



Sports

Ted Blofsky, Executive Sp
Skip Reager, Sports I

Paradise Crushes Unbeaten Bobcats

By BARRY PUNZAL
E-R Sports Writer

REDDING — Call it amazing! Call it unbelievable! Call it a triumphant ending to a super season for Paradise High School's football team.

The Bobcats turned the "Rematch in Redding" into a rout in the rain, bombing the unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Anderson High School Cubs, 40-14, to win the North Section, California Interscholastic Federation AAA title at a soggy Thompson Field.

Describing the performance of his team, all Bobcat coach Denny Helms could say was, "fantastic." It was truly a fantastic effort by the Eastern Athletic League champions who wound up the season with an 11-1 record.

From the first series of the game, it was evident the Bobcats were not the same team which lost, 22-16, to Anderson in the campaign's first game.

Paradise recovered three fumbles and intercepted a pass en route to a commanding 13-0 halftime lead. For the record, Anderson turned the ball over seven times in three quarters.

The Cubs' ineptness in handling the ball was a direct result of Paradise's tough defense. Steve Main spearheaded the Bobcats' defensive play, intercepting two passes (he had a third but it was nullified by a penalty) and recovering a fumble. Jim Pena pounced on two Cub fumbles and Shawn Coombes picked off a pass and recovered a fumble.

"Mistakes ... we made more tonight than we have the past two years," said a solemn Anderson coach Bob Reid, moments after the game ended. "And Paradise played a great game," he added.

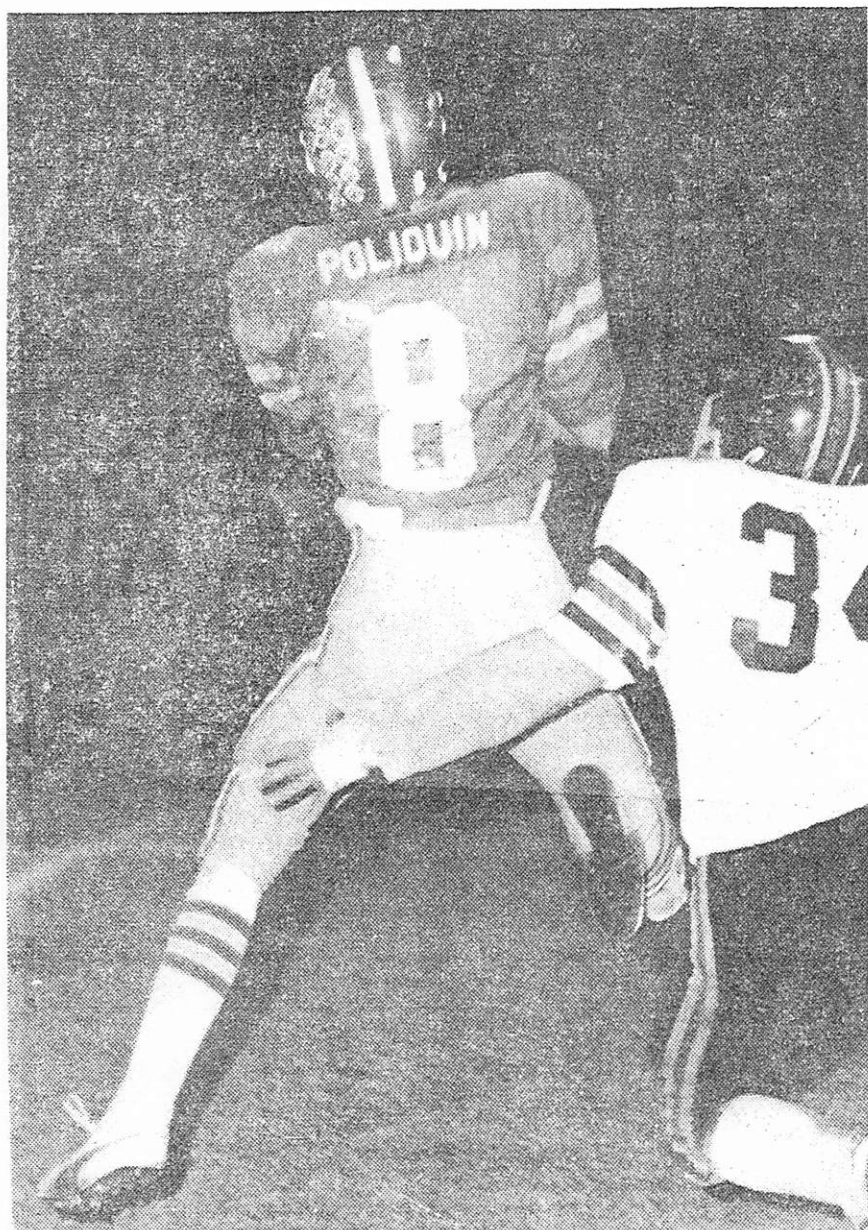
Anderson turned the ball over on its first three series. After taking the opening kickoff, the Cubs drove to the Bobcat 30 in two plays. Then, on a second-and-five, halfback Lance Packer and quarterback David Westlake missed on a handoff and Pena fell on the loose ball.

