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Green Banner Publications

Last Friday night there was standing room only at Dutch Reis Field. The fans squeezed into the stands and around the fence to cheer on their home standing Pirates in a early season Mid Southern Conference rival contest featuring two top 10 teams in Class 3A. Heading into the contest the visiting Braves of Brownstown were sitting at No. 6 while Charlestown was ranked at No. 9. Recent history has proven that the winner of the early season match up went on to claim at least a share of the conference title. Both teams were coming off impressive opening night victories as Charlestown took the 67-14 win over the Class 4A Madison Cubs on Friday night, August 17 and the Braves enjoyed the 39-6 victory over Class 23 Sectional foe Mitchell.

The Pirates gave up the field goal to allow the Braves to find the scoreboard first in the game, but it was the only time Brownstown would score. Charlestown's defense did not allow a Braves touchdown during the ballgame. The Pirates took control early in the second quarter and never looked back as they cruised to a 41-3 Mid Southern Conference victory.

During Charlestown's first possession of the game, the Pirates fumbled the ball giving the Braves a short field as they recovered the pigskin on the Pirates 32 yard line. Brownstown would drive the ball down to the Charlestown six yard line before the defense stepped up and held the Braves to only one more yard. Brownstown senior Nick Stahl nailed a 23 yard field goal at the 6:12 mark of the opening quarter of play to give the Braves the early 3-0 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff Brownstown attempted and recovered an onside kick. Once again the Braves were forced to a field goal attempt at the 3:48 mark. Stahl's kick soared wide left.

Charlestown's next possession was a long drive that ended on downs at the Brownstown 13 yard line.

The Braves only ran two plays before the quarter ended with Brownstown holding on to the 3-0 advantage.

During the first play of the second quarter Brownstown fumbled the ball. Charlestown recovered the ball on the Braves' 14 yard line. The Pirates only needed two plays to capitalize on the turnover. Pirate senior quarterback Aaron Daniel ran the ball in from five yards out at the 11:30 mark of the second stanza. Daniel then split the uprights to give Charlestown the 7-3 advantage.

Brownstown then drove the ball down to the Charlestown 28 yard line. The possession ended as Stahl missed his second field goal of the evening.

Charlestown senior running back Seth McCutchen darted down the sideline gaining 57 yards for a Pirates first down. McCutchen finished the drive two plays later as he scampered 21 yards to pay dirt at the 9:01 mark. Daniel split the uprights for the 14-3 lead.

Both teams traded turnovers before Charlestown recovered a Brownstown fumble returning the ball to the Braves' 26 yard line. It only took the Pirates one play to capitalize on the turnover as Daniel hooked up with classmate Tyler Odle on a screen pass. Odle blazed a path to the endzone at the 6:08 mark in the first half. Daniel tacked on the extra point for the last score in

the half. The extra point gave the Pirates the 21-3 advantage.

The Pirates had won the opening coin toss and deferred to the second half. Charlestown went on a long 12 play drive which ate up 4:48 of the third quarter. The drive was capped off by senior Wesley Sexton catching a Daniel pass covering nine yards. Daniel again tacked on the extra point to push the Pirate lead to 28-3 with 7:12 remaining in the third period.

Late in the third quarter, Charlestown's Daniel scampered 40 yards to the goal line. He missed the extra point attempt but the touchdown gave Charlestown the 34-3 lead with 23 ticks of the clock remaining in the period.

The final score of the ballgame came on a 47 yard sprint by Daniel at the 10:23 mark of the game. Daniel tacked on the extra point giving the Pirates the 41-3 victory.

The teams traded possessions the remainder of the ball game.

Charlestown was led by McCutchen with 202 yards on 16 carries and one touchdown. Daniel added 185 yards on 20 carries and three touchdowns.

Daniel went 10-of-17 in passing attempts for 139 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. Sexton had three catches for 53 yards with one touchdown followed by Odle with two catches for 49 yards and one touchdown. Senior Gage Brafford recorded two catches for 19 yards while senior Cody Donahue added two catches for 14 yards.

The Braves were led by Dylan Patman with five carries for 48 yards followed by Jacob Jackson with nine carries for 39 yards.

Brownstown quarterback Clay Brown went 2-of-7 for 31 yards. Hayden Stuckwisch tallied two receptions for 31 yards,

The Pirates recorded 548 total yards as Brownstown tallied 149 total yards.

The Charlestown defense racked up eight sacks on the evening.

"Last week to this week we got better. I seen it this week in practice," Coach Jason Hawkins stated after the ballgame. After being asked about the rankings, Hawkins replied, "Let's not worry about our rank right now. We just have to keep improving each week. If we improve each week, we will have a pretty good football team."

The Pirates (2-0 overall and 1-0 Mid Southern Conference) will travel to Mid Southern Conference foe Clarksville this Friday night. Kick off is scheduled for 7 p.m.