

Dexter Gridders Drop Opener

By Don Richter, Sports Editor

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Dexter football opened the 2008 season losing 62-21 to host Adrian last Friday night.

The Maples (1-0) have one of their best teams in years, with three to four legitimate Division I players suiting up in Blue and White this season.

"They had too much speed for us," said Dexter coach Tom Barbieri. "We knew going in they'd be a good team. They have a lot of experience."

Adrian jumped out to an early 21-0 first quarter lead.

Senior halfback Nick Galvan opened the scoring for the Maples scampering in for an 11-yard run at the 10:10 mark of the first frame.

At 5:21 of the first quarter, senior Jamel Jenkins scored on a 21-yard pass from junior quarterback Drew Collins. With the touchdown and ensuing extra point, Adrian led 14-0.

On Dexter's next possession, the Maples intercepted a pass deep in Dreadnaught territory.

Moments later, Collins scored on a six-yard TD run giving the Maples a 21-0 advantage with 4:59 remaining in the first quarter.

Dexter answered scoring on the last play of the first quarter as senior quarterback Andy Whitaker (6-foot-1, 188 pounds) hooked up with senior Tate Sanders for a four-yard touchdown pass. The score capped a seven-play drive.

Steve Muchmore kicked the extra point for the Dreadnaughts, cutting Adrian's lead to 21-7 entering the second quarter.

Though elated to be back in the game, Dexter also was deflated as standout senior running back Mike McCarthy (5-11, 190) was injured during the drive.

"Mike broke his collarbone," Barbieri said. "He's out for the season. He was playing great."

In the second quarter, the Maples put the game away scoring four unanswered touchdowns.

At 10:14 of the second stanza, sophomore wideout Mikale Perez hauled in a 35-yard TD pass from Collins increasing Adrian's lead to 28-7.

Less than two minutes later, senior Tyler Graham scored on a one-yard run for the Maples.

Highly recruited back senior Undra Peterson (6-1, 195) broke free for a 58-yard touchdown run at 6:08 of the second quarter, bumping Adrian's advantage to 42-7.

With 1:58 remaining in the first half, Peterson scored his second TD of the game, this time darting in from 11 yards out for a 49-7 Maple lead at the break.

In the third quarter, Peterson scored touchdown No. 3 as he exploded for a 65-yard run.

In the fourth quarter, the Dreadnaughts hit paydirt as sophomore Sequohay Burke-Combs scored on a one-yard TD dive. The extra point was missed, closing the gap to 56-13 with 7:58 left on the clock.

At 3:02 of the fourth quarter, Perez caught a five-yard touchdown pass from quarterback senior Taylor Hines for a 62-14 advantage.

With 38 seconds remaining in the game, Dexter junior quarterback Alex McMurray connected with senior receiver Tommy Owens for a 55-yard touchdown pass. McMurray added the two-point conversion for the night's final 62-21 margin.

McCarthy led the Dreadnaughts with 48 yards rushing on three attempts. Burke-Combs added 23 yards on eight carries, while Sanders had 13 yards on three attempts and junior Henry Haley 12 yards on one rush.

Whitaker finished 16-of-32 passing for 134 yards and one TD and one interception. McMurray was 2-for-3 for 57 yards and one touchdown.

Receiving-wise senior Josh Abbott led Dexter with six receptions for 60 yards. Muchmore had three catches for 15 yards, while junior Alex Dobbs had two receptions for 21 yards and Steve Zalucha two catches for 19 yards.

Defensively, senior linebacker Chris Kotsones (5-11, 210) led the Dreadnaughts with eight tackles.

Senior Scott Crompton added five tackles, while junior Mason Mabry and senior Damon Henderson each recorded four stops and junior Dillon Kipke three tackles with one sack for Dexter.

The Dreadnaughts next host Ypsilanti Lincoln (1-0) in their home opener at Al Ritt Field 7 p.m. Friday. The Railsplitters defeated Tecumseh 38-22 last week.

"We need to bounce back against Lincoln," Barbieri said. "They have a lot of momentum after beating Tecumseh."

Lincoln is led by junior quarterback Andrew Dillon (6-4, 195), a do-everything-type-player for the Rails, who can hurt opponents with his arm or scrambling ability.

"Dillon is good," Barbieri said. "And they have a good offensive line."

Barbieri said Dexter fans needed to come out to the game in droves.

"It's going to be a great game," he said. "We need all of our fans to come out and be loud and vocal. It's an important game for us. We're looking to pick up our first win."

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