

Memorable games in the series include the 1955 and 1956 contests when Bellaire was led by future Ohio State fullback, Mike Ingram. The Big Reds traveled to Patterson Field on Saturday, October 22, 1955 with over 1,000 of their faithful arriving by chartered train to witness a 26-19 Potter victory.

The game featured sensational performances by a pair of fullbacks – Gene Bell of the Potters and Ingram – coupled with two brilliant defensive stands by the Big Blue line before a standing room only crowd.

Bell scored on runs of 22, 67 and 63 yards, while Ingram rushed for 159 yards, tallying twice. He also played a stellar game at linebacker.

Suffering from leg and shoulder injuries in 1956, Ingram was not supposed to play, and although he opened at middle linebacker, he did not make an offensive showing until late in the first quarter. From that point, he never left the field scoring on a 64-yard touchdown, while gaining 99 of the 137 Bellaire rushing yards, but the Potters prevailed 34-12.

The Big Reds did not show up again on the locals' schedule until the seventh week of the 1984 season with the teams continuing to play through 1989. Although the record shows three victories each, the 1988 match-up was an overwhelming win for the down-river foes, 42-13. Joey Galloway, future Ohio State and NFL star, put on a clinic catching six balls for 229 yards in that one.

The 1989 game, the last time the two teams met, ended with the unusual score of 5-3 in favor of the Blue and White. A two-point safety and a 20-yard field goal by Brian Stoddard accounted for all the ELHS scoring.

Without question, the most memorable game in the history of the two schools came in 1927, the same year that Lindberg flew the Atlantic and Babe Ruth hit 60 homeruns. The teams had played sporadically since the initial match-up in 1914, renewing the rivalry in 1927 after a four-year break.

The date was set for Saturday, October 29, at Bellaire, winners of three consecutive Ohio Valley School Association championships, having lost only one game in the previous four seasons.

Coach Joe Hurst would take his warriors to Bellaire's Riverside Park that day led by Glenn Mackall, Bill Orr, Bob Crawford, Frank Kirkham, Jim Skidmore, Carman Laneve, John Pennybaker, Elmer English and Bill Pusey, who had nothing on their minds, but victory. And, it was on that day that future East Liverpool firefiight Dave Anderson would etch his name in the annals of East Liverpool sports history forever.

Here's how it happened: The game entered the second quarter scoreless when Bellaire Coach C.D. Wright called for a reverse. On the play, the lateral was bobbled by a Bellaire player. Enter Anderson, who grabbed the ball in mid-air, racing 55-yards for the game's only TD.

There have been many upsets in the history of ELHS football including the 1959 defeat of Warren Harding, wins over Weirton in 1936, Cleveland St. Josephs in 1967, Dematha Catholic in 1970 and Chardon in 1997. But to a young Dave Anderson and a fighting Potter football team, the Bellaire upset of 1927 will be forever etched in East Liverpool's history.

2012

With the renewal of this ancient rivalry on a damp afternoon at Bellaire's Nelson Field, speculation of a possible surprise victory, the likes of which the Potters had pulled off in bygone days would repeat on this dreary day, but it didn't happen. In a hard-fought struggle the Big Reds came out on top 43-28, but the warriors of Coach Rick Prescott had nothing to be ashamed of.

Receiving the 1:00 p.m. kickoff at the eight-yard line, Zack English returned the ball to his own 19 from where the Potters went into reverse, eventually punting from the 16, setting Coach Jose Davis and his team up on the ELHS 40.

Sparked by some nifty running by senior fullback, Nick Maffe, who carried for gains of 14, 21, one and the final yard, the host team found themselves in the end zone after only five plays. Senior kicker Dalton Conroy made it 7-0 at the eight-minute mark.

After the Potters went another three-and-out, the Big Reds responded with another drive. This time it was an eight-play 78-yard effort that saw senior quarterback Spencer Badia throw twice and carry three additional times, the final, a four-yard QB draw that made it 13 -0 with 2:30 remaining in the first quarter. Conroy missed the placement kick.

The Blue and White came to life on their next possession with some nice work by sophomore quarterback Kade Reynolds, who called on Stefan Yoho and John Miscuk to get the ball to mid-field in a seven-play drive that ended with a punt by English.

Bellaire could do very little on their next series, with Badia throwing a pair of incompletions before finding his favorite receiver, Nick Patrone, for an eight-yard pick up to his team's 29. A five-yard movement penalty set the Reds back to the 24 where they punted.

A nice return by D.J. Austin got the Blue and White to the EL 32, but an incomplete pass and a pair of runs by Yoho could get the ball no closer than the 41 where a failed fake punt gave the ball back to Bellaire.

Unable to advance much beyond midfield in five plays, Bellaire turned the ball over to the Potters, who were able to score their initial touchdown of the game on a seven-play drive that saw Reynolds find a wide open English on a 13-yard pass with 2:44 remaining in the half. Justin Barr converted and it was still a ball game at 13-7.

Unfortunately, Bellaire made the most of the time left in the second quarter. Responding with an eight-play 52-yard drive, they crossed the final stripe with one minute showing on the clock when Badia hit Kyle Hess from the 18. Conroy made it 20-7, and the big kicker wasn't done. After Abhay Horvath picked off a Reynolds pass, he booted a field goal from the 18 and it was 23-7 as the teams headed to the locker room.

