

Coach Slick's JV Vikes Take Out Quince Orchard

Thursday, October 6, 2011

In an unconventional 3pm start at home, the 3 and 1 JV Vikings confidently took the field against the QO Cougars on a beautiful fall afternoon. The Cougars had been a thorn in the side of the Vikes in recent years, but Coach Slick would have none of that today.

Whitman started their first drive on their own 32 yard line, but the offense sputtered and was forced to punt. QO took over on their 40 and was able to convert several first downs. They drove deep into Whitman territory, and looked poised to score. The drive was halted when a blitzing Jack Calder sacked the QO quarterback for a loss of ten yards on a 4th down conversion attempt from the Whitman 18.

Invigorated by the defensive stop, John Norris took the first down handoff from his own 28 into the QO end zone. His 72-yard romp was made possible because of key blocks from the Viking interior linemen and excellent downfield blocking by Whitman's receivers. Zach Snyder tacked on the extra point to put Whitman up 7-0.

On QO's next possession, their offense again looked strong. As the Cougars were driving into Viking territory, sophomore cornerback Michael Lombardo put an end to the drive with a nifty leaping pick, giving Whitman the ball on their own 40.

On this possession, J. Norris busted off a 23 yard run, and a few plays later, he took the ball from the Cougar's 30, down the right side, and into the end zone. Unfortunately, the play was called back on a questionable holding penalty. Unmoved by the setback, the Vikes broke out their wildcat offense, and Nick Newsham was able to take advantage of a huge hole in the QO defense and scampered 37 yards untouched into the end zone. Snyder converted again, putting Whitman up 14-0.

For much of the remainder of the first half the defenses took over. Whitman defenders Jonah Brain, Anton Casey, Mark Norris and Calder pummeled QO running backs, and one QO drive was shut down by an acrobatic Chris Murray interception. The Cougars were finally able to muster up a score with less than two minutes remaining in the half on a 25-yard pass play, but they were unable to convert the extra point attempt. Up 14 to 6 and with only seconds remaining, Whitman responded, and QB Evan Smith was able to quickly drive deep into QO territory using the hurry-up. Shortly after a 22-yard pass completion from Smith to Newsham, the half curiously ended in confusion when the referee unexpectedly indicated that time had expired.

The second half was dominated by more defense. The teams battled back and forth for field position between the 20s. There were several stand-out plays by Whitman's defensive unit. Calvin Schalch recovered a fumble, Russell Grant had a key interception, Henry Doran, Ryan Berretta, M. Norris and Calder all had huge hits on QO ball carriers.

The outcome seemed certain when late in the 4th Viking fans got a bit of a scare. With minutes remaining, the Cougars drove the ball 80 yards from deep in their own territory for a first and ten on the Whitman thirteen yard line. Determined not to let them back in the game, the Vikes defense hardened, and shut down QO's offense on three successive plays. On fourth and seven, the Whitman defensive secondary blanketed Cougar receivers, and a last ditch pass attempt fell helplessly to the ground in the end zone. Whitman took a knee to seal the victory 14 to 6.

The 4 and 1 Vikes will take their show on the road to Blair next Thursday where they will try to knock off another division opponent.