

## **Chieftains open season with solid 33-14 victory over Golden Gales**

*Second straight  
win over Gales  
for just second  
time in history*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LANCASTER — Neither Nathan Carpenter nor Mother Nature could keep the Logan Chieftains from their appointed football rounds Friday night.

Yes, Carpenter rushed for 182 yards and, yes, a bolt of lightning forced a 47-minute weather delay during the third quarter of Friday's season opener between the Chiefs and Golden Gales at Lancaster High School's Fulton Field.

But in the end, it didn't matter. The talented, veteran Logan offense came through as expected and a young defense stepped up and set the tone for a convincing 33-14 Chieftain victory.

The Logan defensive line forced a Lancaster fumble on the very first play from scrimmage and the Chiefs capitalized, with Patrick Angle scoring on a 5-yard run a couple minutes later, to take command.

"My big concern coming in here was our defense," said Logan coach Dale Amyx. "I thought our defense really stood up tall tonight. Look at the beginning of the game, forcing that turnover and setting up our first score.

"They're a strong, football team and (Carpenter) is a really hard runner," he added, "but I'm happy with the way we played on both sides of the ball."

He should be.

A large crowd filled Fulton Field and a state-wide television audience on the Ohio News Network got a chance (on tape delay) to see Angle team up with step-brother Mason Mays on three touchdown passes as the Purple & White made it two straight victories over their backyard rivals from up U.S. Route 33.

Coupled with last season's 35-10 season-opening and Logan Chieftain Stadium-christening victory, it's just the second time the Purple & White have posted back-to-back wins over the Golden Gales in school history.

Logan defeated Lancaster in 1934 and 1935 — more than 70 years ago — and has never beaten the Gales three consecutive times.

Friday night, Angle was 16-of-31 passing for 252 yards, with Mays catching six aerials for

129 yards, as the Chiefs took advantage of a Lancaster team that simply made too many mistakes.

The Gales had nine penalties for 95 yards, including a couple major personal-foul infractions. They had two bad snaps from center on special teams, resulting in a botched extra-point attempt and a safety on a punt. And last but not least, the Gales had three turnovers, including the aforementioned fumble just 16 seconds into the game on their own 27-yard line.

And Lancaster coach Rob Carpenter let his Gales know how dissatisfied he was with them. As the Chiefs left the field to celebrate their victory, Carpenter lined his entire team up on the goal line and made them run sprints.

He had no comments to make after the game.

“Our offense, most of the time, performed like we expect it to,” Amyx said. “I think people are going to see that it’s going to be a formidable task to stop us. If we can get the defense caught up with them, which I think we’re starting to do, the pieces of the puzzle hopefully are starting to come together.

“This is a way of getting some big confidence, especially for those young kids along the line and some of those kids like Mason who are out of position playing linebacker where he’s always been a corner,” he added.

Lancaster finished with 273 yards on the ground, but considering Carpenter may very well be the best offensive back (and sheer athlete) they face during the regular season, that’s not too bad.

The son of the Lancaster head coach broke a few long runs, including a 53-yard touchdown jaunt in the second quarter... but to the Chiefs’ credit, they shrugged it off.

With 5:18 left in the second period, Angle went deep for Mays, who made a nifty over-the-shoulder catch, then juked his way past a couple Lancaster defenders to complete a 64-yard scoring play and a 14-0 Chieftain lead.

Lancaster bounced back just 20 seconds later, however, when Carpenter took the ball on the latter end of a double-handoff, found a hole and rambled the aforementioned 53 yards to paydirt. The Gales messed up the PAT snap, however, and trailed 14-6.

“That’s a play we worked on all week (defensively),” Amyx noted. “It’s a play they killed us with a couple years ago. That’s their number one play. We stopped them on it the majority of the night, but they did get some big runs on it.

“It’s a tough offense to read, that wing-T,” he added. “There’s so much to it, and this was a tough test to start off. If we can stop these guys (defensively), there are a lot of teams on our

schedule we can stop.”

Lancaster then forced a Logan punt, but the Chiefs did likewise and called a couple time-outs to get the ball back with time to score. They took over on their own 29 with 1:37 left in the half.

Running their two-minute offense, Angle scrambled to avoid a sack and hit Zach McDaniel with a medium-range pass that the senior end turned into a huge 34-yard gain and a first down. Angle then connected with Ryan Sigler (13 yards) and Jordan Rutter (10) to get inside the Gale 15 with less than a minute remaining.

A bit later, with 32.6 seconds remaining, Angle hit Mays on a crossing pattern and Mays broke the plane of the goal line to complete a 19-yard scoring play before having the ball knocked loose.

The officials ruled touchdown (and TV replays appeared to show they were correct) and the Chiefs took a 21-6 halftime lead.

“Lancaster was throwing 3-4, 4-3 (defenses), blitzing off the corner, up the middle, and our guys were communicating well and were able to get passes away,” said assistant coach and offensive coordinator Kelly Wolfe. “We came out in the two-minute no-huddle, and for two weeks in a row (including last week’s OHSAA preview game against Sheridan) we go no-huddle and we completely slow the defense down.

“It wasn’t the effect I was expecting, but it happened two weeks in a row and that was a key,” he added. “When we answered with that score, you could see Lancaster was hanging their heads a little bit.”

They were hanging lower still when, on fourth-and-6 from their own 37, the snap from center sailed over punter/quarterback Nolan Flowers’ head, and eventually found its way out of the end zone for a safety with 5:26 left in the third stanza.

Within seconds, a bolt of lightning appeared in the sky north of the stadium and, after the officials conferred, they sent both teams to their respective locker rooms at 9:30 p.m. The game didn’t resume until 10:17.

Must be something about playing football in Fairfield County — the Chiefs dealt with a two-hour weather delay last season at Pickerington North, though this delay didn’t bring a drop of rain. However, it’s an OHSAA rule that officials must halt play for 30 minutes upon seeing a flash of lighting and 30 minutes from each flash afterward.

“I knew one thing... I wasn’t going to let the kids do in the locker room what they did last year,” Amyx revealed, “but that was a lot longer break, too. I told them we’re going to stay focused, and we did. I said whoever comes out of the break mentally ready to play the game was going to have the advantage. And we had the momentum with the safety kick.”

And they scored just two plays after the ensuing free kick. McDaniel returned it to the Lancaster 33, then took a pass from Angle for 20 yards to the 13, before Angle and Mays covered the rest of that yardage with a hookup down the left sideline. Mays again faked a Lancaster defender and scored standing up to give Logan a commanding 30-6 lead.

Carpenter scored on a 1-yard run with 7:52 remaining to cap a 14-play, 38-yard scoring drive, but it was too little, too late.

Logan junior Derek Montgomery, who was a perfect 4-for-4 on extra-point kicks, capped off the scoring by drilling a 34-yard field goal — which would have been good from about 20 yards further out if necessary — with 4:12 remaining.

“There were some times where we kind of let down a little bit emotionally and intensity-wise, and those were the times they got big plays on us,” Amyx said, “but I think when we were ready for (the Gales’ wing-T), we stopped it.”

“We had a lot of different looks tonight and I was very very pleased with our guys up front,” Wolfe praised. “Lancaster in the first half was throwing a ton of stuff at our guys up front. With running our (offense) the way we do, our guys had to communicate well. I’m going to grade our offensive linemen pretty high because they had a lot of pressure put on them.”

There was one cause for concern as senior lineman Ralph Robinson was taken off the field in the fourth quarter with an injury. Amyx wasn’t sure of the extent of the injury, but said it appeared to at least be a major contusion.

But the Chiefs otherwise left Fulton Field in a great mood — and with a win in Amyx’s 200th game as Chieftain head coach.

Well, some players didn’t want to leave at all.

“I’m so happy right now I don’t want to leave,” grinned senior center Bobby Russell. “We played our game tonight and played to our full potential. I think the key was spreading the field. (The Gales) were dead (tired) on the field.”

“To win on their field, and to beat them two years in a row... I’m very happy and pleased,” Amyx said. “But we still have a lot of work to do. I see the potential of this team — I think everybody does tonight — of what this team can do if we stay focused and take them one game at a time.”

Logan hosts Pickerington North next Friday at Logan Chieftain Stadium. The Panthers’ game with Dublin Scioto was suspended Friday night due to weather and will be resumed today.

## **Montgomery's late FG wins wild game for Chiefs**

*Logan lets 21-point lead get away but still nips Pickerington North, 24-21*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — Under normal circumstances, Derek Montgomery doesn't get too nervous prior to games in his dual role as placekicker for the Logan football team and goal keeper for the Chieftain soccer squad.

However, there wasn't much you could term "normal" about Friday night's home football opener against Pickerington North in Logan Chieftain Stadium.

Logan grabbed a quick 21-0 first-half lead, only to see the physically-hulking Panthers throw their weight and muscle around to the tune of 21 unanswered points to draw even in the fourth period before threatening to take the lead with under two minutes remaining.

But after the Chiefs came through with a huge fourth-down defensive stand deep in their own territory, it took the offense less than 90 seconds to drive into field goal range for Montgomery at the PN 20-yard line.

"The kid has ice water in his veins," Logan coach Dale Amyx told Derek's parents, Kelly and Joanne, with a relieved laugh not long after their son drilled a 37-yard field goal with 7.1 seconds remaining to lift the Chiefs to a thrilling 24-21 victory.

Like most Logan faithful, it goes without saying mom and dad were a nervous wreck in the stands.

Montgomery thus earns a spot in a long line of soccer players who have come through in the clutch as placekickers for the football Chiefs. His game-winning kick brings to mind another soccer goalie, Alex Hubbard, who four years ago at Zanesville drilled a 35-yard field goal as time expired for a 23-20 victory over the Blue Devils.

The Chiefs (2-0) got everything they expected and more from the Panthers (1-1), who came oh-so-close to becoming the first team to beat the Purple & White in Logan Chieftain Stadium. Logan is now 7-0 in its two-year-old home.

Montgomery started working out as a kicker this summer, and it's not uncommon to see him drill 50-yard field goals in practice. Heck, he hit the Logan Chieftain Stadium scoreboard with a pre-game kick a couple weeks ago before the OHSAA Jamboree game against visiting Sheridan.

"It feels great," grinned Montgomery, a junior. "I wasn't really nervous. My teammates helped me. They gave me the confidence and the strength to come out and kick that one. It felt so good."

Not really nervous, Derek?

“Well, I felt a little nervous,” he admitted. “It was more adrenaline. My teammates had confidence in me. If it wasn’t for Kevin or Jordan, I wouldn’t have had a chance of making it. I give props to them.”

Center snapper Kevin Smith made a perfect snap to holder Jordan Jurgensmier, who in turn did likewise to allow Montgomery to drill his 37-yard no-doubter.

“What a weapon Derek is,” Amyx said. “When it’s all said and done, I think he’s going to be one of the best we’ve ever had. He has a strong leg, and he’s made a couple pressure kicks already.

“When he told me he was going to kick for us, and I saw him kick over the summer, I was really excited for his potential, and it’s coming out,” he added.

It sure didn’t look like the Chiefs were going to need Montgomery’s services after scoring touchdowns the first three times they had the ball. It was 21-0 Chiefs less than three minutes into the second period, and the game had the makings of a rout.

Although Pickerington North had a good drive late in the second quarter that died on downs at the Logan 14 in the waning seconds, the Panthers did little to quell those thoughts as the half came to a close.

But there was injury trouble brewing in Chieftain Nation.

Receiver Mason Mays took a pitch from quarterback Patrick Angle and threw a perfect pass to Zach McDaniel on the opening offensive play of the game, good for 48 yards to the PN 32, and the Chiefs met little resistance in driving in for six points as Michael Snider tallied on a 1-yard plunge.

After forcing a PN punt, Angle hit Jordan Rutter, McDaniel and Mays with consecutive passes, all good for double-digit yardage, as the Chiefs went 61 yards on nine plays. McDaniel scored on a fourth-and-one touchdown run to make it 14-0 with 2:51 remaining in the opening stanza.

However, Mays hurt an ankle on that series and sat out the rest of the game. His injury caused a domino effect on both sides of the ball, forcing the Chiefs into scramble mode.

“I was putting in Zach McDaniel (on defense), who had never played linebacker before, and we were experimenting and trying to find something where we could get a (defensive) stop,” Amyx noted later. “You plan for (some changes), but I didn’t plan for Ralph (Robinson) not being in or for Mason not being in.”

Robinson, a two-way lineman who was hurt against Lancaster last week, dealt with more

physical problems Friday night.

“But Dylan Cavinee came in (at linebacker) and did a nice job and Caleb Valkinburg did a great job coming in at middle linebacker,” Amyx said. “Normally Mike (Snider) is in the middle. (Brandon) Graham had to play defensive end to take Ralph’s spot.

“It was Valkinburg’s first varsity start and I thought he did a good job,” he added. “I’m really proud of those young guys getting in the game and stepping up, especially against a big, physical team like that.”

With Mays out, the Chiefs turned to other members of their terrific receiving corps to pick up the slack. McDaniel, especially, stepped up huge.

When all was said and done, McDaniel had a school-record 14 receptions, good for 169 yards, and he hauled in a 13-yard scoring aerial from Angle for Logan’s last touchdown of the night with 9:10 remaining in the second stanza.

“I didn’t know I did that,” McDaniel said afterward. “I just had to step up and do my job.”

