

## Fumbles Kill Oilers, Maroons Win, 19-0

**By JIM BELL**  
Telegraph Sports Writer  
BELLEVILLE — Just call this place Hexville.

There's something about the pleasant-looking community that's inconspicuously overpowering to Wood River's football Oilers which is, in the main, downright inexplicable.

Call it voodoo, hypnotism or magic, but Belleville's Maroons implanted the fiber-de-jibbets into the timbers of the Oilers early, moving on to a 19-0 triumph to stay unbeaten in four straight outings.

The truth of the matter is, with all due respect to Coach Bob Samples and his rambunc-

tious red-bloods, the Maroons came out on the long end of Friday night's Southwestern Conference hassle through the unbelievable generosity of the Oilers.

Such giveaway antics haven't been seen in many a moon by either the Red Cross or United Fund and were so unusual they probably disturbed Bob "Belleville Or Not" Ripley, who might've turned over in his grave.

Would you believe? . . . seven fumbles and all of them being lost to the opposition!

And to think, Coach Charley Winner of the football Cardinals imagines he has troubles. He, instead, should count his blessings.

Six of those goofs came about in the opening half and the first of the frustrating series enabled Belleville to score in less than five minutes after the game got under way.

Before being taken down by the acute case of fumbleitis, however, it must be mentioned that the Oilers suffered an irreplaceable loss when Co-Captain Chuck Mellor, a senior guard, was re-injured on the first play of the game.

Mellor, who sustained a bruised shoulder against Edwardsville the week before, watched the game thereafter along the sidelines. That hurt Wood River physically and morally.

On their second play from scrimmage, after forcing Belleville to punt, the Oilers' Dan DeGerlia fumbled going up the middle and it was covered by

the Maroons' defensive guard, Kim Plack, on Wood River's 33.

Junior quarterback Johnny Bunch, playing his first year at the trigger-spot, then faked back and fired a 39-yard pass to end Ed Merten, who was hauled down on the one.

From there, junior halfback Rich Caravia was sprung loose into TD territory for the first of his two trips in the same quarter. The clock read 7:07 to go.

Wood River failed to move at all against the Maroons after putting the ball in play on its own 22. Fact is, on the first play from scrimmage in the sequence, quarterback Ray Morris, who was waiting for protection a goodly portion of the night, lost 18 yards.

Three plays later the Oilers punted but the ball went only to their own 25, setting up the

Maroons in dangerous territory with excellent field position.

With fullback Mike Ripley, the only regular backfield starter held over from last year's league co-champions, and Caravia going on alternate carries, up the middle and to the left, the Maroons were on Wood River's five in six tries.

Caravia then squirted out to the side and over from the five, followed by left-footed Howard Gemann, a bulky offensive tackle, making his only good kick of the night.

The scoreboard then showed 2:39 remaining in the period with Belleville West leading, 13-0.

Before the quarter ended, however, the Oilers came alive, moving from their own 25 to Belleville's eight in six plays, highlighted by fullback Jim Clapsaddle's 17-yard jump

ket from his own 22 to the 30.

A 15-yard facemask penalty moved the Oilers to the 45 where, after two plays, Morris uncoiled a beautiful 34-yard aerial to end Bill Colclasure before disaster struck.

On the last play of the period following Colclasure's catch, Morris, starting from Belleville's eight, fumbled and it was recovered by the Maroons on their own three.

All Bunch had to do was catch it. He shook off one glancing tackle in going the 33-yard distance for the third and final TD of the game. Gemann's subsequent kick was wide.

The Oilers seriously threatened to score twice in the second half and the Maroons once.

Colclasure broke up a Belleville drive early in the third period by intercepting a Bunch aerial on the Oiler 22 and moving out to the 27.

From that point, with Morris throwing twice to Colclasure and again to Bob Culp for the big-

gest yardage pick-ups, the Oilers moved from their own 27 to Belleville's 14.

With a first and ten situation there, Howard Smith of Wood River fumbled with Belleville recovering on its own 10. It marked the seventh fumble lost by the Oilers up to that point.

In the fourth period, the Oilers moved from their own 40 to Belleville's 28 where, defensive halfback Dave Chapman, picked off a Morris pass, ending Wood River's final threat.

The loss lowered the Oiler record to 3-1 and 1-1 in conference play.

The Maroons showed an overall 276 total yards gained, 183 of them gained on the ground. Wood River's majority was by air, 141, in a total of 186 gained.

Besides the seven fumbles lost, another oddity was the

fact Belleville West was penalized 115 yards for absolutely nothing against Wood River.

