

## Mounties 'dehorsed' by bombing Bombers



Jeff MacLean (25) runs with the ball in last weekend's game at the swamp, UNB won 28-9.

By TOM BEST

Despite field conditions that could be described as less than perfect, Red Bomber quarterback Terry Cripotos went to the air for 385 yards to decisively beat the Mounties from Sackville 28-9. The fourth year standout was good on 20 of 30 attempts hitting Stu Fraser for two touchdowns and Dave Kelly for another. Steve Corscadden, a rookie with the team ran the other touchdown in from the three yard line.

The Bombers started off their attack by going to the ground attack that was first tested on the Mounties in their first meeting of the year but because of the mud on the field, in some places up to three inches deep, Cripotos switched to the passing game. He remained with it for the most of the game utilizing Dave Kelly and Fraser as his main targets.

The mud and water on the field caused poor traction and did not allow defenders to adjust in time to potential receivers and for this reason, Cripotos was able to single out his target easily among the many and dirty uniforms on the field. His completion tally would have been higher but for the mud which made holding on to the ball difficult. Several passes went in and out of the hands of normally nimble fingered Fraser.

Playing from the shotgun position most of the game, Cripotos received excellent pro-

tection from his linemen, who gave him the necessary time to allow his runners to get downfield. Again, however, the field conditions proved a problem as the mud forced bad snaps which Cripotos had to cover up on several occasions.

One of the most outstanding players of the day on the defensive half of the team was Mike McIntyre, a defensive back who pulled in two interceptions and made several key tackles.

The Bomber defense was prepared for the one play that they knew the Mounties would be attempting on them that being a veer option that both of the Mt. A. pilots Kim LeBlanc and Kerry McRoberts used. McIntyre said that the team "worked hard all week on the veer and when it came at us it was no surprise. The boys handled it well." UNB's preparedness was evident as the Mountie quarterbacks threw many desperation passes and were intercepted four times. Besides McIntyre's pair, John Kalina and Dave Van Milligen each pulled snared one.

The Mt. A. quarterbacks were successful on some of those shots in the dark. McIntyre said "When they started to scramble, there was always a chance to complete. Their initial patterns didn't work. On that field, in those conditions it was hard to follow your man around."

McIntyre's interceptions set up a pair of UNB touchdowns in the second quarter. On the first, the ball went to the Mountie 51 from where Cripotos attempted a pass to Fraser but his efforts were hampered by the conditions and the pass went over Fraser's head. On the next play, Cripotos went back in the shotgun slot rolled to the right, and released a bullet-like bomb to Dave Kelly that was good for six points.

The second interception was picked up by McIntyre at mid-field. Cripotos hit Fraser on the Mt. A 30 who then oozed past several defenders to put UNB's second major on the board. In the fourth quarter, Van Milligen grabbed a Leblanc pass that was headed for a touchdown and ran it out to the Mountie 43 before he was brought

down. Kalina's interception came with less than three minutes left in the game and halted a strong Mt. A. drive.

The defensive line played an exceptional game as time and again they forced LeBlanc and replacement McRoberts to release the ball too quickly to be very effective. Late in the game, they stopped the Mounties within the UNB 10 yard line no less than three times.

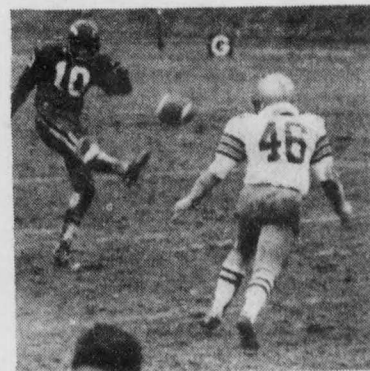
Bomber coach Jim born said that the defense was "Not really tested in a passing game. The defensive line was really tested and they indicated that we could stop them."

Linebackers Phil Battaglia, Kim MacPerson and Greg Conrad read the offense well and punished the Mountie receivers whenever they did manage to pull in a pass. Unfortunately, Frank Costa, the Mountie's leading rusher was put out of action with a fractured and dislocated ankle after being hit by the trio.

McIntyre said that the "defensive line played a superb game. They (Mt. A.) went to the veer but we had it down too well. They tried to pull reverses and stuff and it didn't work. We have some big men in there and it's hard to move them out."

Playing without the services of kicker Chuck Proudfoot, who late last week sustained an injury to his arm that will incapacitate him for the rest of the season. The Bombers had to rely on Cripotos to kick the conversions and Jeff MacLean for the kickoffs. Cripotos was good on three of his four conversion attempts.

Kelly collected the final UNB point when he booted a punt into the Mt. A. end zone where Nolan Borden captured the receiver.



The statistics showed that UNB gathered less than 10 yards by rushing, but the low figure is somewhat misrepresentative due to the fact that the Bombers, particularly Cripotos, lost most of the yardage gained. The Bomber quarterback was sacked several times for a total loss of around 42 yards.

The Mounties, playing on their own field and more accustomed to the slippery conditions, conjured up 193 yards by trudging through "swamp" as Mount A.'s Varsity Field is often called. Before his injury, Costa was able to garner 58 yards and Steve Musselman, who also did the Mt. A. kicking, slipped and slid his way to another 66.

McRoberts and LeBlanc substituted for each other several times throughout the game, combined for a total of 117 yards by the aerial route using Jim Blackmore as their most common receiver. In

the dying moments of the game, McRoberts threw the ball deep into the UNB end zone where Blackmore made a diving catch to collect the swamps first touchdown against UNB in three years.

There were a few bizarre aspects to the game. Late in the fourth quarter, Mountie coach Bill Goodwin complained to the referee that the Bombers were wearing illegal cleats and that the game was being played under protest. He said that the cleats were too long and that the metal tips on top of the plastic portion of the cleat was causing a risk to his players.

Referee Bill Glendenning checked the cleats and declared them illegal and the Bombers were forced to make some hasty changes at the sidelines. In the midst of the confusion, some of the players on the defensive squad were pressed into service as offense.

After the game, Born checked the rules and found that the UNB cleats were in fact legal. He said that a cleat that was made entirely of metal was illegal but that a cleat made of plastic or rubber tipped with metal was legal. He also said that he had received an apology from Glendenning.

Another strange situation was caused by the field condition. Because the field near one end was so muddy, all convert attempts had to be made from the end zone towards the field.

Saturday, the Bombers play host to the first place St. F.X. X-men at College field. Born called it a "must game" because if the Bombers win they will, advance to the league finals, probably against Acadia.

The Bomber mentor indicated that "they do both things (pass and run) well. They're a well balanced ball club. They have a type of defense that is frustrating a lot of the time. They move the linebackers around and it becomes confusing for the offense to read."

As far as offense goes, Born said that the Bombers could do either. "Last week we decided to go to the air because it was going to rain. This week it's hard to say. We would like to establish a running game."

Concerning injuries, he said that the team was healthy. He said that Chris McKenna would be back this week but that he did not know what shape his sometimes gimpy knees would be in.

Mike McIntyre said that "The biggest threat is ourselves. They put their jock straps on the same way we do. We can't let the same thing happen to us as against Acadia. We want the game. I think we can do it."

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