

WASHINGTON, T.D.



Fox Lane's Michael Washington
Runs for Four Touchdowns Friday
in a 46-15 Rout of Horace Greeley

Wildcats Earn First Victory With a Rout of Red Hook

By Andy Jacobs

After getting blanked in the season opener a week ago, Westlake football coach John Castellano figured it was just a matter of time before points would start to pile up for his young and inexperienced team.

"You just needed to pop that balloon," he was saying late Saturday afternoon following the Wildcats' second game of the year. "And once it popped, I knew we could get going a little bit."

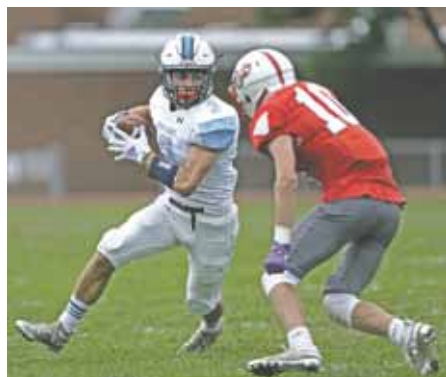
As it turned out, it was more like a dam bursting. The Wildcats erupted for four touchdowns in the second quarter and went on to a 41-14 rout of the host Red Hook Raiders. Senior quarterback Jason Ausiello tossed a pair of touchdown passes and junior Matt Sardo scampered 88 yards for another score during the first-half blitz that paved the way to Westlake's first win of the year.

"I liked the way we played defensively," said Castellano, "but I think the key today was our offense finally getting on track. It was crazy at the beginning. I got a little nervous because we're in the first quarter, nothing's happening."

Westlake was fortunate that the Raiders from Section Nine didn't get on the scoreboard first. Their talented quarterback, Dylan Bayliss, who threw five touchdown passes in a loss at Burke Catholic the week before, narrowly missed connecting for a long TD to Anthony Abbatiello on the opening drive of the game when his pass slipped through the outstretched finger tips of the senior wide receiver.

"The kid threw for 415 yards last week," said Castellano about Bayliss. "So our goal was to keep him controlled. He does a great job of extending the plays. So we tried to throw a couple different coverages at him. I think we had him confused early and got some picks."

In all, the Wildcats intercepted three Bayliss passes. By the time Andrew Llamas



The Wildcats' Nick Gorman tries to evade a tackle in the second quarter of Saturday's 41-14 win at Red Hook High School.

rose high in the air in the secondary to grab the first one, Westlake had already broken through to take the lead. The Wildcats went 29 yards in five plays, scoring on a 10-yard run by Sardo 45 seconds into the second quarter. The point-after kick by Josh Gelman gave them a 7-0 lead.

The interception by Llamas on Red Hook's next possession set up the Wildcats at the Raider 3-yard line. On third down, Ausiello, who wound up completing all eight of his passes, rolled to his right and then tossed to Nick Gorman for a one-yard touchdown. Gelman's PAT extended the Westlake advantage to 14-0 with 7:48 left in the half.

Red Hook soon managed to pick up a first down at midfield on a fake punt, but then had to relinquish the ball after three straight incomplete passes. The Raider punt rolled to the Wildcats' 12-yard line. On first down, Sardo, who shared time with Ausiello at quarterback, slipped past the line of scrimmage and galloped 88 yards down the middle of the field for another Wildcat touchdown. With 4:46 to go before halftime, Westlake's lead was suddenly 21-0.

Red Hook's first-half misery wasn't quite finished yet. On a third-and-11 play, a pass by Bayliss was tipped in traffic and then intercepted by the Wildcats' Hamad Azhar. The turnover led to a seven-play, 58-yard



Westlake junior Andrew Llamas runs with the football after making a first-half interception against the Red Hook Raiders.



Westlake junior Matt Sardo races up the middle of the field on his way to an 88-yard touchdown during the Wildcats' win at Red Hook.

scoring drive that began with a 31-yard run by Eric Nieves and ended with Ausiello throwing eight yards to Sardo in the right side of the end zone with just nine seconds left on the clock. The teams left the field at halftime with Westlake ahead 28-0.

