

# At the Game

## Tigers - no match for Saintry Indians

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For the superstitious, Friday the 13th is a day that can bring bad luck, a feeling of dread, and a day to avoid, but not for our St. Francis Indians. The Indians, looking confident and focused, overcame the day and a wet and soggy Greene Field to crush the Dundy County-Stratton Tigers 38-0.

In the first quarter the Tigers received the opening kick-off and were penalized on the first play. Three incomplete passes forced them to punt. The Indians took over on the 40 yard line of the Tigers and drove down the field. A potential touchdown was called back when the Indians were called for an illegal block in the back. The Indians were unable to move the ball and turned the ball over to the Tigers on downs. The defense then rose up and stopped the Tigers in 4 plays, forcing them to punt. The offense then took over on the Tigers 33 yard line. Capitalizing on a Tiger penalty the Indians converted a 4th and 1 with Cade Bracelin powering for the first down. Three plays later quarterback Clay Cassaw ran around the right side for the Indians first score. The extra point was good and St. Francis was up 8-0. The defense again stopped the Tigers after a short drive and the first quarter ended with the Indians up 8-0.

The second quarter began with the Indians starting on their own 42 yard line. After a couple of short gains, Derek Queen burst through the Tigers defense for a 46 yard touchdown run. The extra point was run in by Clay Cassaw, and the Indians were up 16-0. The defense was superb with Garrett Brunk and Kyler Zwegardt helping to hold the Tigers to another 3

and out, forcing them to punt. The Indians took over on their own 20 and had a long drive that fizzled out at the Tigers 18 yard line, when the Indians were unable to convert a 4th and 1. Dundy County took over and put together a nice drive before the Indians defense stiffened, with great plays made by Lane Hoffman, causing an incomplete pass; Wyatt Landenberger tipping away a long pass and pressure by Garrett Brunk and Mason Schiltz forcing another incomplete pass. The Tigers turned the ball over on downs on the Indians 27 yard line. In the next Indians possession, fullback Cade Bracelin had a long carry to the Tigers 45 yard line. Two incomplete passes, a couple of short gains and a sack of Clay Cassaw had the Indians turning the ball over on downs at the 50 yard line. The Indians defense held again, led by Garrett Brunk breaking up a long pass attempt; another long pass attempt was completed by the Tigers as the 2nd quarter ended with the Indians up 18-0.

The third quarter began with the Indians receiving the kick-off and starting on their own 9. The Indians then had a great drive led by a combination of running from Cade Bracelin and Wyatt Landenberger. A 40 yard touchdown run off the right side by Derek Queen capped the drive. The extra point was converted by Lane Hobrock and St. Francis was up 24-0. The Tigers received the kick-off and took over on their own 44. Two plays later they were stopped cold, when Clay Cassaw intercepted a pass at the 2 yard line and the Indians again took over deep in their own territory. The St. Francis drive ended on their own 21 when a pitch out was fumbled and recovered by Dundy County.



**GARRETT BRUNK** reaches for extra yards before succumbing to a tackle during Friday night's win against Dundy County-Stratton Tigers.

Herald Staff Photo by Doug Sloper

With the Indians defense backed up, they again showed what they were made of, stopping the Tigers from scoring again when Justin Pacheco stopped a fake field goal attempt. The Indians offense took over again on the 13 yard line. With Derek Queen leading the charge the Indians began another long drive which ended the quarter, with the Indians up 24-0.

As the fourth quarter began the Indians drive appeared to be stopped when quarterback Clay Cassaw was tackled in the backfield on third down for a 14 yard loss. On fourth down the Tigers were caught totally off guard when the Indians faked a punt and Garrett Brunk scampered 55 yards for the Indians fourth touchdown of the night. Cade Bracelin powered in for the extra point and the Indians

were up 32-0. Miscues and a tough Indians defense led by Lane Hobrock making a great tackle on a long pass play again forced the Tigers to turn the ball over on downs. The next Indian possession resulted in another touchdown when Cade Bracelin ran 35 yards into the end zone. Garrett Brunk was stopped short of the goal line and the extra point was no good. The Indians now had an insurmountable 38-0 lead. The next Tiger possession resulted in short gains with them turning the ball over again on downs at the Indians 41 yard line. The Indians took over, and after short gains by Quinton Cravens and Travis Rogers; Cade Bracelin punted the ball, which was downed at the Tigers 5 yard line. The defense held the Tigers to a quick 4 and out, with the ball turned over on

downs. The Indians then ran out the clock and came away with a very convincing first victory of the young season to even their record at 1-1.

Coach Kyle Buffington was happy with the way the team rebounded after last week's loss. "This was a fun game against Dundy Co. We made great strides as a team to overcome the loss we suffered a week ago. We had a great week of practice in which we were most focused on making ourselves a better ball club."

"Dundy County had a much improved team from a year ago and they worked us both defensively and offensively. We came out focused and it was fun to watch these men grow throughout the game and settle in to what Saint Francis football is all about."

"We still made some mistakes, and we still have things to correct, but the difference this week is we overcame almost every moment of adversity on the fly and that was hugely important for our confidence. We need to continue to play game after game with the intensity that we showed in this game to become competitors in post season play, which is each one of ours' goal."

Top Rushers: Derek Queen, 14 carries - 143 yards; Cade Bracelin 13 carries - 94 yards; Garrett Brunk 5 carries - 75 yards; Wyatt Landenberger 15 carries - 74 yards

Total Offense: St. Francis, 492 yards; Dundy County, 182 yards.

The next game for the St. Francis Indians will be against the Johnson-Stanton County Trojans, Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at Greene Field.





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