

Directions for Lancaster and Twitter Updates during the game!

Tonights game will have live updates via our Twitter handle: TwinTigerFtBall Scoring and quarterly updates will happen live during the game.

For those of you planning on traveling to support our Tigers, please use the following in your GPS.

*Thomas Ewing Middle School
825 East Fair Ave.
Lancaster, Ohio 43130*

Go Tigers!!

Friday's Game at Lancaster a Big Test For Twinsburg

By [Barry Goodrich](#) ~ [Twinsburg Patch](#)

Tigers will have a major challenge as they travel to play the Golden Gales Friday night

The Tigers will have a tough road ahead this season.

A hot Wing-T offense will be on the menu Friday night when Twinsburg makes the three-hour trip south to Lancaster to be challenged by another of several playoff contenders on their schedule this season.

Lancaster, playing in Division I, Region 3, has advanced to the post-season six of the past eight years and is coming off a 7-3 season in 2010. The unbeaten Golden Gales are a force on offense, averaging 38 points and nearly 400 yards rushing per game with their deceptive Wing-T offense.

Twinsburg got its offense untracked last week in a 38-7 pounding of neighborhood rival Nordonia and the Tigers' trademark defense will have to play its best game of the season to keep Lancaster in check.

"They're a playoff team with a good coach who has produced a lot of winning teams," said Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone. "They're bigger than us but hopefully we'll be able to use our athleticism."

The Golden Gales had four players who ran for 70 or more yards in last week's 41-35 overtime win against Mason. Lancaster finished with 393 yards rushing in a 35-13 season opening win against Logan.

Playing against the Wing-T is no easy task. Preparing for it is nearly as difficult.

"It's tough making our kids do something they're not used to doing," said Schiavone of simulating the Lancaster offense during practice. "The key against the Wing-T is not trying to do too much on defense. The defensive guys need to read their keys without over-pursuing."

The Tigers scored 32 unanswered points after trailing Nordonia 7-6 Friday night under oppressive humidity. Quarterback Jalen Washington completed 11 of 20 passes for 155 yards and touchdowns to Mitch Harrison and B.K. Grewal. Zach Buckeye got in on the fun with a touchdown pass to Harrison while John Barton ran for a pair of scores to give Schiavone his first victory as head coach at Twinsburg.

"It's not about me, it was about our seniors getting their first win of the season," said Schiavone. "I'm proud of them for the way they played."

Washington continues to improve at the quarterback position and is now hitting on 50 percent of his passes for a quarterback rating of 100.00.

"Jalen threw the ball very well," said Schiavone. "He knows he still has some things to learn but he's getting more and more comfortable."

On defense, Dwan Larkins leads the Tigers with 17 tackles after two games while Michael Baker, Ben Bisesi and Dylan Minick all have 16 tackles. They will all have their hands full Friday night with a Golden Gales team that will run, run and run again.

Also on the line are potential playoff points as both teams figure to be in the hunt for the post-season in the coming weeks.

"This is a huge game," said Schiavone. "With our schedule, every game is big."

Twinsburg football scores 32 unanswered points to rout Nordonia Backyard Brawl's a ball for Tigers

by FRANK ACETO ~ ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR - Twinsburg Bulletin

Macedonia -- One week after dealing with its neighbor to the east, Twinsburg traveled to face its neighbor to the west.

The result this week was much more to the Tigers' liking.

Twinsburg won the second annual Bob Evans Backyard Brawl Sept. 2 at Boliantz Stadium in Macedonia.

The Tigers put up 339 yards of total offense and scored 32 unanswered points en route to a 38-7 rout of the Knights.

Twinsburg, which has reached the Division I playoffs the last three years, took the lead for good midway through the second quarter and never looked back.

With the victory, the Tigers improved to 1-1. Twinsburg suffered a 19-7 loss to Aurora, in its season opener.

Nordonia fell to 0-2.

Pardon the Knights if they feel like they've been bullied by someone twice their size after the first two weeks of the year.

In its season opener, Nordonia suffered a 41-7 loss to Maple Heights, which happens to be the defending Division II state champion.

But for a proud program that has won a number of games in the last two decades, such humbling defeats are very troublesome to the say the least.

"Twinsburg is very explosive," said Nordonia coach Al Huge said. "They have three or four guys who can get to the end zone any time they touch the ball. We have some great kids and I love them, but we just don't have guys like that."

