

Canton breezes past Howell to win KLAA Black division title



HOWELL — There wasn't another miracle to be had for the Howell football team on Friday night.

After upsetting Brighton last week, one at least paused to wonder for a moment if the Highlanders could find some more magic against Canton. But in Week 7 action, the Chiefs were simply too much, their offense too explosive and defense too powerful.

Canton cruised to an 45-8 victory over the Highlanders, thus ending Brighton's hopes at a chance to face the Chiefs for a piece of the KLAA Black division championship next week. That championship now belongs exclusively to Canton.

The Chiefs jetted out to a 31-0 halftime lead, scoring in a variety of ways from a variety of distances. They opened the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, then completed a 23-yard TD pass to go ahead 14.

A 43-yard touchdown run made it 21-0 with 8:34 left in the half before a goal-line score with 2:07 remaining put the Canton lead at 28. Following a penalty, the Chiefs got to add a field goal on an untimed play to close it out.

At that point, the game was all but over. Howell has not reached 30 points all season so far, and wasn't about to get there facing a Canton defense yielding just 19.2 per game to opponents.

Canton continued to pour it on as the Highlanders stared at being shut out for the third time this season. It would have been the first time since 2000 that Howell had been blanked three times in a season.

However, the Highlanders avoided that with a late fourth-quarter TD pass and ensuing two-point conversion.

The sixth-ranked team in Division 1 according to the Detroit Free Press, Canton now squares off against Brighton in a game that could still have heavy implications. The division race is over, but the Bulldogs's season is suddenly in jeopardy courtesy of Howell. Therefore, they need may need to beat both Canton and their Week 9 KLAA Gold opponent to guarantee their playoff spot.

Howell gets the chance to put a wrench in the plans of another local rival. Hartland beat Livonia Stevenson, but has four losses as it enters the rivalry game. Howell certainly relishes the opportunity to repeat what it did to Brighton.