

Power Outage

Warrior Offense goes quiet as Medfield falls to Dedham in home opener

by Curran Coakley



Seniors Nick Gangemi & Nick Halesworth sack Dedham quarterback. Photo by Denise DePiero

After shutting out Medway on the road, the Warriors were flying high heading into their home opener against Dedham. Alas, the football gods work in mysterious ways and will always find a way to ground you when you least expect it

The Warriors now find themselves back on level ground, having been shut out one week and having done the shutting out the week prior.

Dedham executed a trick play so flawlessly it would make most offensive coordinators weep on their very first play from scrimmage, and the 72-yard touchdown was a haymaker that landed 20 seconds into the fight, from which Medfield was never quite able to recover their footing. The Marauders never once glanced in the rearview mirror once they had the lead, and a touchdown with just under six minutes remaining in the first quarter was all they needed in the way of insurance, as their defense handled the dirty work for the rest of the game holding the Warriors scoreless.

The offense never quite got clicking against Dedham, and the Power I run game that saw so much success against Medway whispered instead of roared as the Marauders defeated the Warriors in a 16-0 exchange.

Despite numerous chances and some lengthy drives that initially appeared promising, the final piece was never able to click into place for the Medfield offense. Quarterback Nick Hasapidis seldom had open options downfield, and he found himself on the run outside the pocket often with red and white jerseys in hot pursuit.

The tone of the game was set by Dedham's experienced D-Line, which provided the Marauders with a relentless pass rush as well as a brick wall that the usually powerful Medfield ground game could not break down. However, the Medfield offensive line is on the younger side and features three sophomores who see a heavy dosage of snaps, so growing pains early on are to be expected.

The Marauders controlled the tempo of the game by running the ball primarily with star back A.J. Pinet. While a Dedham coach would argue that this was to run clock down, it was visibly apparent that star quarterback Joe Goffredo was off balance and struggling through the air following the first quarter. The Medfield pass rush led by Luke Gobin and Chase Coughlin was irritating for Dedham, and cornerbacks Tommy Ojuolape and Roman Schoenfeld had maximum security on the Marauder's explosive receiving corps all game.

If there is a key takeaway from the Medfield perspective, it should be that this defense appears to be very legitimate and can hold its own against good offenses as well as respond to adversity. After going down early in the first, it would have been easy to let the game slip away but Dedham was never quite able to create enough distance from the Warriors to the point where they seemed comfortable. Dedham cruised against Division 2 Wellesley and moved the ball with much more efficiency, so to see them struggle against the Warriors provides armfuls of hope moving forward.

Next week the Warriors will hit the road to take on a beatable, yet tough Bellingham team. An offensive resurgence will be necessary in the coming weeks. Look for the offensive line to have a bounce-back game against Bellingham as well, led by the leadership of Tyler Rosen and Declan Frazier. The season is a 9-game sprint, and a multiple-week slump could be the difference between a playoff berth and wrapping things up on Thanksgiving.

Coach Erik Ormberg stressed the importance of this year's team being "Forged in Fire". Two weeks into the season the Warriors have now been thrown into the fire. This week we will see how quickly they can climb out of it. Kickoff is Friday, 6:30 p.m. at Bellingham.

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