

Pirate Nation was anxious for kick off last Friday night in the Boneyard as fans arrived early to get the best seats. Officials at Charlestown High School were prepared for a full house as two sets of auxiliary bleachers were brought in to help with the overflow of fans. Pirate Nation answered the call as there was standing room only at Dutch Reis Field for the Regional Championship game pitting the home standing Pirates and the Titans of Gibson Southern.

The Pirates jumped out to an early 49-21 lead at the halftime break but could not overcome a Titan comeback in the second half. Gibson Southern held Charlestown's explosive offense scoreless in the second they took the 57-49 victory.

The visiting Titans won the opening coin toss and chose to defer to the second half.

Charlestown took advantage of the first possession scoring in 12 plays. Pirate senior quarterback Aaron Daniel hooked up with classmate wide receiver Tyler Odle for a 14 yard touchdown pass. Daniel's kick was good for the early 7-0 Charlestown lead at the 7:44 mark.

During the Titans' first possession senior quarterback Jordan Scheller mishandled the snap as Charlestown junior defensive lineman Desmond Wiley recovered the fumble.

The Pirates would capitalize on the turnover as senior running back Seth McCutchen bulldozed his way one yard into the endzone. Daniel would add the extra point for the 14-0 Charlestown lead at the 4:12 mark in the first quarter. The score would prove to be the final score of the opening quarter of play.

Early in the second stanza Gibson Southern turned the ball over on downs. The Pirates needed just one play to capitalize on the turnover. Daniel sprinted 56 yards to the endzone. His extra point attempt was good for the 21-0 Charlestown lead at the 9:06 mark of the first half.

The Pirates needed just two minutes to find the endzone again as McCutchen scampered 46 yards to the goal line. Daniel split the uprights for the extra point to give Charlestown the 28-0 advantage at the 7:06 mark of the second period of play.

Gibson Southern would find the scoreboard as Scheller hooked up with classmate Andrew Ziliak for a seven yard touchdown pass. The extra point attempt by sophomore Hunter DeWeese was good for the 28-7 Pirate lead at the 4:08 mark of the second quarter.

Charlestown would answer the Titan score in just four plays. Daniel rambled 22 yards to the endzone before he added the extra point. The Pirates held the 35-7 advantage at the 3:08 mark of the first half.

The Titans needed less than one minute to answer the Charlestown score. Scheller hit junior wide receiver Brooks Martin for a 60 yard touchdown catch and run. DeWeese nailed the extra point for the 35-14 Pirate lead at the 2:23 mark of the half.

The Pirates needed just 50 seconds to find the scoreboard again. Daniel hooked up with classmate wide receiver Wesley Sexton for a 12 yard touchdown pass. Daniel split the uprights for the 42-14 Charlestown advantage with 1:32 in the second period.

Gibson Southern would find the endzone late in the half as Scheller hooked up with Ziliak for a four yard touchdown pass. DeWeese's extra point was good for the 42-21 Charlestown lead with 40 seconds remaining in the half.

Charlestown would find the endzone one more time before the halftime break as Daniel

Pirates stumble in second half, fall to Gibson Southern 57-49 in Regional

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hooked up with Odle for a 49 yard touchdown pass. Daniel's extra point attempt was good to extend the Pirates' lead back to 28 going into the halftime break.

The Pirates held the 49-21 halftime lead over the Titans. The score would prove to be Charlestown's last of the ballgame.

The second half belonged to the visiting Titans as they found the endzone five times. Gibson Southern recorded three running touchdowns from Scheller (one yard, nine yards and one yard) and two passing touchdowns (65 yards from Scheller to Spencer Schmitt and one yard from Scheller to Brooks Martin). Scheller also tacked on a two point conversion for Gibson Southern.

The Titans (11-2) captured the Regional title by taking the 57-49 win over the previously unbeaten Pirates. Charlestown finished the season at 12-1. The Pirates won the Mid Southern Conference and were Sectional 23 Champions.

"We just came out in the second half and was flat. That was the worst 24 minutes we've played this year. It was a snowball affect," stated Charlestown Head Coach Jason Hawkins after the ball game. "We had a couple of turnovers, a penalty on a third down play, we had too many errors to come back from. My hat's off to Gibson Southern. They've had two overtime games in the past two weeks and came back from 28 points down tonight. They just kept fighting."

Charlestown was led by Daniel with 181 yards on 26 carries and two touchdowns followed by McCutchen with 82 yards on 15 carries and two touchdowns.

Gibson Southern was led by Scheller with 88 yards on 29 carries and three touchdowns.

Daniel went 14-of-24 passing for 222 yards and three touchdowns. He threw one interception.

Scheller went 26-of-38 passing for 447 yards and five touchdowns.

Charlestown was led by Odle with seven catches for 131 yards and two touchdowns. Sexton tallied five catches for 53 yards and one touchdown and McCutchen recorded two catches for 38 yards.

Gibson Southern was led by Schmitt with 12 catches for 230 yards and two touchdowns followed by Martin for three catches for 69 yards and two touchdowns.

The Pirates tallied 263 yards rushing and 222 yards passing for a total of 485 yards.

The Titans recorded 113 yards rushing and 447 yards passing for a total of 560 yards.

Charlestown had 18 seniors lace up their cleats and pull on their black and blue jerseys to take the field at Dutch Reis and protect The Boneyard for the last time including: Aaron Daniel, Tyler Odle, Gage Brafford, Jared Gordon, Ryan Wilkerson, Zach Green, Seth McCutchen, Stephen Johnson, Connor Brock, Zach Knight, Cole Nokes, Leighton Brewer, Ethan Schafer, Alec Wakefield, Corey Roberts, Wesley Sexton, Corey Givans and Cody Donahue.