If there was one play that bothered Castellano on Saturday, it came at the start of the third quarter when Red Hook recovered its own squib kickoff at the Westlake 37-yard line.

"I was a little upset when we started the second half," he said, "because I said to 'em they're gonna onside kick. We had the hands team out there and we didn't do a good job with that. But we made a good defensive stop. We made a great interception and then we popped it and I felt pretty good."

The Wildcats' third interception was made by a sliding James Murray along the left sideline, setting the table for a seven-play, 71-yard drive highlighted by a 27-yard run by Llamas and Ausiello's 14-yard run up the middle for a touchdown that stretched the Westlake cushion to 34-0 less than five minutes into the second half.

Red Hook finally got on the board with 4:39 left in the third quarter when Hayden Campolong rumbled 25 yards to cap a four-play, 61-yard drive. But just over two minutes later, the Wildcats struck again as Ausiello dashed left 25 yards for another touchdown. The point-after by Bailey Rodgers increased the Westlake margin to 41-7.

The fourth quarter brought a sudden and heavy downpour, along with a too-little and too-



Westlake senior quarterback Jason Ausiello (center) is greeted by teammates after scoring a touchdown in the victory at Red Hook.

late touchdown pass by Bayliss, who was limited to 111 yards in the air after his huge first game at Burke.

Castellano conceded afterwards that he may have overwhelmed his young team with too much to think about before they opened the season with the 7-0 setback at Pearl River.

"Last week, 10 of 11 kids on offense were playing their first varsity game, and it showed," he said. "You could see it in their eyes, you could see it in the way we approached offense. This week, we simplified things offensively. We got back to basic stuff. We went on the practice field and said, 'Hey, listen, we've got enough talent here, we've got enough athletes that can make things happen, let's not try to confuse ourselves. Let's just do what we do best.'"



The Westlake defensive unit of, left to right, Matt Sardo, Thomas Marto and Nick Gorman gang up to tackle Red Hook's Gavin Cole in Saturday's game won by the Wildcats.



Nick Martinez of Westlake breaks through the line of scrimmage as he carries the football on Saturday afternoon.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Fox Lane Scores Early and Often to Overwhelm the Quakers

By Andy Jacobs

Michael Washington probably wouldn't mind if all of Fox Lane's football games were played on Friday the 13th under a full moon.

The senior running back rushed for 141 yards and four touchdowns, leading the Foxes to a 46-15 rout of visiting Horace Greeley in Friday night's latest clash between the neighboring rivals. Three of his TDs came in the game's opening half when Fox Lane was opening up an insurmountable 34-0 advantage en route to its second straight victory to start the 2019 season.

"He's a big, strong running back," said Fox Lane head coach Bill Broggy about Washington, who scored on runs of 12, 9 and 4 yards before halftime. "He's a great back, so you've just gotta give him the ball. You know he's gonna break 'em every once in a while."

Fox Lane took control of the contest on its first possession of the evening, using up nearly five minutes of the clock and marching 59 yards on 10 plays. Washington carried the ball half a dozen times on the drive, which ended with senior quarterback Spencer Rowley rolling to his right and passing to Lucas Friedman in the right side of the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown. Rowley's point-after kick gave the Foxes a 7-0 lead just past the midway point of the opening quarter.

After Greeley went three-and-out for the second straight time, the Foxes took possession of the ball at the Quakers' 33-yard line. Six plays later, Washington raced up the middle 12 yards for his first touchdown of the game. The PAT from Rowley gave Fox Lane a 14-0 advantage with 1:34 to go in the first quarter.

On the last play of the period, a third-and-eight pass by Greeley's Brent Rosendorf was picked off by Randy Ventura Velasquez just past midfield. On first down, Thomas Olsen's 46-yard touchdown jaunt was nullified by a penalty. But just two plays later, Rowley, who finished 7-for-7 throwing the ball, connected with Marcial Vasquez for



Greeley quarterback Brent Rosendorf searches for an open receiver as he runs out of the pocket near midfield on Friday evening.

a 55-yard touchdown.

