

Jalen Washington leads Twinsburg past Strongsville: High School Football Roundup

Plain Dealer and Sun News staff reports, September 29, 2012 12:12 a.m.

With Twinsburg's ace tailback John Barton sidelined for the rest of the season because of a torn ACL, a lot of pressure has fallen on the shoulders of Jalen Washington to get the job done.

The Tigers (3-3, 1-0) senior quarterback was a one-man wrecking crew Friday night in 31-14 Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division victory over Strongsville.

The 6-0, 175-pounder completed 11 of 24 passes for 119 yards and a touchdown, and also rushed six times for 109 yards and two touchdowns for Twinsburg, which travels to Brunswick next week for huge conference game. The Blue Devils should be steaming from their 49-21 setback to Mentor.

No. 2 St. Edward 34, Erie (Pa.) McDowell 23 Quarterback Ryan Fallon passed for 126 yards and three touchdowns as the Eagles (6-0), ranked second in Division I, left the Keystone State unbeaten with the nonleague win. Alex Middleton aided the cause with four receptions good for 87 yards and two touchdowns.

Twinsburg Football.com reaches milestone!

Twinsburg Football.com has reached 100,000 hits! Thanks go out to all the players, parents, fans, and alumni who visit the site frequently. We definitely appreciate all the support! Go Tigers!

Arcs outlast Tigers in overtime

by Steve Batko | Correspondent ~ Twinsburg Bulletin

It was the type of football game that could swing on a single play. Reaching three overtimes, the game did just that as Twinsburg lost 41-35 to Brush in its first road game of the year.

Brush won in the third overtime session as 210-pound junior running back Davari Gill ran in from nine yards out to score the winning touchdown at Korb Field Sept. 21.

Gill's run was set up by an Arcs' goal-line stand on Twinsburg's possession in the third OT. Brush stopped the Tigers on four downs.

Mistakes were costly for the Tigers, who slipped to 2-3 overall and had their second straight overtime game.

Brush won the Spielman Gridiron Classic trophy as the game saw the Arcs sport pink socks and the crowd wore pink to promote breast cancer awareness. Brush is 3-2 after the cross-division Northeast Ohio Conference win.

"Obviously, we are disappointed about the outcome," said Twinsburg head coach Joe Schiavone, after the loss. "We had many chances to win, but made too many mistakes."

Twinsburg had four turnovers, including three interceptions. In addition, the Tigers had 10 penalties for 86 yards. On third down, Twinsburg was only 4-of-16 (25 percent).

After playing 13 quarters of football in its last two games, Twinsburg readies for the opener of the NOC Valley Division on Sept. 28 against Strongsville at home.

The Mustangs are 2-3 and are coming off a 28-14 non-league win over Parma Heights Valley Forge.

"After a tough loss, you know that the players (and coaches) are disappointed," said Schiavone. "But we'll bounce back, we always do, that's what's great about our guys."

Schiavone doesn't have any concerns about the extra periods of action, stating, "Our depth is holding up fine. We're trying to get guys to step up and become one way players so we don't have a lot of two-way guys on Friday night."

Twinsburg had 14-7 and 21-14 leads in the game before the Arcs tied the game 21-21 to force overtime on an 86-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Tony Andrews.

The overtime was exciting, but just as Twinsburg scored, Brush seemed to have an answer. Each team scored touchdowns for the first two overtime periods.

"It seemed as though when we were able to make a play so did Brush and visa versa," said the mentor. "We need to focus on getting stops defensively when it's crunch time."

"Our defense has proven that we can do it this season, we just need to be more consistent at it."

Senior linebacker Scott Tegowski led the defense with eight tackles, one sack and a stop behind the line along with junior cornerback Darion Eiland (nine tackles, two for a loss), junior end Demetrius Williams (nine stops), and senior lineman Chris Rode (six stops plus a tackle for a loss, and two pressures).

The offense was led by junior back Martell Anthony who had nine catches for 116 yards, 164 all-purpose yards, and a 2-yard touchdown run in overtime.

Tyrone McGuinea, a senior back, ran for two touchdowns on 23 carries for 69 yards. He had an 8-yard touchdown run in the first OT.

Quarterback Jalen Washington amassed 353 total yards and passed for two scores, but was intercepted three times. He was 27-of-51 through the air for 324 yards.

