

# Defense leads Pioneer to SCC opener victory

By John Viges

**JACKSON** — Leadership was needed for Pioneer High's offense. Defense provided it.

Momentum shifted drastically when Pioneer finally stopped an early Jackson Parkside drive and defense set up all three first half touchdowns as the Ann Arbor squad opened the South Central Conference football season with a 26-7 clipping of Parkside.

Once the defense lifted Pioneer, an offensive leader was found in Jim Harbaugh who moved into the quarterback spot and completed seven of 12 passes for 93 yards and a touchdown.

Lloyd Rowry intercepted a pass to set up one touchdown, Greg Campbell played pickpocket with a Parkside runner for another score and tough defense forced a Parkside quick kick which led to a 20-0 halftime lead for Pioneer.

"The kids feel they played a little more like what they are capable of playing," Pioneer Coach Chuck Ritter said.

"The defense played well in the first half but the key was stopping the first drive."

Victory may have turned on the opening Parkside possession. The

## Area Scoreboard

### Metro

Pioneer 26, Jackson Parkside 7

Ypsilanti 40, Jackson 8

Adrian 35, Huron 14

### Region

Manchester 27, Hudson 0

Chelsea 48, Dexter 24

Saline 32, Lincoln 12

South Lyon 12, Brighton 6

Willow Run 14, Romulus 7

Blissfield 26, Clinton 7

Charlotte 21, Milan 6

Petersburg Summerfield 21,  
Whitmore Lake 6

Eagles took the opening kickoff and stomped downfield, moving from their 42 to Pioneer's seven-yard-line in 11 plays. Two more dives into the line put the ball on Pioneer's three.

Parkside called a time out to select the right play but Pioneer countered with the right defense, blitzing to bury quarterback Robert Winfield on a roll-out. A five-yard loss on the play forced a Parkside pass which fell incomplete.

More than half of the first quarter had been used up with no points to show for it and Parkside was never a threat after that. The Eagles did botch one scoring possibility, however, on their next possession. Forced to punt near midfield, Parkside had a fake set up and a receiver who would have been wide open but an illegal motion penalty stopped the play before it could be completed.

Not only did Pioneer's defense hold, it turned the game around with a pair of second quarter plays.

Rowry picked off a Winfield pass and returned it 20 yards to Parkside's 30. Six plays moved it to the seven and, on fourth down, Harbaugh completed his third pass of the game, hitting Tim Michalak who bobbled but hung on to the ball for a touchdown.