Any hope for Coach Prescott and his crew of making a second-half comeback were quickly dashed when a non-roster player, Terry McGee, took the kickoff on his own 20 and promptly went 80 yards to the house. Following Conroy's kick it was 30-7, but the Potters were not about to give up.

Led by Reynolds and Yoho, the white-clad visitors went on a nine-play 80-yard drive, capping it off with a sensational leaping TD catch of by English on the back line of the end zone. Barr made it 30-14.

However, the determined Big Reds would not be denied, coming back with their longest drive of the day, a nine-play 68-yard effort capped off by an eight-yard run up the middle to the end zone by McGee, the score went to 36-14, after Conroy converted, but the Potters still weren't done.

Taking the ensuing kickoff, Austin maneuvered his way all the way to the Bellaire 10 and on a the first play from scrimmage, Miscuk scored with 2:44 ticks on a third quarter clock. A two point conversion attempt failed and it was 36-20.

Things began to really heat up when Bellaire went three-and-out with a little over two minutes left to play in the third quarter. Austin returned the punt to the Blue and White 41 where the Potters commenced an 11-play 59-yard drive that saw them score with 8:19 left to play in the game.

The pitch-and-catch combination of Reynolds to English, who made yet another excellent catch to move the sticks to the Bellaire 36 on the drive, along with the strong running by Yoho, who scored from the four with 8:19 left in the game, followed by John Miscuk's two-point conversion plunge, set the score at 36-28.

A short kick-off, out of bounds, sealed the Potters' fate, however, as the Big Reds were able to set up shop on their own 45. Four plays later, Badia found Quinton Crosby on a 38-yard bomb with 7:07 to be played. Following Conroy's conversion, it was 43-28, and in spite of the Potters' best effort on two more possessions, this is how the game ended at 3:39 p.m. on what turned out to be a sunny afternoon in Belmont County - sadly not for the Potters.

#### Coach's Comments:

"Naturally, we were disappointed to lose for the third time, but our kids don't know the meaning of the word "quit," said a disappointed Rick Prescott following the game. "They were in the game to the end."

“Hopefully, we can get our first win next Saturday against Toledo Woodward. They have struggled as well, so it will be a difficult opponent.”

“We are watching our team grow up on the field as our lineup consists primarily of Sophomores and Juniors. Only six seniors dress.”

### Digger's Dugout:

The Touchdown Club made certain that the team had breakfast prior to departing for Bellaire on two yellow school buses. A stop at the Toronto McDonald's on the way home was appreciated by the travel party which, added up to 70 athletes and coaches.

Former Wheeling Park coach, Mark Nordone helped broadcast the game on the radio side for WKKK, 1600 AM. Nordone stepped down in 2008 following 11 years as head coach of the Patriots.

In addition to a pair of incredible catches, Zack English added a dimension to the Potter attack with his rugby style punting technique.

Payton Newlun injured his arm at the beginning of the third quarter when the Big Reds kicked off to the Potters, following McGee's 80-yard kickoff return.

Next game: Toledo Woodward, will be played at 5:30 p.m. Saturday September 15.

## **Toledo Woodward**

**September 15, 2012**

<4>Perhaps the East Liverpool Potters should play all their games at 5:30 on a Saturday afternoon for a couple of reasons: first of all, there is a slight void in the college schedule between the afternoon contests and the evening games; secondly, it allows for the maximum amount of preparation and, finally, the team that visits the “not-so-friendly confines” of Patterson Field, as in the case of Toledo Woodward, would be in the midst of a long day of travel.

In any set of circumstances it certainly worked out for Coach Rick Prescott and his Potters as they took on their visitors from Toledo on a beautiful evening, and put on a scoring clinic with a resounding 65-12 win over Coach Sean Wesolowski and his Polar Bears.

The game got off to an ominous start with three minor penalties called before the Polar Bears could run their first play, a six-yard effort by junior Mordecai Brownlee, one of many attempts on the



night by the junior tailback, who would finish the contest with 18 carries for 161 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Following a Polar Bear three-and-out, the Blue and White scoring bonanza started this way: D.J. Austin returned the Polar Bear punt from his own 35 to the visitors' 38 from where Stephan Yoho would pick up eight yards on the first play and would waste no time on his next carry, going 30 yards to make it 7-0, after Justin Barr kicked the extra point with 8:52 on the clock.

After a third-down fumble by the visitors, the Blue and White scoring machine went on a rampage, as they racked up three TDs in a little over four minutes on the first quarter clock. Here is the sequence:

6:31 – Quarterback Kade Reynolds, facing a second down on the Polar Bears' 13, took matters into his own hands and carried the ball to the end zone. The extra point failed, and it was 0-13.

3:34 – Following a 32-yard punt return by D.J. Austin, Yoho went 19, then eight to make it 19-0 in favor of the home team with 3:34 ticks remaining on a first period clock. The conversion kick failed.

2:02 – A fumbled kickoff by the visitors, thanks to a hard hit by John Rickerd and a recovery by Brian Waggle, gave the ball to the Potters on visitors' 30, and three plays later, Reynolds found Austin on a 21-yard scoring strike to make it 25-0 after yet another botched conversion kick.