Since 1925, the Maroons have lost to the Oilers but five times. The last victory by Wood River came by forfeiture in 1958, because Belleville used an ineligible player.

Next week the Oilers return home after a three-week absence, facing Granite City's Warriors.

Team	W	L	T	OT
Wood River	0	0	0	0-0
Belleville West	13	0	0	0-10

SCORING	
AW—Caravia 1 run Bunch (kick failed)	13
BW—Bunch 33 pass from Caravia (kick failed)	7

STATISTICS	
First Downs	WR 11, BW 12
Yards Rushing	WR 145, BW 183
Yards Passing	WR 141, BW 186
Total Yards	WR 286, BW 369
Plays	WR 4-11, BW 4-10
Passes Int. By	WR 1, BW 2
Fumbles Lost	WR 7, BW 0
Penalties	WR 8, BW 16



### Don Plarski

Sports Editor

#### Fans Are Fickle

Just think a minute. Think about the second game of the World Series Thursday when the Tigers unloaded three home runs and bombed the Cardinals, 8-1.

There were some fans who actually booed the Cardinals in the late innings. Those kind of fans do not belong in the park. They're probably the kind who see two, maybe three games a year, go to the Series and expect perfection.

Not so. The Tigers are pros, same as the Cardinals. Let's face it; Mickey Lolich was just too good for the National League champs. And, Nelson Briles was no problem. It's as simple as that.

If the two face each other again Monday, the situation may be the opposite. Then, those same fans, those unthinking fans, those kind who somehow manage to get hold of Series tickets when the guy who's seen half the games can't get near the park, will stand up and cheer the performance of Nelson Briles.

You had to be a dreamer if you expected the Cardinals to sweep it in four games. You're kidding yourself if you thought so.

The Tigers are champions of the American League. They won the pennant by a bigger margin than the Cardinals. They had a 31-game winner in Lenny McLain. They had guys who muscle balls out of any park.

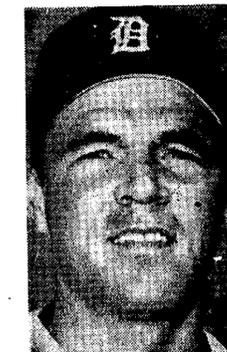
This is a good Detroit team. Don't kid yourself. So is St. Louis. The Cardinals left little doubt as to the National League winner as early as June.

But, these two teams are loaded with some fine players. Al Kaline has been around a long time, but he's in his first World Series and acting like a kid with a new bicycle. Same with Norm Cash.

Go down the lineup of each team and you'll find some fine players — Flood, Brock, Cepeda, McCarver, McAuliffe, Kaline, Cash, McLain, Gibson, Stanley, Javier, Maris.

Some people tend to forget the teams involved. They see only the National League against the American League. They forget these players are giving their best, regardless of which uniform they are wearing.

Freehan, for example, almost became a Cardinal once. Does that mean he's not as good as McCarver? Certainly not. He was the American League's All-Star catcher in the glitter game this year at Houston.



**MICKEY STANLEY**  
not. He was the American League's All-Star catcher in the glitter game this year at Houston.

#### Don't Condemn Players

What I'm trying to say, is that you cannot judge a player in such a short series. Take Freehan, for instance. Three Cardinals, Brock, Javier and Flood, stole bases in the first Series game. They blamed Freehan. Could be. Yet, maybe the fan sitting in the stand might not see the same thing a runner can see when he's on first base.

Maybe Brock, Javier or Flood saw something in the pitcher's motion to get an extra half step jump toward second. That extra half step means the difference, many times, between a stolen base and being thrown out.

Briles had a 19-11 record this season and Lolich was 18-9. One more victory for Briles. Briles gets bombed out, Lolich pitches a beauty. Briles victimized, Lolich gets the so-what treatment.

If you're one of those kind who see one league against the other, stir your memory and think back to the days of the Yankees. They were the scourge of the majors and won so many pennants they had some of the races wrapped up by May.

The Yankees have won 20 World Series. The next closest team, the Cardinals, has won only eight. Thrash that around for awhile.

#### Remember How It Used to Be

Fans over in the American League felt the same way about the National League that many fans think today — one league is inferior to the other.