The Tigers, on the other hand, feel much better about themselves.

They found their mojo against the Knights, thanks to their multi-faceted offense, punishing defense and strong special teams' play.

"I'm very happy," first-year Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone said. "We came out prepared after that tough loss to Aurora in the opener. It was a battle against another neighbor. We challenged them in practice and they responded."

It didn't take long for the Tigers to reach the end zone.

After a short punt put Twinsburg on Nordonia's 36-yard line, the Tigers needed just three plays to take a 6-0 lead.

Junior running back John Barton took advantage of a huge hole to scamper into the end zone untouched from 30 yards away. The point after try was not converted, but the Tigers had a 6-0 lead a little more than three minutes into the game.

The Knights responded. Nordonia put together an eight-play, 80-yard drive that lasted nearly four minutes to take a 7-6 lead.

A screen pass by senior quarterback Nick Rodriguez to freshman running back Alex Alders turned into a 55-yard gain.

Five plays later, Rodriguez connected with Alders on a 14-yard touchdown pass.

Junior kicker Ryan Bauer added the extra point to give the Knights a 7-6 lead with 5:02 remaining in the first quarter.

It was all Twinsburg after that.

The Tigers scored on four of their next five possessions to take a 35-7 advantage.

The Knights had no answer for 5-foot-11, 160-pound junior quarterback Jalen Washington.

A number of times, Twinsburg's offense used five wide receivers with an empty backfield.

Washington had no trouble finding the open man and threw darts throughout the game.

Washington completed 11-of-20 passes for 154 yards and two touchdowns. His numbers would have been even better if not for a few drops.

"Jalen is a very poised young quarterback," Schiavone said. "He was very productive and very efficient."

Barton gave the Tigers the lead for good when he scored on a two-yard plunge. Senior wide receiver London Carter added the two-point conversion on a running play. That gave Twinsburg a 14-7 lead with 7:29 left in the first half.

On the very next possession, senior defensive back Andrew Tozzi recovered a fumble and the Tigers had the ball on Nordon's 24.

Three plays later, Twinsburg went up 21-7 when Washington fired a 13-yard touchdowns pass to senior tight end Mitch Harrison.

Washington added a 38-yard scoring pass to senior wide receiver B.K. Grewal. That play gave the Tigers a 28-7 advantage with 41 seconds left in the half.

Twinsburg used some trickery to score the only points of the third quarter.

Washington threw a backward pass to his left to senior backup quarterback Zack Buckeye.

Catching the Knights totally by surprise, Buckeye then lofted a pass into the hands of a wide-open Harrison in the end zone.

Junior kicker Frank Candau, who made 3-of-4 extra-point attempts, added a 30-yard field goal in the fourth quarter for the game's final points. Candau also booted two mammoth kicks into the end zone for touchbacks.

The Tigers are scheduled to visit Lancaster Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

E-mail: faceto@recordpub.com
Phone: 330-688-0088 ext. 3114

Twinsburg gets coach Joe Schiavone his first victory

By Jim Isabella
Special to the Beacon Journal

MACEDONIA: It was not a wild jubilant celebration as the Twinsburg football team was presented with the Bob Evans' Backyard Brawl Trophy. It was something to be expected by the Tigers players and coaches.

But it was a nice trophy to give new Tigers coach Joe Schiavone for his first win as Twinsburg easily defeated rival Nordon 38-7 Friday night at Boliantz Stadium.

Schiavone liked what he saw, which was all three phases of his team working well.

"For me personally, I am just proud of our kids. It is not about me. I am just proud our seniors got their first win," said Schiavone, whose Tigers (1-1) lost last week at Aurora. "I like our senior leadership in how we prepared for this game and how hard the guys came out to play tonight.

"We talked all week about bringing it, every play, every snap."

It was not a night for gaudy numbers, just contributions from a variety of players.

The offense racked up 339 yards with relative ease, averaging eight yards on first down, led by quarterback Jalen Washington.

Washington, a 5-foot-11 junior, was 11-of-20 passing with 154 yards and two touchdowns. The numbers might have been much bigger if not for some teammates dropping passes and not playing most of the fourth quarter.

"I know if I keep bringing the ball and throwing it to them, they will be there," Washington said.

