

Maples Marauders make successful debut

By Allan Besson

Maples Marauders made their debut in the Winnipeg High School Football League a victorious one last night when they defeated the Kelvin Clippers 26-3 in one of two games played at the Winnipeg Velodrome.

In the other game, any sign of what was once an old, honored and cherished rivalry between Daniel McIntyre Maroons and Gordon Bell Panthers, was purely accidental as the Maroons drubbed the Panthers 48-0.

The victory for Maples puts it in first place in the Cass Division as the only team to win a game so far this season, while the Maroons moved into a first-place tie in the Currie Division with St. Paul's Crusaders, Churchill Bulldogs and Tec Voc Hornets. All four teams have 1-0 records after the first week's action.

Although Maples' coach Walter Krochak says he and his boys had pre-game jitters, the Marauders showed a poised, well-drilled offence and defence.

Led by running back David Wheeler's sweeps and the passing arm of quarterback Jim Hay, the Marauders were awesome in the first half.

Defence stiffens

However, after a second-quarter slump, the Kelvin defence came up with a strong effort in the second half and allowed only one touchdown in the last minute — a 65-yard sweep by Wheeler, his second major score of the game.

The 170-pound Wheeler had also scored Maples' first touchdown in the opening quarter on a 54-yard sweep.

"Yes, we had the jitters, very much so," said Krochak. "Many of these kids had never played football before, and we didn't know what would happen tonight."

Krochak admitted, however, that players such as Wheeler and his partner in the backfield Delroy Griffiths along with Hay all had seen action as bantams, and hinted that they were the keys to the Maples future.

"Wheeler and Griffiths are both really good players," said Krochak. "They complement each other. You don't have to teach kids like that anything. You just tell them what to do and they go out there and do it."

Also scoring touchdowns for the Marauders, who led 7-3 after the first quarter and 26-3 after the second, was Dan Szutlak who completed a 66-yard pass-and-run play from Hay in the second quarter and Hay who carried over from the one-yard line, also in the second quarter. Ross Garland kicked two converts for the Marauders.

Kelvin opened the scoring on a 25-

Daniel McIntyre coach Gord Murison was happy with the win, but wasn't going to use it as a major gauge as to what his squad can do yet.

"I'm sure we're going to be tested yet this season," he quipped.

Murison did say, however, that his team played strong defence, and was impressed with the running of his offensive backfield.

Running back Mitch Rygiel, who is playing his third season as a Maroon, scored three touchdowns on runs of 10

yards in the first quarter, nine and 64 yards in the second while Tom Szo added 12 points on a touchdown, five converts and a single.

Grez Guillou and Neil Dow each added touchdowns while Frank Controneo had a two-point convert and Walter Burdz kicked two singles.

Guillou's touchdown came late in the second quarter when he ran back a punt 70 yards and Dow's major was scored on a 52-yard pass and run play from quarterback Fraser Murzak.