

Tyrone Survives Scare with Tough Rams Squad

By **BRIAN CARSON**

SPRING MILLS – It was a situation that the Tyrone football team hadn't been in all season. – playing from behind.

The fifth ranked team in the state found themselves down 14-7 in the second quarter to a motivated Penns Valley squad fighting for its playoff life.

By the time the first half ended, the Golden Eagles did what good teams are supposed to do, fight through the adversity. Tyrone came away with two second quarter scores and held on for the 21-14 Mountain Athletic Conference Nittany Division win.

The Golden Eagles improved to 9-0 on the season and 5-0 in conference play, while the Rams fell to 5-4 overall and 1-4 in the MAC.

"This was a very tough game and we knew it was going to be a tough game," said Tyrone head coach John Franco. "Our fans think we should beat every team we play by forty points and that's just not going to happen.

"Everything went against us in this game and to be honest, we probably shouldn't have won. But we found ways to make plays to win the game and that's what good teams do. This game proved that we still have a ton of work to do."

Tyrone tied things up at 14 when Johnny Franco, who finished with 160 yards on the night, took the sweep around the left side and dashed 46 yards to paydirt with 7:57 left until half.

The Rams muffed a punt on their next series and the Golden Eagles took over in great field position at the Penns Valley 28. Franco busted in from two-yards out eight plays later for the score. Johnny Shaffer made the PAT and Tyrone grabbed the lead for good with just 1:51 left in the half. The key play of the drive was a 13-yard pass from Tyler Golden to Shayne Tate.

"That was the first time we've been behind all year and here we are in week nine," said Franco "I thought the kids responded to the adversity well, but we're going to have to work as hard as we can to do well in the playoffs.

"We clinched the number one seed last week and I was concerned about a letdown from our guys, because that happens to a lot of teams after they clinch. I tip my hat to Penns Valley though. They played hard and did a great job tonight."

Tyrone opened up the scoring on this wet, cold and muddy night of football with an 8-play, 63-yard drive that was capped by a Tyler Gillmen 6-yard touchdown run. The PAT made it 7-0 with 5:17 left in the first quarter. A 19-yard strike from Golden to Justin Schopp on a third-and-9 kept the drive alive. Gillmen ended with 133 yards on 16 carries.

The Rams, who needed a victory to make it into the playoffs, answered the Tyrone punch with some blows of their own with two scores early in the second quarter.

Chris Korn, Penns Valley's 1,000-yard back, ran three times for 24 yards on a 8-play, 65-yard march that ended with Korn scoring from 12-yards out on a pass from Matt Johnson. Brandon Von Voigt made the PAT and the Rams had knotted the score at 7-7. Korn finished the game with 75 yards on 20 carries.

On the ensuing Tyrone drive, Von Voigt came barreling in on a safety blitz and stripped the ball out of Golden's hands and fell on it in the endzone for the touchdown. The PAT gave the Rams a short-lived 14-7 advantage with 9:20 to go in the half.

"Our kids played very hard and I'm very proud of them," said Penns Valley head coach Marty Tobias. "This was a fun game to coach and I'm sure a fun game to watch when you have two teams like that playing each other.

"We wanted to attack them and play aggressively and we did that. Franco is a good running back and he hurt us tonight on some of his runs. Our kids have played hard all year long and it's unfortunate that they won't be in the playoffs because I believe they belong there."

The Rams were driving for another score in the fourth quarter and had taken the ball to the Golden Eagle 13. Facing a fourth-and-6 at the 10, Johnson ran a QB sneak and was stopped two yards short.

Penns Valley had a second chance late in the game to send it to overtime. The Rams drove to the Tyrone 36 with 35 seconds left, but the drive ended what Matt Johnson's pass was picked off by Justin Schopp at the 20-yard line.

"The weather can be a great equalizer and we knew it was going to be a hard-fought tough game," said Franco. "We faced some adversity and came through it. We have a lot to work on and improve on before the playoffs."

