



**HIGHLAND 49,
BARBERTON 7**



Hornets continue American Conference dominance

Chad Grant
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BARBERTON — When all facets complement each other the way they do for the Highland football team, it makes for a dangerous combination.

The defense was lights out again, the offense was explosive again and the special teams were on point again as the Hornets rolled Barberton 49-7 in a Suburban League American Conference tilt Friday.

Highland (6-0, 3-0) had outscored



Dobkowski **Dean**

its previous three opponents 130-7 and had not allowed a point in 80:27. The scoreless streak did end, as the Magics got a meaningless touch-

down late in the fourth quarter, but the game was well in hand against the backups. The scoring drive took 17 plays, consumed nearly half the third quarter and all but 2:23 of the fourth.

The Highland offense played just over one half of football again and entered the break in front 42-0.

Highland got another fantastically efficient effort from quarterback Dylan Borla, a smashmouth effort from running back Casey Myser and

big nights from wide receiver Nick Dobkowski and H-back Evan Foust to ruin the Magics' homecoming night.

Borla tossed four touchdowns and had 159 yards on just six completions. Myser had 95 yards on 11 carries and three scores. Dobkowski had his best effort of the season, hauling in four passes for 69 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while Foust scored the Hornets' final touchdown of the first half on a 71-yard catch and run.

"During the week, Coach (Mike

Gibbons) mentioned that they played a lot of man (defense)," said Dobkowski, who entered the game with five receptions for 58 yards and no touchdowns. "We just took advantage of that."

The Hornets scored on every first-half possession, and with the defense and special teams setting the offense up Highland rarely had to go much more than half the field to get into the end zone.

See **HORNETS**, E2



RUSS GIFFORD / GAZETTE

Left to right, Highlan's Carson Noonan, Cody Bendau, Evan Foust, Kallen Whitting, Jameson Gordon and Ryan Zywiec bring down Barberton's Sean Wright Jr. for a loss. Below, the Hornets' Nick Dobkowski hauls in a pass against the Magics' Kardiay Tyler.

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HIGHLAND	21	21	7	0	-	49
BARBERTON	0	0	0	7	-	7

First
H — Casey Myser 25 run (Jonah Kowza kick), 9:35.
H — Nick Dobkowski 19 pass from Dylan Borla (Kowza kick), 6:36.
H — Dobkowski 3 pass from Borla (Kowza kick), 1:15.

Second
H — Myser 5 run (Kowza kick), 9:45.
H — Myser 4 run (Kowza kick), 6:53.
H — Evan Foust 71 pass from Borla (Kowza kick), 3:14.

Third
H — Luke Berkmeier 19 pass from Borla (Kowza kick), 7:20.

Fourth
B — Mark Tavanello 1 run (Blake Leary kick), 2:23.

	H	B
First downs	14	13
Rushing	22/165	40/152
Rushing average	7.5	3.8
Passing	7/9	2/9
Passing yards	170	17
Total offense	31/335	49/169
Punting	0/0.0	4/25.8
Penalties	3/30	2/5
Fumbles	0/0	3/2

RUSHING: Highland — Myser 11-95, Foust 2-20, Lucas Gerding 1-19, Dylan Lazar 3-18, Berkmeier 1-7, Anthony DePompai 1-5, Borla 2-2, Team 1-(-1), Barberton — Sean Wright Jr. 29-102, Avion Cottrell 6-40, Tavanello 4-6, Josiah Wright 1-4.

PASSING: Highland — Borla 6-8-159-0, Grady Gibb 1-1-11-0, Barberton — Tavanello 2-9-17-1.

RECEIVING: Highland — Foust 1-71, Dobkowski 4-69, Berkmeier 1-19, Frankie Iannaggi 1-11, Barberton — S. Wright Jr. 1-10, J. Wright 1-7.

HORNETS

From E1

"Our defense, man, a lot of three-and-outs," Dobkowski said. "And a lot of good punt returns got us the ball back in good position. We are getting better every week."

Of the seven drives, three began in Barberton territory and the longest ended with the 71-yard pass from Borla to Foust.

The other three scoring drives covered 52, 52 and 51 yards and none took more than seven plays.

That final drive of the half was set up by fumble started when Highland two-way lineman Carson Noonan ripped the ball out of the arms of Barberton running back Sean Wright Jr. (29 carries, 102 yards) and Highland teammate Cody Bendau recovered at the Hornets 30-yard line.

The Hornets also got an interception from Kyle Williams that he returned 40 yards to the Barberton 30 and a partially blocked punt by Garrett Phillips.

"It's definitely just our game prep," Highland linebacker/rush end Matthew Dean said. "We go in every day and we



work hard against each other. Every play we go hard, and we expect the most out of each other. It is mostly just our preparation that gets us ready."

Dean was one of five players who notched tackles for loss as Barberton opened in the spread offense but switched to the power-I, which it had deployed successfully last week in a win over Kent Roosevelt.

"We did prepare for both," Dean said. "We knew they liked that power formation. We knew they liked to run it and pull

those guards. But we were ready for it. We changed formation when we had to and got the job done."

Without the Magics' late scoring drive the Hornets' starting defense allowed just 91 yards and held Barberton to 2-of-9 on third-down conversions.

The offense piled up 335 total yards in limited work and converted both of its third-down attempts, with all but 52 of the yards coming in the first half.

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