


**HIGHLAND 42,
STOW 7**


Hornets keep rolling, improve to 5-1

John Urchek
The Gazette

STOW — The Highland football team's defense set its offense up for success early and often Friday, making clutch plays at the right time to lead the Hornets to a fifth straight victory with a 42-7 Suburban League National Conference drubbing of Stow.

Highland (5-1, 3-0) scored five touchdowns starting on the Bulldogs' side of the field. The sixth TD came on a 60-yard interception return by Nathan Capotosto early in the fourth quarter.

The Hornets also intercepted Stow quarterback Gideon Larlham another time, recovered two fumbles and made an important goal-line stand just before halftime.

"Our defense really did well," senior linebacker Evan Foust said. "I really think it shows how deep our defense goes. For us to be able to hold them just before halftime was huge and gave us momentum going into the second half."

Foust capped the turnover on downs when he made an athletic play to break



Weber



DePompei

up Larlham's pass attempt to Thomas Shaw III on fourth-and-goal from the 5-yard line with one second remaining in the half. He also tackled Larlham after a scramble for 3 yards on the previous play. The stand started when Will Mander sacked Larlham for a loss of 8 yards on first down.

Foust (8 carries, 38 yards) added a 2-yard rushing touchdown with 4:22 left in the third quarter to force a running clock for the remainder of the game.

On the previous drive, Jake Weber protected a 21-0 lead when he intercepted Larlham.

"(Defensive coordinator Mike Nettling) drew (the coverage) up," Weber said. "We've been working all week to disguise our coverages and get into the quarterback's head. I think that play just

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HIGHLAND	14	7	14	7	—	42
STOW	0	0	0	7	—	7

First

H — Anthony DePompei 23 pass from Colton Wadle (Jonah Kowza kick), 10:00.
H — Levi Clark 13 run (Kowza kick), 7:52.

Second

H — DePompei 4 run (Kowza kick), 10:05.

Third

H — Clark 27 run (Kowza kick), 10:27.
H — Evan Foust 2 run (Kowza kick), 4:22.

Fourth

H — Nathan Capotosto 60 interception return (Kowza kick), 10:42.
S — Caden Boyd 6 run (Evan Doyle kick), 4:42.

	H	S
First downs	14	18
Rushing	30/208	32/141
Rushing average	6.9	4.4
Passing	4/8	8/17
Passing yards	86	94
Total offense	38/294	49/236
Punting	1/33.0	4/34.0
Penalties	7/64	2/20
Fumbles	0/0	3/2

RUSHING: Highland — Clark 7-91, DePompei 5-63, Foust 8-38, Frankie Iannaggi 3-11, Wadle 6-6, Team 1-(-1), Stow — Boyd 17-99, Israel Purkiss 7-34, Gideon Larlham 8-7, Hayden Mangira 1-1.
PASSING: Highland — Wadle 4-8-86-1, Stow — Larlham 8-17-94-2.
RECEIVING: Highland — Ben Radigan 2-38, Foust 1-25, DePompei 1-23, Stow — Thomas Shaw III 3-29, Boyd 2-26, Logan Doyle 1-17, Carson Fleishour 1-15, Mangira 1-7.

comes from practice and our coaches putting me in a good spot."

Both Bulldogs drives were aided by Highland's six defensive penalties for 59 yards, as five of Stow's 10 first-half first downs came by penalty. The Hornets still bowed their necks when needed.

Offensively, Highland went 5-for-6 scoring touchdowns when it started drives on the short side of the field, with the lone exception being at the end of the game when the Hornets ran out the clock.

That started right away, as Frankie Iannaggi returned the opening kickoff 36 yards to the Stow 35. Two plays later,

Anthony DePompei caught a 23-yard pass for a touchdown and 7-0 lead.

DePompei added a 4-yard touchdown run on a jet sweep early in the third quarter. That score was set up by a fumble caused by Lukas Grillis that was recovered by Mander.

"Outside run was a big part of the scheme at practice," said DePompei, who had six carries for 63 yards. "We executed that and a lot of rollout passes."

Making his first varsity start for injured senior Colton Winston, sophomore Levi Clark jump-started his big night with a 13-yard touchdown run-

ning around the end to the left late in the first quarter.

Clark scored again in the third quarter on a 27-yard run to the left following a recovered fumble by Ryan Haney on a bad snap. Clark finished with 91 yards on seven carries.

"I feel great," Clark said. "I had a lot of nerves coming into it with a great Stow opponent here. We watched film all week, dialed up some plays and they worked out for us tonight."

Highland quarterback Colton Wadle went 4-for-8 for 86 yards one touchdown and one interception on a tipped ball. He hit Ben Radigan twice for 38 yards while also completing a 25-yard pass to Foust and the touchdown to DePompei.

Trailing 42-0, Stow (2-4, 0-3) scored on a 6-yard run by Caden Boyd (17 carries, 99 yards, 1 fumble) with 4:42 left in the game.

Larlham was 8-for-17 for 94 yards to go with eight carries for 7 yards. He hit Shaw three times for 29 yards.

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