

# Times-Standard

## Six straight zeroes: Wildcats run the table in Little 4

Neil Tarpey/The Times-Standard

Article Launched: 11/11/2007 01:42:07 AM PST

FERNDALE -- If it's never happened before, it has now.

Ferndale High blanked St. Bernard's 43-0 on Saturday, becoming the first team to win all six Little 4 football games by shutouts.

Long-time North Coast football fans are searching their memory banks and scratching their heads, trying to recall if such an incredible feat has ever occurred.

The Wildcats' fabulous finish to the regular season -- six consecutive shutouts by a combined points difference of 262-0 -- cemented their place in the Humboldt-Del Norte record books as one of the most dominant defensive teams.

The 2007 Ferndale (9-1 overall) team did not only ride roughshod over the Little 4, but also stifled their three Big 5 opponents, shutting out McKinleyville, and holding Arcata and Fortuna to six and seven points, respectively.

In considering his team's season, and what they need to do in the upcoming North Coast Section playoffs, Wildcats' head coach Kim Jorgensen had basically the same response, "We played well as a team. We have to stay together and see what happens."

What happened in Saturday's 43-0 home win

over the Crusaders epitomizes how well-balanced this year's Wildcats have become, as they scored a TD on special teams, a TD and safety on defense, two passing TDs, and two TDs the old-school way, by running the football.

If you tuned in to Tag Wotherspoon and sidekick Mel Berti of WKPT-FM announce the game just 15 seconds after it started, you had already missed a touchdown.

Ferndale's Jake Morris received the opening kickoff at his own 13, found a lane down the right sideline and took it to the barns, escorted by two blockers, for the quick 87-yard score.

Later in the first quarter the Wildcats were threatening again when Crusaders' safety Andrew Ayers drifted to his left and picked off a Jake Morris pass at the one-yard line.

On the very next play, however, the Ferndale D broke through the line, tackling Ayers for a safety, and a 9-0 lead.

The Wildcats took Ayers following free punt and marched back down the field. Jourdan Del Biaggio finished the drive by taking a pitch from Morris around the left side, cut back to the middle, and dragged a tackler with him into the end zone.

St. Bernard's, as expected, could not run against the stiff Ferndale defense -- so adept at stretching out the line and pursuing the ball -- finishing with game with a negative 30 yards on 17 carries.

The visitors, however, had some success in the air.

"We wanted to take every opportunity we could to put the ball in the air," said Crusaders' head coach Ray Watson.

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# Times-Standard

Crusaders' QB Josh Genevro completed 16 of 33 passes -- including eight for 10 or more yards -- for 153 total yards, despite being sacked three times by Oliver Rayl, Ray Emry and Coty Schraeder, and also intercepted by Del Biaggio and Emry.

Del Biaggio, besides his pick, made three open-field tackles on special teams.

"He gets to the ball pretty quick," said Jorgensen.

Genevro's primary recipients were flanker Josh Black, who hauled in six passes for 67 yards, and Ryan Walker, who caught five for 52 yards.

David Del Grande, transitioning to football after a superb soccer season, snagged two Genevro passes for 21 and 15 yards.

Black made an exceptional grab in a third-and-21 situation, pulling down a jump ball for a 24-yard Crusaders' first-down.

But speaking of passes, Ferndale's Morris threw two sharp TD passes in going five-for-six for 102 yards.

In the second quarter, on a first-and-ten, Morris led Jesse Slade perfectly down the left side for a 50-yard scoring bomb. Then in the third quarter, Morris hit Kevin McKay in stride over the middle and the wide receiver, benefiting from a Slade block, took it in from 27 yards out.

The Wildcats, as expected, ran the ball well, picking up 354 rushing yards on 39 carries, and did not have to punt.

Of note is junior Kyle Matyshock's performance at running back -- 119 yards on 11 carries -- filling in for Brice Titus, who left the game in the first quarter with a foot injury.

St. Bernard's (3-7, 0-6 in the Little 4) ends their season having been shut out in their final five games.

Ferndale, at today's NCS seeding meeting, will find out whom they face in next week's opening-round playoff game.

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.  
PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™