

Virginia All-Stars Stave Off Ohio, 7-6

By PAT HANNA
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Leon Taylor must enjoy all-star games.

The 6-1, 175-pound defensive back from Oak Glen picked off two passes in the West Virginia North-South game two weeks ago at Charleston in helping the North to a 29-12 win.

Saturday night at Wheeling Stadium, it was more of the same.

Taylor, bound for West Liberty State, intercepted a Dennis Swearingen pass midway through the second quarter to set up West Virginia's only touchdown of the evening. And then, with only 30 seconds remaining in the hard-fought contest, he broke up a two-point conversion pass to preserve the Mountaineers' 7-6 victory in the annual Ohio-West Virginia Charity All-Star Football Game.

A crowd estimated at 9,000 gathered on a warm summer evening to watch West Virginia snap a four-year Ohio winning streak. The all-time series now stands at 19-18 in the Buckeyes' favor.

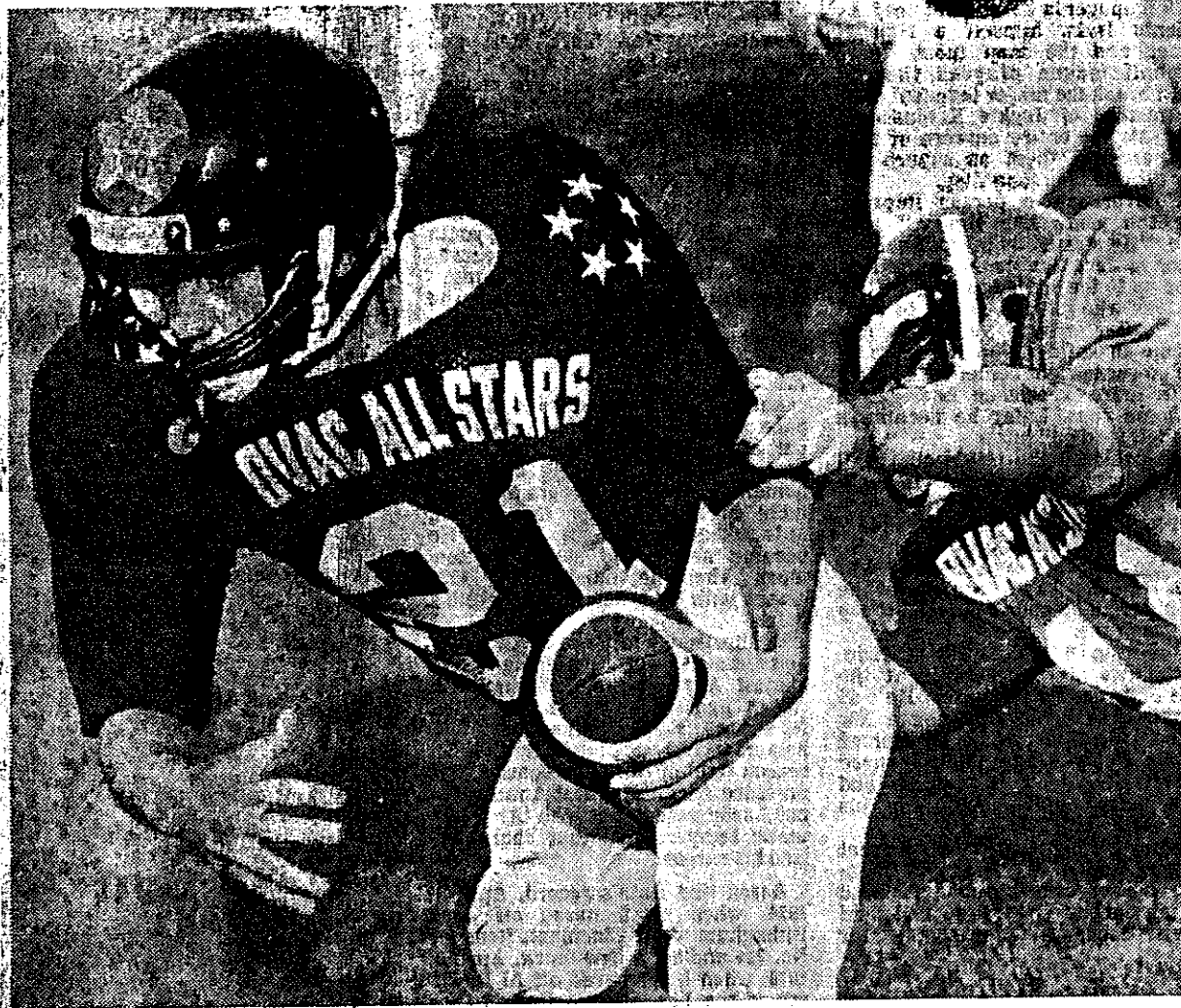
West Virginia played sparkling defense most of the game. The Mountaineers intercepted three passes off Martins Ferry's Swearingen and came up with a great goal line stand in the third quarter.

But with the clock winding down, Ohio came up with one last effort.

Taking over at their own 18 with 5:57 remaining, the Buckeyes drove downfield in 14 plays for their only TD.