Both of Washington's touchdown throws came during the second quarter, when he hit Mitch Harrison from 13 yards out and connected on a 38-yard pass to senior wideout B.K. Grewal.

Harrison's other touchdown catch came early in the third quarter on a trick play.

Washington fired a lateral, which looked like a pass to his left to Zack Buckeye, the backup quarterback. Buckeye quickly spotted Harrison open in the end zone and hit him to complete the 13-yard play.

"Zack and I have played together in junior varsity ball. We used that play a lot in JV games and it worked every time," said Mitchell,

a senior who finished with three catches for 51 yards.

The Tigers' special teams helped the offense with outstanding field position, averaging the start of each drive at their own 49-yard line.

In fact, the first series of the game began at the Nordonia 36-yard, and it took just three plays before running back John Barton broke free for a 30-yard touchdown.

Barton also scored a touchdown from two yards out early in the second quarter. London Carter's two-point conversion run put the Tigers ahead to stay 14-7.

Barton rushed for 58 yards on nine carries. "Barton did a great job tonight," Washington said.

Junior Tyrone McGuinea got some playing time in the second half, rushing for 55 yards on nine carries.

The defense held the Knights' run-oriented offense to just 77 yards rushing and total offense to 149 yards.

Nordonia (0-2) briefly led 7-6 in the first quarter on a 14-yard pass from quarterback Nick Rodriguez to Alex Anders. The score was set up on a 55-yard wide receiver screen to Anders.

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SportsInk Video Highlights

Twinsburg routs Nordonia, 38-7

Washington, Barton each score two touchdowns to lead Tigers

By Nick Shook~Twinsburg Patch

Following a difficult loss at Aurora to open the season, a satisfying week two victory was just what the doctor ordered for the Twinsburg Tigers.

The Tigers (1-1) rolled to a 38-7 victory over Nordonia (0-2) on Friday night at Boliantz Stadium in Macedonia. Quarterback Jalen Washington led the attack through the air, passing for 155 yards and two touchdowns. Running back John Barton rushed for 58 yards and two touchdowns, bringing his season total to three. However, perhaps the biggest performance of the night belonged to wide receiver Mitch Harrison, who was the focal point of a double pass that resulted in one of Harrison's two touchdown receptions.

Facing a second and two from the Knights' 17-yard line, Washington threw a backwards pass to wide receiver Zack Buckeye, who then turned lofted the ball over a defender along the left endzone boundary to Harrison.

"We've been running that for the last two years," Washington said. "We ran it in JV, and every single game it worked, so coach said 'why not, let's throw it in there.'"

Twinsburg opened the game with a defensive stand, and then quickly went to work offensively. Starting at Nordonia's 36-yard line, the Tigers scored on the third play of the drive, a 30-yard touchdown run up the middle by Barton.

Nordonia quickly responded, converting a middle screen pass from quarterback Nick Rodriguez to wide receiver Alex Reasbeck for a 55-yard gain. The Knights completed the drive on a 14-yard play action bootleg pass from Rodriguez to Reasbeck, and the extra-point conversion gave the Knights their first and only lead of the game, 7-6.

Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone was clearly displeased with his defense's lack of urgency on the drive and let them know it as soon as they reached the sideline. When asked what he said to his players, Schiavone did his best to paraphrase his words.

"We need to do a better job, and that's probably where I'm going to stop with that one," Schiavone said with a laugh.

The Tigers continued to put points on the scoreboard, reaching the Nordonia two-yard-line before Barton bullied his way into the endzone for his second touchdown of the night.

Three touchdown passes put the game out of reach for Nordonia, and Twinsburg's second-team players took the field for much of the fourth quarter. After the game's conclusion, Schiavone and his team began to look to next week's game at Lancaster.

"We always need to improve," Schiavone said. "We'll go back and look at the film, we'll figure out what we did wrong and what we need to tighten up."

Harrison shared his thoughts on the Tigers' upcoming game.

"It's going to be a tough game," Harrison said.

Twinsburg will travel to Lancaster for their third-straight road game on Friday. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Twinsburg football tops Nordonia

by RICK CHARLES AND MIKE SIMCOX ~ SportsInk.com

Macedonia, Ohio - Touchdown passes of 13 and 38 yards by junior Jalen Washington and touchdown runs by junior John Barton propelled the Twinsbug Tigers (1-1) past the Nordonia Knights (0-2) in Friday night football action at Boliantz Stadium.

