

# Gales' running game too much for Chieftains

*Lancaster sets stadium records for rushing and total yards in 42-7 triumph*

By Craig Dunn

Logan Daily News

LOGAN — It's almost always difficult to tell how good the Logan Chieftains are going to be when the Chiefs and Lancaster Golden Gales get together to open their respective football seasons.

While the jury is still out on the Purple & White, it seems the Golden Gales are their usual selves.

The bigger, stronger Gales pushed the Chiefs all over Logan Chieftain Stadium to the tune of stadium records for team rushing yards and team total yards in handing the Purple & White a 42-7 setback Friday night.

Lancaster's Andrew Shisler scored on runs of 73 and 20 yards and quarterback Riley Theiss connected with 6-foot-7 receiver Ryan Thomas on touchdown passes of 19 and 34 yards as the Gales set stadium marks of 438 rushing yards and 565 total yards.

“Like we said coming in, we needed to shut down the run,” Logan coach Kelly Wolfe said afterward, “and in the first half, we did not do that — we were not even close.

“They've obviously been working on their passing game, and their play-action pass killed us,” he added. “There were times when our DBs (defensive backs) were coming up to help out on the run, and when DBs have to make tackles (it means) receivers aren't being covered. They had some guys wide open.

“They mixed things up and did exactly what they wanted to do. They have to be happy with what they did.”

Lancaster coach Rob Carpenter was indeed pleased with his team's performance, although he also acknowledged his Gales had a huge size advantage that they didn't take long to exploit.

“We've always had a good wing-T rushing attack, and then we mix in a little option with it and add a little misdirection and it gives defenses a lot to look at and a lot to prepare for,” Carpenter said. “Then there's the combination that we've worked real hard on (of) our pass protection and being able to throw the ball.

“And, of course, when you have a 6-7 receiver and a 6-3 receiver you can get the ball to, that really helps offensively,” he added. “We gave (Logan) a lot to look at and a lot to prepare for. I admire Logan's effort. Their coaching staff was prepared for us, but they just didn't have the horses and their horses got tired. They played hard and we played hard.”

The Chiefs' defense held the Gales to a three-and-out offensive series to start the game, but the Gales' defense returned the favor before scoring touchdowns on three of their next four offensive series to take a 21-0 halftime lead.

“I'm struggling a little bit with how we came out in the first half,” Wolfe stated. “I just thought we were more prepared than what we were. We came out fired up the first series and it was a three-and-out, then we didn't do anything on offense.

“I don't want to take anything away from them,” he continued. The Gales are “a big team. Everyone here could see they were much bigger than us.”

Especially out on the hot artificial turf of Logan Chieftain Stadium, where the bigger Gales simply wore down their smaller Logan counterparts.

Lancaster rushed for 189 yards in the first quarter alone and was less than 20 yards short of the stadium record for rushing yards with 343 yards (on just 24 carries) in the first half.

The Gales' Jerry King capped off a seven-play, 79-yard scoring drive with a 5-yard run midway through the opening stanza. Then, after forcing the Chiefs to punt after Logan reached the Lancaster 38, the Gales went 88 yards to paydirt on just three plays, with Shisler going around left end, cutting back inside and going 73 yards untouched to the end zone.

“We knew going in (the Gales are) our biggest challenge of the year,” Wolfe said. “Even if that's a bad Lancaster team, it's still our biggest challenge. I just thought we were more prepared and I don't think we showed what we are capable of.”

However, this is not a bad Lancaster team — not by any stretch of the imagination — and the Gales made it 21-0 in the second period with a 96-yard drive capped off when Theiss connected on a short pass with Thomas, who broke a tackle and bulled his way into the end zone to complete a 19-yard scoring play.

Zach Daugherty kicked all three extra points in the first half (and three more in the second) but fell short with a 37-yard field goal attempt in the final minute of the first half.

Three big plays — the third being a 20-yard scoring sweep around left end by Shisler — gave Lancaster a 28-0 cushion less than four minutes into the third quarter.

About the only thing Lancaster did wrong all night was commit way too many penalties.

The Gales were whistled 13 times for 108 yards — Lancaster had almost as many penalty yards as the Chiefs accumulated on offense the entire night — and two of those miscues resulted in Logan first downs on the Chiefs' only scoring drive of the night.

Quarterback Jack Music hit Isaac Schmeltzer with a big 25-yard pass during the 13-play, 65-yard scoring drive, which Logan finally cashed in on fourth-and-goal from the 6-yard line when that

same duo connected for the score. Schmeltzer caught the ball right at the goal line and got it over the plane before being knocked backwards.

The Chiefs never threatened again. Lancaster scored two more touchdowns in the final quarter, including a 34-yard rollout scoring pass from Theiss to a wide-open Thomas along the right sideline.

Two Gales rushed for more than 100 yards — Shisler had 140 on just six attempts and Tanner England added 120 on only eight tries, and Jared Thompson added 84 yards on only seven attempts — as the Gales easily eclipsed the two aforementioned stadium records.

Their 438 rushing yards smashed the stadium mark of 359 set by Ironton in a 2010 playoff game, and the Gales' 565 total yards easily bested the stadium record of 439 set by Columbus Hartley, also in a 2010 playoff game.

Logan, meanwhile, was limited to 147 total yards — 66 rushing and 81 passing — by Lancaster's bigger, stronger defensive line. They bottled up running back Cory McCarty, who managed 48 yards on 20 attempts.

“Their defensive line was beating our offensive line off the ball and we weren't able to get to the second level and get to their linebackers,” Wolfe said. “They manhandled us.”

“Logan was just a little short-handed,” Carpenter surmised. “They don't have a lot of seniors. Those kids played hard and they played tough... but they were playing both ways and it was hot out there that first and second quarter.

“We had more horses tonight than they did, basically,” he added. “I think they're going to do well the rest of the season. I don't think they're going to be anything like they were last year.”

And Carpenter's team goes from being the biggest team on the field at Logan Chieftain Stadium to the smallest next Friday when they host Mason in their home opener at Fulton Field.

“Our next four games (Mason, Twinsburg, Pickerington Central and Pickerington North), we're facing a lot of really, really good teams,” Carpenter said. “We'll be the small team. Mason has 127 kids on their (grades) 10-through-12 varsity (roster), so we'll be the little team going into that game.”

For the Chiefs, who host Columbus Northland next Friday night, it's going to be a week to regroup and try to accentuate some of the positives.

“Jack made some good passes tonight and he made some bad passes tonight,” Wolfe said. “He rushed some passes a little bit. We got some experience tonight — (for example) we didn't have any receivers with catches coming back (from last season) and we got some catches under fire. That's going to help us in the long run.”

# Chieftains rally from early deficit, but bad bounces costly in OT loss

*Controversial 2-point conversion helps Northland edge Logan 32-26 in overtime*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — When you're struggling to achieve football success, as the Logan Chieftains have done the last two-plus seasons, the ball seems to take some strange bounces... and those bounces just never seem to go your way.

Such was the case Friday night in Logan Chieftain Stadium.

Having rallied for a 26-18 lead over visiting Columbus Northland with five minutes remaining in regulation time, the Purple & White succumbed to a six-play, 70-yard Northland drive as the Vikings scored a touchdown to pull within 26-24.

But Northland still needed to make the ensuing 2-point conversion to draw even — and whether they actually should have received credit for doing so will be talked about for many, many years.

It appeared that quarterback Glenn Smith's knee touched the ground under pressure from the Logan defense. It wasn't called, however, and he squirmed away and neared the goal line.

Apparently stopped about a yard short, the next thing everyone knew Robert Darnell had the ball and was thrashing his way across the goal line.

The officials ruled that a Logan player had punched the ball out of Smith's hands and, though the ball appeared to be fumbled forward, Darnell's recovery was allowed to stand and the game eventually went to overtime.

There, Northland scored in three plays and held the Chiefs on their offensive series to pull out a thrilling — and, yes, controversial — 32-26 victory.

The heartbreaking loss was the Chiefs' third OT setback in their last five home games as their losing streak in Logan Chieftain Stadium reached nine games... but it was a game the Chiefs (0-2 on the season) deserved to win after wiping out an early 12-0 Northland advantage.

“They fought like hell and they should have won. They did everything they should have done and deserved to win, and that's what hurts,” said Logan coach Kelly Wolfe, his voice cracking with emotion, moments after the game.

“When you're down like we are right now and you're fighting for everything... as a coach (I know) they did anything and everything,” he added. “We've got guys cramping and fighting through. Logan's got to be proud of their kids tonight. They played their hearts out.”

That they did. But two bad bounces and 11 penalties, several of them coming at crucial moments, proved to be too much to overcome.

Despite being penalized 51 yards in the game's first five minutes, Northland (1-1) dominated the first quarter as the Chieftains struggled to keep up. But Logan adjusted in the second quarter and dominated the next two quarters.

The Purple & White rallied for a 13-12 halftime lead, with tailback Cory McCarty (162 yards rushing on 29 carries) capping off a pair of drives with touchdown runs of 15 and 8 yards and Cole Baron booting an extra point.

