

## JV Vikings Shut Out Wootton 9 to 0

Monday - September 26, 2011

After two postponements, Coach Dave "Slick" Fyock's Vikings were finally able to take the field in a much anticipated match up against Wootton. Unlike the rainy weather that prevented opening kickoffs in the prior two scheduled games between these teams, Monday night was a gorgeous evening where the boys were able to play under the lights at the meticulously manicured field at Patriots' Stadium. The unseasonably mild weather fired both teams up for a game dominated by turnovers and immovable defenses.

Whitman began the first quarter on their 25 yard line, but they were unable to gain much on the ground. QB Evan Smith was able to complete a 19 yard pass play into Wootton territory, but the drive sputtered, and Whitman was forced to punt. Nick Newsham, who punted well all night, was able to pin the Patriots deep on their own 15 yard line. The ensuing Patriot drive was disrupted by a five yard stuff in the backfield by Henry Doran, a big stick by cornerback Michael Lombardo, and an eight yard sack by Calvin Schalch. Wootton was forced to punt, and a nifty return by John Norris had the Vikings in great field position at their own 42 yard line.

Coach Slick took this opportunity to break out his yet unseen wildcat offense, and the Vikes quickly ran the ball into Wootton territory. The turnovers began when the quarter ended on a botched handoff which was fumbled and recovered by the Patriots at midfield. Wootton's second drive, like the first, went nowhere because of two huge hits by Jack Calder, and a big pop by the one armed (other in a cast) Mark Norris. Whitman's next drive was equally ineffective, and they were forced to punt. A series of penalties and a timely sack by Anton Casey forced the Patriots, in turn, to punt from deep in their own territory. The Whitman interior line blew up Wootton's punt protection, the punt was blocked, and Matt Howell recovered the ball on the Patriot's seven yard line. Whitman's John Norris took the second down handoff off the left side for a seven yard touchdown romp. Zach Snyder tacked on the extra point by splitting the uprights. Vikes up 7 to 0.

Snyder was able to pin the Patriots on their own 28 with a soaring kickoff. Plagued by penalties and another Schalch sack, the Wootton offense was driven backwards and forced to punt from just outside their own goal line. A high bobbled snap and a blitzing Jack Calder forced the Wootton punter to kick the ball backwards out of his own end zone for a safety. The Vikings went to the locker room at halftime with a 9 to 0 lead.

In the Second half, Whitman quickly stopped the Patriots on their first possession with big hits coming from Henry Doran and Michael Lombardo. Coach Slick again broke out what appears to be a promising wild cat offense. Newsham ran out of the backfield on successive runs and Whitman quickly drove the ball down to Wootton's five yard line. An untimely fumble, however, stymied the scoring chance. The next Wootton possession was disrupted by big hits by Jonah Brain, M. Norris, and a third sack by Schalch. An interception by Christopher Murray essentially ended Wootton's chances of scoring. The Viking defense dominated the rest of the half highlighted by two defensive series where Whitman forced the patriots to turn the ball over on downs, and fumble recoveries by Casey and Schalch.

The impressive 9 to 0 defensive victory by Whitman has them riding high at 2 and 1 as they prepare for their upcoming game against cross town rival BCC. If the defense continues to play at this high level, success will be inevitable.