Amyx didn’t realize McDaniel had set a school record, either.

“I’ve said this all along: Mason’s a great receiver, but we have other receivers on this team and those guys stepped it up and did a great job,” he said. “Hopefully Mason will be back — I think it’s just a sprain — but when we lose a kid like that who plays both ways, now I have to replace a linebacker, I have to replace a receiver, and I have to replace a return man.”

In all, six different Chiefs caught passes — Rutter had five and Snider four — and Angle completed a whopping 79 percent of his passes, connecting on 27-of-34 for 253 yards and one TD. At one point he completed 15 consecutive throws.

But after Logan raced to that quick lead, the Panthers began shutting down the Chieftain offense. Logan fumbled the ball away and then was forced to punt three straight times before pulling it all together on that final drive to set up Montgomery’s game-winning kick.

North took the second-half kickoff and, led by a couple key pass completions by quarterback Sean Flaherty, drove 52 yards on just five plays, with Matt Ferguson scoring on a 2-yard run less than two minutes into the third quarter.

Moments later, the Panthers ended an eight-play, 92-yard drive with a 46-yard scoring pass from Flaherty to Devin Lomax to close the gap to 21-13 late in the period. A Logan defender tried for an interception and missed, and Lomax found himself all alone down the right sideline.

A bad snap from center kept Pickerington North from attempting the PAT kick, but the Panthers still managed to tie the game early in the fourth quarter against a tiring Chieftain

defense.

Gianni Lynch, who accounted for 106 of North's 241 rushing yards, not only scored on a 6-yard run but also added a 2-point conversion run to draw the Panthers even with 9:48 still to play.

"Their size (an average of 267 pounds along the offensive line, including players weighing 340 and 325) did hurt us, and they kind of exposed in a way," Amyx noted. "I've been saying that all along: that's our weakness, our up-front D-line. Push come to shove, they got it done on us."

After forcing still another Logan punt, the Panthers took over with 7:42 remaining and continued pushing the Chiefs around. A 25-yard keeper by Flaherty helped North cross midfield, then the Panthers began riding Lynch deeper and deeper into Logan territory.

Finally, with under two minutes left, North faced fourth-and-5 from the Logan 28. Lynch carried a fifth-straight time and looked like he was very close to the first-down marker, but after a couple tense moments for a measurement — when the officials inexplicably moved the ball from inside the hash-marks toward the far sideline closer to the chains — the Panthers were short by about the length of the football.

Talk about Custer's last stand...

"We made a big stand there at the end to stop them," Amyx said. "I'm surprised they didn't try to kick a field goal, but I guess they don't have a kicker who could get it that far."

The Chiefs did, though. And they sucked it up to put together one heck of a game-winning drive — taking over with 1:40 remaining and no timeouts — with the O-line keeping the Pickerington North defense away from Angle and giving him time to throw.

"The offense couldn't get on track all half, then when we needed them to do it, we had people make plays," Amyx lauded. "They gave Pat good protection and he threw some nice passes. We didn't have any timeouts (to work with).

"We practice that two-minute drill every Thursday... so there it was tonight," he added. "I would liked to have had a couple more timeouts, but that's why we practice field goals."

The key play in the final drive was a 25-yard catch-and-run over the middle to Rutter, who avoided a couple tacklers before being brought down at the PN 39, with five yards then tacked on for a facemask penalty against North.

Logan got one more first down — McDaniel caught his 14th pass of the night, a five-yarder, and got out of bounds at the PN 20 — then the Chiefs took one crack at a game-winning touchdown. Angle aired it out deep in the back corner of the end zone for McDaniel, who just missed coming up with the ball on a head-long dive.



“I just (wanted to) catch the ball and get out of bounds if I could and stop the clock if we needed to,” McDaniel said. “We practice it all week, all the time. Then the special teams came through.”

Practice sure makes perfect.

Montgomery came in to drill his 37-yarder, a kick that was a bit lower than usual but still plenty good with 7.1 seconds left. Angle then picked off a deep desperation pass from Flaherty on the final play of the game to preserve a harrowing Chieftain victory.

“I think they’re a helluva football team and are going to win a lot of football games this year,” Amyx said of the Panthers, “and I think they learned a lot about themselves too. Like I said, when it came down to where we had to make a play, we made a play. We stopped them on fourth and (the length of) a football, or something like that? That was a big, key stand and we needed it.”

The Chiefs’ special teams were truly special on this special night when the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame officially inducted four new members, including gridiron greats Johnny Conrad and Derek Harden as well as Chuck Conrad and Jason Gerken.

“We spend a lot of time on special teams — of a two-hour practice, we spend 20 minutes of it on special teams, and I don’t know if a lot (of teams) do that,” Amyx said. “It’s a lot of your practice time, but we feel it’s that important. We’re constantly on them about good snaps and good holds.

“And this is why. In a tough game like this, it’s going to come down to a special teams play most of the time,” he added. “Coach (Pat) Walsh has done a great job as my special-teams coordinator. He’s the one who puts those teams together. We’re all involved in it, but he’s the one who’s doing it, and I let him take care of it. I’ve got great coaches, and he’s one of them.”

The Chiefs now prepare to travel to 0-2 Hamilton Township next Friday. But they can re-live and enjoy this win for a couple days.

Much like a baseball player who dreams of hitting a game-winning, walk-off home run, Montgomery admitted he’s thought of accomplishing the football equivalent.

“I would think of it sometimes, wish it sometimes, then hope I would get a chance to make a game-winner, and I finally did it,” he grinned. “And yeah, it feels great.”

## **Chiefs dominate Hamilton Township for third win**

*Angle perfect 15-of-15 passing as Chieftains rout Rangers, 49-7*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

OBETZ — “Nobody’s perfect,” they say.

Well, “they” didn’t see the Logan Chieftain offense Friday night.

Patrick Angle completed a perfect 15-of-15 passes and the Logan offense turned in six-straight perfect scoring drives at the outset of the Chiefs’ 49-7 non-conference rout of host Hamilton Township Friday night.

As far as the Chiefs (3-0) were concerned, they were directly in the eye of a perfect storm against the Hamilton Township (0-3) defense.

Angle and receivers Jordan Rutter, Zach McDaniel and Mason Mays simply picked apart a Ranger defense that sat back in a soft zone, preferring to keep the Chieftains in front of them rather than let them get behind them.

The strategy backfired. Badly.

Angle completed 15 straight passes to start the game — tying the school record for consecutive completions he set last week against Pickerington North — and established a school record that can never be eclipsed: 100 percent accuracy with more than 10 attempts.

“Wow. That’s wild,” said Logan coach Dale Amyx when informed of Angle’s perfect night. “I’ve never seen people so wide open. The offensive line did a great job tonight and Pat had so much time to throw the ball and do whatever he wanted to do.

“I thought they would blitz more,” he said of the Hamilton Township defense, “but they chose to sit back.”

Angle threw four touchdown passes for the third time in his career, again tying a school record he shares with Jim Richardson (four TDs vs. Circleville in 1937), Keith Myers (four vs. Gallipolis in 1983) and Chad Zimmerman (four vs. River Valley in 1994) and rushed for another.

And Mays caught a 4-yard scoring pass that gave him 17 career touchdown receptions, tying D.J. Conrad (1984-85) for the all-time record in that category.

Not bad for a couple guys who got dinged up last week against Pickerington North. Mays missed the final three quarters with ankle problems, but looked strong and healthy Friday night.

The Chiefs came out and simply overwhelmed Hamilton Township not only with their

spread offense but by going no-huddle as well. Heck, they never huddled until late in their third touchdown drive... and that was because they had the ball in a short-field situation at the Rangers' 8-yard line.

Twelve of Angle's 15 completions were for double-digit yardage, and two of the other three were an 8-yard scoring pass to Rutter and the aforementioned 4-yarder to Mays. Eleven of Angle's completions resulted in first downs.

Logan built such a huge cushion so quickly — the Chiefs led 42-0 with 6:45 still to play in the second quarter — that Amyx got most of his starters out of the game early. Angle, Mays, McDaniel and Rutter were among those who sat out the rest of the game on both sides of the ball.

“It was a chance to get some guys out of the game,” Amyx said. “We have some people who are still not 100 percent, and it got us a chance to rest them even more for next week.

“There's a lot of guys we've been wanting to look at to build more depth,” he continued. “It gave us a chance to get those next-level guys in before the first half was over. Even though we were ahead by quite a bit, there was still a lot of football left. It means we can now see those guys on film and critique and coach them.”

It basically turned into a junior varsity game midway through the second stanza for the Chieftains. And the reserves more than held their own against Hamilton Township's starters, who stayed in the game until the final few minutes of the fourth quarter, playing them to a 7-7 draw.

“Other than the win, that was the biggest thing tonight... we were able to get our second-level kids in there in a Friday night game and let get them some exposure and build confidence,” Amyx noted, stressing to them that “if we need you in a big-play situation against Gallipolis or Ironton, you're in there. You've been in there and you know what you want.”

“A reserve game is a reserve game, but on a Friday night it's a different atmosphere,” he said, adding with a chuckle “you have the varsity coaches yelling at them on the sideline, too... it's a little more intense.”

The Chiefs needed just 25 plays to score their first six touchdowns, with the longest drive being their first (61 yards on seven plays) and the shortest coming when McDaniel took a shovel pass from Angle toward the middle of the scrimmage line and cutting down the right sideline to complete a 58-yard touchdown play.

Angle finished with 252 yards passing in just over 17 minutes of game time. If you figure all those numbers out over the course of the game, he would have been 42-for-42 for over 700 yards and the Chiefs would have scored 119 points.

As well as the Chiefs played, the starters realistically could have put up at least 80 points.

But there was simply no need to keep the varsity skill-position players in the game against a Ranger defense that just couldn't keep up.

Angle capped off the opening drive with a 1-yard scoring run after completing passes to Rutter, McDaniel and Mays for huge chunks of yardage.

McDaniel hauled in a 15-yard catch-and-run touchdown on the second drive, followed by an 8-yard touchdown toss to a wide-open Rutter in the end zone, the 58-yard shovel pass to McDaniel, the 4-yarder to Mays — on which the 6-foot-0, 175-pound senior bulled his way through a would-be tackler at the goal line — and a 9-yard scoring run by Mays after Angle had gained 46 yards on a scramble. Angle actually ran more than 60 yards after being chased way behind the line of scrimmage.

“He got some great blocks downfield, especially by (Brandon) Graham,” Amyx said. “I hadn't seen a block like that since (recent Logan High School Athletic Hall of Fame inductee) Johnny Conrad.”

Backup quarterback Jordan Jurgensmier came in and scored on a 28-yard jaunt up the middle on the opening series of the second half. And speaking of perfect, Derek Montgomery came back from an injury in a soccer match the previous night to go 7-for-7 on extra-point kicks.

Several backup and junior varsity Chiefs came in to post some solid numbers as the Purple & White finished with 551 total yards — eighth-best in LHS history.

Junior Dylan Cavinee wound up leading the Chiefs with 65 yards rushing, with Jurgensmier adding 57 and Mays and Angle 48 apiece. The Chiefs entered the game having gained a grand total of 64 rushing yards in their first two games against Lancaster and Pickerington North combined.

Seven players caught at least one pass, with Jurgensmier going 4-for-9 and Kelly Long completing his only attempt (he was perfect, too). Underclassmen such as Kermit Berry, Rusty Knece, Brian Cook, Isaac Lindsey and Nate Poling all saw significant playing time.

“That was what we needed,” Amyx said. “We needed a game where we could get up (big) after playing those big, strong, physical teams (Lancaster and Pickerington North).”

“It was good to get Jurgensmier some reps and confidence and let him work with the first-team line. He did a great job,” Amyx added. “It was in the back of our minds that if we were able to get ahead enough that we had plans who was going to go in and what to look for from some of those guys. We even had some specific plays for those kids to see what they would do in certain situations.”

The Chiefs travel to Gallipolis next Friday for a non-league game. The Blue Devils, like Hamilton Township, are also off to an 0-3 start after dropping their Southeastern Ohio Athletic League opener to Ironton Friday night, 39-6.

## **State Ranked Chiefs Overwhelm Gallia Academy, move to 4-0**

*After slow start, Logan rolls to 57-6 win*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

GALLIPOLIS — Even on a night when they got off to a painfully slow start, the Logan Chieftains still managed to put up some unreal offensive numbers. After hitting a two-run home run — er, sacking the Gallipolis quarterback for a safety and a 2-0 lead at the end of the opening quarter — the Purple & White scored touchdowns on their next eight offensive possessions to wipe out Gallia Academy 57-6 at Gallipolis Memorial Field.

Unlike last week, when they scored touchdowns the first six times they had the ball in a 49-7 rout of Hamilton Township, the undefeated (4-0) and state-ranked Chiefs failed to reach the Gallipolis end zone on any of their first four possessions although they were in GAHS territory three times.

However, once a host of Chiefs sacked Tyler Eastman in the end zone for a safety on the last play of the first period, it was like the proverbial dam burst on offense. They scored every time they touched the ball the rest of the night except for their final possession, when they just ran out the clock.

“Sometimes you're going to have starts like that, unfortunately, but if we can pick and choose the nights we have one, tonight we can get away with it,” Logan coach Dale Amyx said. “There might be games down the road where we might not get away with it.” Absolutely true. But not on this particular night, as the Chiefs racked up a school single-game team record of 390 passing yards.