The Quakers again were stopped quickly by the Fox Lane defense. Taking over at their own 39-yard line, the Foxes needed just two minutes to go 61 yards for another touchdown. The quick drive began with a 44-yard run down the right sideline by Washington and ended with him blasting nine yards up the middle. The kick by Rowley gave the Foxes a 28-0 cushion with 6:35 left in the half.

Greeley finally managed to collect a first down when Mike Meringolo scrambled for a 19-yard gain. An 11-yard pass play to Danny Meringolo moved the ball into Fox Lane territory for the first time, but the drive was ended by three incompletions and a combined sack of Rosendorf by Dean Caico and Griffin Zegras.

The Foxes all but put the game out of reach when they closed the half by moving the ball 45 yards in seven plays. Washington powered his way through the line the last four yards with just 30 seconds left on the clock, stretching the lead to 34-0.

Asked afterwards what kind of encouragement he could give his overwhelmed team at halftime, Greeley coach Joe Kearns said, "The message was actually that we could get back in this thing. We knew that we were a better team than the way we were playing. So the message wasn't anything about pride, to be honest. It was still about winning the game, despite the score. And even though that didn't happen, we responded in the second half with much better defense and a couple of scoring drives."



Fox Lane quarterback Spencer Rowley throws on the run for a first-half touchdown in Friday night's home win.

The Quakers, still scoreless after six quarters this season, finally managed to put some points on the board five minutes into the second half. A 39-yard punt return by Mike Meringolo set up a six-play, 36-yard drive that featured two Rosendorf completions to Isak Davydov and then a 12-yard touchdown run by Thomas Brennan. An improbable Meringolo to Meringolo pass play after a high snap then provided Greeley with a two-point conversion.

But Washington's fourth touchdown of the night, from four yards out again, three and a half minutes later enabled the Foxes to take a 40-8 lead into the final quarter. Christian Horvath, who finished with 104 yards on 22 carries, ran three yards for Fox Lane's final touchdown of the game with 7:22 remaining. Greeley closed the scoring on Mike Meringolo's impressive cutback 30-yard touchdown run and Brennan's extra point with 5:42 to go.



The Foxes' Thomas Olsen finds plenty of running room as he races up the field in the second quarter against Greeley.

"We played well in the second half last week (an 8-2 win at Tappan Zee) and I think we wanted to build on that, and we did," said Broggy. "We were a young team last week, so there was a lot of nervous energy in the first half. We made some mistakes, got some penalties. We were behind the sticks and cleaned that up. And you could see what we can do when we don't have penalties and stuff."

As for the Quakers, who were also crushed by Somers in last week's opener and have already surrendered 100 points this season, there was the small consolation of finally scoring their first touchdowns of 2019.

"It was priceless," said Kearns about finding the end zone in the third quarter. "We needed it, and it was a start to what we're trying to do this year, which is to get better every week. We got better this week than we were last week. Our job now is to get better next week."



Christian Horvath of Fox Lane finished with over 100 yards on the ground against the Greeley Quakers.



Horace Greeley's Mike Meringolo runs past Jordan Sauro of Fox Lane during Friday night's game.



Fox Lane's Michael Washington carries the football in the first half of Friday night's game vs. Greeley. He scored four touchdowns in the Foxes' 46-15 win.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Fox Lane's Ally Waldman moves forward to hit a backhand volley in her match at second singles last week against host Horace Greeley.



Fox Lane's Leah Tuluca lines up a backhand return during her match at first singles last Wednesday at Greeley High School.



Nevis Devulyte of Fox Lane moves the ball across the field in the second half against visiting Mt. Vernon.



Fox Lane's Tyrese McLaughlin controls the ball in last Wednesday's home game against Mt. Vernon.



Coco Baek of Greeley sends a backhand return across the net in her match at second singles last Wednesday afternoon.



Saul Sagastume Gonzalez of Fox Lane keeps his eyes on the ball while in a crowd late in the second half of last Wednesday's overtime win over Mt. Vernon.



Allesandra Brittis-Tannenbaum of Fox Lane follows through on a serve while playing third singles last week against host Greeley.



