

Old School

Warrior Veterans lead fourth-quarter explosion to take down Blackhawks

Trailing in the fourth against Bellingham the Warriors needed a hero. What they got was a total team performance led by their Seniors, catapulting Medfield over Bellingham 22-20 in a thrilling clash between two talented sides.

The offense reemerged from last week in a big way, highlighted by a 15-point fourth quarter that ended up being just enough to seal the deal, giving the Warriors a 2-1 start to the campaign.

At first glance, easy callouts include the performance of Senior QB Nick Hasapedis, who earned himself Boston Globe Player of the Week honors with 128 yards through the air and a touchdown, as the driving force that led the Warriors to their second victory. Cal Gardiner and Nick Gangemi, had key roles as well leading the team in rushing and receiving yards respectively.

However, the real story of the Battle of Bellingham was the war in the trenches which was ultimately dominated by the offensive line, who responded from a down week with a gritty performance when matched up against a physical Bellingham defense. The always-consistent Tyler Rosen led the way, flanked by Luke Gobin and an emerging force in sophomore Gavin Seitz, who had easily his best performance so far from the tackle position. The Warriors were able to establish a ground attack without feature back Brady McCormack, as the hard work of the O-Line led to two easy rushing touchdowns for seniors Gardiner and Matthew Stevens.

That same dominant rushing attack left the door wide open for the Warriors to utilize some play action and offensive coordinator Eric Ludwig reached into his bag at the perfect time.

Following a muffed Bellingham kickoff, Medfield took over at Bellingham's 25-yard line, leading 15-14 in the fourth. Hasapidis sold a handoff to Gardiner; then channeling his shortstop experience, threw off his back foot, getting just enough air under a pass to Nick Gangemi who had been left to his own devices with nothing but endzone in sight as a result of the crashing safety.

Head Coach Erik Ormberg praised the team's culture following the win, and noted that "Culture wins close games". Well if you're looking for an example of Warrior Football

Culture, look no further than the Nick Gangemi touchdown Friday night and the physical grit-filled football that was played to produce it.

Despite the offense catching fire, it was the defense, however, that produced the play of the night. Bellingham responded in the fourth quarter with a late touchdown drive, making it 22-20 Medfield. With the Blackhawks going for two to tie, Senior safety Max Masters blitzed the open gap, and joined by Luke Gobin stonewalled the Blackhawks at the two-yard line, giving Medfield 6 feet of insurance for the win.

Seconds later Senior Roman Schoenfeld recovered a bounding onside kick and the win was signed, sealed, and delivered, courtesy of the Warriors.

In talking about the performances of the seniors, Ormberg mentioned one adjective. "Selfless". And that's exactly what Friday night was. Not just by the Seniors but by the whole team. Selfless, unglamorous, old-school, hard-nosed football in a game that wasn't technically a must-win but felt necessary to have.

Medfield will now look to keep the good vibes rolling at home against Norwood on Friday the 29th. Tune in to see the Warriors vie for their first winning streak in years on Youtube at Medfield High School Athletics, or check Twitter/X @MedfieldAD and Instagram @medfield_football_community for updates.