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[PD Capsule Preview](#)

Brush at Twinsburg

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

Records: Brush 1-3; Twinsburg 2-2.

What to watch: Brush would muster an abundance of Division I computer points with a win but it won't be easy. The Arcs have athleticism but are not at full go because of injuries. Twinsburg will be eager to sprint out of the gate after last week's double-overtime loss to Stow. Brush's main concern will be to contain Tigers TB John Barton and QB Jalen Washington.

PD pick: Twinsburg.

[Brush football team wins first game of season, now looks for second against Twinsburg](#)

By Brian Lavrich, Sun News; Sun Messenger

Harry Durrah had one of the best games of his career as helped lead the Brush football team to its first victory of the season, 42-12, over Valley Forge on Friday night at Korb Field at Brush High School.

Brush coach Rob Atwood said Durrah has taken advantage of getting more playing time, which he's earned.

"He's got more opportunities with Kevin Houchins injured," Atwood said. "His punt return was excellent. He's good in the open field. He's shifty and fast."

Durrah scored twice in the first quarter as he caught a 20-yard pass from Isiah Wilson and he returned a punt 92 yards for another touchdown as the Arcs led, 14-0.

"We had a good one-two punch," Atwood said.

The Patriots scored two second-quarter touchdowns, but Wilson scored on a 14-yard run for a 21-12 halftime lead. Wilson also had a big game as he rushed 11 times for 150 yards and completed 7 of 9 passes.

The Arcs put the game away with three third-quarter touchdowns. Durrah scored on a 1-yard run, Wilson and 11-yard run and Patric Hannon on a 2-yard run as he played significantly for the first time since the season opener. Hannon finished with 15 rushes for 137 yards. Atwood said Hannon is still not 100 percent.

Brush is now 1-3 and 1-0 in the Northeast Ohio Conference Lake Division. Valley Forge fell to 0-4.

"We played with more attitude defensively," Atwood said. "We were more aggressive on defense, which is key for our guys. We still have room for improvement, but I'm very happy."

Still out was star lineman Carlutorbantu Zaramo, who has a shoulder injury. Atwood said he's day to day.

Twinsburg (2-2) is the next opponent for Brush as the Arcs will play the Tigers are 7 p.m. Friday in Twinsburg.

"That's a big one," Atwood said. "They have been a really good playoff team the past few years. They play hard. They have athletes. It's a good team to see if we've improved."

"One of the biggest challenges is they really match our athleticism. They're a very similar team to us. They do a lot of the same things."

[Homecoming: Tigers Looking for Inspired Effort Before Home Fans](#)

By Barry Goodrich ~ Twinsburg Patch

Twinsburg will take on another tough opponent as the season hits the midway point

Nobody ever said it was going to be easy.

Twinsburg's football team knew it had a rugged schedule before the season ever kicked off. The Tigers, now 2-2 after a heartbreaking 27-24 overtime loss at Stow last week, are looking for a big effort for Friday night's home opener with Brush.

"It will be nice to put the blue uniforms on this week," said head coach Joe Schiavone as his team hopes to benefit from the home field advantage. "We know with our schedule we have to take it one week at a time and we know there's still a lot of football left."

"We lost a tough game against Stow but there's no reason to put your head down and sulk about it. Our senior leadership has been great and there is always something you can learn from a loss."

The Tigers dug a deep hole at Stow last week, trailing 14-0 at the intermission. The second half belonged to Twinsburg as John Barton scored on a seven-yard TD run and a Ben Bisesi interception set up a 39-yard scoring pass from quarterback Jalen Washington to B.K. Grewal.

"We had a problem stopping their running game in the first half," said Schiavone. "They were keeping our offense off the field but our offense came back and did a great job in the second half."

In overtime, Tre Jones scored on a five-yard run on a clutch fourth down play. Frank Candau's 25-yard field goal gave Twinsburg the lead in the second overtime before the Bulldogs scored the game-winning touchdown.