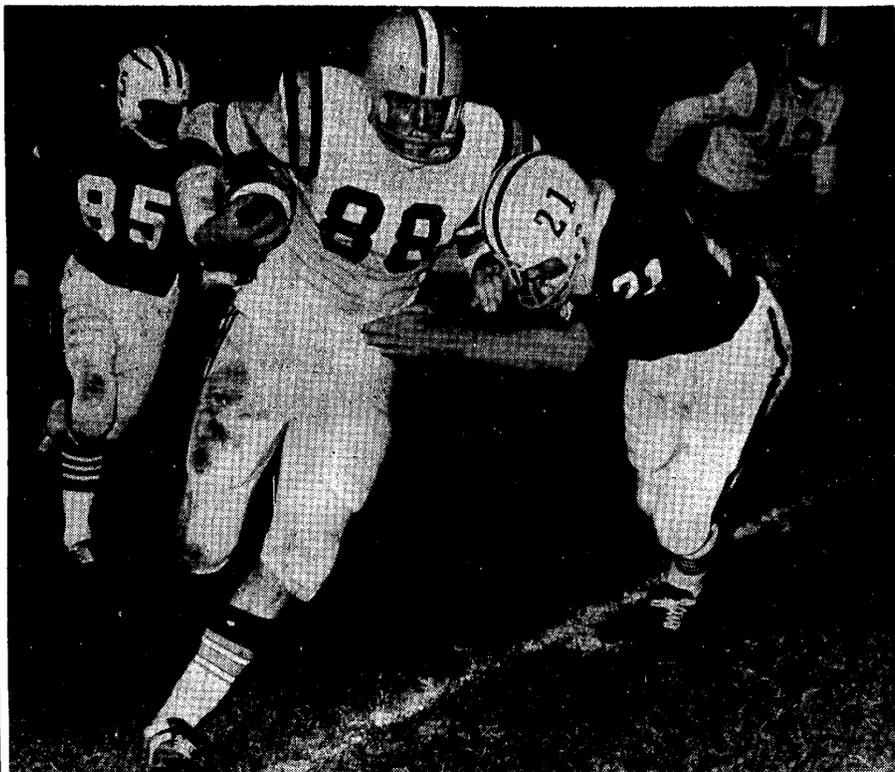
In recent years, the National League has made great strides in restoring prestige. Used to be the American League had things pretty much its own way in the All-Star and World Series games. Not so anymore.

It all boils down to appreciating the performance of players. Lolich was better than the Cardinals Thursday. Fans booed because the Cardinals were so inept at the plate. Lolich was hitting the corners, same as Gibson the day before. Give him credit. Don't take anything away from the Cardinals. One game, one Series doesn't make one player superior to another, unless you have a Gibson pitching for you. He could win with eight midgets behind him.

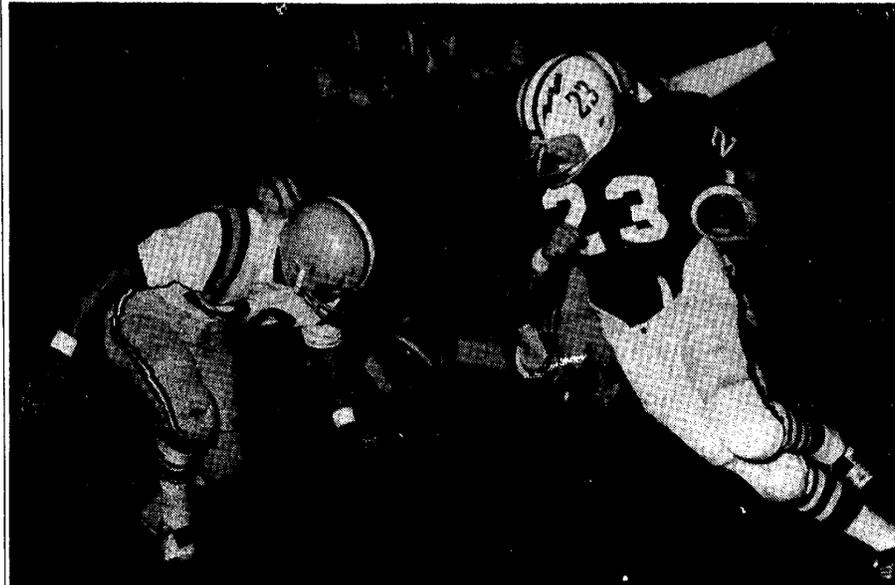
I thought last year the Cardinals would win the Series in five games. The Red Sox pitching staff, with the exception of Jim Lonborg, was only so-so. Yet, the baked bean boys carried the Cardinals seven games and it took the great Gibson to get 'em off the hook from their critics.

