

Tyrone Defense Dominant in Victory

By **BRIAN CARSON**

LEWISTOWN – Legendary coach Vince Lombardi once said, “While offense gets all the glory, it’s the defense that brings home the championships.”

And if the first three weeks of the high school football season are any indication, Tyrone could be adding more championship hardware to its trophy case.

The Golden Eagle defense turned in another dominating performance, limiting Lewistown to just 103 total yards, in a 27-0 victory at Mitchell Field on Friday. The win marked the second shutout for the Eagle defense in three contests.

Tyrone (3-0) gave up 56 of those yards in the fourth quarter while playing its reserves. The Panthers fell to 0-3 on the year.

“The defense is supposed to set your offense up. We have a good offense at Tyrone because of our strong defense,” said Tyrone head coach John Franco. “We always have a good offense and that’s because of the strength of our defense.

“I’m pleased with our effort. Lewistown played us tough. Two of our best defensive players are out right now or we would be even better. Doug Morrow should return in week seven and Tyler Gillmen should be back in a week or two.”

The Golden Eagles piled up 373 yards of total offense, including 225 on the ground. Johnny Franco led the rushing attack with 129 yards, while scoring three touchdowns.

Tyrone jumped on the scoreboard late in the first quarter by marching on a 6-play, 47-yard drive that was capped by a 16-yard run up the middle from Franco. The PAT was blocked to give the visitors a 6-0 advantage at the 5:28 mark. The touchdown was set up by a Tyler Golden 16-yard pass to Justin Schopp that put the ball on the Panther 16.

After Lewistown went three-and-out, the Golden Eagles drove 86 yards on seven plays for their second score. Franco ran it in from the two, but the kick failed and Tyrone led 12-0 with 4:25 left in the second quarter. The key play of the drive was a 49-yard pass from Golden to Schopp that placed the ball on the three.

“We just couldn’t get anything going against their defense. We played hard, but they had an answer for anything we did,” said Lewistown head coach Alan Muir. “Tyrone is a solid football team in all phases of the game. We never gave up and that’s something we can build on.”

Tyrone made it 20-0 when Franco scored touchdown number three, this time from nine-yards out with 4:25 left in the half.

The Golden Eagles stymied the Panther offense, allowing only 15 total yards in the first half. Tyler Hoover, an All-state lineman a year ago, collected seven tackles, four of them for losses, along with a sack to lead the defensive charge. Defensive end Jason Reese had three sacks on the night to go along with five tackles.

“We just want to focus on what we’re doing and improve every week,” said Hoover. “We have two starters out and that’s hurt us, but we’ve been playing hard. Lewistown was double-teaming me and I felt that if I could block things up in the middle, the other guys can finish it off. We did a good job of that tonight.”

Tyrone put the finishing touches on the night with a clock-killing, 13-play drive that chewed up most of the third quarter. Golden, who threw for 148 yards on 7-for-13 passing, connected with Schopp from four yards out for the score. The Johnny Shaffer PAT made it 27-0 with 2:26 left in the quarter.

For the game, Schopp had six catches for 124 yards. Nick Knable led the Panther offense with 11 carries for 46 yards.

"I'm impressed with Alan and his teams the last few years. They play hard and never quit," said Franco. "Overall, we played well, but our execution was off at times. That was partly our fault and partly because Lewistown's defense played well."

Tyrone hosts Bald Eagle Area and Lewistown travels to Huntingdon on Friday.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Tyrone 6 14 7 0 - 27

Lewistown 0 0 0 0 - 0

First Quarter

T-Franco 16 run (kick blocked), 5:28.

Second Quarter

T-Franco 2 run (kick failed), 11:55.

T-Franco 9 run (Schopp run), 4:25.

Third quarter

T-Schopp 4 pass from Golden (Shaffer kick), 2:26.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Tyrone-Franco 26-129, Tate 8-36, Mingle 7-38, Crowell 3-13, Golden 3-9. Lewistown-Knable 11-46, McMahon 6-28, McClellan 6-3, Goss 1-2, Muir 5-(minus 24).

PASSING: Tyrone-Golden 7-13-0-148. Lewistown-Muir 6-15-0-48.

RECEIVING: Tyrone-Schopp 6-124, Franco 1-24. Lewistown-Haines 3-23, McKay 1-13, Gregg 1-6, Knable 1-6.

INTERCEPTIONS: T--None. L--None.

TEAM STATISTICS	T	L
First downs	19	6
Yards rushing	47-225	29-55
Passing (comp.-att.-int.)	7-13-0	6-15-0
Yards passing	148	48
Total yards	373	103
Fumbles lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	6-30	3-15
Punts-avg.	3-30.0	7-36.8

Around District 6:

Huntingdon 26, Bellefonte 14

Joey Riley rushed for 190 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Bearcats (2-1) to the Mountain Athletic Seven Mountains victory over the Red Raiders (1-2) Huntingdon had 418 yards of total offense in the game.

Philipsburg-Osceola 30, Penns Valley 0

The Mountie defense intercepted four passes and held the Rams to 78 yards of total offense to pick up the victory. P-O is now 2-1 on the season, while Penns Valley fell to 1-2.

Bellwood-Antis 27, BEA 6

All-state running back Josh Kleinfelter ran for 173 yards and two touchdowns, including a 66-yard scoring run, to lead the Blue Devils (2-1) to the win over the Eagles (1-2). Kleinfelter also had two interceptions on defense.

