

High School

A spoiled ride

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Thu Oct 04, 2007, 12:29 PM EDT

BEVERLY, MASS. - Beverly's defense played well enough to win. The offense, on the other hand, wasn't nearly as successful.

The Beverly football team dropped its third game in a row last Saturday, 7-0, to Revere. It was the second consecutive shutout for Revere's defense.

Through four games, the Panthers are averaging only 12 points per game.

"We've had plenty of opportunities to score this year, but we're not coming away with points," Beverly head football coach Dan Bauer said. "In the Revere game, we'd put together a long drive and we'd make mistakes that would cost us."

In fairness to Beverly's offense, Revere's defense has allowed less than nine points per game, only once allowing more than 10 points in a game (a 26-6 loss to Swampscott).

So forgive Bauer if he wasn't too displeased with his team's effort.

"Our kids are constantly trying to improve and they're working hard in all facets of the game," Bauer said. "It's never fun to lose, but if the kids never gave up, you can't be too upset."

Revere scored its only touchdown on a Steven Ennamorati run from two yards out in the second quarter, adding the point after to go ahead 7-0.

Beverly's offensive struggles continued in the third quarter and Revere's offense did a great job playing ball control. The Panthers ran only one offensive play in the quarter.

Of course, that offensive play could have helped Beverly tie the game.

After Revere fumbled a punt on the its own 2-yard line, Beverly recovered and put its offense on the field with a chance to tie the game. But on the Panthers first play, a 1st-and-goal from the 2, Greg Pierce was pounded by the Revere defense, forcing a fumble that Revere recovered.

Revere then took the ball and marched 90 yards down the field, eating up the rest of the quarter and 11 minutes in all, even though the drive ended without any more points.

Pierced ended the day with only 58 yards rushing on 15 carries, while the passing game was virtually nonexistent, accounting for only one completion for seven yards.

"We couldn't get our defense off the field," Bauer said. "That's the one thing we have to work on. We don't need to score every possession, but we need to give the defense a break."

The Panthers' next test will come against Peabody this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. The Tanners, who sport a deceiving 1-3 record, are new to the Northeastern Conference this season so the book on their tendencies is thin.

"We haven't played (Peabody) in a number of years," Bauer said. "They've struggled a little bit this season, but

that doesn't matter for us."

Peabody beat Danvers last week for its first win of the season after losing its first three games to St. Johns Prep, Cambridge, and Arlington. The Tanners' offense is only averaging three points per game.

"There's never a break for us, I don't care what a team's record is," Bauer said. "It's going to be a situation where we're going to have to be ready to play. I sense that they're going to want to come in and play hard."

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