Senior Patrick Angle was 20-of-35 for 283 yards and a touchdown, and his understudy, junior Jordan Jurgensmier, went 3-for-3 for 107 yards and a pair of TDs. Logan gained 564 total yards (good for seventh on the all-time list), scored a season-best five rushing touchdowns, and reached the 50-point plateau for the first time since doing so five times during the 2007 season.

Even a lineman, senior T.J. McCray, got in on the act, scoring on a 2-yard run midway through the third period as the Chiefs were breaking the game wide open.

“I think we executed very well and had a very good game plan tonight,” said McCray after the game. And then, with a grin, he added: “and the best play of the whole game was power-

right, 35-dive. Thank you, coach (Kelly) Wolfe.”

Logan capitalized on a Gallipolis offense that committed six turnovers, including four interceptions. The Blue Devils were 1-of-8 passing, completing three more passes to the Chiefs than they did their own receivers.

Gallipolis (0-4) played a different defensive scheme than Hamilton Township, which basically sat back in a zone and let Angle and his talented receivers pick them apart. And while the final score was more lopsided than last week, the Blue Devils gave the Chiefs more problems... at least for awhile.

“They played real tight coverage on us. They have some real good athletes out there,” said Amyx. “They were blitzing a lot, and I thought our guys did a great job picking it up. They were playing some man coverage with a little bit of free safety or a linebacker sitting behind it.”

As a result, the Blue Devils picked off a pair of Angle passes in that opening quarter — his first such miscues of the season.

“(Angle) didn't see (the defenders) a couple times and tried to force the ball on one down the middle (that was picked off in the end zone),” Amyx said. “The other, he just flat didn't see the kid sitting out there.

“I think he was a little off tonight — I don't think he was on his game,” he added. “It got better as the game went on, but it seemed like we were out of synch (on offense).”

What is considered an off-night for Angle would be considered an exceptional game for most high school quarterbacks.

He threw for more than 200 yards for the fourth straight game this season, eclipsed the 1,000-mark (1,040) in season passing yardage, and threw a touchdown pass in his 14th-straight regular-season game. He had two other touchdown passes called back on penalties, and two other passes dropped that appeared headed for six points.

Angle and Jurgensmier threw the ball to eight different receivers, with Mason Mays, Dylan Cavinee and Isaac Lindsey all hauling in a touchdown pass.

“We finally worked our way out of it,” Amyx said, “but we can't have a start like that against a real good team. I thought once (Angle) got it going he played real well — but look at how many dropped passes we had tonight. We had one bad quarter, and once we got things going it worked out a lot better.”

Meanwhile, save for a 50-yard pass play early in the fourth stanza and a 20-yard scoring run by the Blue Devils' Brandon Taylor with less than five minutes remaining, the Logan defense bottled up the Gallia Academy offense.

The Blue Devils were held to 134 yards of total offense (64 not counting those two aforementioned plays) and only one other time had a double-digit gain from scrimmage. “Defensively I thought we played pretty well,” Amyx praised.

Once the Chiefs got their offense on track, it looked just like that opening sequence last week at Hamilton Township. Although Angle didn't complete each and every pass like last week, he still gained huge chunks of yardage to continually drive the Big Purple Machine (clad in white Friday night) downfield.

Angle personally capped off the first two scoring drives with touchdown runs of four and 12 yards to stretch the Logan lead to 16-0. Then, after Zach McDaniel picked off a pass at the Logan 1-yard line — it looked like his momentum had carried him into the end zone for a touchback, but the officials didn't see it that way — Logan was 99 yards and three minutes away from paydirt.

They got those 99 yards with 44.8 seconds to spare. Logan went with a power backfield to wedge the ball out of the shadow of its own goal line, with McDaniel coming up with a pair of big runs and catching a 20-yard pass over the middle from Angle to get the ball near midfield.

A 12-yard pass over the middle to Jordan Rutter and a 9-yarder to McDaniel set up a perfectly-executed middle screen to Mays who, as he so often does, made potential tacklers miss as he took the ball 36 yards to the GAHS 3. Two plays later, Mays scored on a 3-yard run for a 23-0 halftime lead.

“That was a good call by (offensive coordinator) Kelly to bring power (formation) out and get us out of the hole,” Amyx said, “then we ran some nice plays and took advantage of what they were giving us.

“They were blitzing a lot, and we caught a couple things over the middle — that little dump over the middle and that screen over the middle was a big play, too — so we took advantage of their over-aggressiveness and made some good adjustments to what they were doing,” he added. “That was a nice drive. It got us jump-started, got us out of that funk or whatever it was we were in early. Then we pretty much played the way we expected to play all night.” The starters played two more series in the third quarter, with Angle leading an eight-play, 53-yard scoring drive capped off with a 4-yard scoring pass to a diving McDaniel in the end zone; then, after Mays brought a punt back 34 yards to the GAHS 22, the Chiefs scored just three plays later, with McCray doing the scoring honors.

Jurgensmier then took over. He and the reserve unit tacked on three more scores, with Jurgensmier scoring on a 2-yard run and connecting with Cavinee (35 yards) and Lindsey (74) on nifty catch-and-run touchdown passes.

Cavinee, a 5-11, 160-pound junior, took a short pass from a scrambling Jurgensmier and turned it into six points by making a couple terrific moves to elude would-be tacklers before cutting against the grain to the middle and outrunning the Gallipolis defense to the goal line.

Then Lindsey, a 5-11, 165-pound sophomore, turned into a one-man highlight reel. Early in the final period, the Blue Devils burned the Logan defense with a pass-and-run over the middle that looked like it was going to go for six points. However, Lindsey caught the receiver, Joe Jenkins, from behind at the Logan 5-yard line to keep Gallipolis off the scoreboard. Two plays later, Lindsey picked off a pass in the end zone for a touchback. On Logan's third ensuing play from scrimmage, Lindsey took a pass from Jurgensmier in the right flat and sped down the right sideline, nearly untouched, for 74 yards and Logan's final TD.

Logan's 564 yards of total offense included 174 yards on the ground, the Chiefs' second-best effort of the season following up 256 yards last week at Hamilton Township.

“We need to establish our run a little more,” Amyx noted. “Once we did start running, I thought the kids ran the ball hard and the guys blocked really well, too.”

The Chiefs now turn their attention to the game everyone's been looking forward to all season: next Friday's Southeastern Ohio Athletic League showdown at Ironton, a meeting of the two teams presumed to be the league's best.

And while the Chiefs remained undefeated Friday night, Ironton didn't: the Fighting Tigers (3-1) were shocked by Ashland, Ky., 26-12.

“Overall, I'm very pleased with the win, the score and all that tonight,” Amyx said, “but we just didn't come out like we usually do. You can't get up every week, so hopefully we'll be ready next week. And we know we will have to be ready, because Ironton's going to come out angry and be ready for us.”



## Chiefs rally past Fighting Tigers, 21-7

*Overcome tough Ironton defense for huge victory*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

IRONTON — Truth be known, Ralph Robinson was in the proverbial right place at the right time Friday night... even though he really wasn't supposed to be. With the Logan Chieftains trailing 7-0 in their Southeastern Ohio Athletic League showdown at Ironton, Robinson sort of took things into his own hands when he blocked an Fighting Tigers punt that eventually led to the tying touchdown.

"I actually didn't do my assignment," he admitted. "I'm supposed to have a contained rush and, well, thank goodness I just blocked the punt and (the Tigers) didn't run outside me.

"I wasn't supposed to be blocking that punt," he added. "But sometimes you have to take chances to get the team fired up... and I think that was one of them."

So true.

The Chiefs tied the score two minutes later, then finally broke through with a couple touchdowns in the final five minutes of the game to overhaul the Fighting Tigers 21-7 in Tanks Memorial Stadium.

The Chiefs got everything they expected (and more) from the I-Tigers, but still managed to remain undefeated (5-0) and claim the school's 30th-straight SEOAL victory over the school that holds the record (34) in the process.

"The last time we came down here it was 7-0 (a Logan win in 2006), and anytime you play down here it's going to be a tough, tough game," Logan coach Dale Amyx said. "That's just Ironton. This is a football town. They have that tradition."

One of those traditions is the Tigers' wily veteran head coach, Bob Lutz, who designed a defensive scheme that had the Chiefs scratching their heads for more than a half.

Ironton held the Purple & White scoreless in the first half for the first time this season, then used its vaunted running game to put together a nine-play, 74-yard drive that put the Tigers ahead 7-0 at the intermission.

Ironton defended the Chiefs "better than anybody I've seen in a long time," said Amyx. "We have to look at that film and come up with some ways to attack that. And I think we did in the second half... but that first half, we were hurting.

"We had time (to throw) in the pocket, but there was no one to throw it to," he added. "Now I'd like to see (Logan quarterback Patrick Angle) take off and run a little bit more. We told

him at halftime to get out there and run the ball (and he did) and that was by design.”

The Chiefs had a touchdown pass from Angle to Mason Mays called back in the first two minutes of the game, then Derek Montgomery missed a 32-yard field goal off the rain-slicked Tanks Memorial Stadium turf.

But the Chiefs, who are so used to shaking off a bad possession and coming back to score, came up empty on three more offensive possessions in the first half.

"I was really proud of our kids — we played through some adversity tonight,” Amyx noted. “We've seen it all year: it's almost like if we don't score here, we'll score on the next (possession), and when we don't...”

Actually, there usually isn't a “when we don't.”

After holding Ironton (3-2 overall, 1-1 SEOAL) to minus-11 yards in the first quarter, the Logan defense was knocked back on its heels by the Fighting Tigers in the second period, particularly on their scoring drive, capped off on a 2-yard touchdown run by Brian Warner after fellow running back J.P. Taylor picked up some tough yards along the way.

Despite trailing at the intermission, Amyx said the Chiefs weren't down.

"I thought we played great (on defense,)" he said. “They had that one drive — and I blame myself more than anything else because they kept throwing that sweep. We should have slanted over to it. But I was stubborn because I thought it was going to go up the middle. And then they score.

"But the kids did well as far as adjustments at halftime,” he added. “You're not going to go through a season when you're not behind in a game or where you don't have to battle back from behind or fight through adversity or penalties. This was a ballgame for that. And the thing I really liked about our kids is that when we went in at halftime everybody was upbeat, everybody was talking, making adjustments and had questions and suggestions — I'm talking players now — and they went out and executed. It was a good communication between the coaches and the players.

“We also did a better job tackling... we were over-pursuing and a couple times they cut it back on us.”

Logan drove deep into Ironton territory to start the second half but turned the ball over at the Ironton 27 on a fumble. But after the Chiefs forced the Tigers to punt, Robinson and Ryan Sigler broke through, with Robinson blocking Ethan Preston's kick and Sigler picking up a few yards after recovering the ball.

Then it looked like the same old Chiefs. Angle hit Jordan Rutter with a 19-yard pass-and-run to the Ironton 2, and Zach McDaniel scored on the next play with 6:45 left in the third

period. Logan pulled even on Montgomery's successful placement kick.

"That was big," Amyx said. "We had already had some momentum (off the deep drive to open the half), then that gave us even more right there."

It remained 7-7 until midway through the fourth quarter. Logan's defense had stiffened and all but shut down the Ironton running game — the Tigers got only three first downs in the second half, and never got any closer than the Logan 37-yard line — and it seemed like it was only going to be a matter of time before the Chiefs broke through.

"Our defense buckled down in that second half," Robinson said. "We shut them down in the first quarter, then in the second quarter we got lost in some assignments a couple times. But we got those fixed at halftime, came out with a good game plan, and they couldn't stop it.

"We started tackling, forcing fumbles and blocking punts. Making plays," he added. "That's what Logan football is all about."

Logan took over at the Ironton 49 with 5:32 remaining, and soon afterward the Chiefs were ahead to stay.

Michael Snider rushed for five yards and Angle connected with Rutter with a 10-yard play to the Ironton 34, then Mays went deep, beating two Ironton defenders who bit on Angle's pump fake, and the Logan signal-caller hooked up with his step-brother on a perfect pass in the end zone to complete a game-breaking 34-yard touchdown pass.

Logan missed the extra point, but in the end it didn't hurt the Chiefs.

Ironton, which didn't throw its first pass of the night until the 5:42 mark of the final period, went into its bag of tricks and tried a halfback option pass on second down. Taylor had a receiver open behind the Logan defense, but the underthrown pass was dropped.

Ironton got a first down by converting a fourth-and-three run, but on the next play Preston went deep and hit a player in stride. Problem was, however, it was Angle, who made a terrific running, twisting interception to all but end Ironton's hopes of pulling off an upset.

Two plays later, McDaniel broke a quick-hitter up the middle, cut down the left side and went nearly untouched for 57 yards and a touchdown with 1:56 to play. As he was catching the ensuing 2-point conversion pass from Angle, Ironton fans began heading for the exits.

"There was always that aura on the sidelines that we were going to get out of this (deficit), that we were going to fight our way through and come back," Amyx said. "And then when we got that first score, then yeah, (the feeling was) now we're going to go. Then the defense got stiffer and we shut them down.

"I give (Ironton) a lot of credit," he added. "They had a great defensive game plan against us. Offensively, they did just what we knew they were going to do, but defensively they had

a great scheme and I thought coach (Kelly) Wolfe and everybody on offense made great adjustments to it in the second half. We finally got some receivers open and we started running the ball, too.”

