

Oct. 28 Football

Notre Dame the latest team victimized by motivated Spartan receivers

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 28: The bulletin board was active in Steinert's lockerroom this week.

A lot of it had to do with the Spartans outstanding receiving trio of seniors Keon White and Jordan Dunn and junior Vanel Dossous, who were told by a little birdie named Dan Caruso they might be getting overlooked by folks around Mercer County.

The three have been nothing less than consistent and often times downright spectacular this season, and in tonight's 21-10 win over Notre Dame they made their presence felt.

Dossous had four catches for 91 yards and a touchdown, while White had two catches, including an amazing 32-yarder. Dunn, who has had his moments this year, was the odd man out with just one catch, but did his usual downfield blocking and also helped on the defensive end.

Those three can all go get it, and there's also tight end Dean Lucchesi, not to mention running backs Tyler Zandomenego and Jeff Mattonelli to contend with out of the backfield.

"We've got five options we could go to," Caruso said. "My credit to them is they don't get greedy. They don't complain about not getting the ball, we spread it around.

"Tonight Tyler had the hot hand (with 81 rushing yards) so we rode him."

But Zandomenego said the receivers made his actions possible.

Jordan, Vanel, Keon, Dean, Jeff, all of us can catch the ball and open it up," Zandomenego said. "That's what opened it up for me tonight to run the ball, because they're so worried about our receivers."

Ironically, the first pass of the night from Adam Reise was dropped. His next throw looked to be headed over the wrong shoulder of Dossous, who somehow twisted and turned and grabbed the ball over his shoulder for a sensational 29-yard catch to kick-start the first scoring drive.



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Steinert coach Dan Caruso has no problem telling the world that Vanel Dossous has the best hands he has ever seen on a high school receiver (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportphoto@aol.com).

Dossous completed Steinert's scoring with a 41-yard TD grab on a straight fly pattern.

"I'll say this and I'm not afraid to say this – Vanel Dossous has the best hands of any high school receiver I've ever seen," Caruso said. "If he can work on other facets of the game he's gonna be excellent. Especially next year, the sky's the limit for him."

Later in the game, Riese slightly under-threw White, who promptly adjusted his route, slipped inside the defender and came back to the ball for a key 32-yard reception that set up the Spartans second touchdown.

"I don't even know what to say, those guys help me so much every week," Riese said. "That catch by Keon, I pressed the ball a little bit, but he goes up and makes a helluva catch. I can't say anything more than thank you to him, it's an awesome catch."

It turns out that in the end, the Spartan pass catchers were aided by more than just talent.

"They were very much motivated this week," Caruso said. "They kept hearing how (Notre Dame's) Billy Reed is the best receiver in the league. I may have put that in their head a lot this week.

"They wanted to prove that they were the best receivers in the league. They heard that (ND coach) Chappy Moore said at the 12th Man Club that we have an excellent quarterback and some decent receivers. They wanted to prove they weren't just decent."

They did a more-than-decent job of doing just that.