

But Bucs Find Offense

# Seattle Prevails in Brawl

By BOB PASTIN

SEATTLE—Ah, if Seattle and Tampa Bay could only see more of each other, how sweet NFL life might be.

Recognizant of the ominous outlook ahead and the opportunity at hand, the league's newest clubs went at it with glee here last Sunday, piling up 759 yards between them in a scenario that was pure back-alley brawl.

Like last year, though, the Seahawks ultimately prevailed, this time 30-23, as reserve quarterback Steve Myer rifled four touchdown passes against a Buc defense which had yielded just 55 points in four previous games.

"We had an emotional week in practice, and looked at this as a kind of must-win situation, perhaps more than any other game we've played," said Myer, who replaced the injured Jim Zorn for a third week. "I guess we should be like this every week, because being tense and keyed up really paid off."

**MYER HIT** 20 of 30 passes for 252 yards, including touchdowns of four and eight yards to Steve Largent, 45 yards to Duke Ferguson and 44 to Sherman Smith.

Tampa Bay, entering the game with mere output of 13 points, finally got its offense untracked, riddling the woe-laden Seahawk defense for 384 yards, 217 on Gary Huff passes.

But Huff, despite an 18-for-32 day, ultimately wore the goat horns, as Seattle's B's Atry Beamon and Eddie McMillian snuffed out late Buc drives with interceptions.

Embattled Buc Coach John McKay, under fire in recent weeks for his club's unchless attack, couldn't find much consolation with the offense, Huff in particular.

"But the better team won," McKay admitted. "Washington and Philadelphia have straight dropback passers and didn't give us as much trouble as

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Seattle did with their rollout. They (Seahawks) do more things offensively than Washington or Philly. They have more variations, and it's harder to defend.

"I knew going in that Seattle would

**"He (Huff) shouldn't have thrown into the endzone on a second-and-two," McKay lamented. "We had two timeouts and a lot of time left. "But it's my fault," he added, "because I'm the one who's supposed to be teaching this game to these guys."**

Actually, Seattle put itself in a precarious position after failing to cash in on the kicking game, as John Leypoldt misfired on two field goals and had his final PAT hit an upright and bounce back.

"That field goal kicker sure makes it interesting," Seahawk Coach Jack Patera mused afterwards. "It looked to me like he shanked the PAT and one field goal, and kicked the other field goal (which was blocked) low. He makes those, and we're in good shape."

As it turned out, the Seahawks had to hang on for dear life, hoping for the big plays.

**"WE GOT 'em on offense and defense," Patera said, referring to the late interceptions and Myer's clutch passing.**

give us a chance to score some points," McKay added, "but I thought our defense could hold them better than they did."

Like McKay, Patera was somewhat surprised with the ease by which his club moved the football. "Minnesota gets a field goal and touchdown on them," he noted, "and Francis (Tarkenton) says Tampa has a tough defense. But then we come out and score 30 points. I guess we did a lot of good things out there."

The Seahawks also got their first productive rushing effort, as Sherman Smith churned a team season-high 94 yards of the 134 total rushing output.

"Tampa Bay is good at taking away the fullback run," Patera remarked, "so we went mainly with our halfbacks (Smith and David Sims). We made some big early gains, and stayed with it."

The end result of Seattle's surprising balance was perplexing on the previously-stingy Buc defenders, and, naturally, on McKay.

