

## Floyd Central drops season opener

Written by Administrator

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By Michael McCammon

Special Correspondent

The Floyd Central season kicked off in front of a near capacity crowd at Weigleb Stadium on Friday night, as the Highlanders welcomed Louisville Male for an intrastate contest.

Floyd Central was looking to avenge a loss to the Bulldogs last season, but the inability to convert early Male miscues dashed any early hopes of victory. Male's depth and speed proved to much, as the visitors cruised to a 62-16 victory.

"Personnel-wise they are bigger than us and that's why they are a powerhouse in Kentucky 6A," said Floyd Central head coach Brian Glesing.

Ranked No. 4 in Kentucky highest class, Male didn't take long to put points on the scoreboard, scoring just 1:30 minutes into the game to take a quick 7-0 lead. Sophomore Keion Wakefield sparked the Bulldogs drive with a 29-yard reception.

After forcing the Highlanders to a three-and-out, Wakefield muffed the punt and Floyd Central's Evan Rue recovery the ball inside the Male 40 yard line. The Bulldog defense forced another three-and-out, but once again struggled to field the punt, losing possession at their own 19. The Highlanders lost the ball on a fumble on the following play.

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“We had a couple chances, but we didn’t take advantage of them,” said Glesing. “We had a couple breakdowns defensively.”

The Highlander offense struggled to gain a first down throughout the first half, while the defense couldn’t find an answer for the Bulldog multi-threat attack.

Male converted three consecutive Floyd Central three-and-outs into touchdowns to build a commanding 21-0 lead before the end of the first quarter.

The big plays for Male continued in the second quarter. Highlighted by Ellis Cain’s 63-yard touchdown run, the visitors added three more touchdowns before the break.

Floyd Central posted a score just before the end of the first half when senior Ryan Lenz connected for a 42-yard field goal to make the score 42-3.

“We had some positives tonight,” said Glesing. “We kicked a field goal at the end, Ryan Lenz for 42-yards, so that was a big deal.”

Trailing 49-3 late in the third quarter, junior running back Gaige Klingsmith hauled in a pass from quarterback Colton Kimm and broke free for a 79-yard touchdown.

“Klingsmith is fast,” said Glesing. “We have a stable of running backs and they are fighting for the spot.”

Klingsmith, who finished with 51 rushing yards, also ran for a 35-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

“Going into it I told our team that it wasn’t the end of the world if we won the game and it wasn’t

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the end of the world if lost the game,” Glesing said. “Next week is a big game for us. I’m proud of our effort.”

Floyd Central (0-1) will host rival Providence (0-1) on Friday night.