Twinsburg takes home the Bob Evans Backyard Brawl trophy for the second year in a row, defeating the Knights 38-7.

After being held to just seven points last week, the Tigers exploded offensively against Nordonia.

Twinsburg's first-year head coach Joe Schiavone said his team focused its efforts in practice this past week with an eye for scoring more points.

"We challenged our guys all week about every play, every snap to bring it full force 100 percent," Schiavone said.

Twinsburg, after holding Nordonia to four-and-out on the opening drive of the game, scored first with a three-play, 36-yard drive capped off by Barton's 30-yard scoring run around left end. The kick for the point-after failed, but the Tigers owned the early lead. Barton added a two-yard touchdown and finished the game with 58 yards and two scores.

Not to be out done, Nordonia launched its own scoring drive, moving the ball 80 yards to take a 7-6 lead after the successful PAT. The drive was highlighted by a 55-yard inside screen to freshman tailback Alex Alders to set up a 19-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Nick Rodriguez to Alders. Alders finished the game with 13 yards rushing and 72 yards receiving and a touchdown.

From then on it was all Twinsburg, as the Tigers went on to score 21 unanswered points on drives of 45, 24 and 38 yards to take a 28-7 lead at halftime.

The opening drive of the second half for the Tigers started on their own 31 and ended in the Nordonia end zone, increasing their lead to 35-7. The final touchdown was a lateral pass to senior Zack Buckeye who subsequently found senior Mitch Harrison in the end zone for a 13-yard touchdown pass.

Harrison finished the night with three catch for 51 yards and two touchdowns.

Aurora grinds down Tiger football

by Michael Leonard | Sports Editor - Twinsburg Bulletin

Aurora -- Ease into the 2011 season? Not with this backyard brawl.

The Aurora and Twinsburg football teams have established quite a rivalry in recent years, with nearly every game ending in tight fashion.

It was another hard-hitting classic Aug. 26 at Veterans Memorial Stadium, but Aurora made better use of its scoring chances and won 19-7.

The game began as a classic battle between Aurora's size and Twinsburg's athleticism.

"It was power vs. speed out there," said Greenmen coach Bob Mihalik. "We've had some big wins here in recent years. The big guys up front really led us."

"We had some scoring opportunities and we just didn't take advantage of them," said Tigers coach Joe Schiavone. "I'm proud of our effort. We just need to correct some mistakes."

Aurora's offense started in the three-man I formation and launched a bruising 12-play drive -- all runs -- which took more than seven minutes off the clock.

A Twinsburg miscue led to the first score as a bad snap eluded Tiger quarterback Jalen Washington. Washington threw the loose ball out of the end zone for a safety.

Washington had an up-and-down night in his first outing as Twinsburg's full-time starting quarterback (he split the starting duties with Aaron Macer last season).

Washington went 11-of-24 for 179 yards and one touchdown, but was also sacked once.

Twinsburg's defense was in bend-but-don't-break mode most of first half. The Tigers forced Aurora to settle for a 21-yard field goal from Anthony Melchiori late in the first quarter after the Greenmen drove it inside the 10.

However, the Greenmen got a breakthrough right before half, as Melchiori returned a punt to the Tiger 32.

Five plays later, fullback Anthony Opet barged in for a 3-yard touchdown with 16 seconds left in the first half.

But Twinsburg's big-play ability struck right after halftime.

Washington found running back John Barton open over the middle. Barton shook his tackler and galloped for an 82-yard touchdown just 90 seconds into the second half.

Barton's big play was impressive and the 5-foot-9, 175-pound fireplug charged into Aurora's huge line all night. However, Barton finished with only 55 yards on 17 carries for the night.

Twinsburg's defense then held Aurora to a three-and-out and a long punt return by Tre Jones set the Tigers up at the Aurora 23.

That gave Twinsburg a field-position advantage, but the game may have turned on what seemed like a sure Tiger touchdown late in the third quarter.

Late in the third, wide receiver London Carter looked to have a path to the end zone on a jet sweep. However, the officials ruled Jones fumbled the ball as he stretched for the pylon. The ball rolled out of the end zone for a touchback.

"I think the key play for us was getting that touchback," Mihalik said. "We were able to lean on our big guys from there."

Indeed, Aurora went back into grinding mode as it threw only three passes in the second half.

