

**Ohio gains third straight nod in mid-summer grid classic****Pobolish rolled the dice in Buckeyes' 12-7 victory**

BY RICH GIBSON

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Ron Pobolish was determined to make sure lightning didn't strike twice.

Faced with a tough call in the final minute and 40 seconds of Friday's Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Classic, Pobolish had no trouble rolling the dice.

With his Ohio All-Stars staring at fourth down and one from the Buckeyes 43-yard line, Pobolish took timeout and then sent Buckeye North running back Bill Kidd into the line.

Kidd responded with the necessary real estate to seal a 12-7 Ohio victory before some 8,000 fans at Wheeling Island Stadium.

After the game, Pobolish recalled similar circumstances 14 years earlier that led to misfortune.

Said Pobolish, "I was at Cadiz in 1974 and we were in Adena

playing Buckeye West. We were ahead 8-6 in the final minute with the ball at their 40. I had to make a decision and elected to punt."

The results would prove disastrous. "The snap went high over the punter's head, West recovered inside our 20 and went on to score the touchdown that beat us, 12-8. I think that's the lowest I've ever felt after a loss."

The scenario would not be duplicated Friday as Kidd followed a clearing block by Steubenville's Hans Yettis to clinch the outcome.

"I thought about that play (at West) during the timeout," admitted Pobolish. "But all the vibes were positive. The kids and coaching staff were gung-ho about going for it so there really was no question."

In a game dominated by crisp hitting and outstanding line play, Ohio took advantage of Mountaineer mistakes to record its third consecutive series' win.

The '88 Classic, billed as a potential aerial assault, never materialized — especially from the Mountaineers' standpoint.

Wheeling Park's prolific signal-caller Eric McInire suffered through an 0-for-4 outing with Linsly's Stu James only 2-for-8.

As a result, the game's most dangerous duo, shifty Patriot flanker Shawn Donaldson, and Linsly's fleet split end Willie Clay, were virtually non-existent.

"I was glad," smiled Pobolish. "Any time either of those two touch the ball, they can score. I don't know, maybe they just didn't design enough plays for them."

Mountaineer mentor John Stender of Tyler County was disappointed. "I can't fault our pass-blocking," he stated. "For the most part, we failed to execute, although we had some dropped balls."

The rivals battled to a virtual

first-half draw, with W. Va. taking a 7-5 advantage to the locker-room.

Ironically, Ohio's initial six-pointer was set up by Mountaineer misfortune when a high snap sailed over the head of punter Casey Sollday of Sistersville.

Kidd pounced on the ball at the W. Va. 10. On second down at the seven, Union Local's George Terry took a delayed handoff from quarterback Todd Antill and skirted left end for the score.

"I got a couple of great blocks on the play and had one man to beat at the goal line," said Terry, who hurdled over Linsly's Buddy McKinley. "To play in this game is a real thrill. To score is total elation," added the Bethany College recruit.

The teams traded possessions before West Virginia mounted the evening's most impressive drive.

John Marshall's Brian Burke capped an 11-play, 66-yard drive

with a four-yard blast for the payoff. Sollday's PAT was perfect.

"We felt they would have a difficult time running against us," Pobolish pointed out. "At the half, we got on our kids about it. I thought they responded well in the second half."

The final 24 minutes were mistake-filled, featuring five turnovers and seven penalties, two of which proved costly to the Gold and Blue.

Brooke's Mark Cegile, who was to enjoy a standout performance, roughed Ohio punter Craig Sebring of River, allowing the Scarlet to retain possession at 7:47 of the third quarter.

Three plays later, which included a 16-yard scamper by Woodsfield's Greg Schumacher, a Mountaineer facemask violation set Ohio up at the enemy 13.

Schumacher and Kidd carried to the five before Buckeye South's Tim Boyd slanted over from a

yard out. Terry's two-point conversion run around left end was inches short.

The foes spent much of the final 15 minutes exchanging gaffes. Steubenville Central's Dave DiBlase covered a Mountie fumble, but Weir's Joe Bates pilfered a pass by Beallsville's John Yocum.

In the fourth quarter, Antill was picked off by Bates while Linsly's Stu James suffered an INT at the hands of Jefferson Union's Ron Shumard.

DiBlase killed off West Virginia's final threat by stepping in front of a James aerial at the Bucks' 32.

"We suffered a lot of mental breakdowns which hurt badly," noted Pobolish. "But we did what we had to. You take them any way you can get them."