

FOOTBALL

Warriors stuff Vikes in upset

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

The chef at Too-Chez had better beware. Mike Ziebski is headed to the upscale Novi restaurant, and he's bringing an enormous appetite with him.

Walled Lake Western football coach Chuck Apatz told Ziebski, the team's defensive coordinator, he would spring for dinner if the Warriors shut out cross-town rival Walled Lake Central in the final game of the season.

The Warriors did just that Friday with a stunning, 12-0 victory over the visiting Vikings.

Western finishes the season with a 5-4 record and knocks Central (6-3) out of the running for a post-season playoff berth.

"I'm going to run up the hill," Ziebski said. "(Central coach) Darrell Harper has a tough offense to cover, but our kids worked extremely hard and put the time in."

"All week long they stayed at practice until 7:30 watching film, and they came in each day at 6:30 to work on coverage."

"We were just hoping to contain them. We didn't want to give up the big play, because that's when Central is the most dangerous. If they were going to beat us, they were going to have to drive on us, and fortunately we were able to hold them off."

The loss was a huge disappointment for the Vikings, who had their sights set on the school's first playoff appearance, but needed a win over Western to accomplish it.

Central's offense was averaging better than two touchdowns per game and had not been shut out all season. Western, meanwhile, had no shutouts.

"We didn't do a thing offensively," Harper said. "When you don't block anyone, you can't win the game."

"But give Western and their defensive coordinator Mike Ziebski credit. Their defense did a great job all year. That's been the difference in their ballclub."

It certainly was the difference Friday.

Western held Central to 151 yards total offense. Kevin Crane and Ryan Wright each registered a sack. Wright, Jason Brewer and Shawn Hoare combined for a sack. Michael Cloutier had an interception. Crane caused a fumble and recovered another and Jason Maxwell also recovered a fumble.

Offensively, the Warriors took the lead on the opening possession of the game.

Western marched 69 yards in eight plays and scored on a 15-yard pass from junior quarterback Jason Bishop to Crane. Chris Byram blocked the extra point kick,

but the damage had already been done.

Western added six more points on a pair of 34-yard field goals by junior kicker Pat Gibson. He actually kicked four field goals, but two were nullified by penalties.

Despite the loss, Central's defense played a solid game, holding Western to 188 total yards. Greg Tobias had a pair of interceptions. Steve Henkle had four tackles (two for loss) and combined with Will Winicki for a sack.

The victory was Western's seventh straight over Central. The Vikings haven't beaten the Warriors since a 20-0 decision in 1988.

American Legion Post 244 in Wixom donated a silver cup mounted on a wooden pedestal last year to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first game between Central and Western.

The winner of the annual rivalry gets to keep the trophy the following year.

Western, which leads the rivalry 16-11, wasn't expected to do so but will retain the "American Legion Cup" for another year.

Glenn playoff hopes dashed by defeat

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Wayne Memorial stoned for a season full of ains with a 26-21 upset football victory Friday over rival Westland John Glenn.

It was the Zebras' fourth city title in the 22-year running of the series. They also knocked the Rockets out of post-season playoff contention in Class AA-Region III for the third time since 1987.

Two junior standouts, quarterback Lorenzo Guess and wide receiver Richard Rashad, teamed up on a 10-yard scoring pass with only 1:31 remaining to give host Wayne the victory.

"It was a great way to end the season," said Wayne coach Chuck Howton, whose team finished 3-6 overall. "It's been a season of frustration. We've had lulls offensively and defensively. We've moved the ball all year, but we've seemed to have difficulty once we got inside the 20-yard line."

"Today things clicked better. I'd have to say it's the best game we've played all year."

Guess, the Zebras' 6-foot-3, 185-pound signal caller, was brilliant. He was 11 of 19 for 157 yards and directed the game-winning 74-yard, eight-play drive in the final six minutes.

The 6-4, 195-pound Rashad, who had six catches for 82 yards, came through in the

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clutch with a dramatic 37-yard catch (and run) to put Wayne in scoring position at the Glenn 31.

He then back-pedaled into the end zone to haul in a lofty toss from Guess.