The Series this year could go another seven games. That means going into a seventh game, each team has won three. Anything can happen in one game.

These are pros against pros, not league against league.



**TIMBER!**—End Bill Colclasure of Wood River is about to be brought down by Belleville's defensive halfback, Tom Stoeckel, as teammate Ralph Bradac trails the play in Friday night's Southwestern Conference clash between the Oilers and Maroons.



**PICKIN' UP GROUND**—Hard-running Mike Ripley of Belleville West, No. 23, picks up a short gainer against Wood River's Oilers before being brought down by Jerry Lepchenske, No. 20, shown moving in for the tackle. It was part of Belleville's winning effort, 19-0, in Friday night's contest at home.

## Wilson Hits Homers for Detroit, Too

**DETROIT (AP)** — The thing in Detroit now is signs proclaiming.

"Soe El Tuum, Tigers."

The translation is rather simple, and so is Detroit's main weapon against St. Louis in the

World Series—the home run.

And it's that weapon that just may be the reason why big Earl Wilson started game No. 3 for the Tigers today.

For Wilson not only is an imposing figure on the mound at 6-foot-3 and 215 pounds, but he also is one of the most prolific homer-hitting pitchers in major league baseball history.

And it just so happens that Tiger Stadium, site of game No. 3, is somewhat more of a hitters' park than Busch Stadium site of game No. 2.

Detroit Manager Mayo Smith isn't about to say that's the reason Wilson followed Dennis McLain and Mickey Lolich to the mound in the Tigers' World Series rotation, but he does say: "He is more effective pitching in this park—and his bat is effective too."

Wilson hit seven home runs during the regular season for a career total of 33, just four short of the major league record held by Wes Ferrell. But right now he trails Lolich by one in the Series—and has to be well aware of it.

"They were giving him a bad

time when I came back to the bench after hitting mine," Lolich said revealing his homer in Thursday's second game.

### Grid Menu

**TODAY**  
East St. Louis at CBC (St. Louis)  
Jerseyville at Staunton  
Lutheran South at Western  
Military Academy  
Augustinian (St. Louis) at Assumption

**COLLEGE**  
Illinois at Indiana

**SUNDAY**  
**PROFESSIONAL**  
Dallas at St. Louis

## Redbirds Have Another Threat After 46-7 Win

**By DON PLARSKI**  
Telegraph Sports Editor  
GRANITE CITY — All of a sudden, Alton High School's football team, still untested, has another offensive threat.

Through three easy romps, the Redbirds were led by halfback Gerry (Scooter) Wilson and quarterback Mike Jeffries. Wilson had scored 11 touchdowns and Jeffries had passed for six touchdowns.

After Friday night it was four romps. This time the victim was Granite City, 46-7.

And, this time, fullback Don Sackman of the Redbirds emerged to give future Alton opponents something to think about. The 5-11, 175-pound senior handled the ball only four times, played the first half, scored two touchdowns and averaged 35.2 yards per carry. He yielded fullback duties to John Pellegrino in the second half.

It was Sackman who took the starch out of any Granite City hopes very, very early in the game.

Granite City tried an onside kickoff to open the game, but Tim Yinger fell on the ball on the Alton 47.

On first down Sackman bolted over right tackle, got a good block from halfback Larry Bosaw, who took out the linebacker, and raced 53 yards for a touchdown.

Alton got possession of the ball two minutes later when end Gary Hagen recovered a Roger Belshe fumble on the Warriors' 38.

Four plays later the Redbirds had another touchdown. After Bosaw's 24-yard run, Jeffries sneaked the final yard and it was 13-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Granite City showed surprising ground strength for its only touchdown, on a drive that spanned the first and second quarters.

The Warriors marched 85 yards for their TD with fullback Jim Greenwald busting over from the four.

When Jerry Monahan kicked the point, the Warriors were 13-7 down.

It was Sackman's turn again after the kickoff. A 15-yard penalty put the Redbirds back on their own 25. There, Sackman went over right guard on a trap play, led by Delver Connors' block, and went 75 yards for a touchdown.

When Jeffries picked up the ball pass from center of the intended kick for point and ran it over, it was 20-7.

In all, Sackman gained 141 yards in four carries, easily his best night of the season.

Wilson, though only scoring twice, was in his usual form. He carried the ball seven times, gained 126 yards and averaged 18 per carry.

Scooter now has 13 touchdowns for 78 points.

Granite City ran against Alton as no other team has done. Employing a man-in-motion on every play, the Warriors used quick pitchouts to gain most of their yardage. They kept the defense honest by going up the middle on occasion.

