

## **Dexter loses quarterback Alex McMurray, but comes back to beat Ypsilanti**

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Dexter High School quarterback Alex McMurray left Friday's game at Ypsilanti with a broken right foot. Dexter went on to win 14-13. - (Mark Bialek for AnnArbor.com)

The Dexter High School football team looked on Friday like it had taken notes from the school's basketball team on how to play keep away.

Dexter held Ypsilanti scoreless on just three second-half possessions, and hung on for a 14-13 win, despite losing senior quarterback Alex McMurray to a severe injury in the second quarter.

After Ypsilanti went ahead 13-0 in the second quarter, senior Henry Haley replaced McMurray and led the Dreadnaughts to a come-from-behind win.

"He came through in a clutch situation," Dexter coach Tom Barbieri said. "We lost our quarterback in the second quarter, but we came out and dominated in the second half and won the game."

Ypsilanti quarterback Terrance Moore hit junior Harrison Porterfield for a 45-yard screen pass that set up a 5-yard touchdown run by Devon Thompson with 8:56 left in the second.

Later in the second, Porterfield broke loose for a 35-yard run that gave Ypsilanti its two-touchdown advantage.

The game turned, though, when McMurray went down with 5:13 left in the second quarter. McMurray broke his right fibula, Barbieri said, and was transported via ambulance to University of Michigan Hospital after a half-hour delay in the game.

"The offensive line just said, 'Let's put the game on our shoulders,'" Barbieri said.

On Dexter's next drive, the line made good on its promise, opening up a hole for running back Alex Dobbs, who went 31 yards for Dexter's first score.

Trailing 13-7 in the third quarter, Dexter went on a 70-yard, 19-play drive that took 10:01 off the clock. The drive ended when Henry Haley, who replaced McMurray, ran 2 yards up the middle for a touchdown, giving Dexter a 14-13 lead.

Ypsilanti got the ball for just the third time with 1:18 left in the fourth. Starting at the 45-yard line, Ypsilanti appeared to be in a good position to drive for the winning score.

But Dexter senior Brent Pace tipped Moore's second pass with his right hand, watched the ball bounce into the air, and came down with it for an interception with 50 seconds left.

"Our defense got great pressure on the quarterback, I put my hands up and came down with it," Pace said. "I saw it all the way up and down."

Junior Sequoyah Burke-Combs rushed for 89 yards on 25 carries, Dillon Kipke rushed for 56 yards on three carries and Dobbs finished with 51 yards for Dexter (2-4, 1-3 SEC).

"I think what it came down to was us just wanting it, and having something to fight for, and that was Alex," Burke-Combs said. "We rallied together and said, 'We've got a brother down, we've got to rally for him and take it home.'"

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