

Canton steamrolls Plymouth in Week 2, 47-14



Chiefv Lou Baechler (1) gains yards, pursued by Wildcat Alec Beshears (20).

Canton rocked new alternate uniforms on Friday night against Plymouth and the Chiefs might not want to give them up after rolling to a 47-14 victory in an early season matchup of campus football rivals.

"We might (wear them) for the home games, they're good luck," said Canton coach Tim Baechler with a smile. "At least for right now they are."

Chiefs' senior running back Steven Walker started the Canton party when he scored on a 49-yard run at the 17-second mark of the game. By halftime, it was a 40-7 lead as the young Wildcats could not contain Canton's multi-faceted and experienced attack.

The Chiefs racked up 578 total yards of offense compared to just 129 for Plymouth.

There also was a huge gap in first downs (27-2) in Canton's favor as the Chiefs bounced back from their loss to Muskegon Mona Shores Aug. 26 in the Battle at the Big House.

"That's what we want to do, get that first score out of the way," said Baechler, about the opening Walker touchdown. "Come out, kind of set policy with what we're doing. Hit it fast."

"Defensively, I was very happy how we played the run. I think both my inside backers really played well, Lou Baechler and Aaron Garbarino. And our D-line held up and our defensive backs made some plays."

When Walker scored from the 1-yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter, that opened up a 47-7 lead and briefly set up a running clock scenario.

Spoiling that plan, at least for a while, was Plymouth's Calvin Vos — who on the *second* play of the quarter scored on a 73-yard kickoff return to make it 47-14.



One-handed catch by Canton's Noah Brown on a pass from QB Connor Engel

"They executed and we didn't," Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk said. "They were more physical than we were, they were the better team tonight. No doubt about it.

"You can tell kids who have never played Canton at the varsity level a million times, if you don't read your keys and you're not physical and you don't do what you're supposed to do it can get real crappy real quick."

But Sawchuk said it was "a good sign" that the young Wildcats played a stronger second half, only giving up one touchdown.

Although a number of players had big nights for the Chiefs, senior Colin Troup had the biggest. He scored three times and came through with a clutch interception, and had 160 yards of total offense.

His first touchdown was a 77-yard catch-and-run, turning a pass over the middle from quarterback Conner Engel (7-9, 190 yards) into a dazzling TD.

"It feels really good, but our offensive line really stepped up," Troup said. "We all stepped up from a tough loss last week and I think we all did really good and I'm glad that we came out with the victory.

"When Walker scored off the bat I think that really boosted our motivation.

Following are takeaways from the game, which improved Canton's record to 1-1 while dropping Plymouth to 0-2.

Gaining ground

Walker and William Hall (2 TDs) were strong in the running game, with 127 and 115 yards, respectively.

"We came off the ball and moved people a little bit better," Baechler said. "Our backs blocked a little better for each other and they ran a little harder today."

3-for-3

There were three TDs in three plays in the first quarter, with Plymouth's TD (a 59-yard run by Carson Miller) sandwiched by two Canton scores.

Opening up the sequence with 4:19 to go in the first quarter was Troup with his 77 yarder. After Miller's immediate response, Canton made it a 21-7 game with 3:51 remaining when Hall broke through the line for a 26-yard TD.

Honoring Beaman

Before the game district historian and longtime Central Middle School teacher/coach Mark LaPointe announced words of tribute to the late Scott Beaman. A moment of silence followed.

Beaman, who passed away from cancer on Thursday, first taught at the old Plymouth High School in 1966 and was a longtime history teacher at Salem as well as an "omnipresent" fixture at Park athletic events in recent years.

Salem will be inducting Beaman posthumously into the school's Wall of Fame later this month.

The crowd also paid a moment of silence to the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana.

Different look

Canton players came out before the game wearing new, third jerseys — dark gray with red numbers. The team opted not to break out the uniform on Aug. 26 in the Battle at the Big House and instead waited for the Plymouth rivalry matchup.

"I love em," Troup said. "They're sweet. Coach Baechler surprised us with them and he's the best coach ever."

Slow arriving crowd

With the first day of school still four days away, and with the Labor Day weekend, the bleachers were not packed to their usual capacity for the contest. The fans kept arriving during the first half, however.

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