"We throw a lot of alley-oops in basketball, I just had what I had to do to catch it," said Rashad, who along with Guess, was a starter on last year's basketball team, which reached the state Class A quarterfinals.

"This the only time I've had a chance to play against Glenn in football. I missed last year and I didn't play the year before."

"I think this victory with inspire us for next year."

With Glenn ahead 21-20 midway through the final quarter, Wayne came up with a key defensive stop on fourth-and-3 at the Zebras' 26.

Tackle Melvin Gray, a 6-3, 280-pound sophomore, aided by Guess coming up from his safety spot, kept Glenn ball carrier Jay Jackson (20 carries for 153 yards) short of the first down marker.

"That's the (off-tackle) play the players wanted to run and it was the play they had the most confidence in," said the Glenn coach, who polled his team during a timeout. "Everybody was comfortable with that call."

The Glenn defense, which had allowed only 58 points in eight games, was not its stingy self. The Rockets gave up four touchdowns, all on sustained, time-consuming drives.

"Guess is the most dangerous quarterback we've faced and their receivers made tremendous catches," Gordon said. "They have so many weapons and a ton of speed. And we know going in that Wayne was a better team than their record indicated. They've played a tough schedule (in the Mega Conference) and it was kind of game we thought it would be."

The Zebras took the opening kickoff and drove 79 yards in 12 plays, capped by junior Dwayne Jackson's 3-yard TD run with 4:54 left in the first quarter. (Jackson had 71 yards on 16 carries to lead Wayne.) Guess then hit Rashad on the two-point conversion pass for an 8-0 advantage.

Glenn answered, however, on its initial drive, marching 80 yards in 14 plays culminating in Jay Jackson's 3-yard TD run with 10:16 left in the second. Jackson, a 5-5, 160-pound senior, also ran in for the two-point to make it 8-8.

Wayne came right back on its second possession of the first half, going 78 yards in 10 plays. Guess, breaking three tackles, scored on a 17-yard run, but the

Zebras couldn't punch in the two-point.

Jay Jackson, who had 118 first-half yards, bounced off the line of scrimmage and broke into the open, scoring on an electrifying 65-yard run with 5:36 left in the half.

But the Rockets were deadlocked 14-14 at intermission when Justin Berent, the holder on the PAT, faked extra point. His pass attempt was picked off by Wayne's Lavelle Guess.

Wayne, which had been held scoreless through eight consecutive third quarters this season, broke the jinx with a 56-yard TD drive. Guess connecting with Rashad for a 13-yard pass with 4:50 to go in the period. (The two-point play was no good.)

Late in the third, Jackson returned a punt 44 yards to set up a 1-yard TD sneak by Berent. Steve Palling's extra point with 13 seconds remaining in the quarter pushed Glenn in front, 21-20.

Guess then went to work after Glenn was stopped with six minutes to play.

"Everybody played hard for the whole game this time," Guess said. "Every game we've had good drives, but this time we capitalized and scored."

Hawks

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"That's our passing game; that's what we do," Rowley said, addressing Oxford's reputation as an option team. "We can throw the ball. We're not just 3 yards and a cloud of dust."

Harrison scored on its first two possessions of the third quarter to take a 28-7 lead. Granger made his long run on the second play of the half and later had a 1-yard dive for a second TD.

The Wildcats answered with another successful drive. Mihalyi's 36-yard reception set up a 6-yard scoring run by Geiss early in the fourth quarter.

Oxford forced a punt and controlled the ball for nearly seven minutes until the Hawks stopped Geiss on fourth-and-1 at the Harrison 20 with 3/4 minutes left.

"We wanted to get the ball back in our hands, and it was frustrating because they kept getting first downs," Herrington said. "I would have loved to play more kids, but we couldn't pull away. When it 22-7, I thought we were in good shape, and they came back and scored."

"We were pretty much in command (of the score), but it still wasn't the sharp game we had hoped to have. We're not satisfied with the performance today, but it's a win and now we can get ready for the playoffs."

Harrison will play at No. 1-ranked South Lyon (5-0) in the first round of the Class A tournament Saturday.



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