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Pacelli welcomes back Riordan as Cards blow out Amherst

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Pacelli senior running back Luke Riordan had no problem being hit for the first time this season during the Cardinals' 42-0 win over Amherst on Friday.

"I got back into it after the first hit," Riordan said. "It was good. I knew I was playing football again."

Riordan, a 1,000-yard rusher his sophomore year, ran for 41 yards and a score on six carries, as he and senior defensive lineman Cody Worzalla both made their season debuts against the Falcons and were instrumental in the blowout.

"I feel a lot more involved with the win," Riordan said. "It's good to help contribute to the team, our defense just dominated."

Pacelli had no trouble getting its steamrolling offense going. Ben Porter ran for two scores, as the Cardinals offense compiled 35 points, but what set them apart was the defense. Herzog and Terrell Drewek each picked off two passes from Amherst's Nate Martin.

The star junior quarterback deflated almost instantly -- the first pass attempt of the game was deflected and caught by Drewek, who returned the ball 20 yards for Pacelli's first score. Martin ended up throwing five interceptions.

"We never really got started," Amherst coach Brian Toelle said. "We were prepared for the pressure, it was just a matter of not making plays."

Martin's meltdown started with pressure from Pacelli's line, which came at Martin from all sides. Both Worzella and Riordan were featured on the line at end and tackle, respectively. Cardinals coach Bob Raczek was confident all week in his team's ability to defend the pass despite giving up 266 yards through the air in Week 2 against Mount Horeb.

"We've done some things different than in the last two weeks, we knew we had to put pressure on," Raczek said. "I feel we put pressure on through the whole game. (Riordan and Worzella) sure helped us."

Nothing may have inspired the Cardinals more than Amherst's 48-12 win over Wild Rose last week, which made the Falcons seem more dangerous than usual to an alert Pacelli group.

"The past two games we had to make a comeback, this game we really wanted to get out there and get them right off the bell," Porter said. "We wanted to start conference off right and I think we did a pretty good job of that."

Amherst 0 0 0 0 -- 0

Pacelli 14 21 7 0 -- 42

P--Terrell Drewek 20 interception return (Greg Simonis kick)

P--Ben Porter 1 run (Simonis kick)

P--Dan Herzog 6 run (Simonis kick)

P--Luke Riordan 1 run (Simonis kick)

P--Andrew King 20 catch (Simonis kick)

P--Porter 12 run (Fischer kick)

A P

First downs 5 11

Total yards 98278

Rushes-yards 15-9 38-219

Passing yards 89 59

Comp.-Att.-INT 7-25-5 2-2-0

Fumbles-lost 1-1 2-1

Individual leaders

Rushing - A: Skylar Trzebiatowski 4-18. P: Ben Porter 15-108.

Receiving - A: Brock Mallek 3-49. P: Calvin Retzki 1-39.

Passing - A: Nate Martin 7-25-5-89. P: Dan Herzog 2-2-0-59.

Records: Pacelli 3-0, 1-0 CWC-Large; Amherst 1-2, 0-1.