

# Knights Big Second Half Leads to Victory Over the Sangamon Valley Storm

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The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Knights football team was looking to go 4-0 on the season for the first time since 2004. The Sangamon Valley Storm was the team they were facing on Friday, September 15 to achieve that goal. The Storm came into the game 2-1. A second half that saw ALAH score on every possession allowed them to accomplish that goal!

The first half saw the home team put 21 points on the scoreboard with three different players crossing the goal line. Maddix Stirrett scored first on a 39 yard touchdown run, breaking several tackles on his way to the end zone. Kaden Herschberger kicked the extra point and with 5:39 left in the opening stanza ALAH led 7-0.

Sangamon Valley's first three series ended with two punts and a turnover on downs but a fumble by the Knights gave them the ball at the 4 and the visitors' Wyatt Lappe scored on the next play and with the extra point kick the score was tied with 2:29 left in the first quarter.

The Knights went on a long drive starting at their own 29 and with senior quarterback Jayce Parson picking up 64 yards during the drive, plus runs by Landon Waldrop and Maddix Stirrett, got the ball to the Storms' 9 yard line. However, the visitor defense stopped the Knight on four downs and took over possession at their own 4.

Things were not looking the best but fortunately for the Knights their own defense stepped up and forced a Storm punt. SV would have two more series in the first half with one ending on downs and the other with a punt.

The home team had two more possessions themselves and made the best of them, scoring two more touchdowns before halftime. For the first, QB Parsons connected with senior receiver Connor Nettles on a 30 yard TD pass and with Herschberger's kick, ALAH led 14-7 at the 5:23 mark of the second. The other Knight score was a 22 yard run by senior running back Landon Waldrop. The extra point kick by Herschberger gave the red, black, and gold a 21-7 halftime lead.

ALAH started the second half building on the momentum of the end of the first as Maddix Stirrett returned the kickoff 66 yards to the Sangamon Valley 12. Stirrett would score his second touchdown of the game on a 7 yard run but the kick failed so the home team extended their lead to 27-7. The score came just 29 seconds into the second half and the Knights would score on every one of their next four series left in the game

QB Jayce Parsons would pick up the next score for the home team with a 34 yard run. The

two point conversion failed and with 9:22 remaining in the third the lead was 33-7.

Sangamon Valley had four possessions in the second half and did manage a long scoring drive that ended with a 1 yard run by Hill Muir. They kicked the extra point which made the score 33-14 at the end of the third quarter. On their other series they turned the ball over on downs and ran out of time at the end of the game.

The game was all ALAH the rest of the way. RB Waldrop scored his second touchdown on a 51 yard run. An extra point pass from Parsons to Nettles put the home team up 41-14 with 10:42 left in the game.

Easton Frederick got in on the scoring act with a TD run of 30 yards. Herschberger got back on track and kicked the EP to make the score 48-14 with 7:36 remaining.

The Knights reserves got into the game and on the last drive, with runs by quarterback Cruz Hale, Brayden Leech and Brennon Hutson moved the ball to the Storm 4. Hutson would take it into the end zone to end the scoring for the Knights. Herschberger's kick made the final score 55-14.

The game ended with a running clock and ALAH would achieve their goal of being 4-0 on the season! Coach Jefferson recorded that on their goal board after the game and senior Brody Loudon got to raise the "W" flag in front of fans, cheerleaders, and players.

The Knights travel to Cumberland high school next Friday, September, 22 to take on the Pirates who are 3-1 on the season.

Coach Jefferson posted this on the Knight Pride Facebook page, "We are 4-0 for the first time since 2004! Cumberland has been a thorn in our side for quite a while now - hoping we take a big crowd down for our

week 5 competition against the Pirates to try to move to 5-0."

Here are the stats from our big victory over Sangamon Valley!

