

\GRID ROUNDUP: Chiefs, Cats win big

Evan Paputa, Correspondent 10:55 p.m. EDT October 7, 2016

With the starters on the sideline and the majority of Canton's scout team defense on the field early in the fourth quarter, Wayne Memorial tried to put points on the scoreboard for the first time all night.

On a fourth down play deep inside the Canton red zone, Zebra quarterback Gjerdonte Williams tossed a pass to 6-foot-4 receiver, Reginald Micheaux. However, 5-foot-10 reserve Canton cornerback, Joe Vespaziani, leaped into the air and took the ball away from the taller Micheaux.

"It's a really good feeling. On fourth down, with them still scoreless, just making that stop as a team felt good," Vespaziani said. "It makes me feel good about myself because they wanted to challenge me. I just went up and made the play."

Canton's running game was firing on all cylinders, rushing for 428 yards on the night. The Chiefs went on to defeat Wayne Memorial, 56-0.

Perry rewarded

Another bright spot for the Chiefs (5-2) came midway through the fourth quarter. Third-string quarterback, junior Jack Perry, ran for a 30-yard keeper up the sideline and almost scored. The sideline erupted for Perry, who wears his No. 87 jersey with pride.

"I actually played tight end for JV and varsity needed a backup quarterback so I stepped up and wanted to keep the number, 87," Perry, who was playing in his first game of the year, said. "It felt really good. All the weeks coming up to this in practice... it felt good to actually play."

Seeing players like Vespaziani and Perry finally reap the rewards of year-long dedication to the Canton football program makes head coach Tim Baechler proud; especially after six straight "tough" games to start the season.

"We've had six really tough games and these kids have been working so hard and they don't get to play. You feel good when you get some of those guys in there and they make a play: a tackle, a block. It's good for team moral," Baechler said.

Markus Sanders scored three touchdowns for Canton and rushed for 147 yards. Julian Thornton, Reid McDonnell, Steven Walker, Joel Foster, and Nick Polydoros scored a rushing touchdown each for the Chiefs.

Canton returns home next Friday night at 7 p.m. as they host Westland John Glenn (1-6) for Senior Night. It also will be the Coaches vs. Cancer benefit game for the American Cancer Society.