

Sep. 24 Football



Adam Riese exults while pulling away from Charlie Morreale after scoring on a 16-yard run, then takes time to celebrate with teammate Alex Amodie as the quarterback embarked on one of the great quarterback days in school history (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at www.dennissymons.com).

Riese goes (and throws) wild as Spartans top Cardinals in a shootout

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Sep. 24: After scoring exactly 20 points in a scrimmage and each of its first two games of the season, Steinert High's football team finally got over that hump.

In a big way.

The Spartans offense exploded for 429 yards in taking a 47-34 victory at Lawrence today.

Quarterback Adam Riese had a game for the ages by contributing to what is likely a school-record seven touchdowns. The senior quarterback threw for 251 yards and five TDs and rushed for 145 yards and two TDs in the Spartans second straight win.

"Everything he was doing was working today," coach Dan Caruso said. "We didn't punt once all day. Unfortunately we had our first turnover of the year, but everything was working. Last week he was pressing a little trying to go up top and hit home run, today he realized he had to take what the defense gave him and see what happens."

"And his receivers had a fantastic game. Jordan Dunn, Vanel Dossous, Jeff Mattonelli, all of them had great games."

They felt the same way about their quarterback.

"Adam did an incredible job throwing the



Jordan Dunn (4) and Jeff Mattonelli celebrate Dunn's 48-yard touchdown reception during the second quarter of today's game (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at dennissyoms.com).

ball,” said Dunn, who caught a second-quarter touchdown pass of 48 yards to help the Spartans to a 27-7 halftime lead. “We practiced a lot this week on our passing game.”

That was obvious with the game Riese had. He completed 16 of 23 passes to five different receivers. Mattonelli caught five for 74 yards and two touchdowns, Dossous had two catches four 41 yards and two TDs, Tyler Zandomenego grabbed four for 50 and Dean Lucchesi caught four for 48.

“It’s good to have a couple of other threats,” Dunn said. “It’s harder for the defense to stick to all of us so you really never know who the ball is going to go to.”

The fact Steinert finally got over 20 points was not lost on Dunn, as the coaching staff had been expecting a little more this year.

“It was big,” Dunn said. “One of our main goals was to score at least 28 points a game but we never accomplished that in the first two games. So our coaches told us that they wanted us to score 35. We scored 47 so it helped the defense out in a big way.”

The defense needed that help as Lawrence provided a formidable offensive threat behind Samei Mitchell (160 yards, two touchdowns) and a rejuvenated Jihad Bryant (126 yards, three touchdowns). The Spartan downer of the day is that the Cardinals rushed for 405 yards.

“I said after the game as good an offensive performance we had, it was that much of a bad defensive performance,” Caruso said. “We didn’t stop them once in the second half, they were running the ball at five yards a clip. At one point they were running the same play every time and getting five yards.

“I don’t know if their heads weren’t in it. But we were not making plays on defense today, we did have two interceptions but for the most part they ran over us. Jihad Bryant is back (from injury), he’s playing very well.”

Lawrence actually took a 7-0 lead on Bryant’s 5-yard TD run. But Steinert roared back with four straight touchdowns – a 16-yard run by Riese, TD catches of 38 and 48 yards by Mattonelli and a long one by Dunn.

The Spartans maintained their advantage in the second half to win their second straight and move to 2-1. It’s the first time Steinert has been 2-1 since 2004.

“We’re in uncharted territory,” Caruso said. “In 2004 we went downhill and finished 4-6, hopefully this turns out better.”

“It feels great to be over .500 and win two in a row,” Dunn said. “It gets our momentum going and builds up our confidence.”

It’s also nice to know they have a weapon like Riese to unleash.

“As a coach, seeing Adam progress, it’s been a fun ride, an awesome ride,” Caruso said. “From him going into that Nottingham game his freshman year up until now it’s been very cool.

“Sometimes he gets so good, you tend to view it as a fan. You’re saying ‘Wow, this kid is unbelievable’ And then you think ‘Oh man I gotta get this next play in there!’”

When you have a quarterback that hot, you darn well better get that play in.