

By Aaron Little

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Hurricane Isaac rolled through Southern Indiana last Friday night, and ceded to clear skies just in time for kick-off in the Patoka Lake Athletic Conference (PLAC) varsity football matchup between the West Washington Senators and Springs Valley Blackhawks. The Senators showed the force of their own nature by amassing 420 yards in total offense to defeat the Blackhawks 38-6.

West Washington's head coach Phillip Bowsman was pleased with his team's performance. "Coming into tonight we felt pretty good. We knew we were a good team, we just needed to execute, finish, play a solid 48 minutes and eliminate mistakes, and we did." The Senators forced the Blackhawks into four turnovers, while limited them to 149 yards from scrimmage in a dominating performance. Springs Valley's head coach Kevin Mills concurred, saying, "From the get-go West Washington just absolutely overpowered us. They spread us out, and they were running up the middle on us, and then they would throw it... They just hit us, and outplayed us, outcoached us. They just did a heck of a job. I really thought they were well prepared. They

executed well.”

The Senators (2-1, 1-0 PLAC) received the ball to open play, and starting from their own 38-yard line marched down the field in 10 plays, culminating with a four-yard touchdown run by junior Tyler Holliday. The extra point kick by sophomore Brenden Grimes was successful, giving the visitors the lead 7-0. Sophomore quarterback Cody Maudlin competed four of five passes for 57 yards on the drive, the most important being a 28-yard strike to senior Matt Brackney on a third down and 11 from the Senators' half of the field.

The previously undefeated Blackhawks (2-1, 1-1 PLAC) responded with an impressive drive of their own on the ensuing possession, only to be stymied by a fumbled snap that was fumbled and recovered by the Senators at their own nine-yard line. Coach Mills saw this as a turning point in the game, “We got down there on our first drive, may have got down around the 10-yard line and fumbled the snap and basically we never recovered.” The Senators, emboldened in stopping the Blackhawks attack, proceeded on a drive down the gridiron, efficiently mixing a punishing running game and explosive aerial assault. The 91-yard drive spanned the first- and second-quarters, and with 8:27 left in the second Brackney took a swing pass from Maudlin off the left side, wove through several defenders, and dove over another to stretch the lead to 14-0 after another PAT by Grimes.

Two possessions by both teams just before halftime produced no points, but the pass/run threat of Maudlin and the hard-nosed running of junior Tyler Dunn wore down the Blackhawk's defense. Opening up in the second half, the Senators scored on their first four possessions with touchdown runs of nine yards by Holliday, 10 yards by senior Chad Thompson, and one yard by senior Jared Maudlin, and a 28-yard field goal by Grimes. Only a fourth-quarter fumble by the Senators and touchdown by the Blackhawks kept West Washington from total domination, and as the final horn sounded the scoreboard read 38-6 in favor of the Senators.

Coach Bowsman commented on the teams second half success, saying, “The first two weeks we hadn't scored in the third quarter so we really stressed about winning every quarter and we did that tonight. We came out in that third quarter and we were pretty explosive. We really stressed the importance of coming out and starting a half because next week we've got Perry (Central) and (the following week) Paoli and when the game is tighter and you're trailing you can't be flat in the third (quarter). We really did emphasize that third quarter start, and I was pleased and hopefully we can continue that against Perry and Paoli in the next two weeks.”

West Washington will host the Perry Central Commodores next Friday, September 7, at Art Sanders Field. Game time is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Offensive Stats

**WW**

Passing – 157

C. Maudlin – 11-20-157-0, Smith – 0-1-0-0

Receiving – 157

Thompson – 6-58, Brackney – 3-56, Holliday – 2-43

Rushing – 263

Thompson – 5-15, T. Dunn – 9-83, C. Maudlin – 8-38, Holliday – 5-18, J. Maudlin – 6-18, Brackney – 5-54, Keller – 4-40, Smith – 1-(-3)

**SV**

Passing – 91

Brown – 5-15-91-2

Receiving – 91

Hill – 3-58, Nachreiner – 2-33

Rushing – 58

Warren – 7-37, Baggett – 5-4, Weddle – 1-2, Switzer – 7-15, Webster – 3-0, B. Robling – 1-(-2),

Reynolds – 1-2