

Highlanders gain finals in football sectional; defeat New Albany 34-28 to get there

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The Floyd Central Highlanders used grit and determination in a 34-28 win over nemesis New Albany in the semi finals of the Class 4A football sectional. The Highlanders will play Castle in the finals of their sectional in a home game for the sectional title Friday night.

It was anything but a cakewalk for the Highlanders in the win. A driving rain for the third Friday night in the last four weeks made for a messy playing field.

The wind clocked in at around 25 miles per hour in the first half, and Floyd got off to a 21-7 lead after a quarter of play.

Max Guenther was the Highlander responsible for throwing the passes that led to all three 1st quarter touchdowns.

New Albany struck first, though, when Jalen Forrest ran 89 yards for the score off of scrimmage.

Floyd answered when Guenther threw a 28 yard pass to Kyle Bramble for a score, and after three New Albany turnovers, Guenther threw a 46 yard pass to Matt Lowe for the second of the three 1st quarter Highlander touchdowns.

Towards the end of the 1st, Guenther threw a 28 yard pass to Jeffrey Thompson for the third score of the opening quarter.

New Albany took advantage of the wind direction in the second quarter, and outscored the host Highlanders 14-0 in the second period.

Forrest scored the first of those two TDs, and Christopher Whitehead scored off of a 32 yard pass from Simon Weber.

The Highlanders were the only team to score in the 3rd quarter, when Guenther scored off a 19 yard run to make the score 28-21 in the hosts' favor.

Floyd scored first in the final period when Bramble scored with 4:37 left in the game, from 68 yards out. The Highlanders led 34-21 at that time.

Weber then threw a 16 yard pass to Joshua Santana with only seconds left in the game, but the Bulldogs ran out of time to tie or go ahead in the game.

In the game, the stats were very impressive on both sides. The Bulldogs had 463 total yards of offense for the game, to a total of 407 yards of total offense for the Highlanders.

The break down in the offensive yards is 395 yards rushing for the Bulldogs, to a total of 297 yards on the ground for the hosts.

In passing yards, the visiting Bulldogs had 68 passing yards, to a grand total of 110 yards for the Highlanders in the air.

New Albany did have a total of 65 yards in penalties, to only 10 for Floyd.

Floyd Central is presently 8-3 on the season, and the Bulldogs ended their season at 2-9.