"Jalen continues to help make our offense go," said Schiavone. "He didn't have his best game, but he always gives us a chance to win football games, and that's what you want from your QB."

Also having a solid game was junior linebacker Jacob Turay, who also had some success on offense catching the ball. Turay had two catches for 13 yards and a touchdown plus added seven tackles on defense.

Senior Cooper Rea had 99 total yards, including five catches for 56 yards while junior wide receiver Mike Peelman continues to improve as he had six catches for 76 yards and a touchdown.

Another junior wide out making strides is Tallin Johnson, who snagged five receptions for 45 yards.

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Brush football team outlasts Twinsburg before big matchup with rival Mayfield

Megan Katz, Sun News correspondent, September 25, 2012 4:42 p.m.

LYNDHURST The Brush Arcs battled Twinsburg in the rain in the rain last week and scored a 41-35 victory over the Tigers in triple overtime.

The football team, as well as fans and the Brush marching band honored breast cancer awareness by wearing pink items during the game. In addition, the marching band celebrated senior night, where all senior band members were honored before the the game.

With Tigers star running back John Barton out for the season, Twinsburg had to think of another strategy on offense. After trading possessions with Brush, the Tigers found themselves on fourth down and far from good field position. A tipped pass fell into the arms of Arcs' senior Harry Durrah, who returned the ball to the Brush 45. Shorts passed under pressure to Ugochukwu Onunwor, who carried the ball down into Tiger territory, and a 28-yard pass to Tony Andrews on the following play gave the Arcs first-and-goal on Twinsburg's 2. Brush's Davari Gill finished the drive with the first touchdown of the night, putting the Arcs up by seven with 5:21 left in the first quarter.

The Arcs and the Tigers traded possessions throughout the first half with neither team being able to score. Twinsburg finally managed to tie the game in the middle of the third quarter, where a crucial penalty gave the Tigers a first down on the 10 and allowed Jacob Turay to make a touchdown run.

On their next possession, the Arcs were forced to punt the ball back to Twinsburg, who returned it near midfield. A series of passes and a 31-yard quarterback keeper drove the ball up field and eventually resulted in a Twinsburg touchdown.

The Arcs found themselves down by seven with less than 3 minutes left in the third quarter. With Mark Ciarlillo in for Brush as quarterback, the Arcs made one last attempt at scoring before the end of the quarter, but the offense couldn't finish the drive with a touchdown on fourth-and-goal on the 8.

The Arcs started their next possession on the Twinsburg 42. Ciarlillo was tackled in the backfield on the 45, but a personal foul on Twinsburg gave the Arcs a first down. Onunwor caught a pass at the 2 on the next play, and after changing to the "I" formation as well as bringing Shorts back to quarterback, the Arcs scored their second touchdown of the game. Brush tied the game up at 14-14 with less than 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Twinsburg's 36-yard touchdown pass was answered seconds later when Andrews returned the ball 80 yards into the end zone. A successful extra point by BrendanBurkholder tied the game up with 3:05 left in the fourth quarter, and with both teams unable to clinch the lead before time ran out, the game headed into overtime with the score at 21.

Twinsburg finished its first possession in overtime with a touchdown that momentarily put them in the lead by seven. The Arcs had a shaky start on their drive with a bad snap over Short's head that pushed them back to the 35. Shorts made up for the play with a 35-yard pass to Christopher Cauley in the end zone to once again tie the game at 28.

Shorts ran for another touchdown on the first play Brush's next possession that put the Arcs ahead 35-28. The Arcs defense managed to hold the Tigers to fourth-and-18 on the 28, but a series of penalties moved Twinsburg up to first down on the 14. Twinsburg then tied the game at 35-35 as the game headed into triple overtime.

The Tigers missed their first three passes before finally getting a first down on the 4. On fourth-and-inches, an amazing performance by the Arcs defense held Twinsburg from scoring, and Brush regained possession of the ball. Gill's 9-yard touchdown run was enough to win the game for the Arcs with a final score of 41-35.

The Arcs will face off against long-time rivals the Mayfield Wildcats at 7 p.m. Friday at Mayfield.

See more sports at cleveland.com/sunmessenger

Tiger tale :

Twinsburg (2-2) is adjusting to life without tailback John Barton, who suffered a season-ending knee injury Week 1. Quarterback Jalen Washington guided a late, game-tying drive against Stow last week, and he threw the winning, 20-yard touchdown pass in double-overtime to Kon Grewal.