“We did some things where we stacked the receivers a little more and give (the Tigers) some different looks and ran a couple empty sets on them... but I tell you, they had a great game plan.”

Now that they're finally finished with the first half of the season, in which they played four of their first five games on the road — including their likely final-ever game at Ironton — the Purple & White can now look forward to finishing the regular season by playing four of their last five at home.

But three of their final five foes are still undefeated, including Zanesville, next Friday night's opponent in Logan Chieftain Stadium, which is now 5-0 after bombing Lisbon Beaver 49-7 last night.

“We've got a lot of tough games left,” Amyx said. “Jackson and Warren are unbeaten, and so is Zanesville, too. Zanesville's going to be a tough one next week. We're going to have games like this... and we learned some things about our team tonight.”

Robinson fully agreed with his coach.

“I think we showed we can play with anybody tonight,” he said. “I truly believe that.”

## Chiefs 'D' stands tall in blanking Zanesville, 26-0

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — In a season where Logan's vaunted spread offense has commanded lots of headlines and statewide attention, has anybody noticed what the Chieftain defense has been doing lately?

How about you, Zanesville Blue Devils? Have you?

Uh, yeah. They have.

In a showdown of undefeated, state-ranked Division II teams with high-octane offenses, it was the Logan defense that stole the show in shutting out the Blue Devils 26-0 Friday night in Logan Chieftain Stadium.

Logan (6-0) held Zanesville to 147 total yards — including just 47 yards and one first down in the second half — and the Blue Devils (5-1) never drove any farther than the Logan 31-yard line all night. Zanesville, which entered Friday night scoring more than 34 points per game, seldom crossed midfield.

“Wow!” exclaimed Logan coach Dale Amyx. “I’m so proud of those kids. They really worked hard all week, studied the film and bought into the game plan... but in my wildest dreams I didn’t think we could shut them out.

“I knew (the Blue Devils) were good,” he continued, “but once we got going I thought ‘we can shut these guys out,’ even early in the first half, because they couldn’t get anything going on us. They got some runs on us (late in the first half) when we were in our nickel package, when we were thinking more pass, but even when we played nickel — and we probably played nickel more than base (defense) the whole night — we stopped the run out of that.”

The Logan defense was really, really impressive, to be sure. It continues to improve and has only allowed 20 points in the past four games.

And as the Logan offense struggled in the early going Friday night, the Chieftain defense turned the contest into a true war of field position.

Quarterback Patrick Angle hooked up with receiver Mason Mays deep over the middle and the senior speedster made a diving catch in the end zone to complete a 42-yard touchdown play on Logan's very first play from scrimmage. Derek Montgomery added the extra-point kick, and it was 7-0 Logan a little more than two minutes into the game.

But the Chiefs managed just six points the rest of the half — a pair of Montgomery field goals — and led just 13-0 at the intermission.

While Logan had just four first downs in the first half, a couple key defensive plays by the Chieftain defense gave the Logan offense a short field to work with.

Montgomery cashed in, tying a school record for field goals in a single game by booting a 30-yarder early in the first period and a 36-yarder on the opening play of the second stanza.

He went for a school-record third field goal with a little more than a minute remaining in the first half, but his 45-yarder went just low and wide to the left.

“For Derek to do what he did — what a weapon to have,” Amyx praised. “He’s capable of making that (45-yarder), and we’re confident in him when we need him.”

Montgomery already has four field goals this season.

Other than when the Blue Devils recovered a Logan fumble on their own 40, they began every first-half offensive series between their own 14 and 29-yard lines. Logan, meanwhile, started four of its six first-half offensive possessions in Devils territory and another at its own 49-yard line.

And a bad punt snap from center early in the first period resulted in Logan getting great field position at the Zanesville 17. Logan’s Brandon Graham tackled punter Michael Lynn for a 19-yard loss to set up Montgomery’s first FG.

“We just had to stop the run and get them into third-and-long,” said Logan senior middle linebacker Michael Snider, the team’s leading tackler this season. “Obviously they weren’t passing the ball well tonight.”

Indeed. Zanesville quarterback Cole Hudson was just 5-of-20 through the air for a scant 41 yards, and the Chiefs picked him off three times. The Logan “D” didn’t allow him much time to set up and throw.

“We just watched the films, keyed on their key players, studied them hard and practiced hard like we always do every week,” Snider added. “We have the motivation of (possibly) going undefeated and the coaches being behind us 100 percent and all the hard work that we put in.”

Field position continued to play a huge role in the second half. Again, Zanesville was continually pinned deep by the Chiefs, including a third-quarter Angle pooch punt that Mays downed on the Zanesville 1-yard line.

Early in the fourth period, after the Blue Devils fumbled the ball away on their own 42-yard line, the Logan offense finally began to click.

Angle connected with Jordan Rutter (a team-high four receptions for 51 yards) for 20 yards, and 11 more yards were tacked on when Zanesville was called for a facemask penalty on

the tackle.

Then, things got a little weird.

Zach McDaniel, who earlier in the game had taken a couple direct snaps in a “wildcat” formation, lined up in front of Angle in the backfield while three Logan players split wide to the left, center Bobby Russell was flanked by two fellow linemen where the ball was spotted, and three more Chiefs were deployed to the far right. Although there were two huge holes in the offensive line, the Zanesville defense looked utterly confused.

Frankly, so was just about everyone else in the stadium... but then again, that was the whole idea.

McDaniel took the direct snap from Russell and went up the middle 11 yards for a touchdown that gave the Chiefs a 19-0 lead with 11:02 remaining.

Okay, Kelly Wolfe, will you please explain what the heck was going on?

“We’ve been practicing that formation for six weeks,” said Logan’s offensive coordinator. “We’ve had it ready to go since the Lancaster game, and we’ve been practicing it, but we’ve never needed it.

“I told the kids tonight we were going to do it no matter what the situation was,” he added. “We call it our spread. It’s just a funky formation to put the defense in a bind — and if you watched Zanesville, they were completely lost. They didn’t know what to do... and that was the whole point.”

But he also admitted he’s not the innovator of such a setup.

“I’m not going to say it’s mine,” he said with a huge grin. “I watched (coach) Urban Meyer run it at Florida, so I got it from him. But we’re trying to keep (the opposition) on their toes and keep them guessing.

“We’ve run a lot of the same stuff the first five weeks. We’ve kept it pretty plain-jane for the most part, but we’ve had all of these (formations) in and have been practicing them since day one,” he added. “I told the kids going into tonight we’re running them all. We ran the wildcat, that spread... we ran a lot of different things tonight, and now teams can’t just sit on everything else that we run.”

It sure gives opposing defenses even more to think about.

“If I’m scouting myself up to this point of the season, we’ve been pretty much 70-30 (percent) pass to run, and we need to balance that up a little bit,” Wolfe revealed. “We felt we could run the ball a little bit against these guys. They’re more our size, but their quickness was, I think, a little more than we were ready for.

“It took us a while to adjust to that,” he continued. “But, again, (last week’s) Ironton game and tonight, we made some really good adjustments at halftime and the kids came out and did what we asked them to do. Down the road you have to be able to make those kind of adjustments - and if you don’t, you’re going to get beat.”

Amyx agreed.

“We struggled offensively at times, but we got it turned around,” he said. “Penalties killed us on some drives, but (Zanesville) also has a good defense. Kelly and I talked and knew it wasn’t going to be easy.”

Logan dealt the knockout blow on its next offensive series when McDaniel took an inside handoff from Angle and scampered 25 yards to the football promised land to make it 26-0.

While Friday night wasn’t a Southeastern Ohio Athletic League game, it wasn’t a run-of-the-mill regular-season non-conference game, either.

And Amyx and the Chiefs had a novel way of approaching it.

“One thing we talked about all week... this is a mid-season playoff game, and that’s how we handled it,” he revealed. “Two teams in the same (playoff) region, and if the season stopped today we’d both be in the playoffs. We may see them again.”

The team goals are “to make the playoffs and go 10-0, win the (SEOAL) and not only make the playoffs but do something in the playoffs — maybe even win a state championship — and you have to beat teams like (Zanesville) to do it. We have some more games like this coming down the road. They beat some pretty good teams to get 5-0, and we have too. The fact we can do that to them builds our confidence even more.”

While the Chiefs’ 218 total yards and 156 passing yards were season lows, they made key plays when necessary. For the most part, though, they let their defense be the star of Friday night’s show.

“I thought it was going to be a close game all the way and come down to the wire,” Amyx said, “but as we got going I really felt ‘man, we can shut these guys out.’ They threw their best stuff at us in the first half and we stopped it. The kids did a great job stopping them. Just an overall great team effort.”

In the overall scheme of things, it’s just one victory for a team that wants to string together as many 1-0 weeks as possible. But let there be no doubt... this particular 1-0 was huge for the Chiefs.

“They’re buying into the one game at a time (approach) and not looking at the rankings and all that stuff,” Amyx said of his players. “That stuff doesn’t mean anything until the end of the season. But, boy, that was a big (win) there. That got us some major playoff points.”



And Snider promised there will be no letdowns as the Chiefs play out the season.

They can't afford to: two of Logan's remaining SEOAL foes, Warren and Jackson, are still undefeated.

"Oh, no, not at all," Snider said. "We plan on working harder and harder every week."

## **Chieftains dominate Marietta for 48-3 victory**

*Angle, Mays break more career records*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — For the Marietta Tigers, it was more than enough just having to play the undefeated Logan Chieftains Friday night.

The football gods certainly haven't been smiling upon the Tigers much recently. In the throes of a five-game losing streak as they made their first-ever visit to Logan Chieftain Stadium, they were playing their sixth-straight game away from home on a rainy, dreary night, and they were facing a state-ranked Logan team that had won 30 consecutive Southeastern Ohio Athletic League games.

And as if that wasn't enough, the Tigers came to town missing no less than 17 players due to injury or illness, including nine starters. Only 30 players suited up, several of them freshmen.

Heck, even the Marietta band didn't make the trip.

The end result was predictable: Patrick Angle again tied a school record with four touchdown passes in a single game, eclipsing the all-time school record for career TD throws in the process, and Mason Mays became Logan's all-time leading leader in reception yardage as the Chiefs rolled to a 48-3 victory.

Logan dominated the first half, leading 35-3 at halftime, and both head coaches agreed to play a running clock in the second half, which took less than a half-hour to play.

For the undefeated Chiefs, now 7-0 overall and 2-0 in the SEOAL, it was a matter of following the musical example of Bachman-Turner Overdrive. You know... Taking Care of Business.

And that's just what they did. Logan scored on its first three possessions and the Tigers (1-6, 0-3) never threatened.

"I thought so," said Logan coach Dale Amyx when asked if taking care of business was the team's primary theme Friday night. "We weren't super fired-up, but we didn't try to get them super fired-up. We just wanted to come out and execute, get things done, get a good lead and get the younger kids in there, and that's what we were able to do.

"We have some kids we needed to get out early because of bumps and bruises and sickness and things like that," he added. "Hopefully, that gets us ready for next week."

With the exception of giving up one long pass play and a roughing-the-kicker penalty when the Tigers missed a 37-yard field goal, the Logan defense was dominant once again.

All Marietta managed was a 27-yard field goal by Morgan Wynn in the latter stages of the second period after he had been roughed a few plays earlier.

“I thought our defense tackled well and we took away their best stuff all night,” Amyx said. “Take away that roughing the kicker, and that one long pass...”

And you’ve got a second-straight shutout. But that wasn’t necessary Friday night.

“Overall we played well on both sides of the ball,” Amyx praised. “We didn’t have them fired up for this game, but we told them it was a game they couldn’t take lightly, either, and they didn’t. We got it over with and now we can move on.

“I think we had good preparation all week and we were ready for what we knew they were going to do, both offensively and defensively,” he added. “We executed our game plan and I think we stopped theirs.”

As expected, the Logan offense simply dominated. Even with the second-half running clock, the Purple & White still had 430 yards of total offense and 20 first downs in addition to 48 points.

Here’s how dominant the Chiefs were in the early going: in the first 13 minutes of the game (one minute into the second quarter), they ran 20 plays from scrimmage, picked up 12 first downs, scored four touchdowns, and gained 220 yards.

They really didn’t give Marietta any kind of a chance to get into the game. That, Amyx noted, was by design.

“This is a team that was going to be as good as we let them be,” Amyx said of the Tigers. “I worry more about games like this sometimes than I do the big games, because you worry about the kids playing down a level or not taking it serious. I thought they took it serious and we got it done.”

Angle’s four TD passes gave him 15 for the season and 42 for his career, breaking the record of 41 set by Keith Myers in 1982-85.

“Hey, they’re made to be broken,” said Myers, now Logan’s boys basketball coach, at halftime. “And it couldn’t be by a better kid (Angle).”

Mays caught a pair of touchdown aerials, good for 35 yards, giving him 1,326 career yards to pass Eric Cox (1,319) for all-time honors.

Despite what turned out to be a 21-yard penalty for intentional grounding, the Chiefs recovered from a second-and-31 situation to score on their first possession. Angle hooked up with Zach McDaniel for a 13-yard gain before finding Mays wide open deep in the left corner of the end zone with a 21-yard scoring pass.