**"We tackled like a bunch of junior high kids," he tumbled. "Last week we gave the defense a little praise; this week they fell apart."**



**SHERMAN SMITH...  
rushes for 94 yards**

OCTOBER 24, 1977

# Seahawks 30, Bucs 23

SEATTLE, WASH., OCT. 16, 1977

Tampa Bay	6	7	3	7-23
Seattle	7	10	0	13-30

**SCORING:**

Seattle: Largent, 8-Yard Pass From Myer (Leypoldt Kick) 0-7.  
 Tampa Bay: Leavitt, 40-Yard Field Goal 3-7.  
 Tampa Bay: Leavitt, 37-Yard Field Goal 6-7.  
 Seattle: Largent, 4-Yard Pass From Myer (Leypoldt Kick) 6-14.  
 Tampa Bay: Davis, 1-Yard Run (Leavitt Kick) 13-14.  
 Seattle: Leypoldt, 43-Yard Field Goal 13-17.  
 Tampa Bay: Leavitt, 20-Yard Field Goal 16-17.  
 Seattle: Ferguson, 45-Yard Pass From Myer (Leypoldt Kick) 16-24.  
 Tampa Bay: Owens, 67-Yard Pass From Huff (Leavitt Kick) 23-24.  
 Seattle: Smith, 44-Yard Pass From Myer (Kick Failed) 23-30.  
**ATTENDANCE: 54,783**

**TEAM STATISTICS**

	T.B.	Sea.
FIRST DOWNS	22	21
Rushing	11	9
Passing	9	12
Penalty	2	0
TOTAL NET YARDS	384	375
Rushing	167	134
Passing	217	241
PASSES - ATTEMPTED	32	30
Completed	18	20
Had Intercepted	4	2
Tackled Att. To Pass	0	1
Yards Lost Att. To Pass	0	11
PUNTS	1	3
Average	47.0	38.3
PUNT RETURNS	2	1
Yards Returned	8	5
KICKOFF RETURNS	5	6
Yards Returned	117	127
PENALTIES	6	4
Yards Penalized	51	30

RUSHING PLAYS	34	35
Average Gain	4.9	3.8
TOTAL PLAYS	66	66
Average Gain	5.8	5.7
FUMBLES	2	3
Fumbles Lost	2	0
FIELD GOALS - ATTEMPTED	3	3
Made	3	1

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**RUSHING**

BUCCANEERS-Davis, 14 for 83, 35t, 11d; Williams, 8 for 39, 9t; Dubose, 8 for 37, 7t; L Carter, 3 for 8, 3t; Huff, 1 for 0.  
 SEAHAWKS-Smith, 19 for 94, 16t; Sims, 10 for 28, 11t; Testerman, 2 for 12, 8t; Benjamin, 1 for 4; Myer, 3 for -4, 1.

**PASSING**

BUCCANEERS-Huff, 32a, 18c for 217yds, 4t, 67t, 11d.  
 SEAHAWKS-Myer, 30a, 20c for 252yds, 2t, 45t, 4td.

**RECEIVING**

BUCCANEERS-Owens, 9 for 166, 67t, 11d; McKay, 2 for 19, 11t; Davis, 2 for 13, 17t; Williams, 2 for 13, 8t; L Carter, 2 for 4, 3t; Dubose, 1 for 2.

SEAHAWKS-Smith, 4 for 57, 44t, 11d; Largent, 4 for 44, 26t, 21d; Testerman, 4 for 26, 12t; Ferguson, 3 for 65, 45t, 11d; Howard, 3 for 44, 24t; Benjamin, 2 for 16, 9t.

**PUNTING**

BUCCANEERS-Green, 1 for 47.0 avg.,  
 SEAHAWKS-Weaver, 3 for 38.3 avg., 45t

**PUNT RETURNS**

BUCCANEERS-Hugins, 2 for 8yds, 8t  
 SEAHAWKS-Packer, 1 for 5yds.

**KICKOFF RETURNS**

BUCCANEERS-Hugins, 5 for 117, 32t  
 SEAHAWKS-Packer, 3 for 59, 22t; Hunter, 2 for 47, 26t; Smith, 1 for 21.

**INTERCEPTIONS**

BUCCANEERS-White, 1 for 26; Wood, 1 for 17.  
 SEAHAWKS-Benjamin, 2 for 0, 1; McMillan, 1 for 21; Preece, 1 for 0.