



Visiting Beverly casts spell on Magicians

By Nick Turczak , Staff Writer

Salem News

MARBLEHEAD - Beverly's dominance over Marblehead continued for an 11th straight season as both Greg Pierce and Rashad Sims each surpassed 100 yards on the ground as the Panthers once again beat Marblehead, 28-7, last night.

Beverly's dynamic backfield duo simply proved too much.

"Obviously, it helps us if we can get them both involved in the offense," said Beverly head coach Dan Bauer.

After a scoreless opening frame, Sims ran 61 yards to put the Panthers up, 7-0.

Marblehead's quarterback, Ian McKinley, threw his first of two interceptions on the following possession and the Panthers capitalized. His counterpart, Mark Theriault, capped the Panthers' 10-play drive, throwing an 18-yard touchdown pass to Sean Deady for 14-0.

The Magicians came out of intermission with renewed spirit and their defense forced a couple of three and outs to start the half. The Marblehead offense finally got on the board as Evan Comeau pounded it in from five yards out before the end of the third quarter to make it 14-7.

"Marblehead played us tough, they came out in the second half and stopped us the first couple of possessions and then they came right down the field and it was 14 to 7 in a flash," said Bauer.

The Panthers rode Pierce on the following drive as he ran it on eight of the 11 plays before scoring from four yards out. The tally put the Panthers up two touchdowns with just four minutes left and all but sealed the win as Beverly improved to 5-3 and Marblehead fell to 4-4.

"That drive was huge for us because we needed to re-establish the momentum and get back in there and show some poise," said Bauer.

"There was just too much Pierce," said Marblehead head coach Doug Chernovetz. "We played our hearts out and I'm proud of our kids, but we got beat by a better team tonight," said Chernovetz.

Marblehead was able to move the ball, but couldn't capitalize on its opportunities. Comeau fumbled on Beverly's 25 yard line early on. They also turned the ball over on downs at the same spot on the field in the second quarter. Those two mistakes plus McKinley's two interceptions sealed the Magician's fate.

"They had some pretty good yardage, but when it came down to it we made some big plays. We certainly bent but didn't break, which is the good thing," said Bauer, referring to his defense.

"Hats off to Beverly. When you're the game of the week, you have to minimize mistakes, move the football and score when the opportunities arise. I think we played good in the second half, but its tough to come back from 14-0 at the half against a good Beverly football team," said Chernovetz.

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