"Jalen is doing everything we're asking of him," Twinsburg coach Joe Schiavone said. "That last drive against Stow, he made some unbelievable plays with his feet. The thing a lot of people don't realize about him is if he needs to run, he can make plays."

Twinsburg presents an interesting matchup Friday for Brush (2-2) and linebacker Patric Hannon, a Bowling Green recruit.

-- Tim Warsinskey (Plain Dealer Reporter)

Tigers pull out win over Bulldogs

by MICHAEL LEONARD | SPORTS EDITOR ~ Twinsburg Bulletin

For the second straight year, Twinsburg and Stow-Munroe Falls needed overtime to settle a contest on the football field.

For the second straight week, Stow was left wondering what could have been after another overtime loss.

Twinsburg quarterback Jalen Washington hit Kon Grewal with a 20-yard touchdown pass on the Tigers' first play of double overtime.

That pass ended the game, giving Twinsburg a 13-7 win over the Bulldogs Sept. 14 at Twinsburg Tiger Stadium. The final touchdown gave Twinsburg its only lead of the game.

Twinsburg moved to 2-2 on the season, while Stow dropped to 0-3.

Tigers coach Joe Schiavone noted the game was far from the prettiest in Twinsburg history, but he was happy with his team's perseverance.

"The kids really fought hard for that win," Schiavone said. "I'm very proud of the way we came back."

By contrast, Bulldogs coach Mark Nori could only lament his team's lost opportunities.

"We had plenty of chances, but we didn't finish," Nori said. "Our playmakers need to make plays. We can't have penalties late in the game, we can't turn the ball over twice in overtime."

Early on, it looked like the Bulldogs might be able to handle the Tigers.

After Twinsburg's initial drive stalled, Stow mounted a 14-play, 80-yard meatgrinder, which featured only one pass.

Junior Matt Beech did much of the damage, but the drive was capped by a two-yard touchdown plunge from fullback Brian Baranowski. Kyle Wright's extra point made it 7-0 with 3:42 left in the first quarter.

Twinsburg's next drive was a microcosm of its offense for most of the night. After driving into Stow territory, the Tigers elected to go for it on fourth down.

A high snap sailed over Washington's head, forcing him to fall on the ball for a 25-yard loss.

It was a frustrating evening for Washington until late. He finished 30-of-43 for 277 yards and a touchdown, as he used seven different receivers. However, he was victimized by numerous drops by his receiving corps in the first half.

The bad snap set Stow up in Tiger territory and Stow's longest play of the night -- a 28-yard pass from Brian Groves to Matt Chadsey -- set the Tigers up with first-and-goal.

Then, however, came the turning point of the game.

Stow faced fourth-and-goal at the 1-yard line and elected to go for it.

Groves tried a quarterback sneak and was very close, but the officials ruled he did not cross the plane of the goal line, giving Twinsburg the ball.

Nori disagreed with the call after the game.

"Our guy was lying in the end zone," Nori said. "I didn't think it was the right call then or now. [The officials] explanation was that he rolled into the end zone."

After the stop, Stow's offense was stuck in neutral for the rest of the night.

Schiavone said his team didn't make any major adjustments to slow the Bulldogs down, though Nori noted he felt the Bulldogs were crowding the box.

"We can't start slow like that," Schiavone said. "Stow came ready to play them tonight."

The game went to half at 7-0 and also was 7-0 after three quarters, as the two teams exchanged turnovers late in the third quarter.

Twinsburg had numerous drives stall in Bulldog territory, as Twinsburg was 0-of-4 on fourth downs in the game.

"Our defense was in bend-but-don't-break mode all night," Nori said. "Holding that team to 13 points is a pretty good showing."

However, Twinsburg finally did break through late in the fourth quarter.

Washington put together a string of short passes, which keyed an 11-play, 80-yard drive. However, the drive was capped when running back Tyrone McGuinea ran in a 1-yard sweep.

Kicker Frank Candau nailed the extra point to tie the game with 1:59 left.

Stow's final drive in regulation stalled, giving Twinsburg's one last chance. However, Washington's Hail Mary pass sailed out of the end zone, sending the game to overtime.