"We knew going in that Stow was a very good football team," said Schiavone. "Our kids have great character and I know they will rebound."

Brush has lost Louisville recruit Kevin Houchins for the season due to an ACL injury but the Arcs have several other talented skill players. Brush is 1-3 with losses to Eastlake North, Madison and Kenston and a victory over Valley Forge.

"They are very athletic and highly skilled," said Schiavone. "They can turn a minimal gain into a score at any time. We have to be very disciplined on special teams and defense."

The Tigers are ranked 21st in the first Division I computer poll with several marquee games remaining on the schedule against such powerhouses as Solon and Mentor.

But Twinsburg is focusing on only one opponent -- the team it plays Friday night.

"We had a tough loss to Aurora and our kids came back and handled it well the next week," said Schiavone. "We're going to keep plugging away and concentrate on playing fundamental football."

[Tiger's Game vs. Brush nominated for the Cleveland Browns Game of the Week](#)



Help the Twinsburg Tigers become the Cleveland Browns High School Game of the Week. Just go to www.clevelandbrowns.com (or click on the picture) and vote for the Brush vs. Twinsburg football matchup. If chosen, we have the chance to win \$1,000 for our football program!

Go Tigers!!

[Tigers fall in double overtime thriller](#)

by Frank Aceto ~ ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR ~ Twinsburg Bulletin

Stow -- They didn't earn too many style points.

And they probably won't get much kudos for being innovative.

But football fans are starting to recognize something wonderfully special about the Stow-Munroe Falls Bulldogs in 2011.

They're for real.

Much to Twinsburg's dismay.

Host Stow earned a 27-24 double-overtime victory over Northeast Ohio Conference rival Twinsburg Sept. 16 at Bulldog Stadium.

Stow's approach against the talented, athletic and faster Tigers would have made former Ohio State coach Woody Hayes smile.

To quote Frank Sinatra, the Bulldogs did it their way.

Stow (3-1) controlled the clock throughout the evening as the three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust approach worked wonders.

"That's what we do," Bulldogs head coach Mark Nori said with a smile. "We grinded it out. The offensive line did a great job. Twinsburg is a good football team."

As for Twinsburg, it will have to pick up the pieces after a crushing loss. The Tigers, who have reached the Division I playoffs the last three years, now have a much smaller margin for error if they want to play in November again.

"We didn't play very well," first-year Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone said. "Stow played their tails off. We knew they weren't going to lay down."

The Bulldogs certainly didn't.

Trailing 24-21 in the second overtime period, Stow quarterback Chris Choler scored the game-winning touchdown with a two-yard run.

Choler ran to his left and beat Twinsburg's defense to the end zone on a second-down play.

"We ran a dive on the previous play and they [the Tigers] had 25 guys in the box," Nori said.

Prior to Stow's game-winning drive, Twinsburg, which had the ball first in the second overtime, got a 25-yard field goal from Frank Candau.

On that drive, the Tigers reached Stow's four-yard line on a third-down-and-goal play. Twinsburg hoped to punch it on fourth down, but the play never happened because Twinsburg was called for a delay-of-game penalty.

"We just didn't execute when we needed to," Schiavone said.

The Bulldogs (3-1) dominated time of possession in the first half and took a 14-0 lead into halftime.

Stow scored first on its second possession, thanks to a 21-play, 85-yard drive that took 10 minutes, 46 seconds off the clock.

The Bulldogs rode the powerful shoulders and legs of tailback Nick Mutaali, who carried the ball 38 times for 163 yards.

"Nick is a workhorse," Nori said. "It's not like he became what he is overnight. He worked hard over the summer."

Although Mutaali's name was called most of the possession, it was running back Luke Kiehl who ended the epic drive with a two-yard TD run. Kicker Kyle Wright added the first of his three extra points.

Stow increased its lead to 14-0 with 52 seconds left in the half.

The Bulldogs, who ran the ball most of the time, caught Twinsburg (2-2) off guard when Choler completed a 30-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Mike Waggoner on a third-and-12 play.

