

Crusaders run wild, record program's 350th all-time win

By Jean DePlacido Correspondent

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PEABODY — It was a special night for Bishop Fenwick football, recording the program's 350th in its 57 year history. The players weren't aware of it until coach Dave Woods informed them after they picked up their third straight win of the young season, 40-6 over Wilmington.

When they got the news a loud roar went up as the happy bunch celebrated at Donaldson Field.

It was an easy night to be distracted with crews filming players, cheerleaders, and fans in the stands for a movie, but the Crusaders maintained their focus. It took just 10 seconds for the home team to get on the board when David Cifuentes returned the opening kickoff 80-yards.

That wasn't the only kickoff return of the night: Angel Martinez flew down the right sideline for the final score of after Andre Turner scored the lone touchdown for the Wildcats late in the fourth quarter.

“What a great way to start; it doesn't get any better than that,” said Woods. “A couple of penalties and miscues bogged us down a bit after that. We weren't perfect for four quarters but pretty close to it.

“The offense, defense, and especially special teams all worked hard. Our two kick returns were big. I tell them all the time special teams play is so important.”

Wilmington (0-2) mounted a good opening drive, but on fourth-and-one at the Fenwick 35-yard line Stefano Fabiano recovered a fumble to end the threat. The Crusaders had favorable field position all night because of shanked punts or very short ones.

Jason Romans and Chrys Wilson alternated series at quarterback. Romans was calling the signals on the opening drive of the second quarter that started at the visitors' 29-yard line. Tucker Destino had four carries to the 13-yard line, and Romans completed a pass to Dan Richard in the end zone.

“Richard (TE/DE from Peabody) had a nice game on both sides of the ball,” said Woods. “He's one of those kids under the radar, who comes to practice every day to work hard. He just loves football.”

The defense held the Wildcats to a 3-and-out followed by a bad punt that set the Crusaders up at the Wilmington 25-yard line. This time it was Wilson engineering the drive. A holding call moved Fenwick back 10 yards before Wilson fired two quick passes to Joe Rivers, both for 23 yards and another TD. After Cifuentes booted the extra point it was 21-0.

“The first was a post pattern and the one that went for the touchdown was in the flat,” said Holy Cross bound Rivers, who was also outstanding on defense at linebacker. “Whether Jason or Chrys is in there it works because they both have different skill sets. Jason throws the long ball, and Chrys is a good pocket passer; all our players add diversity which makes it hard to stop us.

“I try to play fast whether its at running back, slot, or linebacker. We're really off to a good start; I want a ring this year.”

Wilmington had trouble getting anything going offensively. The opening drive of the second half stalled on a fourth down pass to Christian Robarge that came up just short, and Fenwick took over at its 36-yard line. Three plays later Cifuentes raced 55 yards up the left sideline, and after Wilson picked off a Tristan Ciampa pass and returned it to the Wilmington 3-yard line, it was Cifuentes again, who crashed in for his third TD of the game, 33-0.

The lone score for the Wildcats was by Andre Turner, who broke loose after catching a pass. Jake Connolly intercepted a pass in the closing minutes, but the Crusaders took a knee.