



Mick McCabe: Holland pulls off upset over East Grand Rapids; Week 2 rankings

Sep 5, 2011

As Holland prepared to play five-time defending state champ East Grand Rapids, coach Shawn McManus kept hearing his players repeat the phrase: "Shock the world."

"We kind of said from the beginning that's what we wanted to do because we knew no one outside of our team believed for 1 second we could win the game," McManus said. "It kind of flowed through the team huddles all week, and we ran with it."

Shock the world? This was more like shocking the solar system ... and then some.

• [This week's rankings](#)

Holland ended visiting East Grand Rapids' 34-game winning streak with a stunning 30-22 victory. This is the same Holland team that has one state playoff appearance.

The shock began when Holland's Alec Haas took a handoff from Sam Sanchez and returned the opening kickoff 91 yards for a

score.

"I think our kids were in a pretty good frame of mind, and I think it definitely gave that air of belief and made it real," McManus said. "But we came out and played pretty good defense after that, and that helped, too."

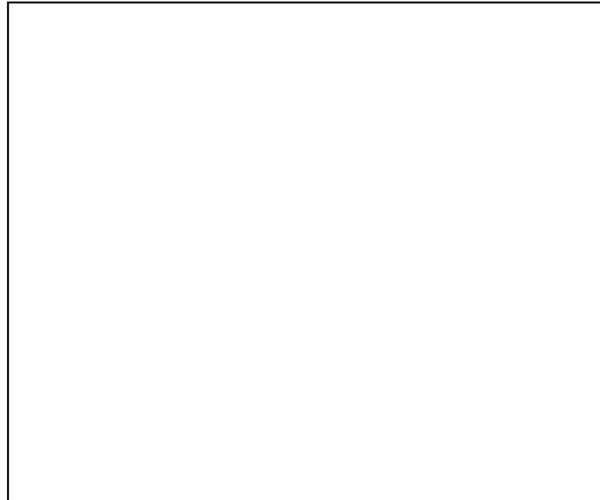
The defense helped Holland build a 24-0 lead, and then the social media took over.

"One of the dads was saying that it wasn't a huge crowd the first half," McManus said. "But the texts must have started to fly, because all of a sudden the stadium filled up in the second half."

They almost saw another incredible East comeback when the Pioneers closed to within two with 7:12 left on Eddie Drummond's 85-yard run.

A defensive holding penalty meant East had to go 1 1/2 yards to convert the two-point conversion, but tackle Omero Gonzalez stuffed the play. Then Holland

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answered on Corey Willis' 43-yard run with 3:09 left, and the celebration began shortly thereafter.

This could be the biggest win in Holland history. The Dutch have won only 37 games over the past 16 seasons, but are 2-0 entering Friday's game at Greenville.

"We believed we have a pretty good team," McManus said. "We're just finding out how good ... and we'll see if we can be consistent from here on out."

CLOSE CALL: Canton was less than a minute from losing at Grand Blanc, and coach **Tim Baechler** was going to be OK with it.

Baechler was not going to do summersaults had Canton lost, but he liked what he had seen of his team. He liked it even more when **Ryan Jones** scored on a 4-yard run with 54 seconds remaining to cap Canton's 35-32 victory.

"We thought even if we would have lost that game, what a growing experience," Baechler said.

The Chiefs put together a nine-play drive against what Baechler says will turn out to be an outstanding Grand Blanc team.

The victory was highlighted by a terrific two-way performance by Toledo commitment **Kevin Buford**, who had 90 yards on seven carries, caught five passes for 88 yards, returned a punt 89 yards for a score, intercepted a pass and returned it

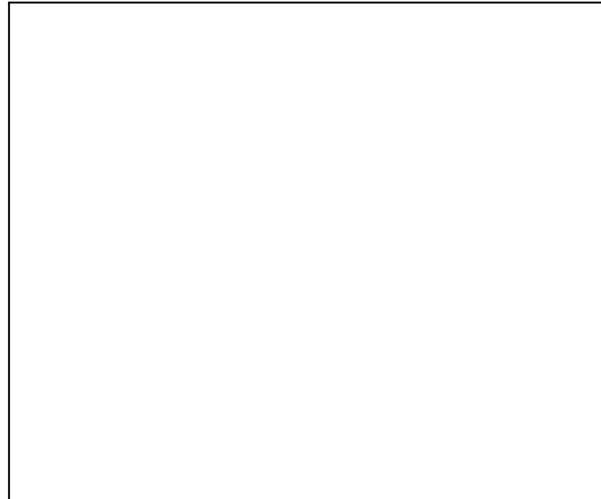
20 yards, recorded five tackles and three pass breakups.

Buford suffered leg cramps and had to come out for a few plays.

"When Kevin came over, he said: 'Coach, I've been drinking water all week, all day today, all through the game, I can't believe I'm cramping up. I swear to God I drank the water,' " Baechler recalled. "I told him: 'Kevin, I believe you. You basically sprinted 8 miles tonight.' "

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