

air force football

Caldwell lifts Hahn to win over Bitburg

By BUCKY FOX
Staff writer

HAIN AB, Germany — The Hahn Hawks rode J.C. Caldwell's 107 yards and two touchdowns to a 14-6 triumph over the Bitburg Barons Saturday.

If that score looks familiar, that's because winners in this Continental Sports Conference rivalry have scored 14 points the last three years.

1985 CSC playoff: Hahn 14-13.

1986 CSC opener: Hahn 14-6.

1986 CSC final: Bitburg 14-9.

Something else looks familiar: an undefeated Hahn. The Hawks went 9-0 in the regular season last year. They're 7-0 now after dropping Bitburg to 5-2.

"If this team realizes how good they are, they'd beat anybody," gloated Hahn quarterback Terry Zitkovich. After last year's CSC final, when he was forced to stand on the sideline as his Hawks lost to the Barons, the Z-Man got his revenge with 19-of-33 passing for 139 yards.

"I think we're a better team than Bitburg," said split end L.C. Baker, who caught two passes for 23 yards and had a touchdown erased by a penalty. "We wanted it bad."

Hahn Coach Paul Killion, who was a spectator at that '86 CSC final, felt such euphoria Saturday that he waved a towel at the roaring Hahn crowd. "I feel good beating a team like Bitburg. They're big, strong and extremely well coached. I felt man to man we were better. We've been out here since May, and beating Bitburg is what it's all about."

Bitburg Coach Joe Green declined to comment on this rain-soaked game. His tailback, Freddie Miller, said, "They played a good game."

Miller's rushing statistics back that statement. After averaging 131 yards per game, he was held to 59 yards in 13 carries.

"The heart and soul of Bitburg is Freddie Miller," said Killion. "Lord and Gates did a heckuva job stopping him. That was probably the best defensive effort I've seen in the CSC this year."

Killion was referring to Dennis Lord and Orlando Gates, the Hawks' defensive ends. Gates made six tackles and Lord two and sandwiched Bitburg quarterback Ben Chew into 9-of-33 passing.

"The coaches told the defensive ends to hit Miller no matter if he had the ball or not," said Lord, remembering Miller's 58-yard TD in the '86 CSC final. "I knocked him four times. You notice he didn't run any sweeps at all."

Hahn's No. 1-ranked defense held Bitburg to 79 yards rushing and 138 passing. Linebacker Darryl Williams swooped in for six tackles and nose guard Ernest Davis had two sacks.

"I think they were intimidated," said Hahn's other linebacker, Dave Olson. "After Miller coughed the ball up in the first quarter, he hardly carried it again."

The Hawks kept their first-quarter shutout string



648 photo by David Dorio

Hahn's J.C. Caldwell gets blocking help from Patrick Rankin as he sets off on a first-quarter run against Bitburg.

intact and also blanked the Barons in the second quarter.

Zitkovich, feeling heat from Bitburg end Sean Legins, couldn't get much going in the first quarter either.

Then on his first possession of the second period, the Z-Man engineered a 13-play, 57-yard touchdown drive. His big passes covered 17 yards to Baker and 15 to tight end Kurt Oxley.

The Hawks finally faced a fourth and goal at the 1. Killion was sending in the field-goal unit until Zitkovich talked him out of it. The Z-Man came through by handing to Caldwell, the 5-foot-8, 170-pound Indian, who spun past the Barons for a 7-0 Hahn lead with 4:48 left in the half.

"I can't run without the Toads," said Caldwell of his offensive line. "They were moving them out and I was picking the holes."

Bitburg went three downs and punt, so Hahn went back to work at the Barons' 45. This time, Zitkovich turned to a dink-dink drive: eight straight passes, none over 12 yards. Flanker Jeff Johnson caught four of them and would finish with nine for 59 yards.

Zitkovich finally called a run on third and goal at the 1. Caldwell took it over the right side, and Frank Brown booted his second extra point for a 14-0 lead with 1:01 left in the half.

Hahn's Toads emphasized that Carcarey, Bitburg's 275-pound tackle, played with a hurt shoulder while the Hawks were rushing 52 times for 176 yards.

With Bitburg's run-and-chew offense going nowhere in the first half, the Barons adjusted. They turned to Dwayne Harp, the flanker who once was the best tailback in the CSC.

