

Lions win, move to playoff tilt

By BEN ABRASIS
Prep sports editor

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany — The Heidelberg Lions virtually clinched a berth in the DODDS Big Schools playoff game here Saturday by mauling the Ramstein Royals 34-12 in a Germany AAA blockbuster matching two previously undefeated teams.

A tie against Kaiserslautern on opening day is all that stands between the Lions and a perfect campaign. That tie was resolved in a tiebreaker when the Lions scored and the Red Raiders didn't. That overtime TD is the propelling force for Heidelberg's spot in the sun.

However, that tie also can stand between Heidelberg and a Nov. 10 date at Bitburg. The Barons clinched their berth in the playoffs with a 9-6 victory over Zweibruecken in another Saturday game that matched undefeated combos.

Heidelberg has to beat winless Mannheim in its season finale to win the AAA crown and the playoff berth. A Mannheim victory, coupled with a Ramstein win over Kaiserslautern would give Ramstein the title and the playoff berth.

The Lions had a propelling force on the field Saturday. He was Deon Cockrell, the outstanding runner in DODDS this season. Ramstein had to gear its defense to stop Cockrell, so Schultz used him as a decoy early in the game and then turned him loose when Ramstein had to alter its defense.

In the long run, Cockrell scored three touchdowns and ran for 206 yards in 31 carries. But, in the beginning, he was mostly the man in motion and Tom O'Keefe was the prime ball lugger. Cockrell got the first TD from the nine, but O'Keefe contributed runs of 9 and 10 yards in the drive, which also was featured by a 50-yard pass from Anthony Leaphart to Pete Andrysiak. Leaphart ran for the conversion points.

Ramstein moved from its 39 to Heidelberg's 27 on the next possession, but Cockrell broke up a fourth-down pass and the Lions went on to score in five plays. The big one was a 53-yard jaunt right up the middle by O'Keefe on a beautiful fake to Cockrell, and a feed-to-the-second-man-through play. O'Keefe rumbled 53 yards before being hauled down by the Rams' Mike Williams. Stan Hatcher got the



Heidelberg High's Deon Cockrell (25) gets a block from Chris Harrison (50) as Ramstein defender (left) closes in on play.

S&S photo by Stephanie James

score from the 4. Then Cockrell went to work. He contributed runs of 19, 9 and 24 yards and caught a 27-yard pass from Leaphart in a 72-yard six-play drive. John Glas capped the surge with an up-the-middle explosion from the five after Leaphart faked a pitchout to Cockrell. "They had to concentrate on stopping Deon," Schultz said. "But we're more than a one-man team. We have a couple of other good runners. Deon was the perfect decoy, wasn't he?" Heidelberg principal Bud Korth, who enjoyed tremendous success as head coach of the Lions in his pre-administrative days, naturally was happy with the victory. "It's nice to have a really good runner like Deon, but Fred always has been strong on those bread-and-butter, up-the-

middle power dives. Deon gives him something extra this year," Korth said. "I cheered his first touchdown at the outset of the second half. Reggie Russell made several fine games, but lost the ball to Cockrell on a fumble on the Heidelberg 12. Cockrell returned the fumble favor on the second play from scrimmage and Russell gained possession for the Royals on the Lions 35. Russell and Mike Polk carried the ball to the four in four plays and then Russell atoned for his earlier bobble. Undaunted, Heidelberg came back with an 89-yard drive to put the game out of reach. Cockrell had nine totes good for 58 yards in the drive, the last one going for a 9-yard TD. Leaphart also hit Andrysiak with a 25-yard pass on the surge, which was deterred twice by penalties. Andrysiak's interception of a screen

pass on the Royals' 27 set up the last Heidelberg touchdown. It took six plays to score, Cockrell going the last six. Cockrell was approaching the 200-yard rushing mark late in the game. He got it on a six-yard gain with 1:46 remaining. But he fumbled on that play and Ramstein wound up with its second TD. Eric Miller passed 39 yards to Chris Colley and then sneaked in for the score with 13 seconds remaining. Defensive luminaries for the Lions were Glas who had five solos and four assists, Andrysiak with six assists and 2 solos and a fumble recovery in addition to his interception and Matt Lisowski with eight assists and a solo. Williams and Chris Day sparked on defense for the Royals, combining for a total of 21 tackles.

Battle of unbeaten prep teams

Barons nip Trojans on Guth's late FG

BITBURG AB, Germany — With the championship pressure resting on his shoulder and in his foot, Eric Guth booted a last-minute 22-yard field goal to give the Bitburg Barons a 9-6 victory over the Zweibruecken Trojans in a battle of unbeaten high school teams here Saturday.

Bitburg's dramatic triumph clinched a tie for the Germany AA championship and a berth in the Big Schools playoff, probably against Heidelberg of the Germany AAA division, Nov. 10. That playoff will be played at Bitburg.

Both Bitburg (6-0) and Zweibruecken (5-1) have one regular-season game left. Guth, who missed an extra point earlier in Saturday's game, kicked the winning field goal dead center out of Sean Howman's hold. It was Guth's second field goal in three tries this season. In earlier games, he made a 25-yarder but missed a 28-yarder.

high school football

Sharing the heroes' role with Guth was cornerback Robert Zayas, who intercepted a pass by Zweibruecken quarterback Jarvis Anderson at the Warrior 42 and returned it to the 11. Anderson was passing on a third-and-12 situation from his own 18 when disaster struck.

After Zayas' interception with 1:08 left, Charles Byrd, who scored the Barons' only touchdown, gained 4 yards on first down. Following an incomplete pass, George Crawley rushed for 2 yards before the field goal on fourth down.

With 29 seconds left Zweibruecken took the kickoff and tried a seven-lateral return, but the play was nullified by offsetting penalties (offside on the Barons, clipping on the Warriors). With eight seconds left, Bitburg tried an onside kickoff and time ran out on

the Trojans. Anderson gave Zweibruecken the lead in the second quarter with a 1-yard sweep for a touchdown. The same play was tried for the PAT but it failed. That TD climaxed a 79-yard drive, which included Anderson completions to Chuck Porsche for 19 yards and to Gene Connor for 40. Byrd ran 13 yards for his score in the third quarter to tie the game. He also caught a 40-yard pass from quarterback Sean Moreau to open the 78-yard scoring drive. Byrd wound up with 92 yards in 22 carries to pace the Barons' 162 yards rushing total. The Moreau-Byrd pass was the only Bitburg completion as the Barons totaled 202 yards. Zweibruecken gained only 56 yards on the ground and 36 in the air on 3 completions in 11 attempts. Bitburg defensive standouts were tackle Scott Gumaer with one solo tackle, seven

assists and a sack and linebacker Pat McGurl with two solos and eight assists. Linebacker Porsche, end Andy Anderson and tackle Bob Morse paced the Trojans defensively. Osterholz 22, Baumholder 16. OSTERHOLZ, Germany — Ondre Johnson's 7-yard scoring run with 5:13 left lifted the Blackhawks to a come-from-behind Germany AA victory over the Bucs. Baumholder, 4-2, scored 16 third-quarter points to grab a 16-14 lead before Johnson's run capped a 56-yard scoring drive. Osterholz, 4-2, took an 8-0 first-period lead when Danny Mershon ran in from the 7 and quarterback Mike Armando hit James Roberts with a two-point conversion pass. A one-yard sneak by Armando in the second period gave the Blackhawks a 14-0

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