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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Highland's Grady Gibb isn't vocal, but his 6-touchdown performance is speaking volumes

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Highland quarterback Grady Gibb hands the football off to running back Casey Myser. John Kuntz, cleveland.com









By Michael Trivisonno | special to cleveland.com

MEDINA, Ohio — Highland senior quarterback Grady Gibb may not be the loudest player on the field, but his impact is undeniable. He lets his work speak for itself.

For Gibb, leadership is about showing up every day, doing the right thing and letting his actions carry the message.

"I'm not the biggest vocal leader there is, that's just not who I am as a person," Gibb said. "I like to lead as a person by just being nice to everyone, being kind, helping out anyone that needs it and just lead by example on the field."

He's shown the ability to lead the Hornets (12-0) to a third consecutive trip to the Division II, Region 6 finals after <u>a commanding 48-0 win</u> over North Ridgeville on Friday.

In the regional semifinal, the senior quarterback seemed to have a hand in everything. After leading the team to two scoring drives in the first five minutes of the game, it was clear the night he was going to have.

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With Highland rolling to a 41-0 halftime lead, Gibb was involved in all six touchdowns — rushing for two and throwing for four more. In just two quarters, he helped lead an offense that put up 388 yards while gaining 18 first downs.

"We were able to establish the run game early and all the guys around us just working their butts off and that allowed us to have offensive explosion in the first half," Gibb said.

"He's a special player, great leader," head coach Mike Gibbons added. "I'm just really proud of the kid and he's a special quarterback."

Gibb completed 8 of 9 passes for 218 yards and four touchdowns in the first half while rushing for 69 yards and two scores. He completed all nine of his passes for 141 yards in the team's 38-7 regional quarterfinal win against Brecksville-Broadview Heights.

For the season, he is 89 of 104 for 1,648 yards passing. He's gotten help from All-Ohio running back Casey Myser, but senior receivers Lucas Gerding and Nick Dobkowski have stepped up when their numbers have been called as well. Against North Ridgeville, Gerding caught two touchdown passes in the first half while Dobkowski hauled in a 53-yard touchdown before coming down with an interception that would lead to another Gibb rushing touchdown.

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"Just the little things you don't even see that they do, just adding to the offense is just awesome," Gibb said of Gerding and Dobkowski.

Highland has proven to be one of the state's most explosive offenses this season. Its lowest output came in Week 2 - a 32-0 shutout of Hudson. The numbers speak volumes about the defense, but they also highlight just how dynamic the offense has been, starting with Gibb's impact.

"Lights out. That dude studies up film, he practices harder than anyone," Myser said about his quarterback. "I'm so proud of the season he's having."

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