

Raiders win, but lose Green

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COATESVILLE — With a playoff berth hanging in the balance, the Coatesville Area High School football squad made sure it avoided becoming another upset victim to an Avon Grove squad looking to knock off another Ches-Mont League power on successive weekends.

The Red Raiders handled the visiting Red Devils, 35-13, on Friday in the regular season finale, and should be one of 16 teams to qualify for the District I Class AAAA playoffs next weekend. But Coatesville (4-2, 7-3 overall) may not have starting quarterback Charles Green, who suffered an injured leg in the second half and did not play again.

“Green will get an MRI and he’ll be re-evaluated on Monday,” said Coatesville head coach Tom Nichols.

A week after shocking West Chester Henderson, the Red Devils (2-4, 4-6) were unable to sneak up on the Raiders, who were coming off of a heartbreaking setback at Downingtown West. A couple big kick returns by senior Omar Thomas and a breakout performance by sophomore tailback Dominique Wilson proved to be the big difference in this Ches-Mont National Division clash.

“Coatesville is a good football team,” said Avon Grove head coach Marvin Dooley. “And when you can run the football, you can win in the playoffs. I wouldn’t be surprised to see them go deep.”

Hobbled by a nagging ankle sprain, star runner Kenny Wylie was largely ineffective for the Raiders. But Wilson picked up

the slack, rushing for 93 yards on 22 carries and scoring three touchdowns.

“(Wylie) didn’t take a snap all week,” Nichols said. “He had treatments up until game-time and we were hoping he could go. He gave it a shot but wasn’t getting it done and Dominique Wilson stepped up big.”

The Raiders opened the scoring in the first quarter by taking advantage of a short field, thanks to a 37-yard punt return by Thomas. Coatesville needed five plays to navigate 15 yards with Green sneaking it into the end zone from two yards out. Wilson then made it 14-0 early in the second quarter on a 3-yard scoring run to cap a 14-play, 68-yard march.

When fullback Brendan McLaughlin struck pay-dirt on a 51-yard quick-hit run moments later, it looked like Avon Grove was back in the game. But on the ensuing kickoff, Thomas went 85 yards for the TD that, essentially, ended the Devils’ brief comeback bid.

“I think that was (Thomas’) fourth return to a touchdown this season,” Nichols said. “Most teams just kick away from him.”

A pair of Avon Grove fumbles in their own end of the field, set up two more touchdown runs by Wilson, and the rout was on. The first was recovered by Coatesville’s Ish Irons and ended with Wilson twisting and turning for a 22-yard score just before halftime. Chase Lloyd pounced on the second fumble in the third quarter and following a 38-yard completion from Green to Matt Andrews, Wilson ran it in from three yards out.

But Green was injured on a hit after delivering the completion. He had to be helped off the field as he was unable to put weight on his left leg. He was replaced by junior Pat Brewer.

McLaughlin paced the Red Devils with 137 yards on 15 carries. He was filling in for standout tailback Jordan Harris, who managed just 30 yards before being pulled late in the first half.

“He tweaked his knee,” Dooley explained. “If it had been a closer game, I probably would have played him more. But he’s a good basketball player, too, and we didn’t want to risk it. He’s mad at me, but we held him out.”

Coatesville 35, Avon Grove 13

Avon Grove 0 7 0 6 — 13

Coatesville 7 21 7 0 — 35

Scoring

C – Green 2 run (Massaro kick)

C – Wilson 3 run (Massaro kick)

AG – McLaughlin 51 run (Wilkinson kick)

C – Thomas 85 kickoff return (Massaro kick)

C – Wilson 22 run (Massaro kick)

C – Wilson 3 run (Massaro kick)

AG – Snyder 5 pass from Kush (kick blocked)

Team Totals

AG C

First downs 12 11

Yards rushing 225 160

Yards passing 48 69

Total yards 273 229

Passing 6-10-0 4-9-0

Fumbles-lost 4-2 0-0

Penalties 0-0 5-35

Punts-Avg. 2-30.0 2-30.0

Individual Statistics

RUSHING -- Avon Grove: Harris 6-30; Monk 11-35, McLaughlin 15-137, TD; Hoilman 2-1; Kush 4-2; Ayers 2-18; Eder 2-2. Coatesville: Wylie 10-26; Wilson 22-93, 3 TDs; Green 8-41. TD; Bryant 1-0.

PASSING – Avon Grove: Kush 6-10-1 48 yards, TD. Coatesville: Green 4-9-0 69 yards.

RECEIVING – Avon Grove: Monk 2-11; Ayers 1-7; Snyder 1-15, TD; Cardile 1-15. Coatesville: Brewer 2-18; Massaro 1-13; Andrews 1-38.

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