As the game moved into the second quarter, the locals continued the pounding when, on the very first play, Zack English intercepted a Polar Bear pass and took it 57 yards to the house. Barr's extra-point kick made it 32-0.

The Polar Bears would finally get on the board with 9:34 remaining before the break when Brownlee went 51-yards for the first of his two TDs on the night. The extra point failed when the snap from center was fumbled. The other score for the visitors would not come until the game was nearly over on a 14-yard Brownlee run with 3:29 left to play. That set the score at 65-12. There was a bad snap on the conversion kick.

Following Brownlee's second quarter TD, the Blue and White managed to cross the final stripe five more times between the Woodward tallies, starting with a five-play drive that was set up by Tevin Whitson's kickoff return back to the visitors 45. Five plays later, Yoho, who carried the ball four times on the drive, took it in from the six and Barr made it 38-6 with 7:03 remaining in the half.

The Blue and White would score, once again, with a little over a minute remaining before intermission, on a six-play 42-yard drive that was set up by a D.J. Austin interception. Choosing to grind it out, a face mask penalty and carries by Miscuk (2/27), Austin (1/8) and Rickerd (1/11)) took the ball to the four from where Rickerd plunged in to make it 45-6, following Barr's conversion kick.

The Potters would score three additional TDs in the second half, one on a 19-yard run by Yoho at 9:45 in the third quarter with the second coming when Queyshawn Sallis intercepted an exchange between two Woodward players on a play that started at the Polar Bears 37, and romped to the end zone at 8:29.

Finally, with just a little over two minutes remaining in the third, freshman Michael Oates scored his first varsity touchdown. The drive was set up when Corey Monteiro recovered an Andres Rojas fumble on the Polar Bears' 49 at the 5:15 mark. A six-play drive culminated with a 3-yard touchdown run by Oates, putting the score at 65-6.

Barr was two-for-three on his extra point attempts in the scoring blitzkrieg which sealed the visitors' fate.

#### Coach's Comment:

"I'm just so happy for the kids," an emotional East Liverpool coach Rick Prescott said following the game. "It's been a long time coming. My emotions are for them. It's hard to keep telling these kids that their hard work will pay off with a win and then keep coming up short. Obviously, we're not done and we have more goals to accomplish, but this was a great start.

"When we lose, it really hurts, and that's a good thing," Prescott said. "That shows how much the kids have invested in this team. So, on the opposite end, getting a win feels that much better because of all the dedication they've shown," Prescott concluded

#### Digger's Dugout:

It was the fourth highest point output by East Liverpool in school history. For Woodward, the loss extended their streak of futility to 47 straight games, dating back to the 2007 season.

Other high-scoring games for ELHS include a 69-8 trouncing of Cleveland East in 2002 under Coach Bob Thayer. Next came Wade Watts with a 66-6 pasting of Ashtabula in 1952, while the 77 points put up against Lisbon under Coach Ernest Bucher in 1922 remains tops.

The Potters dominated every aspect of the game from the opening kickoff to the final whistle. East Liverpool racked up 412 yards of offense on 93 plays compared to 231 yards for the Polar Bears on just 32 snaps. The Potters' Stefan Yoho was one of the many stars of the show. The senior tailback finished with 173 yards on 13 carries and four touchdowns.

The Potters would now move on to play at John Marshall on Sept. 21. The Monarchs won their first game since 2010 on Friday, 48-12.

**John Marshall**

**September 21, 2012**

<5> The buzz is that it is becoming more-and-more difficult to defeat the East Liverpool High School Potters in a game of football, and after Friday nights encounter, the John Marshall Monarchs will surely agree.

Limited to just 46 yards on the ground in 34 carries, the host team found it necessary to go through the air to defeat a stubborn Blue and White aggregation on Homecoming at the West Virginia school by a score of 34-12.

Winning the coin toss, the Gold and Black elected to defer receiving the kickoff until the second half and booted the ball to Tevin Whitson who promptly brought it back to his own 35 from where the Potters commenced a seven-play drive that ended with a Zack English punt from mid-field.

The Monarchs could do no better, going three and, out punting to D.J. Austin who signaled for a fair catch on his own 29. Unfortunately, three plays later, sophomore quarterback Kade Reynolds threw the first, of what would be five interceptions on the night, when Evan Magers picked him off, retuning the ball to the Potters 17. Four plays later quarterback Jeremiah Fromhart found Kolt Galentine from the eleven and it was 7-0 following Austin Litman's extra point kick.

There would be no more scoring in the first quarter with the next Monarch tally coming at 9:53 in the second on a sneak from the one by Fromhart. Litman missed the extra point and it was 13-0.

Following a nice 39-yard kickoff return by English to the EL 42, the Blue and White put on an impressive six play drive to the Monarch's 12, but a Reynolds' fumble gave the ball to the host team at 7:30. Fortunately, John Marshall retuned the favor with their own mishandling of the ball and it was East Liverpool's ball on the nine. Four plays later, Yoho stretched the field reaching the end zone from the three at 6:23. Justin Barr's kick made it 13-7 which would conclude the first half scoring.

