

?Metzger returns as Pirates fall 28-14 on Senior Night to Lawrenceburg

Written by Michael Ross

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? Last Friday night the Pirate faithful seen a familiar number on the gridiron.

After suffering a knee injury in the first half of week four at Eastern Charlestown's #3, Cameron Metzger, returned to play in his last regular season game as a Pirate.

Prior to the kick-off the Pirates honored the senior members of the school's football, volleyball, soccer, cross country, boys tennis and girls golf teams, the cheerleaders and Marching Pirates with Senior Night activities.

Unfortunately, the Tigers of Lawrenceburg spoiled the night as they pulled out the 28-14 win to finish the season at 8-1 while Charlestown finished the regular season at 6-3. The Pirates are Co-Champs of the Mid Southern Conference as they finished at 5-1. Their only loss in conference play coming in week seven at Salem.

Charlestown's defense had a difficult time stopping Lawrenceburg runningback Sean Snider. The senior accounted for all four of the Tigers touchdowns.

Lawrenceburg took the opening kick off and drove down the field. The drive was capped off at the 6:45 mark as Snider found the endzone from one yard out. Tiger kicker Jake Schornick tacked on the extra point for the early 7-0 Lawrenceburg advantage.

It only took Charlestown four plays to answer.

Charlestown senior quarterback Damon Vest hooked up with junior Josh Graham for a 56 yard touchdown pass at the 4:53 mark. Pirate kicker Ariel Stephens' extra point spilt the uprights to knot the ballgame at 7.

The second stanza saw the Tigers strike early in the period as Snider dove from one yard out to find the endzone with 10:14 left in the first half of play. Schornick's extra point was good to give Lawrenceburg the 14-7 lead.

The Pirate offense drove down the field until they were faced with a third and 17 on Lawrenceburg's 26 yard line. Vest found classmate Cameron Metzger amongst three Tiger defenders for the 23 yard gain and the Pirate first down at the three yard line.

The ensuing play seen Vest find the endzone from three yards out. Stephens' kick again spilt the uprights at the 5:06 mark. The score and extra point knotted the ballgame at 14.

The Tigers would find the scoreboard one final time in the first half. This time Lawrenceburg used seven plays to get down the field. Snider scampered 34 yards for the touchdown at the 2:38 mark. Schornick's kick was good to push Lawrenceburg to the 21-14 advantage at the halftime break.

The second half started with both teams being forced to punt their opening drives.

The third possession of the third quarter was not any friendlier to the Pirates as Vest was picked off by a Tiger defender.

Lawrenceburg took advantage of the Charlestown turnover as quarterback Jim Faehner hooked up with Snider for a 16 yard touchdown pass with just 24 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Schornick's kick went down the middle for the 28-14 Tiger advantage.

Charlestown drove down the field late in the fourth quarter to the one-foot line. The Tiger defense remained tough as Lawrenceburg did not allow another Pirate score.

The visiting Tigers spoiled Charlestown's Senior Night collecting the 28-14 win.

Next week the Pirates will face Mid Southern Conference rival the North Harrison Cougars in the opening round of Sectional 23 play at Dutch Reis Field.

"We are looking forward to Sectionals. Last week they had us down 7-0 at halftime," stated head coach Jason Hawkins. "We better be ready to play next week because they will be ready to play or it will be an early exit."

Hawkins said the team had a good week of practice heading into last Friday's game with

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Lawrenceburg.

“We had a great week of practice. Probably the best week we’ve had since I’ve been here. That’s what frustrates me. I’m frustrated right now,” Hawkins concluded.

The Pirates and Cougars will kick-off Sectional play at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person. Charlestown Punch Passes and All-Sport Passes are not valid for IHSAA tournament games.