

Engineers Win Easy Over Morgan County, 52-6

The Estill County Engineers got off to a rocky start on Saturday night and spotted the Morgan County Cougars six points before the game had hardly started. But, the boys from Irvine recovered quickly and thoroughly to win 52-6 over Morgan.

The Engineers were originally scheduled to play on

Friday night but the game was postponed because of lightning. The game was moved up to 7 p.m. to try to beat the oncoming storms but was delayed until 7:30 p.m. Fans anxiously watched the skies as the seconds on the clock ticked down. Just as the game was ready to start, lightning cracked loudly in

the distance followed by thunder and the announcement of the 30-minute mandatory hold on play. Hopes for a game were shattered as the lightning storm continued to increase.

Several Estill fans showed up Friday night but unfortunately many did not return to see the Engineers' win on

Saturday.

The game was highly anticipated, since Morgan had beaten Estill soundly in West Liberty in 2012, 44-8; then managed to squeak by the Engineers 22-13 at Hoover Niece Field, last year.

The hometown fans at West Liberty got excited early in this one as the Cougars

got first possession where they moved the ball down the field quickly and carried it in from a couple of yards out to lead 6-0 with 8:01 to go in the first quarter. Their extra points try failed.

However, Estill coaches were not going to allow this to continue, and urged the Engineers to tighten up and keep their eyes on the ball.

Estill's first drive ended in a touchdown at 4:50 when a pass by Estill senior quarterback Trevor Jones landed in the hands of Deron Miller near the endzone. The extra point kick by Levi Tipton was good to give Estill the lead, 7-6.

Estill's defense did tighten up and stymied the offense of Morgan County for the rest of the game while the Engineers methodically continued to score.

Jones had 114 yards rushing for two touchdowns and a punt return for another touchdown. He completed 4 of 7 pass attempts for 59 yards. He was named the offensive player of the game.

Jones, Hitchcock and Dylan Spivey each had two rushing touchdowns for the game plus the punt return TD by Jones.

Tipton was a flawless 7 for 7 extra point attempts and punted for 3-points for 10 points total.

Hitchcock, who received the defensive award for the game, led Estill with 8 tackles (4 solo). Other defensive leaders with 7 tackles were Micheal Abner and Austyn Niece (with 4 solo each), and Deron Miller with three solo tackles.

Jones, who works hard on defense as well as offense,

had five tackles (3 solo) as did Morgan Taulbee. Austin Rose had 5 tackles with two solos. Logan Edmonson had 4 tackles with one being solo.

River Kelley, Taylor Tate and Chris Taulbee each had three tackles.

Jones, Hitchcock and Kordel Day each had a fumble recovery for the Engineers.

The Engineers are off to a good start after a few rocky years. Estill's last winning season was in 2009 when they played two games in state playoffs and finished 7-5.

The next year (2010) they were 5-6 and were eliminated in the first game of state playoffs.

The Engineers were shut out of playoffs in 2011 (2-8) and in 2012 when they finished at the bottom of the 3A lineup with a 0-10 record.

