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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Backup QB leads Highland comeback win over Strongsville, 31-27

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Backup QB leads Highland comeback win over Strongsville, 31-27

About 2 Minutes

By Matt Lofgren | special to cleveland.com and [cleveland.com Express Desk](#)

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio — Highland overcame a second-half injury to its starting quarterback and rallied from a fourth-quarter deficit to defeat Strongsville 31-27 in a back-and-forth game that came down to the final minutes.

The Hornets trailed 27-24 with 2:35 remaining when Evan Foust scored on a 14-yard touchdown run with 1:11 left to give Highland the lead for good. Anthony DePompei, who took over at quarterback after senior Jonathan Prucha exited with a shoulder injury, helped power the comeback in the wildcat formation down the stretch.

Matt Lofgren

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HIGHLAND RESPONDS. [@Evan_3605](#) from 14 yards away gives the Hornets a 31-27 lead on Strongsville with 1:11 remaining in the fourth.

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Prucha had been sharp before the injury, completing 7 of 9 passes for 186 yards and a

touchdown in just over two quarters. His 47-yard touchdown pass to senior Ben Radigan in the second quarter helped Highland escape an early 14-3 deficit.

But Prucha was injured on a late hit during the opening drive of the second half. He briefly returned to complete a 39-yard pass before being sidelined for the rest of the night.

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@ArTatulinski was an absolute workhorse for Strongsville on the game's opening drive with nine carries capped off by this short score to give the Mustangs a 7-0 on Highland

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Athony DePompei punches it in for Highland, we have a ballgame. Strongsville in front 14-10 with 4:26 left in r first half.

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What. A. Score. [@BenRadigan_](#) hauls in this 47 yard score from [@PruchaJohnny](#) to put Highland in front of Strongsville 17-14 with 20 until the half.

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Strongsville answered a 24-14 fourth-quarter deficit by taking a 27-24 lead on a 10-yard touchdown pass from senior Jack Kasner to senior Colin Tobias. The Mustangs then recovered an onside kick, and junior Nick Carrossellia followed with a 19-yard touchdown run.

to that point, completed his only of the game — a 31-yard

“A lot of resiliency, a lot of fight in them, I’m super proud of them in a team effort,” Highland head coach Mike Gibbons said. “We’re just gonna have to keep fighting every week. It’s gonna be a tough game every week so we just have to keep responding.”

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@Strongsville_FB defense stands tall to block the short Highland field goal. Mustangs trail 17-14 with three minutes left in the third.

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DePompei finished with 17 carries for 56 yards and a touchdown, while Foust added three carries for 21 yards and two scores. For Strongsville, Austin Tatulinski led the ground attack with 14 carries for 94 yards and a touchdown, and Kendrick Boddie added eight carries for 59 yards and a score.

This article was produced with assistance from AI tools and reviewed by Cleveland.com staff.

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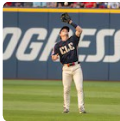
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