

Charlestown too much for NH

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 13 September 2011 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 13 September 2011 11:59

Leaving from Charlestown heading to Ramsey to cheer on the Pirates, Pirate Nation had some difficulty as some fans found themselves stuck on I-265 about the same time the Sherman Minton Bridge in New Albany was deemed unsafe and closed. Fans finally were able to get through the traffic tie up and able to travel safely to Ramsey to proudly cheer on their Pirates. Fans were rewarded for their travel adventure as Charlestown played hard on both sides of the ball and took a 19-6 first quarter lead and sailed to the 47-13 Mid Southern Conference win over the homestanding Cougars of North Harrison.

On North Harrison's first possession of the second quarter Charlestown forced the Cougars to punt. The Pirates received the ball on their own 26 yard line and just two plays later found the endzone. The first play covered 61 yards as junior quarterback Aaron Daniel hooked up with classmate Cody Donahue followed by Daniel hooking up with junior Tyler Odle for the 12 yard catch and run to the goal line. Daniel then hooked up with classmate Wesley Sexton for the two point conversion to give the Pirates the 27-6 lead with 7:52 remaining in the first half.

Both teams traded possessions until late in the second quarter when Charlestown's Daniel found the endzone from one yard out with no time remaining in the half. Daniel split the uprights to extend the Pirate lead 34-6 heading into the halftime break.

The second half started the way the first half ended for the Pirates. Charlestown needed just 75 seconds to find the endzone as Daniel scampered 65 yards to paydirt. Daniel tacked on the extra point to push Charlestown's lead 41-6 with 10:45 remaining in the third quarter.

North Harrison turned the ball over on downs as they failed to capitalize on a fourth and five. The Cougars turned the ball over to the Pirates on their own 48 yard line.

Charlestown kept the momentum alive as they needed just five plays to find the endzone again. Junior runningback Seth McCutchen rambled 20 yards for the touchdown. The extra point attempt failed to give the Pirates the 47-6 lead with 4:49 remaining in the third quarter of play.

The Cougars would find the endzone with just 34 seconds remaining in the quarter as senior runningback Michael Cox sprinted 45 yards for the touchdown. Freshman Jack Phelps tacked on the extra point for the 47-13 Pirate advantage. The score would prove to be the final points of the ballgame.

The fourth quarter seen both Charlestown head coach Jason Hawkins and North Harrison boss Greg Burton rest the majority of their starters.

Charlestown took the 47-13 win to even their overall record at 2-2 and 2-1 in the Mid Southern Conference. The Cougars fell to 2-2.

"We planned out our game plan all week. I thought if we could hold 3 (Aaron Daniel) to under 100 yards we would be able to win the game," Burton said. "I think we are better than that."

Charlestown head coach Jason Hawkins praised his team after the Mid Southern Conference win.

"We played really well tonight. They put eight or nine in the box to stop the run. I think we showed tonight that you can stop the run but we still have someone back there who can throw the ball," Hawkins stated. "Our defense played outstanding. We had a lot of players step up tonight. We are the only team to run a true spread offense in the conference. We did a really good job spreading the ball around tonight."

North Harrison will host Brownstown Central this Friday night at 7 p.m.

The Pirates will face the Dragons of Silver Creek this Friday night at Dutch Reis Field. The game will be designated a home game for the Dragons due to field complications at Silver

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Creek. Kick off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Charlestown High School Athletic Department has announced that Pirate Season Passes and All Sports Passes cannot be redeemed during this contest due to the game being designated a home game for the Dragons. All tickets will be \$5.

Coach Hawkins addressed his team after the North Harrison win about the upcoming conference contest with Silver Creek.

“Next week (this Friday night) we face a team we have never played before. It is an automatic rivalry game,” Hawkins stated to his team and fans gathered on the field after the North Harrison ballgame.

He concluded, “I am very proud of how you guys played tonight and I was proud of how the receivers blocked tonight.”