

## WET, WINDY AND WONDERFUL, JV Vikings Beat Kennedy 49-8

Bethesda - - Thursday Sep. 15, 2011

The Walt Whitman Vikings Junior Varsity Football Team finally kicked off its season yesterday evening under less than spectacular weather conditions. Although the conditions weren't ideal, the final results were, with the Vikings recording a lopsided win, 49 – 8.

The game started out inauspiciously for the Vikings with the Kennedy Cavaliers returning the opening kickoff to the 50 yard line and then scoring a touchdown on the very first play from scrimmage followed by running a 2 point conversion right up the middle. The Cavaliers led 8 – 0 with no more than 1 minute elapsing from the game clock. However, our young Vikings had plans of their own and quickly marched down the field for a score of their own led by offensive game MVP RB John Norris who ripped off a couple of runs of 20+ yard followed by a 10 yard dash to the end zone. After the opening scores, it was a Viking rout for the remainder of the game. The Cavaliers next drive was stopped by a timely Kevin Baker interception at the Cavaliers' 20 yard line. After another nice run by RB Norris, Freshman QB Evan Smith made something of the pick by following his blockers for a 10 yard score. The Cavaliers next possession resulted in a punt that was downed at the Vikings 45 yard line. With momentum on their side and behind excellent blocking by the offensive line, QB Smith rolled left and threw a pretty pass to WR Nick Newsham who grabbed it and took the ball into the red zone. Two plays later RB Norris, having had a nice taste of the end zone, was not going to be denied and ran wide right to the end zone for another TD. The Cavaliers' next drive and the first quarter ended with a leaping Brendan Hearn interception and the Vikings leading 21 – 8.

With the Cavaliers focusing on RB Norris, the second quarter was highlighted by a beautifully blocked and executed trap play to RB Nate Chandler who made a 10 yard run into the end zone virtually untouched.

The second half opened with RB Norris ripping off big chunks of yardage against a weakening Cavalier defense. The only thing that seemed capable of stopping the Vikings was themselves which they did twice with one fumble and one dropped pass. In the end, it didn't seem to matter as the Viking defense was intent on scoring too and it did with a 40 yard interception returned for a touchdown by barreling LB/C Henry Doran. Not to be outdone by his teammate, DB Michael Lombardo also had a pick with a nifty return that RB Norris converted to a TD with another huge run of 35 yards.

Every time the Cavaliers took possession, the Vikings stopped them. Getting in on the interception fun was DB Russell Grant giving the Viking offense yet another chance to score. RB Norris was allowed to rest the remainder of the game but it didn't matter because RB Deairress Bishop ripped off some nice runs of his own capped by a 65 yard sprint to the end zone.

The Vikings kicking game led by the big fella, K/OT/DT Zachary Snyder was also very impressive with two touchbacks and almost all extra point attempts converted, even one without the kicking block.

The Vikings next match will likely be tougher when they face cross town rival Churchill Bulldogs Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM at Whitman. All the fans in attendance know the Vikings are up to the task!