A 38-yard gain on an inside handoff by Mays keyed Logan's second possession and touchdown drive, capped off by an 11-yard strike from Angle to fellow senior Jordan Rutter in the back of the end zone.

Logan then made it 21-0 moments later when Angle ran an option down the right side of the line, faked a pitch, cut around the edge and ran past and through the Marietta defense for a 24-yard scoring run with 1:31 still to play in the first period.

Knowing they wouldn't get many scoring chances, the Tigers actually went for a first down on fourth-and-1 from their own 29-yard line. The Chiefs held as Marietta quarterback Matt McKittrick fumbled the snap from center.

You just don't give the Chiefs a short field to work with. They'll almost always take advantage, and that's exactly what happened three plays later when Angle connected with Mays over the middle for a 7-yard scoring pass.

McKittrick's deep bomb to Dustin Baker, on which he out-leaped a Logan defender who was apparently going to make an interception, was the highlight of the game for the Tigers on the next series. That 35-yard play helped Marietta get into scoring position, but Logan's Korey Swaim picked off a McKittrick pass in the end zone to halt the threat.

McKittrick returned the favor on the next series, however, intercepting an Angle pass and returning it to the Logan 25-yard line. The drive quickly stalled and Wynn missed a 37-yard field goal, but the Logan defense was called for roughing the kicker and the Tigers got a first down at the Logan 11 — the deepest penetration by an opposing offense since the Ironton game two weeks ago. The Logan defense hasn't allowed a touchdown in its last 10 quarters.

The drive stalled again and Wynn, who had to be helped off the field after the penalty, came back in to get Marietta on the board with his 27-yard boot.

A 34-yard return of an interception by McDaniel put the Chiefs in scoring position late in the first half. Angle set the school record for career TD tosses when he hit Swaim in the back of the end zone on a 5-yarder.

Logan scored 35 first-half points — Derek Montgomery booted all five extra points — and had the ball only 7:43 in the first half compared to 16:17 for Marietta.

Except for the break between the third and fourth quarters and on a Marietta timeout, the clock ran continuously the second half and the two teams ran just 22 offensive plays combined.

Logan broke two of them for touchdowns, with Michael Snider scoring on a 6-yard run in the third period and Dylan Cavinee breaking a 54-yard scoring run early in the fourth period.

Portsmouth spoiled next week's anticipated battle of 7-0 teams by downing Warren 28-7 Friday night, but you can still expect a packed house in Vincent next Friday when the Chiefs travel to Warren to face the 6-1 Warriors.

And Jackson went down to its first defeat as well Friday night, also by a 28-7 count at the hands of Ironton, meaning the Chiefs — winners of 31 straight league games — are the SEOAL's lone undefeated team, both in league play and overall.

## **Unbeaten Chiefs overcome improved Warriors, 31-15**

*21-point outburst in second half breaks open tight game; Logan improves mark to 8-0*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

VINCENT — Long before any of the current Logan Chieftains or Warren Warriors were born, there was a popular after-shave television commercial that concluded with the line “it wakes you up like a cold slap in the face.”

Considering it was almost cold enough to snow Friday night at Warren High School, you might say Clay Ellenwood’s 72-yard touchdown pass to Grant Venham early in the second half — which pulled the Warriors within 10-7 — was the football equivalent to that cold slap in the face.

And, in about the length of a TV commercial, the Purple & White responded. The Chiefs went 60 yards on four plays in just 79 seconds, with Patrick Angle scoring on a 34-yard quarterback draw up the middle, to take the momentum of that long TD pass away from the Warriors.

That began a run of 21 unanswered points as the Chiefs went on to defeat the determined and vastly-improved Warriors, 31-15.

Logan remained undefeated both overall (8-0) and in the Southeastern Ohio Athletic League (3-0) and also solidified its hold on a potential Division II Region 7 playoff berth.

“Once we scored a touchdown to make it 10-7, (the Chiefs) go right down the field and score. That was a backbreaker,” Warren coach Jim Pifer said. “I think our kids got down just a little bit after that.”

The Warriors, who started the season 6-0, have lost their last two games and are now 6-2 overall and 1-2 in the SEOAL. But no matter what they do the rest of the way, they’ve already put together their best football season since 1996.

“They’re a very good football team,” praised Logan coach Dale Amyx. “We knew that going in... at least I did, when I watched the film, and I was trying to get everybody else to believe that too. They have some athletes on that team, they’re tough and they’re physical.”

Not only did Friday’s victory mark the Chiefs’ 12th-straight win over Warren — the Purple & White are now 21-3 all-time against the Warriors — but it also pulled the Chiefs within two wins of tying a pair of prestigious league and school records.

It was their 32nd-straight SEOAL triumph, putting the Chiefs two away from the mark of 34 set by Ironton between 1971 and 1976.

It was also their 27th-consecutive regular-season victory, dating back to the second game of

the 2007 season. The all-time LHS record for consecutive regular-season wins is 29, accomplished by the 1999 through 2001 teams.

The Chiefs can tie both records by winning their final two regular-season games — home SEOAL matchups against Jackson next Friday and Chillicothe the following week — as they close in on the school's seventh-ever undefeated regular season.

Angle set two more LHS career records Friday night. After a slow start, he completed 15-of-26 passes for 213 yards and two touchdowns to become the school's all-time leader in pass completions (410) and passing yardage (4,253).

“The teams we've played aren't spread teams like Logan,” Pifer said. “Consequently, our kids were chasing the quarterback all night and got a little tired.”

Angle also led the Chiefs with 74 rushing yards on 16 carries, but the Warriors made him earn each and every inch of territory on a muddy, slippery field. None were bigger, however, than those 34 yards up the middle midway through the third period.

Despite starting five of their six first-half possessions in Warren territory — the Warriors punted six times in the first half alone, and their lone first down of the half came when the punter, Venham, scrambled for an 11-yard gain following a bad snap — the Chiefs led just 10-0 at halftime. They only capitalized on that great field position twice.

Logan went 27 yards on seven plays to take the lead with 7:24 left in the half on a 3-yard scoring run by Mason Mays, then got a 28-yard field goal from Derek Montgomery with 24 seconds remaining.

“That was so weird, too,” Amyx surmised. “We kept getting in scoring position, but then we'd get a penalty or something would happen and we'd be going backward. It didn't seem like we could get anything going.”

It was a combination of the Warren defense, the field conditions, and the Chiefs taking some untimely penalties.

“We played a little different defense this week that I'm sure we hadn't shown them on film,” Pifer said. “I hope we crossed them up a little bit. But they caught on.”

Although the Chiefs made some halftime adjustments, it took a little while to implement them.

“Everybody we play puts in a new (defensive) scheme. Everybody,” Amyx said. “We're kind of getting used to adjusting on the run. I don't think we've played a team lately that's ran the same defense we've seen on film. They're trying to come up with something to stop us, and I guess that's a compliment. You have to adjust.

“We got off to a slow start,” he added. “I think the field conditions had a little to do with

that, too — we weren't getting very good footing — but my hat's off to (the Warriors). They had a good game plan. Coach (offensive coordinator Kelly) Wolfe made some good halftime adjustments with the offense.”

After forcing Logan to punt on its opening series of the second half, the Warriors picked up a first down before Ellenwood aired one out for Venham. The pass was a bit under-thrown, but Venham came back to make a leaping catch at midfield, then made a couple Logan defenders slip and miss as he cut back to the middle and went 72 yards for Warren's first touchdown.

It was the first touchdown allowed by the Logan defense since the second quarter of the Ironton game back in week five — more than 12 quarters.

“I was real happy going in up 10-0 at halftime,” Amyx said. “When we came out (for the second half) I really felt confidence in our defense. (The Warriors) weren't moving the ball, and then what do they do? They throw that pass (to Venham) and they score.

“I didn't see them moving the ball on the ground on us, so I knew it would have to be a situation where they had to throw the ball,” he added.

The Chiefs turned that cold slap in the face into a 21-point wake-up call.

They started the ensuing drive from their own 40-yard line and, three plays later, were at the Warren 34 when Angle made the blitzing Warren defense pay. A huge hole opened in the middle, Angle found it, and outran the rest of the Warrior defense to the end zone for a 17-7 lead.

“We finally got a chance to use some of our halftime adjustments, which was running the football up inside, and our kids did a good job with the blocking schemes we came up with at halftime,” Amyx revealed.

Then, after forcing Warren to punt, the Chiefs went 61 yards on just five plays to take a 24-7 lead when Angle hit Mays with a 50-yard touchdown bomb. The Warren defensive backs bit on a terrific pump-fake by Angle and Mays streaked behind them for a relatively easy touchdown.

The Chiefs then put the game away with a nifty 12-play, 63-yard drive that spilled over into the fourth period.

Angle kept the drive alive by completing a fourth-down pass to Brandon Graham for a 15-yard gain off a fake punt, then moments later connected with Jordan Rutter, who made a tremendous diving, stretched-out TD catch in the right corner of the end zone.

That 30-yard touchdown, on fourth-and-25, was the pass on which Angle broke the career record for passing yardage.



Warren came back with a 73-yard, nine-play drive of its own, culminated on a 5-yard scoring run by Austin Henthorn with 4:28 remaining, and made it 31-15 on a two-point conversion pass from Ellenwood to Kyle Pritt.

The Warriors then forced the Chiefs to punt, but Mays iced the victory by picking off an Ellenwood pass with just over two minutes remaining.

“The one where he pumped the ball, our backside corner was supposed to rotate to the center and didn’t get there,” Pifer revealed. “That (Logan) offense can score from anywhere on the field.

“I was telling coach Amyx ‘we can defend you 58 out of 60 times and get beat, because two plays can cost you.’ ” he added. “And that’s exactly what happened: two big long (TD) pass plays, and this is an even game.”

Amyx agreed.

“With a quarterback and receivers like we have you’re going to get some people open,” he said. “Overall I’m pleased with our performance. With the field conditions and everything, I thought we came out and did what we had to do. I would like to have had a faster start on offense, but we didn’t. And that’s not taking anything away from (the Warriors)... that was their game plan. They were physical. (Pifer) has done a good job with this program, and you can see that.

“The defense played pretty good all night (and) we finally got some things going on offense,” Amyx added. “This game was good for us. I think maybe we needed a good, hard, physical test where we had to run the ball some, and once we started running that helped open up the passing game.”

Logan rushed for 117 yards on 37 carries and, in the second half, was in possession of the ball for more than 16 minutes while Warren’s offense had it for less than eight.

“I thought we played well the second half most of the time but we still continued to struggle on offense,” Pifer said. “We couldn’t generate continuous first downs... and you can’t let Logan have the ball all the time. They made big plays (with) those two long touchdown passes.

“Our kids played hard,” he added. “We wanted to win so bad, and we wanted to make a good showing. Sometimes we played pretty well. We just weren’t consistent on offense, and I think we got a little tired. We have a lot of kids playing both ways.”

Both teams had several players going both ways and the Warriors wore down as the game progressed. The SEOAL’s leading rusher, Kaleb Wolfe, gained just 29 yards on 12 carries before leaving the game in the third period with an ankle injury.

However, the Chiefs may have suffered the biggest blow when offensive/defensive lineman

Ralph Robinson went down with a knee injury in the first quarter and never returned.

“It’s going to be this way again next week with Jackson coming in. We’re going to have to do it all over again, and probably without Ralph,” Amyx said. “We’re going to have to have some other people step up. I’m hoping it’s just a sprain and we’ll get him back, but with knees you just don’t know.

“I hate to say it was a war of attrition with as many kids as we have going both ways on both sides of the ball, but we wore them down a bit,” he added. “Their kids did a great job. They played well and they played hard, and I know their coach has to be real proud of them.”

The Chiefs did likewise... and their coaches and fans were proud of their efforts as well.

## **Chiefs clinch tie for SEOAL championship**

*Chiefs earn home playoff game  
as Angle throws four TD passes*

By Craig Dunn

Logan Daily News

LOGAN — Plenty of complimentary words — explosive, exciting and dominating, to name just a few — have been used to describe the Logan Chieftains this season.

Conservative, however, is not among them.

So when the Chiefs, leading visiting Jackson 14-0 with 2:44 to play in the first half Friday night at Logan Chieftain Stadium, took over possession at their own 16-yard line following an interception, running out the clock was the last thing on their collective minds.

On the very first play, quarterback Patrick Angle aired out a bomb from near his own goal line. Speedy receiver Mason Mays made a tremendous lunging catch well beyond midfield and was tripped up at the Jackson 32 following a 52-yard gain, and more damage would soon be done.

Five plays later, Angle hooked up with Michael Snider on an 8-yard touchdown pass for a 20-0 halftime lead, and it all but put the Ironmen away as the Purple & White went on to register a 27-7 victory to clinch no worse than a tie for their sixth-consecutive Southeastern Ohio Athletic League football championship.

The unbeaten and state-ranked Chiefs (9-0 overall, 4-0 SEOAL) go for the outright title and the seventh undefeated regular season in school history next Friday when they host 1-8 Chillicothe in their regular-season finale.

Logan also clinched both a Division II Region 7 playoff berth and a first-round home game with Friday's quality win over a much-improved Jackson squad (7-2, 4-2), which was playing for a share of the league title and some important computer ratings points of its own in a quest for a Division III Region 12 playoff berth.

