

Washingtonville v. Warwick

Game Summary

October 3rd, 2009

By Rich Arnott

Warwick - The varsity six-cylinder arm of senior quarterback Rian White was all revved up for a Homecoming joyride on a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon at C. Ashley Morgan Field. Washingtonville yielded like a true pedestrian.

White continued to get all the time he needed from his front line to the tune of six touchdown passes along with a rushing score as the #17 state-ranked AA Wildcats operated their highly efficient spread offense en route to a 54-0 AA-II Wizardly drubbing.

Warwick (2-0 AA-II, 5-0 Overall) scored the first seven times it had the ball to leave little doubt

about the final outcome early in the second quarter. After senior cornerback Kevin Marion broke up a 3rd-and 8 pass by Washingtonville QB Shane Nolan, the Wildcats took over on their own 26. Unusually calling signals under center at first, White took Ryan Barrett's second-down snap and raced for a first down to his own 45. Then White uncorked his first spiral of the afternoon, hitting favorite target John Babin with a 37-yard completion to get the Cats in the red zone. Two runs by Jesse Testa got Warwick to the Wizard two and then White hit Babin for the first of many scores on the day. Mike Grace made the extra point to put seven up on the Wildcat scoreboard. The senior place-kicker would convert 6-of-7 on the day.

Warwick can play defense too. On Washingtonville's next series, the three different tiers stepped up. First, outside linebacker John Denmead stopped a rush. Then nose guard Chris Vealey stuffed a QB keeper. Finally, cornerback Shane Marchini put the kibosh on the drive by swarming all over the Wizard wideout to break up a pass.

The Wildcats needed only five plays to get into the end zone this time. A big catch by Sam Careccia kept the train going to the visitors' 10-yard-line before White finished things off with a dash for six points.

The blowout began to take shape at 3:13 of the opening quarter with the 14-0 lead.

On Warwick's next possession, completions to Nick Race and Ian Holmes moved the ball to the Wizard 14. White connected with Babin again on third down just 17 seconds into the second stanza to make it 21-0.

Denmead recovered a Washingtonville fumble on the kickoff to immediately bring the offense back out to a short field of 24 yards. Two Testa carries pushed the pigskin to the 12 before Careccia got into the scoring act by nabbing White's



Rian White

Set a Section IX record with 6 TD pass in one game.



Shane Marchini

Returns INT for a TD.

next toss to light up the board again. 28-0.

The Wildcats scored three more touchdowns before halftime to take a 48-0 lead. Another White-to-Babin connection took place at 8:19 from 23 yards out, Careccia pulled in a five-yard TD pass for his second of the game, and Marchini intercepted a Nolan aerial and returned it 29 yards for a score at 5:32.

Warwick worked in the ceremonials as well as they put on a football clinic for the large Homecoming gathering. Prior to the game, a new flagpole on the visitor side was dedicated and carrier pigeons were sent off in honor of the late Dr. Frank Greenhall, superintendent of Warwick schools. Moreover, the senior Wildcat players met their parents on the field with special introductions by Warwick athletic director Gregory Sirico. Plus it turned out that the seniors won the float contest for the year 2009 and the varsity cheerleaders never stopped doing pushups.

Fourth-year coach James Sciarra let his starting offense venture onto the field for one second-half series and they got a touchdown when White threw one - and Babin caught it - from 46 yards away. That made four touchdown receptions in the game for the senior super-snarer to run Babin's Section Nine leading season total to 13.

"White-to-Babin" has brought what seems like a special cohesiveness to Warwick football for the first time in many years. Joining the long hallowed #44 jersey in Warwick's winning tradition since the 80's, numbers "12-25" are helping to symbolize the 2009 team's chemistry, synchronicity, and high-quality football in a town that loves to see its grid-ironers perform well.

The game's numbers break down like this: White passed for 246 yards, completing 12-of-17 passes. Testa paced the ground game earning 85 yards on 15 lugs of the football while White contributed 44. As for the receiving, Babin went 6-for-142, Careccia had 3-for-52, and Race caught two passes for 37.

Records keep falling as John Babin's 4th TD catch broke the Section Nine record for career TD receptions. That was his 21st., breaking a tie with Kingston's Joe Davis, who had the record since 1990. The TD catch also tied John for the most in a single season with Kingston's Corey Kotsol, who also had 13 in 1997. Rian White's 6 TD passes also set a Section IX record for the most in a game.

For some excellent game photos, go to Pete Flanagan's site at www.wizardsfootball.com/.

Warwick now holds a 17-13-1 advantage in the all-time series against Washingtonville and will journey to Hyde Park for its next AA-II affair against FDR.



John Babin
*Section IX's career TD
receptions leader.*