Tyrone closes out the regular season at home against Johnstown, while Penns Valley travels to Lewistown on Friday.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Tyrone 7 14 0 0 - 21

Penns Valley 0 14 0 0 - 14

First Quarter

T-Gillmen 6 run (Shaffer kick), 5:22.

Second Quarter

PV-Korn 12 pass from Johnson (Von Voigt kick), 10:47.

PV-Von Voigt fumble recovery endzone (Von Voigt kick), 9:20.

T-Franco 46 run (Shaffer kick), 7:57.

T-Franco 1 run (Shaffer kick), 1:51.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Tyrone-Franco 25-160, Gillmen 16-133, Golden 4-2, TEAM 1-(minus 11). Penns Valley-Korn 20-75, Bickle 10-25, Johnson 6-5, Von Voigt 1-1, Corl 1-0.

PASSING: Tyrone-Golden 3-10-0-39. Penns Valley-Johnson 7-19-1-88.

RECEIVING: Tyrone-Schopp 1-19, Tate 1-13, Gillmen 1-7. Penns Valley-Homan 4-70, Korn 2-14, Von Voigt 1-4.

INTERCEPTIONS: Tyrone--Schopp. Penns Valley-None

TEAM STATISTICS	T	PV
First downs	13	11
Yards rushing	46-284	38-106
Passing (comp.-att.-int.)	3-10-0	7-19-1
Yards passing	39	88
Total yards	323	194
Fumbles lost	4-2	3-0
Penalties-yards	3-25	4-45

Punts-avg.

3-33.0 6-38.2

Around District 6:

BEA 30, Bellefonte 14

Brian Kochik ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns, returned an interception 40 yards for a score and converted three 2-point conversions as the Eagles (3-6) beat rival Bellefonte (3-6) in the Curtin Bowl for the first time since 1998. The loss eliminated the Red Raiders from playoff contention.

Indian Valley 46, Lewistown 13

Nam Shartzler picked up 145 yards and three touchdowns and Thad Rosenberry returned a kickoff 92 yards to lead the Warriors (4-5) over the rival Panthers (0-9) on Friday. The win clinched a berth in the Class AAA playoffs for Indian Valley. Shartzler broke the single season record for touchdowns (21) and yards (1,340) for the Warriors.

Huntingdon 33, P-O 6

Tim Rohrer ran for 255 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Bearcats (8-1) to the victory over the Mounties (6-3). Huntingdon's win, coupled with a Johnstown loss, gives the Bearcats the number one seed in the Class AAA playoffs. The Huntingdon defense limited Philipsburg-Osceola to just 143 total yards.

Forest Hills 20, Johnstown 14

Jared Kosten totaled 179 yards rushing and Scott Mehall added 86 yards as the Rangers (7-2) handed the Trojans (7-2) a Laurel Highlands Conference loss. The loss knocked Johnstown out of the top spot in Class AAA. The Trojans also lost RB Antwuan Reed in the game with a sprained ankle.

Bedford 34, Bishop Carroll 20

Jesse Feaster ran for 195 yards and two touchdowns as the Bisons (6-3) qualified for the Class AA playoffs with a Laurel Highlands victory over the Huskies (2-7). The win marks the fourth straight year that Bedford has made it to the postseason.

Penn Cambria 16, Westmont-Hilltop 8

Matt Holsberger ran for 119 yards and backfield mate Jon Mulhearn ran for 86 yards and two scores as the Panthers (8-1) handed the Hilltoppers (5-4) the Laurel Highlands loss. The defeat eliminated Westmont from playoff contention.

Chestnut Ridge 36, Moshannon Valley 0

The Lions (6-3) clinched a berth in the Class AA playoffs with a shutout victory over the Black Knights (2-7). The Chestnut Ridge defense limited Mo-Valley to just 77 yards of total offense on the night. Mike Tomovich led the Lions with 90 yards on the ground, while Josh McDannell had 84 yards rushing and three touchdowns.

Purchase Line 47, Saltsburg 13

The Red Dragons (8-1) picked up the top seed in the Class A playoffs and captured their first Heritage Conference title since 2001 with a victory over the Trojans (0-9), who have now lost 16 consecutive games.

