

At the Game

Indians record second shutout victory at home

By Doug Sloper
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The Saint Francis Indians, behind a stifling defense and “a grind it out big play” offense, recorded their second win and second shutout in a row with a 28-0 blanking of the Stanton County Trojans at Greene Field Friday evening.

The Indians won the toss and elected to receive the kickoff. The Trojans tried an onside kick that went out of bounds and the Indians started on the Stanton County’s 48 yard line.

Big carries by Wyatt Landenberger and Derek Queen put the Indians in great field position. Derek Queen broke through the Stanton County defense and scored the Indians first touchdown. Wyatt Landenberger ran in the extra point and the Indians were up 8-0 early in the contest.

The defense then stopped a short Trojans drive with great plays by Cade Bracelin, Kyler Zwegardt and Lane Hoffman. On fourth down the Trojans tried a fake punt which was stopped by Kyler Zwegardt when he made a great tackle stopping Stanton County short of the first down.

The Indians took over on downs at the Trojans 44 yard line. With Cade Bracelin leading the charge with several strong runs, the Indians offense drove down the field scoring again on a short 4 yard run by Wyatt Landenberger. The extra point was unsuccessful and St. Francis was up 14-0 as the first period winded down.

The next offensive possession by the Trojans was stopped cold, when they were penalized for

holding and two great plays by Derek Queen and Garrett Brunk resulted in losses for the Trojans. The Trojans finally were able to stop the Indians third possession of the quarter when Clay Cassaw was tackled for a loss and Derek Queen was stopped short of the first down. St. Francis turned the ball over on downs to end the first quarter.

The second quarter began with the Trojans and the Indians offense unable to move the ball as both defenses’ rose to make great stops. The second Indians possession of the quarter was stopped on a penalty for an illegal shift.

The defense again rose up stopping the Trojans in 4 plays and Stanton County was forced to turn the ball over on downs. The Indians offense then drove down the field behind good running by Wyatt Landenberger and Derek Queen. The drive was capped off by a 50 yard touchdown pass and run from quarterback Clay Cassaw to tight end Mason Schiltz.

The extra point attempt was no good when Cade Bracelin was stopped short of the goal line.

The next Trojan drive was stopped when Lane Holbrook intercepted a long pass ending the first half with St. Francis in front 20-0.

The third quarter began with the Trojans receiving the kickoff and starting on their own 37-yard line. Holding the ball for almost 10 minutes of the third quarter, Stanton County drove down the field with an impressive drive, highlighted when they completed a long pass to convert a 4th and 15. The drive ended when Garrett Brunk recovered a Trojan fumble



A GREAT HAND-OFF by quarterback Clay Cassaw to running back Cade Bracelin helps move the Indians down the field with Matthew White helping to block the Trojans defensive line at Friday night’s game. *Herald staff photo by Doug Sloper.*

on the 42-yard line.

The Indians next drive appeared to stall when Derek Queen was stopped on a fake punt for no gain. However there were two flags on the play, a personal foul on the Trojans and a dead-ball foul for unsportsmanlike conduct against the Indians.

The personal foul was assessed against the Trojans giving the Indians a first down and new life. The drive continued with Wyatt Landenberger, Cade Bracelin and Derek Queen driving the offense down the field with short consistent gains. The third quarter ended with the Indians up 20-0.

The Indians drive contin-

ued in the fourth quarter with a good run for seven yards by Derek Queen. Quarterback Clay Cassaw running to the left was stopped just short of the goal line. Wyatt Landenberger finished the drive with a one-yard dive. Queen powered in the extra point and the Indians were in front 28-0.

The Indians defense again rose up stopping the Trojans after a short drive when they were stopped on 4th and 9 and turned the ball over on downs. A short Indians drive stalled and the ball was turned over on downs. The defense again stopped Stanton County and the game ended with an Indians victory 28-0.

Coach Kyle Buffington was happy that the team performed well.

“This game against Stanton County was an important one,” he said. “We knew as a ball club with next week being an open game we needed to come out and get us a win to hold on to some momentum to carry us through to district play. We were focused and we came out hot.

“Offensively, I think we settled in a little bit as the game went on rather than burying them deeper. However, we continued to execute critical plays as critical moments.

“Defensively, I felt we played four pretty tough quarters of football. These young men are beginning to show their talents and

if we can ever get four complete quarters of true Indian football put together, it’s going to be fun to watch.”

Top rushers: Derek Queen, 14 carries - 85 yards; Wyatt Landenberger, 15 carries - 74 yards; Cade Bracelin, 14 carries - 69 yards.

Passing: Clay Cassaw, 1 of 2 - 49 yards
Receiving: Mason Schiltz, 1 reception for 49 yards

Total offense: St. Francis 275, (226 rushing, 49 passing)

Next game

The Indians have a bye week for Sept. 27. The next opponent for the St. Francis Indians will be the Oberlin Red Devils on Oct. 4 in Oberlin at 7 p.m.





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