#### OFFENSIVE STATS

**Rushing** - Jayce Parsons, 10 for 120 & 1 TD; Landon Waldrop, 10 for 114 & 2 TDs; Maddix Stirrett, 7 for 60 & 2 TDs; Easton Frederick, 3 for 58 & 1 TD; Payton Warrior, 2 for 32; Brennon Hutson, 2 for 30 & 1 TD; Brayden Leech, 1 for 15; Cruz Hale, 1 for 8; Trey Strode, 1 for 1

**Passing** - Jayce Parsons, 1 of 3 for 31 & 1 TD

**Receiving** - Connor Nettles, 1 for 31 & 1 TD

#### DEFENSIVE STATS

**Tackles** - Maddix Stirrett, 21; Mit Appleby, 9; Easton Frederick, 8; Payton Warrior, 6; Landon Waldrop, 5; Nathan Tighe, 4; Kaden Herschberger, 4; Trey Strode, 4; Garrett Casteel, 3; Brennon Hutson, 3; Marcus Otto, 3; Jeffrey Arwine, 3; Jacob Tighe, 3; Brayden Leech, 3; Jaydon Yoder, 2; Adam Morgan, 2; Tyler Lisanby, 2; Connor Nettles, 1; Chris Kuhns, 1; Cruz Hale, 1; Tristan Keagle, 1; Mason Thomas, 1; Kamden Morfey, 1

**Tackles for Loss** - Easton Frederick, 1; Landon Waldrop, 1; Nathan Tighe, 1; Jacob Tighe, 1; Jeffrey Arwine, 1

**Pass Break-Ups** - Easton Frederick, 1; Jayce Parsons, 1; Connor Nettles, 1; Payton Warrior, 1

#### SPECIAL TEAMS STATS

**Kick-Offs** - Garrett Casteel, 6 for 239; Brayan Martinez, 1 for 47; Kaden Herschberger, 2 for 46

**Punts** - Landon Waldrop, 1 for 33

**PATs** - Kaden Herschberger, 5 of 6 (83%)

**Kick-Off Returns** - Maddix Stirrett, 1 for 67; Easton Frederick, 1 for 10; Trey Strode, 1 for 5

**Punt Returns** - Connor Nettles, 1 for 2



The ALAH football Knights played hosts to the Sangamon Valley Storm on week four of the season. On the opening kickoff, #27 Garrett Casteel, #20 Trey Strode, on the ground, and #28 Brayden Leech take down the Storm's kick returner on the opening kickoff.



The Knights began the game vs. Sangamon Valley last Friday on defense. Here Jacob Tighe, on the ground, pulls down the Storm runner with some help from #3 Maddix Stirrett. The Knights forced the Storm to punt on their first series. Maddix led the team in tackles with 21 and Jacob had 3 tackles plus a tackle for loss.



After a first half of some inconsistent offense Knights running back helped right the ship with a third quarter kickoff return of 67 yards. Two plays later he would score the first of five second half touchdowns by the Knights. Maddix had scored the first TD of the game on a 39 yard run that saw him break several tackles on his way to the end zone.



ALAH's #3 Maddix Stirrett helps #53 Adam Morgan stop the Sangamon Valley runner in his tracks in the third quarter of the Knights home game last week. #70 Jacob Tighe takes out a blocker while #8 Easton Frederick, #72 Nathan Tighe and #5 Mitiku Appleby look to join in on the tackle.



Knights sophomore running back #8 Easton Frederick, using a nice block by #3 Maddix Stirrett continues on his 30 yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter of the game on September 15. Easton had 3 carries for 58 yards and this TD. He also contributed 8 tackles on defense.



For the last offensive series in last week's football game with Sangamon Valley the reserves came in to finish the contest and did a very good job. Here freshman running back Brennon Hutson is getting pushed out of bounds at the end of a 26 yard gain. He would score on the next play from 4 yards out. The Knights defeated the Storm 55-14 and will take on the Cumberland Pirates on Friday, September 22 at Toledo.