Steel Valley vs. Topeka

April 24, 1999

FINAL	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	TOTAL
Steel Valley	7	6	8	0	21
Topeka	14	28	14	20	76

SCORING SUMMARY

1ST :STV - Kosikowski 4 pass from Howard (Reinecker kick)
TOP - Stone 29 pass from Roberson (Oliva kick)
TOP - Roberson 1 run (Oliva kick)
2ND :TOP - Dritlein 16 pass from Roberson (kick failed)
TOP - Stone 9 pass from Roberson (Davis run)
TOP - Stone 10 pass from Roberson (Oliva kick)
STV - Schulters 2 run (kick failed)
TOP - Dritlein 22 pass from Roberson (Oliva kick)
3RD :TOP - Cosey 1 run (Oliva kick)
TOP - Spiller 29 interceprion return (Oliva kick)
STV - Kosikowski 7 pass from Howard (Coyne pass from Howard)
4TH :TOP - Dritlein 19 pass from Roberson (kick failed)
TOP - Stone 18 pass from Roberson (Oliva kick)
TOP - Davis 3 run (kick failed)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Steel Valley rushing: Howard 13-46, Schulters 9-20, Kosikowski 1-17, Floyd 5-12

Topeka rushing: Cosey 20-87, Roberson 5-18, Davis 3-14, Simecka 4-12

Steel Valley passing: Howard 10-20-1, 54; Platt 0-2-1, 0

Topeka passing: Roberson 13-19-0, 188

Steel Valley receiving: Coyne 6-28, Schulters 2-15, Kosikowski 2-11

Topeka receiving: Dritlein 6-94, Stone 5-83, Davis 2-13

A: 0,000; T: 0:00.

Game Summary

TOPEKA, KS -- Steel Valley did pretty much what it set out to do in limiting Topeka running ace Michael Cosey in their Indoor Football League game Friday night. So much for the myth of the Knights' one-dimensional offense.

Cosey, who has been averaging 100 yards a game in his first three contests, was held to only 36 first-half rushing yards. But quarterback Akili Roberson threw for 123 of his 188 yards in the first half. He had four of his six touchdown passes by intermission and the Knights were well on their way to a 76-21 romp over the winless Smash.

"We believe we can beat you either way, in the air or on the ground," said Knights coach Russ Fieger.

"Steel Valley came in here with the idea that they weren't going to let Michael Cosey beat them. So they brought everyone up and left only one guy back. We saw that and said, 'Fine, pick your poison. We'll beat you with Akili and Michael (Dritlein) and Roy (Stone) too.' " And so they did.

Dritlein caught six passes for 94 yards and three touchdowns, his most spectacular being a 22-yard play near the end of the first half in which he corralled the pass a split second before he tumbled over the end zone wall.

Stone was even more efficient in grabbing five passes for 83 yards and four touchdowns. He opened the Topeka outburst after the Smash scored a first-possession touchdown. The Knights responded immediately with a 29-yard Roberson-to-Stone TD.

The Knights' defense then got a break when a fourth-down conversion was wiped out by a penalty. Given a second chance, the Knights held deep in the Smash end, and Roberson converted immediately with a one-yard touchdown.

Topeka never was threatened again after scoring on its next four possessions of the half. The story this night, in fact, was the Knights' defense -- an element largely overlooked in the point-crazy IFL.

Holding an opponent to 21 points isn't done often on a 50-yard field, but the Knights pitched a defensive gem. Smash quarterback Doby Howard threw for only 78 yards and rushed for 45 more, but he accounted for all but 29 yards of Steel Valley's total offense.

The Knights defense even added to the scoring output when Tobian Thomas tipped a pass that Monte Spiller intercepted and returned 29 yards for a third-quarter touchdown.