

Warwick v. FDR Game Summary

October 10th, 2009

By Rich Arnott

Hyde Park – John Babin broke the all-time Section Nine record for touchdown receptions in a single season and Rian White threw two TD passes and rushed for another in a 34-6 Warwick victory over Roosevelt. WVHS football improved to 6-0 overall for the first time since 2002 and its 3-0 division record moved the team closer to a fourth AA-II title.

It took a little while for the Wildcats to get going in this game, as FDR junior Errol Evans charged up the Homecoming crowd by making an interception and then joining the offense to break away for a long 75-yard touchdown run. The Presidents missed the extra point but had an early 6-0 lead.

Fine defensive play by middle linebackers Jared Komorowski and Andrew Treschitta plus a strong presence from defensive end Mike Hurley kept FDR from scoring again until the visiting Wildcats awoke offensively.



Jared Komorowski
Defensive leader

White scampered 12 yards to pick up a first down at his own 34 on the final play of the first quarter. Then the senior QB made two successive completions to comrade Babin for 14 more yards. Center Kyle Barrett acted like his quarterback's keeper in making a key fumble recovery at the end of the next rush to keep the drive alive. Jesse Testa then found some great blocking and powered his way to the FDR 30. Nick Race made his second reception of the game on the ensuing snap which set up a first-and-goal at the 10. White hustled seven yards to get the Wick closer and then Babin caught his Section Nine single season record-breaking 14th touchdown pass courtesy of White's acute radar. The seemingly omnipresent Wildcat receiver broke the record of 13 that he had shared with Kingston's Corey Kotsol, who set the previous high-bar in 1997. Mike Grace booted the PAT to put Warwick ahead to stay, 7-6.

In a bit of an ironic play on Roosevelt's next offensive series, President center Jeff Schneider snapped the ball directly to running back Evans but the Wildcats pounced on him to circumvent FDR's wildcat offensive attack.

John Denmead returned the punt 10 yards to set up shop at the home team's 49. Babin got involved again to spell trouble for the FDR secondary in the form of retrieving a 37-yard White bomb. Race finished the drive by recording his second TD catch of the season on the very next play. White increased his Section Nine leading TD pass total to 23 on the year and upped the career mark to 42. The kick failed but Warwick now held a 13-6 advantage.

The Wildcat defense then imposed itself on senior FDR QB Chris Lewis. Komorowski came up with a big sack after the offense had found some momentum and gotten the ball to midfield. Treschitta and Denmead played outstanding defense on this series as well but junior defensive back Chris Grogan took center stage when he picked off a Lewis third-down pass on his own 45.



John Babin
*Section IX career leader
for TD receptions.*

The interception put Warwick's offense in a good spot for starters. Dan Bounds made his second catch of the 2009 campaign for an nine-yard pickup. Sam Careccia then went 17 yards to pull down the next White sphere. A 13-yard keeper to the six followed and then Testa earned rushing touchdown number three this year on a tough push across the goal line. Grace came through and Warwick led, 20-6.

Defensive end Sam Brown made a big stop on defense as the game drifted toward intermission and Brandon Fernandez helped out from the secondary to stall Roosevelt's first drive in the third quarter.

At this point, the Cats went 80 yards in only three plays to break the game open. White ran for the first 15 and then hit Babin with a completion. White took care of the last 56 as he burst through the belly to bring the defense to oblivion. White's seventh touchdown tote of the season, combined with Grace's placekick, gave Warwick a comfortable 27-6 margin.

Junior linebacker Armand Rivera joined the party on the following series, busting through the FDR front wall for a sack.

Sophomore John Garcia took over the QB reigns on the next Warwick possession and orchestrated a scoring drive that culminated with Babin's second TD catch of the game, from 14 yards out, moving the record up to 15 per 2009. Furthermore, Babin added to his all-time Warwick and Section Nine career legacy of what has now reached 23 touchdown receptions to increase another record. Camron Burke-Simmons made his third PAT of the year to conclude the scoring.

Warwick's defense refused to pack it in just yet, however, as two more defensive plays by two senior linebackers stood out. First, Thomas O'Rourke sacked QB Sam Lanthier and then Conor O'Brien recovered a fumble to put icing on the cake.

White led the Wildcats in both passing and rushing, going 14-of-17 for 246 passing yards and gaining 128 on the ground after nine carries. Testa pounded his way for 41 tough yards against a defense that guarded him closely. This put #44 over the 500-yard rushing mark through six games. Babin wound up with nine receptions for 141 yards, yielding a season total of 44 x 659 and a career slate of 102 receptions and 1488 yards. Race caught three passes to the tune of 44 and Careccia went 2-for-66.

Roosevelt jumped over to Section Nine from Section One in 2003. This made for 10 AA teams and thereby required the five lower enrollment schools to be placed in a new "AA-II" alignment. Warwick has won all seven meetings with FDR.

Coach James Sciarra will lead the Wildcats onto Etzel Field for an intriguing week seven non-league clash against the state's top-ranked AA team, unbeaten Monroe-Woodbury.