Nursing a six point lead, Coach Rick Goodrich and his crew wasted little time as senior R.J. Kibert took Ryan Lilly's second half kickoff back to his own 36 and began a seven-play drive topped off by a Fromhart sneak from the half-yard line with 9:05 on the clock.

However, Coach Rick Prescott's team was not willing to roll over and play dead when the speedy Whitson took the ensuing kickoff back to midfield from where runs of 36 and seven yards by Stefan Yoho got his mates down to the five. Unfortunately, a bad snap and then an interception in the end zone by Evan Magers thwarted the Blue and White drive.

Setting up shop on their own 20 following the touchback, Fromhart was quickly intercepted by middle linebacker John Miscuk who took the ball back to the 31. A 15-yard personal foul set the Potters back to the 43, from where Johnny Rickerd took a Reynolds' pass down to the 22 and then to the 19 on a bruising run. A quick pitch to Yoho, then a ten yard thrust up the middle by Miscuk and the conversion by Barr put the Potters within six, 20-14, at 4:25 on a third quarter clock.

Sadly that would be all the scoring for the Potters on the night as the Monarchs answered on their next possession in only three downs, topped off with a 63-yard throwback touchdown pass from Fromhart to Zach Winland at 2:52 in the third.

The final John Marshall score came with a little over five minutes left to play in the game on a six-play 69-play drive that saw Magers haul in a 15-yard pass from Fromhart at 5:01.

Litman was true on each of the Monarchs' last pair of TDs to make it 34-14, the final.

#### Coach's Comments:

“Our goal was to make them put it into the air, an upbeat coach Rick Prescott said. They are a team that likes to establish the run, and our goal was to force them to put the ball in the air.”

“We knew what to expect. It turned out to be a chess game.” Prescott continued.

“Our kids played hard,” the second-year EL mentor said. “I say that every week, but it is the truth. They come to play every game. One day the ball our way, and all their hard work will pay off.”

#### Digger's Dugout:

It is always nice to see Eric McMahon lead the team onto the field for each contest. His efforts as a special assistant to Coach Rick Prescott deserve recognition. He is totally devoted to Potter football.

John Marshall has made strides with their athletic facilities. A jumbo-tron and exceptional PA system are great additions to their facilities and the visitors' locker room is spacious. Support for the Monarchs is abundant. Everything from advertisements on the scoreboard to signs surrounding the playing field on the fences is impressive. It seemed that every breath the PA announcer took had a sponsor.

The Blue and White Touchdown Club made certain that the team had a lunch prior to leaving for Moundsville and the Circle of Champions provided Pizza and soft drinks after the game.

**East Liverpool at Hubbard**

**September 28, 2012**

<6> In the 115 years of Potter football, East Liverpool had never traveled to Hubbard for a game , and judging from the results, may not be looking forward making the trip again in the near future. Actually this would be only the third time the two teams played at all. In 2011 the Eagles traveled to Patterson Field and beat the Potters 53-7. The only other meeting of the two teams occurred in 1980 when the ELHS aggregation, coached by Bob Babish, lost 6-3, a far cry from the 62-19 loss the team endured on this Friday night in the Trumbull County community, northeast of Youngstown.

For the Golden Eagles, it didn't take long to get on the score board. Taking the opening kickoff at 7:00 p.m. on their own 20, L.J. Scott, a 6' 1" junior, took the ball back to his own 45. Four plays later, the Eagles were in the end zone with less than a minute played. The big play was 44-yard completion for QB Brandon Harb to Darnell Tate, which took the ball down to the 10. Scott then lugged it to the one from where Harb finished it off. The conversion was no good.

The Potters were able to make a first down on their initial drive, using a nice combination of runs by Stefan Yoho and Kade Reynolds, but, then, were forced to punt from midfield. Three plays later, the Eagles were in the end zone again, when Scott took it 70 yards to the house. Adam Thirion converted, and it was 13-0.

Unable to do anything with the ensuing kickoff, which was bounced to the 26, Zack English once again punted and to no one's surprise, two plays later Harb found Tate on a 41-yard beauty, with 4:29 to play in the first quarter. Thirion made it 20-0.

For Coach Brian Hoffman and his excellently-coached team, the next TD would come on the initial play of the second quarter, when Scott went in from the five and Thirion's conversion kick made it 27-0.

It took the Eagles only three plays to get the ball back, when Tyler Taafe picked off Kade Reynolds. The play started on the Potters' 32 and saw Taafe take it all the way down to the nine-yard line. Four plays later, Arb took it to the house from the one, and Thirion made it 34-0.

Coach Ricky Prescott's eleven then completed their most sustained drive of the evening: a ten-play 50-yard effort set up by a Zack English kickoff return back to midfield. Four carries and a pass reception by Yoho sparked the drive with Reynolds finding Zack English from the five on the back line of the end zone for a beautiful completion. The conversion kick was missed and it was 34-6.

The final scoring of the first half came four plays later when Arb hit Tate from the 12 and Thirion made 41-6.

The Arb-to-Tate combination came back to haunt the Potters once again in the third quarter, scoring two more TDs. The first came at 8:41 and the second, a 19-yarder with 21 seconds remaining in the stanza. Hubbard scored its final TD with 10:16 left to play, when Dallas Booth rambled 37 yards. All three extra points were good for the Eagles in the second half.