Not wasting any time, the Bobcats came out in a no-huddle offense for three straight plays and drove 70 yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Brad Ziel hit tight end Bob Morris on an 11-yard pass for the score at the 9:53 mark of the first quarter.

Paradise coach Denny Helms said he used the no-huddle offense in an at-

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Mark Poliquin



cats Capture NSCIF AAA Title

with its potent ground attack. With a fourth-and-two at the Bobcat 18, Packer fumbled again and Main recovered.

Main was Paradise's man of the hour on the Cub's next possession, too, as he picked off an overthrown pass on the Bobcat 49. After Anderson refused a penalty, Ziel unleashed a perfect strike to wide receiver Mark Poliquin for a 51-yard touchdown play.

Ziel, who forgot his No. 7 jersey and instead wore Dareyl Smith's (PHS's reserve quarterback) No. 11 shirt, had a good night passing. He completed seven of 16 for 117 yards and three touchdowns.

The main thing, however, was he was never sacked.

"The difference in the game was our pass protection," stressed Logue. In the first game, Ziel was sacked five

times — one resulting in a safety.

"Our offensive line (Carl Chapin, Mike Brown, Don Shuler, Mike Pappas, Randy Stark and Morris) jelled and matured. We were a totally different team than last time," Logue added.

Poliquin was on the receiving end of two touchdown passes — the other being a 25-yarder in the third quarter which gave Paradise a 19-0 lead with 6:47 remaining.

"I'm so happy for Brad and Mark because in the first game things went so badly for them," Logue commented.

Setting up the touchdown was Main's second interception of the night.

The lead increased to 26-0 when Steve Durman took a pitchout and exploded down the left side for an 87-yard touchdown run. The senior halfback, who rushed for 1,104 yards during the regular season, capped a brilliant career with 159 yards in 14 carries.

Mike Diefenderfer, who provided many big blocks for Durman this season, kicked his second PAT of the night.

In addition to his outstanding blocking and place-kicking, Diefenderfer played superb defense late in the first half. The 6-3, 220-pound defensive end took Anderson out of scoring position by sacking Westlake for a 12-yard loss. The Cubs had the ball on the Paradise 5 at the time.

With the Bobcats jumping to a big lead early, Westlake was forced to abandon the option offense he runs so well in favor of the pass. He attempted 29 passes, completing 12, for 162 yards and two touchdowns — both in the fourth quarter.

Kurt Schlyer and Dave Garrison caught the scoring passes for the Cubs.

Paradise's reserves got an opportunity to contribute to the win. Running back Vic Webster leaped through the line for an 11-yard TD and backup quarterback Sean Bassett threw a 16-yard scoring pass to Mike Flaherty.

Anderson's loss continued the jinx against unbeaten and untied teams entering the NSCIF AAA finals. Never has a team with an unblemished record won the championship game.

The title for Paradise was its first since 1975.

