

C 8 THE COURIER-JOURNAL, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1987

Thundering heard at 0:00 as Louisville struck by a Hail Mary storm

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potential receivers, and Baxter, a 5-foot-9 senior from Miami, broke wide open in the center of the end zone.

Petersen launched the pass. The final second ticked off the clock. Baxter and Warren both leaped, with Warren getting a hand on the ball. But Baxter held on to give Marshall (3-3) an incredible victory.

"You never say die," Baxter said. "All of us were running fly patterns going different directions. The ball was hanging, so I had to jump for it. They were going to throw the ball out of bounds, but I guess he saw Louisville in a regular defense. They were just standing there with regular coverage; they didn't play prevent."

Warren said U of L was playing a "loose zone."

"The ball was a floater and everybody seemed to break for it," Warren said. "We jumped and collided. I landed on the ground, heard the crowd roar, looked up and saw him (Baxter) on the ground with the ball. My heart just dropped. I couldn't believe what had happened."

Free safety Terry Lantz was also in the general neighborhood.

"It was pretty much a 'Hail Mary' pass," Lantz said. "He threw it up and the guy just jumped us. He made a big-time play. When I saw him come down with it, my heart sank."

Watching from the sideline, U of L halfback Deon Booker, who rushed for a career-high 186 yards, thought possibly he and his teammates had felt it was all over after the Cards' final TD.

"We might have started celebrating a little too early and relaxed," Booker said. "It was a freak play, but he concentrated and caught it."

"We had the receiver covered,"

Bates' TD passing leads Miami of Ohio 17-0

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — Mike Bates threw two touchdown passes yesterday, as Miami of Ohio took sole possession of first place in Mid-American Conference football with a 17-0 victory over Western Michigan.

Bates connected with Steve Fumi on a six-yard touchdown pass at 8:21 of the first quarter. The score came three plays after linebacker Pete Mather recovered a fumble on Western's 21-yard line.

Bates led the Redskins 82 yards in 14 plays in the second quarter, connecting with Andy Schillinger on an 11-yard TD pass.

Miami's Gary Gussman closed out the scoring with a 27-yard field goal in the third quarter. He also kicked both extra points to become the MAC's all-time leader in points by a placekicker, with 278.

said defensive tackle Chris Thieneman. "I don't see how he caught it. It was a hell of a catch, a major league catch. He did exactly what he had to do; there was no other way he could have caught it."

Marshall coach George Casump said he had never seen anything like the electric finish.

"We just ran four deep, put it up opposite the safety and hoped someone would grab it," Casump said. "This was a great one."

U of L fell despite Booker's hard running, two touchdowns by fullback Rodney Knighton, two TD passes by Gruden and a superb defensive effort for most of the second half.

After Petersen threw a four-yard touchdown pass to fullback Jerry Harris with 32 seconds left in the first half for its 28-19 lead, U of L's defense turned up its intensity and shut Marshall down cold before its final drive. Until then, the Herd had managed only 59 yards total offense in the second half.

The problem, as U of L coach Howard Schnellenberger noted afterward, was a poor performance for the first 30 minutes.

A great comeback effort went to naught with a spectacular play, Schnellenberger said. "However, we didn't lose the game on the last play; we lost it in the first half when, for some reason, we didn't come out and play well at all."

Schnellenberger's impression of Marshall's winning TD?

"It was a desperation interception ball that the guy went up and made a great play on," he said.

Louisville started its comeback with a 35-yard touchdown run by Knighton with 10:21 left in the third quarter. Gruden passed to Hamilton for a two-point conversion to slice the deficit to 28-18.

An interception by Lantz and a 20-yard return set up U of L's next TD, a diving 10-yard reception by flanker Anthony Cummings with 42 seconds remaining in the period.