Marion Center 28, United 6

Marion Center got 87 yards rushing and four touchdowns from Dan Hoover to lead the Stingers (8-1) to the victory over the Lions (3-6). The loss eliminated United from playoff contention.

Blacklick Valley 28, Conemaugh Valley 0

The Vikings (4-5) earned a spot in the Class A playoffs with a shutout victory over the Blue Jays (4-5). Gary Sheesley

ran for 73 yards and three touchdowns to lead Blacklick Valley, while the Vikings held Conemaugh Valley's star RB Robert Gunby to 94 yards on 32 carries.

Friday Scores:

Jersey Shore (Dist 4 AAA 2-7-0) 17 Central Mountain (Dist 6 AAAA 5-4-0) 0

Bedford (Dist 5 AA 6-3-0) 34 Bishop Carroll (Dist 6 A 2-7-0) 20

Chestnut Ridge (Dist 5 AA 6-3-0) 36 Moshannon Valley (Dist 6 A 2-7-0) 0

Meyersdale (Dist 5 A 9-0-0) 20 Portage (Dist 6 A 7-2-0) 13

Northern Bedford (Dist 5 A 6-3-0) 27 West Branch (Dist 6 A 2-7-0) 12

Altoona (Dist 6 AAAA 6-3-0) 53 Carlisle (Dist 3 AAAA 1-8-0) 13

Bald Eagle Area (Dist 6 AA 3-6-0) 30 Bellefonte (Dist 6 AAA 3-6-0) 14

Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 7-2-0) 20 Bishop Guilfoyle (Dist 6 A 3-6-0) 0

Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 8-1-0) 25 Central (Dist 6 AA 1-8-0) 7

Central Cambria (Dist 6 AA 5-4-0) 21 Richland (Dist 6 AA 3-6-0) 12

Forest Hills (Dist 6 AA 7-2-0) 20 Johnstown (Dist 6 AAA 7-2-0) 14

Glendale (Dist 6 A 7-2-0) 35 Claysburg-Kimmel (Dist 6 A 3-6-0) 0

Huntingdon (Dist 6 AAA 8-1-0) 33 Philipsburg-Osceola (Dist 6 AA 6-3-0) 6

Indian Valley (Dist 6 AAA 4-5-0) 46 Lewistown (Dist 6 AAA 0-9-0) 13

Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 7-2-0) 32 Mount Union (Dist 6 A 1-8-0) 0

Laurel Valley (Dist 6 A 6-3-0) 21 Blairsville (Dist 6 A 4-5-0) 14 OT

Northern Cambria (Dist 6 A 6-3-0) 14 Ligonier Valley (Dist 6 A 6-3-0) 0

Penn Cambria (Dist 6 AA 8-1-0) 16 Westmont-Hilltop (Dist 6 AA 5-4-0) 8

Penns Manor (Dist 6 A 3-6-0) 22 Homer Center (Dist 6 A 1-8-0) 0

Purchase Line (Dist 6 A 8-1-0) 47 Saltsburg (Dist 6 A 0-9-0) 13

Somerset (Dist 6 AAA 2-7-0) 7 Cambria Heights (Dist 6 AA 0-9-0) 6

Southern Huntingdon (Dist 6 A 8-1-0) 42 Tussey Mountain (Dist 5 A 5-4-0) 0

State College (Dist 6 AAAA 8-1-0) 31 Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 5-4-0) 14

Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 9-0-0) 21 Penns Valley (Dist 6 AA 5-4-0) 14

Williamsburg (Dist 6 A 2-7-0) 18 Everett (Dist 5 AA 0-9-0) 0

Saturday's Scores:

Windber (Dist 5 A 8-1-0) 41 Ferndale (Dist 6 A 2-7-0) 0

Blacklick Valley (Dist 6 A 4-5-0) 28 Conemaugh Valley (Dist 6 A 4-5-0) 0

Marion Center (Dist 6 AA 8-1-0) 28, United (Dist 6 A 3-6-0) 6