

Sports

Upfront costs

Tigers lose battle on the line as Longwood runs to a 27-14 win

By JASON KARPFF

On the surface, a bigger and strong line of Longwood pushed around the Northport football team, Saturday, October 2, playing a large factor in the Lions' 27-14 win.

Running behind a solid right blocking front, the Lions rumbled for 210 yards and four touchdowns on the ground against Northport. As impressive as Longwood's running game was, Northport responded and stayed competitive with the Lions for three quarters. In the end, though missed opportunities and a costly turnover bit the Tigers from behind as they fall to 1-3 on the season.

"First off, the outcome is very disappointing," Northport head coach Kip Lukralle said. "It's a very tough one to take. We didn't get beat up, we got pushed around a little bit, which was tough to take, but in a game like that you have to take advantage of your opportunities."

The most glaring missed opportunity came early in the first when Northport, trailing 7-0 at this point, fumbled on the Longwood 11 yard line. It was the team's only turnover, but there were other missed opportunities as well. Two more came in the fourth in the form of open receivers not being connected with on critic downs. As a result, Northport was forced to punt the ball and then go for it on a critical fourth-and-eight that went unconverted.

Making matters worse, Longwood set the game's tempo by controlling the clock. Using a power running style, the Lions limited the game's possession with strong running, and chewed up over five minutes of game clock with three long, ground-driven drives.

"We run the ball, that's our thing," Longwood head coach Chris Meyer said. "We'll pass to score when we need

to, but our whole offense is based on the run."

Made even more dynamic against the Tigers, Longwood was playing its first game this season with Kavanaugh Wiggins in the backfield. The junior carried 17 times for 170 yards, and a pair of scores against Northport. Wiggins struck first in the second quarter with a 20-yard run and then again in the fourth with a 39-yard run. Both his scores put Longwood ahead by two touchdowns, first 14-0 and then 27-14. And all his runs, the majority of which were to the right side of the field, were the beneficiary of a sizable right side far bigger than Northport's.

"We knew going in they had big people," Lukralle said. "We had eight people in the box. You cannot commit anymore people to the ball. They were just getting on us and pushing us around."

Just as Longwood pushed Northport around with the run, the Tigers took advantage

of the Lions with the pass. Going 15 of 22, Northport senior quarterback John Laurine threw for 149 yards and one touchdown while also running in one on the ground. Trailing 14-0, the Tigers best passing possession came just before the half.

Starting on their own 26 yard line, Northport traveled to paydirt on six plays, all through the air. While senior Donovan Devaney was the recipient of one of those passes for three yards, senior Jack Delahunty saw the rest of the targets, catching five including a 40-yard catch-and-carry touchdown to pull the Tigers 14-6. Senior Pat Oertel chipped in the extra point with 27 seconds left in the second quarter

(Continued on page 23)



PULL AND PUSH: Northport senior captains Lucas Vallas (above) and Jack Delahunty (below) caused trouble for Longwood on defense and offense, Saturday, October 2, but in the end it wasn't enough as the Lions pulled out a win in their Homecoming Game.



TIGER DRIVE CHART

PLAYS	YDS	FDs	RESULT	TIME
7	55	3	TURNOVER ON DOWNS	6:15
3	15	1	TURNOVER ON FUMBLE	1:52
6	74	2	LAURINE 40-YD. TD. PASS TO DELAHUNTY E. P. GOOD	1:41
HALF				
4	1	0	PUNT	1:13
8	72	3	LAURINE 10-YD. TD. RUN - E.P. GOOD	3:49
6	-8	1	PUNT	2:30
8	25	2	TURNOVER ON DOWNS	3:16
TOTALS: 42 Plays, 234 Net Yards, 5.6 Yards Per Play, 12 First Downs, 20:36 T.O.P.				

LION DRIVE CHART

PLAYS	YDS	FDs	RESULT	TIME
13	64	4	BOOKER 4-YD. TD. RUN - E.P. GOOD	5:52
4	4	0	PUNT	1:53
13	94	5	WIGGINS 20-YD. TD. RUN - E.P. GOOD	6:07
HALF				
4	0	0	PUNT	1:53
13	79	5	BOOKER 3-YD. TD. RUN - E.P. GOOD	5:35
3	55	1	WIGGINS 39-YD. TD. RUN - E.P. NO GOOD	1:11
9	53	3	END OF GAME	4:53
TOTALS: 59 Plays, 349 Net Yards, 5.9 Yards Per Play, 18 First Downs, 27:24 T.O.P.				