

**West Virginia's Aerial Barrage
Whips Ohio, 21-0**

By BILL VAN HORNE
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Shelling the Ohio defense with an aerial bombardment, West Virginia extended its domination of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Charity Football Game to a fifth straight year Saturday night at Wheeling Stadium.

Before a crowd of 8,500 that was covered both by perspiration and intermittent showers during a humid August evening, the Mountaineers chalked up a 21-0 decision as quarterbacks Doug Banda, of Oak Glen, and Dave Renner, of Paden City, combined for 14 completions in 27 attempts for 182 yards.

All three touchdowns for the Mountaineers were credited to Wheeling Park High graduates as the Patriots' Tony Stradwick tallied from five yards out in the initial period and from a yard away in the fourth quarter and receiver Tom Basinger grabbed a pass from Renner for five yards and the final TD.

Although they led by only a seven-point margin until the final frame, Coach Ron Renner's Mountaineers thoroughly dominated the contest. Banda, a West Virginia University recruit, completed 10 of 20 passes for 125 yards, with two losses intercepted. After West Virginia went 14 markers in front, Dave Renner took over as QB and hit on four of seven for 57 yards.

The victors added 97 yards rushing, with Stradwick and Paden City's Dave Cospier doing the bulk of the ball-toting, and built a 14-8 edge in first downs.

While West Virginia's passing game off the "I" formation was extremely effective, Ohio's air attack out of the wishbone was obviously ineffective. The Buckeyes completed on four of 17 through the skylanes for 40 yards and

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suffered three interceptions. Ohio made 118 yards rushing but was forced to put the ball in the air frequently in the second half in its effort to play catch-up football.

The Mountaineers were penalized 65 yards while the Bucks lost only 30 via accessments.

A short Ohio punt by Buckeye North's Dan Hall, under a heavy rush from Wheeling Central's Kevin Finnerin, left the ball in position for the second W.Va. touchdown, which came on the second play of the final canto. The Mountaineers took possession at the Ohio 36 following Hall's 15-yd. boot. Banda passed to Magnolia's Mike Myers for 12 yards, Cospier got eight off left end and Stradwick one in the middle. However, on third down Stradwick was stopped for a yard loss by middle guard John Schuller, of Martins Ferry.

When the fourth period opened, the Blue shirts were on the Bucks' 16 with fourth down and two to go. Banda then rolled right and whipped a pass to Myers, who stepped out of bounds only a yard away from paydirt.

On the next play, Stradwick popped up the middle to tally behind the blocking of Parkersburg's Mark Lindamood and Weirton's John Dick. Cospier converted, as he did after all three West Virginia TDs.

Trailing by 14 points, Ohio went to the air in desperation in the remaining minutes and Marietta's Rusty Zide was intercepted twice—once by Linsly's Paul Donahie and subsequently by Oak Glen's Greg Six. The interception by Six came with only 1:18 on the clock and gave the ball to West Virginia at the Ohio 31.

Renner then passed to Myers at the 10 and a personal foul on Ohio advanced the ball to the five. Renner then found Basinger in the southwest corner of the end zone for the final six-pointer with just 50 seconds remaining to play.

West Virginia lost no time in getting on the scoreboard. The Mountaineers drove 62 yards in 10 plays after the opening kickoff to tally Brooke's Robbie Robson returned the kickoff by Ron George 31 yards to the Mountaineer 38. Oak Glen's Doug Banda completed two aeriels during the advance, one to Brooke's Denny Williams and the other to Wheeling Central's Jim Gompers, and a personal foul against the Buckeyes helped the West Virginia cause.

The penalty came on a smash off tackle by Wheeling Park speedster Tony Stradwick, who carried for 21 yards in five attempts during the march, and the step off by referee Evan Reese advanced the leather to the Ohio 29. Stradwick picked up another first down at the 17 as he toted three straight times. Then the strong-armed Banda fired to Gompers and the rangy receiver bound for WVU made a nifty one-handed catch before going out of bounds at the eight.

Dave Cospier, stumpy fullback from Paden City, powered to the five behind the blocking of Wildcat teammate Joe Blatt and John Marshall's Gordon Gordon. Then Stradwick started around right end, cut inside and went into the end zone standing up.

The TD came with 7:31 left in the opening period. Cospier's placement made the count 7-0. That's the way it stood until intermission.

Ohio advance past midfield to the Mountaineer 37 after the next kickoff, with the help of a personal foul penalty against West Virginia. But then Bill Vance, the QB from Cambridge, was caught twice in succession by the Mountaineer pass rush as John Marshall's Denny Gilbert and Brooke's Tim Wolfe led the way. Thus, Jay Circo's Bucks were forced into a punting situation.

Rain hit suddenly as West Virginia took over the oval at its own 22. Despite the downpour, Banda threw to Williams for a first down but his next pass went right down the middle and was intercepted by Martins Ferry's Karl Sommer.

Ohio took possession at the Mountaineer 45. Buckeye North's Dan Hall made six over end and Woodsville's Tim Magorien ripped off tackle for nine and a first down at the 30. Magorien added four more yards and River's Ed Miller got one as the initial period ended.

