

# Fullback Marcus Sanders and the Chiefs' offense impress



After stopping Hartland on the first possession of overtime, Canton had a plan for its possession, beginning on the 10-yard line.

"The plan was run two plays," Canton coach Tim Baechler said, "see where we're at and kick."

One running play was all the Chiefs needed thanks to fullback Marcus Sanders, who scored to give Canton a 27-21 overtime victory and a 2-0 start this season.

Sanders isn't what comes to mind when you think of a traditional fullback. The junior is all of 5-feet-7, 175 pounds, but he fits Canton's full-house tight T-formation with two tight ends.

"He's the perfect Canton fullback — perfect," Baechler said. "He's small, quick, allergic to dirt."

He must also be allergic to field turf because he isn't often tackled on that, either. After running for 234 yards and three touchdowns on 24 carries against Hartland, Sanders now has 446 yards on 43 carries this season. He scored the game-winner on a fullback trap, one of the go-to plays in Canton's run-oriented playbook.

"It's in the system," Baechler said of the trap play. "But the last two games that's what has been there so that's what we're feeding, but we're an off-tackle team, too."

The Chiefs are a running team, along the lines of Zeeland West, which employs an identical offense.

One of the keys to its hide-the-football offense is deception, because all three running backs carry out their fakes for several yards down the field, making it exasperating to figure out who actually has the ball.

Sometimes running backs wind up with big stats as a result of the system the team uses.

"A lot of it is the system, but he hits it, he's got great vision, he's hard to tackle," Baechler said of Sanders. "If he was faster he'd have even more (yards), but that said, that might not necessarily be true because he does have good vision, he's hard to tackle, so he is making yards after first contact that maybe a faster guy couldn't."