Twinsburg got the ball first in overtime, but went backwards. The Tigers had to settle for a 39-yard field goal attempt from Candau, which was no good.

Stow knew that any points would win the game in the first overtime and the Bulldogs were driving.

However, on second-and-goal, Beech was hit hard and lost the ball. Twinsburg's Jacob Turay pounced on the loose ball, getting his second turnover of the night and sending the game to a second overtime.

Stow got the ball first in the second overtime and was driving again. However, a bad snap caused Groves to fumble the ball and Twinsburg against pounce on the loose pigskin.

Schiavone said he wanted to end the game right then and Washington obliged.

The Tigers faked a bubble screen to the left, allowing Grewal to sneak behind the Bulldog secondary. Grewal snagged the ball and walked into the end zone, setting off celebrations on the Tiger sideline.

Twinsburg will hit the road for the first time this week, as it travels to Brush Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.

Meanwhile, Stow will return to Bulldog Stadium and host Mayfield Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.

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Football: Twinsburg 13, Stow 7 (2OT)

Plain Dealer and Sun News staff reports, September 15, 2012

The Tigers (2-2, 1-0), who came back from a 7-0 deficit, won the Northeast Ohio Conference crossover game on their first play of the second overtime when quarterback Jalen Washington found Kon Grewal for a 20-yard touchdown pass.

Twinsburg rallies past Lancaster

by Steve Batko | Correspondent ~ Twinsburg Bulletin

The Lancaster football team had just traveled north about three hours when the Golden Gales starting running again at Twinsburg Tiger Stadium.

After a first quarter that was more like a track meet, Twinsburg settled down defensively for a 44-21 win over Lancaster Sept. 7.

In fact, Joe Schiavone's defense could not stop the Gales' Wing T offense, orchestrated by former NFL running back Rob Carpenter, the coach at Lancaster who has taken his club to the state playoffs six times in the past decade.

The numbers were staggering: Lancaster had 165 yards, five first downs and averaged 11.8 yards a play in the first stanza.

However, after adjustments by Schiavone, Lancaster was held to a paltry 41 yards the rest of the game on 35 plays as Twinsburg won after a 23-21 halftime lead.

Twinsburg created chaos defensively, forcing two fumbles, an interception and a safety by the Tigers' punt team.

"We made some adjustments, but mostly our guys had to settle in and play," said the Tiger coach, whose club moved to 1-2 along with the Gales.

"Simulating the Wing-T is difficult to ask your scout team to do," said Schiavone. "I told our guys all week that they have to be patient and very disciplined against this style of offense."

The Gales scored on their first three possessions -- 190 yards against the Tiger D -- to take a 21-7 lead early in the game.

However, Lancaster's next first down came with 2:24 left in the game.

Set up by a 43-yard pass, Lancaster scored on fourth-and-one from the Tiger 5 on its first scoring drive of 71 yards. Jerry King scored to make it 7-0.

Twinsburg responded with a 4-minute, 11-play, 80-yard drive as senior quarterback Jalen Washington tossed a perfect 20-yard touchdown pass just over Gale safety Ben Bowman to junior wide out Mike Peelman.

Lancaster answered by burning the Tigers with the pass again on the ensuing drive as Riley Theiss hit a wide open King for a 41-yard TD pass with 1:56 left.

A 16-yard punt set up the Gales' next drive at the Tiger 46. Four plays later, King went up the gut for a 21-yard TD burst and Twinsburg was down 21-7 with 11:23 left in the first half.

Schiavone saw his offense then stall on downs at the Gales' 20, but a fumbled snap by Theiss on first down and a recovery by Tiger sophomore Noah Edwards gave the ball right back to the hosts.

Washington then found Peelman again on a roll out pass for a six-yard TD pass. Frank Candau's boot made it 21-14 at the 6:12 mark.

Twinsburg's defense then forced the Gales' first punt.

A 26-yard pass to junior wide receiver Kon Grewal set up a 23-yard TD run by senior Tyrone McGuinea, who broke a tackle by Justin Sharpe and walked in the end zone. Candau's kick made it 21-21 with 3:14 left.

Then, a high punt snap sailed into the end zone on Lancaster's next series. Twinsburg got the safety to lead 23-21.

The Tigers went up 30-21 with 1:10 left in the third as junior tailback Martell Anthony used an eight-yard cut back run to score.

