

ANDALE FOOTBALL SMOKE SIGNALS

November 5, 2018

All week, the Chapman Fighting Irish prepared for their state playoff game by trying to convince themselves that the team they were playing on Friday night was overrated, not worthy of the number one ranking that they had held with an iron fist the entire season. It did not take long for that notion to unravel. On the second play after taking the opening kickoff, the Chapman eleven coughed up the ball to give the Indians possession on the Irish 27 yard line. Five plays later Andale QB Ethan Baalmann scored from the 5 yard line. After sacks by Baalmann and Scotti Easter, sophomore Eli Rowland intercepted the Irish's Izek Jackson's pass on the visitors' 43 yard line. Five plays later Baalmann registered his second touchdown, less than five minutes into the game.

An uncharacteristic Andale fumble after a Chapman punt gave the visitors a short field enabling the Irish's Jackson to score from the 12 yard line on the final play of the first quarter. The Indians owned second quarter scoring with three touchdowns and a safety.

Mac Brand finished off a 78 yard drive with an 8 yard run. After recovering a fumble on Chapman's kickoff return, the Indians were poised to score their fourth touchdown of the evening. Somehow the sure-handedness of the Andale offense deserted them, fumbling the ball at the two yard line. The Indian defense stiffened and scored a safety when a high snap scuttled the punt attempt and the punter was chased out of bounds in the back of the end zone.

The next Indian touchdown by Mac Brand finished off a 27 yard drive with an 8 yard run. Andale would put up one more score in the half when Eli Rowland tallied on a 43 yard run while finessing two defenders near the goal line for the play of the game.

Easton Hunter finished off a 6 play, 57 yard drive to open the second half with a QB sneak to open a 45-8 lead. In their best defensive effort of the game, Chapman sacked the Andale QB and held the Indians for downs. Jackson then connected with the Irish's ace receiver Brandon Colston for a 33 yard touchdown.

The Indians would answer with Baalmann's third touchdown that capped off a 50 yard drive to give Andale a 52-16 lead. With the game in the hands of the Andale JV for the whole of the fourth quarter, the Indians scored two touchdowns by sophomore QB Noah Meyer. Chapman tallied a final touchdown by Jackson. The final 66-22 score was the highest point production of the season and the third game in the sixties. It was also the most points scored by an Andale opponent this season.

Sophomore Eli Rowland led all game rushers with 158 yards in 11 carries for a 14.4 average per carry. With an additional 40 yards in kick returns and an interception, the slender sophomore had a monster game. Junior Eli Clouse was 6 for 6 on his PAT attempts. Scotti Easter and Cayden Winter each had eight tackles. Jake Engelbrecht and Connor Hennes each had seven.

This was the second time the Indians have played Chapman. The previous time was when Coach Dylan Schmidt was a senior. That too was an Andale victory.

With Friday night's win, the Indians advance to the quarterfinal round. As per the KSHSAA's hosting rule, the East team is the host for the round. In the semifinal round the West team will be the host team. It is not a sure fire thing that the brackets will play out according to seed. This time the West half of the 3A state playoff bracket held form with all four of the undefeated teams in the West reaching the quarterfinals. In the upper portion of the West bracket, Pratt, a 33-16 winner over Colby, will meet Smoky Valley, a 22-14 winner over Hesston. Andale will host Scott City, a 34-7 winner over Beloit.

The winner of the Andale-Scott City game will meet the winner of the Pratt-Smoky Valley game for the opportunity to play the East champion in Hutchinson's Gowans Stadium the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The Beavers return a number of outstanding personnel from the team that was ranked number 1 in 4A-II throughout the season last year. They had beaten Holcomb 24-13 in their league encounter, but lost to the Longhorns in the semifinals of the state playoffs 34-13. Holcomb went on to defeat Frontenac 40-20 for the 4A-II title.

Last spring the Beavers overpowered all the 3A teams to win the team title in Track and Field. Running back Wyatt Hayes was the 800m champion and ran on Scott City's winning 4x400m and 4x800m teams as well as their runner-up 4x100m relay team. Split end Marshall Farout, who caught 27 passes for 560 yards and nine touchdowns last year, vaulted 15' and high jumped 6' 4" at the state meet. QB Parker Gooden returns after passing for 1169 yards last season.

Team-wise the two schools have quite similar records with the Beavers producing 5 shutouts while the Indians held 6 teams scoreless. The Beavers closest game was a 35-12 win over Colby while the Indians' closest win was a 35-13 win over Cheney.

In the East bracket Sabetha and Galena continued undefeated while Marysville, last year's 3A runner-up, pulled off a resounding 36-14 win over a highly favored Topeka Hayden team. Chapman walloped Marysville 34-18 in the season opener.

The answer to last weeks' Andale Trivia Question: Congratulations to Greg Flax for the first correct answer. Andale played Russell in the first round the second year they made the playoffs.

This weeks Andale Trivia Question: What parent of two current AHS students redesigned Chapman's logo so it would not infringe on the copyright of Notre Dame's Leprechaun?

URSA