"Oh, we're going two-minute drill. Absolutely," said Logan coach Dale Amyx of the game-breaking drive. "We practice that. We've got the quarterback and the receivers to do it, and the line was protecting well all night. This is a championship game, and we're not holding back.

"We're not playing conservative... and we haven't all year. Sometimes to a fault, maybe," he continued with a laugh, "but that's our thing. That's what we do."

The Chiefs sure do that voodoo that they do so well.

Jackson, under first-year coach Andy Hall, gave the Chiefs as tough of a game as just about anyone all season.

“At times I thought (the score) was closer than it looked,” Hall said. “At halftime we’re down 20-0 (because) we didn’t make any plays the first half.”

Angle, who threw four touchdown passes to four different receivers — the fourth time in his career (and third time this season) he’s thrown a school-record-tying four TD passes in a single game — made a huge defensive play to set up the big score late in the second period. His spectacular interception of a Kruize Wandling pass cut short a promising Jackson drive.

“That was critical,” Hall said. “We were moving the ball down the field and had a kid open and (Angle) came over the top and made a great interception, and then they score. (It could have been) 14-0 at halftime, maybe 14-7 if we punch that in. It’s a whole different ballgame from 14-7 to 20-0.”

And it’s hard to rally from a 20-point deficit against the Chiefs. One team (Pickerington North) came back from a 21-point hole in the second week of the season, but the Chiefs survived 24-21 on Derek Montgomery’s field goal with seven seconds remaining.

“And then to come out and score on the opening drive of the second half was big, too,” Amyx noted. “I thought if we could score early in the second half we could bust the thing wide open.”

And that’s what happened.

A 10-yard run by Angle helped Logan survive a fourth-and-one on the drive to open the second half. Then, moments later, they faced fourth-and-five from the Jackson 26 when Angle hit senior Jordan Rutter with a medium-range pass on the right sideline.

But Rutter wanted more than a first down. He broke free from a would-be tackler, eluded a couple others, and scampered into the end zone with 8:07 left in the third period for a commanding 27-0 Chieftain lead.

“That’s a great football team. They’re ranked (third) in the state for a reason,” Hall said of the Chiefs. “But our kids didn’t quit. They played hard. We just didn’t make any plays in the first half, and that’s one thing against a good football team. You’ve got to make plays. You’ve got to do things that, when it’s your time, you’ve got to make that play. We really didn’t make that one play on either side of the ball that really could turn things around.”

Whereas Logan came up with those big plays, the Ironmen were unable to do so other than a terrific 55-yard bomb from Wandling to Kip Winchester for Jackson’s lone touchdown early in the fourth period. However, they were oh-so-close a couple times.

“It was just inches (from making a couple big plays). But this game is played with just inches,” Hall noted. “We had a couple guys open and we just missed them. We’d just miss one block, or something minute here or there.

“But against good football teams,” he added, “that minute stuff can get you beat.”

The Chieftain offense was crisp at the outset, marching to touchdowns on their first two possessions of the game to put Jackson in a 14-0 hole early in the second stanza.

Angle had a 27-yard scramble and a 13-yard run off an option play on which Jackson’s defense forced the Logan quarterback to completely change course and reverse his field, to help set up the first touchdown.

Angle then connected with senior Zach McDaniel over the middle, and the Chiefs’ leading receiver made a couple would-be tacklers miss en route to a 15-yard scoring play.

Then, on the next series, Rutter made a slick tightrope-like 20-yard reception along the Chieftain sidelines and also caught an 11-yard pass to keep the drive alive. A 16-yard keeper by Angle on fourth down drove the ball to the Jackson 10, from where Angle hit Mays with a strike directly under the goal post in the back of the end zone.

“We’ve been on them all week that we need to start fast, especially in this next stretch of games where you can’t have a slow start,” Amyx revealed. “You get behind here in a couple weeks and you may not get back into (the game). We’re really stressing getting off to a fast start offensively and playing lights-out defensively. I thought the kids did that for the most part all night.”

Other than Angle’s interception of Wandling’s long pass, the Jackson offense didn’t cross midfield until late in the third quarter.

Amyx noted Jackson did an excellent job mixing up its plays and it took the Chiefs awhile to adjust defensively. But save for the long touchdown pass, the Purple & White kept the Ironmen from making big plays and otherwise off the scoreboard.

“They had us a little off-balance on the first drive,” Amyx said of Jackson’s first two plays from scrimmage, on which the Ironmen chalked first downs. “Once we got things figured out we got them stopped. They didn’t run anything we hadn’t seen.

“I thought the kids did a good job all week with their preparation, and that’s something these kids have done well all year,” he added. “They’re real similar to last year’s team where they pay attention to the film work, the mental work, the stuff we put on the board... they know it come Friday night. Unless they throw in a new wrinkle, those (Logan) kids are out there calling the other team’s plays... and it takes a lot of time to put that kind of mental work in.

“A lot of kids aren’t willing to do that — but these kids are, because I think they’ve inherited that from last year’s team, who inherited it from the year before. They know the mental part is just as big as the physical part.”

Amyx also had high praise for the Ironmen.

“You have to give them credit. They played hard, they sacked us a few times, and they did a real nice job coming out and mixing up their formations,” lauded Logan’s 20th-year head coach. “When you were thinking they were going to run they would pass. They did a good job with that.

“It was a little bit of a chess game to match their personnel and our personnel,” he added. Hall “is a good coach. He has good athletes now, and as he gets better athletes I think you’re going to see Jackson stay on the rise. I saw a big change in them (since last) year.”

“It was a tough loss for our kids,” Hall admitted. “We probably had the best week of practice we’ve had all year. The kids really believed in what we were trying to do, and they played hard. These guys never quit, they’ve never quit all year, even in the two losses (Jackson also lost to Ironton last week) we’ve had against very, very good football teams. We’re not getting blown out or beat up. We hang in there and keep fighting.

“We came in with confidence, we weren’t intimidated, and we weren’t fearing these guys whatsoever,” Hall continued. “Coach Amyx does a great job with this team. Our kids stepped up in the second half, but if we just would have made one or two of those plays, it’s a whole different ballgame.

“We came out in the second half and I thought we played better defensively, and on offense we made a few plays. The touchdown throw to Kip Winchester was a great play. We had some bright spots tonight.”

Angle was once again the Chiefs’ bright spot. He now has 21 touchdown passes on the season to go along with 1,937 passing yards, he led the team in rushing (59 yards), and he was a nearly-perfect 18-of-20 passing for 250 yards before injuring his throwing hand late in the third period.

Not to worry, Logan fans.

“He got hit on the hand. It’s like a contusion. It’s not broken or anything,” Amyx revealed. “He could squeeze the ball. He’ll need to ice it.”

Angle came back in on the Chieftains’ next-to-last offensive series solely to handle the ball and to hand it off, a pair of tasks made all the more difficult by a driving rain. He did fine.

While there was some celebration in the locker room afterward, Amyx and his coaching staff reminded their charges they still have unfinished business.

The Chiefs need to beat Chillicothe next Friday for a 10-0 record, an outright SEOAL title, a league record-tying 34 straight SEOAL victories, a school record-tying 29-straight regular season wins, and to solidify their playoff standing.

“We’re excited about this. We’ve talked about clinching a share (of the SEOAL title) all week, and to be 9-0, but we don’t want to share (the championship) with anybody,” Amyx said. “We want to win it outright. Our big goal all year is to be 10-0. That’s important to these kids, and to win an outright league championship and go into the playoffs on a high note. That’s big for us.”

No doubt Chieftain Nation fans will be checking online all weekend for updates to see if the Chiefs have indeed officially clinched an unprecedented fourth-straight playoff berth and their third-straight opening-round home game.

Which they have, rest assured.

“I’m sure it will say ‘controls own destiny,’ but it would be nice to see ‘clinched home game (which it does),’ ” Amyx said. “But we don’t want to get all fat and happy. We want that (Chillicothe) game next week.

“The biggest thing is the outright league championship. Everything else is secondary,” he added. “That’s your number-one goal... you want to be league champions. That’s something we’ve instilled into these kids, and they’ve inherited it from the class before them and the class before them.

“Streaks aside, the (SEOAL) championship is what we want to win.”

## **Another 10-0 season, SEOAL title for Chiefs**

*Purple & White rout Chillicothe to close out regular season, 51-14*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — Shortly after players and coaches alike had waded through family, friends and well-wishers and made their way to the locker room Friday night, Logan coach Dale Amyx addressed his football Chieftains.

While the Chiefs had just clinched another outright Southeastern Ohio Athletic League championship and finished off a second-straight perfect regular season, Amyx wanted to remind them the season is actually only two-thirds of the way complete.

“We’re in this for 15 weeks,” he stressed. “We’re in it to win it.” Such is the workmanlike attitude the Chieftains, to a man, have taken along their way to another conference title and undefeated regular season.

The Purple & White routed visiting Chillicothe 51-14 on Senior Night in Logan Chieftain Stadium to officially cap off a 10-0 regular season and clinch a fifth-straight outright SEOAL championship, their sixth-straight overall.

Those accomplishments are all well and good. However, while taking nothing away from the SEOAL or their non-league opponents, this group of Chieftains admittedly has bigger fish to fry this fall — a run at the state Division II championship — and they make no bones about it.

“We still have a long way to go,” said center and co-captain Bobby Russell. “We have the state playoffs and five more weeks of this. We’re going to bring a state championship home to Logan.”

That’s the attitude this team has taken for several months now. In all honesty, the rest of the SEOAL all but conceded the ‘09 title to the Purple & White a long time ago, and a 10-0 record was certainly well within the realm of possibility.

“You’re never sure going into a season if you’re that good, and you don’t know your competition that well, but I think once we got past Zanesville (in week five), in my heart I knew we could run the table,” Amyx admitted. “The kids got better and better, and the defense really got better.

“(Defense) was my biggest concern early in the year, with all the replacements,” he continued. “We knew what we had offensively and what we were capable of doing offensively, but defensively was a big surprise. The way they played at Lancaster was the first sign that we really had something going... and it gave them some confidence.”

That defense limited Chillicothe to just six first downs and 125 yards of total offense Friday night. The Cavs never crossed midfield until late in the second quarter, when they were



already down by 38 points.

So with the regular season complete, the Chiefs enter the Division II playoffs as a No. 2 seed in Region 7 and will probably take on Canal Winchester (8-2) in an opening-round game next Friday in Logan Chieftain Stadium.

Unofficially, the Region 7 pairings look to be Columbus Marion-Franklin (8-2) at Louisville (10-0), Canal Winchester at Logan, Columbus Walnut Ridge (8-2) at Columbus Brookhaven (8-2) and Dresden Tri-Valley (9-1) at Lewis Center Olentangy Orange (8-2).

Region 7 teams such as New Philadelphia (9-1), Columbus St. Charles (5-5), Zanesville (9-1) and Athens (9-1) didn't make the cut.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association will announce official playoff pairings this Sunday afternoon. But no matter who the Chiefs play, the focus remains the same.

"We don't change anything, really, once we know who we play and we get game film," Amyx said. "We do the same thing we do with every other team. We break it down, put it on the board, and try to find some tendencies, how we're going to attack them with our offense and how we're going to stop them with our defense.

"There are things that we have already built in that we can use," he added. "I don't think there's anything out there we haven't seen yet... we've seen just about everything this year."

And despite having a day off from classes on Monday, the Chiefs will still come in and begin digesting the opponent.

"The kids will come in Monday, watch the film from the (Chillicothe) game, and then study the film of our opponent and go over what we have on the board," Amyx said. "Really, nothing changes. Football is a routine thing. You have to keep the kids in a routine, and playoffs are a routine. We play (playoff games) on Friday nights, so we just keep them in that routine."

Truthfully, the Cavaliers (1-9), who entered Friday night's game on an eight-game losing streak, weren't expected to give the Chiefs much trouble. And they didn't.

Chillicothe finished in a tie for last place in the SEOAL with Marietta, and Bill Davidson, the Cavs' longtime head coach, announced earlier in the day he was stepping down.

So amid the backdrop of Senior Night, the Chiefs kept their emotions in check and, other than a three-and-out on their first offensive series, went on to dominate the Cavs.

Patrick Angle threw three touchdown passes, Mason Mays scored three touchdowns, and the Chiefs took care of business in general.

The Chiefs scored on their next seven possessions... and on one of Chillicothe's when Korey Swaim picked off a pass and returned it 35 yards for a second-quarter touchdown, Logan's first defensive score of the season.

Mays capped off a seven-play, 55-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown dive to put the Chiefs in front to stay at the 6:07 mark of the opening period.

Then, two plays after forcing a Chillicothe punt, Angle hit Jordan Rutter with a pass over the middle and the slick senior receiver did a complete 360 pirouette to shake four tacklers, cut down the left sideline, and complete a 49-yard touchdown pass... more than 30 of it on his own.

"I just bounced off them and turned on the jets, I guess," Rutter said with a sheepish grin. "You just do it. It's instinct."

It was something the Chiefs did all night. Angle completed 16-of-23 passes for 245 yards, and his understudy, Jordan Jurgensmier, was 2-for-3 for 33 yards. But the Chiefs picked up every bit of two-thirds of those passing yards with terrific runs after catching the ball.

"How about some of the runs after the catch tonight? Wow!" Amyx exclaimed. "And that's getting better every week. Our receivers did a real nice job making catches, breaking tackles and making runs. Jordan Rutter, Mason Mays, Zach McDaniel... they were impressive.

