

Oct. 22 Football: Tough day for Hamilton



Hamilton's Jordan Williams tries to bring down West Windsor South's Thomas Efstathios during today's game in Princeton Junction (Photo by Mike Dill/purchase photos at www.michaeldillphotography.com).

Rest and extra preparation can't help Hornets as WW-P South rolls to 7-0

By Kevin Maloney

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 22: There was no reason for Tom Hoglen not to like his Hamilton West football team's chances entering Saturday's much-anticipated showdown with undefeated West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

For starters, Hoglen figured his team would be plenty motivated coming off of its only loss, in overtime, to Northern Burlington. But perhaps even more important was that the Hornets had 13 days to heal up and prepare following the loss to the Greyhounds.

But motivation, rest and preparation proved to be far from enough to help Hamilton hang with WW-P South as the Pirates rolled to a 42-6 Homecoming victory in Princeton Junction.

"(WW-P South) did a great job and they're a better football team than we are right now," said Hoglen, whose team had defeated WW-P South two straight years, including a 31-7 victory last year.

Hamilton's vaunted rushing attack, which entered the game averaging 231.8 yards per game,

could never get untracked. After gaining just eight yards on 15 plays over its first four possessions as WW-P South built a 14-0 lead on touchdown runs from standout running back Brian Schoenauer, Hoglen was basically forced to shelve the running game.

It worked, albeit temporarily.

Mark Aquaviva completed 5 of 6 passing attempts on the Hornets' fifth drive that covered 70 yards, the last 24 of which came on a touchdown pass to Damar Russell on a post over the middle.

"I knew (WW-P South) would make adjustments at halftime, which they did," Hoglen said of the Hornets' lack of offensive success the remainder of the game. "When you're so far behind like we were, they can play the pass a little more. We just never got anything going."

Though the Hornets had dropped the aforementioned game to a Northern Burlington squad that's a lot better than many expected, WW-P South was the true gauge just to see where Hamilton stacked up with the best that Mercer County had to offer.

Aquaviva completed 10 of 18 passes for 106 yards with a touchdown and an interception and Russell hauled in four of those passes for 55 yards and a score but the Bret Stroman-led ground game gained just 74 yards on 32 carries. Stroman, the county's second-leading rusher behind Schoenauer, was bottled up for just 26 yards on 13 carries.

"We just have to go back and watch the film," Hoglen said. "We have some guys who are banged up right now. South was a lot more physical than I thought they would be but there's a reason they're 7-0. They're a better football team and they showed that today."