In the second stanza, the Chiefs gained 180 yards compared to just 11 for the Vikings and the Logan defense limited the Franklin Countians to only six plays from scrimmage and zero first downs.

Meanwhile, Logan moved the ball almost at will, registering nine first downs in the second period while finding a soft spot in the middle of Northland's defensive line.

“That was awesome. When we got down quick 12-0, our kids stuck to our game plan and nobody panicked,” Wolfe said. “They realized they could play with those guys. We put it together and came back strong. Our kids didn't hang their heads in the first quarter.

“It was apparent (the Vikings) were wore down and they were cramping up,” he continued. “We noticed right away that, as soon as we got the ball on offense, they took all their big guys out and had four little guys inside because they were completely gassed. That's why we were pounding the ball inside so much. We were bigger.

“We found that spot early and took advantage of it for as long as we could. And they weren't covering the flats and they blitzed like crazy (so) we hit our backs out in the flat quite a bit tonight.”

Logan put together a terrific nine-play, 65-yard scoring drive at the outset of the third period, culminated with a 19-yard TD jaunt by Isaac Schmeltzer for a 20-12 lead — Baron converted the PAT kick — with 7:28 left in the quarter.

McCarty kept pounding that soft spot up the Northland middle and quarterback Jack Music connected with McCarty in the right flat with a key 12-yard pass play along the way.

And then the first of those two bad bounces followed.

Logan's kickoff caromed crazily down the Northland sideline and the Chiefs had several would-be tacklers around the ball, which appeared to bounce off a Northland player around the 20-yard line.

Northland's Jhustus Cornley then emerged from the scrum of players with the ball, circled his way around them and found an opening. He went the distance, out-racing the remaining Logan defenders for a devastating 80-yard touchdown return.

Northland was penalized 15 yards at the end of the play for excessive celebration and was thus too far away to convert the potential game-tying 2-point conversion. But the Vikings had quickly answered the Chiefs' touchdown.

“We had eight guys right there... and (Cornley) bounces out of there with the football,” Wolfe lamented. “We wanted the ball bouncing around so they'd have a hard time fielding it and so our guys could get down there and cover it up. The ball didn't bounce our way there or on the (later 2-point) conversion.

“The punt return early in the game (a 53-yard punt return by Darnell set up Northland's second touchdown) hurt us,” he continued. “They had two huge special teams returns, the punt and the kickoff. Our goal was not to let them touch the ball on any of the kickoffs. We knew better than that after watching them on film.”

Nick Kost's 51-yard punt on Logan's ensuing series deep into Northland territory proved huge as the Vikings fumbled the ball away on their own 20-yard line three minutes into the fourth quarter.

Logan got as close as the Northland 5 before a holding penalty and a sack left the Chiefs facing fourth-and-goal at the Northland 19.

Music took the snap, was forced right, then scrambled to his left and connected with senior Justin Moore — who had broken off his route in the back of the end zone and cut back toward the same side — with a great 19-yard scoring pass as the Logan faithful on Hall of Fame Night went berserk.

Logan led 26-18 after missing the PAT kick with 4:59 remaining, leaving Northland within striking distance of a tie.

“That's the thing you want to see,” Wolfe praised. “That play obviously broke down big-time and Jack improvised. What was great is as soon as he turned (to scramble left) I looked in the back of the end zone and senior Justin Moore had broken off his route and turned and went the other way immediately.

“We have kids seeing what's happening one step ahead, and that's what you want to see. That's progress,” he added. Moore “adjusted and turned and ran with Jack and did exactly what he's supposed to do.”

And the Chiefs were less than five minutes away from ringing the victory bell.

“Everybody could taste it on the sidelines,” Wolfe admitted.

But it wasn't meant to be. A big 35-yard run by Nateshawn Hargrove put the ball on the Logan 35-yard line, then two plays later Abu Turay gained 21 big yards to the Logan 9. Turay went seven more before Smith scored on a keeper with 2:57 to play.

Though it will be forever argued whether Smith illegally fumbled the ball forward on the conversion, the play was allowed to stand as that same Chieftain crowd booed the men in stripes.

Both teams had one more possession in regulation. Logan came the closest to scoring, reaching the Northland 35 before Music's fourth-down pass was batted down by James Williams at the goal line.

Northland had the ball first in the extra session — each team gets one possession from the other team's 20-yard line per OT — and Smith did most of the work. He went 15 yards around left end on the first play then, after a 4-yard gain by Turay, tallied the eventual winning TD on a keeper.

The Chiefs, unfortunately, did not come close. After McCarty gained four yards, a 5-yard false start penalty pushed the ball back to the 21, then McCarty was thrown for a 3-yard loss.

Faced with fourth down, Music threw deep and Cornley intercepted at the goal line to clinch the victory, sending the Vikings into a celebration worthy of winning the Columbus City League title.

While no doubt a tough loss to absorb, the Chiefs can take a lot of good things out of this game as they prepare for their initial road game of the season next Friday at 0-2 Newark. The Wildcats have been outscored 118-27 in their first two games, including a 69-27 loss last night at Mansfield Madison.

“For me, from game one to game two, you look for big improvement from your team. That's an important thing right there,” Wolfe said. “We did a lot of great things. We adjusted, we made huge strides and we competed with these guys.

“We had kids making plays all night,” he added. “Cory did what he needed to do, Schmeltzer scored a touchdown running up the gut, Justin makes a big play, Jack makes a big play, and (on defense) Garrett Tutwiler had huge plays.”

While there are two directions a team can go after a game like last night, Wolfe is confident that direction will be a positive one.

“If we had went backwards, or if this had been a blowout, or if we weren't competitive, if we didn't make some strides this week, that would have been a bad sign,” he said. “But we made some big strides and I think a lot of people are going to see that we are a better football team.

“We deserved to win,” he added. “It just fell apart at the end. Now we just gotta keep working.”

## **Wildcats end 20-game losing streak at expense of Chieftains**

*McCarty, Schmeltzer combine for 410 rushing yards, but it's not enough as Newark wins, 35-32*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

NEWARK — As the Logan Chieftains gradually emerged out of their dressing room at Newark's White Field Friday night, they were greeted by the sound of Newark High School's football victory bell.

Because it had been five seasons since the Wildcats last got the chance to ring said bell, the Newark players and fans were making the most of a rare opportunity.

And all the Chiefs could do was quietly watch and hope they get that same opportunity sometime this season in their own Logan Chieftain Stadium.

Newark snapped a 20-game overall losing streak — and won its first home contest since 2007 — with a wild, wild 35-32 non-conference victory over the Chieftains... a game that appeared to be going down to the final possession until the shootout stopped with a little more than four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

The Chiefs (0-3) spotted the Wildcats (1-2) a 21-0 advantage less than seven minutes into the game then, to their credit, fought all the way back to take the lead not once but twice as the lead changed hands four times in the third quarter.

“If you would have told me we would come over here and spot the home team 21 points and we'd (later) be winning 24-21, I wouldn't have believed it,” said an emotional Logan coach Kelly Wolfe as the Newark victory bell rang in the background. “Our kids never gave up. They never hung their heads. They fought. What more can you ask of your kids than that?”

“You're down 21 points and you come back, take the lead and get in a shootout,” he continued. “I thought it (showed) unbelievable amount of courage by our boys. I'm proud to be associated with them.”

The Chiefs lost despite piling up nearly 500 yards of total offense, including a whopping 441 on the ground as Cory McCarty and Isaac Schmeltzer rushed for career highs of 245 and 165 yards, respectively, to account for 410 yards themselves.

Schmeltzer scored on runs of 55 and 52 yards in the third quarter, giving the Purple & White the lead each time.

Logan commanded time of possession (27:56 to 20:04), registered 23 first downs, and never punted the ball away.



But the Chiefs also committed 90 yards' worth of penalties — committing several on first-and-10 to put themselves in a hole — fumbled the ball away on their opening possession of the game, and failed to stop Newark on several key third-down plays, especially in the second half.

Although the Wildcats only had the ball for three second-half possessions — scoring twice and running off more than five precious minutes with a long fourth-quarter drive — in so doing Newark was 5-of-6 in third-down conversions and 9-of-13 for the game.

The Wildcats also had a weapon of their own in junior quarterback Grant Russell, who completed 14-of-25 passes to eight different receivers for 241 yards and two touchdowns.

Newark cashed in a short field for two touchdowns in the game's first four minutes and threatened to run the Chieftains not only out of White Field but Licking County.

The Wildcats went 52 yards on eight plays for their first score after a short Logan kickoff then, after recovering a Chieftain fumble at the Logan 23, scored on a 37-yard pass from Russell to Jesse Cartnal for a quick 14-0 lead with 8:04 left in the opening stanza.

Then, less than three minutes later, defensive back Dominique Shackelford stepped in front of the intended receiver of a Jack Music pass and returned an interception 52 yards to paydirt to make it 21-0 before the stunned Chiefs knew what had hit them.

“It all happened so fast,” said Wolfe. “We talked and preached about coming out better (at the outset of the game), and I don't know if we had nervous or what.”

