

PANTHER POUNDING: Beverly blows it open early in 51-0 drubbing of Saugus

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BEVERLY — The Beverly High football team has proven that it can put together a devastating package. But to get the kind of recognition they're craving for in the Northeastern Conference, the Panthers are going to have to show they can beat the good teams down the stretch.

The Panthers took a step in the right direction Saturday, tearing apart a young, banged up Saugus team, 51-0, on an unseasonably warm day at Hurd Stadium. Beverly racked up its highest point total in coach Dan Bauer's seven-year tenure and it was the team's largest margin of victory since a 49-0 drubbing of Salem (which ended up 0-11 that year) in 2003.

There was a lot to like about Beverly's performance. The Panthers (5-2) scored 30 points in the opening quarter, basically putting the game away, and they didn't get sloppy at any point in the game, which would've been a sign of complacency or mental laziness.

"We wanted to score on our first drive and then let it escalate," said Beverly running back Dylan Terry, who scored a pair of rushing touchdowns (from five and eight yards out, respectively) and finished with 130 yards on just 12 carries. "We wanted to keep our opponent down.

"We don't want to underestimate any team we play," added Terry. "Not after last year against Marblehead and this year against Danvers."

Terry was referring to a 33-30 upset loss to Marblehead last season and a surprising 21-3 defeat against Danvers just two weeks ago. Both times Beverly felt it didn't play up to the level of the competition, and it paid dearly for it.

If Beverly learned anything from those games, it's that it will have to be physically and mentally sharp, and emotionally charged, in the next two weeks when it plays at Marblehead (Friday night) and at Swampscott (Saturday, Nov. 14). The Magicians are 7-1, Swampscott is 6-2, and both teams have a legitimate shot at winning the Northeastern Conference Small title. The Panthers aim to be right there, contesting them for it.

"We're playing for our lives right now. That's going to be our season," said Beverly senior quarterback Mark Hannable, who was smooth and completely efficient against Saugus, tossing two touchdown passes to Justin Marrs (40 and 29 yards, respectively) and one to Steve Dubois (from seven yards out).

"Overall, our defense was great today. We were able to shut them out. We also got our running game back. That's been our focus. In the previous two weeks, our running game was practically non-existent."

The Panthers could dictate the terms any way they wanted against Saugus, which played four freshmen and was ill-equipped to take on a team of Beverly's caliber. The Sachems trailed 37-0 at halftime and never did attempt a pass with their tiny freshman quarterback, Justin Barrasso, who had 21 yards on 10 carries. Barrasso did play a gutsy game, as did running back Anthony Guthro, who finished with 96 yards in 21 attempts.

Saugus has now lost six straight games since an opening day 19-12 win over Bishop Fenwick. The Sachems have been outscored, 170-12, in their last four games.

"We're pretty depleted," said Saugus coach Mike Broderick, who had to wince when a few more of his players were on the ground with injuries. "But we didn't come ready to play. What can you do? We're going to try to stay positive.

"I was fine (with Beverly scoring 51 points). It's football. You've got to play."

Beverly coach Dan Bauer was able to utilize a lot of players in this one. The Panthers tuned out the passing game in the second half, throwing it only once, but Mark Theriault and Nick Theriault each scored on short runs to create the 51-0 final.

"We don't take anything for granted," said Bauer.

They'd better not. Marblehead and Swampscott are waiting for them.

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Photos



Beverly's Dylan Terry scored a pair of rushing touchdowns and finished with 130 yards on 12 carries as Beverly beat Saugus 51-0 on Saturday. Staff Photographer