Yoho and Tyler McComas managed to put their names on the scorer's sheet in the second half. For Yoho it was a two-yard run at 3:49 in the third quarter and McComas hauled in a three-yard pass from Reynolds with 3:00 left to play. Barr's extra point was the final point of the game.

#### Coach's Comments:

"We are struggling right now, but our young kids continue to work hard. There is no quit in any of them," said a frustrated Rick Prescott following the game.

"We came out of the game without any serious injuries, and, hopefully, can get our act together for Cambridge. They will be waiting for us," the second year coach concluded.

#### Digger's Dugout:

Hubbard's facilities have, obviously, undergone many changes over the years. A nice clubhouse for the teams and bleachers (with railings) make for a nice venue.

Ironically, both schools sport the same blue and white colors. Hubbard's marching band, which was huge, has adopted the Notre Dame fight song as theirs and uses the same melody as East Liverpool for their alma mater. It is taken from the hymn: *Be Still My Soul* written in the late 1700s. Jean Sibelius, was a Finish Nationalist, who composed a symphonic poem in 1899 titled *Finlandia*, which is sung to the melody of the hymn: *Be Still My Soul*. Contrary to popular opinion, it is not the national anthem of Finland, but is sung rather as we would sing *America the Beautiful* in the USA.

There are two Scott brothers on the Hubbard team, both sophomores. Larry "L.J.", who gained 206 yards rushing on 16 carries, is eleven months older than his brother, Isiah who caught one pass for nine yards on the night.

## **Cambridge**

**October 5, 2012**

<7> There are not many athletic contests that place any value on ties, especially at the half way mark in the contest, so it came as no surprise that the Cambridge Bobcats made certain they broke a 7-7 half time deadlock with the East Liverpool High School Potters on this Friday night by scoring 28 unanswered points in the third and fourth quarters of a hard-fought game to drop their guests by a 35-7

score, improving their record to 5-2. ELHS stands at 1-6 with games against Oak Glen, Cleveland East Tech and Weirton remaining.

For Coach Rick Prescott and his crew, it appeared that a wakeup call had been sounded as they led 7-0 late in the second quarter by virtue of a seven-yard Kade Reynolds run and a Justin Barr conversion kick at 0:38. However, an unsportsmanlike penalty against the Potters on the scoring play and a 33-yard kickoff return by Erick Snell gave the hosts excellent field position at the EL 30-yard line with 28 seconds to play in the half.

A pass interference flag on the ensuing play advanced the Bobcats to the 15-yard line and two plays later Caleb Tingle found Ivan Gadson in the end zone to tie the game at seven, following Cody Engstrom's conversion kick.

Following the intermission, Gadson had more left in the tank. With 6:57 remaining in the third quarter, the elusive junior scored on a 42-yard punt return and two possessions later he took another one to the house on a 67-yard punt return. Engstrom was good on both extra points and suddenly the score was 21-7 with 10:59 left in the fourth.

A 52-yard TD run by Trevor Hardesty put the icing on the cake for host team with 6:26 and Engstorm made it 35-7, the final.

#### Coach's Comments:

"Our kids played as well as we have all season," said a dejected coach, Rick Prescott. "We gave them some stunts that seemed to confuse them early on. Our defensive line played very well," he continued.

"We are now looking to the remaining three games to give us a positive finish to the season, The kids deserve it," Prescott concluded.

#### Digger's Dugout:

Thankfully, this will be the last trip of the season. It will be good to return to Patterson Field, although, thanks to the Blue and White Touchdown Club and the Circle of Champions the team has been well fed on the three consecutive road trips just completed. Everyone agreed that Wally's Pizza in Cambridge was the best. "It was just like Orlando's," a couple of the coaches were heard remarking.

One of the unsportsmanlike penalties was actually called at the half time as an official objected to a remark made by one of the East Liverpool coaches.

It will be a long time before anyone from East Liverpool wants to hear the name of Ivan Gadson who caught one pass for a TD and returned a pair of punts to the house with runs of 42 and 67 yards.

## Oak Glen

October 12, 2012

<8> Football has become fun once again at Patterson Field! If you don't believe it, check out the play of a bunch of young kids who have grown up under fire to become worthy representatives of East Liverpool High School on the gridiron. And on this Friday night their maturity came of age for all to see as they defeated a sound Oak Glen team 33-13 before a chilly crowd at the "House of Monroe."

The heroes were many, starting with quarterback Payton Newlun, who was placed into action when regular quarterback, sophomore Kade Reynolds, was shelved by injury. The senior responded with 93 yards through the air, a pair of rushing TDs and an interception on defense.

Two other seniors, Stefan Yoho and Tyler McComas, also helped reclaim bragging rights to "the bridge" with stand-out performances. For Yoho, the speedy halfback on his way to a 1,000 yard rushing season, it was 129 stripes and a TD on 22 carries along with two interceptions and a 22-yard fumble return for a TD (14<sup>th</sup> longest in school history) to put the game out of reach with 3:09 remaining to play.

