

The Blitz *Week 3*

THE BEST OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



NICK GAMMETT / GAZETTE

Highland's Grady Gibb throws a 39-yard touchdown pass to Evan Foust.



HIGHLAND 34,
AVON LAKE 7



Grady the Great

Gibb throws for 171, runs for 120

Chad Grant
The Gazette

AVON LAKE — Just like the 1977 No. 1 hit song "I Just Want to Be Your Everything" by Andy Gibb, Highland senior quarterback Grady Gibb — no relation — was everything for his teammates Friday in a 34-7 non-league win over Avon Lake.

The 6-footer put on a show by land and by air, helping his team go 5-for-5 on first-half drives reaching the end zone as Highland gained control early.

Although the streak of regular-season running-clock games came to an end at 11, Highland (3-0) was never seriously threatened.



Gibb

Gibb threw for 171 yards and three scores while completing 12-of-13 passes and also ran the ball 11 times for another 120 yards and a score.

"It's my teammates around me," Gibb said. "It was my O-line, my receivers and having guys around me making me better and pushing me in practice every week."

The offense was clicking in the first half, amassing 330 yards on 38 plays and picking up 19 first downs.

Gibb had touchdown tosses to Lucas Gerding (4 catches, 61 yards), Evan Foust (4, 72) and Dylan Lazar (1, 12), as well as a 9-yard touchdown run on a keeper all in the second quarter.

All of that happened in a span of 10:43.

See HORNETS E2



NICK GAMMETT / GAZETTE

Highland's Chris Metzger, left, and Jameson Gordon, right, celebrate an interception by Metzger.

HORNETS

From E1

"Our team is so close," Gibb said. "We fight for each other and we had a good game plan. Our coach (Mike Gibbons) put together a good game plan."

The final three touchdowns of the half and game were each set up by the Highland defense.

The Hornets stopped the Shoremen (0-3) on fourth-and-5 at the Highland 40-yard line, then got an interception from Chris Metzger followed by a forced fumble and recovery from Dan Miller, turning a 14-7 game into 34-7 in just 4:57.

"After that first drive, they thought they were in this game," Miller said. "We know our defense, and we know how we play. We win that turnover battle, there was no way we would lose this game."

The defense followed its four-turnover, eight-tackle for loss game against Hudson with five turnovers and 12 TFLs against the Shoremen.

Nick Dobkowski had a pair of interceptions and Liam Zielinski picked off another as the Hornets kept Avon Lake out of the end zone to maintain control.

Highland 34, Avon Lake 7

HIGHLAND	AVON LAKE	First	Second
H — Casey Myser 2 run (Jonathan Kowza kick), 6:26.	A — Ezra Jones 11 run (Kyle Anderson kick), 3:18.	H — Lucas Gerding 36 pass from Grady Gibb (Kowza kick), 11:14.	H — Gibb 9 run (kick blocked), 5:28.
H — Evan Foust 30 pass from Gibb (Kowza kick), 3:23.	H — Dylan Lazar 12 pass from Gibb (Kowza kick), 0:31.	H — Foust 30 pass from Gibb (Kowza kick), 3:23.	H — Dybin Lazar 12 pass from Gibb (Kowza kick), 0:31.
First downs	24	13	13
Rushing	44/245	29/98	29/98
Rushing average	5.6	2.3	2.3

Passing	12/13	11/25
Passing yards	171	160
Total offense	57/416	54/228
Punting	0/0.0	0/0.0
Penalties	6/70	1/5
Fumbles	1/1	2/1

RUSHING: Highland — Gibb 11-120, Myser 20-84, Lazar 8-29, Gerding 1-7, Foust 1-4, Joseph O'Brien 2-1, Anthony DePompa 1-1, Jonathan Prucha 1-0, Frankie Linnag 1-1, Avon Lake — Jones 12-33, Dawson Tenbrink 10-33, Drake Rudnicki 5-4, Team 2-1.

PASSING: Highland — Gibb 12-13-171-0, Avon Lake — Tenbrink 11-25-160-4.

RECEIVING: Highland — Foust 4-72, Gerding 0-01, Jack Weber 2-18, Lazar 1-12, Myser 1-8, Avon Lake — Aidan Stewart 4-60, Michael Summerfield 3-47, James Ness 1-20, Colin Hout 2-18, Christopher Gaidding 1-15.

MISSED FIELD GOAL: Highland — Kowza 28 (M).

Kellen Whiting and Evan Foust each had sacks of Avon Lake sophomore Dawson Tenbrink (11-of-25, 160 yards, 4 INTs; 10 carries, 33 yards).

"We knew we had to keep him in the pocket," Miller said. "That was always our focus. We knew we had to get a good rush, keep him in the pocket. We also game-planned for (Aidan Stewart). We knew he was their guy and if he got going, he could win them the game. We had to make sure we had our stuff handled and make sure we guarded him."

Stewart had four grabs for 60 yards on eight targets but didn't find his way to the end zone after scoring three times in Avon Lake's first two games. He also had

a 59-yard kickoff return that set up the Shoremen's only score, an 11-yard run by Ezra Jones (12 carries, 33 yards).

Highland took its two first possessions 80 yards, going 12 plays on the first drive and nine plays on the second.

Casey Myser (20 carries, 84 yards; catch, 8 yards) capped the first possession with a 2-yard plunge and Gibb hit Gerding for a 36-yard touchdown on the second.

Highland attempted just one pass in the second half, a 5-yard completion from Gibb to Foust, and finished the night with 416 total yards (171 passing, 245 rushing).

Contact Chad Grant at sports@medina-gazette.com.