

SportsInc.com's Highlights

Tigers trounce Medina, 37-7

Twinsburg keeps playoff hopes alive with win over Medina

By Nick Shook ~ Twinsburg Patch

In what Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone called a "must-win" game, the Tigers did not disappoint. Twinsburg kept its playoff hopes alive with a 37-7 victory over Medina on Friday night.

After starting the game with a quick three-and-out, Twinsburg's offense exploded for three touchdowns from running back John Barton, who finished the night with 188 yards on 18 attempts. Fellow junior and quarterback Jalen Washington completed 11 of 20 pass attempts for 121 yards and a touchdown in the win for Twinsburg.

"They're special athletes, our offense rolls through them," Schiavone said. "Our offensive line does a tremendous job of protecting for Jalen, and they do a tremendous job of blocking for John."

Barton's first touchdown of the night came on the second play of the Tigers' second possession. Barton took a handoff up the middle, broke a couple of tackles and outran the rest of the Medina defense for a 65-yard touchdown. Kicker Frank Candau's point-after attempt was good, and Twinsburg quickly took a 7-0 lead.

Twinsburg continued to display its offensive prowess in the second quarter when it capped off a 17-play drive with a one-yard touchdown run by Barton, his second of the night.

"John's good at making people miss," Schiavone said. "He's got that knack about him. All the good backs always make the first guy miss."

Barton showed off his ability to shake defenders on the following possession by eluding multiple would-be-tacklers en route to a 37-yard touchdown run, which extended the Tigers' lead to 21-0.

After a defensive stand by the Tigers' defense, the Twinsburg offense returned to the field and quickly made work of its opponent. Washington found Barton on a 31-yard pass that set the Tigers up inside the Medina 10-yard line, and senior running back Michael Baker took the handoff from Washington into the endzone for another Twinsburg touchdown. Candau's point-after attempt was blocked, but the Tigers entered halftime with a commanding 27-0 lead.

Twinsburg controlled much of the second half, though Medina was able to get on the scoreboard when senior quarterback and University of Buffalo recruit Mason Schreck took a quarterback sneak from into the endzone for the Bees' first and only points of the night.

Candau converted one of two field goal attempts in the second half, and Washington found senior wide receiver Tre Jones for a four-yard touchdown completion to increase the Tigers' lead to 37-7.

"We told them after the tough loss to a good Solon team, that our playoffs started now," Schiavone said. "We knew this was a must-win; next week is a must-win."

Twinsburg, who improved to 6-3 overall, will host Mentor, the No. 1 team in the state of Ohio, next week.

"They're number one for a very good reason," Schiavone said. "... Our guys will fight tooth and nail against anybody, and that's what I love about our guys ... we'll take on anybody."

Tough Blow Last Week Puts Pressure on Twinsburg Friday

By Barry Goodrich ~ Twinsburg Patch

Tough loss to Solon puts Tigers in must win mentality for the final two weeks

The what-ifs in the game were many. Twinsburg nearly sacked Solon quarterback Pat Kramer before his desperation pass soared into the end zone. The Tigers nearly intercepted the pass before it found its way into the hands of the Comets' Darian Hicks as time expired on the game clock.

Instead of securing what would have been a huge win, Twinsburg went on to lose an overtime heartbreaker, slipping to 5-3 overall on the season and into a second place tie in the Valley Division of the Northeast Ohio Conference.

The Tigers finish the regular season at Medina this week and at home against the state's number one ranked team in Division I, Mentor, next week.

"I've told the kids that we are in a two-game playoff right now," said Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone. "Our goals are still there, we still have the possibility of being conference champs and making the playoffs."

Those goals looked very real Friday night when the Tigers built a 14-0 halftime lead against state-ranked Solon. A three-yard scoring run by John Barton and a six-yard TD pass from Jalen Washington to B.K. Grewal gave the home team plenty of momentum heading into the locker room but Schiavone was wary of a second half rally by the Comets.

"The first thing we said at the half was that the game was not over," said Schiavone. "We knew they (Solon) were going to make adjustments. I knew the Solon coaching staff did not underestimate us."

A 25-yard touchdown pass from Washington to Barton gave the Tigers another lead in the final period of play before Solon rallied. Four quarters of outstanding effort came down to one fateful play.

