

## Oct. 6 Football

### Hamilton can't hold on to lead against stubborn Northern Burlington

By Ken Weingartner

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**Oct. 6:** Tom Hoglen warned his Hamilton West football team that Northern Burlington would not go down without a fight.

After more than four quarters of action, the warning was reality.

Tosin Adeyemo scored on a 13-yard run in overtime tonight to lift Northern Burlington to a 27-21 win over the Hornets, capping a comeback from a 14-point deficit with 4:21 to go in the third quarter. Adeyemo finished with 210 yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries.

The Greyhounds, who improved to 3-1 while handing Hamilton its first loss in five games, forced OT by scoring on an 18-yard touchdown pass from Colin Fitzpatrick to Matt Rafferty with 27 seconds remaining in regulation. The drive was set up by a blocked punt and kept alive by Adeyemo converting on fourth-and-1 by the nose of the football from Hamilton's 19.

Hornets quarterback Mark Acquaviva ran for a touchdown and threw a 23-yard scoring pass to Phil Simpson. Javed James also scored for Hamilton, which got 114 yards rushing from Bret Stroman.

"My hat's off to Northern Burlington," Hoglen said. "They made plays when they had to. I told our kids that Northern Burlington was going to come and play tough football. They always play us tough. They came to play and they did a great job tonight."

Although Stroman topped 100 yards on the ground, he was forced to work hard for every bit of it. He carried the ball 24 times.

"Their coaching staff did an excellent job," Hoglen said. "They had a great game plan. They did a good job on Bret Stroman, slowed him down, and we didn't have answers for it."

Northern Burlington opened the scoring by driving 68 yards in seven plays, capped by Adeyemo's 16-yard touchdown run.

Hamilton's defense ignited the offense late in the first quarter. Jude Kernizan forced a fumble on a sack, with Bashawn Smith recovering for the Hornets. Seven plays later, Acquaviva connected with Simpson on third-and-19 to tie the score at 7-7.

The Hornets were back in business on their next possession, driving 49 yards in seven plays. Acquaviva ran for 19 yards and completed a 12-yard pass to Stroman to help set up James' 1-yard touchdown plunge, giving Hamilton a 14-7 lead with 4:57 remaining in the second quarter.

Hamilton added to its lead by driving 78 yards in 12 plays on its first possession of the second half. Acquaviva capped the march with a 4-yard run to make it 21-7.

Northern Burlington fought back. Less than 90 seconds later, Adeyemo scampered 54 yards to the end zone to pull the Greyhounds within 21-14.

"They came out in a different formation on that run and we just didn't adjust to it and they hit it for a big gain," Hoglen said. "When you've got a good running back over there like (Adeyemo), he's going to pound the ball and pound the ball. Maybe he wore us down a little bit in the second half."

The Greyhounds got into Hamilton territory on its next two possessions, but the

Hornets forced a punt and held on downs. They nearly held again on Northern Burlington's game-tying drive in the final minute.

In overtime, Hamilton got the first possession, but a holding penalty and sack thwarted the Hornets' chance for points. Adeyemo carried the ball three times on the Greyhounds' winning possession.

Hamilton will have 15 days to get ready for its next game, an Oct. 22 trip to unbeaten West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

"We've got to go back to the drawing board and we've got to get better," Hoglen said. "We've got two weeks to prepare for South and see what we can do. We're going to watch the film, go back to square one, and get ready to go again."