But Logan showed great intestinal fortitude as the Chieftains began a steady comeback late in the opening period and scored four unanswered touchdowns to take a 24-21 lead less than 90 seconds into the third quarter.

Music teamed up with Dean Jordan on a 9-yard scoring pass with 1:55 left in the opening period then, after Newark missed a 40-yard field goal attempt, Music capped off an 80-yard drive with a 1-yard scoring run to cut the deficit to nine points.

With 49 seconds left in the half, Music went off right tackle for three yards and another TD to pull Logan within 21-18 at the intermission.

A 47-yard jaunt by McCarty set up Music's first score and a fourth-and-2 conversion on an 8-yard run by McCarty at the Newark 37 kept the last TD drive alive.

However, the Chiefs missed two extra-point kicks and a two-point conversion while Newark converted all three PAT boots in the first half. That would come back haunt them later in the game.

“The kicking game is a big disappointment right now,” Wolfe said. “We've missed five extra points the last two games. That is one things I'm disappointed in right now.”

The two teams then exchanged a pair of touchdowns and a 2-point conversion in less than eight minutes of a wild third quarter. The game took on an appearance where it looked like the team that had the ball last would win... and neither team was used to being in a position of knowing how to hold onto a lead.

“We talked about that,” Wolfe said. “Both teams fought very, very hard to win this football game. You just hate for somebody to have to lose this game.”

Schmeltzer broke free off right tackle to score from 55 yards out with 10:38 left in the third period, but Newark's Roger DeWitt turned a short pass from Russell into a 45-yard catch-and-run touchdown a little more than two minutes later, stiff-arming one tackler and breaking through three other potential Logan tackles along the way.

Undaunted, the Chiefs needed just two plays to score when they got the ball back as Schmeltzer scored on nearly the same play — a run off right tackle, this time bursting through a hole for a 52-yard TD jaunt — and Music connected with Jordan in the back left-corner of the end zone for a 2-point conversion and a 32-27 Logan edge with 7:31 still to play in the third quarter.

And yet Newark countered one more time. It only took the Wildcats a little more than three minutes to drive 74 yards for what turned out to be the winning score, with Shawn Dillon breaking a 32-yard scoring run up the middle — nearly untouched — with 4:07 left in the period.

DeWitt caught a conversion pass from Russell to re-establish the Wildcats' three-point edge, 35-32.

It seemed there would be absolutely no way that 35-32 would be the final score... but, as it turned out, there would be only three more possessions the rest of the game.

On their ensuing possession, the Chiefs held the ball for more than seven minutes, spilling into the fourth period, as they drove from their own 40-yard line deep into Newark territory.

A 4-yard gain on fourth-and-inches by Music kept the drive alive at the Newark 29, and McCarty carried three times as Logan reached the Newark 2. It appeared a Chieftain touchdown was inevitable.

But the Wildcats threw McCarty for a 3-yard loss, then held him to no gain and a Music pass fell incomplete, bringing up fourth-and-goal from the 5.

With their kicking game struggling, the Chiefs went for the touchdown rather than attempt a chip-shot 22-yard field goal, and were foiled when the Newark defense stopped McCarty at its own 2-yard line.

The Wildcats then held the ball for 12 plays and 5:33 of game time before a quarterback sack by Garrett Tutwiler finally forced Newark to punt. A 17-yard return by McCarty gave Logan the ball at its own 28 with 3:24 to play.

Logan picked up three first downs, including a 12-yard pass from Music to Jordan on fourth down, and reached the Newark 30 with a little more than a minute remaining.

Logan was assessed a 5-yard penalty when a player didn't get off the field quick enough, but on the next play it looked like Music and receiver Donnie Stevens were going to pull the victory out of the fire.

Music's deep ball for Stevens was on target and Stevens was in position to make an over-the-shoulder catch near the Newark 5-yard line, but Devonta Shackelford leaped to knock the ball away at the last second.

That was the Chiefs' last gasp. Another 5-yard miscue set them back, then Music hit McCarty with a short pass in the waning seconds. Logan was out of timeouts and scrambled back to the line of scrimmage to try one last desperation play, but a scrambling Music was sacked after the clock struck zero.

And thus the clock also struck zero on Newark's losing streak. Students and fans swarmed the field to celebrate something that hadn't happened since Sept. 14, 2007.

“When you play OCC (Ohio Capital Conference) competition week in and week out, you're not going to be a slouch by any means,” Wolfe said of the Wildcats. “We were right there for a second week in a row.

So, now, “we keep working,” he added. “I pulled them (together) and said 'we've got to stay together, we've got to believe in what we're doing.' We're having some success — we are doing some things well, and our kids are fighting to the end — but we're just not getting a mark in the (victory) column.”

The Chiefs travel to Plain City to take on Jonathan Alder next week. The Pioneers were routed by visiting Clinton-Massie 49-7 last night for their first loss of the season.

# Chiefs start strong but come up empty in 35-0 shutout loss at Jonathan Alder

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

PLAIN CITY — Four games into the season, the Logan Chieftains finally got off to a good start in their first-ever football trip to Jonathan Alder High School. In fact, everything went right for the Chiefs — and everything went wrong for the Pioneers — in the opening quarter... with the exception of just one not-so-minor detail: Logan could not score.

And, despite possessing the ball for nearly nine minutes on the opening drive, and holding the ball for more than 18 minutes in the first half, the Chiefs found themselves on the short end of a 21-0 halftime score.

When all was ultimately said and done, they were shut out by the Pioneers for a second-straight season, 35-0. “We had an almost nine-minute drive to start the game and we came out executing,” said Logan coach Kelly Wolfe. “You couldn’t have asked for a better start... except that we couldn’t score.”

And, once the Pioneers started scoring, they didn’t stop until the game was out of hand. Led by senior quarterback Andy Fooce and senior receiver Brad Miller, the Pioneers (3-1 on the season) scored all 35 of their points in a span of just over 14 minutes of game time.

Fooce threw three touchdown passes — all of them to Miller — and ran for the other two, passing and rushing for 345 of Jonathan Alder’s 386 total yards.

“He’s a very dangerous runner if you over-rush him, and he threw the ball really well tonight,” praised Jonathan Alder head coach Steve Coate, who coached the Chieftains for three seasons in the 1980s. (Fooce) “threw the ball really well and tucked it away when he should have. He did a nice job.”

So did the diminutive (5-foot-7) Miller, who caught six passes for 196 yards and scored touchdowns on receptions of 26, 56 and 50 yards. “Brad in the slot is pretty slick and hard to cover,” said Coate, noting the Pioneers’ two primary wideouts are taller players who present matchup problems for opposing defenses.

“When you watch these (non-league) teams on film you can never tell how big they are going to be,” Wolfe said. “When you play Jackson and our other league teams week in and week out, you get a good vibe for what you are going up against on film.

“But tonight we couldn’t get a gauge on the size of these guys. They’re a good football team.”

The Pioneers, who beat the Chiefs 42-0 last season in Logan Chieftain Stadium, watched the Purple & White (0-4) twice drive the ball down their throats in the opening 12-plus minutes.

Logan took the opening kickoff 68 yards on 15 plays, keeping the ball for 8:37 of game time, but came up empty on fourth-and-goal from the JA 5-yard line when Jack Music's pass for Justin Moore was batted down in the back left-corner of the end zone.

Things then went from bad to worse for the Pioneers, who lost their top running back, Derritt Potts, on their very first play from scrimmage.

Potts injured a knee — and barely got out of the end zone to avoid a safety in the process — while taking a handoff up the middle. After being down on the field for several minutes, he was helped to the sideline and did not return, later standing on the sideline on crutches.

After forcing a three-and-out punt from the Pioneers — Jonathan Alder's only offensive plays of the first period — Logan took over at the JA 43-yard line and drove to the Alder nine, where the drive stopped when Music was sacked on fourth-and-5 with 9:43 left in the second quarter.

“We were in tough field position early and we couldn't get (the Chiefs) off the field,” Coate said. “They converted third and fourth downs. We had worked real hard on getting Derritt back in the game plan, getting him more touches — at the expense our passing game — and it was a big blow when he went down after one carry.

“But it was good to see that they kept their poise,” he said of his team. “It's a big deal to bounce back from the game we played last week (a 49-7 loss to Clinton-Massie) where we made as many mistakes as we did.”

On the Logan side, “we very easily could have been up 14-0,” Wolfe noted. “We didn't capitalize and take advantage of what was there.”

But even though the Chiefs started well, Wolfe knew from the outset his team just wasn't in a good frame of mind.

“We were (mentally) out of this game from the moment we got off the bus,” Wolfe revealed. “No energy. We could not get anything going. I don't know what the deal was... and we still started well. That was definitely the best first quarter we've played all year.”

It's kind of a contradiction, but it's accurate because, once Foose took over, found the range and rallied the Pioneers, the Chiefs were out of it.

“And we got a lot of guys banged up tonight, too,” Wolfe revealed.

It took Jonathan Alder a grand total of 13 plays to score three touchdowns in a six-minute span of the second quarter to wipe out any thoughts the Chiefs had of pulling off an upset.

