

Monday, September 10, 1956

SPEAKING OF

# SPORTS

BY

BILL SPEAKE



## NOKES NO JOKE

TO BE PERFECTLY honest, Malakoff's big Eddie Nokes was the difference between victory and sure defeat for Coach Bill Loggins' charges Friday night.

I have seen many backs as good or better in the running department, but I have never seen a converted lineman step into the backfield and become the number one ball totter from the outset. Nokes plays fullback as if he has been there for years instead of for just a few days of practice.

As a tackle, Nokes also excelled, winning all district honors twice. He weighs 175 pounds and is a senior.

In Friday night's game, Nokes was a terror — ripping huge chunks of yardage off almost every time he lugged the ball. He ripped the Mabank line to shreds on several occasions. Not that he manhandled Mabank's front wall; he also was smeared several times.

With Nokes moving the ball, Malakoff might stand a better chance in District 18-A than a lot of people think, but don't expect the Tigers to finish first. Canton seems a shoo-in in the preseason ratings. But then so did Rice in 1955.

## A TOP HAND

THE BOY who shared the football spotlight with Nokes Friday was Mabank's lanky quarterback, Reggie Smith.

He ran the ball well, mixed his plays nicely, and played a whale of a game in every department. Like Nokes, however, it was his ability to move the ball that made him stand out. He doesn't run with the same power, but he can fake you out of your shoes. He

looked especially tricky on a punt return, taking the ball on his own 47 and literally spinning his way to the Malakoff 28.

He was hampered somewhat in his passing because he wasn't getting enough time. He's a 145-pound junior.

## GOOD DEFENDERS

THERE WERE several top hand defensive players on both teams.

One of these was Kenneth Carter, who made all Henderson County in basketball last season. Carter never played football until this season, but he was one of the most impressive wranglers on the field, tearing into the Mabank backs as though he had a personal grudge to settle with all and sundry. A spectator at the game told me Carter's father didn't want him to play football because he felt the game was too rough. I'll bet there are some Mabank boys who didn't know how rough it was until they met up with Kenneth.

What Carter did to Mabank was paid back in full by the Panthers' all-district lineman — Alton Frosch. He stayed on those Malakoff backs so closely that they must have thought he belonged there.

Speaking of linemen, Eddie Nokes should certainly give big Paul Bankston a pat on the back. He opened those gaping holes and gave Nokes running room on the right side.

# Nokes, Hood Take Back And Lineman Of Week Honors

The Malakoff Tigers' hard running fullback, Eddie Nokes, and Brownsboro's all-district and all-county end, R. D. Hood, copped top honors as the "Henderson County Back and Lineman of the Week" for their performances in games played last Friday night.

This football season marks the first time in the history of Henderson County sports that players are being singled out for individual honors by this method, and both Nokes and Hood played outstanding football games to take top laurels.

Eddie, a 175-pound fullback, was the difference between victory and defeat as Malakoff edged by Mabank, 13-12, in a non-conference battle at Mabank Friday night. He scored one touchdown and passed to Halfback Bo Johnson for the other.

Nokes is playing his first season as a back. He played tackle last year and made all-district.

Hood was on a losing team Friday night as Lindale blasted Brownsboro, 13-0, but he played a great game, and was the Bruins' outstanding lineman, especially on defense.

Hood, a 176-pound boy, made all-district in 1954 and 1955, and was on the all Henderson County team in 1954. He's a three year letterman seeking his fourth monogram.

Perry Goodell of Eustace, who sped 60 yards for a touchdown to give the Bulldogs a 6-0 lead over Class A Emory, was runner-up for "Back of the Week" honors. The Pups' lead was shortlived as Emory came back to win 32-6 behind the running of Fullback Haral Haas, who scored three touchdowns on runs of 45, 75 and 35 yards.

Kenneth Carter of Malakoff, an all-star basketball performer in 1955-56, was runnerup for "lineman of the week" honors. He never played football until this season, but was one of the top players on the field in the Malakoff-Mabank contest.

Mabank, which lies just over the line in Kaufman County, is not eligible for county honors.