"I would hate to have to defense us because there are too many things (the Chiefs can do)," he added. "That's why we run the offense we're running... we're getting our skills people out in space with (the opposition's) skills and we think our kids can match up with pretty much anybody we play. For the most part, we've done that this year."

A 19-yard field goal by Derek Montgomery made it 17-0 early in the second quarter and was the first salvo in what would be a 30-point second period.

Swaim followed with his interception return — he stepped in front of a Chillicothe receiver in the right flat, picked Chillicothe QB Shay Netter clean and had nothing but green turf between him and the goal line — then Mays made an electrifying 64-yard return of a punt down the right sideline, eluding and breaking tackle after tackle, before being hauled down at the CHS 1.

Offensive coordinator Kelly Wolfe then called Mays' number on the next play and he came through with another 1-yard TD leap into the end zone.

The Chiefs weren't through. A 39-yard catch-and-run from Angle to McDaniel got the Purple & White deep into Chillicothe territory, then moments later Angle teamed up with Mays — as the duo had done 24 times before — on a 10-yard touchdown pass.

The Chiefs then kicked their two-minute drill into overdrive when they again took possession with 53 seconds left in the half. Angle hooked up with McDaniel and Rutter on a

couple more nifty catch-and-runs to quickly drive deep into Cavalier territory, then Angle hit senior Ryan Sigler in the back of the end zone on a 7-yard scoring pass with 2.6 seconds left to make the score 44-0.

It would have stayed that way at the intermission, except that Chillicothe executed some razzle-dazzle on the kickoff return. Isaac Beverly ran it back a few yards then handed it to Casey Oates sweeping around from the opposite direction. Oates caught the Logan defense going the other way, and went 80 yards for a touchdown to end the half.

It was the highlight of the night for the Cavs.

Isaac Lindsey scored Logan's final touchdown on the opening drive of the third quarter, going 24 yards to paydirt, as the Logan starters played just the first half.

These Chieftains are a close group... especially the seniors, who were honored in pre-game ceremonies, most of whom have been together in athletics for many years.

"You can't ask for anything greater than a 10-0 season," said Mays, who has enjoyed a spectacular senior season. "I just hope we can keep this thing rolling and go 15-0. That would mean the world to me and to my teammates.

"We've been a tight-knit group for a long time," he added. "It actually goes back to third grade with the Tomahawks (youth football team). We've always played together... and I just can't believe this is our last year. There was a lot of emotion in this game. I couldn't see myself being a senior, but I am. I had a lot of emotion in me and I played with a lot of emotion tonight. We got it done."

"Anytime you can go undefeated, it means you gave it your all, 100 percent, and you did what you had to do," said linebacker and co-captain Michael Snider, the team's leading tackler. "The coaches helped us stay focused, and kept putting 'one week at a time' into our heads.

"Now this is where the real season starts," he continued. "I think there have been a lot of expectations (from this senior class) from seventh grade up. We had a pretty good record when we were younger kids, too, in middle school. Some of us have been together since second or third grade in Tomahawks. We all grew up together and we have some real camaraderie going."

That feeling of togetherness is crucial, according to Russell.

"The key to our success this year has been our closeness, studying the films all week, knowing our opponent and going out there and executing every Friday night," he said. "Expectations every year for Logan football are 10-0, league championship and (making the) state playoffs.

“So far we’ve got those three,” he added. “We have more to go.”

McDaniel agreed.

“I’m not satisfied until we win state,” said the Logan co-captain. “That’s what we’ve been working hard all season for, (and) we won’t stop till we get it.”

He was asked what it would take to reach the Dec. 4 state championship game in Massillon.

“Just keep practicing hard like we’ve been doing,” he noted. “Keep improving. Every week that passes, the teams get better, and that means we have to get better. We don’t want to quit till we go all the way. It’s been good so far, but we won’t be satisfied till we win state.”

Rutter wants the Chiefs to continue their one-week-at-a-time approach.

“I expected 10-0 at the beginning of the season, and that’s what we got,” he said. “We had great potential at the beginning of the season, and we followed through. (But take it) one week at a time. It’s what we said at the beginning, and that’s what we’ll keep doing.”

Angle said all the achievements are nice, but there’s much more to accomplish.

“We’re definitely glad to have this part of the season end the way we wanted to,” the Chieftain co-captain noted, “but now we want to go all the way to state. We just need to focus on the team in front of us like we have all season. We can’t get ahead of ourselves and just need to keep getting better.

“We need to stay focused and keep working hard in practice every day... take care of business,” he added.

Still, he also plans to savor the back-to-back perfect regular seasons as well.

“Finishing undefeated has been our expectation the last two seasons... and now we’ve accomplished that both years,” said the All-Ohio quarterback. “We’ve been playing together since seventh grade, and this has been our goal. Going 10-0, winning league titles, and making a run for a state championship. It’s been great playing with this group of seniors.”

You can bet it’s going to be business as usual for the Chiefs come Monday.

“I told the kids this last year, too... we expect 10-0,” Amyx said. “This was expected, so we’re not having a (league championship) party or playoff party or anything like that. We’re going to get back to work one game at a time and try to take care of business on our field first, then go from there.”

As the second season dawns, Amyx again recalled the expression he passed along to his players in the locker room.

“One of the things I learned from Ron Hinton over at Amanda-Clearcreek: he’s got a little saying... ‘If you’re in it, you can win it.’ And that’s what we are hanging our hat on,” Amyx said. “We’re in it, and we can win it, but we have to take it one game at a time.

“And yes, we’re in this thing for 15 weeks. We said that from day one,” he added. “This is a 15-week thing, and the 11th week starts now.”

Let the playoffs begin.

## Chiefs advance to second round of playoffs

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

LOGAN — If for some reason Canal Winchester's Tyler Thompson and Chillicothe's Caleb Knights ever get together someday and discuss their high school football days, you can bet the name Mason Mays will come up in the conversation.

And you can also be quite sure they'll speak of Mays the same way Boston Red Sox fans speak of the New York Yankees' Bucky Dent or Aaron Boone. The adjectives will be colorful.

Mays was up to some of his old tricks as his Logan Chieftains sidelined Canal Winchester 30-7 in the opening round of the Division II playoffs Friday night in Logan Chieftain Stadium.

With the Chiefs leading 14-0 early in the second half, Canal Winchester quarterback Justin Whitlatch hit Thompson with a beautiful pass over the middle that sprung the CW receiver behind the Logan defense, including Mays.

But just like he did in last season's Southeastern Ohio Athletic League championship game at Chillicothe, when he hauled the Cavs' Knights down from behind on a long run that looked to be going for a sure touchdown, Mays turned on the afterburners and caught Thompson from behind at the Logan 6-yard line after a 64-yard gain.

Three plays later, Mays then made a play that capped off a terrific goal-line stand. On fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line, Mays knocked down a Whitlatch pass in the end zone and the Chiefs took over on downs.

And Mays still wasn't done.

On Logan's first play from scrimmage, Mays went 61 yards off left tackle to get the Chiefs out of the shadow of their own goal line, setting up what turned out to be a game-breaking, 99-yard, six-play scoring drive.

Quarterback Patrick Angle scored on a 6-yard run moments later to give the Chiefs an insurmountable 20-0 lead, breaking the Indians' collective hearts in the process.

"I got burned," Mays admitted afterward. "I was looking in the (Canal Winchester) backfield, but I caught (Thompson), fortunately. I was running as fast as I could... and I got him. Then our defense stepped up and had a big goal-line stand, and I was able to redeem myself and knock down that pass.

"Then my guy T.J. (offensive tackle T.J. McCray) got a good block for me and I got it up through the gut and busted it outside and down the sidelines," he added. "Once we made the big play to get out of that hole, our offense got jacked up and we knew we could put it in the

end zone. We had the momentum after that.”

And as Mays raced down the sidelines, Canal Winchester’s hopes of knocking off the undefeated Chieftains pretty much went down the sidelines with him.

“He’s one of the reasons we’re where we’re at,” said Logan coach Dale Amyx. “He’s done a great job on both sides of the ball. How about that tackle on (Thompson) to save that touchdown? (A lot of players) would have given up, and (Thompson) would have scored, but he stayed with it and we were able to keep them out of the end zone. That’s how you win championships right there.”

The Purple & White, now 11-0 for just the third time in school history, advance to the second round of the Division II playoffs to face Columbus Brookhaven (9-2), which survived a 27-20 overtime scare from Columbus Walnut Ridge Friday night in another Region 7 quarterfinal.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association will make the official announcement Sunday afternoon, but the Logan-Brookhaven game will likely be played next Friday at Gahanna-Lincoln High School in suburban Columbus.

Three of the top four Region 7 seeds advanced to the second round Friday night... but state Associated Press poll champion Louisville wasn’t one of them.

The top-seeded and previously-undefeated Leopards, who knocked the Chiefs out of the 2008 playoffs in the second round, were upset on their home field by Columbus Marion-Franklin, 14-7.

Thus the Logan-Brookhaven winner will face Marion-Franklin or Olentangy Orange, which defeated Dresden Tri-Valley 28-21, in the regional finals on Nov. 20. There will be no Logan-Louisville rematch this season.

Mays’ heroics early in the second half came on the heels of a huge turn of momentum late in the second quarter.

With Logan leading 7-0, the Indians (8-3) put together a tremendous drive, advancing from their own 24-yard line to the Chiefs’ 20, with a 31-yard pass play from Whitlatch to Michael Mainella helping the Indians get deep into Chieftain territory.

But Whitlatch was stripped of the ball on the next play and the ball bounced down to the Logan 8-yard line, where the Chiefs recovered with 3:01 left in the half.

Angle then led the Purple & White on a 92-yard, 13-play scoring drive that took, well, exactly three minutes and one second.

Hitting Zach McDaniel, Mays (twice) and Jordan Rutter with key pass plays, Angle pushed the Chiefs across the midfield stripe before connecting again with Mays deep down the left

sideline for a 30-yard gain to the Canal Winchester 23.

Angle and McDaniel converted a third-and-five situation with a 10-yard pass to the CW 8 before Angle was sacked with time running out in the half.

There was some confusion as the clock was accidentally re-set to eight-tenths of a second instead of to eight seconds, but the officials apparently didn't catch the snafu.

Angle then had just enough time to connect with senior Ryan Sigler deep in the left corner of the end zone. Sigler made a terrific leaping catch and was still able to come down with a foot inbounds for the touchdown as time ran out.

Derek Montgomery initially missed the placement kick, but the reeling Indians were called for an illegal participation penalty (too many men on the field), and Montgomery was successful on his next attempt to make it 14-0 Chiefs at the intermission.

Both coaches agreed those six or seven minutes at the end of the first half and at the outset of the second were the game's turning points.

"That was big, even if we go in down seven (at halftime) without getting a score," said Canal Winchester coach Phil Mauro, "but to go down 14-0 really hurt. Then we get stopped on the 1 (early in the third period), and they go for another score.

"Give them credit," he added. The Chiefs "made big plays, and we didn't take care of our scoring opportunities. We didn't do a very good job in the red zone."

"They were trying to run an option play around the end... I can't remember what I had called, but the kids did a great job executing it," said Amyx. "I don't know how (the ball) came out, but recovering that fumble was key. Then we scored right there at the end of the half. That was a big momentum change, and it stayed with us the rest of the game.

"That goal-line stand took a lot of wind out of their sails, and for us to get the ball, take it down and score again, that was big too," he added. Canal Winchester "didn't quit. They got the ball back and scored and were in scoring position a few times, but our defense stood tall. We had two or three great stands by our defense."

The Indians had a few oh-so-close misses on pass plays early in the game that could have made a difference.

"We had a lot of narrow misses, but it just came down to we didn't take care of our scoring opportunities and they did," Mauro said. The Chiefs are "pure man (defense) with no center fielder, so you want to try to get the ball in that middle area. We hit Michael with a big pass and hit Tyler with a big pass, and those were big conversions... but we didn't get into the end zone.

"When you get scoring opportunities, especially against a good team like Logan, you've got



to take advantage of them,” Mauro continued. “That was the difference in the game: they scored in the red zone and we didn’t.”

The Canal Winchester defense gave the Chiefs some problems early on. But Angle recovered nicely, thank you: he finished 22-of-35 for 229 yards and two touchdowns, connecting with Jordan Rutter on a 4-yard score to put Logan ahead for good late in the opening stanza.

“We knew (the Logan passing game) was good. We knew (Mays) was legit, and Pat Angle is all what they say he is,” Mauro noted. “If you let him have time, he’s going to find his guys, and he did a great job.”

There was a reason Angle did a great job. Five of them, actually.

“Our offensive line did a great job all night,” Amyx praised. “We haven’t mentioned them a lot this year, but they’re unsung heroes. All five of those guys have done a great job all year, and they did a great job protecting Pat tonight.

“(Canal Winchester) didn’t blitz as much as I thought they would,” he continued. “I thought we’d see a lot more of that, but they tended to drop back and play a little more coverage, especially there in the first half when they were rushing two (defenders) and dropping nine. It was kind of effective (for awhile), then we started getting some runs on them and they had to mix it up a little bit. Our offensive line just did a great job on protection all night.”

After a bit of a slow start — the Chiefs were forced to punt three of the first four times they had the ball — they came on strong starting with that two-minute drill to conclude the first half.

