

Dominating offence the factor in Huron Warrior's YRAA championship win



By Jake Courtepatte

The Huron Heights Warriors entered Saturday's YRAA football championship as the overwhelming favourite.

That is not to say that their opponents, the St. Maximilian Kolbe Mustangs, were not worthy opponents; despite reaching the Tier 1 final for the first time in just a six-year tenure, the Mustangs dominated the remaining York Region competition this season, outscoring all but Huron 97 ? 26 throughout fall play.

But an unorthodox offensive strategy wasn't enough to fool the tried-and-tested methods that have made the Warriors program the powerhouse it is.

A 29-yard field goal off the foot of kicker Jack Camplin was all the Mustangs offence could muster, while the Warriors rode an explosive second quarter en route to a 42 ? 3 victory.

The atmosphere looked like an American football movie classic, with hundreds of fans coming out to cheer both sides under the lights of St. Max's state-of-the-art field. Huron took first possession, using their size and strength to rumble more than 80 yards downfield, a drive eating up most of the first quarter.

Quarterback Colin Grant snuck in from the three-yard line for the major, the first of four touchdowns for the eventual game MVP.

The Mustangs countered with a strong first drive of their own, led by the bullet of an arm on quarterback Ben Langlois, whose offence employed an interesting hurry-up strategy that had his side lining up just seconds before the snap.

It seemed to be working, with the ball on the Huron 19 after an unnecessary roughness call on the defence, but the Mustangs had to settle for the field goal at the start of the second quarter.

From there, it was all Warriors. Huron put up three more touchdowns in the quarter, as well as a field goal, for a 31 ? 3 lead at the half.

On the other side of the ball, Langlois' offence couldn't rally after halftime, giving up a pick-six as well as two safeties in the final two quarters for an end score of 42 ? 3.

Mustangs head coach had nothing but good things to say about his team's season after the game, and rightfully so.

?We were up against one of the top teams in the country. They played their hearts out and I'm proud of what they were able to accomplish this year.?

Ending the YRAA season with a perfect 6 ? 0 record, Huron's quest for provincial gold has the team ranked 15th overall in the nation on www.canadafootballchat.com, and eighth provincially.

This year marked the 12th straight YRAA Tier 1 final appearance for the senior Warriors, and the seventh title in that time.

The Warriors advance to meet the Northern Ontario champion Superior Heights Steelhawks in the Simcoe Bowl, set for Dec. 1 at 10.30 a.m. at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Superior Heights put up 48 points of their own in a 48 ? 21 win over the Widdield Wildcats to win the NOSSA division. The team from Sault St. Marie enters the game ranked 20th in Canada.