"Our kids showed great character and fought to the end of the game," said Schiavone. "Our coaches put in a great game plan and our kids were really up for the game. When you play a team like Solon you have to cover all your bases."

Schiavone did not show film of the Solon game to the team this week. All efforts are now focused on beating Medina.

"I told our players to keep their heads high," he said. "They worked their tails off. We've told them all year that they can play with anybody."

Barton continues to have a superlative season with 978 yards rushing, 28 receptions for 449 yards and a total of 27 touchdowns. Washington has been outstanding at quarterback, throwing for 1,371 yards and running for another 233 yards for a quarterback rating of 147.51. On defense, Michael Baker continues to be the leading tackler with 71.5 stops.

What began back in August has now become a two-week season. And winning has never been more important for Twinsburg than it is now.

Twinsburg vs. Medina: Billboard Game of the week!

Congrats Tigers! The Twinsburg @ Medina Game has been voted the Akron General Sports Medicine Billboard Game of the Week! Check out past weeks billboard designs that have showcased previous match-ups. This gives you a good idea of how yours will look this weekend! We run the announcement of Game of the Week starting this afternoon and through Game time tomorrow. Then after the game we highlight the winning team as well as some players from both schools. The designs on all 6 billboards run through Saturday afternoon so that the fans get a chance to check them out.

Check it out here: <http://www.facebook.com/BillboardSchoolSpirit>
And also on TwinsburgPatch.com: <http://www.facebook.com/TwinsburgPatch>

Send us your preferred logo to use and we can get these designs started.

The billboards are on the following highways in Summit County:
I/77 near Copley Road both North and South Facing near Fairlawn/copley
Rt. 8 in the heart of Akron near the i/76-i/77 Interchange both North and South Facing - near U of Akron
I-76 near Canton Road (rt. 91) between Akron and Tallmadge
I/277 and Manchester Road near Portage Lakes

Painful instant classic for Tigers

by Steve Batko | Correspondent ~ Twinsburg Bulletin

Twinsburg vs. Solon always is a high-intensity, high-emotion game.

Which means this one hurt if you were a Tiger fan.

Solon fullback Nick Davidson scored a 20-yard touchdown in overtime, downing Twinsburg 27-21 Oct. 14 at Tiger Stadium.

"We knew we would have a battle and our guys deserved it just as much as Solon," said Joe Schiavone. "It was a tough loss."

Twinsburg allowed a 14-0 halftime lead to get away as well as a 21-14 lead in the waning seconds of regulation.

Solon made big plays to move to 2-1 in the league and 7-1 overall as they handed the Tigers their first division loss.

The Tigers dropped 5-3 overall and 2-1 in the division.

Davidson's run was his first touch of the night as Twinsburg is now 0-2 in the extra session this fall as earlier in the year, the Tigers fell 27-24 to Stow in two overtime periods.

Solon hasn't lost to Twinsburg since 1995, the last year that the two schools played in the Chagrin Valley Conference.

"We would have liked to go on defense first [in overtime], but we didn't get the coin toss," said Schiavone.

"I thought our defense played at a very high level and with a lot of emotion, but give Solon credit, it was the first carry for the fullback."

Senior Tre Jones and junior John Barton had solid 4-yard runs in the first overtime possession starting at the Solon 20. However, Solon's defense held and stopped junior Jalen Washington on a keeper for a loss of one on third-and-five.

Tiger kicker Frank Candau attempted a 22-yard field goal, but the kick hit the left upright as the score stayed at 21-21.

On Solon's first play in overtime, Comet quarterback Pat Kramer had a pass that was nearly intercepted by junior strong safety Ben Bisesi. On the next play, Davidson exploded for the game winner on the quick hitter as packed Tiger Stadium was stunned.

"We wanted to do what we [normally] do in the overtime period," said Schiavone. "I wish we could play it again, but Solon is very good."

Solon defended the Tigers bubble screens and wide receiver screens in the second half. The Twinsburg passing game only averaged 5.4 yards an attempt.

Comet cornerback Justin Kresevic was among the Solon defenders who were continually shutting down the screens. Solon would often line up the defensive end for underneath double coverage against Barton in the slot.

Twinsburg's offense never adjusted with only 101 total yards in the second half to Solon's 206. The Tigers ground game was shut down in the second half to just 51 yards and less than 3.0 yards a carry.