It took a few drives -- and an ill-timed Tiger penalty -- to tilt the field position back in Aurora's favor.

However, after a short punt from the Tigers, Opet hit paydirt again at the 5:13 mark of the fourth quarter to put the game out of reach.

Going into pass-exclusive mode, Twinsburg mounted a final drive deep into Greenmen territory.

However, the drive ended on fourth-and-goal at the 4, as Barton was stopped for a one-yard gain after he caught a pass from Washington.

"I've always loved that our kids fight until the end," Schiavone said. "Our coaches will get back to work and our kids will get back to work."

Having faced their neighbors to the east last week, this week's game pits Twinsburg's neighbors to the west.

The second annual "Bob Evans Backyard Brawl" between the Tigers and Nordonia will take place Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. at Nordonia's Boliantz Stadium.

Twinsburg won the inaugural brawl 28-14 over the Knights last season.

E-mail: mleonard@recordpub.com
Phone: 330-688-0088 ext. 3113

Twinsburg Drops Season Opener to Aurora, 19-7

The Greenmen ran over the Tigers to victory Friday night

By Nick Shook - Twinsburg Patch

The season-opener for the Tigers didn't go as planned.

Twinsburg dropped the first game of the 2011 season on Friday night to Aurora, 19-7. After forcing Aurora's opening 12-play drive to stall, the Tigers quickly made mistakes of their own. Quarterback Jalen Washington tossed the ball out of the back of his own endzone after the snap was wide left, resulting in a safety and a 2-0 Aurora lead. The Greenmen took the free kick back to their own 49 and began an eight-play drive that resulted in an Anthony Melchiori field goal conversion, extending their lead to 5-0.

Two more offensive drives resulted in punts for Twinsburg, and Aurora capitalized yet again by engineering a six-play, 33-yard drive that culminated in a three-yard touchdown run by 5-11, 225-pound fullback Anthony Opet. Aurora outrushed Twinsburg 130 yards to the Tigers' 36, and the two teams entered halftime with Aurora leading, 12-0.

The Tigers got their big-play offense going in the second half on their first drive. Washington completed a pass to running back John Barton, who broke a tackle at the Twinsburg 40 and sprinted down the Tigers' sideline for an 82-yard touchdown.

"High school football is a game of momentum, that's what's so great about it," Aurora head coach Bob Mihalik said. "You know we're up 12-0 and everybody's happy. We've got a big third and 12, and they convert for a touchdown. Just like that, the game changes."

Aurora's defense continued to show weakness when Twinsburg started another offensive drive at the Greenmen's 46. The Tigers moved down inside Aurora's five-yard line and were poised to take the lead when running back London Carter took a toss down the right sideline towards the pylon. Carter broke a tackle and reached the ball out to cross the goal line, but in the process, he lost control of the football and it rolled out of bounds in the endzone, resulting in a touchback.

"I think the key was when we got that touchback down there, when they were going in for the go-ahead score," Mihalik said. "We made a nice play and got the ball and then went down and scored."

After a touchdown pass was called back due to an illegal block in the back, Aurora punted. Twinsburg couldn't get their offense going when they needed it the most, and went three-and-out, giving the ball back to Aurora. Melchiori's sensational 26-yard run put the Greenmen at the Twinsburg 29 with 8:32 left in the fourth quarter. A series of short runs set up the Greenmen on Twinsburg's four-yard line, where Opet bulldozed his way into the endzone for his second touchdown of the game.

Twinsburg mounted one last comeback attempt late in the fourth, but they were stopped short of the goal line on a fourth-down pass completion from Washington to Barton, sealing the victory for the Greenmen.

"I'm proud of them," Mihalik said. "I don't know if we were as athletic as they were, but we were stronger than them. I think that was a weight room victory for us tonight."

Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone explained how his team left Aurora with an 0-1 record on Friday night.

"It's just minimizing the mistakes," Schiavone said. "When you play great teams, you can't turn the ball over, you can't have penalties, it's the little things in those mistakes that you have to correct."

Schiavone didn't enjoy the team's week one loss, but he wasn't discouraged about the team's future.

"I'm very proud of our effort, on how hard the kids fought," Schiavone said. "I've always loved that as long as I've been here, our kids have had such a great fight in them, no matter who we're playing."

Twinsburg travels to Nordonia High School next Friday to take on the Knights. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.