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August," Bailey said. "They didn't have any doubts about what they wanted. They never took their eyes off the prize." Neither did Hayes' Rams. They

came into the game with the secondbest rushing attack in Division II football and one of the top defensive teams to boot. But it was their passing that kept them close this time.

It was nip and tuck from the beginning with both Hayes and Bailey using strategy and counter-strategy from the start. The Rams won the toss, but decided to kick off to the Spartans.

The WSSU ploy looked like pure genius when Norfolk's Tony Johnson fumbled on the Spartan 25 on the second play of the game. Though the Rams stalled from there, Smith connected on a 40-yard field goal that gave WSSU an early 3-0 lead.

Undaunted, the Spartans took the next possession and drove 80 yards to

"Somebody else must have

wanted us to win this game It was just a shame that someone had to lose in a game like this." -- Norfolk Coach Willard Bailey

Atoning for his early miscue, Johnson broke loose for a 57-yard run to the Ram 12 to set up the touchdown. Winston-Salem State came back with a drive of its own to close to

take their first lead of the game, 7-3.

Smith connected on a 33-yard field goal to culminate a 62-yard drive. But a controversial interference call against Winston-Salem's Anthony Blaylock on the Spartans' ensuing possession put Norfolk again in scoring range. The penalty gave the Spartans a first down on the Ram 30 and,

after the Ram defense stiffened,

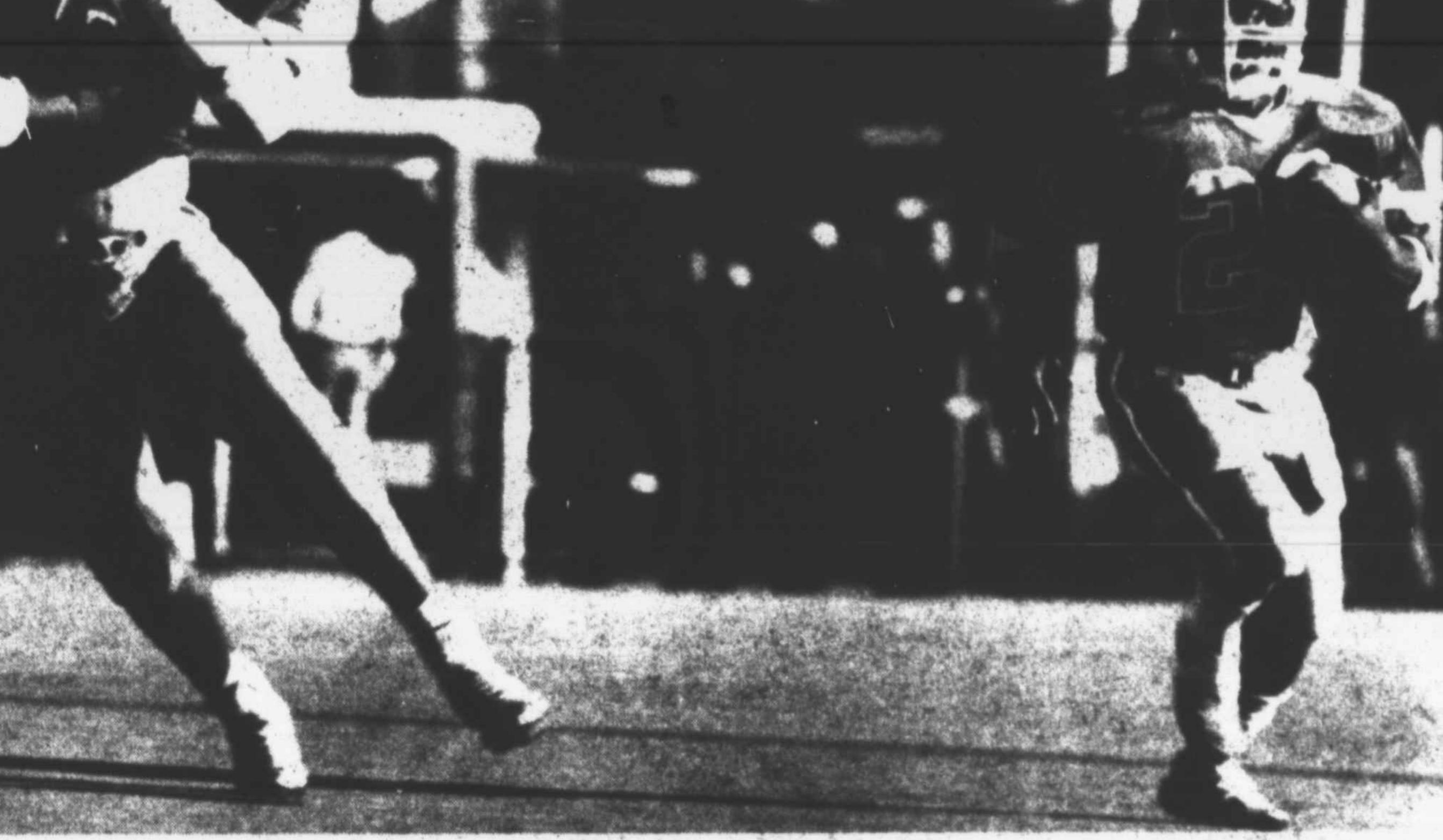
Browder nailed a 43-yard field goal to

within 7-6 to open the second quarter.

extend Norfolk's lead to 10-6. Things began to look bad for the Rams when they failed to move the ball on their next possession. To compound their worries, Vincent Jones' punt only traveled 27 yards, giving Norfolk the ball at midfield.

Eight plays later, Norfolk extended added to its lead when Gillus hit Leonard Hopkins for a seven-yard touchdown. Browder's P.A.T. put the Spartans up 17-6 with only 1:23 left in

However, the Ram offense, which had been almost completely shut down in the first half, refused to give in and, behind the leadership of Winbush,



the Spartans' bread-and-butter man, but this day belonged to quarterbacks (photo by James

cess. Though the Rams failed to score in the half's waning moments, they did muster enough momentum to turn the game around.

Winbush and the Rams then went to the air frequently and successfully in the second half, scoring first with 4:28 left in the third quarter on a eight-yard pass from Winbush to Simmons. Winbush scored again less than three minutes later to give his team a 19-17 lead. But Smith's P.A.T. attempt was partially blocked.

The Spartans, who had been held in check for all of the second half, came to life two possessions later.

Gillus calmly moved Norfolk 78 yards in 14 plays, using up 7:40 of the fourth quarter in the process. Perhaps the most important play came on third and eight from the Spartan 24, when Gillus spun 360 degrees to avoid a Ram defender and threw 28 yards to Thomas Butler for a first down.

After Norfolk bogged down three plays later, Browder then delivered his fatal blow, the 30-yard field goal that made the score 20-19.

For Gillus, the ending was like a dream come true.

"We were prepared to throw the ball," Gillus said. "I knew all week that I would start because Raynard (Revels) didn't get to practice much. It's a great feeling to win a game like.

Junior Gillus stepped in and calmly ran the Norfolk attack, passing with took to the air and began to find suc surprising precision (photo by James Parker)

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