

# Joe Wioncek, Panthers win late thriller

By Joe Vieira | Sunday, September 27, 2009 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | **High School Football**

BEVERLY - With 1:34 remaining in Beverly's nonleague meeting with Lynn English yesterday, the home crowd at Hurd Stadium had to wonder what quarterback Joe Wioncek, in his second outing in place of ill starter Mark Hannable, could possibly say to rally his teammates.

Lynn English had just scored a deflating touchdown, capping a stunning 13-point, fourth-quarter comeback to take a 20-17 lead on the Panthers.

As it turns out, Wioncek didn't have to utter much, as he and receiver Justin Marrs were perfectly in tune. The duo connected five times for 76 yards on a game-winning drive that covered 80 yards in 79 seconds.

After going over the middle on his first four receptions, Marrs slipped behind the secondary and hauled in a 30-yard bomb with 15 seconds to go, giving Beverly a dramatic 24-20 victory. Marrs finished with eight grabs for 98 yards.

"Everyone knew what they had to do," said Wioncek, who finished 21-of-38 for 281 yards. "Nothing needed to be said. The line did a great job and gave me all the time in the world to throw. The (Lynn English) secondary did a great job and kept me guessing, but (Marrs) was getting open in those spaces and I was looking for him."

The Bulldogs (2-1) trailed 14-7 entering the final frame, and Ryan Flannery quickly extended the lead to two scores with a 24-yard field goal just 12 seconds in.

Lynn English began its comeback with 6:36 remaining on back-to-back seven-play, 67-yard scoring drives - both of which included crucial fourth-down conversions.

Tyler MacDonald connected with Travonne Berry-Rogers (two catches, 59 yards) on fourth-and-12 from the Beverly 27 to pull the Bulldogs within 17-13 with 5:11 remaining.

After the defense held Beverly to a three-and-out, MacDonald (14-of-30, 292 yards passing) kept the drive alive with a 5-yard run on fourth-and-2 near midfield, then connected with Melvin Taveres two plays later for a 35-yard TD.

"I think we got better today," said Lynn English coach Peter Holey. "Coming back with a few minutes to go like that, I'm prouder of my kids today than at any point this year."

Big plays were open to both teams all day, as they combined for 868 yards on 138 plays. The defenses were not invisible, however, as the Bulldogs registered three interceptions and a fumble recovery, while Beverly sacked MacDonald five times and recovered a fumble.

Wioncek connected with Steve Dubois (six catches, 104 yards) from 19 yards to open the scoring in the first quarter. MacDonald connected with Ryan Woumn (four catches, 85 yards) from 11 yards to tie the game, but Dubois narrowly split a pair of defenders over the middle and took a pass from Wioncek 69 yards to give the Panthers (2-0) a 14-7 lead at the half.

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