Aided by a costly 15-yard pass interference penalty on the Chiefs, Jonathan Alder went 85 yards on just five plays and took the lead for good when Foose kept the ball around left end and went 42 yards to paydirt.

Foocce found a wide-open Miller near the goal line for a 26-yard scoring pass on Alder's next series then, moments later, a 37-yard Foocce-to-Miller aerial set the Pioneers up deep in Logan territory, with Foocce scoring on a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

Alder nearly scored again in the final seconds. While just trying to run out the clock, Foocce rambled 46 yards to the Logan 7-yard line and the Pioneers brought on Nick Smith, one of the best kickers in central Ohio, for a 24-yard field goal attempt with less than one second remaining.

Smith's kick from the far-right hashmark went wide left... but it didn't take Alder long to score coming out of the locker room in the second half to quickly make up for it.

The Pioneers took advantage of a blown coverage in the Logan defensive backfield and Foocce hit a wide-open Miller over the middle with a 56-yard catch-and-run touchdown pass on the first play from scrimmage.

"We ran it earlier and got a first down on it," Coate revealed, "and Andy said he wanted to come back with it on the first play (of the second half), so we did."

Then, later in the quarter, Foocce found Miller over the middle and Miller broke two arm tackles to turn a short reception into a 50-yard TD play.

"For the most part we shut down their run," Wolfe stated. "Their biggest plays were passes to (Miller). Give them credit; they found a mismatch right away... they found a linebacker playing (their receiver) man-to-man, and they exploited it.

"We just couldn't get any (defensive) pressure up the middle," he added. "That's what we saw on film; (Clinton-Massie) got some pressure on (Foocce), he was unsettled back there and not making good throws, and we couldn't get any penetration up the middle tonight."

Foocce looked quite comfortable as the game progressed, however, and was eventually all but unstoppable.

After getting nine first downs and controlling a lot of the play in the first half, the out-manned Chiefs were held to two first downs and four three-and-outs in the second half... despite a season-high time of possession of 29:34 compared to just 18:26 for the Pioneers.

The Chiefs are home for their final non-conference game of the season next Friday when they host Nelsonville-York in the renewal of a backyard rivalry in Logan Chieftain Stadium. The following week, Logan starts Southeastern Ohio Athletic League play at Portsmouth.

"We still have a lot of football to play," Wolfe said. "Our goal to 'bring the (SEOAL) plaque back' is still in front of us."

# **Buckeyes deal Chieftains historic 50-0 football setback**

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — There's no way to sugar-coat it; the Logan Chieftains' 50-0 setback at the hands of the visiting Nelsonville-York Buckeyes Friday night in Logan Chieftain Stadium was a loss of historic proportions.

The winless Chiefs (0-5) tied a school record with their ninth-consecutive overall loss; they fell for the tenth-straight time at home, also a school record; and the 50-0 shellacking marks the worst shutout loss in school history, the largest margin of defeat to any Nelsonville team (N-Y Buckeyes or Nelsonville Greyhounds), and marks the largest margin of defeat in the five-year history of Logan Chieftain Stadium.

It all went downhill for the Chieftains after a scoreless opening quarter, during which the Purple & White twice got into N-Y territory but got no closer than the Buckeye 38-yard line.

Senior tailback Clint Handa took over from there, popping touchdown runs of 42, 53 and 17 yards in a span of less than five minutes in the second quarter as Nelsonville-York (3-2) took a 22-0 lead at the intermission.

“That's as embarrassed as I've been my entire life,” Logan coach Kelly Wolfe said as he and his team left the Logan Chieftain Stadium turf. “We're being tested right now, and our resolve as a team is being tested.

“Last year about this time is where the wheels kind of fell off,” he added. “We started scrambling and trying to make things happen. Right now we're being tested.”

And there really wasn't much else he could say.

Cory McCarty picked off a Joey Young pass on the game's first play from scrimmage — the Chieftains' first interception of the season — near midfield, but the Chiefs were unable to take advantage.

After getting two first downs on their second series of the night, reaching the N-Y 38 in the process, the Chiefs were forced to punt the ball away, then went three-and-out on six-consecutive offensive series while the Buckeye offense finally woke up.

With the game still scoreless, Handa took a simple handoff up the middle, cut left and went the distance, 42 yards, to put the Buckeyes ahead for good with 9:07 left in the second stanza.

Then, after a Logan punt, the Bucks took over on their own 47 and Handa did it again, going off left tackle, breaking a couple arm tackles by the Chieftain defense, and going the distance 53 yards down the left sideline.

N-Y then made it 15-0 on a fake extra-point kick, with Young, the holder, connecting with Austin North with a conversion pass.

Following still another Logan punt, Young went 29 yards on the first play from scrimmage and a 15-yard Logan personal foul penalty was tacked on. Handa then went 17 yards up the middle for six points and D.J. Young added his second PAT kick to make it 22-0.

"He's one of those kids that each week he gets a little better and better, and he's working hard," Nelsonville-York coach Dave Boston Jr. said of Handa. "Our offensive line did an outstanding job for us tonight. Hats off to them and I'm sure Clint would say the same thing."

Things got no better for the Purple & White in the second half.

In Logan's five full offensive possessions of the second half, the Chiefs went three-and-out three times, fumbled the ball away — N-Y's Jacob Blake ran it back 40 yards to paydirt — and threw an interception.

The Buckeyes, meanwhile, took a 30-0 lead when, with the ball at the Logan 12, Joey Young made a beautiful fake of a pitchout to the left side. Everybody went that direction except for Young, who strolled around the right side for an easy touchdown.

Blake caught a 2-point conversion pass from Joey Young off another fake PAT kick with 6:56 left in the third period.

Blake made it 36-0 with his fumble return, then Marc Carter and D.J. Young added short touchdown runs to round out the scoring as the Buckeyes reached the half-century mark.

The Chiefs were limited to five first downs and 140 yards of total offense, with McCarty accounting for 99 of those yards on 22 carries.

For N-Y, Handa gained 170 yards rushing on just 11 carries and Joey Young added 92 yards on 10 attempts. The Buckeyes out-gained the Chieftains, 337-140 and the N-Y defense dealt the Purple & White their second-straight shutout loss. Logan fell 35-0 last week at Jonathan Alder.

"Defensively our kids played their tails off," Boston stated. "We're proud of their efforts tonight. We executed offensively. We lost the ball a couple times, but when we were able to run the offense, we executed it well.

"As a whole I felt our kids did an outstanding job controlling their running game," he added. "We wanted to do that. We wanted to make (the Chiefs) a one-phase group and we did that, forced them to throw the football and our secondary each week is getting better and better."

The Chiefs were playing somewhat shorthanded, with senior defensive back/wide receiver Donnie Stevens and junior running back Isaac Schmeltzer both missing the game due to concussions sustained last week at Jonathan Alder.



Logan thus reaches the end of the first half of the season 0-5 for a second-straight year but, in a sense, can wipe the slate clean this week.

Southeastern Ohio Athletic League play begins next Friday at Portsmouth (1-4), and only one SEOAL team (3-2 Gallia Academy) posted a winning record in non-conference play. Portsmouth fell to 5-0 Ironton 61-34 on Friday.

Kevin Wiseman of The Athens Messenger contributed to this story.

# McCarty's monster game spurs Chiefs to first victory

*Senior rushes for 270 yards and three TDs, Logan doesn't throw a pass in 34-13 win at Portsmouth*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

PORTSMOUTH — Without throwing a single pass or attempting a single run from scrimmage, sophomore quarterback Caleb Lewellen managed the Logan Chieftains to a much-needed football victory Friday night.

Senior tailback Cory McCarty turned in a monster game for a Logan team that was playing without three injured starters in its Southeastern Ohio Athletic League opener at Portsmouth, rushing for 270 yards and three touchdowns as the Purple & White broke into the victory column with a 34-13 victory over the Trojans at Trojan Coliseum.

Having lost starting quarterback Jack Music due to concussion symptoms earlier in the week, the Logan coaching staff put Lewellen behind center and asked him to manage the game while riding McCarty and the Chieftain defense.

The strategy worked to near-perfection. The Chiefs (1-5 overall, 1-0 SEOAL) had the ball for nearly 30 minutes on offense, didn't commit a single turnover, and, after the first half, shut out a Portsmouth offense that gained more than 450 yards last week against Ironton.

Lewellen's job was to take the snap, hand the ball to McCarty or Nick Kost, and keep a close eye on the play clock. Oftentimes, the sophomore ran the play clock down to the last two or three seconds before handing off as McCarty or Kost (72 yards) broke off big chunks of yardage.

All of Logan's 348 total yards thus came by land, none by air.

"We talked about not giving up on each other and still believing in what we're trying to do," said Logan coach Kelly Wolfe, whose team broke a nine-game losing streak dating back to last season. "It's a clean slate (in the league).

"We looked at all the different scenarios and felt this was the best one with Caleb in there," he continued. "We felt that everybody else would have to do a little bit more. We put the pressure on everybody; we weren't asking Caleb to do anything spectacular. He did an awesome job tonight."