Fox Lane goalkeeper Charles Della Penna makes a save in traffic during the second half of last Wednesday's home game.



Fox Lane junior Sumil Srivastava gets control of the ball near midfield in last Wednesday's home win over Mt. Vernon.



Nora Goodman of Greeley smacks a backhand in her match at third singles vs. visiting Fox Lane.



Horace Greeley first-singles player Ella Fink reaches to hit a forehand return in last Wednesday's home match against Fox Lane.



Pleasantville's Sophie Ruhl celebrates after scoring on a penalty stroke in Friday's home game.



Westlake sophomore Jennifer Straface gets control of the ball in the second half of Friday's game against Blind Brook.



Pleasantville's Ryan Sullivan advances the ball up the field during Friday's home loss to White Plains.



The Pleasantville field hockey defense guards the goal during a White Plains penalty corner late in Friday's game won by the visiting Tigers.



Paola Castro of Pleasantville is poised to receive a pass during a Panther penalty corner against White Plains.



Nicole Karaqi takes the ball across the field in Westlake's 1-0 victory against Blind Brook.



Jacqueline Andrews of Westlake boots the ball away during Friday's 1-0 win against visiting Blind Brook.



Westlake senior Lea Bonsignore looks for an open teammate to pass to during Friday's game.



Westlake's Guiliana Piazza settles the ball in the second half of Friday's home game.



Pleasantville's Caitlin Rubsamen considers her options before sending a free hit up the field against the White Plains Tigers.



Annika Aikens of Pleasantville races after the ball near midfield during Friday afternoon's home game.



Natalie Laskowski considers her options as she controls the ball during a Quaker penalty corner in the second half.



The Quakers' Grace Arrese chases after the ball late in the first half of last week's showdown against defending Section 1 champion Mamaroneck.



Greeley players celebrate after scoring their lone goal in last week's 1-1 tie vs. Mamaroneck.



Greeley head coach Sandhu Sukhwinder directs the Quakers as they control the ball against the visiting Tigers.



Greeley senior Isabelle Klein surveys the field as she moves the ball up the right sideline.



Horace Greeley junior Stephanie Kasulka gets set to send the ball up the field in the first half of last Tuesday's 1-1 tie vs. visiting Mamaroneck.



Talia Belowich of Greeley moves the ball up the field against Mamaroneck defensive pressure.



Greeley senior Sophia Rutman sends the ball in the direction of the Mamaroneck goal during the second half of last Tuesday's game that ended in a 1-1 tie.



Greeley's Lily Schoonmaker and Mamaroneck's Amanda Zorbib both set their sights on the nearby ball in the second half of last week's big game.



The Horace Greeley bench looks on anxiously in the latter stages of the second half of last Tuesday's game.



Greeley players, left to right, Caroline Flannery, Grace Arrese and Sophia Rutman await a Quaker penalty corner vs. visiting Mamaroneck, the team that defeated them in the last two sectional finals.

Briarcliff/Hamilton Tops Irvington in Shootout to Move to 2-0

By Rob DiAntonio

Following an Irvington touchdown pass and two-point-conversion run, Briarcliff/Hamilton trailed by a point with less than seven minutes to play on Saturday afternoon. To make matters worse, star quarterback Nick Reish limped off the field.

But Reish went right back in and found Brandon Rispoli on the ensuing series for what was the play of the young season for the Bears. His third-down pass was tipped, but Rispoli was still able to make the one-handed highlight-reel grab and jet 81 yards up the right sideline for a touchdown.

"It was tipped and then I just had to slow down a little bit," Rispoli said of the touchdown. "Nick just got the throw off as he was getting hit, which was insane. I did my thing and just took it to the house."

Briarcliff/Hamilton then held on for a 36-29 win over the visiting Bulldogs to improve to 2-0.

"We have a great group of kids," Briarcliff coach Skip Stevens said. "They get along very well and believe in what we're trying to teach. I think they believe they're in every game right until the very end."

Reish explained his perspective on the pivotal touchdown pass to Rispoli.

