

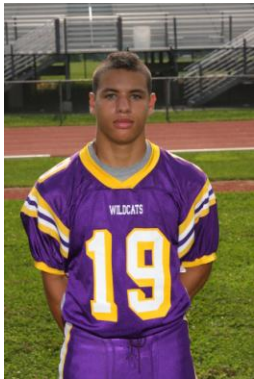
Warwick v. Valley Central Game Summary

September 25th, 2009

By Rich Arnott

Montgomery - Rian White threw four touchdown passes and rushed for another score to propel the Warwick Wildcats to their first AA-II division win of the season, 41-14 over Valley Central. White's aerial assault now totals 15 scoring strikes this season and 34 in his varsity football career.

Brandan Fernandez recovered a fumbled punt attempt by the Vikings to set Warwick up at the VC 42 less than five minutes into the game. On a 4th-and-nine situation, the Wildcats gambled in letting White test the airways and it paid off. Junior Nick Race hauled in the majestic spiral and slipped his way into the end zone. Mike Grace converted the extra point to furnish Warwick a 7-0 lead.



Brandan Fernandez
Fumble recovery.

But VC answered right back. Senior running back Nick Osseni snuck through the Wildcats defense on a big 26-yard run to place the pigskin at the Warwick 39. Four plays later, QB Shane MacNamara hit wide receiver Zach Adler with a 25-yard scoring pass. Charlie MacDowell kicked the point-after to tie matters, 7-7.



Rian White
Threw 4 TD passes.

The penalty-filled first half slowly made its way into the second quarter when Warwick took advantage of two Valley Central miscues resulting in two touchdowns. First, Warwick pounced on a poorly snapped punt attempt to gain control at the VC 13. White immediately hit cohort John Babin for six points at the eight-minute mark. Grace kicked the PAT and Warwick had a 14-7 advantage.

But that was just the beginning. On the Vikings next possession, MacNamara took a hard hit on a 3rd-and-10 pass play and the ball floated right into an alert Mike Hurley's hands. The senior defensive end worked his way down to the VC six to once again set up the Wildcat offense with a very short field. This time Warwick scored on the second play of the series on a White sprint across the plane. The PAT went awry but the Cats had some breathing room at 20-7.

Coach Ron Introini's Vikings had the ball two more times before halftime but good defensive efforts by Dan Marggraff on a deflected pass, Sam Brown on a sack, and Hurley on a key stop of an Osseni rush sent everyone to intermission with no further scoring.

Chris Gesner fielded the opening kickoff of the second half for Warwick at his own 40 and the offense came through again. Sam Careccia caught a 10-yard second-down pass to move the chains. Babin then went 18 yards out to pull in the football down at the 12. Two plays later, Babin seamlessly snared the White seven-yard toss for yet another scoring transaction between the two. Warwick had taken a comfortable 26-7 lead even after the PAT miss.



Jesse Testa
Scored his 2nd TD of the season.

The Wildcats dented the scoreboard again three minutes later when Michael Grace kicked a 33-yard field goal after Jesse Testa, Babin, and Careccia helped move the ball 58 yards. The senior's first field goal of the year put Warwick up 29-7.

Testa's finest moment of the night occurred on the next Wildcat drive. White beamed one for Babin to pick up a first down at the visitors' 45. Then Testa took a handoff and never stopped going until he'd earned his second rushing touchdown of the year. A superb block by Dan Bounds near the home sideline kept Testa in motion. The extra point failed but the Wildcats had things under control at 35-7.

Babin registered his 3rd TD catch of the game late in the third stanza to complete the Warwick scoring. Babin now has nine scoring receptions in four games.

Backup QB MacDowell hit John Mazza with a touchdown strike late in the 4th for VC.

The passing ledger reads White as having gone 12-for-20 in this contest for 185 yards. That gives the Section Nine leader 829 through four games. Testa carried the ball nine times for 111 and has rushed for 283 yards thus far. Babin caught eight passes for 77 which keeps him atop fellow routers with a four-game slate of 29 receptions and 376 yards.

The games with Valley Central began after the school's inception in 1960 and Warwick has gone 25-11-2 against the Vikings. This series alludes to the old Little Three League rivalry with Walden, dating back to 1927.

Warwick (1-0 AA-II, 4-0 overall) returns to C. Ashley Morgan field for Homecoming on Saturday, October 3rd to take on winless divisional foe Washingtonville.