But the Tigers got their groove back in the second half.

While Stow was satisfied with allowing its offensive line to open holes for its running game, Twinsburg utilized its spread offense to get big plays.

The Tigers had a chance to score in the closing seconds in the half as they reached Stow's 10.

But Bulldogs linebacker Jim Griggs spoiled the drive when he intercepted Twinsburg quarterback Jalen Washington's pass with one second left.

The Tigers got back in the game, thanks to a nine-play, 65-yard drive on their first possession of the third quarter.

Running back John Barton concluded the drive with a six-yard TD run. Candau booted the first of his three extra points to cut the Bulldogs' advantage to 14-7.

Stow appeared to be back in business on the next possession.

The Bulldogs moved the ball to Twinsburg's 25 and knocked off nearly six minutes off the clock.

Unfortunately for Stow, the possession went downhill, thanks to a holding penalty and an interception by junior strong safety Ben Bisesi, who may have had a chance to take it to the end zone if Stow wide receiver/defensive back Matt Deblois didn't make the tackle.

Nevertheless, the Tigers took advantage of the pick and tied the game with another 65-yard scoring drive.

The big play took place when Washington connected with wide receiver B.K. Grewal on a 39-yard pass. That play moved Twinsburg to Stow's 22.

"That was a great play," Schiavone said. "Jalen has a great arm and B.K. did a great job of going up and getting it with the ball in the air and it was a nice, positive play to get some momentum back in our favor."

Barton's name was called once again on the final play of the possession and he took it into the end zone for a 16-yard TD run to tie the game at 14.

Both teams held their own on defense and the score remained tied after regulation.

The Bulldogs got the ball first in the overtime period. They took advantage of the opportunity.

After Mutaali got Stow to the Tigers' 7 on four carries, Choler made it 21-14 with a six-yard TD run.

Twinsburg responded.

With a short field, the Tigers used a more conventional approach to tie the game. Twinsburg ran the ball seven straight times and Tre Jones scored the tying TD on a critical fourth-and-five play.

In the end, though, the Bulldogs had just a tad bit more fuel in the tank than the Tigers.

But such a fact meant nothing to Schiavone. He wouldn't dare even think about throwing the towel on his team's season.

"There's still a lot of football left," Schiavone said.

Twinsburg is scheduled to make its home debut against NOC rival Brush Sept. 23 at 7 p.m.

Tigers' comeback attempt falls short in double overtime

Choler, Mutaali lead Stow to thrilling win 27-24

By Nick Shook ~ Twinsburg Patch.com

A rough start and an early deficit were two things that Twinsburg didn't want to deal with on Friday night at Stow High School. However, that was exactly what the Tigers were facing.

Down 14-0 at the end of the first half, Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone was upset with his players' effort, and he let them know it.

"I told them we didn't play very well," Schiavone said. "Stow was playing their butts off. We knew that Stow was not going to lay down; they're a good football team."

The Tigers mounted an impressive comeback, tying the game early in the fourth quarter to force overtime. However, Twinsburg came up just short, falling to Stow, 27-24, in the second overtime period. Bulldogs' quarterback Chris Choler scored the game-winning touchdown run from two yards out, dropping Twinsburg's record to 2-2.

Stow's dynamic duo of seniors in quarterback Chris Choler and running back Nick Mutaali led the Bulldogs' offense on a 21-play drive that lasted 10 minutes and 30 seconds and culminated in a two yard touchdown run, putting the Bulldogs up on Twinsburg early in the first half, 7-0. The Bulldogs added another touchdown just before halftime on a 35-yard pass completion from Choler to wide receiver Mike Waggoner.

The Tigers began their comeback attempt on the opening drive of the second half, as quarterback Jalen Washington engineered a 10-play series that concluded on a seven-yard touchdown run by senior John Barton.

