

The Floyd Central Highlanders lost 35-21 at Columbus East Friday in high school football action, ending any realistic chances of them sharing at least a tie for first place in the Hoosier Hills Conference race.

The Highlanders found themselves in a hole early, and too many mistakes and missed assignments were the difference throughout the game.

Three turnovers helped to dig the hole for Floyd Central, as well as 115 yards in penalties to 85 yards in penalties for the Olympians.

“We had our chances, our opportunities,” said Floyd Central coach Brian Glesing.

Columbus East struck first in the scoring department when Gunner Kiel threw a 21 yard pass to Alex Cowan for the first Olympian touchdown of the game, at the 8:27 mark in the 1st quarter.

A 43 yard pass was part of the arsenal of passes that Kiel used in the drive.

The Highlanders answered at the 4:30 mark with a Kyle Bramble touchdown, but Columbus East then managed to score a second TD with 2:04 left on the clock in the 1st when Kiel threw a 46 yard touchdown pass to Luke Hampton.

With 4:06 left in the second half, Floyd Central tied the game at 14-14, when Bramble ran in from short yardage, and Jason Van Buren added the PAT.

With 2:07 left in the half, Floyd Central blocked a punt by Columbus East, and got the ball on the Olympians’ own 29 yard line.

This was an opportunity which ended up eluding the Highlanders.

With just under a minute in the half, the Highlanders were stopped inside the 10 yard line, and failed to score.

“We didn’t take advantage of the opportunities that were presented to us,” said Glesing.

Columbus East scored three more touchdowns over the course of the second half, raising their advantage to 35-14 with 7:00 left in the contest.

Floyd Central then scored with 4:09 left, with Bramble and Van Buren combining for the touchdown run and the PAT.

Columbus East then recovered Floyd Central’s ensuing onside kick, and got a first down with 2:56 left.

Floyd managed to get the ball back, but Bramble was unable to break free for any more touchdown scores.

Despite the loss, the Highlanders are still 5-1 overall, and their Hoosier Hills Conference (HHC) record is now 3-1 in HHC play.

Columbus East has now won 52 of their last 53 HHC games, and they appear to be headed towards their eighth straight title in the conference in football. The win over the Highlanders was the 100th for head Olympians’ coach Bob Gaddis at the school.

Glesing isn’t ready to throw in the towel yet on the chance that the Highlanders might at least share in the league crown at the end of the season. Floyd Central will host Bedford-North Lawrence Friday at Weigleb Stadium, and Glesing realizes that they have a tough opponent in front of them.

“They’re well coached, play great defense,” said Glesing of Bedford-North Lawrence. “But, we

## Highlanders fall to Columbus East, lose lead in HHC grid race

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still have a chance to win the conference. It's going to be a big game for us."

The statistics for the game as a whole show what appeared to be a balanced game. Floyd Central had a total of 336 yards of offense, to 358 for the Olympians. The rushing yards were 297 for the Highlanders, with 153 for the Olympians. Columbus East had a big mismatch in passing yards, with Gunner Kiel providing the large part of them for the Olympians, who out passed the Highlanders 205 to 39.