McCarty — whose 270 yards (on 39 carries) ties for the sixth-best single-game rushing performance in LHS history — agreed.

"We had a lot of people step in tonight, especially (Lewellen)," praised the senior tailback, who gained 212 yards and scored four touchdowns against the Trojans two seasons ago as a

sophomore. “He hasn’t been in very much and he did great. It was the best we’ve played all year.”

Everything was in place this week for the Chiefs to fold the tent on their 2012 football season. They were 0-5. They were missing three starters (Music, Isaac Schmeltzer and Donnie Stevens), and they had been drubbed 50-0 last week by Nelsonville-York.

But they refused to do so.

“We took everything serious,” said McCarty, who touched the ball on all but 14 of the Chiefs’ 53 plays from scrimmage, including a couple direct snaps from wildcat formation. “The whole bus ride (to Portsmouth) there was a little joking around, but basically we got our minds set and got ready to play.”

For the first time this season, the Chiefs came out focused from the opening kickoff and didn’t let off the gas pedal the rest of the night.

“Finally!” Wolfe exclaimed. “We finally put it all together.”

Oddly enough, the Logan defense caught more passes (two) than the Chieftain offense (zero)... and that worked out just fine, thank you.

With the Chiefs leading 14-7 — McCarty broke a 52-yard touchdown run less than three minutes into the game then, after Portsmouth scored on a Brandon Wedebrook-to-Alex Dickerson 38-yard TD aerial, McCarty went 42 yards to paydirt on a fourth-and-3 carry around right end — the Chiefs’ Dean Jordan pinned the Trojans (1-5, 0-1) deep in their own territory with a punt.

With the ball on their own 15, the Trojans elected to set up a screen pass.

Bad idea.

Quarterback Wedebrook backpeddled into his own end zone. He badly under-threw his intended receiver and Chieftain nose guard Allen Mulford picked it off on the Portsmouth 4-yard line and waltzed into the end zone for an easy touchdown to make it 20-7 with 2:47 left in the first half.

The Trojans pulled within 20-13 at halftime when Wedebrook connected with Dickerson for a second touchdown pass, this one for 21 yards.

Portsmouth then took the opening kickoff to start the third period and drove to the Logan 1-yard line and went for a potential game-tying touchdown on fourth-and-goal.

Portsmouth running back Johnie Charles went around right end and defensive back Nick Maniskas blew up the play, throwing Charles for a 1-yard loss to give Logan the ball on downs.

“The offense was working well and the defense made some big stops when we needed them,” Wolfe said. “They had fourth-and-goal and we made a big play.”

The Chiefs then set about upon a game-sealing 98-yard touchdown drive, consuming the last 6:11 of the third period and the first 10 seconds of the final stanza before McCarty scored on a 2-yard run off left tackle to cap off a 14-play drive.

“That was all part of the mind-set going in,” Wolfe revealed. “We wanted to run the ball (and) slow the game down. I was watching the clock with every play I called. We cut the game plan in half. We had pass plays put in, but we figured (the Trojans) would do what they did last year, go 5-3 man-to-man (defense) and cover our best three guys with their three best athletes and (make Logan) run the ball.”

That the Chiefs did, almost to perfection.

When Portsmouth was penalized half the distance to the goal on the ensuing PAT kick, the Chiefs took out the kicking team and sent the offense back onto the field. McCarty then ran for a 2-point conversion to make it 28-13.

Portsmouth then muffed the squib kickoff and Justin Moore recovered at the PHS 29.

From there, the Chiefs needed only four plays to score, with Kost tallying on a 2-yard run with 9:55 remaining to make it 34-13.

Down 21 points, the Trojans were forced to throw the ball and quickly reached Chieftain territory. However, on fourth-and-18, Nick Maniskas out-jumped a Portsmouth receiver for an interception at the Logan 6-yard line with 8:06 remaining.

That ultimately put the lid on the Chiefs’ first win because, from there, they stuck to the game plan, kept the ball on the ground, and churned out four first downs on 12 plays — converting four-straight third down plays in the process — to, incredibly, run out the clock.

“They’re driving late and Nick gets that interception,” Wolfe lauded.

“We felt we could run the ball here and that’s what we hung our hat on,” he continued. “We didn’t throw one pass (and) we weren’t going to. Nothing against Caleb, but we felt that’s what we wanted to do, and our defense held them at bay. Once we got up, we needed to shut down (Dickerson), we knew they were going to attack the perimeter and our defense did a good job of slowing them down and making them work for everything.”

“They came down here and played pretty much mistake-free football,” Portsmouth coach Curt Clifford said. “Very few penalties until there at the end.”

The Chiefs rode McCarty to a 31-28 win in Trojan Coliseum two years ago, but last year his season came to a premature end when he was hurt in the next-to-last game against, ironically, Portsmouth.

“I had to make up for that,” McCarty said with a smile.

“He was the horse going in,” Wolfe said. “My prayers were that tomorrow’s newspaper would say that ‘McCarty has monster game’ because I knew that’s what we were going to commit to.”

Consider it done, coach.

“We’re going to keep this stuff in,” he continued. “We had six pass plays (scripted as needed) tonight and simplified our game, (run off) left tackle, right tackle, all night and made sure our line knew what they were going to do and make everything as simple as possible so they could play as fast as possible.”

According to Logan football historian Spencer Waugh, the last time the Chiefs didn’t throw a single pass in a game was in 1999 against River Valley. Before that, it happened three other times: against Pomeroy in 1958, Athens in 1957, and Wellston in 1939.

So the Chiefs indeed made some history, and look to make some more in the next few weeks.

With Jackson beating Warren 36-26 Friday night, the Chiefs’ game at Jackson next Friday is an early showdown for the conference lead.

As far as the Chiefs are concerned, it’s indeed a new season.

“On the sidelines you could see it and feel it,” Wolfe said. “There was a lot more confidence out there tonight.”

# Late rally falls short as Chiefs drop SEOAL game at Jackson

*Music, Stevens connect on two late TD passes, but Ironmen prevail, 31-20*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

JACKSON — Jackson coach Andy Hall and Logan coach Kelly Wolfe were less than pleased with the tackling by their respective teams Friday night in Jackson High School's Alumni Stadium.

But whereas most of the Chiefs' tackling woes came as the Ironmen were rolling up a 31-6 advantage, the majority of Jackson's problems bringing down ballcarriers didn't have as much of an effect on the final score.

Two fourth-quarter touchdown passes from Logan quarterback Jack Music to wide receiver Donnie Stevens weren't enough for the Chiefs to overcome that 25-point deficit as the Ironmen held on for a 31-20 Southeastern Ohio Athletic League victory.

It was the 13th-straight SEOAL win for Jackson (4-3 overall, 2-0 SEOAL) which is tied for the conference lead with Gallipolis (5-2, 2-0) two games into the league season.

"It was two touchdowns apiece in the second half," said Wolfe, "but we lost that game in the first half. Our tackling wasn't very good in the first half. We were hesitating (and) waiting to react to them on defense."

The Chiefs — who didn't throw a single pass in winning 34-13 last week at Portsmouth — kept the ball on the ground on their opening series of the game and drove from their own 33-yard line to the Jackson 27, where they fumbled the ball away.

And it took the Ironmen all of two plays to take the lead for good, as Jackson quarterback Steven Kearns busted off left tackle and went nearly untouched 71 yards to the end zone.

"That and our going down and fumbling the ball on our first drive didn't help matters," said Wolfe. "We're moving the ball and fumble and give the ball back to them."

"Our running backs ran hard tonight and Steven Kearns did a good job managing the offense," praised Jackson coach Andy Hall.

Kearns rushed for a team-best 116 yards and also completed half of his eight passes for 50 additional yards.

The Chiefs pulled within 7-6 with 7:30 left in the second period when Nick Kost's 12-yard TD run up the middle capped off a nifty 13-play, 93-yard Logan drive that started after the Purple & White barely held the Ironmen on fourth-and-11 inside the Chieftain 10.

The combination of Music and Stevens — neither of whom played last week at Portsmouth due to concussion symptoms — teamed up on a 20-yard pass play to spark the drive and Cory McCarty converted three first downs on the ground.

McCarty rushed for 144 yards on 31 carries, following up on his 270-yard rushing performance last week at Portsmouth, but missed the final few minutes of the game after injuring his ankle. He had the ankle taped up but Wolfe elected to hold him out.

“Defensively we played good at times, but we have some things to work on,” Hall said. “And give credit to Logan. The McCarty kid had 270 yards rushing last week and tonight they ran the ball well. We struggled to stop them at times.”

But Logan had a tougher time stopping the Jackson running game, which piled up 363 yards on 41 attempts. Twenty of those yards came moments later when quarterback-turned-running back Derek Rafferty broke a scoring run off right tackle for a 14-6 Jackson lead.

Then, after Jackson held the Chiefs on fourth-and-3 with under a minute left, the Ironmen used a 24-yard run by Gabe Griffiths, a 22-yard pass from Kearns to Morgan Landrum, and a costly pass interference penalty on the Chiefs to get close enough for Jimmy Voiles to boot a 41-yard field goal as time expired.

