



There were two noteworthy things going on Friday at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park junior varsity football field.

On the field, the Canton Chiefs — led by the unstoppable Markus Sanders — blitzed Westland John Glenn 26-0 in the first half and went on to a 47-7 KLAAs South Division victory.

More importantly, fans coming to the contest were able to donate money and buy pink "Rise as One" T-shirts to help support Friday's Coaches vs. Cancer benefit. The fundraiser is part of a national program between the American Cancer Society and National Association of Basketball Coaches.

On Wednesday, Sanders and all of Canton's football players — including those on the freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams — wore those same

T-shirts as a way to support a cause that hits close to home for just about everybody.

"It's been very well-taken, people have been coming with bags of money," said Canton's Joelle Troszak, who has a son on the ninth grade team. "And anybody who doesn't have change is giving dollar bills, \$5, \$10, and \$20 dollar bills.

"It's supporting the cause, all (Canton) football players, varsity, JV and freshmen received that. They all wore it to school on Wednesday to support the cause. They're selling extra ones, too."

Troszak, along with Brian Bartos of Plymouth and Katherine Herb met fans as they arrived at the gate, collecting change, bills and selling T-shirts.

"It's a great event, we're all touched by cancer," Troszak said. "I'm actually a breast cancer survivor, 14 years now. It's great any time we can give support."

According to Julie Baechler, wife of Canton head football coach Tim Baechler, the cancer fight is something that is taken seriously by everybody connected with the program.

"There's a former player, Joshua Nolan, who graduated in 2011. who is battling cancer," Baechler said. "I think they hold that close to their heart.

"In addition, we have one of the coach's wives who's battling breast cancer and some other people. Everybody's touched by cancer so I think everybody realizes how important it (the benefit) is."

There was no charity taking place on the grass field not far from where Baechler was standing, largely because of the efforts of 5-7 junior Sanders. In the first quarter, Sanders scored on a 47-yard run just 18 seconds into the KLAAs South Division matchup. That launched his 257-yard, six-TD performance.

Before the intermission, Sanders found the end zone on runs of 16, three and 13 yards as the Chiefs outgained the Rockets by a 256-44 margin in the first half alone.

John Glenn had trouble putting much of anything together, and the Canton defense made some key plays whenever they were needed.

With just seven seconds to go in the first half, sophomore Colin Troup intercepted a pass to slow any Rockets' momentum.

Canton did give up a touchdown in the third quarter, but Sanders responded with TD runs of 25 and 23 yards to put the Chiefs up 40-7.

Capping off the night's scoring was Walter Beavers, who carried it in from 1-yard out.

All told, the Chiefs outgained the Rockets by a 428-194 margin en route to improving to 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the division.

Junior Julian Thornton collected 96 all-purpose yards (63 on the ground) to augment Sanders' offensive prowess.

Canton came up big on defense, too, with Micah Rinke (five solo tackles, one assist) and Jared Stephens (two solos, six assists) leading the way.

Contributing three tackles each were Eddie Lang and Drew Osika, with Thomas Evely and Lou Baechler chipping in with two tackles each. The loss dropped John Glenn's record to 0-5, 0-3.

