

The Blitz Week 13

THE BEST OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



**HIGHLAND 38,
WHITEHOUSE ANTHONY WAYNE 14**



AARON JOSEFCZYK / GAZETTE

Highland quarterback Dylan Borla completes a pass against Whitehouse Anthony Wayne.

(Q)uintessential (B)orla

Senior completes 13-of-13 passes, accounts for three TDs

Albert Grindle
The Gazette

BELLEVUE — Stack the box and have a safety fly downhill to bottle up Casey Myser and Dylan Borla will carve your defense like a Thanksgiving turkey.

A classic case of same story, different season played out Friday in a Division II, Region 6 semifinal between undefeated Highland and Whitehouse Anthony Wayne. The third-seeded Generals lived and



Borla



Gardner

died with an aggressive, sell-out defensive game plan Friday, and the second-seeded Hornets had all the answers.

Last season, shake-and-bake quarterback Peyton Janickas made 'em pay on the ground. This year, Borla assaulted the airwaves to perfection — no, really, the ball never hit the ground in 13 attempts — during another thoroughly impressive 38-14 dissection that featured a running clock for a large chunk of the second half.

Next up is old rival Avon (13-0), the top-seeded juggernaut that dismantled No. 5 Wadsworth 41-10. The site will be announced Sunday by the OHSAA.

"They think the X-factor on our team is (Myser)," Borla said, "but they didn't know we have so many more players than that."

Anthony Wayne (12-1) wasn't shy about tipping its hand defensively, keeping at least seven in the box on most plays and rolling safety Braden Gardner downhill if Myser bounced outside. The Generals also didn't deviate much from four-deep coverage, giving Highland (13-0) opportunities to hit quick outs and interne-

mediate routes over the middle.

Borla was locked in, completing 13-of-13 passes for 232 yards and touchdowns to Nick Dobkowski on a 1-yard zig route with seven seconds left in the first half and Luke Berkemeyer on a deep in that started the running clock with 6:59 remaining in the third quarter. Borla also rushed six times for 50 yards, including a 20-yard TD off a power-read fake in which he cut right to the backside.

See HORNETS, E2



AARON JOSEFCZYK / GAZETTE

Highland's Evan Foust stiff-arms Anthony Wayne's Braden Gardner after a reception.

HORNETS

From E1

Lucas Gerding (7 carries, 39 yards; 4 catches, 67 yards), Myser (2 catches, 50 yards), Evan Foust (3, 42), Kyle Williams (1, 35), Dobkowski (2, 19) and Berkmeier (1, 19) were wide open as Borla improved his season completion percentage to an eye-popping 74.8 (98-for-131) to go with 2,116 yards and 27 TDs. He also broke Bruce Kinsey's 2013 school season record of 2,021 yards on a 21-yard, cross-field floater to Gerding in the first half.

"Dang, I didn't even know that," Borla said when informed of his stat line. "It's great. We practiced what our scheme is going to be and what is going to work. I just treated (the game) like we were at practice by going through my progressions and being successful."

"Borla is such a smart kid," center Ryan Zywiec added. "He's our quarterback, he's a team leader, he's a

Highland 38, Anthony Wayne 14

Division II, Region 6 Semifinal at Bellevue	
ANTHONY WAYNE	7 0 0 7 - 14
HIGHLAND	10 21 7 0 - 38
First	
H — Casey Myser 3 run (Jonah Kowza kick), 9:21.	
A — Grant Kinnee 1 run (Will Horn kick), 6:58.	
H — Kowza 26 field goal, 1:06.	
Second	
H — Myser 5 run (Kowza kick), 5:54.	
H — Dylan Borla 20 run (Kowza kick), 2:03	
H — Nick Dobkowski 1 pass from Borla (Kowza kick), 0:07.	
Third	
H — Luke Berkmeier 19 pass from Borla (Kowza kick), 6:59.	
Fourth	
A — Kinnee 9 run (Horn kick), 3:12.	

record-breaker, he's an athlete and he picks 'em apart with his mind, you know? He's not the fastest, but he reads the hole and he goes."

Myser took awhile to get going but made his presence known by rumbling on a 32-yard swing pass on the opening drive. The normally cut-and-go junior ran with more physicality as the night wore on and finished with 23 carries for 84 yards and two short scores to go with two catches for 50 yards.

The junior broke Jimmy Daw's

	A	H
First downs	11	21
Rushing	28/201	42/180
Rushing average	7.2	4.3
Passing	6/11	13/13
Passing yards	33	232
Total offense	39/234	55/412
Punting	3/36.3	1/32.0
Penalties	3/15	6/70
Fumbles	1/1	0/0
RUSHING: Anthony Wayne — Kinnee 15-132, Braden Gardner 9-60, Crue Carroll 1-5, Roman Morrison 1-5, Cameron Miller 1-1, Team 1-(-2). Highland — Myser 23-84, Borla 6-50, Lucas Gerding 7-59, Dylan Lazar 4-9, Team 2-(-2).		
PASSING: Anthony Wayne — Kinnee 6-11-33-1, Highland — Borla 13-13-252-0.		
RECEIVING: Anthony Wayne — Ben Nieckarz 2-16, Mason Taylor 2-10, Miller 1-4, Gardner 1-3, Highland — Gerding 4-67, Myser 2-50, Evan Foust 3-42, Kyle Williams 1-35, Dobkowski 2-19, Berkmeier 1-19.		

Medina County season records of 41 touchdowns and 248 points by scoring from 3 yards just 2:39 in, then surpassed 2,000 rushing yards on his first carry of the second half.

The line of Carson Noonan, Josh Messina, Zywiec, Brady Bendau and Ben Coyne, left to right, did its usual thing of wearing down the opponent. Highland posted 180 rushing yards, while Borla was not sacked and had all night to throw.

"They were talking smack online that their best attribute for this game



Myser



Messina

was they were facing us up front, and we just demolished them," Zywiec said. "The quarterback said they don't lose to the same team twice, but here we are."

After Anthony Wayne star quarterback Grant Kinnee (15 carries, 132 yards; 6-for-11, 33 yards, INT) went 69 yards on the Generals' first play to set up his game-tying touchdown, Highland's defense settled down.

Following a 26-yard Jonah Kowza field goal that made it 10-7, Zywiec's tackle for loss on third down forced an Anthony Wayne punt. Kinnee then overthrew an open receiver on third down to force another punt, while Noonan's strip-sack, which was

recovered by Cody Bendau in the closing moments of the first half, was the dagger.

Highland scored TDs after all three — a Myser 5-yard run, Borla's 20-yard run and Dobowski's 1-yard catch — to head into the beautiful fieldhouse at First National Bank Field up 31-7 with a 336-134 advantage in yards.

A Caleb McKeen 9-yard tackle for loss on the opening drive of the second half forced yet another punt, and Berkmeier's wide-open TD helped end the night quicker than almost everyone expected.

Kinnee stopped the 31-0 run with a TD against the backups — two Highland personal fouls with the starters still in helped — but it was nothing more than window dressing.

Borla and Co. made sure of that. "We went at 'em," Borla said. "My line gave me great protection. We started to throw the ball, and they started to shut down."

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