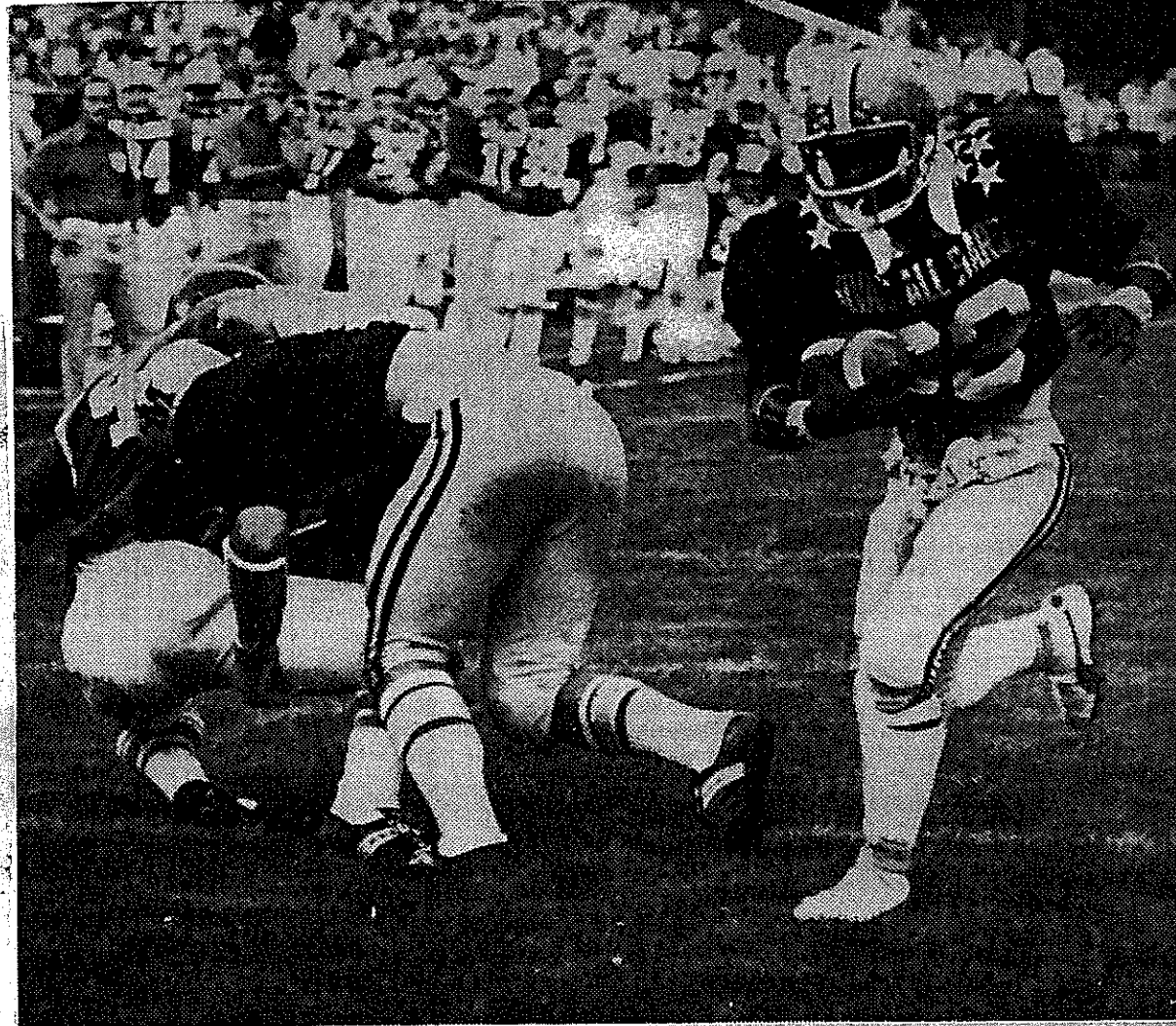
On the first play of the second quarter, a pass into the flat by Vance was broken up and nearly intercepted by Weirton Madonna's Ed Greco. Ohio had to settle for a field goal try by George, the St. John's Central grinder who sustained a broken neck in a game last fall but who has made a miraculous recovery. The 42-yd. attempt was just short and wide to the right.

That was Ohio's biggest scoring threat of the half. In fact, there was never another truly serious bid by either team before intermission.

In the early minutes of the second frame, Banda hit on short passes to Williams and Magnolia's Mike Myers to get the oval to midfield. But a long bomb, intended for Myers, was short of its mark and intercepted by Marietta's Rusty Zide at the 11.

Ohio 0 0 0 0
 West Virginia 7 0 0 14-21
 W. Va.—Stradwick, 5, run; Casper kick.
 W. Va.—Stradwick, 1, run; Casper kick.
 W. Va.—Babinger, 3, pass from Renner; Casper kick.

The crowd was treated to a bit of improvisational razzle-dazzle during the fourth quarter when Renner threw a screen pass to Casper who found himself surrounded by would-be Ohio tacklers and averted a loss on the play with a cross-field lateral to Wheeling Central's Jim Gompers who raced some 18 yards to the Buckeye 14. However, a holding penalty on the next play killed that particular Mountaineer scoring bid.



Aided by a block from former John Marshall High tackle Gordon Gordon, Tony Stradwick of Wheeling Park scores on a five-yd. run to give West Virginia an early 7-0 lead in Saturday night's sixth annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference-sponsored Ohio-

West Virginia Charity All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Stadium. West Virginia won, 21-0, for its fifth straight victory in the series. Stradwick scored two of the Mountaineers' touchdowns.

(News-Register Photo—Don Muhleman)



Cheryl Hartley of John Marshall, the 1977 winner of the Ohio Valley Queen of Queens Contest, sponsored by Stone & Thomas of Wheeling, is overcome with emotion as she is congratulated during halftime ceremonies of last night's Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Stadium. (News-Register Photo—Don Muhleman)