

Warrior Run beats Montgomery for first victory

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by Nick Seitzer

MONTGOMERY—With a deep gash on top of his nose, Warrior Run's senior running back Zach Burrows walked off the field a little bloody Friday night. But judging from the smile on his face, Burrows wasn't too concerned.

That's because Burrows and the rest of the Defenders picked up their first win of the season, following a 25-9 romping at Montgomery.

"It feels great," Burrows said. "We have really been working hard to get our first win, and it came through tonight."

The Defenders looked like a well-rounded team for the first time this season, as their offense put up 294 yards with three touchdowns, while their defense held the Red Raiders to just 115 yards.

Warrior Run's defense jumped out of the gate strong, forcing a safety on Montgomery's second offensive play.

The Defenders kept momentum in their favor on the ensuing drive when punter James Frank opted to throw the ball instead of booting it, and connected with Jake Rohm for a 31-yard pass that gave the Defenders a first down and set up the game's first touchdown.

That play was the result of a great coaching adjustment made by the Defenders' special team's coordinator.

"(Rohm) wasn't covered the first time we punted, and when we went out to punt again we saw there was nobody there," Warrior Run's head coach Mark Burrows said. "We told the punter that if he wasn't covered to throw him the ball, and that is exactly what happened."

Looking a little shell-shocked, the Red Raiders failed to establish any offense throughout the rest of the half, and went into the locker room at halftime with negative yardage, down 25-3.

Offensively, the Defenders' biggest weapon was their senior quarterback, Hunter Raup, who completed 11 of his 29 passes, and threw for three touchdowns.

"Passing-wise we were where we needed to be," Burrows said. "The first half we caught some balls, but there were times when we should have done better."

"If we can give (Raup) time we can throw. It's when we destruct every now and again that it hurts us."

Raup's favorite target on the night was Andrew Gummo, who started this season on the offensive line, but was transformed into a wideout to help with the Defenders' lack of depth at the position. Gummo snagged 5 catches for 85 yards and a touchdown in the game, and seemed to make a big play every time Warrior Run needed one. He is just one of many players on Warrior Run's squad that has been cross-trained at several positions.

"We have kids playing all over the place," Burrows said. "We bring three jerseys for some of them."

"Our kids are resilient, so we move them around all week long. There were three or four kids who were in new positions tonight that had never played that position before. They adapted pretty well," said Burrows.

Next week Warrior Run goes on the road again to play Wyalusing, but for now Burrows hopes that his players will enjoy the win.

"I'm glad for the kids," he said. "We have gotten beaten around and battered all year long, so it's good they finally got a win under their belt."