

Sports



Devils stop late comeback, beat Westside 23-17



Keyshon Gartrell stuffs Westside runner. (Photos by Mercer Harris)



Semaj Jenkins breaks first score with a 23-yard touchdown run

A late comeback came up short as the Lincoln County Red Devils defeated the Class AA Westside Patriots 23-17 here last Friday night.

Sophomore Semaj Jenkins scored twice while rushing for 97 yards on eight carries. Tevin Gartrell gained 84 on 17 attempts. The Devils totaled 235 yards offensively on 41 plays. The visitors, with two late passing-heavy drives, amassed 362 yards on 68 plays.

A 16-yard kickoff return by Franklin Brown started the game well for the Devils. Jenkins rushed for 14 and a first down at the Westside 45. A holding penalty hurt the drive, leading to a 44-yard punt by Judson Beggs.

The Patriots' running game earned one first down before Westside came up short on 4th-&-1 at their 40. Jenkins gained two yards with a personal foul flag adding 15

to the Westside 23. Jenkins took the handoff, broke tackles at the eight, and his quick feet zoomed him into the endzone untouched. The touchdown came with 1:04 remaining in the opening quarter. Cameron Miller booted the PAT for a 7-0 Devil lead.

Mixing running and passing, the Patriots marched down the gridiron. A big gain to the 25 ended with a fumble recovered by C. J. Crite. Runs of 22 and 14 yards by Gartrell gained a first down at the Westside 15. The Patriot defense strengthened to force 4th-&-5 at the 10. The Devils opted for a 27-yard field goal by Miller. The Devils led 10-0 with 4:41 left before the half.

Westside used runs of 18 and 22 yards and an 11-yard pass to earn a first down at the LC 9. A fumble lost 14 yards. Three plays later the

Devils blocked a 24-yard field goal attempt. The half ended with the Devils at the Westside 37.

Ten consecutive carries by the Patriots' primary running back put Westside at the LC 6 with 4th-&-1. Illegal procedure pushed the pigskin back five before the Patriots booted a 28-yard field goal. The Red Devils led 10-3 with 6:53 left in the third quarter.

The two teams swapped punts until Westside took over after Beggs' third 44-yards-or-longer punt of the game. Franklin Brown intercepted a pass at the line of scrimmage and returned the ball 25 yards for a touchdown. Miller's kick put the Devils up 17-3 with just over ten minutes left in the game.

After two 11-yard passes to move into Devil territory, the next Patriot pass was intercepted by Ray Adcock, who returned the ball 15 yards to the LC 40. A nine-yard run by Jenkins earned a first down at the 50. Three plays later Jenkins broke three tackles near the line of scrimmage and outran the Patriots to pay dirt. The kick went wide left, but the Devils led 23-3 with only 6:13 remaining.

With half a quarter left and down by 20 points, the Patriots had to go to the air. Westside completed six of ten attempts to reach the LC 7. After a six-yard run, the primary Patriot ballcarrier scored from the one. The PAT kick cut the Devil lead to 23-10 with 3:27 left.

The Patriots successfully executed an onside kick to get the pigskin at the LC 49. Two passes, a run, and a five-yard flag gave the visitors a first down at the LC 5. After a three-yard pass, the Patriots scored on a two-yard run. The extra point was again good. With 2:36 left, the Devils' lead had been cut to only six points, 23-17.

Crite recovered the next onside kick attempt with Lincoln controlling at its 49. Three plays gained two yards, with Westside taking a timeout after each play to preserve the clock. Beggs' punt put the Patriots at their 20 with 2:07 left.

Two passes gained 11 yards. The Westside QB went back for another pass, but Gartrell and Josiah Jones sacked him for a 13-yard loss to the 18. The next three passes fell incomplete. The Patriots turned the ball over to the Devils with 47

seconds left. The Devils ran out the clock to preserve the 23-17 victory.

In other games involving Region 8-A Public teams, Washington-Wilkes whipped Cross Creek 45-6 and Greene County outscored Twiggs County 48-40. Social Circle lost to Walnut Grove 13-6. Commerce and Towns County did not play. This week W-W will host Warren County and Commerce travels to the Granite Bowl. Towns County is scheduled to make a 5-hour, 300-mile trip to play Baconton Charter in Mitchell County.

The Red Devils improved to 2-0 with the victory. The Laney Wildcats, another AA team, will make their first visit to Lincolnton this

Friday night. The Augusta team has a new head coach from the college ranks, and the Wildcats opened the season with an upset of Washington-Wilkes. Their game last Friday with cross-town rival Josey was postponed. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30.

Devils vs. Westside

(statistics compiled by Johnny Walton)

	LC	BC
First Downs	12	17
Rushing	38-235	37-183
Passing	0-3-0-0	20-31-179-2
Punting	4-46	1-45
Penalties	5-45	5-42
Fumbles/Lost	0-0	2-1



Quarterback Trey Huff scrambles for yardage.



Justin Beggs pins Westside to their own two yard line with 44 yard punt.



QB/DB Trey Huff takes down Westside ball carrier.



C. J. Zellars picks up yardage.



The Red Pride Marching Band fires up the stands. (Photo by The Lincoln Journal)