

Goricki's prep picks: Salem looks to end skid against Canton



Salem coach Kurt Britnell is excited to see how his defense will perform against Canton's explosive offense after upsetting Brighton, 10-7, last Friday.

Salem (2-1) will play host to rival Canton (2-1) — just a parking lot separates the schools — Friday night with Canton entering the game on a 14-game winning streak in the series.

Britnell talked of the win over Brighton, saying: "I think the big thing for us is we hung in there, played disciplined, fundamental football, just played really good, solid team defense.

"Everybody did their job and tried not to do too much and played mistake-free for the most part which is huge in high school football.

"Brennan McNeal and Alex Howie on the inside really anchored the defense and our linebackers, Parker Selby, Sean McCormack, Ryan McAuliffe and Dez Dewberry, those guys played really well."

Next up is Canton, led by standout running back Steven Walker who ran for 342 yards (12 carries) and five touchdowns (runs of 47, 66, 48, 75 and 68) in a 54-6 rout of Hartland Friday, scoring all of its points during the first half.

"We have to stay gap sound and tackle everybody," Britnell said of going up against Canton's wing-T offense.

Pick: Canton by 8