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## [Quick strike Patriots spoil opener for Beverly](#)

by Dan Harrison staff writer

CONCORD — Nothing takes the wind out of the sails of a defense quite like giving up the big play.

The Beverly High football team looked every bit up to the challenge that reigning Division 2A Super Bowl runner-up Concord-Carlisle put forth in the first half of last night's game. But in the third quarter, the Patriots found their home run swing and left the Panthers in their dust with a 26-7 win.

With things knotted up at 7-7 at halftime, the Patriots came out on their first offensive play of the second half and ran an inside sweep. Ball carrier Tim Badgley split the tackle and the tight end before cutting back to get behind the Beverly secondary and sprinted 54 yards to Beverly's 10-yard-line. Two plays later George Craan rumbled his way into the end zone from seven yards out and just like that, the Panthers were playing from behind.

"The first possession (of the second half) is always key. Unfortunately, it didn't go our way," noted Dan Bauer, whose reigning Division 3 champion Panthers are now 0-1.

And things only got worse from there for Beverly.

On the second play of the Patriots' very next drive Badgley (5 rushes, 126 yards) found another seam — this time dashing his way down to the Panther 5-yard line. The next play Craan did what he did best last night, and put the ball across the goal line to put C-C ahead 19-7.

The Patriots' hot start to the third quarter mirrored the way they began the first. After Beverly had to punt at the end of a nine-play, 43-yard drive that was squandered thanks to a pair of Patriot sacks, Evan Boynton took a sweep 61 yards down to the Beverly 10-yard line. It was Concord-Carlisle's very first offensive play of the game. Two plays later, the Patriots faked the sweep to Boynton, who then gave an inside handoff to Badgley. The junior took it seven yards to paydirt. Craan added his third TD run of the game on the opening play of the fourth quarter with a 6-yard scamper.

"At that point we were out of rhythm to be honest, and particularly in this offense, you have to stay in rhythm and be on check," said Bauer. "If you get behind a little bit, it's a problem."

Beverly was able to move the ball, at times, with great efficiency and junior Brendan Flaherty in particular, showed real signs of life throughout the contest. Flaherty (8 rushes, 64 yards) hauled in a 13-yard TD grab on third-and-goal at the start of the second quarter

"We didn't see him last year (due to injury). I had heard great things about him and I gotta tell you, he's an unbelievable player," said C-C coach Mike Robichaud. "The talent, determination

and the leg drive. He was relentless. We kept waiting to hear a whistle on defense and then he'd reappear with five guys on his back."