

## Pioneer Holds off Upset Bid by Dexter

*Antoine Pitts,  
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A week after a lopsided loss to Chelsea, Dexter rebounded to put a scare into the area's No. 1-ranked team Friday night.

Pioneer broke a tie with touchdowns on two of its first three possessions of the second half and came away with a 28-21 victory.

The Pioneers (5-1, 4-1 Southeastern Conference Red Division) got three passing touchdowns and a rushing touchdown on the road from senior quarterback Nader Furrha.

Tied 14-14 at the half, Furrha ran for a 6-yard touchdown in the third quarter and connected deep with Ricky Griffin on a 34-yard score on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Dexter (1-5, 1-5 SEC White) got back to within a touchdown after a 4-yard run by Sequoyah Burke-Combs with 5:21 left, but it never got the ball back.

"You know, we got the win," Pioneer coach Jeremy Gold said. "We wanted to win and stay healthy.

"Did we play well for 48 minutes? No, but I thought we played well in the second half to get the win. Our defense stepped it up and we're moving the ball well."

Furrha's first touchdown was an 11-yard pass to Ricky Griffin after the Pioneer recovered a fumble on the game's opening drive.

Furrha put Pioneer up 14-7 after a 25-yard touchdown to Jon Wade in the second quarter.

"The only reason that's possible is because of our O line," said Furrha, who finished with 96 yards passing and 61 yards rushing. "They did a good job, and we have to give credit to those guys every game."

Dexter quarterback Alex McMurray finished two time-consuming drives in the first half with touchdown runs. He also threw for 117 yards as the Dreadnaughts went into the half with momentum.

"They're a pretty good team, but our kids were bound and determined to win this one," Dexter coach Tom Barbieri said. "I thought we did a good job of controlling the clock, which was part of our game plan."

Gold talks with his players all the time about not looking beyond the current week. After slipping by Dexter, the Pioneers can now look forward to their home showdown against Chelsea, the SEC White leader and the area's No. 3 team.

"We're not good enough to look ahead at all," Gold said. "And that's the reason we're 5-1 at this point."

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