"We now have a two-game playoff -- we need to regroup and treat this as the playoffs now," said Schiavone, whose club plays Oct. 21 at Medina and hosts Mentor (8-0, 3-0) on Oct. 28.

With five seconds left in regulation, Kramer tossed his third touchdown, hitting Darian Hicks for a 13-yard score to send the game into overtime tied at 21. Hicks won the ball in a crowd over senior defenders Michael Baker and Andrew Tozzi.

One of the top plays for Twinsburg in the second half was Barton's 25-yard TD reception on third-and-11 with 1:34 left in the game.

Barton got the screen from Washington and thanks to great blocks by seniors Dylan Minick and Tom Delegram, raced into the end zone and Candau's PAT made it 21-14 as it looked like Twinsburg just might win despite a 14-point run by Solon.

However, Twinsburg's kick off team allowed a 31-yard return by Hicks to the 50 with 1:27 left.

On third down, Kramer was knocked down by Tiger Cameron Dial as he threw a deep ball that was almost intercepted.

Then, on fourth-and-1 with 40 ticks left, Solon's Ryan Schwenke got his first carry and got the first down with three yards. After an incomplete pass, Kramer hit Hicks on a 13-yard pass.

With 17 seconds left, Kramer passed to Drew Barksdale, who leaped high over the middle for a crucial 11-yard catch to the Tiger 13. Two passes later, Kramer found Hicks for the touchdowns as Alex Knight booted the tying PAT to force overtime.

Barton led the Tigers with 86 yards on 20 carries and he added 59 yards on five catches. He scored on a three-yard run and a 25-yard pass from Jalen Washington, who finished 19-of-24 passing for 142 yards and added 64 rushing yards on 15 totes.

Kramer was 15-of-22 for 182 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for Solon. Cory Stuart caught three passes for 82 yards, including touchdowns of 13 and 67 yards.

Twinsburg was hungry on the games' first series as they went 69 yards on 12 plays as Barton had a bullish 3-yard TD run.

After a Solon punt, Washington was intercepted by Schwenke as the Comets had the ball at the Tiger 30.

Reaching the Twinsburg five, Bisesi made a huge third-down stop on Solon back Khoury Crenshaw. Solon then missed the 21-yard field goal attempt.

The Tigers then responded by pounding Solon for a 7-minute, 15-play, 80-yard scoring drive.

Washington found senior wide out B.K. Grewal on a 5-yard TD pass by the sideline. Thanks to a hold by senior Zack Buckeye, Candau kicked the PAT for a 14-0 Twinsburg lead with 31 ticks left in the first half.

A low punt snap by the hosts led Solon to start at the Tiger 47 in the third period. Converting on third and fourth downs, Solon marched down the field and scored on a 13-yard Kramer-to-Stuart pass play.

It was 14-7 at the 3:07 mark of the third, but Kramer's biggest play on the 10-play drive was recovering a Solon fumble on an option pitch.

About 50 seconds later, Twinsburg receiver Jordan Bray was stripped and Solon linebacker Michael Dunn recovered at the Tiger 30.

Twinsburg's defense held on downs as Minick had a huge sack on fourth-and-3 from the Tiger 22 with 1:29 left in the third.

Then, Kramer passed downfield for Stuart and Jones slipped and fell on the slick turf as Stuart caught the ball and raced 67 yards for a TD. Suddenly, it was 14-14 with 5:47 left in the game.

Twinsburg's defense was tremendous in the first half, allowing just 40 yards and three first downs.

Carter also had four catches for 25 yards while Bray had six receptions for 29 yards.

[SportsInk.com Athlete of the Week: Twinsburg's John Barton](#)

Solon edges Twinsburg; High School Roundup East

Plain Dealer and Sun News staff reports, October 15, 2011 12:09 a.m.

Solon's football team avoided a rare two-game losing streak Friday night when it edged Twinsburg in overtime, 27-21.

The Comets, ranked fifth in The Plain Dealer Top 25 following last week's loss to Mentor, tied the Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division game with 14 points in the fourth quarter.

The visiting Comets (7-1, 2-1) won when senior running back Nick Davidson scored on a 20-yard run on his only carry of the game and the second play of overtime. Twinsburg missed a field goal attempt in its OT possession.

