

Musketeers look to regroup

Written by George Browning
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On the surface, there wasn't a lot for the Eastern High School football team to feel good about after Saturday morning's 42-0 loss at West Washington.

One of the things that had seemingly improved over recent years was the team's ability to avoid the big gain.

Besides a long pass early in the contest and allowing a long punt return on special teams, Eastern forced the Senators to earn everything they got.

Head Coach John Dablow said that was a point of emphasis heading into the season.

"One of our goals was to not give up the big play, which we did, but we just couldn't get them off the field," Dablow said. "We have to find a way to turn six yard gains into two yard gains.

"I think there were three areas that really hurt us Saturday. The first was what I just mentioned, not being able to get WW off the field. The second was our inability to move the football. We must find a way to get first downs. The third was special team play, especially our punt team. We gave up a block and our coverage was not very good. Those three things are things that need to be addressed."

One of the ways Dablow and the Musketeers plan to move the fall better moving forward is to throw quick-hitting passes. The team had a little success with that against the Senators and will look to add more into the offense this week.

"We knew going in that our offensive line was inexperienced," Dablow said. "We have to try and put them in to a position where they can be successful. If that means quick hitters, so be it."

Eastern game out with a lot of intensity and looked as if they were going to make the game a

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dog-fight until a pass interference penalty and a pass play that went for 26 yards and allowed the Senators to convert a fourth down.

Dablow said while that play may have zapped momentum, his team didn't throw in the towel and really played hard all the way until the end.

"Maybe that play (zapped us) a little," he said. "I thought the kids played hard the entire game though. That was definitely a call that we would like to have back. Unfortunately, that's a part of the game. We need to find a way to keep that fire just a little longer. WW is a very good football team. They really kept their poise that first drive and wore us down."

The Musketeers will now turn their focus to the Mid Southern Conference as they welcome Clarksville to town.

Eastern defeated the Generals 55-22 last year.

Dablow has watched Clarksville and says his team must put Saturday's loss behind them and focus on cleaning the areas that they struggled with against WW.

"They look very big and as always athletic," Dablow said. "I think the keys are going to be the same this week as last week. Don't give up the big play, but hopefully find a way to get them off the field. Move the ball on offense, and play better special teams. That should be a recipe we'd like to use all season. I think our main focus is to try and keep improving week to week. I know I know cliché right, but I do think that's the main thing right now."