“He was kicking well in warm-ups,” Hall said of Voiles. “He really had it going tonight. That thing would have been good from 50... no doubt about it.

“That was the turning point of the game,” Hall continued. “We got that three points at halftime, then the key to the game was (the) score (to start the second half to) make it a three-score game. We were able to do that, then the next thing you know it’s 31-6.”

The Ironmen drove 69 yards on 10 plays at the outset of the third period and Landrum capped it off with a 2-yard scoring run to make it 24-6.

The Chiefs let a golden opportunity get away on the next series when Music had a pass in the left flat intercepted by Alec Osborne at the Jackson 11-yard line after Logan drove into the red zone from its own 12.

Music connected with Stevens on a 34-yard aerial and with Nick Maniskas on a 20-yarder as Logan — which had 444 total yards of offense — moved the ball well.

“We had two turnovers on (potential) scoring drives, and you just can’t make those kind of mistakes in big games,” Wolfe said. “We didn’t tackle well and made too many big mistakes tonight.”

Jackson took full advantage. A 24-yard keeper by Kearns helped the Ironmen cross midfield, then Griffiths busted a 30-yard scoring run off left tackle to make it 31-6 Jackson less than 10 seconds into the final stanza.

But the Chiefs didn't quit. They quickly scored twice to wake up the JHS Homecoming Night crowd.

A 49-yard run by Kost — with Rafferty making a saving tackle— and a 10-yard run by McCarty helped move the Chiefs inside the Jackson 30.

Then, with 9:07 remaining, Music threw for Stevens in the near left-corner of the end zone, where the 5-foot-7 senior wrested the ball away from a Jackson defender just inside the goal line for a touchdown. His brother, junior Dominick Stevens, then booted the extra point.

On the ensuing Jackson series, Logan's Chance Cox picked off a Kearns pass as the Ironmen neared the Logan red zone and the Chiefs took over on their own 37.

They got the next 63 yards all in one chunk.

Music threw deep to Donnie Stevens, who made the catch around the Jackson 30, then proceeded to escape and elude three tacklers, nearly had his jersey torn off by one of them, and still somehow got away for an unbelievable catch-and-run TD with 4:25 remaining.

Dominick Stevens again kicked the PAT — the Stevens brothers scored Logan's last 14 points — and the Chiefs were within 31-20.

Logan's Tyler Stivison then recovered an onside kick, and the Chiefs drove inside Jackson territory.

They converted a fourth-and-5 when Kost took a counter handoff around the right side, was apparently stopped a couple yards short of the first down, then made a great second effort to bull his way away from Jackson tacklers for a first down.

But there was no miracle finish in store for the Chiefs.

Landrum and Josh Cutright came up with key quarterback sacks to push Logan outside the Jackson 35, and Logan missed on a deep fourth-and-long pass.

"I thought we probably relaxed a little bit,, (being) up 31-6 in the fourth quarter," Hall revealed. "The last four or five weeks have been (close games), so you have to learn to play with a lead,."

"Tonight's the first time we've gotten a big lead early, and again I think we let up a little bit and they got momentum," he added. "Then they got the onside kick and drove the ball down the field and their quarterback made a couple nice plays."

A week after Logan didn't throw a single pass at Portsmouth, Music threw for a career-best 204 yards, with Donnie Stevens catching four balls for a career-high 138 yards.

But it wasn't enough.



“We played a lot of kids tonight,” Hall said. “We told them we had short leashes and we simplified things... then, if you don’t do your job, you’re going to come out. At times we played solid, then (would) give up a big play.

“It was our tackling,” he added. “We’d have them inside for a two or three-yard loss, and then the McCarty kid or whoever would come bouncing out of that. Good running backs will make you do that, but we have to do a better job of tackling, getting to the ball and making plays.

“Give credit to coach Wolfe and Logan. They kept fighting back, kept playing, kept running the ball and made a game of it.”

And Wolfe was pleased with his kids for their effort.

“I thought we moved the ball really well tonight, Donnie Stevens came back tonight and was a big impact for us,” Wolfe said. “The kids didn’t quit. They had every reason to quit tonight, but they didn’t. They kept fighting and got back in it.

“We had a chance,” he added. “We get another score (after recovering the onside kick) and, well, wilder things have happened... we’re right back in it. I was proud of our kids and that they didn’t quit.”

After playing four of their last five games on the road, the Chiefs return to Logan Chieftain Stadium for games against Chillicothe and Gallipolis the next two weeks playing much better in the second half of the season than they did in the first.

“We took some strides backwards against Jonathan Alder and Nelsonville,” Wolfe said, “but now we’re improving, we’re competing and doing good things. We had 444 yards of offense tonight — but you can’t make turnovers and mistakes against a good team like Jackson.”

# Ring that victory bell, Chiefs, ring that victory bell!

*Schmeltzer's big night powers Logan to 28-7 home win over Chillicothe*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — Isaac Schmeltzer was the next-to-last Chieftain to ring the Logan High School victory bell Friday night after the Purple & White won its first home football game in two seasons.

If he was a little late to the victory party, well, that's perfectly understandable.

After missing the previous three games with concussion symptoms, the Chiefs were blessed with the 5-foot-9, 165-pound senior's presence just in time.

Schmeltzer stepped in at tailback for the injured Cory McCarty to rush for a career-high 173 yards, and equaled his career best with three touchdowns, as the Purple & White defeated Chillicothe 28-7 in Logan Chieftain Stadium to snap a streak of 10-straight home defeats.

"I'm a little bit tired," Schmeltzer said with a weary smile as he received congratulations and hugs from appreciative fans and fellow students. "I'm a little out of shape. I haven't ran for awhile, but I'm really glad to be back. It feels good."

It feels good to everyone in Chieftain Nation... and to hear the victory bell finally get a Friday night workout after a varsity football victory was, as head coach Kelly Wolfe said, "music to my ears."

The Chiefs (2-6 overall, 2-1 Southeastern Ohio Athletic League) are now in third place by themselves while knocking Chillicothe (2-6, 1-2) to fourth, and Logan is still within striking distance of at least sharing a conference championship.

"We win out, and if Gallipolis can knock off Jackson, we're still in it," Wolfe said.

McCarty, the Chiefs' leading rusher (1,048 yards) sustained a high ankle sprain late in last week's loss at Jackson. The Chiefs planned all week for him to play, but the ankle just hadn't healed enough to allow it.

"We were going to play Cory tonight," Wolfe stated. "We rested him all week (but) high ankle sprains are slow to heal. He dressed and wanted to play. He went out before the game and he tried, but he came to me and said 'coach, I tried to go backwards and the pain shot up all the way to my hip.' "

So exit McCarty — who moved around on the Logan sideline with a noticeable limp — and enter Schmeltzer, stage left.

The Cavaliers had seen this movie before.

It ended okay for them last season — Schmeltzer, then a sophomore, scored three touchdowns and rushed for 145 yards in place of an injured McCarty in a 29-19 Chillicothe win 29-19 at Herrnstein Field — but not Friday night.

“In the back of my mind I’m thinking Isaac did pretty well last year against these guys,” Wolfe said. “He did well tonight. Like last week, when Donnie (Stevens) came back (after missing two games due to a concussion) with a vengeance, well, Isaac came back with a vengeance tonight.

“We have kids who are hungry, who want to play and contribute,” he added. “Everybody contributed tonight.”

Although Schmeltzer was ready to contribute, he wasn’t expecting what eventually happened.

“Actually I thought (McCarty) was going to play,” Schmeltzer revealed. On Thursday “he said he thought he could play, but today he tried to do some cutting and his ankle was a little too weak. I found out right before the game.”

There wasn’t much time for Schmeltzer to worry about it. But, if anything, missing the last three games made him hungry for playing time — and it was against a team against whom he’d already enjoyed past success.

“They’re a rival and this was my first game back, so I wanted to come back on fire,” he revealed.

Consider the Cavaliers burned.

In their first win of the season two weeks ago at Portsmouth, the Chiefs won by controlling ball possession (and the clock), running the ball and committing zero turnovers.

A big part of that formula also did the trick against Chillicothe — as well as an excellent defensive game plan — as Logan held an opponent under 10 points for just the second time in two seasons.

“Our defensive game plan was amazing, and our kids were so ready tonight,” Wolfe praised. On game film, “we watched (other) teams get burned with plays they were running, double-fades and running backs down the sidelines. They didn’t complete them one time. Our kids were ready and we had them scouted well. It was awesome to see.”

Logan did trail for awhile in the early going but, once the Chiefs took the lead, they also took command.

The game’s biggest play came early. The Cavs took the opening kickoff and were approaching the Chiefs’ red zone when they fumbled the ball at the Logan 26. Dean Jordan scooped the ball up and rambled 65 yards before being brought down at the Chillicothe 9-yard line.

Two plays later, Schmeltzer scored on an 8-yard run. Logan missed the extra-point kick and, moments later, the Cavs drove 68 yards on just four plays to take the lead.

