

By Travis L. Pickens

SLIPPERY ROCK – After a long week, Corry football coach Homer DeLattre was tired.

The 32-year-old coach watched Wilmington run through, around and over his Beavers as the Greyhounds posted a 35-8 win Saturday night at Thompson Stadium in the District 10 Class AA quarterfinals at Slippery Rock University.

“I’m sore,” DeLattre said. “I (played) scout team quarterback all week. I was probably the fastest guy on the scout team. I was tired. My legs were tired.”

If that’s the case, Wilmington’s backfield must be a little quicker than DeLattre. The Greyhounds (11-0) rolled up 249 rushing yards. Chris Burns did the most damage, collecting 85 yards on eight carries with two touchdowns.

“I don’t think a lot of teams know about our speed,” Burns said. “We have a lot of guys that run track and made states a few times. I think that was a big factor.”

It took awhile for the Greyhounds to find their running shoes. Corry (6-5) took 6:33 off the first quarter clock with a 15-play drive that resulted in no points.

“Even on film you could tell (Corry was) a gutsy team,” Wilmington coach Terry Verrelli said. “They’re a good football team and they did a good job on that first drive down the field.”

It turned out that drive was the exception, not the rule. Wilmington had a quick three-and-out and the Beavers got the ball back but couldn’t get a first down. From that point, it was all Greyhounds on an evening where a steady wind blew and mist fell throughout.

After the Corry punt, Wilmington scored in two plays. Quarterback Jake Reiber found Nate Reynolds behind the Corry secondary for a 27-yard touchdown. Nick Riggall added the extra point and it was 7-0 with 0:33 left in the first quarter.

“Drives like (Corry’s first) are going to happen,” Burns said. “It’s just a matter of how you respond to it. I think we responded pretty well.”

You could say that. Wilmington reached the Corry red zone in two plays on its next series but Burns lost a fumble at the Beavers 15. The faltering Corry offense went three-and-out giving the ball back to Wilmington, which drove 80 yards in 15 plays, capped by a 17-yard touchdown run by Burns, who bounced off two tacklers and spun past another, for a 14-0 halftime lead.

“Their speed is just all about angles,” DeLattre said. “We didn’t do a very good job of angles in our secondary.”

Wilmington, which plays Sharon next week in the district semifinals, also took note of the Corry pursuit angles.

“We noticed a few things their linebackers were doing,” Burns said of his team’s discussion at halftime. “We just went from there.”

Reiber, who went 4-for-5 throwing the ball for 54 yards, ran in scores of 7 and 21 yards while Burns broke into the open for a 32-yarder, giving Wilmington a 35-0 lead after three quarters.

“I think it was a matter of being patient, playing the game and things like that more than any major adjustments at halftime,” Verrelli said of how his team pulled away.

Corry got on the board with 4:41 left in game via Aaron Gluvna’s 42-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Eck.

Wilmington 35, Corry 8

Corry	0	0	0	8	-	8
Wilmington	7	7	21	0	-	35

First Quarter

W – Reynolds 27 pass from Reiber (Riggall kick), 0:33.5

Second Quarter

W – Burns 17 run (Riggall kick), 0:56.4

Third Quarter

W – Reiber 7 run (Riggall kick), 6:35

W – Reiber 21 run (Riggall kick), 4:31

W – Burns 32 run (Riggall kick), 1:03

Fourth Quarter

C – Eck 42 pass from Gluvna (Gates run), 4:41

TEAM STATISTICS

	C	W
First downs	12	16
Rushing attempts-yards	29-61	41-249
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	11-18-1	4-5-0
Yards passing	118	54
Total yards	226	303
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	7-50	6-45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Corry – Gates 9-40, Flick 8-26, Gluvna 2-1, Comitz 1-0, Carney 9-(-6).

Wilmington – Burns 8-85, Minter 10-64, Reiber 9-56, Bruno 11-42, Wagner 1-1, Fulkman 2-1.

Passing: Corry – Carney 8-14-94-1, Gluvna 3-4-71-0, Brown 0-1-0-0. Wilmington – Reiber 4-5-54-0.

Receiving: Corry – Eck 4-78, Flick 2-39, Cummings 2-27, Sacchetti 2-17, Dennis 1-4. Wilmington – Reynolds 1-27, Minter 1-15, Burns 1-7, Beatty 1-4.