Stow regained possession and appeared poised to extend the lead back to 14 points until Choler was intercepted by Twinsburg's Ben Bisesi on 2nd and 14 from the Tiger's 35. Twinsburg quickly took advantage of the turnover when Washington completed a 39-yard pass to receiver B.K. Grewel, setting up the Tigers deep in Bulldogs territory early in the fourth quarter.

"That was a great play," Jalen has a great arm and B.K. did a great job of going up and getting it with the ball in the air and it was a nice, positive play to get some momentum back in our favor."

Barton ran a toss sweep on third down for a 15-yard touchdown, and kicker Frank Candau's successful point-after attempt tied the game at 14-14.

The score remained tied when Twinsburg took over possession with less than a minute remaining in the game after Bisesi recorded his second interception of the game deep in Tigers' territory. A pass completion to Barton resulted in a big gain when Barton broke a tackle and galloped down the home sideline before being forced out of bounds at the Bulldogs' 40 yard line. Washington recovered a bad snap with just seconds remaining and hurled a deep pass towards the endzone as the clock expired, but the attempt was batted down by a Stow defender, forcing overtime.

Stow scored the first touchdown of the overtime session on a six-yard scramble by Choler. When Twinsburg regained possession, getting into the endzone wasn't as simple. Washington scramble to the six set the Tigers up with one more chance to tie the game and force another overtime period. Wide receiver Tre Jones' jet sweep on fourth down resulted in a touchdown, keeping Twinsburg alive.

However, Jones' touchdown would be the Tigers' last, as they were forced to kick a 25-yard field goal, which gave them the lead, 24-21. Stow continued to grind out yards with handoffs to Mutaali, and Choler scored the game-winning touchdown on second and goal from two yards out.

"We executed at some points, but just didn't do it enough to get the 'W'," Schiavone said.

"There's a lot of football left," Schiavone said.

The Tigers will host Brush in their first home game of the season next Friday. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

[PD Insider East Blog](#)

Figuring it out: It took **Twinsburg** the first half to figure out **Lancaster's** offense but then the Tigers dominated the second half in a 35-27 victory.

"To go on the road, take that three-hour bus ride and beat a very good team at their place was very huge," said Tigers first-year coach Joe Schiavone. "Our running back [John Barton] and quarterback Jalen Washington were clicking."

Lancaster's wing-T is a hard offense to simulate at practice, according to Schiavone.

"It took us a while to adjust to it but linebacker Myles Campbell, safety Michael Baker and tackle Dwan Larkins really led the defense in the second half," said the coach.

[PD Capsule Preview](#)

Twinsburg at Stow

What, when, where: Northeast Ohio Conference crossover game, 7 p.m., Stow High, 3227 Graham Road. Call 330-689-5204.

Records: Both are 2-1.

What to watch: Twinsburg, riding a two-game win streak, has had a potent offense when QB Jalen Washington hands off to TB John Barton or passes to a variety of players, most noticeably Jordan Bray, Mitch Harrison or Barton. Stow QB Kiehl Luke, TB Nick Mutaali and WRs Chris Choler and Mike Waggoner have benefited behind an experienced and big front line, led by 6-4, 260-pound Brandon Raftovich and 6-3 295-pound Dan Dunn.

PD pick: Twinsburg.

[Tigers Ready for Another Battle on the Road](#)

After a key victory, Twinsburg takes on a tough Stow team

By Barry Goodrich ~ Twinsburg Patch.com

"The bus ride is always better when you come home with a win," said head coach Joe Schiavone. "It was a long trip and a tough game but our kids handled it great."

As usual, there is no rest for the Tigers. Friday night's game at Stow is another big test as the Bulldogs have won games against Akron Firestone and North Canton Hoover along with a loss to a strong Kent Roosevelt squad.

Twinsburg is hoping to continue to produce the big plays that helped to spark the win over Lancaster, a Division I team that has been piling up the points all season.

"It was a great game to watch if you were a fan," said Schiavone. "We traded touchdowns with them in the first half before things settled down."

