

Salem Beats NHHS 22-6

Written by George Browning
Tuesday, 10 September 2013 00:00 -

By Simon Baumgartle

Special Correspondent

After two road games the Salem Lions finally returned home to play North Harrison.

Both teams came into the game with 1-1 records.

Last year Salem beat North Harrison twice including a 27-6 victory in the sectional tournament. The Lions picked up where they left off Friday, turning back the visiting Cougars, 22-6.

After escaping from Silver Creek with a 21-20 win last week, Hartsfield challenged his squad to get better in every area.

He said he felt like they did that Friday against the Cougars.

"I thought we got better," Hartsfield said. "We still have work to do, but our kids are starting to catch on to what we are trying to do"

In Friday's game, ball protection was a huge problem for North Harrison. On their first drive NH quarterback Jack Phelps led them down the field. The drive stalled when SHS defensive lineman Davon Grant got into the Cougar's backfield and hit the Phelps, causing a fumble.

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Grant was a menace on the field all night, he caused pressure on Phelps and finished with two sacks plus the fumble.

Both teams were scoreless at the end of the first quarter.

On Salem's first play of the second quarter the ball was snapped way over QB Jordan McNeely's head, Cougar's Linebacker Brad Missi recovered the ball to give North Harrison a chance to take a lead. They took advantage. Phelps converted a critical fourth down conversion with a six-yard pass to Brandon Stokes, to end the drive. Austin Nevil made a five-yard touchdown run. He had 41 yards on the night. The two-point conversion try was no good, but the Cougars were up 6-0.

Salem wasted no time in striking back. Running back Andrew Maudlin, who had to miss last week as part of his ejection from the Paoli game in week one, made a big 18-yard run to start the drive, and finished it with a three-yard touchdown. Collin Badger made the two-point conversion and the Lions were up 8-6.

Salem's defense shut out the Cougars in the second half, recording three sacks, an interception and a fumble recovery.

Hartsfield applauded his team's effort on that side of the ball.

"Defenses are what wins championships," he said. "I think our defense has played well in all three of our games to this point."

Salem had 251yds rushing, led by McNeely, 114 yards, and Maudlin, totalled 76 yards.

Lion's FB Collin Badger had the first TD of the half on a one-yard run. He had 49 yards rushing.

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McNeely had a 5-yard TD run to make the final score 22-6.

Phelps had 44 yards passing even with little time, due to a lot of pressure from Salem's defense. Also, the Cougar's defense only allowed -3 yards passing.

North Harrison is now 1-2 and hosts the 1-2 Pirates of Charlestown at home Friday.

Salem is 2-1 and is on the road for the third time this year at 3-0 Brownstown Central, who beat them in the sectional last year.

Hartsfield is happy with where his team is three games into the season, but said he still doesn't know all the answers.

"We will find out how good we are Friday at Brownstown," he said. "All roads in the Mid Southern Conference go through Elm Street. They are solid and are one of the more balanced teams we will ever play. They run the ball 54 percent of the time and they pass it 46 percent. That's about as balanced as you can be."

As for his team, he said they just need to continue to improve.

Kick-off for Friday's game will be at 7 p.m.