

The Daily Local (dailylocal.com), Serving Chester County, PA

Sports

Praplaski paces Patriots

Senior runs for 85-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter to give Great Valley the win

Saturday, October 18, 2008 6:07 AM EDT

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LONDON GROVE — In a game that turned into a high-scoring punch, counter-punch affair, Great Valley's Mike Praplaski delivered the knockout blow.

The senior scored on an 85-yard kickoff return late in the fourth quarter to give Avon Grove a 32-28 see-saw nonleague victory Friday.

The score came after Avon Grove took the lead at 28-25 with 6:23 left as Brandon McGlaughlin capped off a nine-play, 66-yard drive by scoring on a 1-yard plunge.

The Patriots continued their trend all evening of using a reverse, this time Charles Showers handed off to Praplaski, who scampered down the left side for the deciding score.

"There was one in the first half we missed by a block," said Praplaski. "Billy Pommerer threw a great block to get me to the end zone. It's was a great feeling to score at such a key time of the game."

From Avon Grove coach Marvin Dooley's perspective, it was more about what his team didn't do that was the problem.

"They've been doing it all night, so we knew what to do about it, we talked about it in the huddle," he said. "We had breakdown in lane coverage. I have to see the film to see exactly what happened, but we just broke down."

Great Valley tried to salt the game away a few minutes later, but the Red Devils rose up to stop

Pommerer a yard short on a fourth-and-3 to give Avon Grove the ball for one last shot at its 40-yard line.

The opportunity didn't last long. After a completed pass to Jordan Harris, Kyle Kush's pass was intercepted by Seth Houston, who secured the ball just before going out of bounds, to secure the win and push the Patriots' record to 7-1.

"Avon Grove played a great game, they tackled and ran hard," said Great Valley coach Gary Phillips. "I'm proud of our kids, they competed and made some big plays when we needed it."

Avon Grove took a slim 14-12 lead into the third quarter until the Patriots pushed ahead late in the quarter. They were set up by a fumble recovery by Myles Tornetta on the Avon Grove. Three plays later, Casey Haines rambled 23 yards untouched up

the middle as the Pats went ahead 18-14 with 1:27 left.

The lead didn't last long thanks to some trickery by the Avon Grove coaching staff. On the first play after the kickoff, Harris took a pitch, stopped and lofted a pass to a wide open Aaron Keinema, who scampered in to finish off a 67-yard play and 21-18 advantage.

"We thought it was the right time for it," said Dooley. "The pass was a little wobbly, I'm glad it got out there. But once we did it once, we not going to get it again."

The Patriots went back in front early in the fourth on an impressive 6-play, 63-yard drive. They had four runs in double digits and Nurthern finished it off with a 1-yard plunge.

Pommerer once again had a big game, rushing for 181 yards and scoring twice, including a 61-yard jaunt.

"Brian is such a great player," said Praplaski. "Whenever we need a big play he seems to be the one who gets it."

The Red Devils fell to 3-5 overall and the loss in their final home game of the season took a little bit out of Dooley.

"This was a great football game," said Dooley. "Our kids didn't deserved to lose."

Avon Grove outgained Great Valley, 364-341. McGlaughlin gained 95 yards on the ground and Harris added 84.

Great Valley 32, Avon Grove 28

Great Valley 0 12 6 14 - 32

Avon Grove 7 7 7 7 - 28

Scoring

AG--R. Hoilman 6 pass from Kush (Wilkinson kick).

GV--Pommerer 61 run (run failed).

GV--Pommerer 7 run (pass failed).

AG--Kush 1 run (Wilkinson kick).

GV--Haines 23 run (pass failed).

AG--Keinema 67 pass from Harris (Wilkinson kick).

GV--J. Nurthern 1 run (Pommerer kick).

AG--McGlaughlin 1 run (Wilkinson kick).

GV--Praplaski 85 kickoff return (Pommerer kick).

Team Totals

GV AG

First downs 11 18

Yards rushing 258 201

Yards passing 83 163

Total yards 341 364

Passing 3-9-3 9-14-1

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 2-1

Penalties 6-40 11-86

Punts-Avg. 1-44.0 4-36.5

Individual Statistics

RUSHING - Great Valley: Pommerer 17-181-2; J. Nurthern 10-39-1; Haines 1-23-1; Campbell 2-3; Houston 3-2; Team 2-(M-2). Avon Grove: Harris 18-84-1; McGlaughlin 14-95-1; Monk 4-26; Ayres 3-7; Kush7-(-9)-1; Team 1-(-2).

PASSING - Great Valley: Houston 3-9-3-0 83 yds. Avon Grove: Kush 8-13-1-1 96; Harris 1-1-0-1 67 yds.

RECEIVING - Great Valley: Campbell 1-58; Pommerer 1-6; Horn 1-19. Avon Grove: Keinema 2-76-1; Monk 2-33; Harris 2-23; R. Hoilman 2-14-1; Ayres 1-17.

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