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Prep Football Week 9: No room for improvement

Pacelli dominates on both sides in postseason warmup

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Journal Staff

AMHERST — Pacelli would have liked to get some extra work on offense in its season finale before WIAA playoffs begin on Tuesday.

The Cardinals, however, were too busy racking up big plays for that to happen.

Pacelli scored on five plays of more than 30 yards in the first half alone as the Cardinals rolled to a 48-0 victory Thursday night.

Pacelli will find out its playoff fate today. With 219 students, the team was on the bubble between Division 6 or 7 going into the evening.

"We maybe wanted to try some different things out, but we were just so good on special teams," Pacelli coach Bob Raczek said. "Scott (Herzog) had himself one heck of a first half."

After the Cardinals scored on a 70-yard run by Luke Riordan on the team's first possession and forced the Falcons to punt, Scott Herzog grabbed the Mitch Borgen kick and raced 74 yards to paydirt.

That was only the start for Herzog.

He would add another score on a 67-yard return, and with the Falcons driving to the Pacelli 5-yard line late in the half, Herzog snared a Nate Martin pass at the goalline and raced 100 yards for the score.

Ben Porter also added the first of his two touchdown runs from 34 yards out as the Cardinals triggered the running clock for the entire second half. Riordan led all runners with 100 yards on just seven carries, while Porter had 60 yards on four carries.

"We basically wanted to focus on fundamentals and be solid," senior quarterback Ryan Rusch said. "Our goal is to be at our best when the playoffs start."

The Falcons did have an opportunity to score late in the game. After driving to the 10-yard line with less than 20 seconds remaining, senior Luke Allen's field goal attempt sailed just left.

Despite facing constant pressure from the Pacelli defense, the freshman Martin completed 12 of 33 passes for 204 yards, with 100 yards and four catches going to sophomore Quinton Baker.

The loss ended a tough first season for coach Brian Toelle, whose team finished with a 1-8 record.

"I am proud of our kids this season. They are a young team, and they battled and never gave up. I told them that we are going to get better," Amherst coach Brian Toelle said. "I give a lot of luck to Pacelli in the playoffs, they are a class program."

Pacelli 21 17 3 7 — 48

Amherst 0 0 0 0 — 0

First Quarter

P—Luke Riordan 70 run (Brad Budde kick)

P—Scott Herzog 74 punt return (Budde kick)

P—Herzog 67 punt return (Budde kick)

Second Quarter

P—Budde 20 field goal

P—Ben Porter 34 run (Budde kick)

P—Herzog 100 interception return (Budde kick)

Third Quarter

P—Jon Hebda 21 field goal

Fourth Quarter

P—Porter 18 run (Budde kick)

Team statistics

P A

First downs 11 9

Total yards 264 214

Rushing yards 25-218 23-10

Passing yards 46 204

Comp.-Att.-INT 3-8-0 12-32-1

Punting 1-42.0 2-29.6

Penalties 4-55 7-75

Fumbles 2-0 0-0

Individual statistics

Rushing

P: Luke Riordan 7-100, Scott Herzog 11-50, Ben Porter 4-60, Dan Herzog 2-10, Erik Fix 1-(minus 2). A: Bryan Konkol 15-32, Nate Martin 4-(minus 17), James Blanke 4-7.

Passing

P: Ryan Rusch 2-4-0-40; D. Herzog 1-4-0-6. A: Martin 12-33-0-204.

Receiving

P: Andy Disher 2-15, S. Herzog 1-31. A: Quinton Baker 4-100, Nyles Brown 1-3, Konkol 3-21, Scott Borgen 1-3, Brandon Sopa 1-38.

Records: P 5-2 CWC Large, 6-3 overall; A 1-8 CWC Large, 1-6.