

Braves . . .

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in the paper. You didn't last week."

Still upset over what he felt were two bad calls which brought back touchdowns in Pioneer's 28-0 loss to Adrian, Ritter had to watch as a questionable call set up Ypsilanti's first touchdown. His quarterback, Jim Harbaugh, appeared in the act of throwing but when he was hit and lost the ball, officials ruled it a fumble. Ypsilanti recovered on Pioneer's 29-yard-line and Ritter received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty when he protested the call. The Braves gained 11 yards from Powell on their first play but Pioneer forced Ypsilanti to use four plays for the final four yards. Powell scored his first of three TDs to make the score 6-6 at halftime.

"They cost us a touchdown," Ritter said. "I'm not saying they cost us the ballgame but when they make a mistake we pay."

"With four minutes to play it was only 14-6 after a bad call from the official. We really gave it a great effort."

Defensively, Pioneer served early notice it would yield yardage to the powerful Braves grudgingly. Greg Yarrington and Craig Petoskey led the swarm but all of

the Pioneers were getting in solid hits.

They halted the Braves' first possession and the Harbaugh-led offense came on to start a 61-yard drive. Three pass completions were mixed into the offense and Bubba Green finished off the drive with a two-yard touchdown run.

Poor field position hurt Pioneer starting the second half. Ypsilanti took advantage, needing only 53 yards for its go-ahead drive. Powell, in the midst of a tiring game during which he gained 134 on 35 carries, did much of the work and eventually scored the touchdown. He was helped though by substitute fullback Craig Anderson who popped off runs of 14 and 10 yards in the drive.

On a third-and-13 play two downs later, the game broke open. Quarterback Fred Cofield barely avoided a tackler and spiraled the ball far down field where Jones bent far over backwards and took the ball directly over his head for a 53-yard gain. On the next play, Powell used moves that would make him a hit on the disco floor as he danced 14 yards around Pioneer defenders to score and make the count 20-6.

Moments later, Ypsilanti blocked a punt for the fourth straight week. Mark Wallen

blocked it and Mark Kielwasser fell on the ball in the end zone.

Pioneer made the score come closer to reflecting the game when Tracy French made a beautiful leaping catch on a 26-yard toss from Harbaugh with 23 seconds remaining.

"Our defense held us in there until we put some points in," Ypsilanti Coach Tom Fagan said.

"A key play for us was by David Jones. He dropped the ball earlier (a muffed punt in the fourth quarter) and then makes a great catch, one of those impossible catches."

Jones' catch was one of only two by Ypsilanti as the Braves' attack was largely limited to Powell's efforts. Pioneer has been breaking its usual mold since the sophomore Harbaugh took over as quarterback and 25 passes were thrown with 10 completed. Other than on its touchdown drives, however, the Pioneers had trouble sustaining their attack. Tom Hill did a solid job of rushing for the home team with 73 yards on 14 carries.

Ypsilanti is now 3-1 in the South Central Conference and 5-2 overall. The Braves return to Hollway Field next week to face Huron. Pioneer is 1-2 in the league and 2-5 overall.