

Little Lions Rally in Fourth Quarter

By Brian Carson

STATE COLLEGE — Games are won and lost in the fourth quarter. It's not a cliché, it's a football truism.

Never was that more evident than in Friday night's District 3-6 Class AAAA semifinal battle between State College and Bishop McDevitt at Memorial Field.

The Little Lions, down 20-14 after 36 minutes of play, scored 20 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to come away with the 34-20 victory over the Crusaders. State College (11-2) will face Governor Mifflin, a 47-13 winner over Wilson West Lawn, in the district finals in Hershey.

State College ran for 157 yards and got two touchdowns from Matthew LeClair and one from Brook Hart in the decisive final frame. LeClair ran for 115 yards, and Hart chipped in with 113 to pace a Little Lion attack that collected 256 yards on the ground, 216 in the second half.

"We decided to go after them and try to establish the run game in the second half," State College coach Al Wolski said. "We didn't really do that in the first half, and we felt we had to in the second half and the kids answered with good execution."

The Crusaders (9-4) struck lightning in the third quarter to take their first lead of the game. Facing a third-and-10 at the 2, Bishop McDevitt quarterback Kyle Koncar hit a streaking Tyrell Harris, who got behind the Little Lion defender for a 98-yard touchdown pass and a 20-14 lead.

State College responded with a 12-play, 68-yard drive that was capped by a 1-yard scoring plunge from Brook Hart early in the first. LeClair ran three times for 21 yards, and tight end Nathan Stupar caught two passes for 14 yards to key the drive. C.J. Bahr's PAT made it 21-20 with 11:57 left.

"We made way too many mental mistakes that hurt us in this game," Bishop McDevitt coach Jeff Weachter said of his team's seven penalties and three turnovers. "I don't want to take anything away from State College though. They came out in the second half and played good, solid football. I'm proud of our kids though. We battle back and played hard, but we came up short at the end."

On their next drive, the Little Lions broke the game open when Hart broke three tackles and ran 57 yards to the Crusader 8. LeClair busted in from 8 yards out, and Bahr made the PAT to give State High the 28-20 lead.

LeClair broke off a big run of his own, this one going for 47 yards to the McDevitt 10. LeClair, who ran for 100 yards in the second half, stormed in from 5 yards out to set the final score.

"We wanted this game. We didn't want it to end. We want to go to states," LeClair said. "It was all about wanting it more than them. We played with a lot of heart tonight."

State College took a 14-0 lead after one as Kerr caught a 20-yard TD pass from Hart and Shane Gray made a fingertip catch for a 1-yard score.

Bishop McDevitt fought back to tie it 14-14 at the half. Crusader quarterback Kyle Koncar threw two touchdown passes, a 14-yard score to Julian Harrell and a 5-yarder to Mike Comasco. Koncar threw for 217 yards and three touchdowns.

"One of the big keys for us in this game was stopping their run," said Wolski, who's team held the Crusaders to just 67 yards on 22 carries. "They ran the ball pretty well against us in the regular season and we were determined to do better this time."

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Bishop McDevitt 0 14 6 0 — 20

State College 14 0 0 20 — 34

First Quarter

SC—Kerr 20 pass from Hart (Bahr kick), 11:05.

SC—Gray 1 pass from Hart (Bahr kick), :56.

Second Quarter

BM—Harrell 14 pass from Koncar (Comasco kick), 6:12.

BM—Comasco 5 pass from Koncar (Comasco kick), 4:07.

Third quarter

BM—Harris 98 pass from Koncar, (kick failed), 5:11.

Fourth Quarter

SC—Hart 1 run (Bahr kick), 11:57.

SC—LeClair 5 run (Bahr kick), 8:05.

SC—LeClair 3 run (kick failed), 5:49.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Bishop McDevitt—Koncar 8-30, Onorato 7-22, Jones 5-19, TEAM 2-(minus-4). State College—LeClair 18-115, Hart 16-113, Gray 6-17, Stupar 3-13, Ryland 1-(minus-2).

PASSING: Bishop McDevitt—Koncar 12-27-1-217. State College—Hart 9-18-1-85.

RECEIVING: Bishop McDevitt—Harrell 4-68, Jones 4-30, Harris 2-106, Vargo 1-8, Comasco 1-5. State College—Stupar 6-61, Kerr 1-20, Ryland 1-3, Gray 1-1.

INTERCEPTIONS: Bishop McDevitt—Comasco. State College—Horne.

TEAM STATISTICS	BM	SC
First downs	18	8
Yards rushing	22-67	44-256
Passing (comp.-att.-int.)	12-27-1	9-18-1
Yards passing	217	85
Total yards	284	344
Fumbles lost	5-2	2-1
Penalties-yards	7-34	4-40
Punts-avg.	4-34.7	3-31.7

Playoff Football Results:

Bishop McCort 37, Tyrone 28

Scott Lewis ran for 181 yards and a touchdown to lead the Crimson Crushers (11-1) to their 11th straight win and the District 5-6 Class AA championship. QB Jordan DeFrances passed for 208 yards and wideout Chris Seidel caught three passes for 127 yards and three touchdowns. The Golden Eagles, who finished the season at 12-1, had 210 yards passing from Tyler Golden and eight receptions for 133 yards and a score from Justin Schopp. RB Johnny Franco rushed for 79 yards and had two touchdowns, one on an interception return. Bishop McCort, who will face Wilmington (13-0) next week in the PIAA playoffs, collected 421 yards of total offense with Tyrone picking up 315.

Oliver 20, Hollidaysburg 19

The Golden Tigers failed to convert a two-point conversion late in the fourth quarter and came up on the short end to the Bears in the opening round of the Class AAA state playoffs. Hollidaysburg (8-5) watched a 13-0 halftime lead evaporate as Lamar Copeland completed two halfback passes for touchdowns – one for 44 yards and the other for 34 – as Oliver (11-2) took a 20-13 lead with 4:28 left in the game. Golden Tiger RB Brad Nocek (13-67-1) scored from three yards out, but the run for two failed and the Bears held on for the victory. WR Jacques Robinson led the Oliver offense with four receptions for 91 yards.

Bellwood-Antis 22, Juniata Valley 8

The Blue Devils broke an 8-8 tie at halftime by scoring 14 second half points to beat the Green Hornets (9-3) and captured their second District 6 Class A title in three years. Bellwood-Antis (10-2) will face Steelton-Highspire in the PIAA quarterfinals on Friday. Josh Kleinfelter ran for 125 yards and a touchdown, while Devon Clapper had three receptions for 57 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Blue Devil attack. Juniata Valley running backs Joey Basil (20-91) and Shawn McCrum (15-71-1) combined for 162 yards on 35 carries.

Friday Scores:

D6 Playoffs:

Bishop McCort (Dist 6 AA 11-1-0) 37 Tyrone (Dist 6 AA 12-1-0) 28

Oliver (Dist 8 AAA 11-2-0) 20 Hollidaysburg (Dist 6 AAA 8-5-0) 19

State College (Dist 6 AAAA 11-2-0) 34 Bishop McDevitt (3) (Dist 3 AAAA 9-4-0) 20

Saturday's Scores:

D6 Playoffs:

Bellwood-Antis (Dist 6 A 10-2-0) 22 Juniata Valley (Dist 6 A 9-3-0) 8