A 55-yard run by Markel Cain got the ball to the Logan 10-yard line. After a 1-yard run and a 5-yard penalty against the Cavs, quarterback Ryan Mathis connected with receiver Christian Collins near the goal line and Collins scored with 5:16 left in the opening period.

Jacob Weber's PAT kick gave the Cavs a 7-6 lead.

Logan's only turnover came later in the first quarter when Chance Cox's halfback option pass was picked off by Chillicothe's Luke Barnes... but Cox redeemed himself, and returned the favor, three plays later when he intercepted an aerial by Mathis at the LHS 21.

The Chiefs then drove 42 yards on 13 plays to take the lead with 4:46 remaining in the first half. Aided by a 19-yard pass play from Music to Jordan, the Chiefs eventually got first-and-goal at the CHS 1 and Music scored on a quarterback keeper.

With the exception of one good Cavalier drive that ended on a fumble at the LHS 6-yard line in the fourth quarter, the second half was all Chieftains.

By then, Logan had built its 28-7 lead, and the Cavs had a TD pass nullified on an ineligible receiver downfield penalty.

"The kids didn't let up tonight," Wolfe said. "They were confident coming in. You could see it in the locker room and they played with a bit of a chip on their shoulder.

"I think some of the things we were doing on offense kept (the Chillicothe defense) off-balance," he added, "and we had our best defensive game plan of the year. Our kids knew what was coming and were looking for the right guys. Their quarterback (Mathis, who rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns last season) had us scared to death but our outside backers, Bryce (McBride) and Nick (Maniskas), stayed at home. (They let) the guys inside tackle the dive" and protected the outside.

A 46-yard return of the second-half kickoff by Maniskas gave the Chiefs great field position, and they didn't waste it.

Stevens took a pass from Music in the right flat 21 yards to the Chillicothe 16 then, four plays later, Schmeltzer took a pitchout around right end, fought his way through a couple potential tacklers around the 4-yard line, and burst into the end zone to complete a 6-yard scoring run.

He also took a pitch around left end for the ensuing 2-point conversion and a 20-7 advantage a little more than two minutes into the second half.

A 38-yard burst up the middle by Nick Kost on the last play of the third quarter was the big play of the Chiefs' final scoring drive, which came to a conclusion with 10:40 left in the game.

That's when, from the Chillicothe 19-yard line, Schmeltzer went around right end, found daylight, then eluded a potential tackler near the 5-yard line before waltzing into the end zone.

Music then connected with Jordan on a 2-point conversion pass for a 28-7 lead, and the Homecoming crowd — and the Chiefs — began to sense there would be more than just band music after the game.

“You could feel the positive atmosphere building here tonight,” Wolfe said. “The closer you got (to the end of the game), the kids on the sidelines (were ready to ring the bell), and we just kept trying to get everybody to keep playing and finish the game. It was sweet to hear (the bell). The kids just wanted to win at home so bad.

“I don't think people realize how important (ringing that) bell is,” added Wolfe, who did so a number of times as a star tailback for the Chiefs in the 1980s while playing at Bill Sauer Field. “It means a lot to the people who play (Logan football), and to ring it means they'll be part of history. They got to do something (LHS) football players before them have gotten to do. They're a part of that now.”

The Chiefs enjoyed ringing the bell so much they would like to do it one more time before the season ends. Logan hosts Gallia Academy — which shares the SEOAL lead with Jackson — next Friday night in its home Senior Night finale.

“It feels awesome” to ring the bell, Schmeltzer said. “First time this year. And we're going to ring it again next week.”

## **Blue Devils rain on Chiefs' Senior Night, 23-14**

*Gallipolis kicker boots three field goals as Blue Devils clinch share of SEOAL championship*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — Gallipolis coach Mike Eddy said it was a war. Logan coach Kelly Wolfe said it was a classic.

Whatever it was, the Blue Devils can say they clinched no worse than a share of the 2012 Southeastern Ohio Athletic League football championship.

The two head coaches left the Logan Chieftain Stadium turf Friday night looking ahead (Eddy) and wondering what might have been (Wolfe) after the visiting Blue Devils outlasted the Chiefs 23-14 on a rainy Senior Night on the Logan High School campus.

Coupled with an unexpected development about 45 miles south of Logan Chieftain Stadium — Chillicothe's shocking 14-13 victory at Jackson, which broke the two-time defending champion Ironmen's 14-game SEOAL winning streak — the Blue Devils (7-2 overall, 4-0 SEOAL) clinched no worse than a tie for the conference crown with their regular-season finale against visiting Jackson (5-4, 3-1) looming next Friday.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs (2-7, 2-2), who began the season 0-5, came oh-so-close to throwing the conference championship race into a three-way tie going into the final week.

“It was a classic Logan-Gallipolis game,” said Wolfe. “It was physical. I thought our kids came out a little flat in the first half, but we came out in the second half with an attitude, and it was the battle that you expected it to be.”

Although the Chiefs were flat in the first half, the Blue Devils — who entered Friday night averaging 37 points a game — were still being held to just nine points on three Dylan Saunders field goals.

Saunders booted field goals of 36, 19 and 32 yards, but GAHS only led 9-7 because Logan's Nick Kost scooped up a Gallipolis fumble and returned it 30 yards to paydirt midway through the second stanza.

Then, after Kost's 52-yard punt rolled out of bounds at the Gallia Academy 4-yard line with just under two minutes to play in the half, it appeared the visitors would be content to run out the clock.

Instead, 29 seconds later, they were in the end zone.

Running back Luke Pullins came through with a 22-yard run to get the ball out of the shadow of the GA goal line, then senior running back Nick Clagg took the ball around right end, cut back through a huge hole, and outran the Logan defense for a 74-yard touchdown — the longest

rushing TD in the five-year history of Logan Chieftain Stadium — and, after Saunders booted the PAT, a 16-7 lead with 1:24 left in the half.

“That was a heartbreaker, having them pinned as deep as we did,” Wolfe admitted.

“When Dylan (a sophomore) decided to come out and be a football player for the first time, it was a lot of pressure,” Gallipolis coach Mike Eddy said. “He’s a confident young man and he works hard every day. Tonight proved why he’s one of the best kickers in school history. He was a tremendous help to us.”

Saunders set a school record by converting his 40th extra-point kick of the season late in the game. He even got a chance at a fourth FG but his 42-yarder on the final play of the first half fell short.

Although Gallipolis didn’t score again until late in the game, the Blue Devils held on to win by rushing for 316 yards, overcoming four lost fumbles and several crucial penalties.

“Tonight, what an incredible war,” said Eddy, whose Blue Devils are assured of no worse than a title share for the first time since 2004. “We did everything we could to lose with the turnovers and the penalties. It was very uncharacteristic of our football team. We haven’t played like this since Licking Heights (a 21-7 week-three loss to the still-undefeated Hornets) — and that was with penalties, turnovers and two big plays.

“I saw a flashback tonight,” he continued. “I was definitely a little bit nervous, but I never lost belief in the kids. That’s what it’s all about. They kept fighting.”

Both teams did, which you would expect in a rivalry that goes back to several years before the SEOAL was formed in 1925... and both teams also ended up playing short-handed in the offensive backfield.

Logan’s leading rusher, Cory McCarty, tried to play but was limited to 15 yards on six carries dealing with a high ankle sprain suffered two weeks ago that has yet to heal; Ty Warnimont, the Blue Devils’ top runner — who entered the game averaging 16.5 yards per carry — exceeded his average (51 yards on three carries) but injured an ankle in the second period and did not return.

“We lost a great player for the rest of the year in Ty Warnimont, and that’s going to really hamper us,” Eddy said. “We’re going to have to go back to the drawing board. Somebody’s got to step in and fill those shoes. That’s a heck of a pair of shoes to fill, but we have good football players and they train hard for that opportunity.

“We had guys hurting but they just kept playing,” he added. “They didn’t come to the sidelines saying ‘coach, take me out,’ they sucked it up and get it done. That’s the kind of kids we have and that I hope we’re developing here — strong, tough kids who will fight you tooth and nail to the very end, win or lose.”

The Blue Devils had 409 yards of total offense and got big contributions from Clagg, quarterback Wade Jarrell, and Pullins, who combined for 229 rushing yards in Warnimont's absence.

Meanwhile, the Gallipolis defense limited the Chiefs to just 20 total yards and one first down (that via penalty) in the first half. Logan fared much better in the second half, but still only finished with 186 total yards.

"They were running a 6-2 (defense) and we weren't able to get to any linebackers at all," Wolfe said. In the second half, "we thought we could start attacking the perimeter and we wanted to get (Nick) Maniskas the ball and get him out on the corners a little. Cory couldn't get it done tonight with the ankle, and so we needed to be a little diverse and make some plays. Nick made two or three huge plays for us."

One of those huge plays came with 4:54 left in the third quarter and Gallipolis still leading 16-7.

Maniskas took what amounted to a long handoff — quarterback Jack Music threw him the ball in the right flat 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage — and the junior broke it the distance (47 yards) for six points. Dominick Stevens then added his second PAT kick of the game to draw the Chiefs within 16-14.

