

?Salem eats time off clock; outlasts Charlestown 18-13 in Lions' Homecoming

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The Salem Lions (5-2, 4-1 MSC) used extended possession time to keep the Charlestown Pirates (5-2, 4-1 MSC) away from the football in an 18-13 Mid Southern Conference battle Friday night in Salem.

The game was hardly decided early, either. A long 10-minute 20 play drive by the Lions in the waning minutes ate up enough clock for them to keep the Pirates from winning. Salem had two fourth down conversions while Charlestown had none. That factor and turnovers by the Pirates sealed Charlestown's fate.

Just prior to the long 20 play Salem drive, Charlestown gave up the ball inside Salem's 10-yard line on the first play in the 4th period.

Charlestown coach Jason Hawkins was to the point after the game in what he thought were the main reasons for his team's loss to the Lions.

"You can't turn the ball over, and win the conference. We didn't get the 4th down conversion, and they did," said Hawkins.

"We wanted to beat the clock in that quarter. We wanted to score, but I just wanted to get them down there as far as we could," explained Lions' coach Motsinger.

Salem scored their 3rd touchdown of the night with only 1:55 left in the game, when Jarod Farmer broke through the line for a score. The run attempt for the 2 extra points failed.

"We had a sophomore step up and make a nice run. Jarod Farmer got it into the end zone for us," said Motsinger.

The Pirates had not given up, though, not by any means. With only 1.7 ticks left on the game clock, the Pirates' Josh Graham scored on a 7 yard pass from Damon Vest. The conversion run failed, but the Pirates had no time left on the clock.

Senior Jason Beavers played with tremendous fortitude in the game. Hew was hobbled with an injury during the game, but played at the end when it counted. The senior drew praise from Motsinger, who said, "Justin (Beavers) got his knee a little banged up tonight. (Senior) He's worked very, very hard for us, and he wanted this game as much as any of them, and he wasn't going to go down."

Salem didn't waste any time in getting out on top, and playing aggressively. That was the plan going into the game, according to Motsinger. The Lions got a 1st down at the 10 minute mark in the 2nd quarter, getting a first and ten at the 6 yard line. They promptly scored at 9:39 when Christian Chastain ran in from 6 yards out. The extra point kick failed.

"We wanted to play aggressive right out of the gate. We talked about that and worked on it all week. We felt like we could get it, and the guys executed," said the Salem coach. "We've got a pretty quick team defensively, they stay in their roles, and they stay in their gaps."

The Pirates answered Salem with a score of their own, when they scored on a Michael Baines TD. Ariel Stephens scored with the extra point kick, all at the 4:41 mark in the 2nd quarter.

After a scoreless 3rd quarter, the Salem recovery of the ball inside their 10-yard line set up the 4th quarter heroics.

Salem has a chance to clinch a tie in the MSC with a win against Corydon this Friday at home. Charlestown hosts MSC foe North Harrison and both games start at 7 p.m.

"We're real proud of the way the boys played tonight," Motsinger said.