

Pirate Nation answered the call to fill the stands at Corydon Central last Friday night. Many Pirate faithful made the journey down I-64 to show their Pirate Pride as the visiting bleachers filled quickly leaving standing room only. Pirate fans lined the fence to be sure to catch a glimpse of what was one of the hottest games in the area.

Charlestown and Corydon Central entered the game undefeated at 6-0. Both teams were ranked in the top five with the Pirates coming in at No. 3 and the Panthers following at No. 4. And if that wasn't enough to capture your interest, the game would also determine who would claim a share of the Mid Southern Conference.

Heading into the match up Charlestown was averaging 60.83 points per game (ppg) while Corydon was averaging 46.1 ppg. The Pirates defense was only allowing 9.3 ppg while the Panthers were giving up 19 ppg. Statistically Charlestown was taking the victory by 51.5 ppg as Corydon was winning by 27.16 ppg.

The Pirates seemed focused, energized and ready to play as the opening kick-off sailed in the air. It didn't take long for one to realize Charlestown came ready to play as they took the 47-0 victory to spoil Corydon Central's homecoming. The win clinched the Pirates' 15th Mid Southern Conference title.

Both teams traded possessions to open the contest before Charlestown senior quarterback Aaron Daniel scampered eight yards to the endzone. Daniel would tack on the extra point for the early 7-0 Charlestown lead at the 7:05 mark.

During Corydon's next possession the Panthers were once again forced to punt pinning the Pirates inside their own 20 yard line.

The Pirates only needed two plays to find the endzone as Daniel sprinted 77 yards to pay dirt. Daniel would tack on the extra point to give the Pirates the 14-0 lead with 3:37 remaining in the first stanza.

Late in the first quarter Corydon Central was driving on the Pirates before Panther quarterback Chase Burton was drilled by junior middle linebacker Jake Harper for a nine yard loss. The sack forced the Panthers to punt the ball at the start of the second quarter.

Charlestown went on a long drive. The drive was capped off by Daniel finding the endzone from seven yards out. The extra point was good by Daniel to give the Pirates the 21-0 lead at the 9:11 mark of the first half.

The Panthers drove the ball into Pirate territory during their next possession before back-to-back sacks by Charlestown's Jimmy Garcia, a junior defensive lineman and classmate defensive lineman Desmond Wiley. The sacks forced Corydon Central into a third and 21. After an incomplete pass, Corydon found themselves outside field goal range, forcing them to go for it on fourth and 21. Daniel picked off Burton in the endzone giving the Pirates the ball on their own 20 yard line.

Charlestown needed just eight plays to find the endzone again.

Pirate senior running back Seth McCutchen bulldozed his way in from three yards out. The extra point attempt by Daniel split the uprights for the 28-0 Pirate lead at the 4:23 mark of the half.

Charlestown held the same lead heading into the halftime break.

Scoring slowed in the third as only one touchdown was recorded during the 12 minute stanza.

McCutchen would again find the endzone from three yards out for the only score of the quarter at the 4:31 mark. The Pirates pushed the lead to 34-0.

The Pirates would need just 90 seconds in the final stanza to find the endzone. Daniel darted around the Panther defense to score from five yards out. The extra point attempt by senior Wesley Sexton bounced off the right upright. Charlestown held the 40-0 advantage.

The final score of the ball game came by the legs of junior quarterback Darren Taylor. He sprinted 15 yards to the goal line. Daniel tacked on the extra point for the final score of the game as Charlestown held the 47-0 advantage at the 6:10 mark.

The teams traded possessions the remainder of the ball game as Charlestown took the Mid Southern Conference victory to clinch at least a share of the conference title.

"I think the way we played tonight showed everybody we deserved to be ranked where we are," stated Charlestown head coach Jason Hawkins after the ball game.

He concluded, "We did everything good tonight. We played great on both sides of the ball. I am so proud of the kids."

Charlestown was led by Daniel with 257 yards on 22 carries and four touchdowns followed by McCutchen with 25 carries for 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Corydon was led by Shane Brown with 27 yards on four carries and Alex McAfee with 16 yards on 10 carries.

Daniel completed seven of nine passes for 82 yards.

Burton completed 16 of 34 passes for 142 yards and one interception.

Sexton had five catches for 50 yards for the Pirates while Tyler Odle had one catch for 18 yards and Cody Donahue had one catch for 14 yards.

Corydon Central's Tyler Ross recorded six catches for 83 yards followed by Dylan Jensen with four catches for 33 yards and McAfee had three catches for one yard.

The Pirate defense tallied nine sacks for a loss of 73 yards for the Panthers. Recording sacks for Charlestown were: Darren Taylor 2, Jimmy Garcia 2, Desmond Wiley 1, Jake Harper 1, Adam Hoff 1, Tyler Odle 1 and Drexler Meadors 1.

Charlestown's 47-0 win was the second consecutive shutout win for the Pirates. Charlestown captured the 48-0 win last week at Salem.

The Pirates tallied 505 yards on the ground and 82 yards passing for a total of 587 yards.

Corydon Central tallied 31 yards rushing and 142 yards passing for a total of 173 yards.

The Pirates will host the Pioneers of Providence this Friday night for Senior Night. The kick off is set for 7 p.m.