

Chiefs' running game routs PSL team

Evan Paputa 12:34 a.m. EDT October 25, 2014



1 CONNECT 1 TWEET LINKED IN COMMENT EMAIL MORE

Canton was chomping at the bit all week to avenge last week's heart-wrenching conference championship loss to South Lyon.

The Chiefs had to wait 20 minutes longer than they anticipated, but came out victorious in a 50-13 stomping of visiting Detroit Western International, which arrived at the field at 6:28 p.m. for the scheduled 6:30 kickoff.

Canton's running game stole the show with 383 out of the team's 450 total yards. Sophomore Marcus Sanders led the Chiefs' vaunted rushing attack with 212 yards and three touchdowns. He scored from 16, 37, and 30 yards out, all in the first half, to help propel Canton (7-2) to a 36-7 halftime lead.

"We needed a big win to get our confidence up again coming after last week's loss; it was a tough one," Canton senior quarterback Greg Williams (3-of-3 passing for 67 yards) said.

Seniors Brian Newton (seven carries for 76 yards and two touchdowns) and Jake Pagel (three carries for 48 yards) also scored rushing touchdowns for Canton in the first half.

Newton started the scoring on the opening possession of the game on a 4-yard plunge that capped a 71-yard drive in two minutes. Pagel found the end zone from 2 yards out to put Canton up 29-7 with 5:45 remaining in the second quarter.

A bright spot for Detroit Western (4-5) came on its first touchdown. On third-and-eight from the Canton 43-yard line, senior quarterback Jalen Ewing threw a strike to junior wide receiver Jaye Patrick (four catches for 51 yards), who was just past the first-down marker in the middle of the field. Without looking, Patrick tossed a picture-perfect pitch to senior running back and Central Michigan verbal commit Romello Ross.

Ross caught the pitch and did the rest to complete the 57-yard Cowboys hook-and-ladder to get to within 8-7 five minutes into the game.

"We were practicing it all week in practice. I honestly didn't know if the coaches were going to run it or not, but when he called it, I knew what I was supposed to do," said Ross (17 carries for 68 yards). "The receiver delivered the ball and it was off to the races."

After Ross' touchdown, the Canton defense stood tall. It forced an interception and then three consecutive punts – in addition to the Cowboys having the ball as the first half ended – before Western scored with nine seconds left in the third quarter as Ewing found Patrick in the end zone all alone. The Patrick touchdown closed a 13-play, 78-yard drive that ate up 8:45 of clock.

"It was all about heart tonight. It was a team win; everybody played well," junior linebacker Jalen Cochran (two tackles) said.

The Cowboys' stats almost resembled a traditional Canton team in the offensive category besides Ewing's 167 passing yards on 29 attempts.

Detroit Western ran 53 plays on the night, 19 more than Canton. The Cowboys' 32:30 of possession more than doubled Canton's 15:30.