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P — Morris 11 pass from B. Ziel (Diefenderfer kick)

P — Poliquin 51 pass from B. Ziel (Pass failed)

P — Poliquin 25 pass from B. Ziel (Run failed)

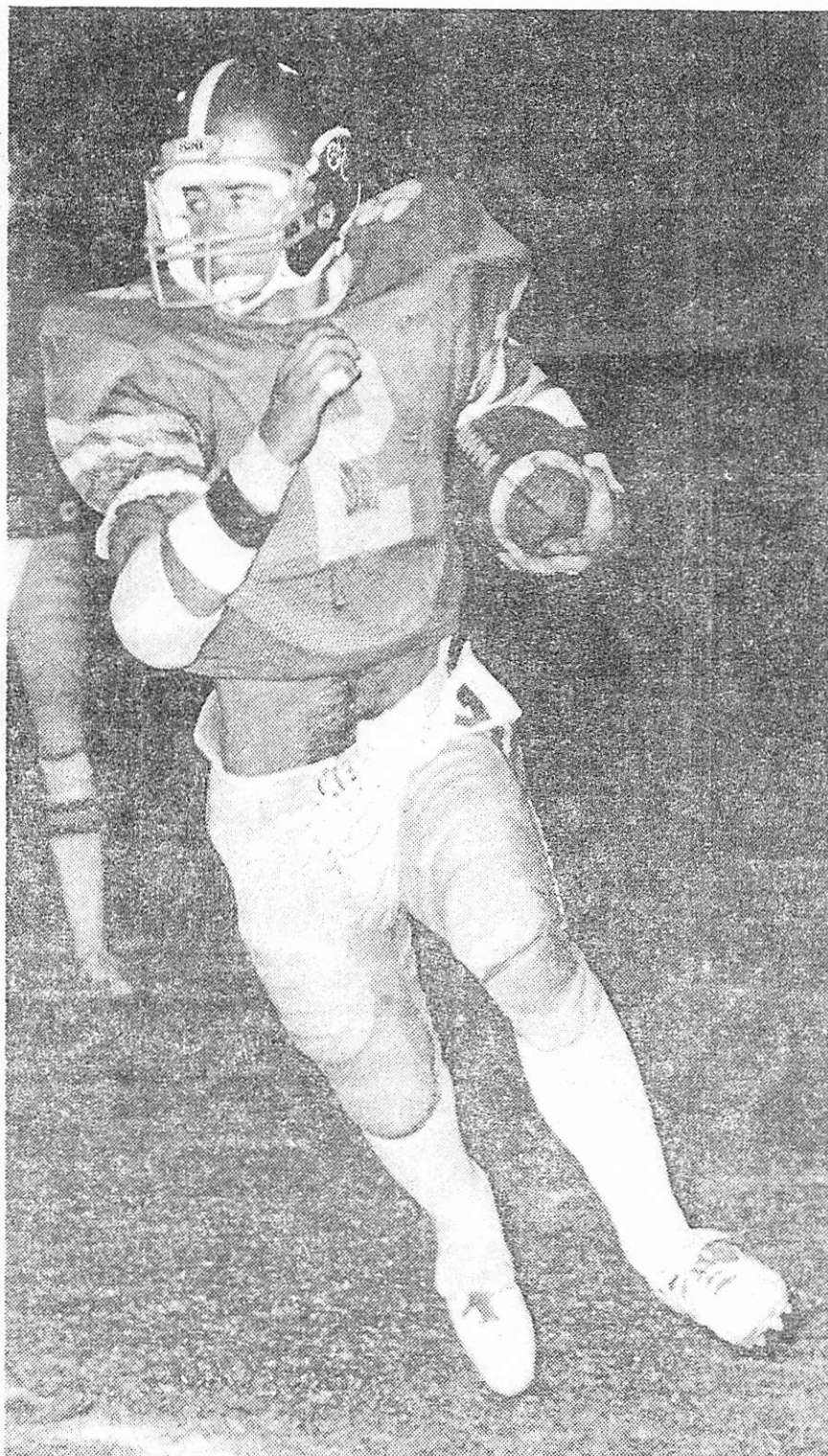
P — Durman 87 run (Diefenderfer kick)

P — Webster 11 run (Warych kick)

A — Schlyer 4 pass from Westlake (Garrison pass from Westlake)

P — Flaherty 16 pass from Bassett (Warych kick)

A — Garrison 16 pass from Westlake (Pass failed)



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