

Dred Domination
Dexter Leader
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In one of the most dominating performances Dexter football has ever turned in on Al Ritt Field, the Dreadnaughts last Friday defeated visiting Garden City 43-0 in the season opener for both teams.

"We played today the way we practiced all week," said Dexter coach Tom Barbieri. "We went into the game with four goals. We wanted to block, tackle, execute and not make mistakes. The kids accomplished all four things."

Junior Sequoyah Burke-Combs got Dexter's momentum rolling early as he scored on a 30-yard run minutes into the first quarter for a 6-0 Dreadnaught advantage.

With 16 seconds left in the first quarter, Dexter senior quarterback Alex McMurray scored on a 2-yard keeper. Junior Travis Chaffee scored on a 2-point conversion run, upping the Dreads' lead to 14-0.

At 7:38 of the second quarter, McMurray scored on a 67-yard run around left end. The 6-foot-2, 200-pound senior showed his speed out-running the Cougar defenders to the end zone. Sophomore Jake Haviland (6-3, 195) caught the 2-point conversion pass from McMurray for a 22-0 Dexter lead.

On the final play of the first half, McMurray turned in one of the best plays in years. After dropping back to pass, he felt pressure to his left. In response to the pressure, he began scrambling to his right and just before being tackled from behind he pitched the ball to Burke-Combs who then sprinted 39 yards for a touchdown.

The point after touchdown kick by junior Kyle Karagitz was good and the Dreadnaughts led 29-0 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Chaffee caught a short dump pass from McMurray and darted 46 yards for a touchdown. Karagitz's PAT was good and Dexter increased its advantage to 36-0 with 7:10 left in the third frame.

With 3:48 remaining in the third quarter, sophomore Mark Wajda scored on a 7-yard run over the right side of the line for a TD. Karagitz split the uprights for the night's final 43-0 score.

Besides the offense playing well, Barbieri gave credit to his defense for recording a shutout.

"We tried to put pressure on them (Garden City) defensively," he said. "We tackled well. We were able to make some plays."

On offense, Barbieri said his team executed well.

"We ran a lot of option," he said. "We felt they were so aggressive on the perimeter that we could pull them in and get outside."

Dexter senior offensive guard Ryan Wesley, who celebrated a birthday last Friday, said beating Garden City was a great feeling.

"I love starting out the season with a win," he said. "We worked hard in practice. We all gave 100 percent in practice. Up front, we all work as one single unit. The best gift tonight was having my teammates right there beside me during our win."

The Dreadnaughts next travel to Ann Arbor Pioneer (1-0) for a game Thursday at 7 p.m.

"They have a great player in Ricardo Miller (6-3, 210 receiver) who's going to U-M," Barbieri said. "And (Brandis) Yarrington is a fine player, as well. They're big on the D-line and the O-line. It'll be quite a test for us. We'll go into the short week and get ready for Thursday."

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