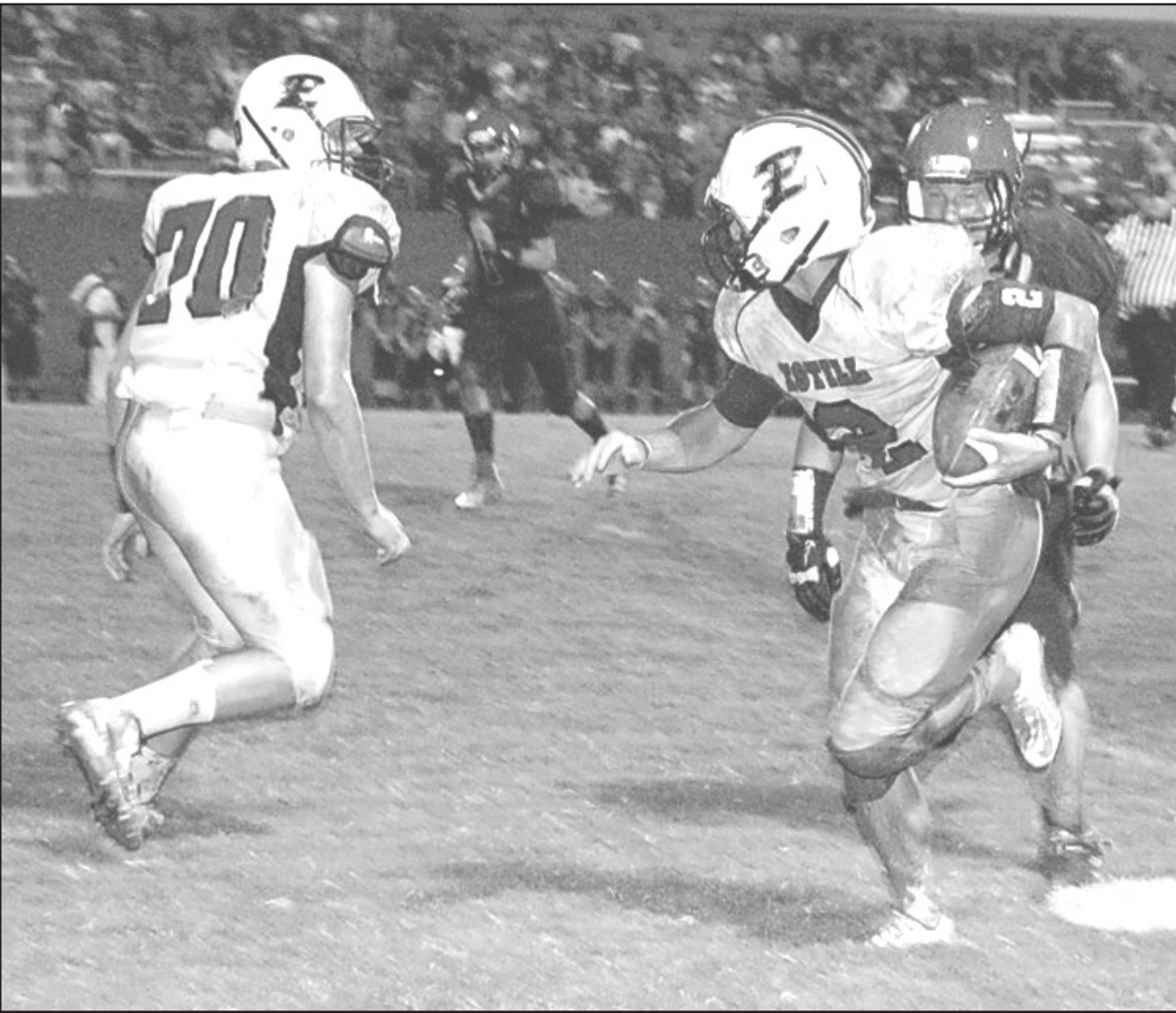
Estill returned to playoffs last year where they lost to Russell and finished 5-6.

The Engineers are playing their final year in District 5 with Bath, Bourbon, Garrard, Powell and Western Hills. Next year, they move to District 7 with Breathitt, Knott County Central, Magoffin, Morgan and Powell.

Next week, Estill takes on Lexington Christian in Lexington. The Eagles lost last weekend, 27-3, to Christian Academy-Louisville (CAL).

The Lexington Christian Eagles played a tough 2A schedule in 2013, finishing 1-10, with their only win being over Estill, 33-14, in Irvine.

LCA's stadium is at 450 West Reynolds Road, near Fayette Mall. Be there, to support the Engineers!



Estill senior quarterback Trevor Jones keeps the ball to go in for a touchdown against Morgan County while he gets coverage from another senior #70 Chris Taulbee.

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

"... (even if) football is the only thing we have in common." - Hunter S. Thompson



Bob Watkins

That time of year. Hazy, hot and humid, woolen blanket cast over the Bluegrass State this week.

Gardens gone to weed, corn browning higher up the stalk, and cadence of base drums from a high school marching band practice over the hill.

Except for harvest high hope and promise of pageantry in September, August is a sweltering frown. A hunker down month seen through a squint and dusty haze, hordes of insects, an itchy and biting nuisance. Still, the pleasant hints of autumn are at the horizon.

√ Sounds: Whistles shrill, and hut-hut-hut, of course.

