

Pirates defense dominates on Senior Night

Written by George Browning
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Charlestown holds Providence to 15 total yards

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The forecasted rain for last Friday night could not spoil the special night at The Boneyard as Charlestown High School honored the seniors of fall sports. Prior to the kick off seniors were escorted on the field by parents and guardians and honored for their hardwork and dedication through their high school careers.

Once seniors were recognized the Pirates had some business to take care of. The Pioneers of Providence (3-5) came into Dutch Reis Field hoping to knock off the undefeated Class 3A No. 2 (in the AP poll) Pirates and spoil their Senior Night. The Pirates were coming off a 47-0 victory over Mid Southern Conference rival Corydon Central and the Pioneers were coming off a 21-14 win over Class 3A Evansville Bosse.

The Pirates would dominate the game from the kick off and by the half time break Charlestown held the 41-0 lead. The wind had picked up near the end of the half as the rain began to fall. As the temperature was dropping and rain was falling, the clock began to run continuously.

Charlestown's defense came ready to play. The Pirates defensive line held Providence to 15 total yards in the ballgame. The Pirates captured their third consecutive shutout with the 53-0 win. The Pirates now stand at 8-0.

Providence could not get going as the Pirate defense held them in negative yardage their first five possessions. Through most of the first half, Providence was statistically at negative nine yards. By the halftime break the Pioneers collected four yards.

Charlestown found the scoreboard on their first possession as senior running back Seth McCutchen bulldozed his way into the endzone from two yards out. The extra point attempt by senior quarterback Aaron Daniel split the uprights for the early 7-0 lead at the 8:23 mark of the first stanza.

Providence was held to three and out on their second possession.

The Pirates would take advantage of a short field. Daniel hooked up with classmate Tyler Odle for a 27 yard touchdown pass. Daniel tacked on the extra point for the 14-0 advantage with 5:04 remaining in the quarter.

Both teams traded possessions the remainder of the quarter.

The second stanza began with Daniel zig-zagging 41 yards to the goal line. He added the extra point to give Charlestown the 21-0 lead with 11:34 remaining in the first half.

The Charlestown defense stood tall and forced Providence to another three and out before Daniel hit Odle for a 63 yard catch and run. Daniel again added the extra point for the 28-0 Pirate advantage at the 8:38 mark of the second.

Charlestown would find the scoreboard again 3:33 later as Daniel sprinted 32 yards to pay dirt. He would miss the extra point attempt for the 34-0 Charlestown lead.

Late in the first half, the Pioneers would gather their first, first down of the ballgame. Providence would gain 11 yards on five plays before being forced to punt.

Charlestown would only need one play to find the endzone after gathering the Pioneer punt. Daniel would hit classmate Wesley Sexton for a 76 yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good by Daniel for the 41-0 Pirate lead at the 1:35 mark of the first half. The score would be the

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last of the half.

The third stanza would see the Pirates add to their lead as Charlestown would find the endzone twice in the 12 minute period.

Charlestown's Daniel hit Sexton for a 10 yard touchdown pass. The extra point was no good for the 47-0 Pirate advantage. The second Pirate score in the period came from senior Ryan Wilkerson as he sprinted 35 yards to the goal line. The extra point was no good for the 53-0 lead.

The Wilkerson touchdown would prove to be the last score of the ballgame as the running clock shortened scoring opportunities.

Charlestown would capture their senior night victory, 53-0.

Charlestown was led by Daniel with 100 yards on six carries and two touchdowns followed by Wilkerson with one carry for 35 yards and one touchdown. McCutchen tallied 11 carries for 25 yards and one touchdown.

Providence was led by Conner Johnson with five carries for 18 yards followed by Billy Wingate with nine carries for 10 yards.

Daniel completed 10-of-13 passes for 252 yards and four touchdowns. Providence's Nathan Banet completed 1-of-7 passes for three yards.

Odle led all receivers with six catches for 122 yards and two touchdowns followed by Sexton with three catches for 111 yards and two touchdowns. Cody Donahue collected one catch for 19 yards.

Providence's Mason Hublar had one catch for three yards.

Charlestown tallied 169 yards rushing and 252 yards passing for 421 yards of total offense.

Providence tallied 12 yards rushing and three yards passing for a total of 15 yards.

Charlestown's Tyler Odle broke the career receiving yards school record during the contest. The record, 1,404 yards, was set in 2007 by Stephen Grayson.

The Pirates will travel to Eastern this Friday night for a 7 p.m. kick off. A win over the Musketeers (1-7) will give Charlestown their fourth perfect season, second since 2007. The Pirates also went undefeated in 1988 and 1989.