Altoona 35, Cumberland Valley 30

Reggie Mencer rushed for 83 yards and three touchdowns, while backup QB Chris Jubeck ran for 118 yards and a touchdown to lead the Mountain Lions (2-1) to the victory over the Eagles (1-2). CV quarterback Chris Jordan threw for 275 yards and two TDs.

Forest Hills 44, Bedford 14

The Rangers bounced back from their loss to Bishop McCort with a big win over the previously undefeated Bisons (2-1). Travis Rearick was 16-of-22 for 264 yards and two touchdowns and Jared Kostan ran for 126 yards and three scores in the Laurel Highlands Conference victory.

Richland 22, Bishop Carroll 14

QB Marco Pecora rushed for a touchdown and threw for another to lead the Rams to the Laurel Highlands Conference victory and remain unbeaten on the season at 3-0. Pecora finished with 56 yards rushing and 122 yards through the air on 166 yards passing. Joey Shrift was 11-for-17 for 103 yards and two scores for the Huskies, who fell to 1-2 for the first time since 1994.

Southern Huntingdon 21, Juniata Valley 0

The Rocket defense held the Green Hornets to only 140 yards of total offense to come away with the victory in a battle of unbeaten teams Friday night. Southern Huntingdon (3-0) QB Tyler Mansberger rushed for 106 yards and a score, while fullback Troy Hoover collected 63 yards and a TD. Juniata Valley (2-1) was led by Shawn McCrum, who rushed for 62 yards.

Portage 26, North Star 20

The Mustangs remained unbeaten at 3-0 with a hard-fought victory over North Star (2-1). Sophomore QB Ben Wolford threw for 164 yards and a TD, while Roger Walkovich had five catches for 136 yards and score to lead Portage. Kyle Bowser had 94 yards rushing and two scores for North Star.

Johnstown 14, Westmont-Hilltop 8

Quarterback Brandon Hody scored two touchdowns to lead the Trojans to victory over the Hilltoppers in the Laurel Highlands contest. Johnstown (3-0) received 128 yards rushing from Antwuan Reed and 101 yards receiving on four grabs from Adonis Jackson.

State College 28, Central Dauphin 7

Brook Hart passed for 218 yards on 24-of-36 passing with three touchdowns, all to Nathan Stupar, as the Little Lions remained unbeaten on the season. Stupar caught six passes for 36 yards and Andrew Kerr had nine grabs for 89 yards. The State College defense held Central Dauphin to 39 yards rushing and intercepted three passes.

Friday Scores:

Altoona 35 (Dist 6 AAAA 2-1-0), Cumberland Valley 30 (Dist 3 AAAA 1-2-0)

Bellwood-Antis 27 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), Bald Eagle Area 6 (Dist 6 AA 1-2-0)

Bishop McCort 35 (Dist 6 AA 2-1-0), Somerset 0 (Dist 6 AAA 0-3-0)

Blacklick Valley 12 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0), Shade 6 (Dist 5 A 0-3-0)

Central 40 (Dist 6 AA 1-2-0), Cambria Heights 18 (Dist 6 AA 0-3-0)

Chestnut Ridge 40 (Dist 5 AA 2-1-0), Claysburg-Kimmel 6 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0)

Clearfield Area 38 (Dist 9 AAA 2-1-0), Indian Valley 35 (Dist 6 AAA 1-2-0)

Forest Hills 44 (Dist 6 AA 2-1-0), Bedford 14 (Dist 5 AA 2-1-0)

Glendale 20 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), Williamsburg 0 (Dist 6 A 0-3-0)

Homer-Center 21 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0), Saltsburg 12 (Dist 6 A 0-3-0)

Huntingdon 26 (Dist 6 AAA 2-1-0), Bellefonte 14 (Dist 6 AAA 1-2-0)

Johnstown 14 (Dist 6 AAA 3-0-0), Westmont-Hilltop 8 (Dist 6 AA 1-2-0)

Marion Center 42 (Dist 6 AA 3-0-0), Blairsville 21 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0)

Mount Union 21 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0), Moshannon Valley 6 (Dist 6 A 0-3-0)

Northern Cambria 30 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), Penns Manor 24 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0)

Penn Cambria 28 (Dist 6 AA 2-1-0), Central Cambria 7 (Dist 6 AA 1-2-0)

Philipsburg-Osceola 30 (Dist 6 AA 2-1-0), Penns Valley 0 (Dist 6 AA 1-2-0)

Portage Area 26 (Dist 6 A 3-0-0), North Star 20 (Dist 5 A 2-1-0)

Purchase Line 21 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), Ligonier Valley 14 (Dist 6 A 2-1)

Richland 22 (Dist 6 AA 3-0-0), Bishop Carroll 14 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0)

Southern Huntingdon 21 (Dist 6 A 3-0-0), Juniata Valley 0 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0)

Tyrone 27 (Dist 6 AA 3-0-0), Lewistown 0 (Dist 6 AAA 0-3-0)

West Branch 12 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), Everett Area 6 (Dist 5 AA 0-3-0)

Saturday Scores:

Central Mountain 28 (Dist 6 AAAA 2-1-0), Bishop Guilfoyle 21 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0)

Ferndale 34 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), Turkeyfoot Valley 8 (Dist 5 A 0-3-0)

Laurel Valley 41 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0), United 0 (Dist 6 A 1-2-0)

State College 28 (Dist 6 AAAA 3-0-0), Central Dauphin 7 (Dist 3 AAAA 1-2-0)

Windber 44 (Dist 5 A 3-0-0), Conemaugh Valley 0 (Dist 6 A 2-1-0)