The Tigers' John Barton had a huge game against the Golden Gales, running for 110 yards and touchdowns of 14, nine and one yard. Barton also broke free for a 90-yard kickoff return that gave Twinsburg momentum going into halftime.

"John Barton got our running game going," said Schiavone. "Jalen (Washington) is improving throwing the ball and our offensive line is clicking."

The Tigers gave up three first-half touchdowns against Lancaster's deceptive Wing-T offense, but allowed just six points in the second half.

"I'm really proud of how our kids played in the second half," said Schiavone. "We challenged our kids at halftime and made some alignment changes. It's hard to play against an offense like that when you're not used to seeing it."

Washington threw just 13 times but completed six passes for 118 yards, including a 26-yard TD toss to London Carter. His quarterback rating improved to an impressive 138 for the season. More solid play will be needed at Stow Friday night.

"You can tell on film they are much improved," said Schiavone of the Bulldogs. "They are well-coached and play hard. They run a lot of power running plays."

Stow will have somewhat of a size advantage, but that is nothing new to the Tigers. "Virtually everybody we play is bigger than us," said Schiavone. "We just have to make sure we stay disciplined. Our guys are staying the course on defense."

Michael Baker continues to lead the team in tackles with 28 through the first three games. Ben Bisesi is right behind with 25 tackles.

A third consecutive win would keep Twinsburg in good position for a post-season playoff berth. Last week's win over Lancaster should produce plenty of computer points by the end of the regular season.

[Twinsburg defense keys 35-28 win over Golden Gales](#)

by Steve Batko | Correspondent ~ Twinsburg Bulletin

It was worth the 170-mile trip.

Twinsburg's football team posted a big non-league division I road win over Lancaster, just south of Columbus. The 35-27 Tiger win is crucial to the team's maturation.

"I think it was a very good win for us, and a big road win," said first year coach Joe Schiavone, who moves to 2-1.

Schiavone's defense keyed the win with a superb second half against the Golden Gales' Wing T offense after a wild 21-21 first half.

"The defense made some big adjustments after half time after a shoot out in the first half," he said. "Mainly, it was just our mindset. We challenged the kids at half, and they dug deep."

It wasn't until 9:00 left in the game at Fulton Field that Lancaster posted its initial first down of the second half. Twinsburg's defense stayed at home against the Gales' misdirection and stable of six backs.

Lancaster has made the state playoffs six times in the last eight years. The Gales (2-1) were handed their first loss of the year.

"The Wing T is tough to defend and its tough making our kids do things they're not used to, but our offense helped out our defense. We had sustained drives and did a great job of executing and controlling the clock."

Schiavone was thrilled to get his second career win against a quality coach in Lancaster Rob Carpenter. Carpenter had a 10-year NFL career and is four sons include for Ohio State linebacker Bobby Carpenter (Dallas Cowboys), Jonathan Carpenter (University of Cincinnati), George Carpenter (Marshall), and Ohio University freshman Nathan Carpenter.

Junior tailback John Barton made sure Twinsburg came home with a win as he amassed 220 total yards and four touchdowns.

Barton had game highs of 18 carries for 109 yards and three touchdowns runs plus 111 yards on kick off returns. His 90-yard kick off return for a score made it 21-21 with 2:49 left in the first half.

"Our line played well and Barton had a good game, but that return was huge for us," said Schiavone.

Twinsburg' second half defense came up big, but Lancaster had a series of special teams blunders that proved costly.

Barton's return burned the Gales, but Lancaster fumbled a punt away with 1:47 left in the third stanza to give the Tigers the ball at the Gales' 26. Barton scored on a 9-yard pitch to give Twinsburg its first lead 28-21 with 11:55 left in the game.

Then with 8:04 left, Carpenter tried a fake punt on fourth-and-1, but the direct snap to Ohio State recruit Luke Roberts was snuffed out by Twinsburg behind the line.

As time expired in the first half, Twinsburg's defense held and Lancaster missed a 26-yard field goal that was wide right.

