

Oct. 1 Football: **Steinert 18, Hightstown 0; Hamilton 47, WW-P North 0**



Steinert linebacker Alex Svecz clutches the ball and won't let it go after he scored on a 15-yard interception return against Hightstown today. Helping Svecz celebrate are Dean Lucchesi (29), Ryan Malagrino (56) and Eddie Ashley (22). Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at www.dennissymons.com.

Steinert's defense delivers in shutout victory over Hightstown

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 1: From 405 to five.

Pick a league anywhere in the world throughout the history of football, and you may never find a larger difference in rushing yards allowed by a team from one week to the next, than what Steinert accomplished with those two numbers.

After allowing Lawrence to go crazy with 405 rushing yards last week, the Spartans turned things around drastically today by allowing Hightstown just five yards on the ground in posting an 18-0 victory at home.

“This feels great,” said senior lineman Matt Parmigiani. “We didn’t have the same defense we usually have (missing lineman Enock Asante) but we came up and stopped them. We made the adjustment.

“Last week we didn’t play good at all. We let up our assignments, they ran the ball outside and we broke down. We didn’t make tackles, nothing. It wasn’t assignment football.”

But defensive coordinator Bob Ziegler and the staff had a little chat about that this week.

“We talked about wanting the goose egg,” coach Dan Caruso said. “We challenged them.”

And they answered the challenge by allowing just 89 yards of total offense while collecting three sacks, four interceptions and a defensive touchdown.

“We had practiced hard,” said Parmigiani, one of the few veterans on the defensive unit. “Every play we got better. We came out here and we just put it all on the field.”

On a day when there were 155 yards in penalties whistled, the tone was set on the first play when the Spartans burned their trick play for a huge pass completion from Keon White to

Vanel Dossous, only to have it called back due to an illegal shift.

But Dossous would have his day. On the Spartans next possession he made an incredible catch from Adam Riese while tightly covered in the endzone. Before the half ended, Dossous ran a perfect post pattern and Riese delivered a 17-yard touchdown strike on fourth-and-16.

“I knew the middle was wide open,” Dossous said. “I saw the ball and caught up with it.”

The junior is playing his first season on varsity and seems to be developing a nice chemistry with Riese, who was 10-for-19 for 118 yards and found five different receivers.

“We worked in practice,” said Dossous, who had three catches for 63 yards. “Whenever we had time, we were always working with each other.”

With Steinert holding a 12-0 lead at intermission, Hightstown still had hopes as it came out for the second half.

But Alex Svecz, who had a first-half sack, crushed the Rams hope when he returned a deflected pass 15 yards for a touchdown.

John Kazier, Jeff Mattonelli and Jordan Dunn also had picks, while Dean Lucchesi and AJ Mostrangeli added sacks.

After Svecz’s score, it became a matter of whether Steinert would get the shutout. That looked in jeopardy the fourth quarter, as Hightstown had a first-and-goal at the 10 after a blocked punt, and the second string defense was in.

The reserves held but got called for a penalty on fourth down, giving the Rams a first-and-goal from the five. On fourth down, quarterback Dustin Kollman rolled to the two-yard line but was met by Sam Park and Eric “Bro of Mehoff” Fink, who was playing his first game since a preseason concussion.

“We told those guys ‘You gotta keep them out of the endzone, we want the shutout,’” Caruso said. “Those last eight plays we had the second line and second linebackers in and they did a great job. I was proud of them. I was proud of everybody.”

He’s also proud to be 3-1 for the first time in his four years as a head coach.

“I’ve never been here before except when I was offensive line coach,” Caruso said. “Three and one is respectable going into the bye. That’s where we want to be.”

“We’ve never been three and one, so this feels great,” added Parmigiani. “Now we have a whole week to rest up.”

Adding to the deal is that all the games are being played on Thursday this week due to Yom Kippur, so Steinert doesn’t have to worry about the short week.

“That’s a big blessing there,” Caruso said. “We’re a little dinged up, so for us that’s amazing.”

No more amazing than allowing 400 less rushing yards in one week.

Hornets have no letdown in easy victory over West Windsor-North

Oct. 1: It was more than just Homecoming for Hamilton West today.

It was a day where lots of people got to play and lots of people had fun.

After their big win over Nottingham last week, the Hornets showed no sign of letting down against winless West Windsor-Plainsboro North as they took a 47-0 victory today.

After Ruben Desane scored on a 12-yard run in the first quarter, Bret Stroman scored three second-quarter touchdowns and Javed James added a 45-yard TD run in a 27-point outburst.

Stroman finished with 99 yards on 11 carries and James had 90 yards on seven carries. Desane had 39 yards on just three carries, while Mark Acquaviva and James went a combined 7-for-7 passing for 67 yards apiece.

Judah Flowers, Nichola Kintner and Jamar Hall also got touches, with Flowers and Hall scoring second-half TDs. Damar Russell had three catches for 67 yards, Stroman had two for 41 and Collier two for 26. Desane also had an interception

Hamilton (4-0) outgained the Northern Knights 413-245 and rushed for 279 yards.

The Hornets are back in action Thursday with a night game at Northern Burlington.