After forcing Gallipolis to punt, the Chiefs drove to the Blue Devils' 19-yard line but fell short on fourth-and-6. They got the again ball back a few minutes later when Justin Moore recovered a Gallipolis fumble (his second fumble recovery of the game) at the Logan 34-yard line, but were forced the kick the ball away with 5:13 left in the game after throwing three-straight incomplete passes.

"We were trying to mix it up a little bit and get some bigger plays to happen in a hurry," Wolfe explained. "We felt like we had some opportunities to get some passes on the perimeter... if we would have caught one of those three passes, I wouldn't have (called for) three passes.

"The first two were open, and if we would have caught one of those two we would have went back to the running game," he continued. "We were trying to catch them off guard. We were trying to take advantage of (defensive back Cody Russell), who was limping back there, but we couldn't."

Gallipolis then drove 57 yards on eight plays, with Jarrell scoring an insurance TD with 1:54 to play. Saunders' PAT — his 11th kicking point of the game — gave the Blue Devils a nine-point lead, meaning it was a two-possession game.

The Chiefs only got one more possession. They turned the ball over on downs at the GAHS 47.

"We were excited being (down) just 16-7" at halftime," Wolfe said. "We felt we were in great shape against a team like that that's been putting up the points they've been putting up. They couldn't get things going offensively like they're used to. We were in a pretty good position.



“The defense played lights out,” he added. “They held them to three field goals and a touchdown in the first half; we just didn’t get it done offensively. We came out and cut (the deficit) to two, then it was a battle from there on. We drove the ball but couldn’t finish inside the red zone.”

Eddy knew where the challenge was this week; stopping Logan’s running game. Former LHS quarterback and GAHS defensive coordinator Alex Penrod developed the plan of attack.

“We really challenged our defense this week,” Eddy revealed. “We knew the last time those two kids (McCarty and Isaac Schmeltzer) were in the backfield together they went for over 400 (rushing) yards, so that was our focus. We were not going to lose because they were running the football down our throats.

“We play a lot of good football teams who (try to) do that, and we believe we’re built to stop that,” he added. “It all comes down to our defensive line. We thought going into the year we had one of the best D-lines in the league, and tonight they had to step up and prove it. They showed up to play tonight, and that made the difference.”

Gallia Academy now finds itself in position to win the league championship outright by beating Jackson next week — and reach the state Division III playoffs as well — but Eddy made it clear the Blue Devils are not content with just a portion of the title.

“We’ve talked about this all year,” Eddy stated. “A lot of people didn’t agree with it, but (in week three) we went for it (the win) against Ironton (a 14-13 loss at Ironton; in the final moments, the Blue Devils went a 2-point conversion and a potential victory instead of kicking a game-tying PAT). That’s the mentality of these kids; we don’t tie anybody. We want to beat you. That’s what this league title is about; we’re not just sharing this league title.

“It doesn’t end tonight,” he continued. “We’re still fighting for a league title. We don’t share anything, and that’s the mentality of these kids. They’ve worked too hard to split it.”

After starting the season 0-5, it sure didn’t seem like the Chiefs would be playing for a tie for the league lead a month later.

“I have never been any lower than I was a month ago” after a 50-0 loss to Nelsonville-York, Wolfe said. “To be where we were at, you would never have thought this was a 2-6 football team. We had great, energetic practices this week, and to be able to have a game of this magnitude, to be playing in week nine with everything riding on this game, it shows we have” bounced back.

“We can still finish tied for second” he added, by winning next week at Warren and if Jackson loses to Gallipolis. “We (defeat Gallipolis) and we’re tied for first place. It was a classic back-and-forth Logan-Gallipolis game between two pretty balanced teams. Everything was going our way (to tie for the league lead), but we didn’t uphold our end of the deal.”

# Warriors overwhelm Chiefs 49-8 in final game of season

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

VINCENT — With Halloween just a few days away, the Warren Warriors played tricks on the Logan Chieftains Friday night and walked away with a victory treat.

"I never thought this was going to happen," Logan coach Kelly Wolfe said after the Warriors romped past the Chiefs 49-8 in the Southeastern Ohio Athletic League and season football finale for both teams at Warren High School.

The Chiefs (2-8 overall, 2-3 SEOAL), who had played so well in the last month, thus left a chance to finish in a tie for second place in the SEOAL on the table.

Gallipolis (5-0) edged Jackson (3-2) 30-27 for the outright title Friday night, dropping the Ironmen into a second-place tie with Chillicothe (3-2), whom the Chiefs beat 28-7 just two weeks ago.

Logan would have been involved in that second-place tie by beating the Warriors. Instead, Warren (4-6, 2-3), thus finishes conference play tied for fourth place with the Chiefs.

"We had been playing very well, and we beat a team (Chillicothe) badly that beat them badly," Wolfe noted. Chillicothe thrashed the Warriors 38-7 three weeks ago.

"It makes absolutely no sense," he continued. "We were flat tonight; they were up and we were down. It's a shame. We had high hopes of finishing a little better than this. This wasn't a good finish."

It certainly wasn't. The Chiefs looked eerily like the team that got blanked 50-0 by Nelsonville-York in week five, committing penalties (11 for 97 yards), turnovers (three interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown), and falling for a trick play.

The Warriors were already leading 21-0 — they scored with 1:15 left in the second period when quarterback Dylan Leffingwell scored almost untouched on a 5-yard keeper after completing a 48-yard bomb to receiver Andrew Vincent — when sophomore Austin Henthorn made a diving interception at the Logan 47-yard line with 39 seconds remaining in the half.

A 36-yard pass from Leffingwell to fellow senior Chas Miller (much more about him coming up) moved the ball to the Logan 11 and, when three more plays netted only three more yards, Miller lined up to apparently attempt a 25-yard field goal in the waning seconds.

But holder David Ryan took the snap and rolled to his right, Miller circled the left side, and Ryan found a wide-open Miller with a beautiful 8-yard scoring pass for a 28-0 Warrior lead at the intermission.

Miller had already scored on a 15-yard run off a double-reverse late in the opening period, and Austin Kuhn added a 35-yard TD run with 2:30 left in the second stanza. Warren scored 21 points on the Chiefs in just 147 seconds late in the half.

Miller was also a perfect 7-for-7 in extra-point kicks, and he boomed all of his kickoffs deep. Three of them went through the end zone, and the Chiefs started their other five possessions at their own 25 (twice), 18, 16 and 14-yard lines.

"Hat's off to them," Wolfe said. "They came out with a good game plan and were fired up. Their seniors (it was Warren's Senior Night) were ready to go, and they took it to us all night long."

By the time Friday night's game ended, the Chiefs were down to four seniors on their roster.

Senior receiver/defensive back Donnie Stevens quit the team earlier in the week (as did his brother Dominick, a junior, who had earned the job kicking extra points), and the team's leading rusher, Cory McCarty, only managed to run the ball four times before going down with a leg injury late in the opening period.

Dean Jordan and Brock Emerson were also hurt, or re-aggravated other injuries, as the game progressed, and the Purple & White were a beaten-up, demoralized team by the time the final seconds ticked away.

"We were very flat," Wolfe said. "We were pretty lively in pre-game, and we got a couple first downs on our first possession and I thought things were going to go well... but they outplayed us in pretty much every aspect tonight."

The Chiefs crossed midfield on their first possession of the night but killed their own drive with two penalties, including a major holding miscue that, since it occurred six yards behind the line of scrimmage, wound up costing them 16 yards.

Warren led 42-0 — Vincent caught a 14-yard slant-in touchdown pass from Leffingwell and Kuhn added a 20-yard scoring run — midway through the third period before the Chiefs put together their only scoring drive of the night.

Logan went 80 yards on eight plays, sparked by a 38-yard catch-and-run by Nick Maniskas on a short pass from QB Jack Music, and Music himself picked up a couple rushing first downs before connecting with sophomore Chance Cox on a 24-yard touchdown pass with 3:35 left in the third quarter.

Cox made an outstanding leaping catch a couple yards inside the goal line to get Logan on the scoreboard, and Music added the 2-point conversion run on a sneak up the middle.

But, after forcing Warren to punt — Miller banged a 55-yarder for a touchback — Music was picked off by Rodney Barnes in front of the Logan bench at the Chieftain 43-yard line. He brought the ball back against the grain and was tackled as he cross the goal line on the Warren side of the field.

Junior Isaac Schmeltzer wound up leading the Chiefs with 57 rushing yards. He had a monster 75-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter called back on a Logan holding penalty.

Music was the team's leading rusher until late in the game and finished with a season-high 49 yards on the ground. He was 6-of-16 passing for 94 yards, connecting with Cox on four aerials for 50 yards.

It marked just the second time the Warriors have beaten the Chieftains in back-to-back seasons — Warren topped Logan 40-34 in double-overtime last season and won three-straight from the Purple & White from 1995 to 1997 — and was the first time the Warriors defeated the Chiefs by double figures. Warren's largest margin of victory over the Chiefs had been a 34-25 triumph back in 1995.