

SPORTS

Jackets drop homecoming heartbreaker

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff
CARLISLE — The Nicholas County Bluejackets dropped a heartbreaking 21-20 decision to disprove the homecoming party for Madison Southern Thursday night.

MSU drops to 2-4 with 24-7 set-back

By Hank Bond
The Carlisle Mercury Staff
COCKEVILLE, Tennessee — Morehead State's Chris Swartz picked up 242 yards passing, with one touchdown, but the Eagles couldn't stop a determined homecoming Tennessee Tech squad and fell to 2-4, 0-2 in OVC play, with a 24-7 loss.

At the 11:30 a.m. possession, the first was stopped by one of three Tech interceptions, the Eagles drove the ball deep into Golden Eagles' territory.

Morehead failed to cover a first down inside the Tech 10, and with fourth and five at the right wing three's 27 yard Tech field attempt was blocked into the MSU end zone and recovered by Tech for a touchdown, making the score 7-0.

Neither team could mount an offensive during the remainder of the first quarter and the period ended with the score tied at 7-7.

In the second half, Morehead only crossed midfield once, as did Tech and again at the perimeter, the crowd of just over 5,000 had been prevented from cheering any scoring.

Tech received the second half kickoff, and the Golden Eagles' offense went to work quickly.

Taking the ball at the Tech 22, the offense used 10 plays to cover 74 yards before settling for a 21 yard field goal to make it 3-0 Tech with 10:55 play in the third quarter.

After the kickoff, Morehead had the ball first and time at the Morehead 22.

James Williams went off the left side for 14 yards and gave the Eagles a first and 10 at the MSU 36. But, four plays later Bobby Flynn punned the ball away for MSU and the Golden Eagles' offense was back to work.

Tech wasted little time and on second and eight at the MSU 48 and perfect end zone strike from Brent Brown returned the Tech lead to 10-0.

Morehead's next possession resulted in three incomplete passes and a MSU punt, but the defense again sealed the Tech offense.

Morehead had the ball with 11:13 to play in the game and drove to the Eagles 43, but Swartz's pass on fourth and 16 was intercepted at the Tech 33.

With 5:27 to play in the game, Morehead had the ball at the Eagles' 33. Swartz hit Williams with a pass and he picked up 20 yards before finally being pushed out of bounds at the Tech 41.

Swartz found Brian Ford at the Tech 25, and again passed to Rodney Harris for a first down at the Tech 10 on the 17 yard completion.

On first and eight at the Tech 8, Swartz connected with Harris in the end zone to cut the Tech lead. Morehead added the extra point and with 4:45 to play in the game, Morehead had cut the lead to 10-7.

As was as close as Morehead would get.

Brown took his offense from the Tech 35 to pay dirt in three plays supported off by 69 yard touchdowns pass to Sam Brooks with 3:58 to play. With Gipper's kick the house had fashioned a 17-10 lead, and MSU was able to abort its fourth line drive as Swartz was picked off for the second.

The Tech offense showed little as Swartz was picked off for the second time in the game, and the Golden Eagles had the ball at the MSU 39.

Six plays later, Brown found John Webb in the end zone from one yard out and with the extra point Tech set the final margin at 24-7.

Morehead pointed some of its ill-planned Eagles.

With nearly 30 players sidelined, or playing at half speed, the Eagles were no match in numbers for Tech.

Morehead had 20 first downs to 18 and had 150 yards total offense in the game. Tech finished the game with 410 yards.

Williams had 20 yards on 23 carries for MSU, and Swartz was 23 of 44 passing.

Dave Piquette had 67 yards on six receptions and Williams had 64 yards on four receptions. Ford had 58 yards on five receptions.

...proved the difference in this tight contest of evenly matched teams. Nicholas County kicked off to open the game with a first quarter field goal.

...to begin their offensive operations for the night.

...with a 24-7 loss.

...to make it 3-0 Tech with 10:55 play in the third quarter.

...to cut the Tech lead.

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