“That was a good job on coach (Kelly) Wolfe’s part, running the two-minute drill there,” lauded Amyx. “It really kept (the Indians) off-balance, and they didn’t have a chance to call blitzes or do some things and we were able to make some great catches.

“Our offense played lights-out,” he added. “Once we got going, for the rest of the game we played the way I think we need to play if we’re going to do this thing and do it right. We got off to a little slow start, but they’re a good football team and they made some good adjustments and did some things we weren’t ready for. Once we adjusted to them, (the Logan offense) was fun to watch.”

Canal Winchester came back to score its only touchdown with 3:49 left in the third period — Thompson scored on a 9-yard run — but the Chiefs answered with a nine-play, 75-yard drive capped off by a 5-yard run by McDaniel in the waning seconds of the third period. Montgomery kicked a 28-yard field goal for good measure in the fourth quarter.

The Chiefs wound up gaining 416 yards and had better balance (187 rushing, 229 passing) than the Indians (49 rushing, 211 passing), who are usually much-more balanced on offense.

Mays wound up with 94 yards rushing on just four attempts and caught six passes for 74 yards. McDaniel caught nine balls for 88 yards and picked up 45 rushing yards on six attempts.

Although they know Louisville is no longer in the title picture, the Chieftains certainly can't look past Brookhaven, next on their agenda.

"This is a new season, we're 1-0 and we're excited to get ready for Brookhaven and get into round two," Amyx said. "I'm shocked by (Louisville's loss), but I also look at it that there's an opportunity there.

"It also shows how tough our region is," he added. "Anybody can probably beat anybody if you don't have a good game and don't play well. We told (the players) all week that 'if you come out and play the way you're capable of playing, there's no doubt we can win this game.' We had some (tough) moments early on, but once we starting clicking on all cylinders, it worked."

Mays agreed and echoed the Chiefs' desire to play 15 games this season and reach the state championship game.

"It's a great start. We played great tonight," Mays said. "We made a few mistakes here and there, but we can work through those, and we did tonight. We look forward to four more games."

## Brookhaven upsets Chiefs in DII semifinals

*Bearcats hand Chieftains only loss, 21-10;  
Angle sidelined with second-half knee injury*

By Craig Dunn  
Logan Daily News

OBETZ — It wasn't supposed to end this way. Not in the second round, not to Columbus Brookhaven, and certainly not with one of the best quarterbacks in the state forced to watch from the sidelines.

It was supposed to end in Massillon, not suburban Columbus.

Dreams sometimes die hard, and for the Logan Chieftains dreams of reaching the pinnacle of state Division II football came crashing to earth as Brookhaven pulled off a 21-10 playoff upset Friday night at Hamilton Township High School.

Brookhaven's athleticism eventually won out, especially after a Bearcats defender hit Logan QB Patrick Angle after he threw a pass early in the third quarter, resulting in a strained MCL on Angle's left knee and knocking him out of the game.

“Injuries happen, and unfortunately we lost a pretty good player,” Logan coach Dale Amyx said. “Who knows if it would have been any different had he played? I think it would have been. That did hurt us, and you could see that. We didn't have much of an offense when he wasn't in there.”

At the outset of the season in August — heck, at the outset of the playoffs earlier this month — who would have thought that two Columbus City League teams would be playing next week for the Division II Region 7 championship?

But that's exactly what's going to happen. Brookhaven (10-2) plays Marion-Franklin (10-2), a 36-25 winner over Lewis Center Olentangy Orange, for the right to move on to the DII final four. They've already played once this season; Brookhaven won 23-21 in the season opener.

It's hard to believe it won't be the Chiefs, who finished with an 11-1 record, or 10-1 Louisville, which fell last week to Marion-Franklin. Louisville and Logan were the top two seeds in Region 7 (Brookhaven was No. 3, Marion-Franklin No. 8), not to mention that Louisville was the Associated Press DII poll champion and Logan finished third. The Chiefs will forever rue their luck on this Friday the 13th in suburban Columbus. For the only time all season, the Chiefs never led. And for the only time all season, they gave up points in the opening quarter.

On the very first play from scrimmage, Angle was sacked from the blind side by Brookhaven defensive end Derrick Bryant — who has verbally committed to UCLA — and fumbled. Brookhaven recovered at the Logan 20-yard line and scored just four plays later.

Sophomore quarterback Tajuan Green, who would throw three touchdown passes on the night, rolled to his left and hit senior tight end Deonta Stenson in the back left corner of the end zone with a 6-yard touchdown pass just 2:08 into the game.

While Bryant's big play set a tone, it wouldn't be the Bearcats' only big play of the night. Late in the opening quarter, following a short Brookhaven punt, Angle started a drive that would result in Logan's only touchdown.

He connected with fellow senior and step-brother Mason Mays (nine receptions, 115 yards) with a 20-yard pass-and-run on the first play of the second quarter, advancing the ball to the Brookhaven 23.

Two plays later, Angle was hit hard and fumbled the ball forward, but senior receiver Jordan Rutter alertly emerged from the scrum with the ball and a Logan first down at the Brookhaven 8.

Two plays later, Angle was forced to scramble well behind the line of scrimmage by a ferocious Brookhaven pass rush, but somehow eluded nearly the entire Brookhaven front wall, scrambled away, cut back up the middle and maneuvered his way into the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown run and a 7-7 tie with 9:20 to play in the first half. Brookhaven answered. Quickly. And with a bang.

On the ensuing possession, on second-and-10 from his own 25-yard line, Green went deep for Stenson and hit him perfectly in stride several yards behind a Logan defender. There was no catching the speedy Stenson, who went the distance... just 25 seconds after the Chiefs had tied the game.

“The fumble set up their first score, but we fought back and had a nice drive, took it down and scored... and they come right back with the big pass,” said Amyx, noting “things we were worried about from them — making big plays — they did.”

“Our mantra has been 'fight, scratch, claw, win,' whatever it takes, and to stay true to what we do,” said Brookhaven coach and former Ohio University quarterback Anthony Thornton, “to not get your head down over one play (and) just keep playing. Our kids have done that throughout the course of the season.

“I'm so proud of my guys tonight. We got it done — when we weren't expected to,” he added. “The expectation at Brookhaven is if you can play, you need to get it done. Make a play. That's what I told (Green): 'make a play.' And that's what he did. I'm proud of him. For a sophomore, that was lights out.”

Not to mention the two crushing TD receptions from Stenson, who missed a tackle on defense on Angle's TD run.

“After he missed a tackle he's got his head down,” Thornton said. “Shut up, line up, (and) we'll throw you the ball.”

The Chiefs nearly turned one of their patented two-minute drills into points at the end of the half. Starting from the Logan 20, Angle converted fourth-and-one and third-and-two with quarterback keepers and also got some extra help in the form of a 15-yard Brookhaven pass interference penalty to get to the BHS 45.

But when Angle was called for a questionable intentional grounding penalty, the Chiefs just couldn't recover and eventually turned the ball over on downs at the Brookhaven 35. Mays was stopped short of a first down on a fourth-and-six pass play.

The third quarter will live in infamy in Logan football lore.

It started out okay. The Bearcats drove to the LHS 29-yard line behind workhorse tailback Donovan Lipsey, a costly Logan holding penalty on third down and a Green-to-Deshawn Alston 12-yard pass play. However, Logan's T.J. McCray got his hand on a Green pass and Bobby Russell made a terrific diving interception to halt the drive.

The Angle-to-Mays tandem went into overdrive. Mays took in a couple 10-yard first-down pass plays before taking a screen pass 31 yards down the left sideline to the Brookhaven 17. One play later, however, disaster struck. Angle threw incomplete deep into the end zone and was hit borderline late by a Brookhaven defender with 8:20 left in the third period. No penalty was forthcoming, however... and to add injury to insult, Angle hobbled off the field with his leg injury.

Although the knee was iced down on the sidelines, it never sufficiently recovered to allow him to come back into the game except for an appearance on defense to take a well-deserved bow in the final seconds as Brookhaven was running out the clock.

Logan was thus without its biggest weapon for the rest of the night. He finished 11-of-23 for 135 yards, and for only the second time in his career as a starter didn't throw a touchdown pass, the only other time being last year's second-round playoff loss to Louisville. He finished his career with 5,112 passing yards.

“You have a kid out of the lineup who is responsible for probably 80 percent or better of your offense,” Amyx said. “That's something we looked at all year... if he goes down, what are we going to do? Unfortunately, when it happens in a game, you don't have a week to get a kid ready.”

After Zach McDaniel came in and threw an incomplete pass, the Chiefs brought Derek Montgomery in to attempt a 32-yard field goal. He missed wide left, but Brookhaven was obviously offside on the play, and when given another chance from five yards closer, Montgomery nailed the kick to draw the Chiefs within 14-10.

The Chiefs then got a golden opportunity when Green fumbled a snap from center and Caleb Valkinburg recovered at the Brookhaven 25.

One play later, the Chiefs dipped into their bag of tricks... and appeared to come out with

the perfect play.

Jordan Jurgensmier threw to McDaniel in the left flat, who then went deep for Mays in the end zone. Mays made a terrific catch for a 25-yard touchdown, apparently putting the Chiefs in front.

But there was some yellow laundry on the field. Logan was called for making two forward passes on the same play, with an official ruling that McDaniel received Jurgensmier's original pass ahead of the line of scrimmage, instead of behind it, nullifying the touchdown. "I thought the (first) pass was a backward pass. I really did," Amyx said, "but that's not how (the official) saw it, so we have to live with the call. That hurt, obviously. It seemed like every time we got a penalty it called back a touchdown or a big play."

Logan was eventually forced to punt and never really recovered. But the Bearcats tried to give them extra chances.

Moments later, when a Brookhaven receiver was hit after making a catch, the ball popped into the air and Mays grabbed it and returned it eight yards. But the Chiefs fumbled the ball away on the very next play; then, two plays later, Brookhaven fumbled it right back again. Brookhaven thus committed four turnovers in less than seven minutes of third-period game time... and still survived.

"We'd seen some fumbles (from the Bearcats) on the game films, so we were hoping to get some of them tonight, which we did," Amyx noted.

Brookhaven committed six turnovers last week in its 27-20 overtime win over Walnut Ridge.

Green, who finished 18-of-29 passing for 247 yards, drove the Bearcats deep into Logan territory before giving the ball up on downs early in the fourth period. But after forcing Logan into a three-and-out, the Bearcats finally scored the clinching touchdown. They drove 56 yards on nine plays — Lipsey ran for 35 yards on seven carries — before Alston took a 16-yard fade pass from Green in the corner of the end zone with 4:06 to play.

That sent most of the huge contingent of Logan fans — who easily outnumbered Brookhaven fans at least 6-to-1 — heading for the parking lot.

"I didn't expect them to throw it as much, but we were giving them some things, especially some underneath stuff, because we didn't think they would have the patience to move the ball all the way down the field," Amyx said. "I think it was a good plan... we gave up some stuff underneath, but we weren't giving up the big play other than that one (in the second quarter) play. That was our game plan, and they took advantage of it.

"They were taking what we were giving them, and we said if they're going to beat us, let's make them beat us throwing the football," he added.

And that's just what Brookhaven did.

“(The Chiefs) backed off and let guys make plays. We weren't going to do that,” Thornton said.

Lipsey ran the ball 33 times for 152 yards — the second-most yardage by an opposition running back against the Chiefs all season (Lancaster's Nathan Carpenter had 182) — and Brookhaven finished with 399 yards of total offense.

In addition, the Bearcats held the Chiefs to just five second-half first downs and had the ball for 17:05 of the game's final 24 minutes.

Logan finished with 170 yards on offense — all through the air. The Chiefs finished with zero rushing yards on 20 attempts, registering just two runs for double-digit yardage: runs of 16 and 14 yards by Mays in the opening quarter.

“Patrick getting hurt killed our offense,” Amyx said. “Our defense played great. We had opportunities... and I just think about what could have been had he been in there when we had the ball in scoring position a couple times. I was real proud of the way the defense played.

“We had two different quarterbacks in there trying to find one to give us something,” he added. “They were trying to make a play and maybe just got a little too excited. They hadn't had the reps that (Angle) has this year, and it showed.”

The loss is disappointing, to be sure, but it takes nothing away from another great season of Chieftain football.

“I'm proud of them. They played their hearts out,” Amyx said. “It's unfortunate Patrick got hurt, but those things happen in a football game. And they still hung in there and played tough all the way through. Zach and Jordan both came in and gave a gutsy performance. We threw everything at them we could.

“I would just liked to have seen what would have happened had (Angle) finished, how it would have finished up,” he added. “It might not have been any different... but I have a feeling it might have.”

There will be many pleasant memories when he reflects back upon his 20th season at the helm of the Chiefs.

“I'm going to think of all the wins, the back-to-back 10-0 (regular seasons), the fact we could do it two years in a row,” he said. “That was a big goal for (the players) — they wanted to do that again — and not losing a league game and staying undefeated (at Logan Chieftain Stadium). Making the playoffs and winning a home playoff game again. Those kind of things.”

And next year's seniors will have some huge shoes to fill from the Class of 2010.

“Nothing's going to change,” Amyx said. “Our goals will always be, number one, to win the (Southeastern Ohio Athletic League) championship, then go 10-0 and make the playoffs — and try to get past the second round. That's been a killer the last two years.”