Busiest carrier was little Jim Rollins (he's listed in the program as 5-2 and 131 pounds).

Rollins toted 12 times and gained 52 yards for 4.3 per carry. Right behind was Belshe with 51 yards in 11 tries. Belshe started the game at quarterback but moved to halfback when Dave Evans took over.

Granite City, obviously aware of the runback talents of Wilson, hurt itself by trying two inside kicks and a punt short or out of bounds.

The Warriors' two kickoffs were good for 13 and 23 yards. The punter, Dave Melzer, once got off a one-yard punt trying to kick away from Wilson. All of the short kicks gave Alton excellent field position. However, the one time Melzer did punt to Wilson, the Warriors had good coverage and the little scabback was able to return the ball only five yards.

There were several defensive standouts for the Redbirds in the line. Among them were Bob Everage (235), Roger Minton (220), Gary Hagen (195), Bob Joehl (195), Jim Moore (185), Steve Bacus (180), John Isom (230) and Eli Harrington (200). Mike Grady of the defensive secondary helped out on several tackles, as did Terry Mitchell.

With its rushing game going so well, Alton didn't take to the air often. Jeffries threw only six times and hit twice. One of them was for a TD, his seventh scoring toss of the season.

The Redbird ground game collected 356 yards with Sackman and Wilson combining for 267 yards.

Following Sackman's second touchdown, Wilson got in on the act. He touched off a 70-yard drive with a 46-yard run, then climaxed it with a four-yard burst around right end.

Three scrimmage plays later, Alton had another touchdown. Evans tried a quick flip to Rollins, but Moore, sensing the play, zipped in front of Rollins, intercepted and went 23 yards for a touchdown to make it 33-7 at halftime.

Granite City stuck to its ground game in the second half but couldn't make much headway.

Alton scored midway in the third quarter. It was a 67-yard march. Big gainers were a 17-yard run by Wilson and a 19-yard pass from Jeffries to Wilson, who made a leaping catch at the 4.

A penalty set the Redbirds back to the 9 from where Jeffries hit Randy Bailey over the middle for a touchdown.

It was 39-7 after three quarters.

Granite City came back with a long drive. Starting from their own 38, the Warriors stuck to the ground and reached the Alton one where a plunge by Greenwald failed.

Alton took over and went 80 yards in nine plays for the final score. A 43-yard run by Wilson set it up at the five from where he skirted left end for the touchdown.

Alton threatened one more time. A fake punt by Melzer failed at the Granite City 21. The Redbirds reached the 9 where Pellegrino's run fell short.

The toughest game yet on Alton's schedule is on tap next

Saturday afternoon. The Redbirds entertain St. Louis U. High at Public School Stadium at 1 o'clock. St. Louis U. High, you'll remember from last year, spoiled Alton's then-perfect record with a 6-6 tie. The Junior Bills are currently 3-1 and quite obviously ready for the invasion. It will be one of the best games of the season.

## Hull, Mikita Not Signed

**TORONTO (AP)** — Tommy Ivan, general manager of the Chicago Black Hawks, expressed concern Friday that his two super-stars, Bobby Hull and Stan Mikita, have not yet signed contracts for the 1968-69 National Hockey League season.

"I'd be silly if I said I was not concerned," Ivan remarked as the Hawks arrived for an exhibition game tonight against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Ivan must sign the players before Chicago's opening NHL game next Friday or they face suspension.

"I'm not going to say we're close to an agreement," he said. "You're never too close when you're negotiating with big stars."

Both Hull and Mikita, reportedly to be seeking \$100,000, were unconcerned about the signings. "There's no hurry," said Hull. "I remember one year, my second in the league, I think, I didn't sign until 5 o'clock on the night of our first game."

Said Mikita: "We've been on the road for a while and haven't had much of a chance to get together."

## Alan Lead To Townsend

**SOUTHPORT, England (AP)** — Peter Townsend, only 22, shot for the moon today and those who gamble on golf were ready to wager he would make it.

The 5'10" caddy-eyed English youngster went into the final round of the 72-hole Alan Golf of the Year tournament with a 54-hole score of 213, nine under par and one shot ahead of the 1967 champion, Gay Brewer of Dallas.

The prize: \$50,000.

Townsend won exactly \$20 on his first four of the United States, just after he shifted from amateur to professional. This year he won \$14,000.

"I got a little nervous," he said Friday after firing a five-under par 69 on the Royal Birkdale 7,140 yard, par 74 seaside links.