Solon senior Patrick Kramer was 15-of-22 passing for 182 yards and three touchdowns.

Tigers Lose a Heartbreaker in Overtime, Comets Get 27-21 Victory

The Solon Comets battled back to get a big Northeast Ohio Conference win

By Mitch Cooper and Chris Mazzolini~ Twinsburg Patch

In a good rivalry, the last play can be the one that wins the game. Twinsburg versus Solon was no exception.

After the Tigers missed a 20 yard field goal with the first possession of overtime, Solon's senior fullback Nick Davidson took the second play from scrimmage 20 yards into the endzone for the 27-21 win.

The win propels the Comets to 7-1. The Tigers fall to 5-3.

"I was extremely proud of how hard they fought," Head Coach Joe Schiavone said. "Our kids have done that all year. Regardless of the outcome, our kids play hard all four quarters."

The Comets came out of the half trailing Twinsburg 14-0 after the Tigers got a three yard touchdown on the ground from junior back John Barton and a short touchdown pass from Jalen Washington to B.K. Grewal.

Behind 14-0 at halftime and playing poorly against an inspired Twinsburg squad, Senior Quarterback Pat Kramer rallied the troops, throwing three touchdown passes to a wide receiver corps with ice in its veins.

Solon's Cory Stuart caught two, including a 67-yard bomb. And Darian Hicks caught a 14 yard touchdown pass with no time left to send the game to overtime at 21-21.

Then Solon's defense forced Twinsburg into a field goal attempt in overtime, Davidson, a captain more known for his defense than his offense, took the handoff at the 20 yard line and ran it in for the winning score. His teammates mobbed him behind the endzone.

"He's one of our captains," said Coach Jim McQuaide. "I'm not surprised at all that he made a play like that."

That's a good ball club we faced, and we knew that," Schiavone said.

"Solon is solon and they are a big physical team. We knew that. our defense played well in the second half as well. They had one more play than we'd like."

Twinsburg will look to bounce back from the tough loss next week as they head to Medina to take on the Bees at 7 p.m.

PD Capsule Preview: #5 Solon at #17 Twinsburg

What, when, where: Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division game, 7 p.m., Twinsburg High, Tiger Stadium, 10084 Ravenna Road. Twinsburg. Call 330-486-2480.

Records: Solon 6-1, 1-1; Twinsburg 5-2, 2-0.

What to watch: A tough order for Twinsburg, despite its 42-21 trashing of Brunswick. Solon, coming off last week's 44-20 loss to Mentor, has a bevy of talent with QB Patrick Kramer, TE Tres Barksdale, LBs Nick Davidson and CJ Hanna and safety Ryan Schwenke. The return of TB Khoury Crenshaw is an added boost. TB John Barton and QB Jalen Washington are the Tigers' biggest offensive threats while safety Michael Baker and LB Myles Campbell head the defense.

PD pick: Solon.

Tigers' line sparkles :

Twinsburg tailback John Barton ran for 349 yards and six touchdowns during last week's 42-21 victory over Brunswick, giving him 25 touchdowns (22 rushing) on the season.

However, Tigers first-year coach Joe Schiavone was quick to praise the offensive line.

"John's a very good running back but he wouldn't be having the season he's having without Quentin Chambers, Dimitri McDaniel, Tom Delegram, Mitch Durkee and Bob Lui," said Schiavone. "John knows it, everybody knows it. Our O-line not only blows open the holes for our running game, those guys have done a heck of a job protecting our quarterback, Jalen Washington."

Jr. RB John Barton, Plain Dealer Player of the Week

Congratulations to Tiger's junior running back, John Barton. John was selected the Cleveland Plain Dealer's football player of the week. John scored 6 touchdowns in last weeks conference win over Brunswick.

John Barton, Twinsburg
Sport: Football
Class: Junior
Age: 16
Ht: 5-9
Wt: 175

What John did last week: The running back carried 27 times for 297 yards and five touchdowns in a 42-21 win over Brunswick. He also had six catches for 66 yards and a touchdown.

About John: Runs track and enjoys lifting weights. Favorites include the Oregon Ducks, Danny Woodhead, "Inception" movie, "SportsCenter" TV show, country music, steak, Chipotle restaurant and social studies class.

