

Berlin places in USAREUR finals

by Lou A Kirkpatrick

The championship playoffs for the USAREUR American Youth Activities football season were held last weekend in Stuttgart. The bantam league, boys 9-12, was the only Berlin team to make it to the finals.

Jets had made the first score of the game, with the extra points bringing the first quarter score to 8-0. The Pattonville Jets only had six points scored against them all season, but it only took the Berlin Bears five minutes to do the same thing. Jerry Kimble grabbed the ball for Berlin and turned the corner into wide open spaces, sailing easily into the end zone. The point after attempt failed against a very determined Jets defensive line.

The explosiveness of the first quarter looked like an outright battle for the number one spot in USAREUR,

but looks can be deceiving. While the Jets had plenty of fuel, the Bears were beginning to get a little grumpy. Plagued with penalties in the second quarter, the Bears offense couldn't seem to move the ball past the roaring Jets. The half ended 14-6 as a gray cloud formed over the Berlin bench.

Chris Pringle tried to run the second half opening kick deep into Pattonville territory, but Jet Eddie Julian had other ideas. A blocking below the waist call on the Bears nullified Pringle's run, chalking up another 15 yard penalty on our boys. Unable to make the first down the Bears had to kick the ball away. Louis Pickett of the Jets couldn't find the handle on the ball before Joe Carter nailed him to the ground. A roughing the kicker penalty set the Jets deep in their own territory. Berlin's

defense sparked into life again, keeping the first down out of the grasp of the Jets, who were forced to kick.

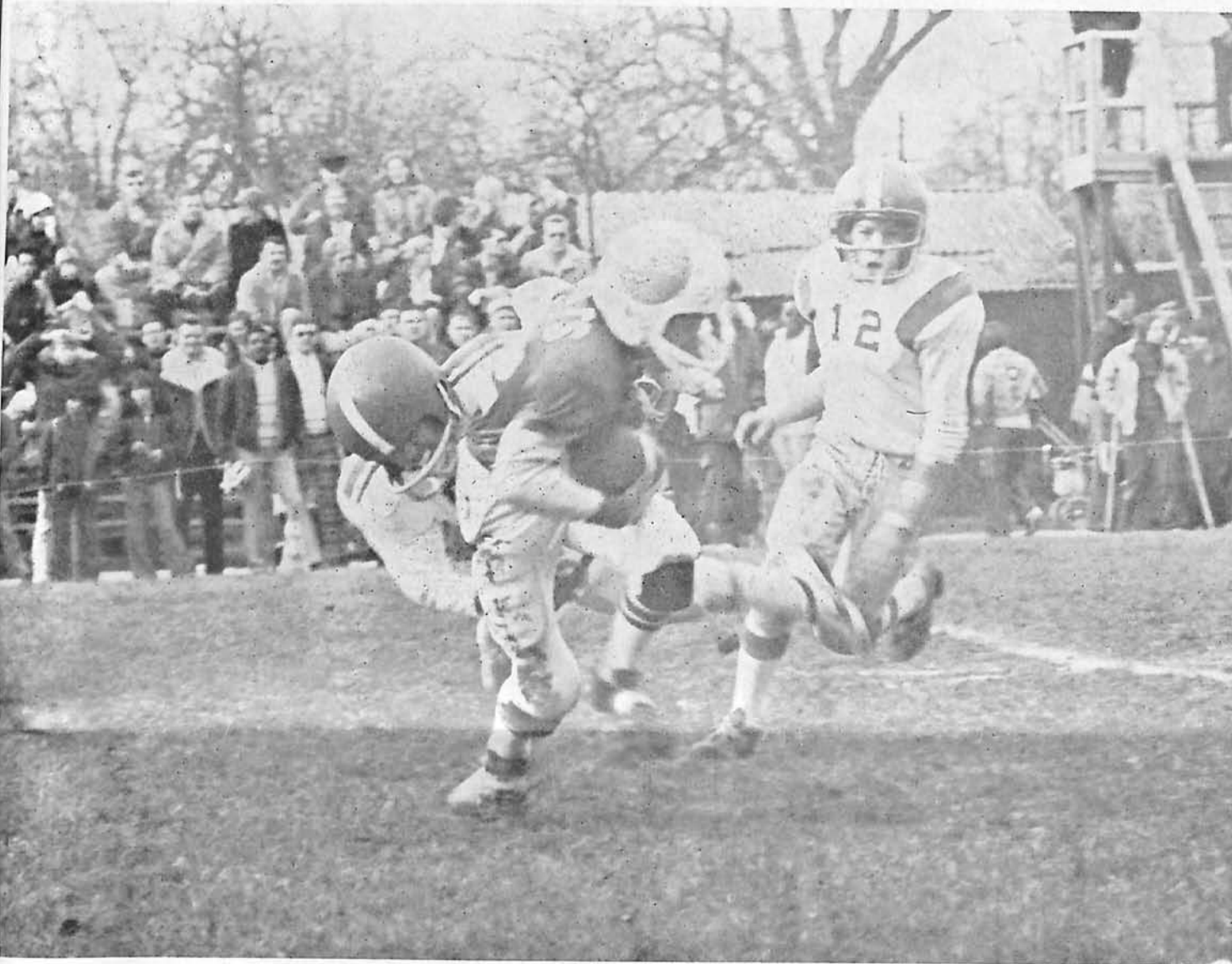
Growling, the Bears went after their own first down. On third and five, quarterback Eric Hansen fumbled the ball on a bad snap, recovering it in time to be dumped six yards. Joe Carter kept his record clean as he smeared jetter Ernest Blackshear near mid-field on the kick. The referees blew whistles again as they discovered an over-strength Berlin lineup. The extra man on the field gave the Jets a free five yards. A good run by Jets' quarterback, Uwe De St Jeor, set the Jets up on the Berlin 30 yard line. Blackshear ran the ball another 15 yards to bring them into scoring range. The next play saw the jetmen swarm the Berlin end zone but to no avail. A holding call on the Jets nullified the T. D. and turned it into a first and 24 situation.

Brian Haug was ready when the teams came to the line again. The Jets quarterback had all but released the ball to a man way in the open when Haug dropped him in his tracks for a loss. David Pilson gave Haug a helping hand and the very next play they did it again, forcing the Jets to turn the ball over.

The overanxious Bears were unable to capitalize on the opportunity. A mixup in the backfield of Berlin caused a fumble which the Jets recovered. Two plays later the Jets zoomed across the Berlin goal. The score was beginning to look like the Bears were being eaten alive, 20-6. Though the third quarter was barely underway, the dice had been thrown and the score remained 20-6.

The rest of the game turned into a battle between Jets quarterback Uwe De St Jeor, and the defensive team of Berlin. St Jeor, the littlest player on the field, proved to be pro-material as he moved his team forward on several keepers. The only man to sack St Jeor in the quarter was William Doty, who accomplished this task only three plays before the game ended. Berlin's most outstanding player in the game was number 83, Joe Carter, who was a key figure in approximately 45 percent of the defensive plays in the final half. The entire Berlin team, who have only been together a couple of weeks, did a fine job competing with a team that has been together for over three months.

This was the first time any Berlin AYA teams has made it into the finals. All the boys did a fantastic job, bringing home the number two position in all of Europe. Not a bad job at all boys — congratulations.



ERIC HANSEN, NUMBER 12, gets ready for an assist should his teammate need it to stop the Jet runner. The Jets out-

played the Bears in both running and passing to bring their team to the top spot in USAREUR. (Photo by Kirkpatrick)