

Press Clippings 8/25/2018

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 8/25/18

Sabres fall to Glenbard S.

BY SCOTT MILLER

Taking advantage of a couple huge breaks Glenbard South made a big splash in its Upstate Eight Conference debut with a 23-10 win at Streamwood on Friday night.

The game was tied 10-10 with just over 2 minutes left to play when an unfortunate miscommunication from the Streamwood sideline on a punt attempt resulted in the Sabres taking a knee and giving the ball up at their 18-yard line.

On the very next play Antonio Carter scored on an 18-yard touchdown run to put Glenbard South ahead 16-10. The Raiders added a 20 yard interception return by Trevon Bryant to seal the deal.

"It was unfortunate what happened on the punt play," Glenbard South coach Ryan Crissey said. "I think everyone was a little shocked. But it's one of those things that happen. I just want to commend Streamwood on playing a great physical game. They are going to be a tough team. We really had to battle and persevere through some things to get this win."

Carter provided a big lift in the second half for the Raiders. After just 3 carries in the first half the senior tailback had 7 rushes for 57 yards in the second half.

"He is such a dynamic athlete," Crissey said. "We knew we had to find a way to get him more involved. He used his combination of explosiveness and patience to make some big runs."

Carter accounted for 35 yards on the Raiders' opening possession of the second half that resulted in a 27-yard field goal to put Glenbard South ahead 10-8.

"The coaches just believed in what I can do," Carter said. "And I just trusted my linemen. We are a small team compared to the rest of the teams in this conference so we are just going to have to play with a lot of heart like we did tonight."

After surrendering a 168 yards of offense to the Sabres in the first half the Glenbard South defense allowed just 68 yards in the second half with 50 of those coming on one play.

"We had to utilize a defense we wanted to save for later in the season," Crissey said. "But desperate times called for desperate measures. We just changed some of our stunting schemes at the line."

The Raiders' defense came up with a huge play in the closing minute of the first half when they forced a fumble at the 1-yard line after the Sabres had driven 65 yards and were looking to extend their 8-7 lead.

"That play really turned the momentum in our favor," Crissey said. "We were able to get multiple guys to the ball."

The Sabres struck first on a 30-yard touchdown run by Sirrion Dixon at the with 21 seconds left in the first half. Tremeyon Sanders added a 2-point conversion run. However, Glenbard South answered right back with an 87-yard kick return for a touchdown by John Klaric.

Sabres quarterback Omar Negron, playing in his first football game at any level, rushed for 157 yards on 24 carries.

"It's unfortunate what happened at the end of the game," Streamwood coach Dan Guindon said. "It was a miscommunication error that I take full responsibility for. I am just so proud of my kids. They have worked so hard and really played well tonight."

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Elgin has tough time with Glenbard East

BY DAVE OBERHELMAN

It was all a coach could ask for.

Glenbard East topped Upstate Eight Conference foe Elgin 47-6 on Friday night in Lombard. Last season the Rams started 0-5 before winning three of their last four.

"We're the best we can be right now, we're 1-0. Played one, got one," said Glenbard East coach John Walters. "Proud of the way the guys played, proud of the way they performed. After 50-some practices and running into each other it's nice to get out here and play a game."

Glenbard East quarterback Bret Bushka had a game, running for touchdowns of 51, 22 and 10 yards and passing for two more to his old pal Jeremy Johnson, a fellow three-year starter.

"Our coach always talks about how he hasn't really been able to throw and run equally. It's always been a throw-heavy team and now I think we've got it back to our running. That's a credit to the experience we have on our offensive line," Bushka said of an experienced unit including Ben Pham, Nick Andrews, Nolan Chambers, Jacob Spandiary and Dylan Marin.

In the first quarter Elgin quarterback Jordan West found Xavier Bonds on a 54-yard pass play down to Glenbard East's 7-yard line. Two plays later, Rams linebacker Jack Baka intercepted the ball back after Danny Hurtado came hard on a blitz. Glenbard East scored on its next six possessions plus Anthony Shockey's 89-yard interception return for touchdown.

"This is not the show that we wanted to put up. But we had shots that we just did not take advantage of," said Elgin coach Anthony Mason. "The reason they're a good team is

because they hawked them down, didn't give up, fought hard and ended up getting two picks on those in the red zone."

The Maroons' touchdown, cutting their deficit to 27-6 with 4:44 left in the second quarter, came on Brandon Bridges' 80-yard scamper.

Then came Bushka's two touchdown passes to Johnson -- the first on an 18-yard flare to the left, the second as time expired in the first half for a 41-6 lead.

"To get that touchdown on the last play of the half, it really sets the game apart," said Bushka, whose 10-yard touchdown run at 8:38 of the third quarter started a running clock.

Bushka said he's known Johnson since first grade. Between Bushka scrambling for time and Johnson splitting two defenders for the grab it looked like a play they'd run for years in the backyard.

"When I walked up to the line of scrimmage I was talking to the people on the sidelines," Johnson said. "I told them, I'm making a play here. I kind of had a feeling he was going to throw it up and I made a play. It feels great to have that happen."