Tigers blast Brunswick, set for Solon

by Steve Batko | Correspondent-Twinsburg Bulletin

The prolonged superb play of running back John Barton, quarterback Jalen Washington, and the defense led Twinsburg's football team to a huge 42-21 league win at home Oct. 6.

Barton had another huge night, Washington had a near perfect game, and the Tigers held Brunswick to seven points for three quarters.

Twinsburg is now 5-2 overall and 2-0 in the Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division, tying the Tigers for first place with Mentor. Brunswick (1-1) is 5-2 with its only other loss to Mentor.

Up next for the Tigers is a showdown with backyard rival Solon at home Oct. 14. The Comets are coming off their first loss of the season Oct. 7 vs. Mentor.

A junior speedster who had seven rushing touchdowns against Brush recently, Barton ended with 363 total yards. He scored six times, but had two more negated by penalties.

On the ground, Barton had 27 rushes for 297 yards and five touchdowns. He also caught six passes for 66 yards and a touchdown. He has 25 touchdowns this year.

"Our offensive line has been great and they make a great back [Barton] look that much better," said Tiger coach Joe Schiavone.

Washington was smooth in the pocket and was 17-of-19 passing for 168 yards and a touchdown.

Most importantly, Washington gave the Tigers another weapon with his running as he had four carries for 37 yards before the victory snap. He hit six different receivers and was poised.

The opening drive saw Twinsburg go 72 yards in eight plays on an apparent 11-yard TD run by Barton. However, he was stripped and fumbled in the end zone for a touchback. He also had a 72-yard TD run negated by a holding call late in the win.

Twinsburg's defense bottled up Brunswick's 1,000-yard rusher Nick Roberts and limited the passing game to short routes underneath as Schiavone's defense brought pressure.

Junior strong safety Ben Bisesi led with eight tackles, two for a loss, a pass break up, and a quarterback pressure.

Roberts, who had 112 yards on 13 attempts, got most of it on a 76-yard scoring run with 4:22 left in the game. It was the first defensive play after the Tiger staff emptied its bench.

Other defensive leaders were senior cornerback-safety Andrew Tozzi (nine tackles and an interception), junior linebacker Scott Tegowski (10 stops), plus senior backers Myles Campbell and Michael Baker each had eight stops and one for a loss.

"I'm proud how our kids put together four quarters with tremendous intensity against a quality team," said the coach.

Schiavone was elated with his defensive line that included seniors Dawn Larkins (six stops, one for a loss), Dylan Minick (sack and two QB hits), and Willie Williams (two stops), along with sophomore Cameron Dial (tackle for a loss) and junior end Rob Williams.

Fueled by Washington, the Tigers then went 70 yards for a 23-yard TD run by Barton around left end.

Barton was aided by a block by senior receiver Tre Jones. Earlier in the drive, Washington looked off a safety to the left and hit Barton on a 20-yard pass. Barton had a 72-yard TD run to make it 14-0 with 1:42 left in the first quarter.

Brunswick responded with a 6-minute, 14-play, 55-yard drive that was sealed on a one-yard keeper by Dan Yohman.

Besides the first few plays on that drive, Brunswick was held to only 17 total yards and no first downs in the first quarter. Those three plays gave Brunswick its initial first down with 1:16 left in the first. Twinsburg had 200 yards, including 150 rushing in the first period alone.

The hosts had an 8-play, 61-yard drive that saw a 3-yard TD run by Barton and one of seven extra points by Frank Candau.

It was 21-7, but Brunswick drove to the Tiger 19 only to miss on a fourth-down and 10.

"Our defensive line played extremely well," Schiavone said. "It was probably our best defensive effort and the line caused havoc. It was a team effort and the defense played at a high level."

On Twinsburg's second play to start the second half, Barton exploded down the right sideline for a 92-yard TD run. It was keyed by a block from senior Tom Delegram and a host of Tiger receivers.

A 13-play, 72-yard drive engineered by Barton and Washington ended with a 5-yard TD run by Barton to make it 35-7 with 20 ticks left in the third quarter.

Yohman tossed a 42-yard TD strike to Tony Bova just beyond Bisesi's hands to make it 35-14 with 9:12 left.

