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Photo by David Cink/The Daily Triplicate

The Del Norte defense bears down on Arcata's Chris Summers to block a field goal attempt in the first quarter of Friday night's football game at Crescent City.

Warriors Big 5 champs, again

by Jackie Christensen, 10/28/2006

Ring it up, pay for it, put it in a bag and drive it home. The Del Norte Warriors are Big Five football champions for a second consecutive season.

The Warriors rushed the ball 45 times for an astounding 348 yards, including four touchdowns, and Del Norte blanked yet another league opponent, beating Arcata 32-0 Friday night in Crescent City to clinch the league title.

The Warriors have now shut out McKinleyville, Fortuna, Eureka and Arcata, and have outscored league opponents a combined 232-25 in six games.

Del Norte starting quarterback Chad Freeman had his lowest numbers of the season, passing only 15 times for 78 yards and a touchdown, all because the Warriors averaged almost eight yards a carry (7.73).

Del Norte's leading rusher was Trevor Rook, who carried the ball 14 times for 125 yards and a touchdown, but the Warriors also got strong rushing performances from Frankie Cardenas (10 carries, 85 yards and a touchdown), Matt Wakefield (seven carries, 73 yards) and Ross Bertolini (seven carries, 31 yards and a touchdown).

The Tigers mustered up a total of 64 yards on offense, compared to Del Norte's 426.

Arcata quarterback D.J. Hancock struggled to find rhythm offensively, as he finished the game 5-for-20 passing with three interceptions and 50 yards.

The Tigers didn't have much better luck on the ground, as they rushed 18 times for only 14 yards.

After exchanging punts in their opening possessions, the Warriors turned their second drive into a touchdown.

After rook broke off a 40-yard touchdown that was called back, two plays later, Cardenas broke away for a 46-yard touchdown to give the Warriors a 6-0 lead with 5:23 remaining in the first.

Del Norte added two more touchdowns in the second quarter to build an 18-0 lead heading into the half, then scored on their first possession in the third quarter on a 5-yard pass from Freeman to Matt Bray.

After that, it was all about possession as the Warriors, who had the ball 29 minutes and 50 seconds of the 48-minute game, basically dominated in all aspects.

With the win, Del Norte improved to 6-0 in league and 7-1 overall, while the Tigers dropped to 3-3 in league and 3-5 overall.