

Huron football posts first SEC win with 44-21 victory over Dexter

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Huron's Nate Scott had 48 rushing yards and 58 receiving yards against Dexter. - (Eliyahu Gurfinkel)

For six days, John Heaton carried the weight of a disappointing overtime loss on his shoulders, determined to salvage what had all the makings of a tumultuous senior season. So when his Huron High School coaches pleaded for a fast start, the veteran quarterback took the request upon himself.

Heaton's 6-yard touchdown run on the River Rats' first possession set off a string of seven point-producing drives in a 44-21 victory over Dexter at Riverbank Stadium on Friday night.

By night's end, six different Huron players had scored in the River Rats' first Southeastern Conference victory.

"We thought we could score every time we touched the ball," said Heaton, who also threw for 291 yards and a touchdown. "We knew we had to come out and get a win. Our season is over if we start 0-3." Heaton and his supporting cast made sure that didn't happen.

After the Dreadnaughts trimmed an early Huron 10-point lead to just three late in the second quarter, the River Rats again rose to the challenge. Huron (1-2, 1-2 SEC) scored twice in the final 3:43 of the first half – first on a 5-yard Bradford King touchdown run and then on a 15-yard Heaton pass to Jeremy Jackson. The River Rats were just warming up. Julian Foster's 19-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter built the Huron lead to 38-7, quickly putting all thoughts of a 0-3 start behind the River Rats.

"Our coaches said we must win this game," said Huron wide receiver Jeremy Jackson, who tallied 151 yards on seven catches. "This was our game of the year and we played like it."

Meanwhile, Dexter (1-2, 1-2 SEC) struggled to get anything going. With its defense continually on the field trying to stop Huron's bevy of offensive weapons, the Dreadnaughts offense couldn't string much together after Sequoyah Burke-Combs' 7-yard touchdown run.

"Our lack of being able to move the football hurt us," Dexter coach Tom Barbieri said. "It was a team thing – the offense hurt the defense and the defense hurt the offense. "We let (Huron's) good athletes control the game."

Dexter managed two late scores on a pair of Alex McMurray touchdown passes, but the late flurry wasn't nearly enough.

Foster put the game away with his second touchdown – this time on a 45-yard scoring sprint.

The collection of scoring proved to be the perfect remedy for back-to-back losses to start the season. "You learn from your losses," Huron coach Joel Przygodski said. "Our biggest focal point this week was just finishing games and I thought we did that."