On third and six from the 33, Swearingen hit Meadowbrook's Todd Murgatroyd for 31 yards and a first down at the West Virginia 36. A 20-yard pass from Swearingen to Stenbenville Catholic's Dave Wilinski was good for a first down at the 10 with 1:26 to go.

Three plays later, Swearingen snuck over from the one for the touchdown. Only 30 seconds remained when Ohio called timeout to set the strategy for the two-point attempt.



Brian Swisher (21) of the West Virginia All-Stars is caught in the grasp of Ohio defender Ernie Blazek after catching a pass for a 12-yard gain during the first half of Saturday night's OVAC-sponsored Char-

ity All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Stadium. West Virginia won, 7-6, breaking a four-game Buckeye winning streak in the inter-state rivalry.

(News-Register Photo-Art Limann)



West Virginia All-Star running back Barry Bohrer, a Magnolia High School graduate, runs up the middle for a key 13-yard gain, setting up the Mountaineers' only touchdown in Saturday night's Ohio-West Virginia Charity All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Stadium. Bohrer got the TD a

few plays later from the one and Keith Rea booted the PAT, which eventually proved the difference in a 7-6 West Virginia triumph. Also pictured are Ohio defenders Jon Falbo (left) and Brian Miller (right) and the Mountaineers' Bob Whitehead (25). (News-Register Photo-Art Limann)

Bucks Denied Winning 2-Pointer After Scoring in Last 30 Seconds

(Continued from Sports, Page 1)

Moments later, Bridgeport's Brian Miller intercepted a pass from Brooke's Mark Hone to give Ohio the ball at its own 49.

Three plays later, Swearingen hit Fred Hocker, also from Martins Ferry, for 27 yards and a first down at the Mountaineer 23. But with only four seconds left in the half, Marchese's 34-yard field goal attempt was partially blocked and fell short.

West Virginia came out throwing at the outset of the second half. Weirton's Carl Fodor, who threw two touchdown passes in the North-South game, hit Brooke's Bob Whitehead for 39 yards and on the next play Sistersville's Brian Swisher outwrestled Steubenville Catholic's Brian Allen for the ball and a 24-yard gain to the Ohio 14. But four plays later,

Rea's 31-yard field goal attempt hit the crossbar and bounced back toward the field.

Suddenly the Ohioans, particularly Jefferson Union's Tim Baker, got fired up. Taking over at their own 20, the Buckeyes drove to the West Virginia one, with Baker carrying 12 out of 13 plays for 74 yards. But on fourth and goal from the one, Baker was stopped short by Wheeling Park's Jack Stuntz.

With 8:50 left, Marchese missed a 44-yard field goal try. West Virginia was unable to sustain a drive and Ohio took over and marched to its only score of the game.

The 5-11, 205-pound Baker finished with 109 yards on 26 carries. Bellaire's Terry Zonker added 44 yards on six carries.

Ohio gained a net 127 yards on the ground. Swearingen completed eight of 16 passes with three interceptions

for 107 yards. River's Shannon Wotr has played briefly and missed his only pass of the night.

West Virginia rushed for a net 8 yards. Whitehead led the way with 2 yards on nine carries, followed by John Marshall's Tim Williams (6-26)

Fodor completed six of eight passes for 83 yards. Hone was two of eight with one interception for 32 yards. Swisher caught five passes for 4 yards.

Ohio led in first downs, 14-10. The Buckeyes were penalized seven times for 55 yards, West Virginia was not whistled for a single penalty. Neither team lost a fumble.

West Virginia was in Ohio territory a total of five times in the first half.

On their first possession, the Mountaineers took over at their own 48 and penetrated to the Ohio 29 before a 4-yard field goal attempt by Rea was short at the 6:01 mark of the first quarter.

Swearingen rolled to his right with an option to either run or pass. Running out of room, he tried to hit Murgatroyd in the corner, but Taylor stepped in and picked off the pass.

Bellaire's Mark Marchese then tried two on-sides kicks. On his first attempt, Ohio was off-sides, and his second try failed to go 10 yards, enabling the happy Mountaineers to run out the clock.

Taylor's interception, the third off Swearingen in the first half, set the stage for West Virginia's only touchdown.

Coach Paul Billiard's team took over at the Ohio 33 and scored in eight plays.

The big play of the drive was a 13-yard run by Magnolia's Barry Bohrer on third and five from the 16. Three plays later, Bohrer cracked over the left side from a yard out for the TD. Brooke's Keith Rea added the extra point with 3:27 to go in the first half.

Another interception off Swearingen, this one by Sistersville's Mike Salmons, gave the Mountaineers the ball at the Ohio 27. But again the Buckeye defense stiffened and Rea missed a 36-yard field goal try with 11:17 left in the half.

West Virginia's next possession began at the Ohio 41 after a 19-yard punt by Swearingen. Hone passed to Magnolia's Doug McClain for 20 yards and Whitehead broke around at the nine. But four plays later some West Virginia trickery failed when Rea, from field goal formation, fumbled a pihb from holder Taylor and was tackled at the five.

Ohio
West Virginia
WV-Swisher 1, run (Rea kick)
Swearingen, 1, run (Falbo kick)