

# Menomonie Middle School 8th Grade Language Arts

# Menomonie Football

# Championship

Joe Labuda's team had just won the state championship that next Monday Joe was greeted with a bunch of high school students getting ready to watch Joe shave his head, as he promised he would at the start of the year. The principal made an announcement and the shaving started, the gym erupted with laughter.

It was only three days ago that Joe Labuda's team had met their biggest challenge, the Ashwaubenon Jaguars. The Indians had been drained from their last game. It was a defensive battle with Monroe; each team had given it their all but in the end Menomonie won. Some people say that the game had drained out all their energy and wouldn't be able to compete with the Jaguars. The Indians had two star players injured last week, their middle linebacker Kevin Path was hurt and their quarterback Trevor Theelke was hurt. This game was going to be tough.

On Saturday afternoon the Indians were getting ready for the state championship. November 17 1993 was chilly; the temperature was 0 degrees. The breeze swooping in and out of Camp Randle. The Indians were going to need a miracle especially in these conditions. The team started stretching out on the field watching the stands crowd up. Menomonie and Ashwaubenon were getting jitters, both teams were competing in their first state championship.

The game was about to start and one was locked in. Joe Labuda was giving a pregame speech he told this group "we may not be the most athletic team in Wisconsin but we have heart." Joe Labuda was a great coach which later in his career he was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaching Hall of Fame, his career record was 288-53. The Indians were going to kick off to start this game.

The wind in this stadium was blowing the ball off its tee, the Indians had to have a placeholder. The kicker wound up and the kick was off, the ball had tumbled through the air it made it past the 20 before being picked up by the Jaguars the Indians cornerback had squeaked through the blocks and met the Jaguars at the 25. Defense was going to be key in this game. Later that drive the Jaguars had trudged their way through Menomonie's defense and scored.

Menomonie had the ball at their 40. Eric Lee had the ball in his hand he swerved, stiff armed, and ran over the Jaguars defense all for a ten yard gain. Trevor Theelke Menomonie's hurt qb was going to play through his injury. Eric Lee had a big play taking the ball from the 35 to the 13. The next play was a triple option that faked out the defense which ended up as a

touchdown. The crowd erupted with cow bells and Menomonie chants. Menomonie's fan base was ginormous.

The score was 28-21 in the third quarter with a stop and score Menomonie would for sure win. The corner back for Menomonie was trying to do just that but he bit on a double move and got burned by the Jaguars wide receiver, he ran for 30 yards before being caught by the safety but he broke the tackle and scored. The score was now 28-28.

Trevor Theelke snapped the ball it was a hand off to Eric Lee he took it 16 yards before being hammered by a middle linebacker. Eric had the wind knocked out of him, making Trevor throw the ball the next play. Trevor dropped back in the pocket the o line had collapsed on him Trevor chucked the ball up in hopes of a good pass but it was a duck. It wobbled into a Jaguars player's hands."It's the Jaguars ball!" the announcer yelled. The Jaguars had ended up on Menomonies 45 Aaron Stecker, the Jaguars star running back, had the ball. He had been running through Menomonies defense that whole day, this was the time Menomonie needed a stop right here. The Jaguars lined up in wildcat, a direct snap to Aaron he tried to shoot the gap but the ball was stripped! Rich Cinker, the outside linebacker, had come across the field and punched the ball out, Menomonie's cornerback scooped it up and took it for ten more yards.

The Fourth quarter had just started and the score was still 28-28. Menomonie started to run away with this game, seriously running away with it. Eric Lee was putting menomonie on his back. Eric had scored twice this quarter. The defense only let up 3 points this quarter. The buzzer had gone off and Menomonie was deemed state champions first of many.

Eric Lee was Menomonies stand out player this year he was very good. He had 21 rushes for 181 yards and 2 touchdowns. Lee had been praised by his team as the MVP of the game. Labuda gave Lee the gameball.

Menomonie plays in the BRC ( Big Rivers Conference) ; they play Chippewa falls, Eau Claire Memorial, Rice Lake, Superior, and New Richmond. The BRC is an elite conference and many of these schools produce Division 1 athletes. Menomonie practically runs the conference winning the conference almost every year.

Joe Labuda was now bald. He stood up to give a speech. " I'm so proud to be a coach of this team. I got to experience you guys change as people. This group has the most heart ever. We may have been smaller than Ashwaubenon, or may have been out matched, may have even been hurt, but we have heart!

Huffcutt, Tim. "Roach Vs Stecker" *The Dunn County News*, [Menomonie], 17 Nov. 1993, p. 16.  
Huffcutt, Tim. "Game Within Game" *The Dunn County News* [Menomonie] 17 Nov. 1993, p.16.