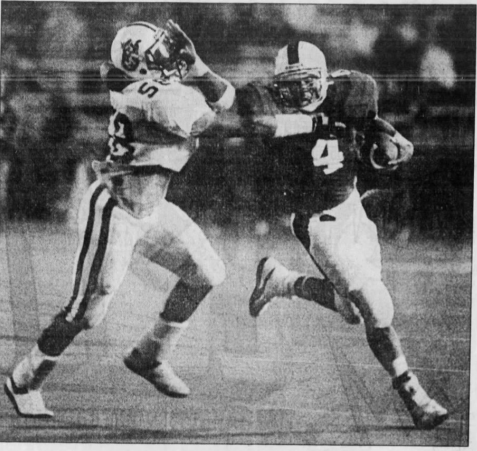
Knighton, who gained 99 yards on 16 carries, left the game with 1220 left after being knocked unconscious, but that didn't stop the Cards from mounting a 72-yard drive for their go-ahead TD.

Booker set up the score with a 38-yard run and it looked as if U of L had pocketed another come-from-behind triumph similar to its opening 40-40 victory over Tulane.

But then came the Petersen-Baxter bombshell.

"We shouldn't have been in that situation in the first place," Gruden said. "We should have moved the ball better in the first half and scored more points."

Now the reeling Cards must regroup for a trip to Tallahassee on Saturday to meet national power Florida State. Yesterday, the Seminoles manhandled Southern Miss 81-10 a week after the Golden Eagles had blasted U of L, 65-6.



U of L's Rodney Knighton fended off Marshall's Jason Lemon as he tried to turn the corner on a run during the second half last night at Cardinal Stadium.
STAFF PHOTO BY DURELL HALL JR.



Marshall — 7 21 0 —34
Louisville — 0 35 14 —21

Marshall — Darcy, 1 run (Marshall kick) 14:01 left. Drive: 3 plays, 20 yards. Key play: Darcy 84 kick-off touch.

First Quarter
Louisville — Knighton, 1 run (Marshall kick) 13:33 left. Drive: 14 plays, 72 yards. Key play: Cummings 18 yard pass to Gruden. Gruden 1 yard pass to Hamilton. Marshall — Darcy, 1 run (Marshall kick) 11:25 left. Drive: 7 plays, 48 yards. Key play: Darcy 18 run. Marshall — Gruden, 13 pass from Petersen (Marshall kick) 9:41 left. Drive: 3 plays, 34 yards. Key play: Booker 16 pass from Petersen.

Second Quarter
Louisville — 10. Ball, 31: 0:00 on Drive: 8 plays, 74 yards. Key play: Hamilton 40 pass from Gruden. Marshall — Darcy, 4 pass from Petersen (Marshall kick) 33 left. Drive: 10 plays, 87 yards. Key play: Hester 15 pass from Petersen.

Third Quarter
Louisville — Knighton, 20 run (Hamilton pass from Gruden) 10:21 left. Drive: 5 plays, 74 yards. Key play: Booker 10 run. Cummings, 10 pass from Gruden (kick) 4:21 left. Drive: 1 play, 10 yards. Key play: Lantz 20 interception return.

Fourth Quarter
Louisville — Hamilton, 22 pass from Gruden (Marshall kick) 5:16 left. Drive: 4 plays, 72 yards. Key play: Booker 38 run. Marshall — Darcy, 31 pass from Petersen (00 left).

Team statistics		
	Marshall	Louisville
First downs	20	25
Plays	65	67
Yards	286	190
Net yard	17	60
Passes	44-25-2	27-14-1
Points	34	21
Turnovers	0	2
Fumbles	0-0	0-0
Time possession	27:32	32:28

Individual statistics
RUSHING — Marshall — Darcy 20:72, Harris 2:12, Hester 2:4, Louisville — Booker 20:96, Knighton 1:89, Gruden 1:4, Hamilton 1:11, Gruden 2:26.
PASSING — Marshall — Petersen 44-25-2, 286 yards. Louisville — Gruden 27-14-1, 182 yards.
RECEIVING — Marshall — Hester 11:21, Hester 4:20, Darcy 2:22, Hamilton 2:16, Hester 1:15, Harris 2:6, Darcy 1:4. Louisville — Hamilton 2:06, Knighton 1:00, Cummings 1:28, Williams 1:00, Booker 1:11, Hamilton 1:8, DeCunha 1:0.
Attendance — 21,658.

Louisville's Kevin Harvey leapt in an attempt to stop a pass play during the second half last night against Marshall.
STAFF PHOTO BY DURELL HALL JR.

Chris Thieneman U of L Oct 11 1987