### First Potter Score

Trailing 7-0 as a result of a four-yard jaunt by Oak Glen quarterback Bub Haddox at 4:45 in the first stanza, an EL interception by D.J. Austin midway through the second quarter led to his team's initial score at 5:52. A first down interference call against Oak Glen on a pass to McComas moved the ball from the 35 to the 20, and four plays later John Miscuk scored from the five. The extra point kick failed.

The next East Liverpool TD was set up as a result of an excellent catch by McComas when he grabbed a long heave from Newlun thrown from the 35. The ball was tipped by an Oak Glen defender and promptly caught by McComas, as he fell out of bounds on the seven with less than two minutes to play before the intermission. Yoho then plunged for a yard on first down and on the ensuing play Newlun, with a little more than one minute on the clock, sprinted to the corner of the end zone. Justin Barr converted to give the Potters the lead 13-7.

After forcing Oak Glen into a three-and-out, East Liverpool nearly scored again before the end of the second quarter when Newlun found steady Zack English on a 46-yard completion, all the way down to the Oak Glen nine yard line. However, with less than a second on the clock, the locals were unable to capitalize.



The visitors weren't done, however, as they took the second half kickoff on an eleven- play, 65-yard ride to tie the game at 13. Chase Hartley, who had replaced an injured Bub Haddox at quarterback, went the final 25, scoring at 7:47, but the conversion kick was missed.

It didn't take long for the Blue and White to respond. A nice return of the ensuing kick off by English took the ball back to the EL 32, and on the very first play from scrimmage, Yoho squirmed through the line for 78 of his 129 yards on the night to put his team up 20-13, following Barr's extra point kick.

It looked as though the locals would have another shot when Chris Russell recovered an Oak Glen fumble on their initial play following the kick off; but on third down, Clayton Flowers picked off Newlun. Unfortunately, for Coach Ian Whittington and his team, they bogged down at the Potters' 31 and were forced to punt.

The teams battled back-and-forth until a little over three minutes left to play at which time, what would prove to be the back-breaker of the game, if not the most exciting play of the night, was pulled off by the Big Blue defense. With the ball on their own 31, Oak Glen QB Hartley put a pass up for grabs, which was tipped by a Potter defender into the hands of a Golden Bear lineman, who then fumbled. Enter Stefan Yoho who promptly made his 22-yard jaunt to the house, and it was 27-13, following Barr's splitting of the uprights.

Newlun added to his resume on the Bears' next-to-the last drive when he intercepted a pass on a second down play, setting Coach Rick Prescott and his team up on the ten. Short runs by Yoho, Miscuk and John Rickerd took it to the four. Subsequently, with 1:03 showing on the clock and a fourth-and-goal inside the four, Newlun scored on a quarterback draw to make it 33-13; the final.

#### Coach's Comments:

"We talked all week about playing four quarters and limiting our mistakes, said a pleased Rick Prescott following the game. "We've been on the other side of the turnover battle all year. We've been preaching ball control and playing to the whistle. We are in good shape, and we were efficient," he continued.

"We had a great week of practice and I'm looking forward to another one," Prescott said. "Our focus is there. We've been stressing that the next game starts on Monday because that's when we get to work. These guys believe in themselves and are putting in the preparation," the Potter head coach concluded.

#### Digger's Dugout:

Oak Glen's Coach Ian Whittington is an alumnus of the school, having played collegiately at West Liberty. He took over the reigns this year after serving as an assistant for Tony Filberto, who is now the head coach at Weirton.

Quarterback Bub Haddox played well for the Bears but was hampered by interceptions and an alert Potter defense. He put his team in the lead on a four-yard plunge with 4:45 in the first quarter, but threw three interceptions in the game. He suffered an injury that caused him to miss most of the second half.

An impressive pre-game ceremony arranged by ELHS alum, Brian Allen, featured a helicopter landing on the Patterson Field playing surface. Approaching from the river end of stadium, the chopper crossed the railroad tracks and landed perfectly on the 50-yard line at which time the flight nurse, Eric Cline, an Oak Glen grad, presented a game ball to each of the rival coaches.

The over-all ceremony served as a tribute to area "First Responders." The pilot was Eric Mowry and the flight medic was Kurt Lindsley. It was extremely impressive, as both teams, the cheerleaders and the bands lined the field.

## **Cleveland East Tech**

**October 19, 2012**

<9> "On a roll," might be an appropriate statement at this juncture in the season, even if it's only a two-game winning streak, it represents a resurgence in ELHS football with a bright look to the future. Of the 60 players used by Coach Rick Prescott in Friday night's 42-6 win over Cleveland East Tech only nine were seniors, and the majority of the starters are underclassmen.

One senior who had a big night was Stefan Yoho, who paced his team's win with 136 stripes on 31 carries, while another fourth-year player, Tyler McComas, led the Blue and White with 34 yards receiving.

Payton Newlun, also in his final year, split quarterback duties with sophomore Kade Reynolds and netted 62 yards through the air, while his classmate Jimmy Beaver played a steady game on both sides of the ball.

Four other seniors, Gregg Brown, Corey Monterio, Tevin Whitson and Devon Earich also were involved in the win.