The Barons let Harp run the ball once in the first half, and he sprinted 15 yards. They fed him fast after

intermission. He responded by dropping a pass in the end zone, but made amends with a 7-yard touchdown counter with 7:47 left in the third quarter.

The Barons tried for two points, but Chew's pass to split end Emmett Glover was busted by cornerback Travis Bethea.

Bethea mostly covered Harp, who caught four passes for 55 yards. Glover caught four for 62 and failed to beat safety Mark Jenkins on what would have been a miracle TD finish with 6 seconds left.

In Saturday's other CSC game:

Soesterberg 14, Zweibruecken 7

SOESTERBERG AB, Netherlands — The Wolfhounds became the last USAF team to join the win column by handing the Warriors their fifth straight loss.

Zweibruecken, 2-5, led 7-0 in the first quarter on Charlie Harris' 6-yard run.

Soesterberg, 1-6, tied it on Andy Belperez's 3-yard burst with 4:13 left in the second quarter. It was set up by Glenn Winchester's interception at the Zweibruecken 14. T.J. Payne picked up 11 yards on the first play, and Belperez followed with his TD.

Eddie Evans won it with a 6-yard TD at 1:58 of the third period. Again the Wolfhounds grabbed a turnover, this one a fumble recovery by Stan Gebriek at the Zweibruecken 40. Soesterberg scored in four plays.

Mike Shelton's second PAT kick made it 14-7.

Soesterberg rushed for 77 yards and passed for 176. Payne led the way with 23 rushes for 123 yards.

Harris carried 32 times for 156 yards for the Warriors, who totaled 192 yards in offense.

high school football

Nuernberg downs Barons to grab AA lead

germany aa

NUERNBERG, Germany — The unbeaten Nuernberg Eagles, despite an offensive output of only 191 yards, rang up two long-distance touchdowns in the third quarter Saturday to take sole possession of the Germany AA Conference lead with a 22-12 conquest of the Bitburg Barons.

Leading 8-6 at half, the Eagles put the game away on a 40-yard scoring pass from Terry Golden to Andre Metoyer and a 65-yard interception return for a TD by Cedric Conway to run their AA record to 4-0 — 3-0 overall. The Barons dropped to 3-1 in AA play and 3-2 overall.

The interception return was the back-breaker for the Barons, who had seen their early 6-0 lead evaporate on a 9-yard second-quarter TD run by Golden.

Nuernberg's go-ahead score was set up when Nuernberg defensive tackle Doyle Cockrell blocked a Bitburg punt.

The Barons scored the first touchdown of the game on a 10-yard toss from Cedric Jones to Vince Kelley, who earlier in the drive had broken a 45-yard run off a reverse.

Trailing 22-6 in the third quarter, Bitburg went to a spread offense, which produced a 6-yard scoring run by Tyke Mix.

Patch 15, Baumholder 14

STUTTGART — With less than 50 seconds on the clock, Patch's Lee Jones

tipped a conversion pass that could have pulled in the win for Baumholder, to secure the Panthers' first win of the season.

After going scoreless throughout the first three quarters, Baumholder came to life. The Bucs' first score came after a Patch fumble gave Baumholder possession on its 31. A 69-yard Warren Hodge TD pass to James Collier coupled with a two-point conversion run by Lanzo Wallace put the Bucs within range of the win.

They were able to hold Patch scoreless on the kick, and took over the ball at their 27. Twelve plays later, Baumholder scored again. Baumholder chose to try for the 2-point conversion and a victory. But Jones ended the Bucs' hopes when he tipped the ball out of their reach.

Patch's scoring came on its first possession. The Panthers drove the kickoff to the 39, then fumbled. Baumholder took possession and fumbled. Patch recovered and drove to the Baumholder's 1-yard line. Patch was stopped and Baumholder took over. Then Patch's Lauren Jones tackled a Baumholder back in the end zone for a safety and an early 2-0 lead.

The Panthers' next scoring came after they took over on the 44 from their kickoff. A 44-yard pass from Jason Burritt to Lee Jones connected for six more.

Patch's final score came when Burritt's 31-yard pass to Joe Dawson set up Dawson's 2-yard TD. John Cox kicked the PAT.

Besides saving the game, Jones also had 92 yards receiving on three passes.