On the hosts next series, Twinsburg broke open the game on the second play as Washington hit Grewal with a 61-yard TD pass. It was 37-21 with 11:06 left in the game.

Anthony, who had 164 all-purpose yards in the win, added a 1-yard TD plunge.

Schiavone dropped a man off of Twinsburg's base 4-2 set with a 3-man front that seemed to help shut down Lancaster's Wing T.

"We did go to 3-man fronts as an adjustment to their offense at times, and we were able to disrupt some of their blocking schemes with it," said the coach.

The defense had a team effort as Scott Tegowski had eight tackles and Ben Bisesi and Cameron Dial each had seven. Edwards had five stops to go with the fumble recovery, plus broke up a pass and had a tackle for a loss.

Linebacker Jacob Turay and Chris Rode also had six stops as Turay had one behind the line. Junior Darion Eiland had an interception and Rob Williams had a fumble recovery.

Washington was superb. He was 16-30 passing for 256 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions. He also ran for 37 yards.

"Jalen had a phenomenal game, and he was able to do what he did because our offensive line," said Schiavone. "The line was able to give Jalen plenty of time to read the defense and make the appropriate throw.

Twinsburg's unproven receiving corps, which includes McGuinea and Anthony out of the backfield, is making strides. Washington found six different targets.

McGuinea had four catches for 43 yards while Grewal had a breakout game with three catches for 96 yards and a TD.

Peelman was also impressive with three receptions for 38 yards and two scores. Anthony had three catches for 30 yards, Anthony Ellis had two for 42 yards, and Tallin Johnson added a 7-yard catch.

"The receiving corps is getting better every week as they work with Jalen," explained Schiavone.

"They are improving and so is our depth, but the guys know that they have to make catches and be more consistent. We started to show that this week at times."

On the ground, Anthony had 12 rushes for 55 yards while McGuinea ran nine times for 54. Turay added a 12-yard run while Washington (7-37) and Ellis (1-7) also helped. Anthony had 79 yards in returns.

King led the Gales with 68 yards and two touchdowns rushing, plus 84 yards receiving and a TD. However, King was held to one total yard in the second half.

Twinsburg hosts Stow (1-2) on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

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Lancaster Gales let 14-point lead evaporate

Lancaster held to 24 yards after first 3 possessions in falling to Twinsburg

Written by David Bickham ~ Eagle-Gazette Correspondent

TWINSBURG -- After watching Lancaster amass 190 yards of offense on their first three possessions, it's hard to think they would manage just 24 yards the rest of the game.

The Golden Gales scored on their first three possessions to take a 21-7 lead early in the game, but the wheels came off after that, and Twinsburg rolled to a 44-21 nonleague win against Lancaster.

"We made some mistakes and let them back in the game," Gales coach Rob Carpenter said. "They have a good offense. (Quarterback Jalen) Washington is an All-Ohio player, and they have some nice players around him."

Lancaster tried to set the tone early when quarterback Riley Theiss hit Jerry King with a 43-yard pass on the first play from scrimmage. Five plays later, King burst through from the 5-yard line for a 7-0 lead.

Twinsburg answered, driving 80 yards on 11 plays to tie the score. But the Gales struck twice more, racing out to a 21-7 lead. From there, it was all Twinsburg.

"They fought to get back into the game," Carpenter said. "They came in 0-2, but they were like a caged animal. We made some big mistakes, and they capitalized on them and got rolling."

As the Gales were struggling to make anything happen on offense, the Tigers were in high gear. Washington finished the game with 259 yards of passing and three touchdowns on a 16-for-31 night. Running back Martell Anthony added 62 yards on the ground to help Twinsburg roll up 411 yards of offense.

"We fumbled snaps. We snapped it out of the end zone. We just kept giving them opportunities," Carpenter said. "We gave them all the opportunities they needed."

Any hope of a Lancaster comeback was thwarted as the Tigers scored two late touchdowns to secure the win.

With the loss, the Gales fell to 1-2. They begin Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division play next week at Pickerington Central.

"We have a lot of good players on this team," Carpenter said. "But we have guys making mistakes, and that has cost us the past few weeks. We need to eliminate those mistakes."

King led the Gales offense with 65 yards and two touchdowns rushing and 84 yards and a touchdown receiving.