However, sophomore special teams ace Jacob Turay recovered the following onside kick. Twinsburg had a 10 play, 55-yard drive that resulted on Barton's 13-yard TD catch from Washington.

Barton showed his brilliance on the TD as he took the swing pass and out-juked incoming 6-foot-4 all-NOC safety Scott Suren to the point where he was untouched.

The 508-yard effort and 24 first downs showed how strong Twinsburg's check and read offense are out of the spread. The Tigers had two quarters with 150 yards rushing in the first and the third.

"Jalen Washington is so smart, we can trust him to make reads or checks at the line," said the coach.

Schiavone praised the offensive line of senior Quentin Chambers, senior Dimitri McDaniel, senior Mitch Durkee, Delegram, junior Bob Liu, senior Robert Hoyt, and Williams.

Senior Zack Buckeye had four catches for 21 yards and rushed for seven yards.

B.K. Grewal is another senior who had two receptions for 27 yards and was helped by senior tight end Mitch Harrison (2 for 24 yards), senior London Carter (2-25), and Jones, who had a five-yard catch and a 7-yard run.

Baker almost blocked a punt while seniors Sean Zontini and Devereaux McCall excelled on special teams.

[A Fierce Rivalry is Renewed as Twinsburg Hosts Solon Friday Night](#)

Old rivals meet again when Tigers host the Comets in a huge NOC showdown

They have met on the football field 50 times in the past but only one game matters when Solon makes the short bus trip down the road to Twinsburg Friday night.

The Comets and the Tigers will renew one of the oldest and fiercest rivalries in the area with computer points, a possible NOC Valley Division crown and a lot of pride on the line. Solon, ranked 13th in the state poll, is coming off a 44-20 loss to unbeaten Mentor, snapping the Comets' 20-game home winning streak. Twinsburg once again had its offense in high gear in a 42-21 rout of Brunswick and is tied for the division lead with Mentor.

This is an old fashioned rivalry, the kind of game that often fades away due to league realignments over the years.

"This is a great rivalry and a god opportunity for us to come back and play against a good team," said Solon head coach Jim McQuaide. "They have a great running back, good team speed and an aggressive defense. I want to see how intense we are for this game."

John Barton and Jalen Washington have the Tigers (5-2) scoring points from everywhere on the field this season. The elusive Barton scored six touchdowns Friday night, including runs of 72 and 92 yards, and now has 25 six-pointers on the season. He has rushed for 892 yards and has 23 receptions for another 390 yards. Washington has been outstanding as well, throwing for 1,229 yards, seven touchdowns and just two interceptions with a lofty 147.42 quarterback rating.

"John is doing what he's doing because of his work ethic," said Tiger head coach Joe Schiavone. "And most of our offense runs through Jalen, who has been improving from week to week."

Solon put itself in a deep hole early in the game against Mentor but battled back to score just before halftime on an acrobatic touchdown catch by Tres Barksdale. The Comets became the latest victims of a Cardinal five-receiver offense that generated 471 yards.

"We gave them great field position with turnovers and they took advantage of it," said McQuaide of Mentor, the team Twinsburg hosts in the final week of the regular season. "We played well at times and other times didn't play well at all."

Solon welcomed back speedy running back Khoury Crenshaw, who had been sidelined since the opening week of the season due to a concussion. The Comets know they will have to run the ball against a Tiger defense that has traditionally been one of the best in Northeast Ohio.

"Our kids know that this is the best team we will have faced all season," said Schiavone. "They do a lot of good things on both sides of the ball. Our kids are pretty pumped for this game and we'll know where we're at when the final gun sounds."

Solon won the last meeting between the two teams in convincing fashion with a 43-7 victory in 2007. The Comets hold a commanding 40-7-3 edge in the rivalry's 50-game history.

"This game is so important for our seniors, who have never lost a (regular season) varsity football game in their careers," said McQuaide. "We lost but that's the real world -- we have to pick ourselves up and play this week. I'd be shocked and disappointed if we don't play well."

Twinsburg is fighting for its playoff hopes as the Tigers are in 14th place in the Division I, Region 2 computer rankings this week. A win over Solon would change that in a heartbeat.

"We know we don't get as much respect as the Solons and Mentors but we will continue to go about our business the same as we do every week," said Schiavone.

Taking care of business will be priority number one for these two old foes when they kick it off Friday night.

"