√ Aroma: BBQ, whiff of bourbon and the Keg, at the tailgate.

√ Colors: Greens give way to big blue (flags), Big Red (mascot) along with yellows, ambers and browns along the roadways.

√ Weather: Gratefully, first frost comes around October 17.

√ Quote for a season: Kentuckian Hunter S. Thompson said, "Football fans share a universal language that cuts across cultures and personality types. A serious football fan is never alone. We are legion (even if) football is the only thing we have in common."

Another college foot-

ball season has its order of things.

Preseason polls. The Usual Suspects at the top Florida State and/or Alabama, then everyone else. But, at the end, a playoff.

The new order at home ...

Two of the Commonwealth's three D-I affiliates play in new leagues. Louisville in ACC and Western Kentucky C-USA.

The old order: Kentucky will be the Southeastern Conference doormat again. In random order, a few things to watch for and wonder about during another college football season.

1. The SEC Network will claim more of our time in front of a tube.

2. Verne Lundquist and Gary Danielson will make it all fun.

3. How Louisville fares playing a legitimate D-I schedule. In particular, Oct. 11 to Nov. 22 - Clemson, North Carolina State, Florida State, Boston College and Notre Dame.

4. If Louisville has success will anyone in River City say, "But, Petrino did it with Charlie Strong's players?"

5. How will the faithful show its colors at Western Kentucky's home date against Alabama-Birmingham, Oct. 4. The Hilltoppers could come home blank from Illinois, Middle Tennessee and Navy.

6. UK's Patrick Towles makes his debut as No. 1 quarterback at Florida. Last time a native son signal caller opened in Gainsville his name was Tim Couch and final score was 65-0. 1996

7. Respect. How will Mark Stoops' team fare with 50-50 calls on field by game officials? Leering eye of SEC Network might make a difference.

8. Louisville receiver Devontae Parker will be an All-American, but the Cardinals big noise could

be linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin.

9. When Kentucky's coaches need a "let's show 'em!" item to counter the predicted finish for the Wildcats in the SEC, will anyone try: "If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes." (Lewis Grizzard)

10. At Kentucky, much talk of a high powered running game. Some of us want to see where the offensive front rates on the Omery Scale ... in the fourth quarter.

11. At Louisville, new starting quarterback Will Gardner is no Teddy Bridgewater. Sophomore Gardner is bigger and, in a new offense, could be better.

12. Rookie Matt Elam. A chance for defensive tackle rotation from get-go.

13. Kentucky chance for signature win in Stoops Era, at Florida, September 13. A week before Big Blue Madness ticket hand-out.

14. Kentucky pivot game, Mississippi State at home, Oct. 25. One week after basketball introductory.

Other things to watch ...

15. Kentucky. How synchronized: pass rush pressure and secondary defense.

16. UoFL place kicker John Wallace.

17. Best name: Prince Charles Iworah, starting cornerback at Western Kentucky.

18. Football purists simply have to hope for success for WKU first year head coach Jeff Brohm.

19. Bowl games, 39 and a four-team playoff. Bowl bid chances? I think Louisville has a 70 percent chance, Western Kentucky 40, Kentucky 20.

20. Running back Damian Harris at Madison Southern High, progress and keeping him at home.

21. Bowling Green High won its season opener pushing to 45 wins in a row

for coach Kevin Wallace's Purples; Three undefeated seasons in a row and a hat trick of Class 5A state titles is incredible.

Third-longest streak in state history belongs to Wallace teams, five behind Louisville Trinity. And, the season open win was the 250th coaching win in Wallace's career.

22. John Calipari. Not to be left out of any news cycle, any day, night or month, Kentucky's coach guested on WFAN Radio radio two weeks ago. Host Mike Francesa told New York listeners what a "great recruiter and motivator" Calipari is, but "... but he's not a good Xs and Os coach."

Uh-oh. Calipari couldn't let it go. His limo-sized ego drove him to cell phone into Francesa's show apparently from the lobby. Calling himself John in Kentucky, Calipari disputed Francesa's Xs and Os remark. "Don't you know they call me Cal the Magician in Kentucky?"

Another insecure millionaire who would be pope.

