

Columbia dominates Dutchmen

Burke IV injured in 34-8 victory Columbia dominates Dutchmen

BY MATT BLYMIER, Sports Staff, *Intelligencer Journal/New Era*

A little over a week ago, Columbia held a 20-7 halftime lead over Northern Lebanon but took its foot off the pedal in the second half and lost, 42-26.

Monday night, the Crimson Tide found themselves in a similar situation with a 20-0 lead against Annville-Cleona at the break.

Columbia didn't let history repeat itself.

The Tide tacked on two more scores in the third, and allowed one late in the fourth, to knock off the Little Dutchmen, 34-8, in a Section Three game in Columbia.

"Last week we were up against Northern Lebanon and took our foot off the pedal in the second half and ended up losing," Columbia coach Mike Burke III explained. "Today the guys stayed focused and kept their foot on the pedal in the second half and finished it off."

Columbia (2-1 L-L, 5-2 overall) took a 6-0 lead late in the first quarter when Andrew Combs (15 carries, 78 yards) plowed in from one yard. The touchdown capped a 10-play, 72-yard, drive that featured four passes from Seth Lefever (8 of 15 passing, 118 yards) for 58 yards.

Combs scored his second touchdown on Columbia's next possession, taking an option pitch nine yards to paydirt to put the Tide ahead 12-0 with 8:22 left in the second quarter. The drive was highlighted by a 31-yard hookup from Lefever to Mike Burke IV.

Burke, though, hobbled to the sidelines and was later taken to the hospital for X-rays on one of his ankles. Burke III was waiting for the X-ray results after the game.

Lefever marched his team 74 yards on Columbia's next possession and called his own number on a one-yard score. The drive was kept alive on third and one when Lefever (10 carries, 85 yards) scrambled 65 yards to the A-C 1. The two-point hookup from Lefever to Nick Nobile gave Columbia a 20-0 halftime lead.

"He's been working hard and really stepped up when the stage was set," Burke III said of his quarterback. "We gave him the game ball because he really deserved it."

Columbia added two more scores late in the third quarter in a two-minute span.

Combs found the end zone for the third time on a one-yard plunge to put the Tide ahead, 26-0, with 4:12 left in the third. After an A-C fumble, Combs struck again with a seven-yard run and a 34-0 Columbia lead.

"We turned him loose tonight and he ran hard," Burke III said of Combs. "Depending on what happens (with Burke IV), we may depend on him more."

The Dutchmen (0-4, 1-5) finally got on the board late in the fourth quarter on Quentin Hall's seven-yard run.

Columbia held A-C to 135 yards on the ground, 97 through the air, and forced a pair of turnovers. Offensively the Tide used seven different runners to churn out 287 yards and had 118 through the air with no turnovers.

"I really didn't expect the game to be like this," admitted Burke III. "Annville and Columbia have been playing big games for 25 years. They're big and strong but we're happy to come out of this game with a win."

"It should give us a boost of confidence."