

The weather did not cooperate with the Sectional Semi-Final games across Southern Indiana last Friday night. The rain made it's way into the area and hung around making for a sloppy field in The Boneyard. The Pirates had no problems in the conditions as they scored on seven of their first eight possessions in the first half. Charlestown had little trouble with the visiting Panthers of Corydon Central. The Pirates took the 49-6 win to advance to this Friday night's Sectional 23 Championship. The 11-0 Pirates of Charlestown will travel to Brownstown Central (10-1) for a 7 p.m. kick -off. The Braves' only loss (41-3) on the season came at the hands of the Pirates during week 2.

“All I have heard from my coaching staff and my wife, 'what are you going to do when it rains? We don't have an offense built for playing in the rain.' Guess what? We have an offense that can play in the rain!,” stated sixth year Charlestown head coach Jason Hawkins in the on field Pirate Nation huddle after the ballgame.

The Pirates received the opening kick off. It only took Charlestown 75 seconds to find the endzone as senior quarterback Aaron Daniel weaved his way 30 yards through the Panther defense to pay dirt. Daniel's extra point attempt was good for the early 7-0 Pirate lead at the 10:44 mark.

Corydon Central's first possession ended in a turnover as Pirate junior linebacker Matt Myers recovered his first of three fumbles in the ballgame.

Charlestown would not need much time to capitalize on the turnover. Daniel scampered 24 yards to the goal line. His extra point attempt was good for the 14-0 advantage at the 9:38 mark.

The Charlestown defense stood strong during Corydon's next possession. The Panthers were forced to punt.

Charlestown needed a mere six plays to find the endzone for the third time. This time, Daniel ran the ball in from six yards out. His extra point attempt was good for the 21-0 Pirate lead at the 3:34 mark of the first stanza of play.

Corydon senior quarterback Chase Burton was picked off by Pirate senior Cody Donahue to end the Panthers' next possession.

This time, the home-standing Pirates needed nine plays to find the endzone. Daniel took the ball in from five yards out with 12 seconds remaining in the first quarter. His extra point attempt was good for the 28-0 advantage.

The second stanza began with Charlestown junior Desmond Wiley blocking a Corydon Central punt giving the Pirates the ball in Panther territory.

Charlestown was facing a fourth and 14 on the Panthers' 47 yard line. The Pirates lined up in punt formation. Coach Hawkins had called a fake punt and to the delight of Pirate Nation Daniel sprinted 47 yards to the goal line. He tacked on the extra point for the 35-0 Charlestown lead at the 10:36 mark of the first half.

The Panthers were battling the damp conditions and again fumbled the ball. Myers recovered his second fumble of the night on Corydon Central's 20 yard line.

Charlestown needed just one play to capitalize on the turnover.

Daniel hooked up with Donahue for the 20 yard touchdown pass. The extra point attempt by Daniel split the uprights for the 42-0 Pirate advantage at the 9:49 mark of the second stanza.

Corydon's defense forced the Pirates to punt on their next possession.

The Pirates pinned the Panthers on their own one yard line. The tough Charlestown defense again forced Corydon to punt.

Charlestown would find their last score of the ballgame at the 1:46 mark of the first half. Pirate senior running back Seth McCutchen bulldozed his way three yards into the endzone. Daniel split the uprights for the 49-0 Pirate advantage.

The Pirates defense ended the first half as Myers recovered his third fumble of the game on Corydon's 33 yard line.

Charlestown held the 49-0 advantage heading into the halftime break.

The second half of the ball game seen the majority of the Pirate starters cheering on their teammates from the sideline.

The only score of the second half came at the 9:45 mark of the final period as Burton hit classmate Mitch Akers for the 39 yard touchdown pass. The two point conversion attempt failed as Charlestown held the 49-6 lead.

The clock continued to run the majority of the second half. The Pirates awaited the clock to hit triple zeros before celebrating their 49-6 win and right to advance to the Sectional 23 Championship game.

“We came out and played better than I thought we could. I told the kids 'let's go out and show the state that we are better than they thought we were.' We played excellent on both sides of the ball. Defensively we played excellent. We swarmed to the ball,” Coach Hawkins stated. “Aaron (Daniel) and Seth (McCutchen) came out to prove that the first game (at Corydon on September 28, a 47-0 Pirate win) wasn't a fluke. This is the most focused team I've been around.”

Hawkins concluded in the huddle after the ballgame, "I am proud of you all. It's been a few years since we've been in a Sectional Championship game and we haven't won a Sectional title since '96. This is a big, big week, next week."

Charlestown was led by Daniel with nine carries for 163 yards and five touchdowns followed by McCutchen with 18 carries for 130 yards and one touchdown.

Pirate Darren Taylor added five carries for 46 yards and Ryan Wilkerson recorded five carries for 18 yards.

Corydon Central was led by Shane Brown with 12 carries for 11 yards and Joshua Allen with four carries for 11 yards. Burton added six carries for one yard.

Charlestown's Daniel completed 6-of-9 pass attempts for 64 yards and one touchdown. Tyler Odle had three catches for 14 yards while Wesley Sexton added one catch for 26 yards. Donahue recorded one catch for 20 yards and one touchdown.

Corydon's Burton went 7-for-20 passing for one touchdown and one interception. Akers tallied four catches for 74 yards and one touchdown. Tyler Ross added three catches for 26 yards.

The Pirates recorded 369 yards rushing and 64 yards passing for a total of 433 yards.

Corydon Central recorded 21 yards rushing and 100 yards passing for a total of 121 yards.

The Panthers ended the season at 8-3.

Charlestown will take their unblemished record to Brownstown this Friday night for the Sectional 23 Championship. Pirate Nation is encouraged to attend the ball game to cheer on

their Pirates. Kick off is set for 7 p.m.

Directions to Brownstown Central from CHS: Go northwest on Pirate Place toward Park Street; Turn left onto Park Street; Turn right onto IN-3/ Market Street; Turn left onto IN-403; Turn slight right onto IN-160 W; Merge onto I-65 N; Merge onto US-50 via Exit 50B toward Seymour/ Brownstown; Turn right onto W. Bridge Street; Turn right onto N. Elm Street. Brownstown Central High School is located at 500 N. Elm Street in Brownstown, 47220.