Fullback Russ King scored on a 1-yard plunge for Lancaster with 4:46 left in the game to cut Twinsburg's lead to 35-27, but the PAT was wide left due to a high snap.

The final blunder came just prior to that scoring drive as another speedy back, Ethan Bond, had a big 63-yard kick return. Bond allowed Tiger kicker Frank Candau to knock him out of bounds and save a TD.

Prior to that kick off, that Tiger touchdown -- a 2-yard run by Barton -- put Twinsburg up 35-21 with 6:02 left. It was set up by a 34-yard pass to senior Jordan Bray, one of several veteran athletes who were moved to a receiver slot this fall.

With 2:49 left, Lancaster has the ball at its 39 with a chance to tie the game with a TD and 2-point conversion.

Six plays later, the Gales reached the Tiger 30 with 56 seconds left, but a Twinsburg sack was followed by an incomplete pass on fourth down.

It was a big turn around for the Tiger defense, which gave up seven first downs on 27 plays in Lancaster's first two drives of the game.

After a two-yard touchdown run by Roberts, Twinsburg scored on its first drive when junior quarterback Jalen Washington hit senior wide out London Carter on a 26-yard pass. Candau booted the first of five PAT's and it was 7-7 with 3:32 left in the first quarter.

The Gales promptly came back with a textbook 11-play, 72-yard drive culminated on a King one-yard run to give the hosts a 14-7 lead with 9:00 left in the first half.

Twinsburg responded with an 11-play, 74-yard scoring drive as Barton ran in from 13 yards out to make it 14-14 with 4:52 left.

The drive was set up by a two-yard run on fourth down and one by Barton, and then later, on third-and-12, when Washington passed 26 yards to senior Tre Jones, another senior playing wide receiver along with classmate Zack Buckeye.

A 57-yard burst by Bond set up Lancaster on the next possession as Roberts added a 4-yard touchdown run. That's when Barton responded with the exciting 90-yard kick off return.

"We made some big plays on special teams and Jalen Washington continues to show tremendous poise," said Schiavone.

Washington continues to shine in the shotgun spread and multiple offense as he was 6-13 passing for 118 yards, a touchdown and one interception. He hit five receivers, led by senior B.K. Grewal (two catches, 25 yards).

For the first time this fall, Carter got involved with two rushes for 15 yards and a touchdown catch for 26 yards.

"Our receivers are all doing well and improving," said the coach. "We have guys getting more reps there and Jalen is executing his job. Jones had a big catch."

Veteran defensive players like Dwan Larkins, Dylan Minick, Michael Baker, and Ben Bisesi have been defensive leaders along with Andrew Tozzi, Myles Campbell, Jones, Scott Tegowski, and Devereaux McCall. Cameron Dial and Rob Williams have also surprised for the Tigers.

Roberts, who has 4.62 speed in the 40-yard dash, is headed to Ohio State as a linebacker while 6-5, 260-pound defensive end Aaron Woosley will play at Ball State.

Twinsburg will complete its four-game road trip Sept. 16 when it travels to Stow-Munroe Falls. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

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[Tigers Say Thank You](#)

The Twinsburg Tigers would like to extend a gracious thank you to all the parents and fans who traveled 3 hours down to Lancaster for the game. Your continued support is greatly appreciated to our athletes and coaches. Another special shout out to our Mom's club for organizing the meals to and from Lancaster and the Athletic Boosters who organized the Busses for our athletes' ride to and from Lancaster. Thank You!

~ Coach Schiavone

[Second-half mistakes cost Lancaster against Twinsburg](#)

Vince Nairn ~ The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER -- After a first half that saw 42 total points and no punts, special-teams blunders cost Lancaster.

A fumbled punt, an unsuccessful fake punt and the legs of running back John Barton allowed Twinsburg to score 14 second-half points Friday and beat the Golden Gales 35-27 at Fulton Field.