"We ran a simple out route and Brandon made a big play," Reish said. "That was really the Gillette turning point of the game for us. I was sprinting down the sideline and I was just looking back to make sure there weren't any flags. I knew he was gone. He's a fast kid."

Following Rispoli's score, Reish hit Jackson Mauro for a two-point-conversion pass over the middle to extend the lead to 30-23 with 6:07 to go.

"Our captains, Nick Reish and Conor Gualtiere, they keep us cool and our coaches know what they're doing," Rispoli said of how they kept their composure when they trailed in the fourth quarter. "Every time we go down, we just know that we're going to bounce back."

Irvington had a fourth-down drop on its next possession that turned the ball over. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the Bulldogs had the Bears in business at Irvington's 34-yard line. A Reish run got them down to the 20 and then he scored from 14 yards out to make it 36-23 with just 36 seconds to spare.

Irvington never gave in during the back-and-forth affair and scored on a deep touchdown pass with 16 seconds left. But Taylor Primack recovered the ensuing onside kick and Briarcliff/Hamilton took a knee as the clock ran out.

It was another big day for Reish. He completed 19 of 31 pass attempts for 264 yards and four touchdowns. He also had 16 carries for 81 yards and a score. Reish has 522 yards passing through two games.



Bears quarterback Nick Reish gets off a pass as Irvington's Jake Stein closes in.

Rispoli caught six passes for 179 yards and three touchdowns. Mauro had 11 catches for 67 yards and a score.

"This program has really come a long way," Reish said. "We changed the culture around here and a lot of talent wants to come out and play football now. We're finally getting the benefits from that. This is the first year I've seen it where we have so many weapons on offense."

Briarcliff took a 6-0 lead on a 35-yard touchdown pass from Reish to Rispoli on the opening possession of the game. But Irvington responded with 15 straight points and held that lead until late in the first half.

Reish then connected with Rispoli again, and he sprinted down the sideline and dove for the pylon, scoring on the 34-yard touchdown pass. The senior quarterback found Mauro in the left corner of the end zone for the conversion, cutting Irvington's lead to 15-14 with 2:36 left in the half.

The Bears came out with vigor in the third quarter, forcing a Bulldog three-and-out. Reish hit Rispoli on a pass to get them down



Jaylen Savage and Jackson Mauro celebrate Mauro's third-quarter touchdown.



Brandon Rispoli returns a punt during a Week Two game with Irvington last Saturday.

to the Irvington 35. Two runs from Reish moved the Bears to the 9-yard line and the gunslinger hit Mauro in the left corner of the end zone. The junior leaped, caught the ball and kept both feet in bounds. Reish's two-point-conversion pass to Chris Beard made it 22-15 Bears with 7:41 left in the third.

"That was huge and completely changed the momentum of the game," Reish said. "They were kind of grounding and pounding us. We came out (in the third quarter) and we knew we could stop their run game. Mentally, I knew our defense could hold them again, and I think they kind of loosened me up and loosened our offense up."

Irvington marched down the field, but had a touchdown pass called back on a block in the back. Jaylen Savage made a pivotal interception for the Bears to hold the Bulldogs at bay.



Briarcliff quarterback Nick Reish heads up the field during the home win over the Bulldogs.

The Bears will look to improve to 3-0 when they host Edgemont at 1:30 on Saturday, Sept. 21.

"There's no team that's going to stop us once we start clicking," Rispoli said. "We're not losing a game. That's what we've been talking about all year. We know how good we can be and we don't want to lose a single game."

Stevens, though, isn't looking too far down the road.

"It's one game at a time," he said. "We wanted to play a little bit better than last week. On defense, we definitely did. On offense, I don't think we did. I think we can get a little bit better on both sides of the ball. I thought on special teams we're still not where we need to be. Every week, we need to get a little bit better and hopefully come out with a 'W' when we get out there."



Conor Gualtiere, Brandon Rispoli, Jake Fogel and Jordan Dillon chase down an Irvington back.

ROB DANTONIO PHOTOS



WILDCAT WEAPON

**Jason Ausiello's Runs and Passes
Lead Westlake to an Easy Victory
at Red Hook on Saturday Afternoon**