The game got off to a gloomy start, inflicted by both by the weather man and the home team for Coach Byron Bolden and his squad, as the locals put up three tallies in the initial quarter, after taking the opening kickoff back to their own 41. From this point the Potters marched 59 yards on six plays to make it 7-0 at 9:29.

The big gainer was a 32-yard completion from Newlun to McComas that took the ball down to the eight. A pair of four-yard carries by Yoho, the second of which was to the house, was all his team would need, after Justin Barr made his first of six extra point kicks on the night, and the Big Blue never looked back.

The second ELHS score came at 4:36 in the initial stanza after an exchange of fumbles followed by a 23-yard pass completion from Kade Reynolds to D.J. Austin who took the ball down to the two. A half-the-distance movement penalty on the Scarabs set Yoho up for an easy TD on the stretch play at 4:36 and Barr made it 14-0.

A little over three minutes later, the Potters went up 21-0 when Newlun topped off a five-play drive with a five-yard tally at 1:15.

The Brown and Gold finally got on the board with 7:14 remaining in the half when QB Daishon Bryant, who completed only seven of 27 passes on the night, found Arsuntae Lowe on a five-yard pitch, but the conversion failed and there would be no additional scoring until after the intermission.

Following the halftime show and homecoming ceremonies, the Scarabs received the kickoff, but were stalled with a quick three-and-out, punting from their own 37. Still using most of their starters with Kade Reynolds at quarterback, the Blue and White marched 65 yards on six plays to make it 28-6 on a six-yard run by Yoho at 8:29. Once again Barr was perfect.

The Potters would hit pay dirt two additional times in the game as their coaching staff began working reserves into the lineup, however, Yoho wasn't done with a little over two minutes showing on a third quarter clock, the stellar senior scored from the three and Barr made it 35-6.

The final TD of the night for East Liverpool came with 4:49 left to play. Facing a first-and-goal with the ball on the four, junior Kaleb Tallent, who had spent most of the season on the injured list, sprinted to the corner for six, and Barr kicked his sixth extra point of the game to make it 42-6, the final.

#### Coach's Comments:

"You definitely have to be happy with the win," second-year East Liverpool head coach Rick Prescott said following the game.

"Our focus every week is to eliminate turnovers; we want to limit our penalties and we want to control the line of scrimmage and the clock." Prescott said. "We have been much more efficient at doing that. That is going to continue to be our focus.

"East Tech was a scary team to play," Prescott said about the Scarabs. "They have some talented kids that can break one for 80 yards on any given play, and they played hard," he concluded.

### Digger's Dugout:

A couple of Potters flirted with records in this one. Stephen Yoho with four rushing TDs, for the second time this season fell one short of Henry Pack (1945 vs. Wellsville) and Willie Leavell (2008 vs. Salem), each with five. Yoho's other 24 point output was against Toledo Woodward. George Hale scored the most points for EL in a single contest with 31 (1957 vs. Berea).

Yoho's 31 carries puts him at number three in the 115-year history of ELHS football, tied with Terrence Parsons (1992 vs. Wintersville). Ironically, Jim "Boddie" White set the record against Cleveland East Tech in 1984 with 38 carries for 170 yards. Joe Chetwin is in second place (1929 vs. Wellsville 36/160).

Place kicker Justin Barr with six extra points in the game is tied for sixth with Eddie Oliver (1952 vs. New Philadelphia), Bernie Allen (1956 vs. Salem and Toronto) Brian Miller (1997 vs. Beaver Local) John Twyford (2001 vs. Buckeye Local and Salem) and Jimmy Wood (2006 vs. Campbell Memorial)

Jared Zirillo tops the list with nine conversions (2002 vs. Cleveland East). Brian Miller with seven in 1996 vs. Youngstown East is in second place.

The traditional homecoming ceremony took place at halftime with Principal Randy Taylor crowning Courtnie Coon, Queen. Other members of the court included: Haleigh Bailey, Brianna Bowers, Emily Kotfis, Cathy Rowe and Gretchen Dietz.

## **Weirton**

**October 26, 2012**

**<10>** Capping off an outstanding resurgence in East Liverpool High School football, the Potters ended the season in a big way Friday night at Patterson Field with a 41-12 triumph over Weirton to finish the season with three straight wins and a 4-6 record.

The heroes were many for the locals, starting with senior tailback Stefan Yoho who rushed for 128 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns. Then there was D.J. Austin, who made a brilliant catch of a Payton Newlun pass on the Potters' first play of the game, to put his team up 6-0 less than two minutes into the contest. The extra point kick failed.

The scoring play was set up when Jimmy Beaver recovered a Red Rider fumble caused by a bone-shattering John Rickerd tackle following a pass completion on the visitors' 24.

Veteran coach Tony Fiberto and his crew could do no better on their next possession, commencing on their own 34, and promptly going three-and-out. Senior Tyler McComas made a big hit on the drive for a 12-yard loss that set the Red and Black up with a fourth and 25 on their own 25. A five-yard penalty made the situation even worse, as the Weir punt was launched from the 19.

Setting up shop on their own 46, it took the home team ten plays to hit pay dirt with four minutes remaining in the first quarter. Yoho, who, along with John Miscuk, did most of the ball carrying on the drive, took it the last yard, after Zack English hauled in a 40-yard pitch from Kade Reynolds on the previous play. Kicker Justin Barr made it 13-0.