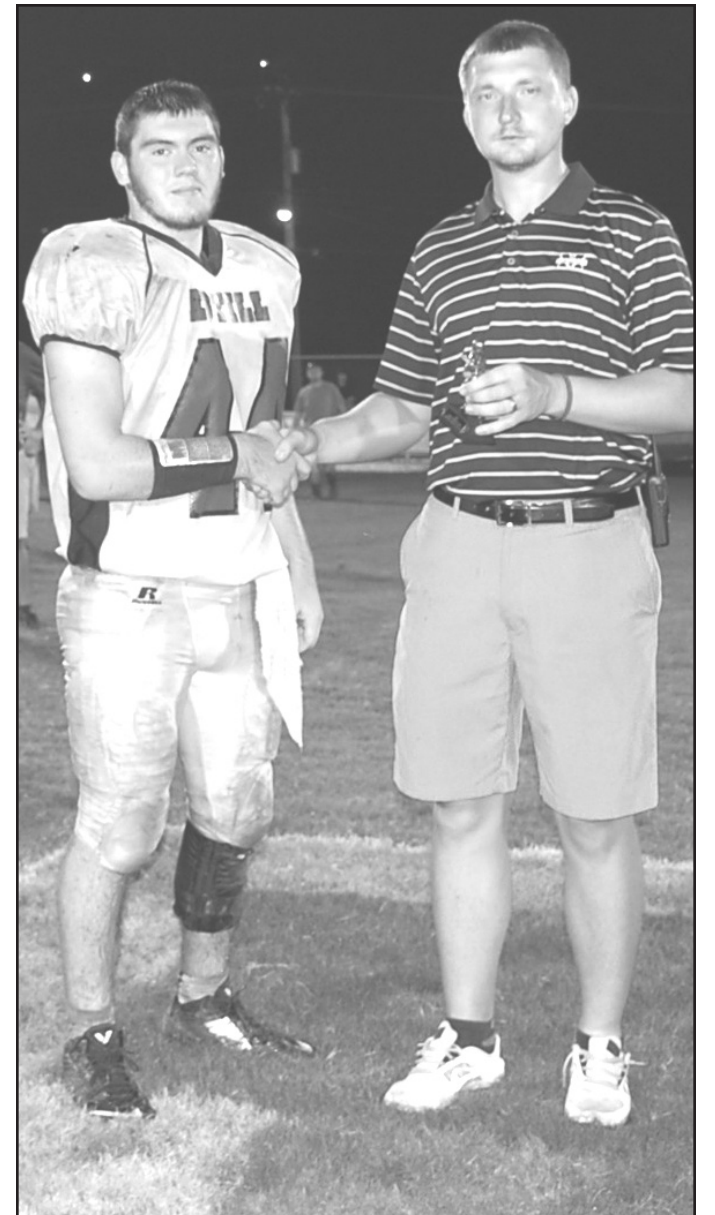
23. Worth Repeating Dept. UK basketball rookie Karl Anthony Towns was not a member of the Dominican Republic's basketball team in the World Cup in Spain this week.

"As much as it hurts to not be playing in Spain," Towns tweeted, "I am a student-athlete first and committed to my studies at the University of Kentucky."

COMMENT: Outstanding. Never mind that the University of Kentucky had already issued a statement saying it would not allow Towns to play.

24. Being honest may not get you a lot of friends, but it will always get you the right ones. - John Lennon.

And so it goes. You can reach me at bob.watkins24@aol.com



Estill senior Chipper Hitchcock gets the defensive award in the Estill-Morgan Bowl at West Liberty.

The Estill County Marching Engineers invite you to preview their 2014 show titled "NeverMore" based on the Edgar Allan Poe poem, "The Raven", on Friday August 29th at 7:30 p.m. at Hoover Niece Field. Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated.

Electric Bill Phone Scam

Jackson Energy is warning its customers about a phone scam. Several of the utility's customers have received suspicious phone calls from someone claiming to be with the company and asking for payment on electric bills.

If someone does receive a suspicious call about their electric bill, immediately hang up and call Jackson Energy's toll-free number, 1 800-262-7480.

Jackson Energy has dispatchers on duty 24 hours a day and can answer questions about suspicious phone call demanding payment.