

JV Looses to Damascus in Overtime

With a nip in the air, the JV Vikings traveled up Route 270 to face the Swarming Hornets at their home field in Damascus. On Whitman's first possession, the Vikes quickly scored when John Norris took the second down handoff 46 yards for a touchdown. Zach Snyder added the extra point, and Whitman was up 7 to 0. Whitman was able to stop Damascus on their first drive, but Damascus' running game looked strong, and in the second quarter Damascus was able to march the ball downfield and capped a scoring drive with a 33 yard touchdown run. Feeling confident about their run game, the Hornets went for two and were able to convert on an off tackle run taking the lead 8 to 7. The remainder of the half was scoreless.

The Hornets opened the second half with an impressive scoring drive and kept the Whitman defense off balance mixing the pass and run game. They drove the ball down the field and scored on a fifteen yard run up the middle. Whitman's defense, however, showed some signs of life when the two point conversion was stopped cold in the backfield. The teams exchange possessions and the third quarter ended.

From their own 23 yard line and down 14 to 7, Coach Slick's Vikes opened the fourth quarter with the half back pass. John Norris was able to throw a perfect spiral to Nick Newsham who outran the Damascus corner for a 77 yard touchdown reception. Jonah Brain subbing in for an injured Zach Snyder hit a clutch extra point to tie the score at 14 all. On the next drive the Hornets gave Whitman fans a scare when they completed a 68 yard pass play from their own 20. Nick Newsham ran across the field to make a touchdown saving tackle on Whitman's 12 yard line. From there, the Viking's defense dug in. A huge sack by Jack Calder and Calvin Schalch ended up being critical as the game ended in a tie.

In high school overtime, each team is given the ball ten yards from the goal line, and they have four plays to score. Damascus was able to score on their first try with a pass play that caught the Vikes in a blitz. They converted on the extra point and took the lead 21 to 14. Whitman responded with a touchdown of their own when Newsham rolled right and threw to Anton Casey who made a great catch in traffic. With a chance to end the game right there and with their regular field goal kicker sidelined with an injury, Coach Slick decided to go for 2. John Norris took the direct snap and smashed into two Hornet defenders at the goal line. The ball popped loose, and Mark Norris recovered the ball in the end zone. Whitman players began to celebrate when the referee ran in and waived off the two points. On a home field call, the referee ruled that J. Norris was down, before the fumble, inches from the end zone. When it was said and done, the scoreboard read Damascus 21 Whitman 20 in a controversial finish.