

Charlestown squanders early lead against Corydon

Written by Janna Ross

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Pirates lose first quarter lead, fall to Corydon Central 22-16

Last Friday night was an outstanding night for high school football as the almost 100 degree day turned into a nice, cooler evening with a slight breeze for fans to enjoy a Mid Southern Conference match up.

Fans arrived early to Dutch Reis Field, many to enjoy the Pirate Grill before the game and help support the Pirate and Lady Pirate basketball teams, to get the perfect seat to witness the Mid Southern Conference clash of the home standing Pirates and the Corydon Central Panthers.

The Pirate Nation was all smiles as Charlestown fought back from an early Panther touchdown to take the lead early in the first quarter. Corydon held the slight advantage at halftime, 14-7, before pulling away from the Pirates for the 22-13 conference win.

The Pirates received the opening kick off and on their second play from scrimmage fumbled the ball and Corydon recovered. It only took the Panthers six plays to capitalize on the miscue as senior running back Seth Rennirt found the endzone from five yards out at the 8:23 mark. The extra point attempt sailed wide left for the early 6-0 Corydon lead.

The Pirates recovered an on-side kick on the Panthers 44 yard line. It only took one play for sophomore quarterback Aaron Daniel to lead the Pirates to the endzone.

Daniel hooked up with senior wide receiver Josh King for a 44 yard touchdown pass at the 7:49 mark. Daniel then split the upright to give Charlestown the 7-6 advantage. The lead would prove to be the only lead of the ballgame for the Pirates.

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Corydon responded with a long drive that lasted nearly four minutes as junior running back Jeremiah Windell scampered seven yards to the endzone. Rennirt added the two point conversion at the 3:57 mark to give Corydon the 14-7 advantage.

The teams traded five possessions before the halftime break, all ending with either a turnover on downs or a punt. The Panthers still held the slight 14-7 advantage at the halftime intermission.

Corydon received the second half kick off and the Pirate defense stopped the opening possession as they forced a three and out.

The Pirates had a long 15 play drive that stalled in the Panthers redzone as Charlestown turned the ball over on downs.

The Panthers capitalized on the turnover as Windell broke free and sprinted 44 yards to the endzone for the Corydon touchdown. Windell then tacked on the extra point with 24 seconds remaining in the third quarter. The score gave the Panthers the 22-7 advantage.

Charlestown was driving the ball down the field before Panther senior Ryan Coffman picked off a Daniel pass.

Two plays later Corydon fumbled the ball and the Pirates recovered the ball on the Panthers' six yard line.

It took the Pirates just three plays to capitalize on the turnover as senior Ethan Bowen found the endzone from two yards out at the 5:20 mark of the final quarter of play. The two point conversion attempt failed as the Pirates pulled within nine, 22-13.

The Charlestown defense forced Corydon to punt to end their next possession.

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The Pirates were moving down field with the endzone in their sights but the game clock ran out before Charlestown could find the goal line.

Corydon Central took the 22-13 Mid Southern Conference win over the home standing Pirates.

“It is what it is. We have a lot of kids out (due to injury). We don’t have the fire power,” stated head coach of the Pirates Jason Hawkins. “They did a good job controlling Aaron Daniel tonight. Thirteen points isn’t enough to beat a good team like this. We are still making mistakes.”

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