A flawed rugby-style punt at the end of a seven-play drive by Weirton set the Potters up on the Riders' 39, but, with Reynolds under center, they could get no closer when the sophomore signal caller was sacked back to the 34 where Weir took over on downs.

Relentless tackles by Kaleb Tallent and John Miscuk pushed Weirton back to their own 19 from where a failed screen pass forced a punt with just a little under two minutes left to play before the intermission.

Yoho hauled the ball in at mid-field and promptly scooted 50-plus yards to the house. Barr made it 20-0 at 1:42, but the Riders weren't ready to roll over and play dead. Taking Ryan Lilly's kickoff back to their own 24, a first down, 76-yard run by Eric Piatt, thwarted by Zack English's touchdown-saving tackle put the ball on the four. Three plays later, coupled with a half-the-distance offside penalty on the Potters, Piatt scored with :23 ticks left in the half. A two-point conversion attempt failed and the teams went to the locker room with the score 20-6 in favor of the Potters.

John Rickerd took a short Weirton second half kickoff back to his own 40, where his team commenced an eleven-play drive that took the clock down to 6:53 before a fumble turned the ball over to the visitors on their own 17.

A three-and-out effort by the Red led to another sustained effort by EL; this time they would run nine plays in a little over four minutes that resulted in a Miscuk three-yard plunge making it 25-6, after Barr was perfect with one minute left to play in the third quarter.

On the initial play of the final quarter, Kade Reynolds picked off a Jake Wypsek pass from his own 23 and returned it to the one. Two plays later, the young sophomore, who alternated at quarterback with Newlun all evening, called his own number and it was 34-6, following Barr's conversion kick.

The final ELHS TD of the evening came with 3:47 left to play in the contest at the conclusion of a seven-play 59-yard drive, which saw Yoho go the last 15 yards for the score. Barr made his fifth extra point of the night to make it 41-6.

Finally, fans who left early missed Weirton's most exciting play of the night when Jonathan Rice, a 5'5" – 135 lb. sophomore hauled in the ensuing kickoff on the five and promptly raced 95 yards to make it 41-12, which is how the game would end.

#### Coach's Comments:

"The commitment we saw from our senior leaders was amazing," East Liverpool coach Rick Prescott said. "They have no idea what kind of impact they've made on me, the coaching staff and the entire team. We're moving in the right direction and it's because of them. They've sacrificed so much. Every single thing that we've asked of them, they've done. I couldn't be any prouder of them."

Coach Prescott said he also believes that good things are on the horizon for East Liverpool. "It was nice to stand back and see our younger guys watch the leadership that our seniors brought," the coach continued. "They became teachers. They let the freshman and the sophomores know how to act on and off the field," he concluded.

### Digger's Dugout:

It was a beautiful night for the season finale as predicted rains never found the old west end park, and the traditional Senior Night ceremonies went without a hitch. Payton Newlun, Tyler McComas, Jimmy Beaver, Stefan Yoho, Corey Monterio, Tevin Whitson and Devon Earich were the team's only seniors

Referee Jim Kyczynski, and his veteran crew had their hands full, calling 11 penalties on the Potters for 65 yards and ten on Weir for 71. Most of the flags were for mental errors the likes of offside and illegal movement.

The game was interrupted for at least 15 minutes when Cameron Davis of Weirton was injured. One of nine freshman on Tony Filberto's squad, the young man was taken to City Hospital by ambulance.

In a true spirit of sportsmanship, the Weirton and East Liverpool marching bands filled the ELHS band stand and played several numbers together.

Special thanks to Roberta Pennybaker, Eric McMahon, and Brian Allen, along with Jim Mackey, Paul Edgar and Aaron Petchal of *The East Liverpool Review* for making this story of the 2012 ELHS season possible.

Last, but not least, my appreciation is extended to Jimmy Joe Savage for his unfailing dedication to Potter sports.

Blue and White Forever,

Frank "Digger" Dawson

Team Historian

November 2012

2012 Stefan Yoho Rushing

<b>Game</b>	<b>Attempts/Gain</b>	<b>Running Total</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Beaver Local</b>	<b>10/17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21-0 L</b>
<b>Indian Creek</b>	<b>9/19</b>	<b>19/36</b>	<b>26-12 L</b>
<b>Bellaire</b>	<b>19/58</b>	<b>38/94</b>	<b>43-28 L</b>
<b>Toledo Woodward</b>	<b>13/173</b>	<b>51/267</b>	<b>65-12 W</b>
<b>John Marshall</b>	<b>17/108</b>	<b>68/375</b>	<b>34-14 L</b>
<b>Hubbard</b>	<b>30/104</b>	<b>98/479</b>	<b>62-19 L</b>
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>16/46</b>	<b>114/525</b>	<b>35-7 L</b>
<b>Oak Glen</b>	<b>22/129</b>	<b>136/654</b>	<b>33-13 W</b>
<b>Cleveland East Tech</b>	<b>31/136</b>	<b>167/790</b>	<b>42-6 W</b>
<b>Weirton</b>	<b>26/128</b>	<b>193/918</b>	<b>41-12 W</b>