"We made too many mistakes in all three phases of the game," coach Rob Carpenter said. "They're a talented team, and they're gonna make you pay."

Lancaster (2-1) had the ball in Twinsburg territory in the final minute, but Riley Theiss' fourth-down pass was incomplete, and the Tigers (2-1) celebrated the win in the first meeting of the two teams.

The Gales used their final timeout with 56 seconds to go as there appeared to be some confusion offensively. After the timeout, more confusion almost caused a delay of game penalty before Theiss got the snap off and was sacked.

"They found some of our weaknesses and hit some seams and made a lot of plays," Carpenter said.

With the game tied at 21 at halftime, the Gales stopped Twinsburg on its first three second-half possessions. But a fumbled punt on the third one gave the ball back to the Tigers.

Barton, who had 107 rushing yards and four total touchdowns, gave the Tigers a 28-21 lead a few plays later.

On their next possession, the Gales tried a fake punt run on fourth down from its own 35. But Luke Roberts was stopped, and Barton added another touchdown moments later.

"He's a talented athlete," Carpenter said of Barton. "(Twinsburg) has good players. They play in a good league. They didn't lay down."

The offenses were on display in the first half. Lancaster's first two drives lasted 27 plays and took more than 13 minutes off the clock. Two touchdown runs from Roberts and another from Russ King accounted for the Gales' 21 first-half points.

But Lancaster couldn't stop Twinsburg, either. Neither team punted in the half, and a 90-yard kick return by Barton tied the game at 21 with 2:41 to play in the first half.

The Gales also made special accommodations Friday to remember the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

About 500 American flags lined the walkway to Fulton Field.

Before the game, another large flag was carried on to the field behind Lancaster's marching band.

The marching band combined with the LHS choir to perform "America the Beautiful" at halftime.

"It helps the younger generation to see what it means, because a lot of kids were too young to remember," choir director Sandy McCoy said. "I don't think we can do enough to honor those whose loves were lost."

Marching band percussion director Bruce Gerken organized the performance with the choir.

"The band and choir coming together, we kind of signified the unity we, as a country, need to have."

All active and former military personnel were admitted in the game for free.

Vince Nairn can be reached at (740) 681-4358 or vnairn@lancastereaglegazette.com, or follow him on Twitter @Vince_EGSports.

[Barton's 4 TDs Propel Tigers past Lancaster 35-27](#)

Twinsburg junior runs for 109 yards, three touchdowns and one kick return

By Mitch Cooper ~ Twinsburg Patch

The Twinsburg Tigers knew they needed someone to start a fire on offense to come away with a win against the Lancaster Golden Gales. Junior running back John Barton was that spark.

Barton's 109 yards rushing four touchdowns, including a 90 yard kickoff return in the second quarter propelled the Tigers to a 35-27 win.

"John is a special player, and he does special things for us," head coach Joe Schiavone said. "For him to have this breakout night, we're very happy for him."

The Gales started off an offensive slug-fest in the first half scoring on the first drive, which was answered by a 25-yard touchdown strike from senior quarterback Jalen Washington to senior wide-out London Carter. Washington finished the night 6/13 passing for 118 yards, one touchdown and an interception.

Both teams went back and forth, scoring touchdowns nearly every possession. But the Gales fell off in the second quarter, mismanaging the clock and missing a last second field goal wide-right to end the half.

Both defenses came back strong in the second half, with no scoring drives in the third quarter.

But on the first play of the fourth quarter, Barton sprinted past the Gale defenders for a five-yard touchdown that would put the Tigers ahead for good.

"That's a good football team we just played," Schiavone said. "That's a hard team to defend but my guys have a lot of heart."

Lancaster made things interesting at the end, scoring on a two-yard run, then stopping Barton on third-and-five on the Tiger's next possession. They marched down the field but Twinsburg's defense smothered Gale's quarterback Riley Theiss for a loss. A failed attempt on fourth down ended the game.

Twinsburg heads to Stow next Friday to take on the Bulldogs at 7 p.m.