

Avon Grove rolls to a 42-24 victory over W.C. East

The Red Devils, who improved to 3-3 overall with the win, will host their homecoming game this Saturday against Downingtown West.

By Ryan Bright; Special to the sun

West Chester East's Chris McCormick ran for three touch-downs and 202 yards, but the senior's effort wasn't nearly enough to stop the Avon Grove High School football team from cranking out a 42-24 ChesMont League win over the visiting Vikings last Friday night. "We've been close in every game and somehow can't pull it out and finish," said a visibly upset McCormick. "We just need to go back to practice and work on finishing games."

The Red Devils' Jordan Harris, on the other hand, knows a thing or two about finishing. The talented running back churned out 121 yards and scored three TDs.

"Once we get ahead, we can do some damage," said Harris. "We wanted to start fast. Getting up early is something we've been working on in practice and that's what we did today, get on top early and don't let up. This was a big game and should get our team back on track."

With Avon Grove leading 14-7 with 9:58 left in the third quarter, Harris blew the game open for the Red Devils (3-3 overall, 1-2 Ches-Mont). Taking the ball and bouncing off an offensive lineman, Harris ducked around the left side and cruised into the end zone for a 40-yard touch-down to give the Devils a commanding 21-7 lead over the Vikings (1-5 overall, 0-3 league).

"I was just running," Harris said. "The hole collapsed, and I bounced it outside and just ran."

"Harris is a player," said Avon Grove head coach Marvin Dooley. "Having him in the backfield is good for us because he makes people miss tackles. Tonight was the first time he got the ball a lot, and he did a great job."

McCormick, though, wasn't about to quit. With 5:27 left in the third quarter, he converted a draw play into a 76-yard scoring run to draw the Vikings to within 21-14.

"They got up on us, and I knew we would need the momentum back," McCormick said. "The play was called up the middle, and I saw the hole and hit it. After I scored and got back to the sidelines, everyone was fired up, and I thought that momentum would bring good things. But it just didn't work out for us today."

After a big defensive stop on the ensuing Avon Grove possession, the Vikings got the ball back with all the momentum. At 2:02 in the third, McCormick struck again. On the same delayed draw, McCormick busted through a giant hole and was instantly in the Devils' secondary. Forty-three yards later he was caught behind at the five.

"I'm upset I got caught," McCormick said. "I thought I was going to beat them there, but I just couldn't get the edge."

Avon Grove would go on to outscore East 21-7 in the final quarter.

Homecoming

Avon Grove returns to the field this Saturday, Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. when it faces Downing-town West in its homecoming game. Downingtown West (5-1 overall, 1-1 Ches-Mont) suffered its first loss of the season last week by a score of 13-7 to West Chester Henderson.

Avon Grove 42, W.C. East 24

East 0 7 10 7 - 24 Avon Grove 7 7 7 21 - 42

Scoring

AG - Harris 2 run (Wilkinson kick) EA - McCormick 33 run (Stilp kick) AG - Hoilman 38 run (Wilkinson kick) AG - Harris 40 run (Wilkinson kick) EA - McCormick 76 run (Stilp kick) EA - Stilp 23 field goal AG - Keinema 9 pass from Kush (Wilkinson kick) AG - McGlaughlin 78 run (Wilkinson kick) EA - McCormick 79 kick return (Stilp kick) AG - Harris 25 run (Wilkinson kick)

Team Totals

EA AG First downs 8 18 Yards rushing 1 90 370 Yards passing 4 3 25 Total yards 233 395
Passing 6-15-0 4-8-0 Fumbles-Lost 3-1 1-1 Penalties 2-10 6-40 Punts-Avg. 4-34.5 6-26.3

Individual Statistics

RUSHING - East: McCormick 15-202, 2 TD; Walters 1-31; Rhoulac 2-(-14). Avon Grove: Harris 18-121, 3 TD; McLaughlin 15-123, TD; Ayers 5-44; Kush 7-18; Hoilman 3-40 TD; Monk 3-24.
PASSING - East: Rhoulac 6-15-0, 43 yards. Avon Grove: Kush 4-8-0, 25 yards, TD. RECEIVING - East: Ray 1-8; Walters 2-1; McCormick 1-(-1); DeRuschi 1-2; Owens 1-20. Avon Grove: Harris 1-(-1); Keinema 1-24, TD; McLaughlin 1-2.

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